writers on stage & books on my list

LeVar Burton



Merrymeeting Group congratulates Cuyahoga County Public Library on the continued success of the Writers Center Stage Series!



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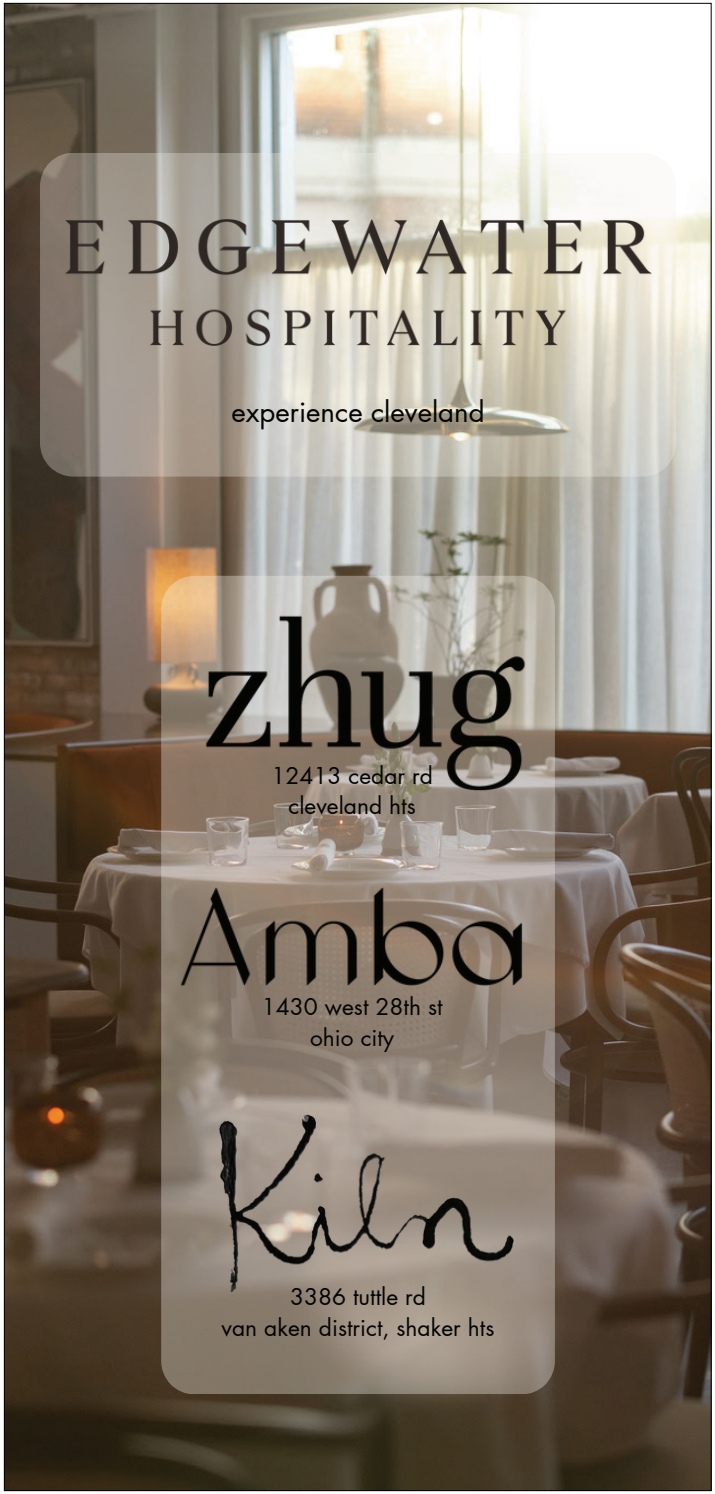

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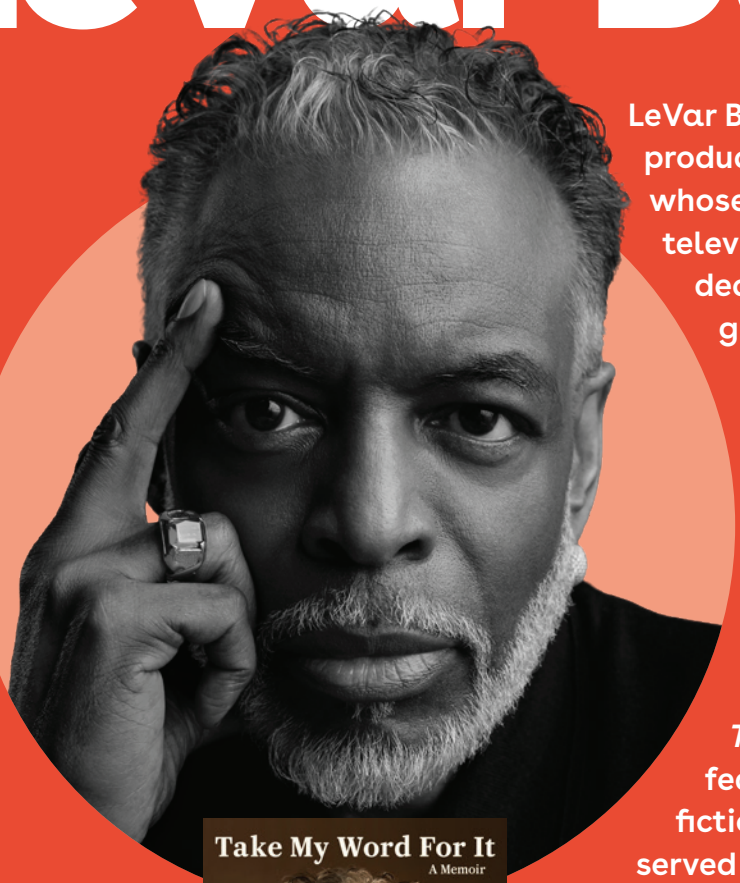
LeVar Burton





