

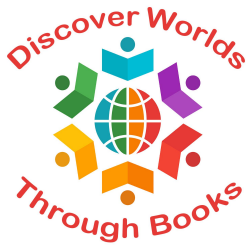
36th Annual
Book & Author



February 23, 2026
The Westin Kierland Resort and Spa

Brandeis National Committee
Phoenix Chapter

www.brandeisphoenix.org



Book & Author 2026 Supports

Engineering the Future: BNC Chair in Engineering Science

Engineering students at Brandeis have already begun making the world a better place. In their inaugural course, they designed innovative solutions like robotic prosthetic limbs and accessible silverware for individuals with tremors. With your support, we envision a future where our engineering program continues to cultivate conscientious and skilled engineers who will tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

For 75 years, the Brandeis National Committee has played a crucial role in the university's success, from enhancing our libraries to providing state-of-the-art equipment that has advanced groundbreaking research.

The goal is to raise \$3 million to establish the first-ever BNC Chair in Engineering Sciences. Your generous support will be instrumental in bringing this vision to life and ensuring that Brandeis continues to lead the way in engineering education.



Learn more about Brandeis University
www.brandeis.edu



Book & Author 2026 Welcome

Welcome to Book & Author 2026, the 36th year of this annual event. Today is a day to meet and hear from five highly acclaimed authors, purchase their books, which can be signed and personalized, and shop at the wide array of fabulous boutiques.

The Phoenix Chapter of Brandeis National Committee (BNC) continues to be a proud supporter of Brandeis University. Proceeds from this year's luncheon, Bookmark cocktail party, Bookmark dinner, book sales and boutiques will be contributed to the [Engineering the Future: BNC Chair in Engineering Science](#). This campaign will enhance research on the latest advances in engineering education.

We owe the success of this day to the tremendous support of our volunteers, Bookmark donors, community partners and boutique vendors. Please look for their names in the program and on the ballroom screens.

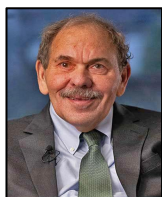
Thank you for being a part of Book & Author 2026. We are thrilled to have you here as we **Discover Worlds Through Books!**

Enjoy the day!

Patti Ileen Brina

Patti Grossman, Ileen Herberg, Brina Pepper,
Book & Author 2026 Co-Chairs





Arthur Levine, President, Brandeis University

A 1970 Brandeis graduate, Arthur Levine has dedicated his career to advancing higher education and building institutions so that they might fulfill their mission and benefit society.

Serving as President of Teachers College, Columbia University, from 1994 to 2006, Levine reoriented the school's mission and launched the Center for Educational Equity and a successful capital campaign. While President of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (now the Institute for Citizens & Scholars) from 2006 to 2019, the foundation collaborated with 31 universities to recruit and prepare STEM teachers in high-need schools.

He previously served as President of Bradford College in Massachusetts and has authored 13 books, most recently co-authoring *The Great Upheaval: Higher Education's Past, Present and Uncertain Future* with Scott Van Pelt.

Arthur Levine earned his PhD in sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and has received honorary doctorate degrees from 26 universities.



Amy Silverman, Moderator

Amy Silverman is a journalist, author and teacher based in her hometown of Phoenix. Over the past three decades she has covered metropolitan Phoenix in many ways – writing political stories for local and national outlets, editing the *Phoenix New*

Times “Best of Phoenix,” and investigating living conditions for vulnerable Arizonans. She is currently executive producer for *The Show*, an original production of KJZZ, the Phoenix NPR member station, writes a column for PHOENIX magazine and co-teaches the long-running Mothers Who Write workshop.

Silverman's work has appeared on the radio show *This American Life*, and she's been published by the Center for Public Integrity, *ProPublica*, *STAT*, *Slate*, *The Forward*, *Literary Hub*, *The Guardian*, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. She worked for 25 years as a staff writer and editor at *New Times* and is the three-time winner of the Arizona Press Club's Journalist of the Year award.

Her first book, *My Heart Can't Even Believe It: A Story of Science, Love, and Down Syndrome*, was published in 2016. Silverman is a graduate of Scripps College and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She lives with her husband, Ray Stern, and has two daughters.





