



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Fourth Annual Bucks County Book Festival Returns to Doylestown, PA September 24 – September 26, 2021

DOYLESTOWN, PA – The Fourth Annual Bucks County Book Festival returns to Doylestown, PA, in-person and virtually, from Friday, September 24, 2021, through Sunday, September 26, 2021, with new cultural partner, the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle.

This three-day celebration connects authors and book lovers and features professionally published authors, including *New York Times* bestseller Christina Baker Kline and Jason Reynolds. This year's festival offers a new event, "Book Fest on the Green" on the grounds of the Mercer Museum, as well as Book Fest favorite "Writers Workshop".

"We're back and bringing some amazing storytellers to Bucks County. The ability to gather together again is incredible, and I hope everyone will come out to meet these authors and support Book Fest," states Elle Green, Founder of Bucks County Book Fest.

The festival will begin with an in-person lecture at Salem United Church of Christ (186 E. Court St, Doylestown, PA 18901) on Friday, September 24, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., with Christina Baker Kline, a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of eight novels, including *The Exiles*, *Orphan Train*, and *A Piece of the World*. Her novels have received the New England Prize for Fiction, the Maine Literary Award, and a Barnes & Noble Discover Award, among other prizes, and have been chosen by hundreds of communities, universities, and schools as "One Book, One Read" selections.

On Saturday, September 25, 2021, Book Fest on the Green comes to the grounds of the Mercer Museum in the heart of Doylestown, PA from noon to 4:00 p.m. Ticket holders will have the opportunity to explore pop-up author and book sales tents hosting nineteen authors throughout the afternoon, including Allener M. Baker-Rogers & Fasaha M. Traylor, Olivia Campbell, Te-Ping Chin, Katelyn Detweiler, Tsering Wangmo Dhompa, L.R. Dorn (Suzanne

Dunn), Alan Drew, Lee Harper, Charles Lattimore Howard, Christine Kendall, Maya Lang, Adam Lehrhaupt, Seamus McGraw, Laura Sibson, Mike Sielski, Philip William Stover, Chuck Wendig, and Kate White.

“We are thrilled to host such an inspiring Bucks County Book Fest event here on the Green of the Mercer Museum. The spirit of community collaboration drives Doylestown’s downtown cultural district, and what better way to celebrate culture than a book festival on the grounds on a beloved museum?!” says Marjan Shirzad, V.P. of Community Services & Marketing at the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society.

Later that evening on Saturday, September 25, 2021, the Book Fest showcases a virtual keynote presentation with renowned Jason Reynolds, author of *Ghost* and *All-American Boys*. In addition to his many other accolades, Reynolds is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author, a Newbery Award Honoree, a Printz Award Honoree, and a two-time National Book Award finalist. He's also the 2020–2021 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

The Bucks County Book Festival will cap off the weekend on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at Salem United Church of Christ (186 E. Court St, Doylestown, PA 18901) with a Writers Workshop featuring authors: Tsering Wangmo Dhompa and Alan Drew.

Tsering Wangmo Dhompa is the author of the poetry books *My Rice Tastes Like the Lake*, *In the Absent Everyday*, and *Rules of the House* (all from Apogee Press, Berkeley) and three chapter-books.

Dhompa's first nonfiction book, *Coming Home to Tibet*, was published in the US by Shambhala Publications in 2016 and by Penguin, India, in 2014. She was born in India and raised in the Tibetan refugee communities in India and Nepal. Dhompma has a Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. She teaches in the English Department at Villanova University.

Alan Drew is the author of the literary thriller *Shadow Man* (Random House, 2017), which the *Wall Street Journal* named one of the ten best mysteries of 2017, and the critically acclaimed debut novel, *Gardens of Water* (Random House, 2008). His novels have been translated into a dozen languages and published in nearly two-dozen countries. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he was awarded a Teaching/Writing Fellowship. An Associate Professor of English at Villanova University, where he directs the creative writing program, he lives near Philadelphia with his wife and two children.

"We have a wonderful lineup of authors for the 2021 Bucks County Book Festival. I am so excited to introduce our community to these amazingly talented writers!" adds Glenda Childs, owner of the Doylestown & Lahaska Bookshops and member of the Bucks County Book Festival's Executive Committee.

Books are always available at the Bucks County Book Festival's Official Bookseller, Doylestown and Lahaska Bookshops (or by visiting doylestownbookshop.com).

The Bucks County Book Festival is a Discover Doylestown event made possible through the generous support of the Morel Family Foundation, the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, B&B Beverages, Commonplace Reader, Margaret George, and the Bucks County Herald, our 2021 Bucks County Book Festival Media Partner.

For up-to-date schedule, event and ticket information, please visit bucksbookfest.org.

2021 Bucks County Book Fest Schedule and Ticket Information:

- Bucks County Book Festival All-Access Pass: \$25/person
- Bucks County Book Festival All-Access Pass with Books: \$60/person
- Individual event ticket information listed below.

