



**R.F. Kuang**

Merrymeeting Group congratulates  
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on the continued success of the  
Writers Center Stage Series!



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# R.F. KUANG



R.F. (Rebecca) Kuang is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Poppy War* trilogy, *Babel*, and *Yellowface*. Her work explores themes of empire, identity, language and power, blending literary ambition with genre fiction. A Marshall Scholar, she holds degrees from Cambridge and Oxford and is currently pursuing a PhD in East Asian Languages and Literatures at Yale. Her latest novel, *Katabasis*, a dark academia fantasy, was published in August 2025.



## INTRODUCTION

### JUE LIANG

Jue Liang is a scholar of Tibetan Buddhism. Her research and teaching engage with questions about continuities as well as innovations in the gender discourses of Buddhist communities. She is also interested in the theory and practice of translation in general, and translating Tibetan literature in particular.



## Q&A MODERATOR NAHOMY ORTIZ-GARCIA

Nahomy Ortiz-Garcia is a 27-year-old Puerto Rican Latina book reviewer. She shares her love of reading online through [@nahomyslibrary](#) on Instagram and TikTok, where she highlights diverse stories and uplifts BIPOC authors.

Beyond reviewing books, Nahomy works in marketing and is a passionate writer with a love for theater. She is actively involved in Latino community work at the Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center, where she leads her own book club and creates a literary space rooted in connection, culture, and experience. Through her work both online and offline, Nahomy is committed to amplifying marginalized voices and celebrating the power of storytelling.

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As our new Cleveland Partner-in-Charge, **Tom Ostrowski** brings a people-first approach grounded in collaboration, integrity, and community engagement. Under Tom's leadership, Tucker Ellis remains deeply committed to supporting the arts, literacy, and organizations that strengthen our region and elevate local voices.

We're proud to partner with Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation and Case Western Reserve University to support the **2025–2026 William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series**, celebrating the power of storytelling to inform, inspire, and bring people together.

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# celebrating the power of the written word.

At KeyBank, we are passionate about the arts and believe in their ability to inspire and transform. In keeping with our support for the arts and the communities we serve, we are thrilled to be part of the 2025–26 William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series.

Congratulations on the 22nd season! Your commitment to uplifting the works of talented authors from all walks of life is a remarkable gift to our community.

We are grateful for these authors and their devotion to telling stories that feed the human spirit and unite us all.



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S**

**WRITER'S CENTER  
STAGE SERIES**



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# 1922 Legacy Society

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 Legacy 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 through the Sari Feldman Fund of the CCPL Foundation to support programs and services 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 Legacy 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.

**1922SOCIETY.ORG**



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learn more

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Gertrude Rice\*  
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Johanna Stein\*  
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Phyllis Walker\*  
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# CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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The Cuyahoga County Library Foundation exists to raise financial resources in support of the Library's mission and to elevate awareness of the Library's critical role in the community.

## CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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The 2025-26 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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EDITOR:



EDUCATION PARTNER:



WRITER:



UNDERWRITER:



INDIVIDUAL:

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Keithley

Jennifer & Robert  
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Anne-Marie &  
Sam Petros

Laura  
Bauschard

Caroline & David  
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## CONTACT US

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*Development Director*

*p:* 216.749.9475

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

.....

**Hillary Walker**  
*Special Events*  
*Senior Coordinator*

*p:* 216.749.9491

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

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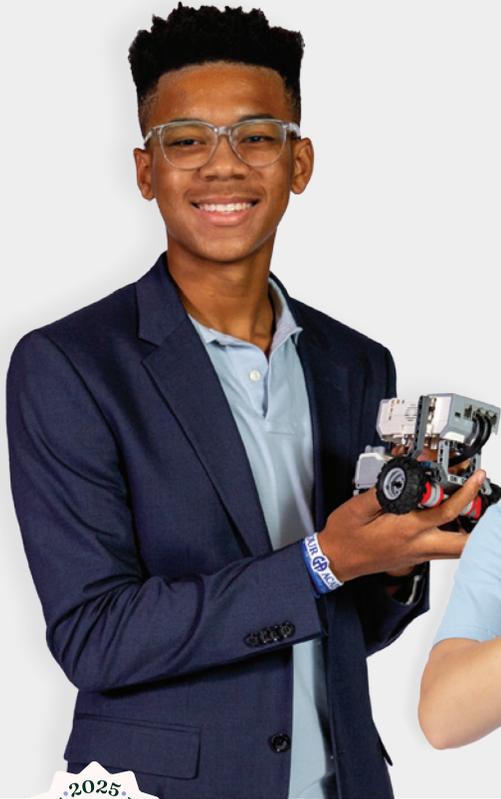
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## PAST SPEAKERS

