

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana Literati—

2019 Literary Series Features

Drag Queens, Boxing, Birding, Poets and Grace King

METAIRIE, LA – Nine local authors will be featured during the 2019 season of Louisiana Literati, a literary initiative sponsored by the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and the Jefferson Parish Library.

All events are free-of-charge and are open to the public. The events occur in the meeting rooms of the East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie. Books will be available for sale through the Friends of the Jefferson Public Library.

This event is co-sponsored by the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival, an annual five-day literary festival in the city of New Orleans.

7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 4

***Drag Queen Brunch*, by Poppy Tooker**

Poppy Tooker, cookbook author and host of the WWNO Radio Show *Louisiana Eats*, will discuss her new cookbook, *Drag Queen Brunch*, which features recipes for world-renowned brunch dishes, and it is filled with photos of glamorous divas.

7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12

***The Olympic Club of New Orleans*, by S. Derby Gisclair**

In the late 19th century New Orleans was a mecca for professional and amateur boxers despite city and state regulations that expressly prohibited prize fighting. However ambiguously worded these regulations may have been, eventually boxing became permissible and fighters from across the globe descended on New Orleans with the hope of making their mark at the Olympic Club. Gisclair is a frequent speaker on the rich sports history of New Orleans and has authored more than 100 articles on local and regional sports personalities and events, as well as several books.

7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 2

***Adventures of a Louisiana Birder*, by Marybeth Lima**

This candid and humorous chronicle shows how one woman goes from casual observer to obsessive bird nerd as she traverses Louisiana's avian paradise. In *Adventures of a Louisiana Birder*, readers follow Marybeth Lima across her adopted state in search of 300 species of birds. Bisected by the Mississippi flyway and home to 400 miles of coast, Louisiana has a variety of habitats, which serve as a backdrop to her journeys. Professor of biological and agricultural engineering at Louisiana State University, Marybeth Lima is author of *Building Playgrounds, Engaging Communities: Creating Safe and Happy Places for Children* and coauthor of *Play On! Evidence-based Playground Activities and Service-Learning: Engineering in Your Community*.

7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 17

Poet Night featuring Katy Balma, Gina Ferrara, Deb Jannerson, Karen Maceira and Whitney Mackman

7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 19

***A New Orleans Author in Mark Twain's Court: Letters from Grace King's New England Sojourns*, by Miki Pfeffer**

King's correspondence with the Clemens family reveals incomparable affection. As a regular guest in their household, she quickly distinguished "Mark," the rowdy public persona, from "Mr. Clemens," the loving husband of Livy and father of Susy, Clara, and Jean, all of whom King came to know intimately. Their unguarded, casual revelations of heartbreaks and joys tell something more than the usual Twain lore, and they bring King into sharper focus. All of their existing letters are gathered here, many published for the first time. Miki Pfeffer is a visiting scholar at Nicholls State University and the author of the award-winning *Southern Ladies and Suffragists: Julia Ward Howe and Women's Rights at the 1884 New Orleans World's Fair*.

For more information regarding this presentation, contact Chris Smith, Manager of Adult Programming for the library, at (504) 889-8143 or wcsmith@jefferson.lib.la.us.

In accordance with provisions of the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, as amended, Jefferson Parish shall not discriminate against individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you require auxiliary aids or devices, or other reasonable accommodation under the ADA Amendments Act, please submit your request to the ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours in advance or as soon as practical. A 72 hour advanced notice is required to request Certified ASL interpreters. ADA Coordinator/Office of Citizens with Disabilities 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Suite 210, Elmwood, LA 70123, (504) 736-6086, ADA@jeffparish.net

The Jefferson Parish Library system consists of 16 locations that stretch from the Lakeshore Branch on the edge of Lake Pontchartrain to the Grand Isle Branch just steps away from the Gulf of Mexico. The library system consists of two large regional libraries and seven branches on each side of the Mississippi River. The East Bank Regional Library (4747 W. Napoleon Avenue, Metairie) serves as library headquarters. For more information, contact the library at (504) 838-1100 or www.jefferson.lib.la.us.