LeVar Burton is an acclaimed actor, director, producer and lifelong literacy advocate whose work has shaped American television and culture for more than four decades. Burton rose to fame with his groundbreaking portrayal of Kunta Kinte in the landmark television miniseries *Roots*, which helped bring Alex Haley's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel to life for millions of viewers and remains one of the most influential moments in television history.

Burton went on to star as Lt. Commander Geordi La Forge in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and its feature films, becoming one of science fiction's most beloved characters. He also served for more than 20 years as the host and executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning PBS series *Reading Rainbow*, inspiring generations of young readers through the power of books and storytelling.

His new debut memoir, *Take My Word for It*, was published on Nov. 10.



Welcome

GEORGE SAMPLE

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT AT BLUE STREAK CONSULTANTS, CCPL FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER

George Sample is principal consultant at Blue Streak Consultants, helping organizations develop leaders through coaching, workshops, and recruiting. He previously held leadership roles at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and Lubrizol. He serves on boards including John Carroll University, United Way of Greater Cleveland, Red Cross, and CCPL Foundation. He is a past president of Cleveland SHRM and past chair of United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland.



Introduction

ERIC W. KALER

PRESIDENT OF CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

Eric W. Kaler is the 11th president of Case Western Reserve University and holds the Morton L. Mandel Presidential Chair. He previously served as president of the University of Minnesota. A chemical engineer with more than 40 years in higher education, Kaler is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His work focuses on research, fundraising, partnerships, entrepreneurship, and access to education.



In Conversation with LeVar Burton

JAMAR O. RAHMING

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jamar O. Rahming is CEO of Cuyahoga County Public Library and board president of its Foundation. He also leads the Public Library Association and serves on the Black Caucus of the American Library Association board. Previously, he led Wilmington Institute Free Library, recipient of the 2022 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. Named Delaware Business Times' 2024 CEO of the Year, Rahming holds a master's from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a bachelor's from the University of Northern Colorado.

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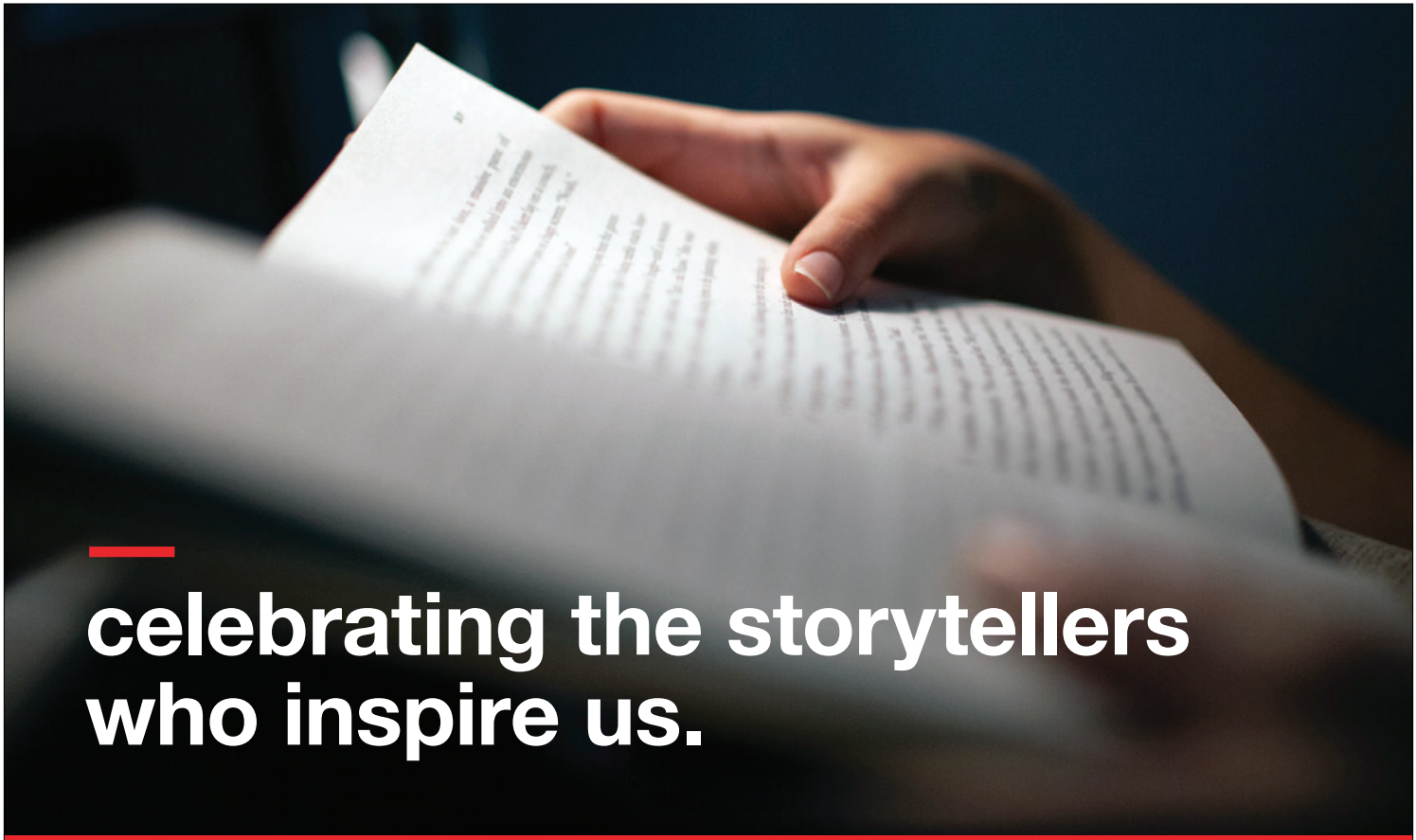
Each year, the Jarvis Scholar Program awards up to ten full, four-year merit scholarships to students entering the ninth grade. The application for fall 2027 admission is now open.



