

David James Duncan

The River Why (2004)
The Brothers K (2023)



María Amparo Escandón

González & Daughter Trucking Co. (2006)

L.A. Weather (2023)



Peter Heller

The Dog Stars (2014)
The Guide (2023)



Anne Griffin

When All Is Said (2020)
Listening Still (2023)

2023 A Novel Idea
... READ TOGETHER

20
YEARS



DESCHUTES PUBLIC
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

“With no hesitation and with great respect, I salute Deschutes County’s community read program as the state’s finest. A Novel Idea was the highpoint for me after a solid year of speaking engagements across Oregon.”

—Lauren Kessler, 2009, *Stubborn Twig*

When the **A Novel Idea** community read program first started 20 years ago, it was with a simple question in mind: What would happen if everyone in Deschutes County read the same book? The goal was to engage with the community through thought-provoking and relevant programming and wrap it all up with a free and accessible visit from the author. That first year, a small committee of five readers looked for a book with regional roots and selected David James Duncan’s *The River Why*. The weeklong A Novel Idea event coincided with National Library Week and ended with a capstone presentation by Duncan; 400 people took part in seven programs.

Fast forward to 2019, the last year pre-pandemic, and A Novel Idea had evolved into a

month-long event, with 23 programs drawing in more than 7,500 participants. When we had to make a quick pivot to online-only programming in 2020, more than 9,000 people took part in virtual programs and presentations.

The tremendous growth of A Novel Idea is a testament to you, the readers and thinkers of Deschutes County. Your interest and your enthusiasm have enriched A Novel Idea year after year, and for those of you able to provide financial support, your donations have helped ensure that every A Novel Idea program could be offered free of charge, including every author presentation.

As we came to the end of our second decade of A Novel Idea, we knew a celebration was in order. Over the years we have been around

the world together—we’ve even been to the moon—and have visited times that stretch into the past as well as into the future. Picking just one book to mark this tremendous milestone was a daunting task. We began to consider the possibility of bringing back authors from past years, and to our delight, David James Duncan, María Amparo Escandón, Peter Heller, and Anne Griffin all said yes. We are excited and honored to bring all four authors to Central Oregon in April for the main event, and to offer you more than two dozen engaging programs in the weeks before their visit.

Thank you for making A Novel Idea the largest community read program of its kind in Oregon. We are excited to see where the future takes us. Happy reading!



2023 Main Event

Wrap up the 20th Anniversary of A Novel Idea with a conversation between authors David James Duncan, María Amparo Escandón, Peter Heller, and Anne Griffin.

Free, but tickets are required and are available starting Monday, April 10, at www.deschuteslibrary.org/calendar/novelidea and at all library locations.

Saturday, April 29, 2023 • 6:00 p.m.

Bend High • 230 NE 6th St., Bend



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page 2: Clockwise

Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner* (2005). Hosseini's sold-out program began a second impromptu night. Quincy Street delights the audience during A Novel Idea's fourth-year presentation for *Bowman and the Men of Oregon* (2007) by Kenny Moore.

Dara Horn, *The World To Come* (2008), at her book signing.

page 3: Clockwise

Oscar-winning actress Octavia Spencer and *The Help* (2010) author Kathryn Stockett.

Amor Towles, author of *Rules of Civility* (2012), with fans outside the Tower Theatre.

Eowyn Ivey, author of *The Snow Child* (2013), at her book signing.

Unit Souza perform during the presentation for *A Tale for the Time Being* (2015) by author Ruth Ozeki.

Euphoria (2016) author Lily King with Ruth Burleigh.

Jason Graham in conversation with *Homegoing* (2017) author Yaa Gyasi.



"I've done hundreds of talks over the course of my career, but my time with the Deschutes Public Library and the A Novel Idea program was among the very best."
— Robert Kurson, 2019, *Rocket Men*



Clockwise:

Kalabharathi School of Dance at the main event of author Rakesh Satyal's *No One Can Pronounce My Name* (2018).

Rocket Men author Robert Kurson (2019).

The Wild Ride brewers really wanted to meet author Anne Griffin, *When All Is Said* (2020)—but COVID had other ideas.

Authors Diane Wilson, *The Seed Keeper*, and Christine Day, *I Can Make This Promise*, (2022).



"What a vibrant, wonderful, incredible literary community you have. It's so impressive!"
— Lily King, 2016, *Euphoria*

"The Deschutes Public Library's A Novel Idea is the best community reading program I have ever been involved with. I've been invited to many kinds of gigs at Duke, Yale, the Oregon Book Awards, National Book Awards, yadda, yadda. If I had my choice of a single such experience to repeat, I would definitely go back to Central Oregon." — David James Duncan, 2004 & 2023

When did you know you wanted to be a writer?