Guest Speakers

Elizabeth George

Elizabeth George is a *New York Times* bestselling author known for her popular series of British crime novels featuring Inspector Thomas Lynley and his working-class partner, Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers. *A Slowly Dying Cause* is the latest in the series.



Born in Ohio in 1949, George moved to California at a young age and later taught high school English before dedicating herself to writing full-time. Her work is celebrated for its intricate plots, nuanced character development, and deep exploration of complex relationships and social issues, all set against the backdrop of the English landscape.

Her Inspector Lynley novels have been adapted for the television series, *Lynley*, shown on Britbox. George is the author of 21 psychological suspense novels, five young adult novels, two books of nonfiction, and two short-story collections. Her work has been honored with the Anthony and Agatha awards, two Edgar nominations, and both France and Germany's first prize for crime fiction, as well as several other prestigious prizes. She lives in Washington State.

Marjan Kamali

Marjan Kamali is an Iranian-American novelist, born in Turkey to Iranian parents, whose globally nomadic childhood significantly influences her writing.



Her novels, including the international bestseller *The Stationery Shop* (2019) and *The Lion Women of Tehran* (2024), are known for exploring themes of love, memory, friendship, and identity, often set against the backdrop of political and cultural change in Iran.

A 2022 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, Kamali's work is celebrated for its emotionally rich storytelling that captures the complexities of the Iranian diaspora experience. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of California, Berkeley, an MBA from Columbia University, and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from New York University. She currently resides in the Boston area. She has taught at Boston University and was a writer-in-residence at Brandeis University during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Guest Speakers



Madeline Martin

A captivating historical novel from Madeline Martin, *The Secret Book Society* is set in Victorian London about a forbidden book club, dangerous secrets, and the women who dare to break free.

The Secret Book Society is a magnificent historical novel about the bonds of sisterhood and the power of books to unite and inspire. She brings the Victorian era to breathtaking life with her lush descriptions and perfectly paced storytelling.

Madeline Martin is a *New York Times* and internationally best-selling author who specializes in historical fiction and historical romance with works translated into over 25 languages. She graduated with a degree in Business Administration from Flagler College and has a deep passion for history, often immersing herself in research for her novels. She resides in Florida.



Matthew Quirk

Matthew Quirk is a *New York Times* bestselling author, an Edgar nominee and the winner of the Thriller and Strand Critics Awards. His novels have been translated into 20 languages, and his *The*

Night Agent is a television series on Netflix.

His new novel has been described as “A pulse-pounding knockout that’s part Hollywood thriller, part high-stakes spy game. Glamorous and gritty, *The Method* delivers relentless tension, jaw-dropping twists, and a heroine you’ll root for on every page.” It features a young actress who must go undercover in a dangerous world of espionage to save her best friend.

Matthew Quirk studied history and literature at Harvard College. After graduation, he spent five years at *The Atlantic* reporting on crime, private military contractors, terrorism prosecutions, and international gangs. He lives in San Diego.



Tracy Sierra

Tracy Sierra’s new book, *Warning Signs*, has been described as “a clear-eyed exploration of mother-son relationships, toxic masculinity, and greed—all wrapped up in a terrifying,

high-altitude adventure novel.” In this heart-stopping second novel, a father-son ski weekend becomes a desperate fight for survival. The novel, which was published earlier this month, is already creating a buzz.

Sierra was born and raised in the Colorado mountains. She is an attorney who currently lives in New England in an antique colonial-era home complete with its own secret room. *Nightwatching* was her debut novel and was selected as a Fallon Book Club pick.



