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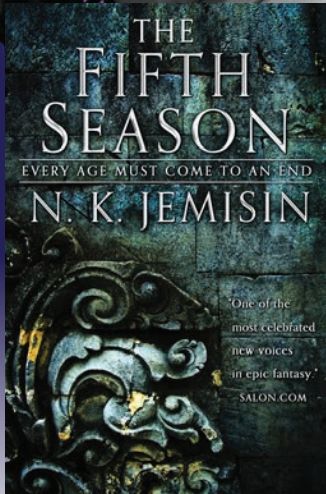
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N.K. JEMISIN



N. K. Jemisin is a *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author of speculative fiction.

She made history by winning the Hugo Award for Best Novel three years in a row for her Broken Earth trilogy, becoming the first author ever to do so. *The Fifth Season*, the trilogy's first book, was named one of the *New York Times*' 100 Best Books of the 21st Century. Her novels, *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms* and *The City We Became*, are celebrated for their exploration of oppression, identity and transformation. Jemisin continues to shape the landscape of modern science fiction and fantasy.



INTRODUCTION

DR. LEAH LEWIS, J.D.

Dr. Leah Lewis, J.D., is the Executive Director of the 501-c-3 Little Lumpy's Center for Educational Initiatives: Learning, Literacy, and Technology (LLCEI) and the host of the annual Great Lakes African American Writers Conference (GLAAWC is pronounced "glossy"), which enters its ninth year in 2026 and is growing regionally. GLAAWC has hosted African American luminaries in literature including Diane McKinney-Whetstone, Kimberla Lawson Roby, Abby L. Vandiver, 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 month-long Cleveland Book Fest.

Leah's interest in literature is lifelong. She became a published author with *Little Lumpy's Book of Blessings* in 2000. 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.



Q&A MODERATOR

MICHELE TRACY BERGER

Michele Tracy Berger is the Eric and Jane Nord Family Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and director of the Baker-Nord Institute for the Humanities at Case Western Reserve University. She has a secondary appointment in the Department of English. She is a leading scholar in applying intersectional approaches to studying areas of inequality. This work spans the fields of Public Health, Political Science, Sociology, and women's and gender studies. She is also an award-winning creative writer. Her short fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies.

She is the 2019 winner of the Carl Brandon Kindred Award from the Carl Brandon Society for her story *Doll Seed* published in *FIYAH: Magazine of Black Speculative Fiction*.

Much of her work explores psychological horror, especially through issues of race and gender. *Doll Seed*, her debut short story collection of speculative fiction, was published in fall 2024 by Aunt Lute Books.



Proud to Support Writers Center Stage

Words have the power to challenge perspectives, spark imagination, and connect communities. That's why Tucker Ellis is honored to sponsor the **2025–2026 William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series**.

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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.



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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 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.

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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.

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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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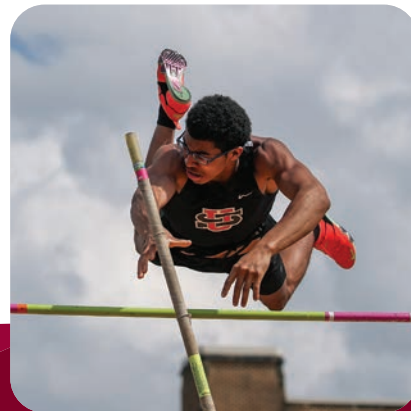
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2005 - 2006

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ALEXANDER McCALL SMITH
JANE SMILEY
ANNA QUINDLEN

2006 - 2007

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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
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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
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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
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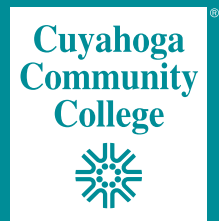
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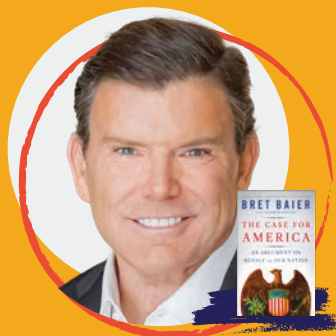
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Parma-Snow Branch

