



**Shelby Van Pelt**

# Cuyahoga County Public Library

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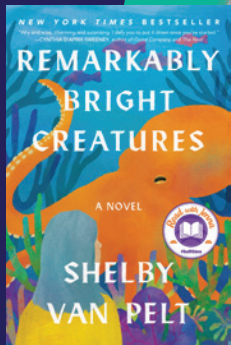
CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
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# WRITERS CENTER STAGE SERIES

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# SHELBY VAN PELT



Shelby Van Pelt is the author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* (2022), one of the most popular debut novels in recent memory. This story about a widow's unlikely friendship with a giant Pacific octopus has resonated with readers all over the world and established Shelby as one of the literary world's rising stars. To date, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* has sold more than 1.4 million copies worldwide.



## INTRODUCTION

### JENNY HAMEL

Jenny Hamel is the host of the *Sound of Ideas*, a daily public affairs program on Ideastream Public Media (WKSU - 89.7 FM). The program covers national and local politics, education, social issues, arts and culture, basically anything of interest in the 22-county Northeast Ohio region Ideastream serves.

Prior to joining the *Sound of Ideas*, Jenny was the education reporter at Ideastream, covering Northeast Ohio's schools as they navigated the challenges brought on by the pandemic. Before coming to Cleveland, Jenny was a general assignment reporter for KCRW, an NPR affiliate in Los Angeles.



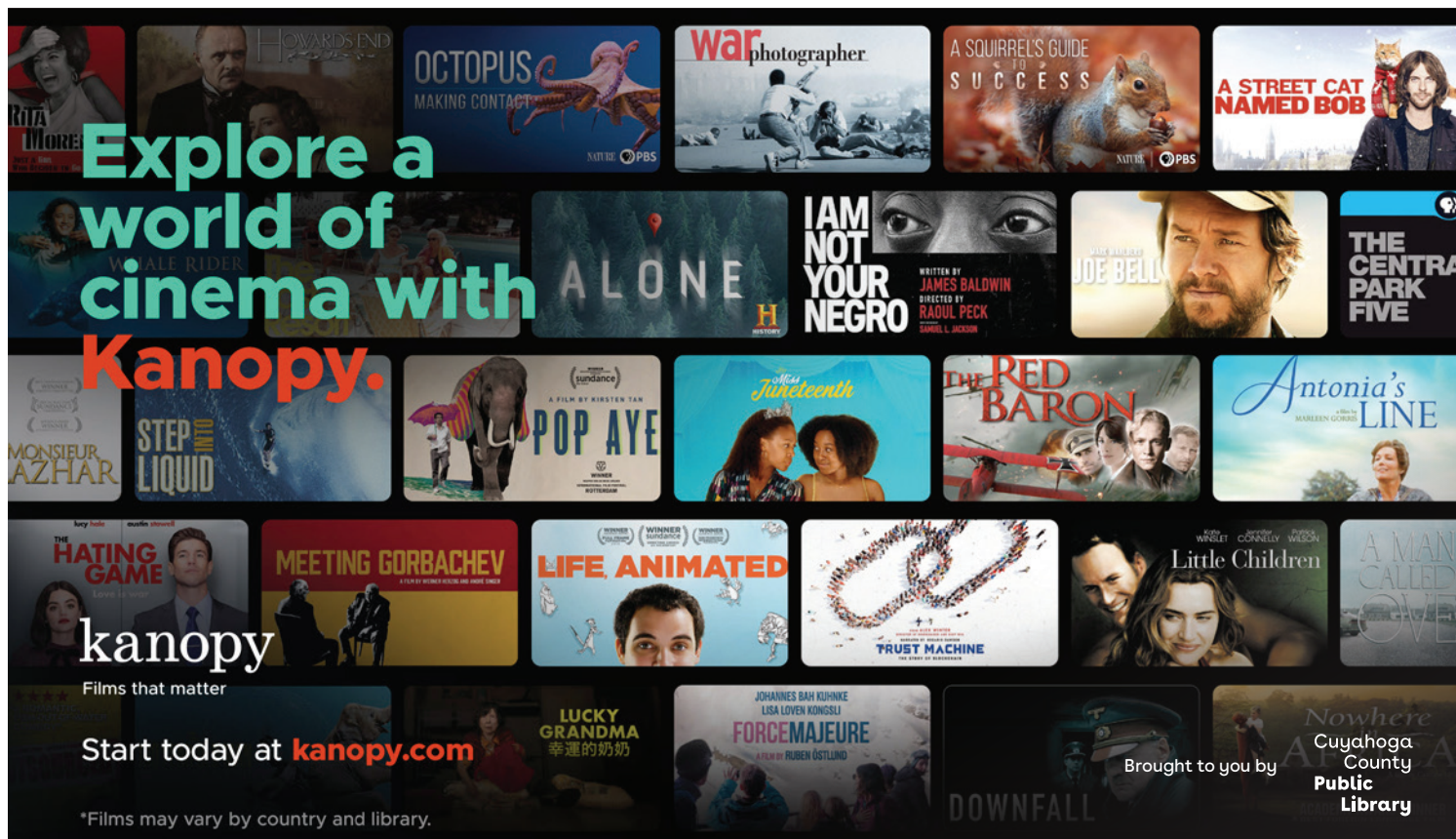
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KeyBank is proud to sponsor the 21st season of the William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series featuring one of the literary world's rising stars, Shelby Van Pelt.