celebrating the storytellers who inspire us.

Great stories do more than entertain. They spark curiosity, inspire learning, and connect people through shared experiences. That's why KeyBank is so passionate to champion the arts in the communities we serve, and why we're thrilled to support the 2026 – 27 William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series.

Congratulations for 23 remarkable seasons! Your dedication to celebrating the work of gifted authors from every walk of life elevates our entire community.

We're grateful for these writers — for the stories they tell, and the hearts they inspire.

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Writers Center Stage Series

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Cuyahoga County Public Library FOUNDATION

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

Scan to learn more

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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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TWENTY-THIRD SEASON

WILLIAM N. SKIRBALL WRITERS CENTER STAGE

2026-2027

The 2026-27 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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Cuyahoga County Public Library FOUNDATION

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Hillary Walker
Special Events Senior Coordinator

p: 216.749.9491

e: hwalker@cuyahogalibrary.org

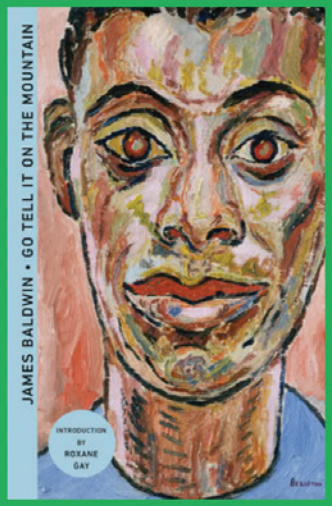
thirdspace
READING ROOM

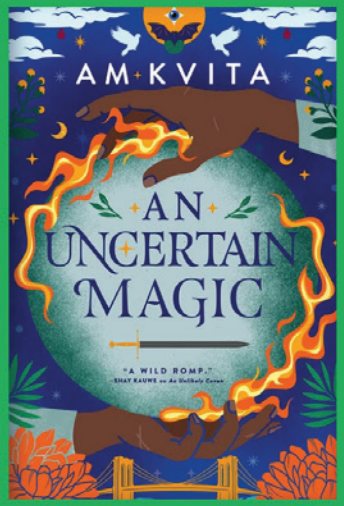
ThirdSpace Reading Room, Cleveland's only Black-owned bookstore, is proud to support The William N. Skirball Writers Center Stage Series.

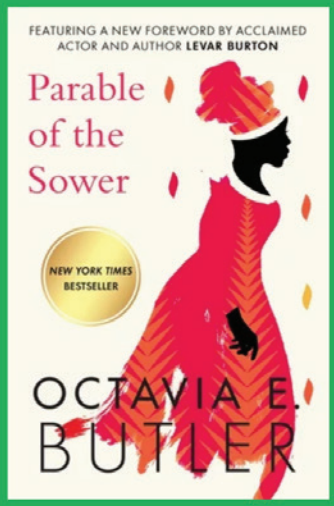
bitly

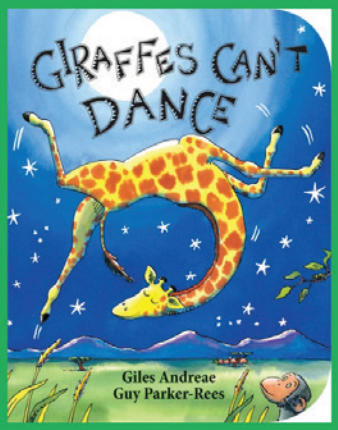
WHAT TEACHER READS A

LeVar Burton showed up for us in ways that are still manifesting. Here are some books that continue to inspire.