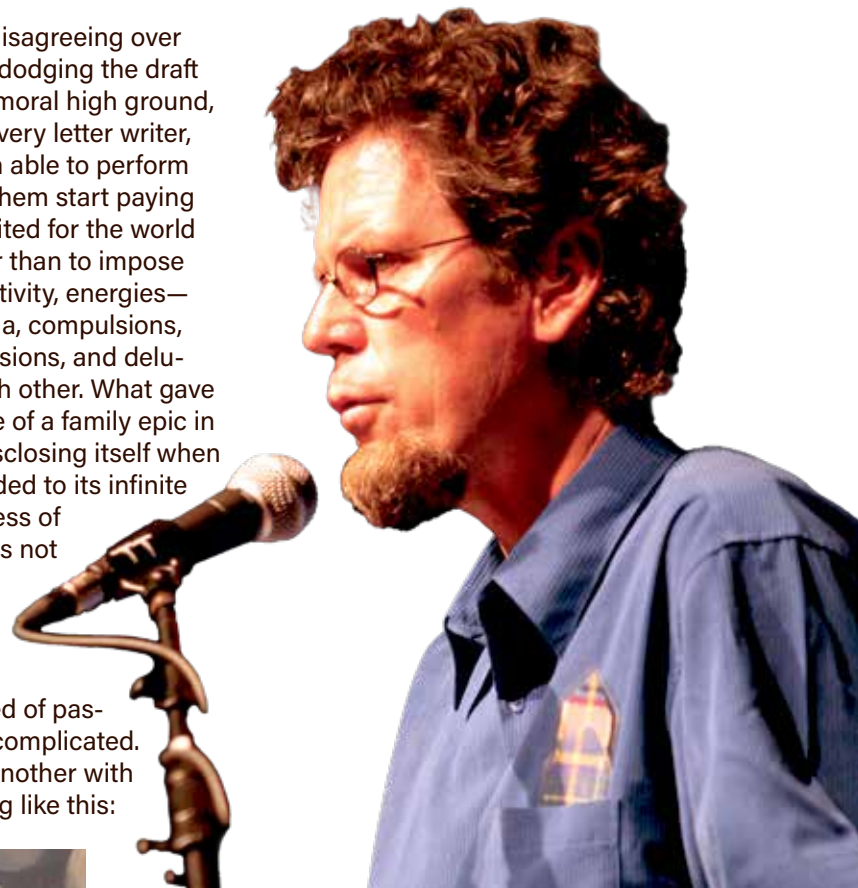
To be honest, I knew I wanted to be a writer at the moment I actually became a writer, in December, 1959. It happened in a second grade classroom when our teacher, kindly old Miss Hansen, told the class she wanted us to write a Christmas story. As she rambled on about how the story could be about anything remotely Christmas related, into a part of my head I didn't even know was called the imagination popped a boy my age about whom I managed to write, "It was the day before Christmas. Jesus was going to be seven years old. He had fed all the animals but the sheep. When he got to the fold one of the sheep were gone its name was De-BORE-ha. Jesus ran to his house and ate his breakfast!"

At which point a minor miracle occurred. My Davidness vanished. All I could now see were the actions and environs of this seven-year-old Jesus. Decades passed before I learned that this kind of vanishing was rather renowned. Flannery O'Connor said of it, "No art is sunk in the self, but rather, in art the self becomes self-forgetful in order to meet the demands of the thing seen and the thing being made." W. H. Auden said of it, "To pray is to pay attention to something or someone other than oneself. Whenever a person so concentrates their attention—on a landscape, a poem, a geometrical problem, an idol, or the True God—that they completely forget their own ego and desires, they are praying." The moment Jesus ran to his house to eat his breakfast an art that causes the self to become self-forgetful perceived a visible Jesus setting out to find his lost sheep in a visible desert wilderness. And though I have since learned that this miracle is not rare, I've never recovered from its first appearance. In fact I began to feed on hundreds of books in which authors accomplished the miracle, and began reading, writing, and floundering my way to a life immersed in the same miracle for thousands and thousands of days.

What do you hope readers will take away from reading *The Brothers K*?

A greater willingness to express clumsy thank yous. Consolation. And a sense of what a miracle family and friends can be if we're truly present to one another. In 1993 I received roughly a thousand letters in response to *Brothers K*—pre-email, of course. And those letters were loaded with stories about unexpected reconciliations between

long-feuding family members disagreeing over religion, or politics, or whether dodging the draft or fighting in Vietnam was the moral high ground, and other issues. And almost every letter writer, in reading *Brothers K*, had been able to perform a strategic withdrawal that let them start paying a new kind of attention that waited for the world to disclose itself to them, rather than to impose their ideas, skills, altruism, creativity, energies—and, let's face it, agenda, myopia, compulsions, preconceptions, addictions, illusions, and delusions—upon the world and each other. What gave them that ability? The influence of a family epic in which the world was always disclosing itself when the family members truly attended to its infinite creativity. What blocks awareness of Creation's ceaseless creativity is not creativity's disappearance. It's our callouses and callousness, injuries and injuriousness, ruling manias, divided minds, crossed purposes, absurd speed of passage, and lack of trust. It's not complicated. Instead of hammering on one another with all that, try to sight in something like this:



David James Duncan at the first A Novel Idea.