Van Pelt is the author of “Remarkably Bright Creatures,” an instant New York Times bestseller that has sold more than 1.4 million copies worldwide. This story about a widow’s unlikely friendship with a giant Pacific octopus has resonated with readers around the globe.

We are grateful for the gift of her writing and its remarkable power to lift and unite people from all walks of life.



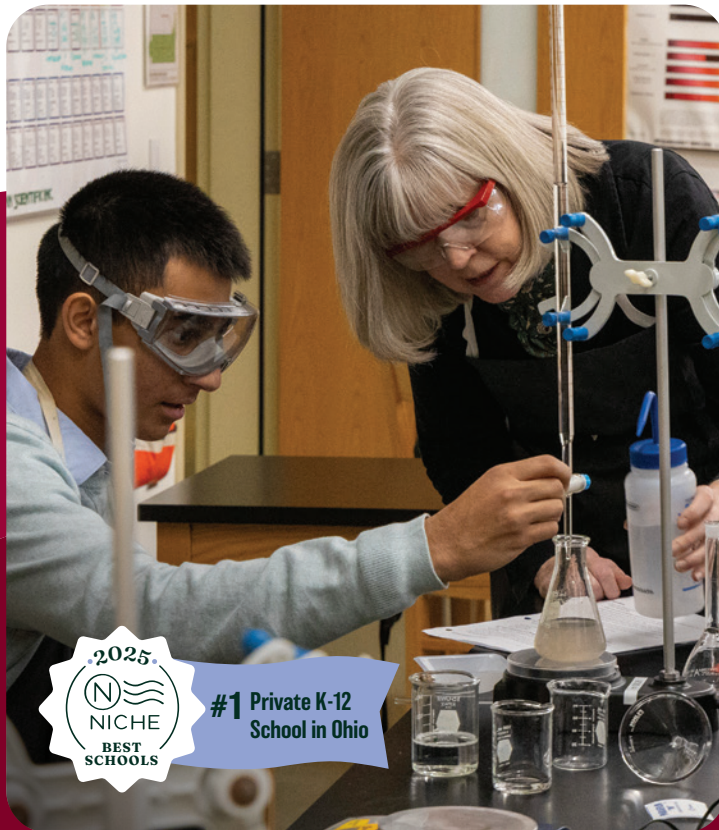
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April 10, 2025



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A promotional image for "Write Your Story Literary Cleveland". It features five diverse people (three women and two men) smiling and laughing. They are standing in front of a blue wall covered with various papers and sticky notes. The man in the center is wearing a dark t-shirt with the text "CLEVELAND IS THE STORY CITY".

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Individuals who make a commitment to the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation's future through a bequest or planned gift become members of the 1922 Society, named for the year CCPL was established. One of the easiest, most meaningful and enduring planned gifts an individual can make is a bequest to the CCPL Foundation in their will. Other legacy gifts are qualified retirement plans, life insurance policies, trusts, gift annuities or pooled income funds.