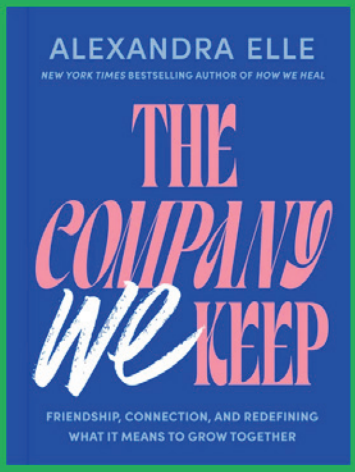












ABATTOIR

Abattoir Gallery is a space for contemporary art in Cleveland, exhibiting emerging talent in the region and nationally.

Gallery hours: Fridays and Saturdays 12 - 5pm or by appointment

abattoirgallery.com | 3619 Walton Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio | abattoirgallery



Writers Center Stage

PREVIOUS 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

2025-2026

IAN MCEWAN
MALCOLM GLADWELL
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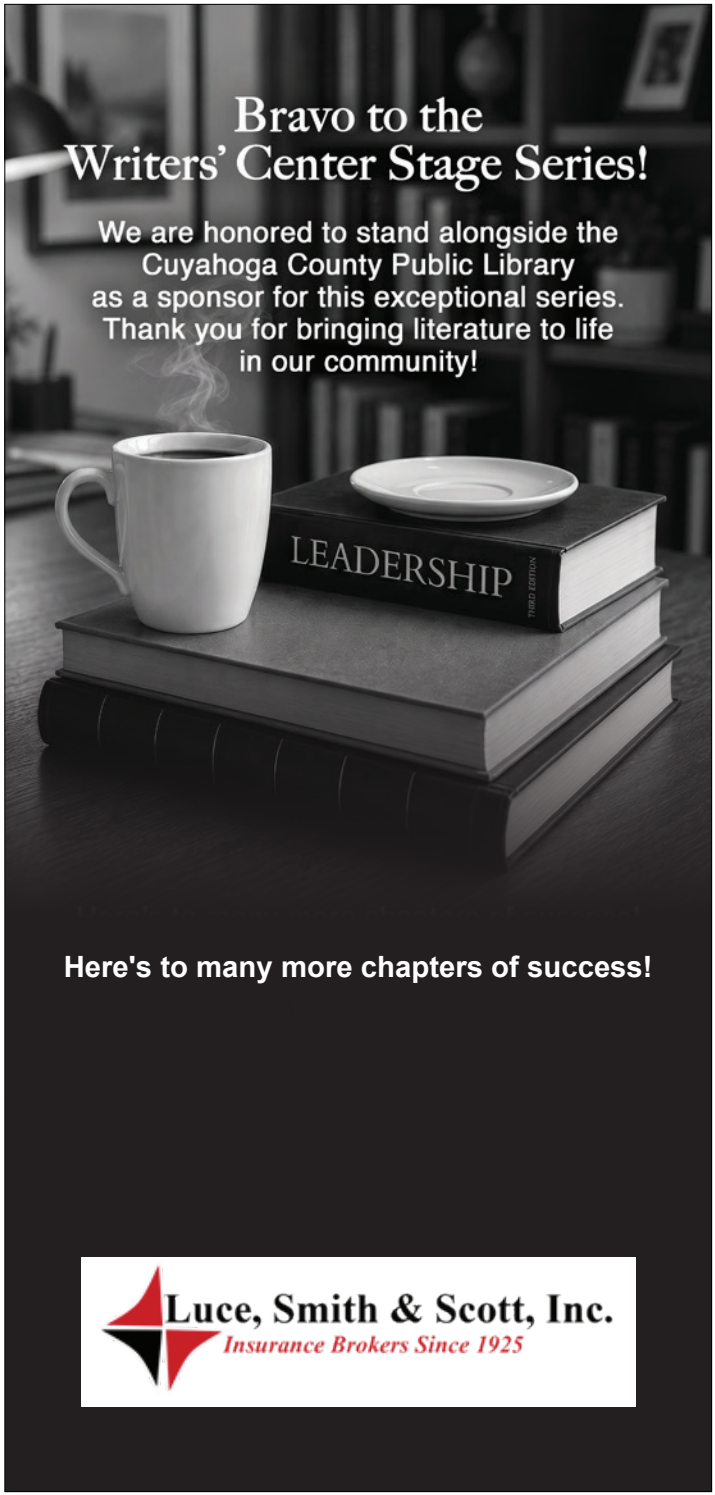
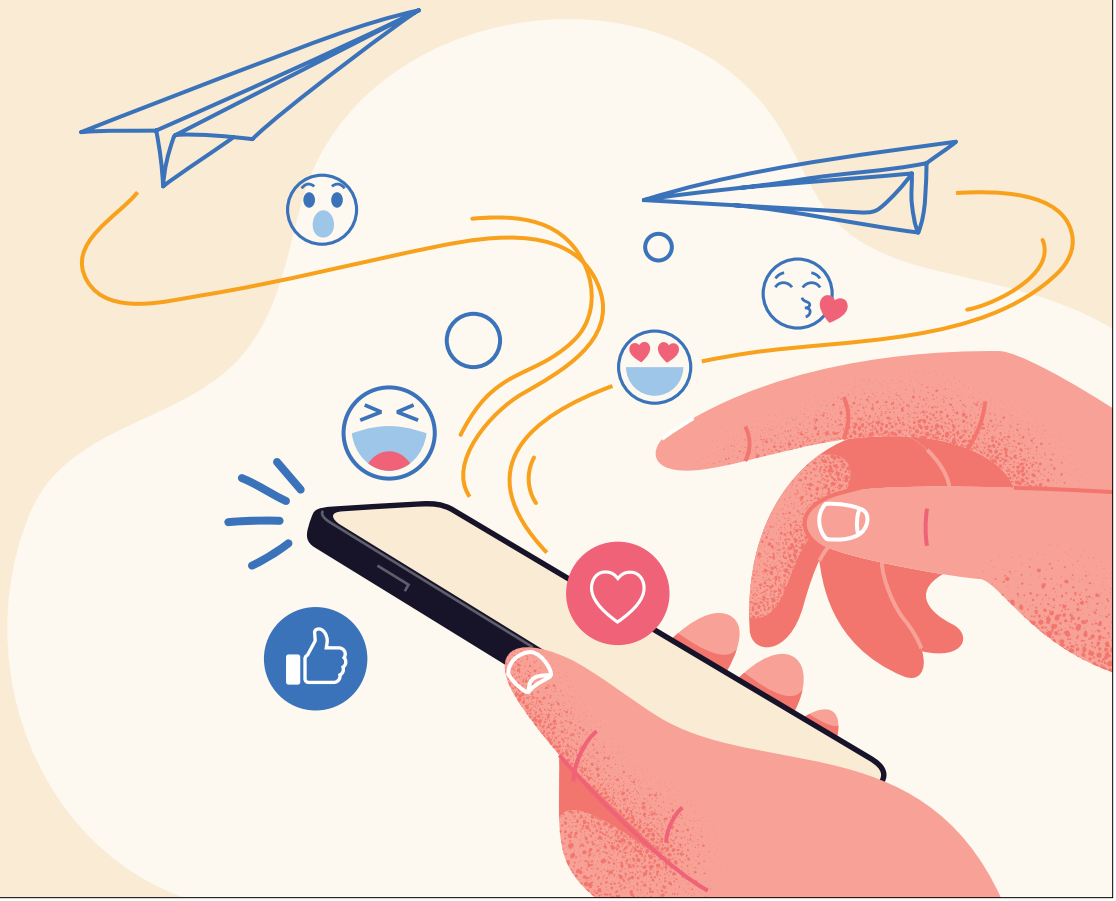