David James Duncan also answers the questions:

What was your favorite (or hardest) scene to write in *The Brothers K*?

We've been thinking a lot about the authors we've met over the course of 20 years of A Novel Idea. We're wondering if you think being a writer is a nature or nurture situation? Tell us why you believe one way or the other.

Visit dpl.pub/novelidea for his answers.

Todd Dunkelberg
Director, Deschutes Public Library

While I pictured A Novel Idea as a nice way to have a common topic of discussion, I never dreamed of the amazing and inspiring conversations that would ensue. Together we have learned, empathized, debated, cried, laughed, and grown.

For more, visit dpl.pub/anovelidea

"I'm delighted to be a part of the Novel Idea program. The possibility of sharing one book with one community at the same time? It is incredible. I congratulate you."

— María Amparo Escandón, 2006 & 2023



María Amparo Escandón outside the Tower Theatre at the third A Novel Idea.

When did you know you wanted to be a writer?

It took me about a year to realize I was born to be a storyteller. It went like this: I was seven years old when I came to my mother with a small bruise on my arm. I told her the babysitter had pinched me. My mother fired her on the spot and she left in tears. Now, the thing is, I loved my babysitter, so I came clean: it was really a bruise caused by the immunization I'd just gotten in school. Alarmed by the terrible consequence of my lie, my grandmother pulled me aside and explained that stories and lies are the same thing. The only difference is the intention. If you trick people into believing your story, it's a lie and it hurts. If you tell everyone that your story is made up, then it's fun and entertaining. With that new knowledge, she sent me off to school with a notebook to jot down all my "lies." By the end of the school year I had filled it with stories that I shared with my classmates, but unfortunately I hadn't

learned anything. So I flunked second grade. But this wasn't so bad since I had a whole new batch of readers when school started again. The following Christmas I asked Santa Claus for a typewriter, and since then I haven't stopped telling stories.

What was your favorite (or hardest) scene to write in *L.A. Weather*?

The theft of the embryos. A writer must be willing to set her morals aside and ask her characters to commit crimes that the writer would never dream of committing. This was a very difficult caper to write because Olivia and Patricia are not the kind of people who would steal something (it's a whole other matter in the case of klepto Claudia!). So the motivation for stealing the embryos had to be huge, life changing. I knew they'd have to face the implications, but I didn't want the story to turn into a courtroom drama, so I decided to leave them with the dark cloud of potential personal and legal consequences looming over their heads. Another question I asked myself is, how do I ask these characters to commit this crime, and still remain likeable? How do you develop a character that the reader will side with, even if her actions are questionable, illegal? I've always been reluctant to develop villains. I much rather create characters that have flaws and contradictions, that make mistakes and bad choices, and leave the villains to Marvel Comics.

We've been thinking a lot about the authors we've met over the course of 20 years of A Novel Idea. We're wondering if you think being a writer is a nature or nurture situation? Tell us why you believe one way or the other.

Your question got me thinking. If I had been born in a family that dismissed my knack for telling stories instead of celebrating it, or if my wise grandmother who taught me the difference between lies and stories had punished me instead of handing me a notebook to write in, or if Santa Claus had brought me a doll with googly eyes instead of my fabulous Olivetti Lettera 32 Ultra-Portable typewriter, or if I hadn't found an enthusiastic reading community among my elementary school classmates, I'd probably still be a storyteller, but maybe I wouldn't be a novelist, maybe I'd be a grifter, a con artist, a swindler. I'd probably be in jail for fraud, or maybe I'd be a congresswoman in the House of Representatives. So, nature gave me the gift of storytelling, but nurture was crucial in channeling this talent in the right direction. And I'm grateful.

María Amparo Escandón also answers the question:

What do you hope readers will take away from reading *L.A. Weather*?

Visit dpl.pub/novelidea for her answer.

Ann Malkin

President, Deschutes Public Library Foundation

Through the years, we've learned about literature, ideas, issues, and places but, just as importantly, we've learned about ourselves and our neighbors through shared experiences and enriching discussions. A Novel Idea enters its 20th year burning brightly.