Book & Author 2026 Committee

Event Chairs: Patti Grossman, Ileen Herberg, Brina Pepper

Committee Chairs

Advisors: Sue Karp, Joellyn Pollock, Marcy Strauss,
Iris Wigal

Audio Visual & Posters: Joyce Steinberg

Author Logistics: Julia Libling, Marilyn Pomerantz

Authors: Geri Gould, Gayle McKenna,
Jytte Methmann

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Bookmark Donor Dinner: Michelle Fischler, Iris Wigal

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Stephen Schoffman

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Photography: Gale Gradus

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Reservations: Joan Davis, Lisa Haffer, Carol Mangen

Seating: Sara Leopold, Barbara Stern

Table Captains: Hillary Kaminsky, Ellen Kirschenbaum, Ruth
Lerner, Susie Sacks, Linda Ullman

Timekeeper: Martha Patrick

Volunteer Committee: Laurie Burns, Terriann Kleiner,
Kathleen Witkin

Book & Author 2026

Bookmark Donors



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Kathryn Simon
Marcy Strauss
Roma Wittcoff

Tier 7

Nurit & Simon Burrow
Lisa & Stephen Haffer
Rebecca Sostrin
Barbara & Barry Zemel

Tier 6

Michelle & George Fischler
Patti & Irwin Grossman
Stephanie & Hal Klopper
Gail & Dan Tenn

Tier 5

Merle Carrus
Ileen Herberg
Leah Pallin-Hill
Brina Pepper
Nancy Sacks
Joyce Steinberg
Iris Wigal
Ed Zachary

Tier 4

Judy & Leith Baletin
Bonnie Clewans
Carol Kadet

Tier 4 (continued)

Renée Kaminitz
Terriann & Rich Kleiner
Andrea & Alan Levenson
Joellyn Pollock & Mike
Eavenson
Barbara & Mark Stern
Andrew Tievsky
Lynda & Louis Weckstein

Tier 3

Laurie & Dave Burns
Harriet & Elliott Gartner
Joyce & Neil Goldstein
Georgia Heller & Denis Duran
Michelle & Fred Himovitz
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Marilyn & Allan Reinfeld
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Elaine Steinman
Myra Treitel
Kathleen Witkin



Book & Author 2026 Boutique Vendors

B-JWLD is a women-owned company that creates unique jewelry handmade in Tel Aviv using high-quality materials. Swarovski Crystals and carefully selected stones are used in every piece, making it fun, easy to wear, and timeless. **NEW**

Beth Solem, a metalsmith, creates one-of-a-kind exquisite limited-edition sterling silver jewelry.

Classy Bag Lady offers an outstanding selection of quality leather handbags in all colors and sizes.

Conscious Coterie features a collection of linen and cotton clothing for midsize women over 50 with ageless designs and unparalleled comfort. **NEW**

Elegant Art Jewelry features Aasia's distinctive woven beaded jewelry, from simple to exquisite.

First Class Bamboo Sheets and Pillows provide luxury sheets and pillows in all sizes.

Jackeez & Nicolz is an upscale women's boutique and website for sizes 2 - 16 with sweaters, blouses, loungewear, jeans and dresses.

Jules & JC offers a curated selection of women's clothing and jewelry, women's and men's accessories and an array of home goods. **NEW**

Kathy Kamei Designs features inspirational designer jewelry made of sterling silver and 18K gold overlay.

Love My Shawl presents unique, beautiful scarf tops with five versatile wear options for all body types.

Owl Create Art showcases artist-designed and hand-built earthenware sculpted into functional art, including book, newspaper and cake vases, spoon rests and porcelain charms. **NEW**

Shelley's Fashions has an attractive and wide variety of fashionable women's wear, featuring upscale clothing.

Treasured Accessory offers beautiful of-the-moment jewelry - there is so much to choose from!

Twisted Beeswax Candles are stunning hand-sculpted 100% beeswax candles for all occasions!

This list is current as of the time of printing. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

We thank our vendors. A percentage of their sales from Book & Author 2026 is donated to our campaign.

Book & Author 2026

Menu



Assorted Rolls and Sweet Butter

Salad

Southwest Wedge Salad (GF, NF, *DF)

Iceberg Wedge, Blistered Corn,
*Cotija Cheese (on the side), Heirloom Tomatoes,
Pickled Red Onions, Cornbread Croutons
Dressing: Southwest Ranch or
Red Wine Vinaigrette (DF, GF)

Entrée

Pan Roasted Organic Chicken Breast (GF, NF)

Horseradish Whipped Potatoes, Dijon Poultry Demi-Glace,
Roasted Whole Cremini Mushroom Garnish

or

Braised Mushroom and Spinach Penne (GF, NF, V)

Fire-roasted Tomato Sauce, Pepita Pesto, Wilted Kale,
Mushrooms, Gluten-Free Penne

Dessert

Caramel Dark Chocolate Brownies (GF)

a Layered Torte with Walnuts

Iced Tea, Water

Hot Coffee and Tea available on request

DF - Dairy Free NF - Nut Free
GF - Gluten Free V - Vegetarian

Your entrée choice was selected when you made your reservation.
There are no substitutions the day of the event.