Friday, September 24, 2021 - Keynote with Christina Baker Kline

Location: Salem United Church of Christ (186 E. Court St, Doylestown, PA 18901)

7:00—8:00 p.m. Keynote with Christina Baker Kline: *The Exiles* (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

\$10/person plus service fee (no book)

\$25/person plus service fee includes signed paperback copy of *The Exiles*

Saturday, September 25, 2021 – Book Fest on the Green

Location: Outside on the Mercer Museum Green (84 S. Pine Street, Doylestown, PA 18901)

No parking on-site. Please walk or use local parking garages or street parking.

12:00—4:00 p.m. (Doors open at 11:30 a.m.)

First session of authors: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Second session of authors: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

\$10/person plus ticket service fee (\$10 includes \$5 book credit for use at the event, and \$1 donation to the Mercer Museum). Each ticket includes both sessions of authors.

Session 1 Authors from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

- Allener M. Baker-Rogers & Fasaha M. Traylor: *They Carried Us: The Social Impact of Philadelphia's Women Black Leaders*

- Olivia Campbell: *Women in White Coats: How the First Women Doctors Changed the World of Medicine*
- Tsering Wangmo Dhompa (Writers Workshop): *Coming Home to Tibet*
- Alan Drew (Writers Workshop): *The Shadow Man; Gardens of Water*
- Charles Lattimore Howard: *Pond River Ocean Rain: Find Peace in the Storms of Life*
- Maya Lang: *What We Carry: A Memoir*
- Seamus McGraw: *From a Taller Tower: The Rise of the American Mass Shooter*
- Philip William Stover: *The Beautiful Things Shoppe: An LGBTQ Romance (Seasons of New Hope Book 2)*
- Kate White: *The Fiancée*

Session 2 Authors from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

- Te-Ping Chin: *Land of Big Stories*
- Katelyn Detweiler: *The People We Choose*
- L.R. Dorn (Suzanne Dunn): *The Anatomy of Desire*
- Lee Harper: *Turkey Goes to School*
- Christine Kendall: *The True Definition of Neva Beane*
- Adam Lehrhaupt: *Book's Big Adventure*
- Laura Sibson: *Edie in Between*
- Mike Sielski: *The Rise: Kobe Bryant and the Pursuit of Immortality*
- Chuck Wendig: *The Book of Accidents*

Saturday, September 25, 2021 - Virtual Keynote with Jason Reynolds

Location: Virtual

7:00—8:00 p.m. Virtual Keynote with Jason Reynolds

This will be live-streamed, with no recording.

\$10/ticket + service fee (no books)

\$27/ticket + service fee (includes *Ghost* and *All-American Boys*)

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Location: Salem United Church of Christ (186 E. Court St, Doylestown, PA 18901)

1:00—3:00 p.m. Writers Workshop (10-minute breaks between sessions)

\$20/person + service fee (Includes both sessions)

Tsering Wangmo Dhompa

1:00-1:50 p.m.

Seeing Images: Imagining the Familiar

Alan Drew
2:00-2:50 p.m.
Character Building: Breathing Life into Your Characters

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The Bucks County Book Festival celebrates literacy, sparks imagination, and inspires people of all ages by connecting authors and readers. A Discover Doylestown event, the Book Festival is made possible through the generous support of the Morel Family Foundation.

For additional information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

Regina Fried, regina.bookfest@gmail.com

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Brief Author Biographies:

Allener M. Baker-Rogers

Allener M. Baker-Rogers is a native West Philadelphian who now resides in Virginia. She is former chair and vice president of several nonprofit organizations, served on mayoral advisory committees and as a board member and chair of the Philadelphia County Assistance Office (PCAO). A lifelong educator, she holds a doctorate in higher-education leadership, is a former university administrator and assistant professor of educational research. Allener is also a past recipient of the Jane S. Abrams and Cecil B. Moore Community Service Awards.

Olivia Campbell

Olivia Campbell is a journalist and author specializing in medicine and women; her work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Scientific American*, and *New York Magazine/The Cut*, among others. She lives outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with her husband, three children, and cat.

Te-Ping Chen

Te-Ping Chen fiction has been published in, or is forthcoming from, *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Guernica*, *Tin House*, and *The Atlantic*. A reporter with *The Wall Street Journal*, she was previously a correspondent for the paper in Beijing and Hong Kong. Prior to joining the Journal in 2012, she spent a year in China as a Fulbright fellow. She lives in Philadelphia.

Tsering Wangmo Dhompa

Tsering Wangmo Dhompa is the author of the poetry books, *My Rice Tastes Like the Lake*, *In the Absent Everyday*, and *Rules of the House* (all from Apogee Press, Berkeley) and three chapter-books. Dhompa's first non-fiction book, *Coming Home to Tibet* was published in the US by Shambhala Publications in 2016 and by Penguin, India in 2014. She was born in India and raised in the Tibetan refugee communities in India and Nepal. Dhompa has a PhD in Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an MFA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. She teaches in the English Department at Villanova University.