For more, visit dpl.pub/anovelidea

"It's such an honor to come to Bend and to have been chosen by this real reading community."
— Peter Heller, 2014 & 2023

When did you know you wanted to be a writer?

I knew I was going to be a writer when I was about six and started writing poems. My dad read to me every night before I went to sleep. It was my favorite thing. He read *Treasure Island* and *Never Cry Wolf*, but also e.e. cummings and Don Marquis's wonderful book of poems by a cockroach, *Archy and Mehitabel*. All before I was in second grade. By the time I was 11 he was reading Yeats. I loved it. The music of the language, the images, the wit, the stories—I wanted to do that.



Peter Heller, amazed by original artwork from a fan, at the eleventh A Novel Idea.

What was your favorite (or hardest) scene to write in *The Guide*?

I think my favorite scene is in the very beginning when Jack has a discussion about the great Japanese poet Basho with the fishers Yumi and Teiji. Teiji is testing Jack, probing the true depths of his knowledge, and Jack takes the gauntlet and the conversation is peppery and fun. But then the haiku that Jack recites as befitting his present mood is telling, and picturesque and ominous like the lodge itself.

The temple bell stops—
but the sound keeps coming
out of the flowers.

It presages death, and the almost inaudible messages Jack keeps trying to decipher about this strange fishing lodge.

What do you hope readers will take away from reading *The Guide*?

That a narrative dubbed a thriller can be truly lyrical, and have things to say about our lives that are striking and meaningful. Also, that almost all luxury comes at someone else's expense.

We've been thinking a lot about the authors we've met over the course of 20 years of A Novel Idea. We're wondering if you think being a writer is a nature or nurture situation? Tell us why you believe one way or the other.

I'm always suspicious of the nature vs. nurture contest in any context. They are so intertwined. They foster and impinge on each other. We are now learning that stress and trauma can change DNA and that their effects can be passed from one generation to the next. I think it's awesome to have a parent that just loves great literature and is excited to share it with you. It's also lucky to be generally healthy and have good energy, and stamina for reading, and for learning a craft. What are the essential ingredients that make a true writer? Wild love and discipline, and these are both bestowed and cultivated. Amen.

20 Years of Selecting Books

It is no small task to select one book for thousands of people to read, nor is it anything our volunteer readers take lightly. Over the years the way a book is selected has evolved from a small five-person committee to two committees of nearly 20 people: a Community Nomination Committee that reads and recommends dozens of books each year, and an Advisory Committee that reads and discusses many of those recommendations and provides the Library Director with a final proposal. The committees use a set of guidelines and criteria when considering books, looking for:

- A well-written book that explores basic human truths and offers three-dimensional characters that resonate with today's readers.
- A discussable book that appeals to and enriches a wide audience—from confirmed book lovers to those who may not yet consider books and reading basic to their lives.
- A book that can be supported and discussed by an author who is willing to participate through a speaking engagement.
- A book that is available in a variety of formats (print, audio, large print, eBook) and was published in the last 18 months.
- A book that provides opportunity for dynamic programming and does not repeat themes, locations, or structure from recent selections (last five years).

Our thanks to our dedicated committee members, both past and present.

Wylie Ackerman	Stacey Donohue	Denise Mariman
Stephanie André	Kayla Duncan	Lisa McGean
Bea Armstrong	Todd Dunkelberg	Adam Miller
Kevin Barclay	Judy England	Dan Murphy
Alyssa Bennett	Paige Ferro	Peggy O'Hara
Christie Boen	Angela Fishel	Nathan Pedersen
Erin Borla	Lauralei Garrity	Gladys Pilz
Cynthia Brandt	Liz Goodrich	Debbie Ross
Ruth Burleigh	Lucy Hilburn	Karen Roth
Jo Caisse	Kim Jackson	Dick Sandvik
Cynthia Claridge	Catherine Jasper	Deon Stonehouse
Cassie Clemens	David Jasper	Chantal Strobel
Joel Clements	Richard Jenkins	Aaron Switzer
Michele Clements	Sami Kerzel	Bunny Thompson
Julie Connoley	Steve Light	Nancy Tyler
Robert Currie	Jessica Lorentz-Smith	Helen Vandervort
Tina Walker Davis	Ann Malkin	Laurel Westendorf

"You have really made this a touching experience. All that was done, the thoughtfulness of it, is something that I didn't expect. It has touched me very deeply."
— Anne Griffin, 2020 & 2023

When did you know you wanted to be a writer?

It took me quite a while. I always loved storytelling, both oral and written, from a young age. For many years in my 20s I worked as a bookseller. Following that I worked in the charity sector. When I hit my 40s, however, I felt I had lost my way, and on the advice of a friend, I started to write, mainly just as a hobby. I was 44 and it felt as if I had unleashed something that was always there calling to me but I simply hadn't been listening well enough. At 46, I began to study for a Masters in creative writing, and there I worked on a draft of my debut novel *When All Is Said*. Nine months after qualifying and 36 rejections later, I found a publisher.