Book & Author 2026 Program and Speakers

Welcome

Stephanie Klopper, Joyce Steinberg
Phoenix Chapter Co-Presidents

Remarks

Arthur Levine
President, Brandeis University

Event Introduction

Patti Grossman, Ileen Herberg, Brina Pepper
Event Co-Chairs

Introduction of Event Moderator

Ileen Herberg

Introduction of Morning Authors

Amy Silverman

Matthew Quirk

Book - *The Method*

Madeline Martin

Book - *The Secret Book Society*

Tracy Sierra

Book - *Warning Signs*

Announcements

Patti Grossman, Brina Pepper

Luncheon is Served

Announcements

Ileen Herberg

Introduction of Afternoon Authors

Amy Silverman

Elizabeth George

Book - *A Slowly Dying Cause*

Marjan Kamali

Book - *The Lion Women of Tehran*

Closing Remarks

Patti Grossman, Ileen Herberg, Brina Pepper



Amy Silverman
Moderator



Elizabeth George
Mystery



Tracy Sierra
Mystery & Suspense



Madeline Martin
Historical Fiction



Matthew Quirk
Thriller



Marjan Kamali
Historical Fiction

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Brina Pepper

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Internal Communications: Sara Leopold

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Sherry Wolf

BNC Phoenix Chapter

Chairs - 36 Years of BNC Phoenix B&A Events

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Truda Chick	Joellyn Pollock
Stacey Chulew	Reba Rose *
Michelle Fischler	Nancy Sacks
Shelly Flexer	Sandy Shull
Arline Gitt *	Joanie Small
Patti Grossman	Barbara Stern
Ileen Herberg	Marcy Strauss
Hedda Hoffer *	Sharon Tievsky *
Merrill Kalman	Linda Ullman
Sue Karp	Lynda Weckstein
Carol Kern	Day Weinberg
Jan Lebovitz	Iris Wigal
Sara Leopold	Mickie Zatulove *
Freddie Lieberman	

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Elinor Abelson *	Carol Kern	Shyrle Schaffer *
Leith Baletin	Stephanie Klopper	Judy Silver *
Joanie Bream *	Blanche Korrick *	Gladys Simon
Belle Bush *	Marcia Langer	Joanie Small
Helen Cohen *	Jan Lebovitz	Paula Sobel *
Ruth Cohen *	Barbara Lemberg	Eleanor Spector *
Sylvia Diamond *	Freddie Lieberman	Joyce Steinberg
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Rosalyn Fischer *	Andi Minkoff	Sharon Warner
Linda Fisler	Bess Oseran *	Ellen Widoff
Connie Flegenheimer *	Rhona Ozer	Iris Wigal
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Bert Kahn *	Jane Rosenbaum	Leni Zeitlin *
Sue Karp	Lori Roth	Marilyn Zolondek *

* Deceased

We would like to thank all of the BNC Phoenix Book & Author
Chairs and the Presidents. You have made our success possible.

Book & Author 2026

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Judy Baletin	Patti Grossman	Ruth Lerner	Nancy Sacks
Leith Baletin	Marlene Harris	Terri Levenson	Susan Sacks
Beth Barstack	Georgia Heller	Judy Levine	Wendy Salk
Ellen Baumler	Ileen Herberg	Georgeanne Levy	Stephen Schoffman
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Jane Berezin	Anita Hicks	Freddie Lieberman	Harriet Schwartz
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Laurie Burns	Carol Isacson	Patricia Maas	Betsy Silber
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Bonnie Furst	Ellen Kirschenbaum	Linda Perlman	Andrew Tievsky
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Brigitte Goldman	Frank Lange	Cindy Robinson	Donna Wirt
Betsy S. Gometz			

