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Kiese Laymon**



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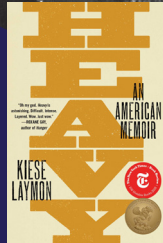
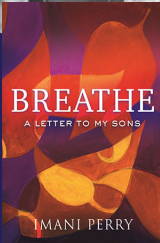
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IMANI PERRY & KIESE LAYMON



Imani Perry's work reflects the deeply complex history of Black thought, art and imagination. Her book *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons* explores the terror, grace and beauty of coming of age as a Black person in contemporary America and was a finalist for NAACP Image Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. Her latest book, *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation*, is an essential journey through the history of the American South. *South to America* won the National Book Award and was named best book of 2022 by *The New Yorker*, *TIME* magazine and *Oprah Daily*.

Kiese Laymon is a bestselling author, social critic and essayist known for his savage humor and clear-eyed perceptiveness, which earned him comparisons to Ta-Nehisi Coates, Alice Walker and Mark Twain. He is the author of the award-winning memoir, *Heavy* which won the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction in 2019 and was named 50 Best Memoirs of the Past 50 Years by the *New York Times*. His genre-defying novel, *Long Division*, which won the NAACP Image Award, combines elements of science fiction, satire and social commentary.



INTRODUCTION

DR. LEAH LEWIS

Dr. Leah Lewis J.D., is the Executive Director of the Little Lumpy's Center for Educational Initiatives: Learning, Literacy and Technology (LLCEI), the host of the annual Great Lakes African American Writers Conference (GLAAWC is pronounced "glossy"), which enters its seventh year in 2024. GLAAWC has hosted African American luminaries in literature including Walter Mosley, Toni Tipton-Martin, Tayari Jones, Deesha Philyaw, Pearl Cleage, Damon Young and Tayari Jones. GLAAWC is a part of the Cleveland Foundation's Cleveland Book Week. Leah's interest in literature is lifelong. She became a published author with *Little Lumpy's Book of Blessings* in 2000. Through Little Lumpy's Center, Dr. Lewis also seeks to create educational opportunities in animation. Dr. Lewis is a graduate of Ashland Theological Seminary (OH) (D.Min.), Yale Divinity School (M.Div.), Howard University School of Law (J.D.), and Bowling Green State University (B.S.Ed.). She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Order of the Eastern Star, Ecclesiastes 101.

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Laymon's memoir "Heavy" won the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction in 2019, and his novel "Long Division" was originally published in 2013 and re-released in 2021.

Perry released "Breathe: A Letter to My Sons" in 2019 and won the National Book Award in 2022 for "South to America: A Journey Below the Mason Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation."

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Sari Feldman and Matt O'Dwyer

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Your planned gift will be multiplied with gifts from other individuals and families to benefit programs and services available in all the branches. The new Sari Feldman Fund of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation will support innovative programs and services that enhance library learning experiences throughout the CCPL system. These are library programs that secure CCPL's standing as one of the nation's leading public library systems but cannot be sustained through general operating funds alone. All unrestricted planned gifts given to the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation will help grow the Sari Feldman Fund to support continued and new programming.

1922 Society members will receive special access to exclusive author events, and will be publicly recognized in branches and Library publications. When the time is right for you to include a charitable gift in your estate plan, please remember the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation and know your legacy will make a difference for your community.

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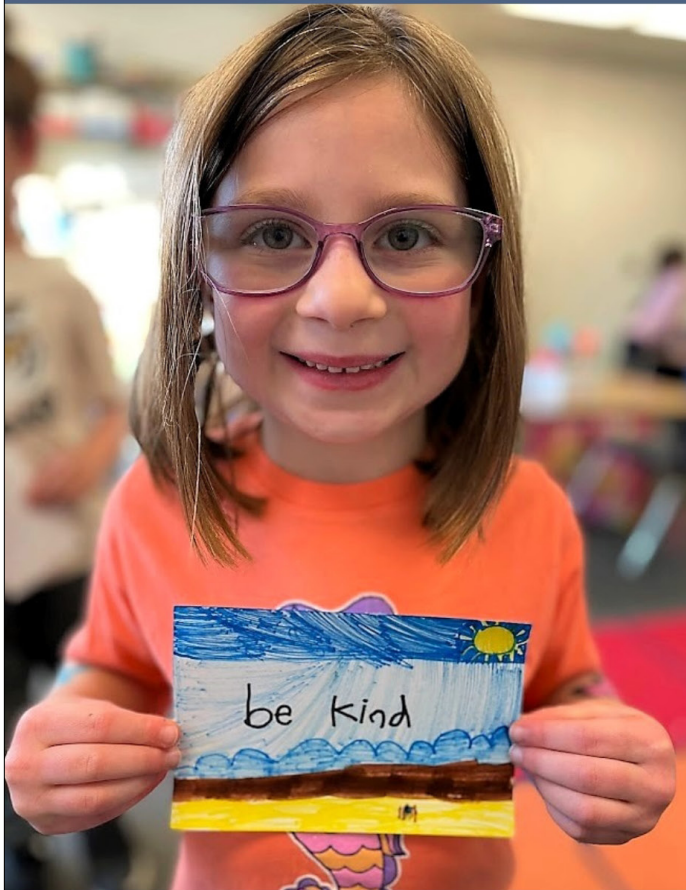
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2008 - 2009

DAVID McCULLOUGH
JANE & MICHAEL STERN
MYLA GOLDBERG,
JONATHAN LETHEM &
COLSON WHITEHEAD
WITH NANCY PEARL
JOAN DIDION

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CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY
MARY OLIVER
JHUMPA LAHIRI

2010 - 2011

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DAVE EGGERS
PETE HAMILL

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ANNE LAMOTT
COLM TÓIBÍN

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TRACY KIDDER
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ANN PATCHETT
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EDWIDGE DANTICAT
ROZ CHAST
RICK BRAGG

2016 - 2017

DON DeLILLO
LAWRENCE WRIGHT
ROXANE GAY
COLUM McCANN &
EDNA O'BRIEN
ALISON BECHDEL
JOHN GREEN

2017 - 2018

COLSON WHITEHEAD
PATTI SMITH IN
CONVERSATION WITH
MAUREEN CORRIGAN
MARGARET ATWOOD
MARIA SEMPLE
DAVID GRANN
JOHN IRVING

2018 - 2019

JUDY BLUME & DANIEL HANDLER
JOHN GRISHAM
JESMYN WARD
TIMOTHY EGAN
LYNDA BARRY & MATT GROENING
JENNIFER EGAN

2019 - 2020

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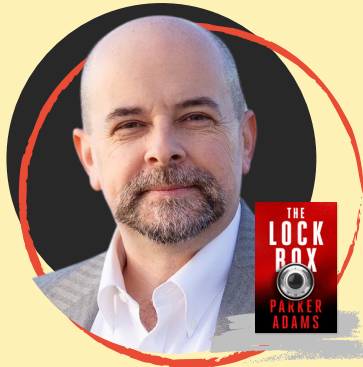
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Monday, May 20 / 7 PM



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Wednesday, May 15 / 7 PM



Connie Schultz
Parma-Snow Branch
Saturday, June 1 / 1 PM



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As a frequent library patron wherever we have lived, I was delighted to learn that Northeast Ohio is home to the **nation's finest public library system**—and the **Writers Center Stage Series**.

Reading about its previous authors brought tears to my eyes as I realized what I had missed, but I join you in excitement for the joys we have to look forward to this season.

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—Karen Kaler

”



Karen and her husband, Eric Kaler, President of Case Western Reserve University.



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