What was your favorite (or hardest) scene to write in *Listening Still*?

I am well aware that my books can be emotional reads, often sad, so it might surprise people to know I love writing scenes with a bit of humour. In *Listening Still* I found those moments between Jeanie and Arthur, the postman and part-time funeral director, especially when he was predicting who in the town might die that

weekend. Sometimes I found it in Jeanie's conversations with her Aunt Harry or her brother Mikey. I enjoyed allowing the main character to interact with these quirky secondary characters to bring a bit of lightness to a book that is set in a funeral home and obviously dealing with death, not to mention a troubled marriage. I think Richard Russo is fantastic at doing this in his novels, balancing the light and shade of serious issues by allowing laughter in.

What do you hope readers will take away from reading *Listening Still*?

I hope they get a sense of a small town community in Ireland. I know I love to feel this when I read great American writers like Anne Tyler or the superb Canadian writer Mary Lawson. Deeper down, of course, I hope they



A continent away: author Anne Griffin still connects with her Central Oregon audience via Zoom during the seventeenth A Novel Idea.

have empathised with Jeanie's struggle to really understand herself and what it is she wants from life. I hope, therefore, people will take away that it is important to find a language that allows you be truthful with those you are closest to. Honesty is something we need to strive toward. It's about finding your voice, and being respectful to yourself and the listener.

We've been thinking a lot about the authors we've met over the course of 20 years of A Novel Idea. We're wondering if you think being a writer is a nature or nurture situation? Tell us why you believe one way or the other.

If storytelling is not innately in you, then, sure, you can do it anyway, you can train to be a writer and maybe you will be successful, but really, do you want to spend your life doing something you love or something you abide? When I get downhearted about my job, because I do—how could you not bearing your soul to the world—I ask myself the question that a writer friend of mine always poses when confronted with a troubled novelist: "What would you do instead?" And my answer is always "nothing," there is nothing I feel I was born to do more. For me personally, writing is therefore nature. For others it may be nurture. But that is the beauty of this creative world, we writers are all completely different. Perhaps the truth is actually somewhere in between.

Chantal Strobel

Manager, Communications & Development, Deschutes Public Library

We found success over these 20 years because of all of you who read the books, shared your thoughts in book discussions, participated in hundreds of programs, celebrated the authors when they visited our region, and supported us through donations and time. It is no surprise we remain the largest community read in the Northwest and the program that has the most fun!

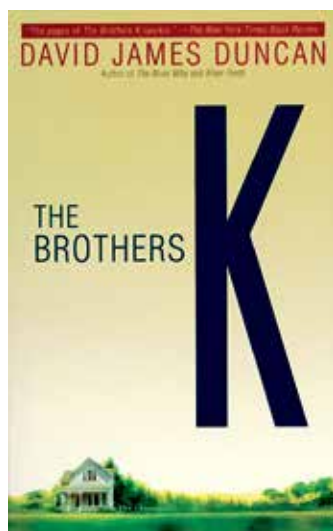
For more, visit dpl.pub/anovelidea

Stacey Donohue

English Professor, Central Oregon Community College

Because some years there are just too many good novels to choose from or Advisory Committee members disagree, we moved to a consensus decision-making model, which involved ranked voting and a detailed chart mapping the top picks to the selection criteria. Criteria includes an equity lens that is applied to the top choices to make sure that we do not recommend too many novels with the same type of characters and setting.

For more, visit dpl.pub/anovelidea



The Brothers K

one Discuss Laura Chance in detail. How did her sexual abuse as a child affect her as a wife? As a mother? As a congregation member?

two Do you see Hugh as the hero of this novel? Why or why not? Who is the hero if it is not Hugh?

three What is Kincaid's role in the family? Is he the only quiet one in the family? Does he take a back seat in the story as a plot device or because it is his nature to sit back and observe rather than be the instigator of action?

four Discuss the relationship between Everett and Peter, especially how they communicate. Both men seek a dream that begins

with their deep affection for baseball, but go in different directions. How are they similar and how are they different?

five Describe in detail what happens to Irwin in Vietnam and why that causes him to depart from reality and turn against his superiors.

six What is the role of women in this novel? Discuss Laura, Winifred, Beatrice, Linda, Tasha, and Grandawma. Are they strong women? Are their characters detailed and well outlined, or are they used in a stereotypical manner?

seven Papa Toe is devoted to baseball and Mama Chance is devoted to her church. Discuss the similarities between baseball and religion and consider the impact of Hugh and Laura's level of devotion on their lives.

