



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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15th ANNUAL COLLINGSWOOD BOOK FESTIVAL

COLLINGSWOOD, N.J. – Readers and writers will converge here once again for the 15th annual Collingswood Book Festival. A week of activities will culminate on Saturday, October 7, 2017. Festival-goers will have an opportunity to stroll more than six blocks of the main street filled with nationally recognized authors/speakers for adults and children, as well as booksellers, storytellers, poetry readings, workshops, exhibitors and performance stages. All events are free.

What's Happening at the Book Festival?

Despite three years of rain relocating the fest to Collingswood High School, festival organizers have proven "if you build it inside, they will come." Volunteers have the rain contingency plan down to a science, packing school hallways and classrooms with almost as many enthusiastic book lovers as in sunny, hot years.

What's New at the Book Festival?

The 2017 Collingswood Town Book is *The Unseen World*. Author Liz Moore will be attending the festival. Moore joined the fest as a featured author in 2012 with her second, popularly and critically acclaimed novel, *Heft*. After several non-fiction books, this year's town book is a page-turning story that spans decades and contains numerous interwoven plot lines revolving around sharply focused universal themes of family, love and identity. It is a timely and important exploration of the complex bonds between a daughter and her father, and of the role of intelligence technology in human relationships.

Joining presenters and signers this year is Collingswood resident Dave Levitan, a science journalist whose work has appeared in a variety of outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *the Atlantic*, *Scientific*

American, and many others. His book, *Not A Scientist: How Politicians Mistake, Misrepresent, and Utterly Mangle Science*, is published by WW Norton.

Beloved Philadelphia news anchor Lisa Thomas-Laury will be talking about her new autobiography, *On Camera and Off: When the News Is Good and When It's Not*. In 2001, Lisa underwent a bone marrow transplant at the Mayo Clinic in 2004 and returned to Channel 6 two and a half years later. She has received three honorary doctorate degrees and numerous other awards, including Philadelphia's most prestigious accolade, the Liberty Bell Award. She retired in March 2016 after a second bone marrow transplant, having spent nearly four decades with WPVI-TV.

Jason Rekulak, publisher and editor, and now debut author of *The Impossible Fortress*, will be presenting his adventures in publishing. Jason has acquired and edited many *New York Times* bestsellers for Quirk, including the YA fantasy *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs, and the beloved mash-up novel *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

And, former, local sports reporter Kevin Callahan will bring his basketball novel *The Black Rose*, a labor of love following the loss of the job he loved – a story that's about much more than sports.

#1 New York Times Bestseller, and the most talked-about book in the fest's history, *Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign* by political journalists Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes, is the gripping postmortem of Hillary Rodham Clinton's fraught 2016 presidential run, told from inside the campaign that was supposed to win it all. Their appearance will be moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Wendy Ruderman, a 2014 festival presenter.

Panel discussions and workshops will once again inspire festival goers to think and, perhaps write for themselves. Local author Joe Samuel Starnes will lead *Panel: On the Dark Side – Noir & Crime Fiction from New Jersey and Philadelphia*, featuring five accomplished writers with edgy tales to tell and discuss. For kids, Mazetoon's Joe Wos, cartoonist, storyteller, writer, and performer, will run a cartooning workshop at Collingswood Library. Joe has been drawing mazes since the age of seven and is regarded as a master maze maker. In 2012, he created the world's largest hand-drawn maze. Measuring at 140 square feet, it features more than 100 illustrations.

Over ten children's and YA authors will make their festival debuts, including Victoria Devine, Mark Collins, and Erin Entrada Kelly. Authors that local kids have adored for years are returning this year, bringing new books and their love for spreading the joy of reading. For the first time, 3rd graders will have a book and author representing them at the fest. They'll be receiving Allison Gutknecht *Pizza is the Best Breakfast* to have signed by the author.

This year, the Book Fest is pleased to showcase the CollsCreators' Stop Motion Film Fest, a collection of student-created animated short films. A mobile mini-makerspace kit at the Collingswood Public

Library is available for students who may not have access to their own equipment. Funding for the makerspace was made possible through a grant from the New Jersey State Library and LibraryLinkNJ. Young filmmakers are invited to submit their work by September 22. To find out how, visit www.collingswoodlib.org/stop-motion-film-fest.

“The Power of Poetry” is the theme of the Poetry Tent this year, and features Collingswood celebrity Stink Fisher hosting South Jersey “Rock Stars” reciting the poets’ poems they love. And, the festival is honored to present a tribute to Monsignor Michael Doyle, poet and conscience of Camden, NJ. Award-winning and prolific poet James Hoch will be the keynote poet. His books are *A Parade of Hands* and *Miscreants*.

Sages of Ages meets again Wednesday, October 4th for their 11th year. The event will take place at the Collingswood Community Center at 1 p.m. The guest speakers this year, Roy Ziegler and Hal Taylor, will enlighten the attendees on the history of Philadelphia and New Hope as well as the history of the great American river, the Delaware River. As in past years, games for prizes and refreshments will enhance the afternoon. Reservations are suggested. Please call 856-854-3705 to reserve your place at this very exciting and informative event.

The Collingswood Book Festival is run entirely by volunteers. To continue the festival for generations to come, organizers are inviting new volunteers. Every year, dozens of volunteers give their time and talent to help make the event a success. Starting in April, organizers meet on the first Wednesday of the month. To become a Book Fest volunteer, go to <http://collingswoodbookfestival.com/volunteer/volunteer.php>. For additional information on the Book Festival, go to www.collingswoodbookfestival.com.

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