Wednesday, May 27 / 7 PM



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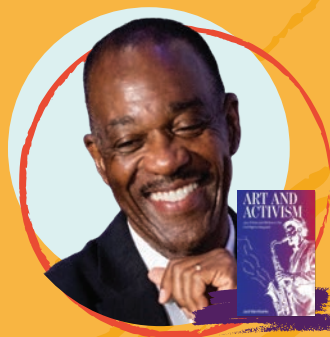
Thursday, May 21 / 7 PM



Ben Rhodes

Parma-Powers Branch

Tuesday, June 2 / 7 PM



Jack Marchbanks

Garfield Heights Branch

Thursday, June 18 / 7 PM

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TIME: 7:28PM

TITLE: The Four Conversations: A New Model for Selling Expertise

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FROM: Frank, Roger
Managing Partner @ LJ

TITLE: Logos That Last

AUTHOR: Peters, Allan

FROM: Medrano, Jason
Senior Designer @ LJ

TITLE: The Sea, The Sea

AUTHOR: Murdoch, Iris

FROM: Parlett, Joey
Creative Director @ LJ

TITLE: What Now?

AUTHOR: Patchett, Ann

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AUTHOR: Chou, Elaine Hsieh

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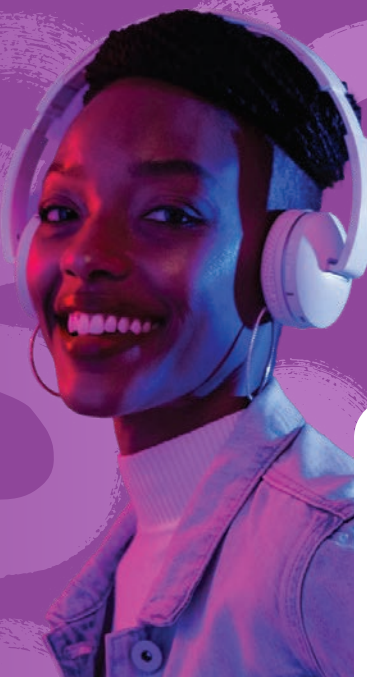
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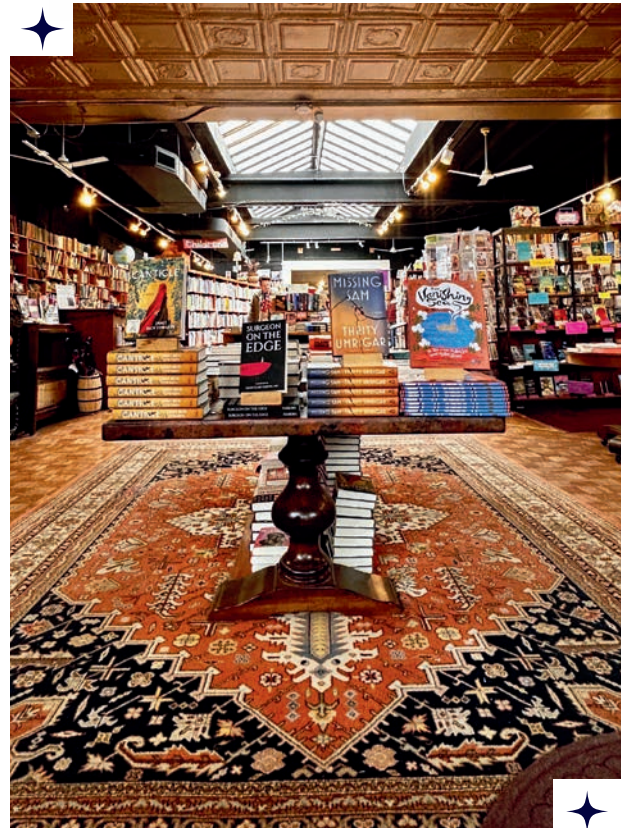
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