L.A. Weather

one The Alvarados face many challenges in *L.A. Weather*. Which situation seemed the most challenging to you? What would you have done instead?

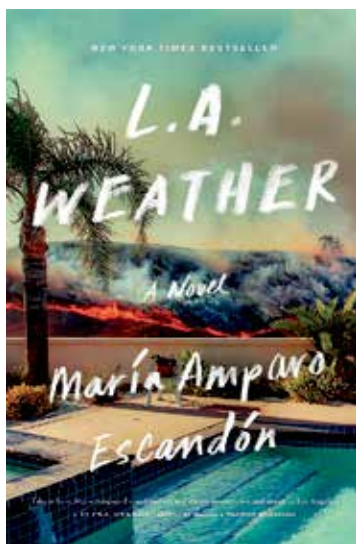
two Discuss Keila and Oscar's relationship. Do you think she did the right thing? Do you think she made the right decision regarding Simon?

three Discuss all three sisters' relationships. How do you think each sister grows over time and how does the relationship with their significant other change them?

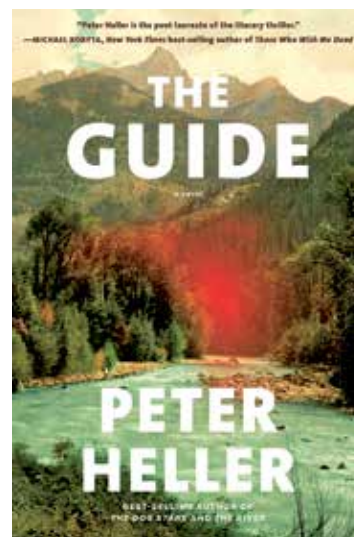
four The common cultural perception of Los Angeles often involves Hollywood stars, sunny skies, and Kardashian-esque image obsession and material aspiration. How would you describe the Alvarados' Los Angeles? What does Los Angeles represent to you?

five Lola takes issue with Olivia's architecture and house-flipping projects that are taking over L.A. neighborhoods. How is gentrification portrayed in the novel?

six Food is very important to the Alvarado family and Claudia in particular, and they often have family meetings around meals. How does the author use food to explore the family's mixed cultural heritage?



seven Throughout the book, Patricia's teenage child, Dani, is exploring their evolving relationship with gender and identity. What did you take away from Dani's experience?



The Guide

one Did you get a feel or idea of who Jack was at the beginning of the book? Did you wonder why he was at the lodge? At what point were you surprised about what was going on?

two Heller's writing style captures the quietness of nature and the rhythm of fly fishing—moving with nature. Share your nature experiences, the sounds, the unexpected, the water.

three What was going on with the camera? Discuss the clues Heller added at the beginning of the book and did you think the scream was an Owl?

four Discuss Alison K, who is independent, loves nature, is a beautiful singer, and knows her way around mountains. Why doesn't Alison leave the cabin?

five Re-read the "Winter Brook" poem by Li Xue on p.180 and discuss the nature, musical sounds, and connections with the characters in the book.

six At what point in the story did you feel nervous for Jack? Discuss the relationship between his family, Alison K, and his best friend Wynn. How is grief handled?

seven What did you see happening at the end? Do you think Alison and Jack see each other again?

Listening Still

one How would you describe Jeanie Masterson's growth throughout the novel?

two How does the concept of "family" make itself known in *Listening Still*?

three Consider the idea of "last wishes" as it is explored in this book.

four What similarities do you see in the characters who can speak to the dead? What differences do you see?

five Explore how different cultures handle death. Did anything stand out for you that you did or did not agree with?

six When did you first suspect that Ann was not as innocent as you first believed? What was the biggest shock for you in the book?

seven Which of the characters did you resonate with the most in the book? The least?



2023 A Novel Idea
...READ TOGETHER

20
YEARS

Three writing workshops—with authors **David James Duncan, Anne Griffin, and Peter Heller**—are being offered as a fundraiser for the Deschutes Public Library Foundation. Visit www.dplfoundation.org for more information and tickets.

Exhibit Sneak Peak: One Book at a Time at Deschutes Historical Museum

Get a sneak peak of the exhibit highlighting 20 years of A Novel Idea.

Friday, March 31, 4–6:00 p.m.
Deschutes Historical Museum
129 NW Idaho, Bend

One Book at a Time: A Novel Idea Turns 20 Exhibit

Explore 20 years of A Novel Idea, curated by our friends at Deschutes Historical Museum. Show your library card for free admission throughout the month of April. Deschutes Historical Society preserves, promotes, and celebrates our shared local history.