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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To empower individuals and communities by providing opportunities for all to read, learn, create and connect.

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The 2024-25 William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series is presented by the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation and our Academic Partner, Case Western Reserve University.

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## CONTACT US

**Jessica Kanelos**  
*Development Director*

**p:** 216.749.9475

**e:** [jkanelos@cuyahogalibrary.org](mailto:jkanelos@cuyahogalibrary.org)

.....

**Hillary Walker**  
*Special Events  
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**p:** 216.749.9491

**e:** [hwalker@cuyahogalibrary.org](mailto:hwalker@cuyahogalibrary.org)

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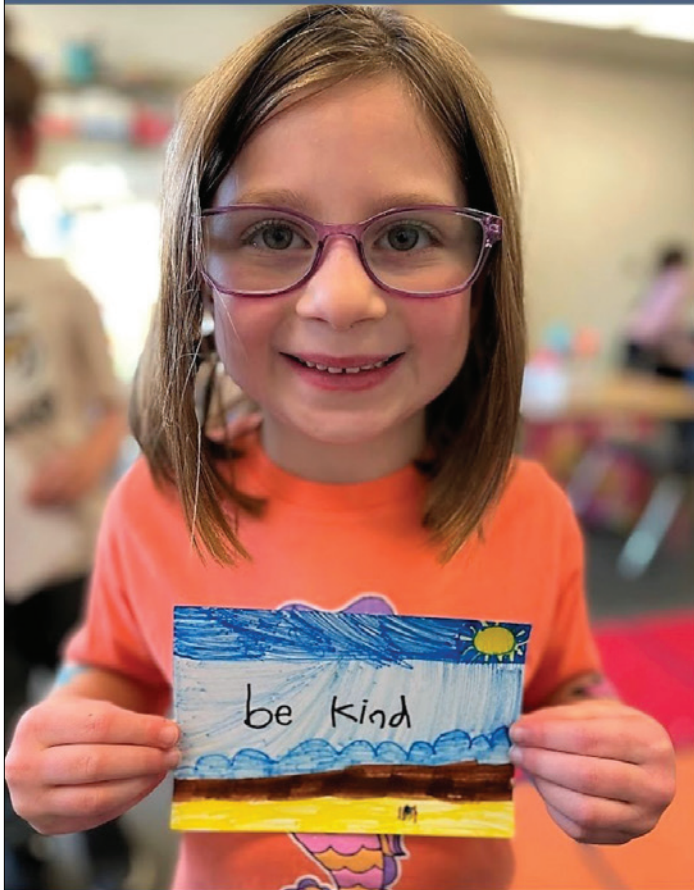