Become a CCPL Champion

CCPL Champions are community members who value the library and are willing to help raise awareness around it on social media. Interested in helping?

Learn more at **cuyahogalibrary.org/champions**.





These are just some of the top colleges and universities (as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*) Gilmour graduates have been accepted into since 2020. These outcomes reflect the strength of our academic program, the individualized guidance students receive and the confidence colleges have in Gilmour graduates. That's the advantage of educating the mind and empowering the heart.

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TWENTY-THIRD SEASON
WILLIAM N. SKIRBALL WRITERS CENTER STAGE
2026-2027

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Author Visits

Be first to know who's coming to CCPL next!
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Amanda Uhle
North Royalton Branch
Monday, November 16 / 7 PM



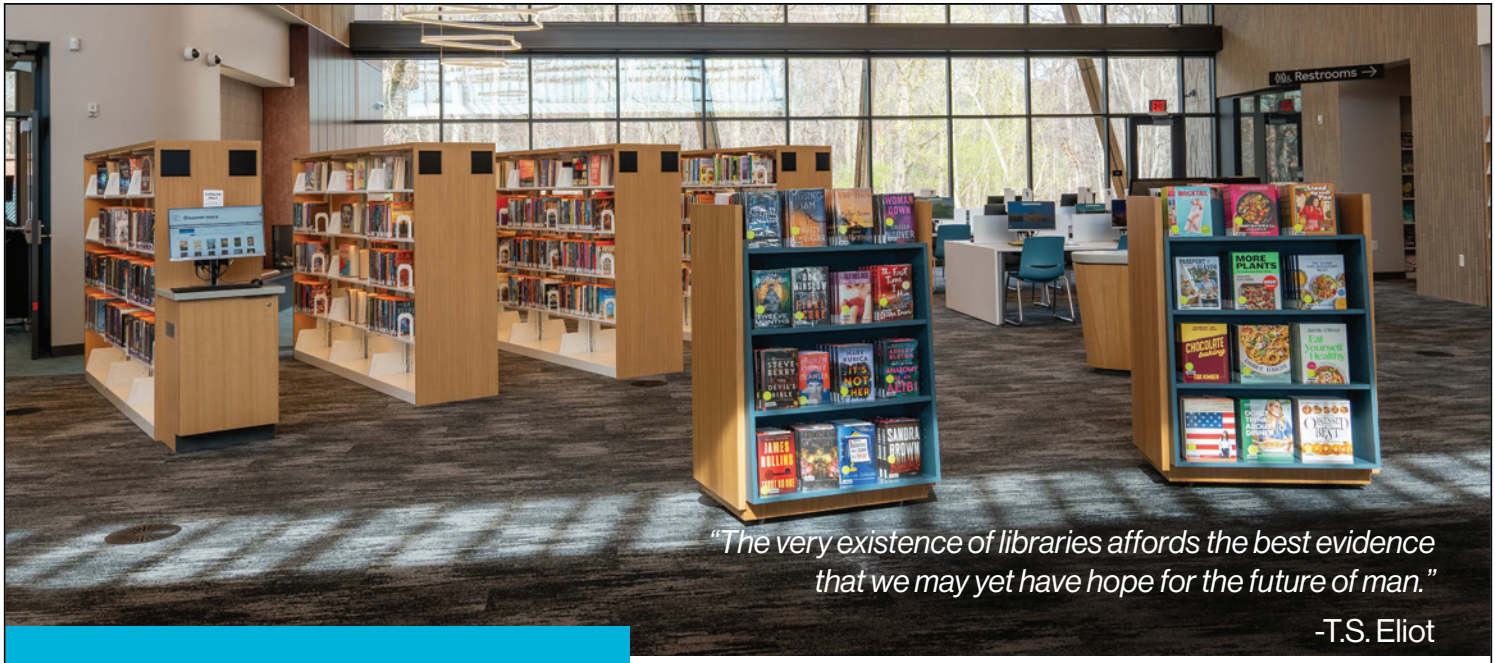
Annie Zaleski
Fairview Park Branch
Thursday, November 19 / 7 PM



Sara Paretsky
Brooklyn Branch
Wednesday, November 18 / 7 PM



Joanna Hardis
North Olmsted Branch
Saturday, November 21 / 11 AM



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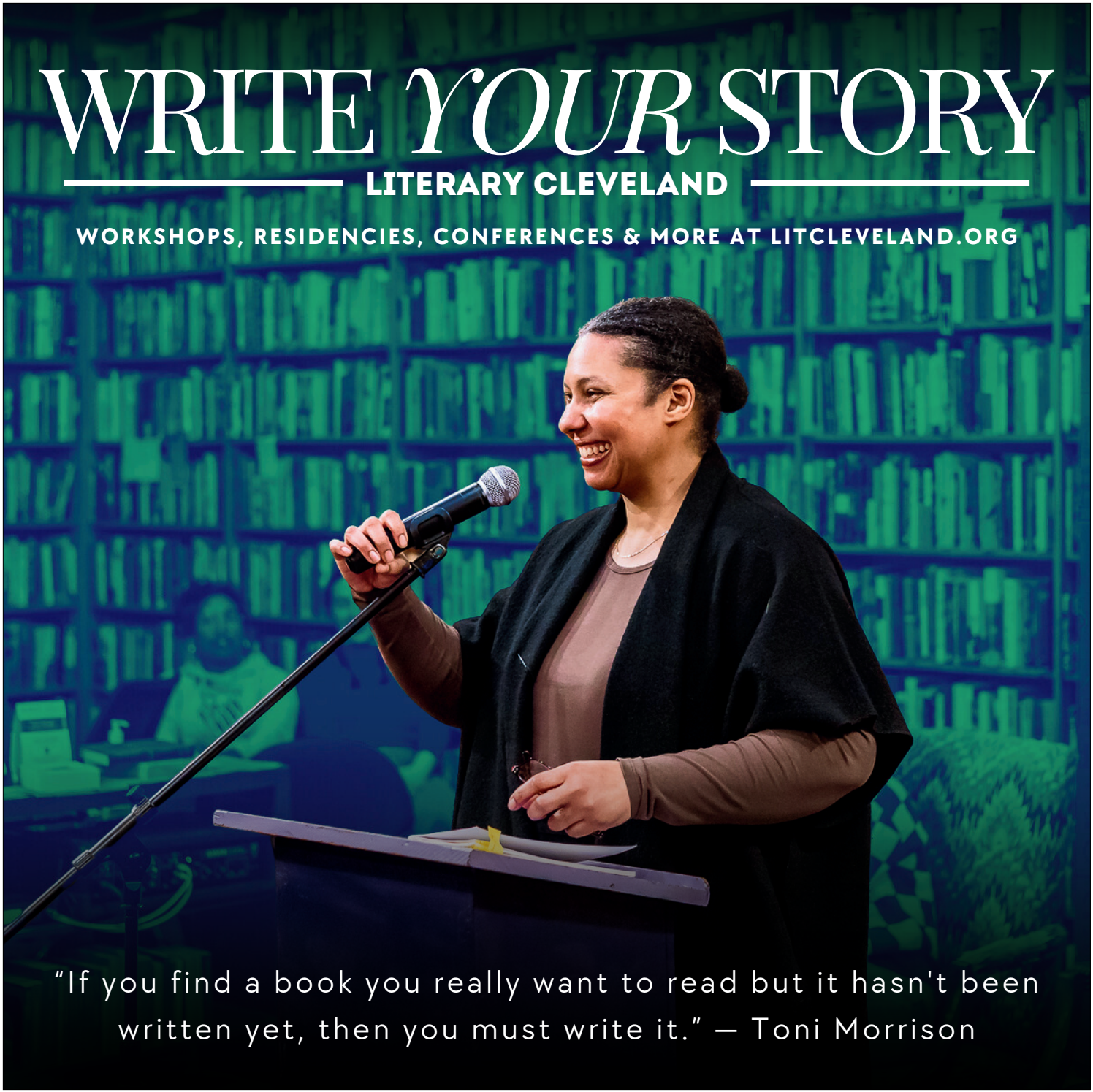
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A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