Saturday, April 1 • 10:00 a.m.
Deschutes Historical Museum
129 NW Idaho Avenue, Bend

Transformation: Waiting for Answers

Renee Gonzalez explores themes of transformation through dance and story, both traditional and contemporary. Renee develops culturally responsive arts-integrated curriculum for the Latino Community Association.

Saturday, April 1 • 3:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Saturday, April 22 • 3:00 p.m.
High Desert Music Hall
919 SW Forest Avenue, Redmond

Disaster Preparedness: The More You Know

What would you do in the case of a natural disaster? Look at examples of what future earthquakes and volcanic activity might look like in Central Oregon, and how we can prepare. Geologist Dr. Daniele McKay is an adjunct instructor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Oregon.

Sunday, April 2 • 3:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Monday, April 3 • noon
Sisters Firehouse
301 S Elm Street, Sisters

Diamonds in the Desert: Bend's Baseball History in a Few Innings

Step back in time to when baseball wasn't just a favorite pastime, but a way to build commerce in communities; where the swat of the wood bat rang true whether you were a Bend Babe or a Bend Elk. Vanessa Ivey loves baseball and is the Deschutes Historical Museum manager.

Tuesday, April 4 • 6:00 p.m.
East Bend Library

Thursday, April 13 • 2:30 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Guided Tour of MacDougall & Sons Bat Co.*

See the handcrafting of wooden bats made locally in Bend. Family-owned MacDougall & Sons handcrafts 100% real-wood baseball bats. Founder John MacDougall is a self-proclaimed lifelong baseball addict, coach, and father of two baseball players. Registration required.

Thursday, April 6 • 2:30 p.m.

Los Orígenes Hispanos de Oregon

Aproximación histórica a la presencia hispana en la costa de Norteamérica (1543–1819).

sábado, 8 de abril • 1:30 p.m.
East Bend Library

What Is Left Unsaid: Communicating What Matters Most

Explore how to plan ahead for living well as you age. Facilitators guide participants through various preparedness considerations that arise during illness and end-of-life experiences. Elizabeth Johnson and Erin Collins are Executive Director and Program Director for The Peaceful Presence Project.

Monday, April 10 • 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Death Café AGES 16+

Eat tasty treats, drink tea, and discuss death with a friendly group. Free of agenda or ideology, the aim is to increase awareness of death to help people make the most of their (finite) lives. End-of-life doula Cheryl Adcox has been an RN since 2003 with a background in oncology and hospice care.

Tuesday, April 11 • 6–7:30 p.m.
Becky Johnson Center
412 SW 8th Street, Redmond

Appreciating the Little Creatures

Understand how insects affect the world around us. Learn to identify the common insects of Central Oregon. Daniel Hilburn had a career working as an entomologist in Virginia, Bermuda, and in Oregon.

Wednesday, April 12 • noon
East Bend Library

Wednesday, April 12 • 4:00 p.m.
Sunriver Library

Different Wars, Different Choices

Brothers Steve and Pete Goodrich in conversation about their choices regarding service during wartime. Hear from Steve, the eldest, about his decision to seek conscientious objector status and from Pete, the youngest, about his choice to pursue a career in the armed services.

Saturday, April 15 • 11:00 a.m.
Redmond Proficiency Academy
657 SW Glacier Avenue, Redmond

Saturday, April 15 • 3:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library



Dr. Daniele McKay
Disaster Preparedness: The More You Know



Elizabeth Johnson
What Is Left Unsaid: Communicating What Matters Most



Erin Collins

**What Is Left Unsaid:
Communicating What
Matters Most**

Five Pint Mary

Enjoy a unique blend of Irish music and American folk rock. Five Pint Mary performs a well-honed brew of spirited music, both traditional and original. Influenced by the old world, pub-style music of Ireland and Scotland, infused with a ripple of American bluegrass. *Sláinte!*

Saturday, April 15 • 3:00 p.m.
Wild Ride Brewing
332 SW 5th Street, Redmond

Healing Poetry: The Art of Living Through Grief*

Discuss the healing potential of poetry and write your own. Hear how psychologists and poetry therapists understand the healing potential of poetry. Carol Barrett holds doctorates in both Clinical Psychology and Creative Writing. Registration required.

Monday, April 17 • 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

L.A. Weather Book Discussion

Discuss *L.A. Weather* with friends and neighbors. Attend in person or virtually.

Monday, April 17 • 6:00 p.m.
Online only

Monday, April 24 • 4:30 p.m.
Sunriver Books & Music
57100 Beaver Drive, Sunriver

Sustainable Self: Coping, Identity, and Action within Climate Change

Get insights on coping with your environmental and climate concerns, exploring your unique environmental identity, and adapting your skills to take meaningful action in support of your values. Dr. Thomas Doherty is a psychologist specializing in addressing people's concerns about climate change.