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### 2004 - 2005

CALVIN TRILLIN  
SUZAN-LORI PARKS  
FRANCES MAYES  
E.L. DOCTOROW

### 2005 - 2006

PAT CONROY  
ALEXANDER McCALL SMITH  
JANE SMILEY  
ANNA QUINDLEN

### 2006 - 2007

FRANK McCOURT  
AMY TAN  
JIM LEHRER  
TONY KUSHNER &  
GEORGE C. WOLFE

### 2007 - 2008

IRA GLASS & DAVID RAKOFF  
RUSSELL BANKS &  
RICHARD RUSSO  
JOYCE CAROL OATES  
AZAR NAFISI

### 2008 - 2009

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

### 2009 - 2010

GARRY TRUDEAU  
CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY  
MARY OLIVER  
JHUMPA LAHIRI

### 2010 - 2011

DR. NEIL DeGRASSE TYSON  
JEANNETTE WALLS  
DAVE EGGERS  
PETE HAMILL

### 2011 - 2012

ELIZABETH STROUT  
MICHAEL POLLAN  
BILLY COLLINS  
DR. ABRAHAM VERGHESE  
ANNE LAMOTT  
COLM TÓIBÍN

### 2012 - 2013

EMMA DONOGHUE  
TRACY KIDDER  
GERALDINE BROOKS &  
TONY HORWITZ  
ANN PATCHETT  
RITA DOVE  
ERIK LARSON

### 2013 - 2014

MICHAEL CHABON &  
AYELET WALDMAN  
STEPHEN L. CARTER  
CHERYL STRAYED  
ANDREW SOLOMON  
ROBERT PINSKY  
KATHERINE BOO

### 2014 - 2015

ZADIE SMITH  
DENNIS LEHANE  
ELIZABETH GILBERT  
KHALED HOSSEINI  
CHANG-RAE LEE  
MARY ROACH

### 2015 - 2016

SARAH KOENIG & JULIE SNYDER  
NEIL GAIMAN  
GILLIAN FLYNN  
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

JANE MAYER & FRANK RICH  
RACHEL KUSHNER & PIPER KERMAN  
MICHAEL ONDAATJE

### 2020 - 2021

MADELINE MILLER  
JOSH MALERMAN  
SUSAN CHOI  
YOTAM OTTOLENGHI  
BRIT BENNETT  
TARA WESTOVER &  
TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

### 2021-2022

RICHARD POWERS  
AMOR TOWLES  
MIN JIN LEE  
CARMEN MARIA MACHADO &  
RUMAAN ALAM  
ANTHONY DOERR  
ISABEL WILKERSON

### 2022-2023

MARLON JAMES  
BARBARA KINGSOLVER  
JON MEACHAM  
JONATHAN FRANZEN  
ELIF BATUMAN &  
GARY SHTEYNGART  
SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA

### 2023-2024

ANN PATCHETT & KEVIN WILSON  
MICHELLE ZAUNER  
HENRY WINKLER  
HERNAN DIAZ  
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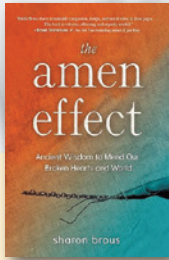


# SHE'S REWRITING THE SCRIPT.

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MARCH 2025



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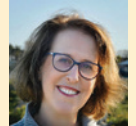
In a time of loneliness and isolation, social rupture and alienation, what will it take to mend our broken hearts and rebuild our society? Brous makes the case that the spiritual work of our time, as instinctual as it is counter-cultural, is to find our way to one other in celebration, in sorrow and in solidarity. *The Amen Effect* translates foundational ideas into simple practices, offering a blueprint for a meaningful life and a more connected and caring world.

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# Author Visits



**Ada Calhoun**

**Bay Village Branch**

**Monday, March 17 / 7 PM**



**Olivie Blake**

**Parma-Powers Branch**

**Tuesday, April 1 / 7 PM**



**Lee Martin**

**in conversation with  
Connie Schultz**

**Orange Branch**

**Wednesday, April 2 / 7 PM**



**Juliet Grames**

**Middleburg Heights Branch**

**Tuesday, April 8 / 7 PM**



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**Kevin Roose**

Award-winning columnist for *The New York Times*

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**May 22, 2025**

**Hua Hsu**

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*A State of Becoming: What It Means to Tell Asian American Stories*  
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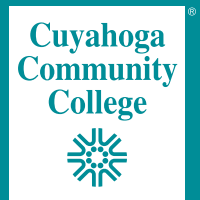
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The City Club of Cleveland is proud to support the Writers Center Stage Series.

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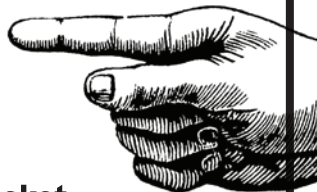
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# Ex Libris Society



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The Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation established the Ex Libris Society to honor and show appreciation for our most loyal and generous donors. Their support and commitment sustain Cuyahoga County Public Library's programs and services now and for future generations. Donors who give an annual fund gift of \$1,000 or more are recognized in the Ex Libris Society and enjoy exclusive benefits and unique experiences that only the Library can provide.

## Benefits

- Presale ticket opportunities for the William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series and other special events
- Unique opportunities to meet and mingle with best-selling and award-winning authors
- Access to invitation-only donor appreciation events
- Reserved seating at select Cuyahoga County Public Library sponsored events
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