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Leith Baletin	Ruth Lerner
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Hillary Kaminsky	Ellen Widoff
Louise Kapner	Iris Wigal
Sue Karp	Donna Wirt
Carol Kern	Roma Wittcoff
Laurie Kessler	Carol Wolfe
Wendy Kippelman	Barbara Zemel
Wendy Klein	

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BNC Phoenix Book & Author

The Authors 1991-2024

1991: Christine Mather, Phyllis Stevens, Judith Van Gieson, Shelby Yastrow

1992: Clive Cussler, Adam Hall, Harvey Mackay, H. Henrietta Stockel, Ronald J. Watkins

1993: Carol Higgins Clark, Charles Scull, Annette Meyers

1994: Jan Goodwin, Kathy Cronkite, Rochelle Krich, Gerald Brown, Carl Hammerschlag

1995: Shonto Begay, Diana Gabaldon, Jewell Parker Rhodes, Nancy Taylor Rosenberg, Alan Zweibel

1996: Steve Allen, Michael Lacapa, Richard North Patterson, Anne Rivers Siddons

1997: Joy Horowitz, Susan Lowell, Richard Parrish

1998: David Baldacci, Barbara Barrie, Joann Mapson, Steve Martini

1999: Judy Collins, Peter Craig, Larry Gelbart, Shirlee Taylor, Harold C. Haizlip, Elinor Lipman, Brad Meltzer

2000: David Brancaccio, Stephen J. Cannell, Clive Cussler, Diana Douglas Darrid, Amy Ephron, Anita Hill (Heller School, Brandeis University)

2001: Ellen Perry Berkeley, Christopher Darden, Rona Jaffe, Dennis Lehane, James Patterson, Margaret Salinger (Ph. D., Brandeis University)

2002: Michael Alexander, Elizabeth Berg, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Susan Isaacs, Reeve Lindbergh, Lisa Scottoline, Betty Webb

2003: Catherine Coulter, Stephen Dubner, Linda Fairstein, Jane Heller, Jane Leavy, Jacquelyn Mitchard

2004: Elizabeth Adler, Sidney Blumenthal, Stephen Coonts, Joanne Harris, Margo Howard, John Lescroart

2005: Ari Fleischer, Peter Greenberg, Larry King, Harvey Mackay, Karin Slaughter, Linda Bloodworth Thomason, Stephen White

2006: Gloria Allred, Rochelle Krich, Laura Lippman, Catherine Crier, Denise Nicholas, John Grogan, Michael Medavoy

2007: Rasheda Ali, Steve Berry, Jill Davis, J.A. Jance, Dr. Nicholas Perricone, Lynn Sherr

2008: Cara Black, Sandra Brown, Mike Farrell, Gil Garcetti, James Grippando, Jeffrey Toobin

BNC Phoenix Book & Author

The Authors 1991-2024 (continued)

2009: Jeffery Deaver, Gary David Goldberg, Andrew Gross, Lisa Leslie, Adam Nimoy, Dr. Michael Roizen

2010: Diana Gabaldon, Allegra Huston, Malcolm Jones, Joseph Kanon, Christopher Reich, Lisa See

2011: Mary Jane Clark, David Eisenhower, Jane Green, Michael Hiltzik, Harry Hamlin

2012: Dyan Cannon, Robert Dugoni, Lisa Niemi Swayze, Thrity Umrigar

2013: Melanie Benjamin, Chris Bohjalian, Tony La Russa, Allison Leotta, J.R. Martinez, Alana Stewart

2014: Hallie Ephron, Alice Hoffman, Debbie Macomber, Philip Shenon, Leigh Steinberg, Scott Turow

2015: Anita Diamant, Cary Elwes, Greg Iles, Garth Stein, Chris Tomlinson

2016: Linda Hirshman, Steve Martini, Paula McLain, B.A. Shapiro, Ed Tarkington

2017: Maureen Dowd, Pam Jenoff, Christina Baker Kline, Caroline Leavitt, Dava Sobel