Tuesday, April 18 • 6:00 p.m.
Online only



Dr. Thomas Doherty

**Sustainable Self:
Coping, Identity, and
Action within Climate
Change**

Religion 101: The Brothers K Discussion

Engage in a lively discussion on Christianity, Buddhism, and baseball. Four LARGE questions will be considered, including, *what do we mean by the word religion?* and, *why is religion so dog-gone divisive?* Rev. Dr. Steven "Steve" Trotter is a retired pastor and university teacher.

Wednesday, April 19 • 6:00 p.m.
Redmond Proficiency Academy, Glacier Bldg
657 SW Glacier Avenue, Redmond

Tuesday, April 25 • 6:00 p.m.
East Bend Library

First-Time Fly-Fishing Demo*

Learn the basics of fly fishing in this demo hosted by Confluence Fly Shop. This program is intended for first-timers. For as long as he can remember, fly fishing and fly tying has been part of Tye Krueger's life; he now owns Confluence Fly Shop.

Friday, April 21 • 10:00 a.m.–noon
Confluence Fly Shop
375 SW Powerhouse Drive, Ste 100, Bend

Irish Banjo & Homegrown Songs

Come listen to Irish dance tunes and folks songs. Ian Carrick's five-string banjo, four-string tenor banjo, and voice will be accompanied by Collin Rhoton's rhythmic guitar and bass playing. Expect authentic, mildly jazzy folk songs woven together with Irish dance tunes and bodhrán playing.

Saturday, April 22 • noon
Sunriver Library

Saturday, April 22 • 4:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library

Estate Planning 101

Learn differences between wills and trusts, the upsides and downsides of each, and common myths and misconceptions about other estate planning topics. Collin Edmonds is an attorney who runs his own law practice.

Monday, April 24 • 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Bend Library



Kati Standefer

**Writing About Trauma
in Traumatic Times**

Writing About Trauma in Traumatic Times*

Learn how to write about trauma without making it worse, and explore how the physiological processes of trauma and shame interact with a writing process. As a trauma-writing doula, Kati Standefer assists writers in sharing hard stories. Registration required.

Tuesday, April 25 • 6–8:00 p.m.
Online only

Mexican Spices Cooking Class at Arome*

Build your own Mexican spices blend as you learn about different spices and their various uses that make the food exciting and rich. Alex Schultz is the Retail Store Manager of Arome. He is a gourmet food enthusiast with more than 26 years of restaurant experience. Registration required.

Wednesday, April 26 • 5:30–7:00 p.m.
Arome
432 SW 6th Street, Redmond

Tu Voz Escrita*

Descubre y desarrolla su voz escrita y aprovecha su creatividad. Se requiere registro previo.

sábado, 29 de abril • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Latino Community Association
2680 NE Twin Knolls Drive, Bend

The Guide Book Discussion

Discuss *The Guide* with friends and neighbors. Attend in person or virtually.

Wednesday, May 3 • 6:00 p.m.
Roundabout Books
900 NW Mt. Washington Drive, Bend

*Registration required

2023 Main Event

Wrap up the 20th Anniversary of A Novel Idea with a conversation between authors David James Duncan, María Amparo Escandón, Peter Heller, and Anne Griffin. Free, but tickets are required and are available starting Monday, April 10 at www.deschuteslibrary.org/calendar/novelidea and at all library locations.

Saturday, April 29, 2023 • 6:00 p.m. • Bend High • 230 NE 6th St., Bend

How Many Have You Read?

www.deschuteslibrary.org/noveldia

"You make authors feel like rock stars! You all have the best community reads program in the country and you all had a hand in making it happen."
— Eowyn Ivey, 2013, *The Snow Child*

You make it happen—thank you. If you've enjoyed A Novel Idea, consider making a tax-deductible gift at www.dplfoundation.org

- 2004
The River Why, David James Duncan
- 2005
The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini
- 2006
González & Daughter Trucking Co.,
María Amparo Escandón
- 2007
Bowerman and the Men of Oregon,
Kenny Moore
- 2008
The World to Come, Dara Horn
- 2009
Stubborn Twig, Lauren Kessler
- 2010
The Help, Kathryn Stockett
- 2011
Kapitoil, Teddy Wayne
- 2012
Rules of Civility, Amor Towles
- 2013
The Snow Child, Eowyn Ivey
- 2014
The Dog Stars, Peter Heller
- 2015
A Tale for the Time Being, Ruth Ozeki
- 2016
Euphoria, Lily King
- 2017
Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi
- 2018
No One Can Pronounce My Name,
Rakesh Satyal
- 2019
Rocket Men, Robert Kurson
- 2020
When All Is Said, Anne Griffin
- 2021
The Other Americans, Laila Lalami
- 2022
The Seed Keeper, Diane Wilson



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