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Ex Libris Society



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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OR

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Finance Department,
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Can you unscramble these words?

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TNGISHI

RACOBLTIOLANO

EVSPECTRPIE

IRSEUSPR & TDEILGH

GLITENNIS

GILNTSYETLOR

Unscramble the circled letters for a bonus answer:

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Now let's find your brand together.

Little Jacket





you imagined it

&

you built it

Our maker spaces give you the tools.
You bring the idea.

What you see here was
#MadeAtCCPL.

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cuyahogalibrary.org/makerspaces

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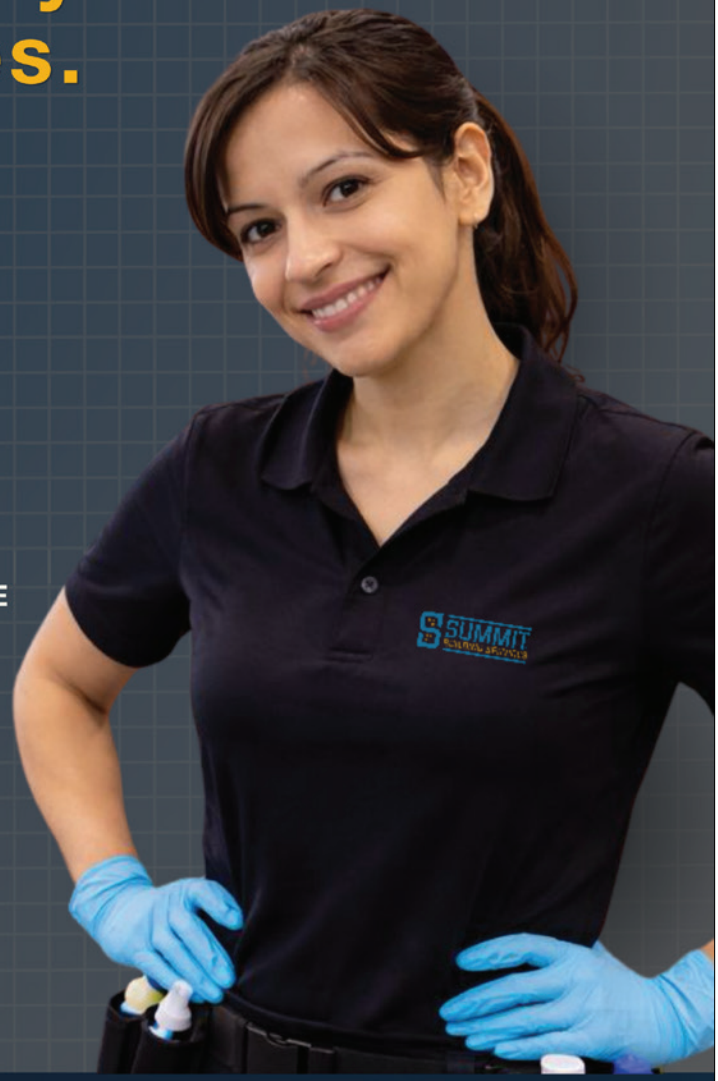

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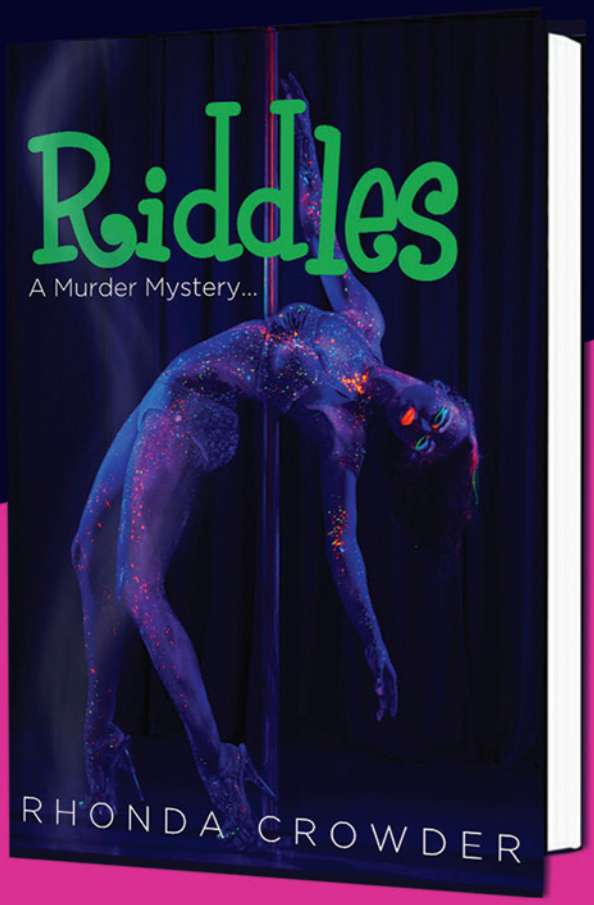