2018: Tina Brown, A. J. Finn, Kristin Hannah, Tayari Jones, Steven Ross

2019: Marie Benedict, Matti Friedman, Ann Hood, Tim Johnston, Matthew Quirk

2020: Jamie Bernstein, Gabriel Bump, Tim Mason, Crissy Van Meter, Brad Taylor

2021: Thomas Keller, Michael Ruhlman, Jonathan Waxman

2022: Jerad W. Alexander, Lan Samantha Chang, Mesha Maren, Thomas Perry, Peng Shepherd, Thrity Umrigar

2023: Rabia Chaudry, Larry Loftis, Rebecca Makkai, Wanda Morris, Dani Shapiro

2024: Talia Carner, Jennet Conant, Alice McDermott, Liza Mundy, Tim O'Brien, David Rosenfelt

2025: André Acimen, Paulina Bren, Fiona Davis, Stephanie Gorton, Shelley Noble, Scott Turow



Please join us next year at
the 2027 Book & Author Event.
Hear another group of
exciting authors and
support Brandeis University.



BNC - Phoenix Chapter

Donations

Celebrate a birthday or milestone or honor the memory of a loved one.

Gifts to the Brandeis National Committee Support:

Current Campaign - Engineering the Future: BNC Chair in Engineering Science

Library Fund - Make an impact on one of America's leading research universities.

Scholarship Campaign - Financial assistance plays a pivotal role in upholding Brandeis' founding principle of equal access to higher education.

Sustaining the Mind - Scientific Research and Scholarships Fund fosters research in neuroscience and neurodegenerative diseases.

See our website to learn more.

Select
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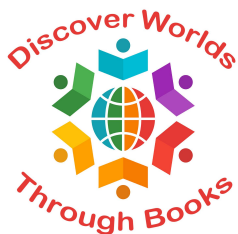
Select
Membership
to join us

Become a Member - Join Us

The Brandeis National Committee (BNC) was established in 1950 to build a library for the fledgling University. Today, the national organization supports its current campaign, scholarship, medical and scientific research. The Phoenix Chapter is a star in the BNC universe, winning Chapter of the Year numerous times.

Membership in BNC-Phoenix offers year-round benefits, ranging from stimulating study groups to our nationally recognized Book & Author event. Through our study groups and other events, we offer a multitude of activities that keep our minds sharp, our bodies active and our social lives full.

Through our activities, we provide important philanthropic support to Brandeis University and to local community outreach programs.



Book & Author 2026

Our Appreciation to:

Maddie McNamara and the **Westin Kierland Resort and Spa**
for the beautiful venue and gracious service

Encore Global for their audio-visual technical support

Changing Hands Bookstore for their continued
support and excellent service

Jerry Rose with FROSCH Classic Cruise and Travel Agency
for the support and excellent service

Brandables for their continued support
and excellent service

Michelle Fischler and **Iris Wigal** for the
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Julia Libling for the
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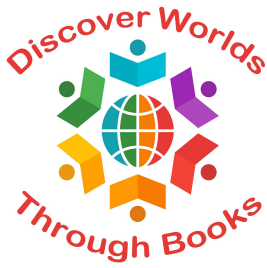
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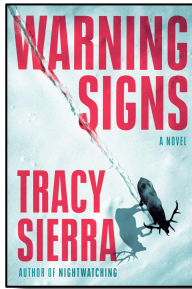
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Thank you for attending ~
We hope to see you next year!

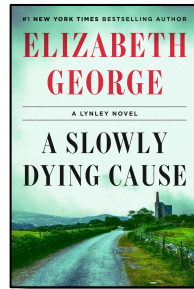


Book & Author 2026

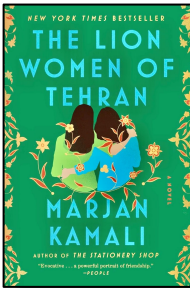
Featured Books



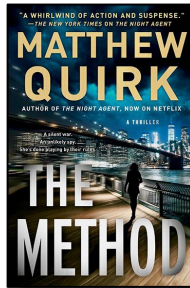
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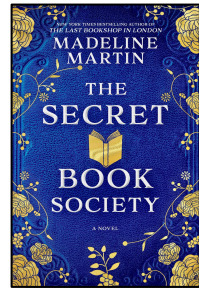
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