### 2004

SEAMUS HEANEY

### 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  
REBECCA MAKKAI  
KIESE LAYMON & IMANI PERRY

### 2024-2025

JULIA QUINN  
MIRANDA JULY  
ABRAHAM VERGHESE  
SHELBY VAN PELT  
ERIK LARSON  
S.A. COSBY

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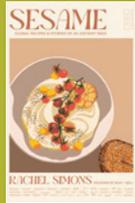
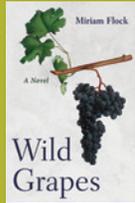
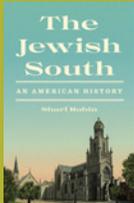
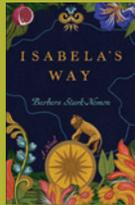
## UP NEXT:

# Patrick Radden Keefe

## Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Cuyahoga County  
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**Barbara Stark-Nemon**  
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**TUESDAY, MAR 17**  
**Miriam Flock**  
7:30 pm • Mandel JCC

**WEDNESDAY, MAR 18**  
**Shari Rabin**  
7:30 pm  
Congregation Mishkan Or  
FREE Mandel JCC Members &  
Congregation Mishkan Or  
\$5 Community

**THURSDAY, MAR 19**  
**Bonny Reichert**  
7:30 pm • B'nai Jeshurun

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19**  
**Rachel Simons**  
3:30 pm • Park Synagogue  
2:30 pm: Pre-event cooking demo  
and tasting, main talk and a copy  
of *Sesame*. Limited space. \$54  
Main talk: \$5 JCC & Park Members  
\$10 Community / \$5 Community

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**Writers Center Stage Series**



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# Author Visits



Scan to see all of our  
upcoming events



**Markus Zusak**  
**Parma-Snow Branch**

Monday, March 9 / 7 PM



**Wade Rouse**  
**Brooklyn Branch**

Wednesday, March 11 / 7 PM



**Laretta Malloy Noble**  
**and LeeAnét Noble**  
**South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch**

Tuesday, March 10 / 7 PM



**Frank Scaturro**  
**South Euclid-Lyndhurst Branch**

Thursday, March 12 / 7 PM

UB Greensfelder is proud to support the **William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series** and the **Cuyahoga County Public Library** as they empower individuals and communities by providing opportunities for all to read, learn, create, and connect.

*“The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man.”*

-T.S. Eliot

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*UB Greensfelder was created in 2024 through the merger of Ulmer & Berne LLP and Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C. — two strong, growth-focused firms that joined forces to create an Am Law 200 legal powerhouse.*



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Learn more about upcoming forums and to find out how you can support free speech at [cityclub.org](http://cityclub.org)

A group of five diverse people (three women and two men) smiling and laughing. They are 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 LITERARY CITY".

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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
- Special recognition in Library publications

Join the Ex Libris Society online at  
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Check it out: A branding agency that values more than your budget.

DATE: 3-5-26

TIME: 7:21PM

TITLE: The Correspondent  
AUTHOR: Evans, Virginia  
FROM: Cline, Shelby  
Account Coordinator @ LJ

TITLE: Hacking the Human Mind  
AUTHOR: Shotton, Richard & Flicker,  
MichaelAaron  
FROM: Frank, Roger  
Managing Partner @ LJ

TITLE: Butter: A Novel of Food and  
Murder  
AUTHOR: Yuzuki, Asako  
FROM: Andres, Tasmin  
Account Manager/Strategist @ LJ

TITLE: Temporary  
AUTHOR: Leichter, Hilary  
FROM: Parlett, Joey  
Creative Director @ LJ

TITLE: The Heart's Invisible Furies  
AUTHOR: Boyne, John  
FROM: Beer, Allison  
Senior Designer @ LJ

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# Beethoven's Fateful Fifth

MAR 12 | THU 7:30 PM

MAR 13 | FRI 7:30 PM

MAR 14 | SAT 7:30 PM

MAR 15 | SUN 3 PM

Elim Chan, *conductor*  
Michael Sachs, *trumpet*

STRAVINSKY Suite from *Pulcinella*  
HAYDN Trumpet Concerto  
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 5



## More Concerts This March



**Brahms's  
Third Symphony**  
MAR 5, 7 & 8



**Family  
Concerts**  
**Beethoven  
Lives Upstairs**  
MAR 6



**Isata  
Kanneh-Mason in  
Recital**  
MAR 17



**Chan  
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Bartók**  
MAR 19-21

[clevelandorchestra.com](http://clevelandorchestra.com)

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# There's always something *different* at Case Western Reserve University

CWRU is honored to partner with the Cuyahoga County Public Library for the William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage, held in the beautiful Milton and Tamar Maltz Performing Arts Center at the Temple-Tifereth Israel at Case Western Reserve University.



To learn more about more events on campus, please visit [case.edu/events](https://case.edu/events).



Explore more events at the Maltz Performing Arts Center, including the Silver Hall Concert Series, at [case.edu/maltzcenter](https://case.edu/maltzcenter).



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