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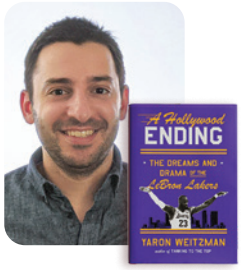

Yaron Weitzman

DEC 1 • 7 PM
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Merryl Goldberg

DEC 2 • 1 PM
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Rebekah Lowin

DEC 15 • 7 PM
CONGREGATION MISHKAN OR



Judy Batalion

JAN 27 • 7 PM
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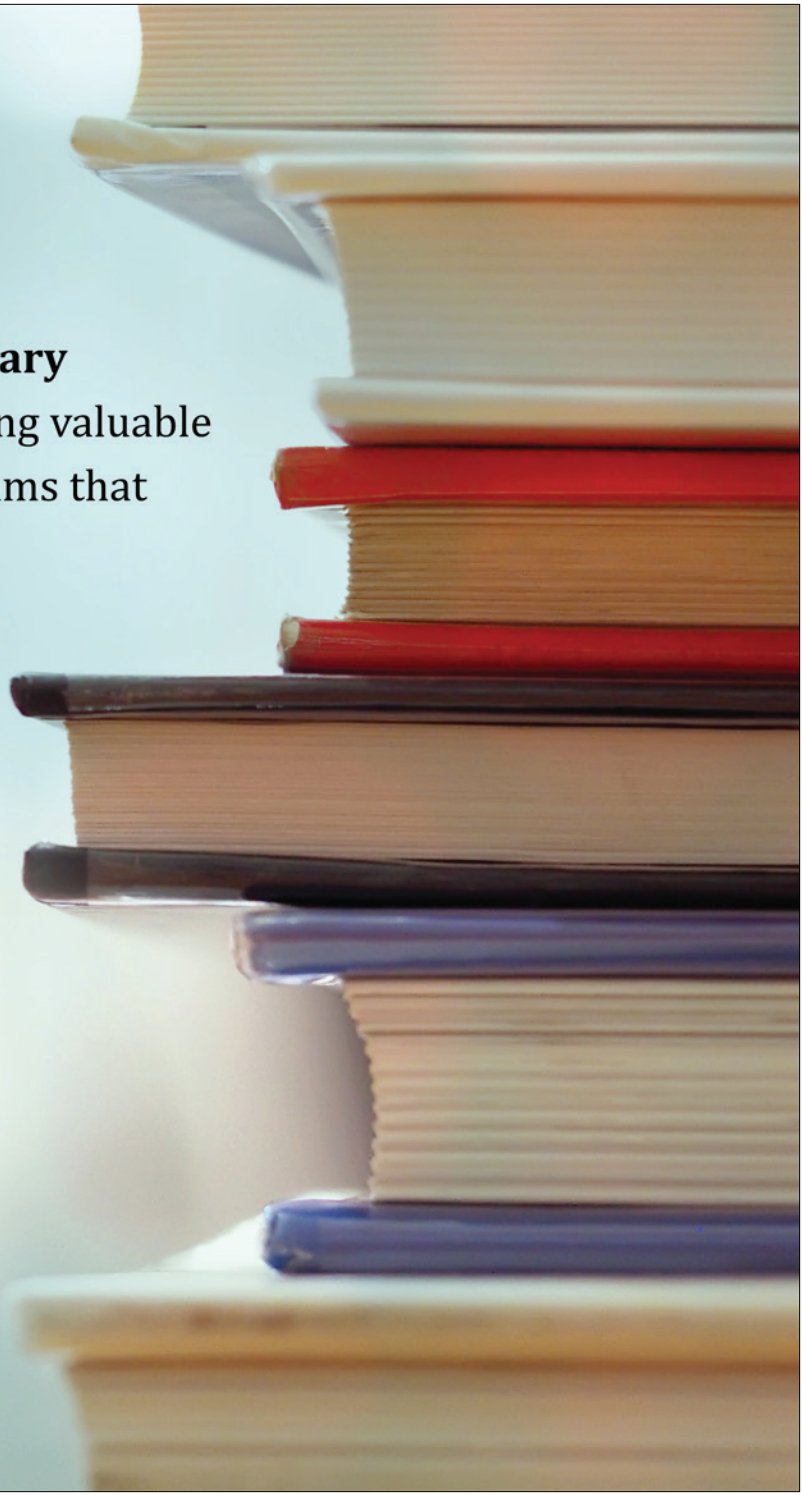

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