L.R. Dorn (Suzanne Dunn)

L. R. Dorn is the pseudonym for Matt Dorff and Suzanne Dunn. Suzanne Dunn is a two-time Emmy Award winner and has written two screenplays produced and aired on Lifetime Television and Ion Television. She grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and earned degrees from Penn State and the University of Chicago. She has worked at DIRECTV and is a member of the Producers Guild of America and Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. She is also a yoga teacher and lives in Los Angeles.

Katelyn Detweiler

Katelyn Detweiler is the author of several books for young adults, including *The Undoing of Thistle Tate*. She is also a literary agent and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Alan Drew

Alan Drew is the author of the literary thriller, *Shadow Man* (Random House, 2017), which the Wall Street Journal named as one of the ten best mysteries of 2017, and the critically acclaimed debut novel, *Gardens of Water* (Random House, 2008). His novels have been translated into a dozen languages and published in nearly two-dozen countries. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he was awarded a Teaching/Writing Fellowship. An Associate Professor of English at Villanova University where he directs the creative writing program, he lives near Philadelphia with his wife and two children.

Lee Harper

Lee Harper is an artist, author, and farmer best known for his illustrations for the Turkey Trouble and Woolbur series. His books have achieved many honors, including the Michigan Reads Award, a Book Sense Hot Pick, Great Lake Book Award, The Gift of Literacy Oregon Book Choice, Amazon Charts Top 20 (multiple times), International Reading Association – Children's Book Council Children's Choice title, and YABC Top Ten Picture Book.

Charles Howard Lattimore

The Rev. Charles (Chaz) Lattimore Howard, PhD is an Episcopal Priest and serves as The University Chaplain and The Vice President for Social Equity and Community at the University of Pennsylvania. He has served in both hospital and hospice chaplaincies and as a street outreach worker to individuals experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. His writing has been featured in such publications as *Daily Good*, *Sojourners Magazine*, *Christianity Today's Leadership Journal*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Christian Century*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Forward*, and *Slate*. He is the author of five books including most recently *Pond River Ocean Rain* and *The Bottom: A Theopoetic of the Streets*. He shares life with his beloved wife, Dr. Lia C. Howard and their three daughters

Adam Lehrhaupt

Adam Lehrhaupt's first picture book, *Warning: Do Not Open This Book!*, received the E.B. White Read Aloud Honor Award, was an ALA Notable Book, and a Huffington Post Notable Book. School Library Journal called it, "More fun than a barrel of monkeys." He is also the author of *Please, Open This Book!*, which was named a Wanda Gag Comstock Read Aloud Honor Book and Idea Jar. Adam has traveled to six continents, performed on Broadway, and lived on a

communal farm. He currently lives in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with his wife, sons, and two bizarre dogs.

Christine Kendall

Christine Kendall's short fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals and her debut novel, *Riding Chance*, was nominated for a NAACP Image Award. *The True Definition of Neva Beane* is her second novel. An active member of the literary community, Christine serves as a juror for the New York City Book Awards. She currently lives in Philadelphia where, along with local writer Matt Jakubowski, she co-curates and hosts the award winning reading series Creative at the Cannery.

Christina Baker Kline

A #1 New York Times bestselling author of eight novels, including *The Exiles*, *Orphan Train*, and *A Piece of the World*, Christina Baker Kline is published in 40 countries. Her novels have received the New England Prize for Fiction, the Maine Literary Award, and a Barnes & Noble Discover Award, among other prizes, and have been chosen by hundreds of communities, universities and schools as "One Book, One Read" selections. Her essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in publications such as the *New York Times* and *The NYT Book Review*, *The Boston Globe*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *LitHub*, *Psychology Today*, and *Slate*.

Maya Shanbhag Lang

Maya Shanbhag Lang is the author of *What We Carry*, named a New York Times Editors' Choice, a "Good Morning America" Mother's Day Pick, and a "Best of 2020" by Amazon, *Parade*, *The Times of India*, and others. She is also the author of *The Sixteenth of June* (Scribner), long listed for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and named a Must-Read Novel by CBS and *InStyle*. In 2021, the American Civil Rights Museum named her a "Woman You Should Know" for giving Indian women a voice. Lang's work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Times of India*, and others. Lang is the daughter of South Asian immigrants and lives outside of New York City with her daughter.

Seamus McGraw

Seamus McGraw is the author of a few books, including the critically acclaimed *The End of Country: Dispatches from the Frack Zone*, *Betting the Farm on a Drought: Stories from the Front Line of Climate Change*, *A Thirsty Land: The Fight for Water in Texas*, and *From a Taller Tower, The Rise of the American Mass Shooter*. Seamus has been a regular contributor to many publications, including the *New York Times*, *the Huffington Post*, *Reader's Digest*, and *The Forward*. He has won a number of journalism awards. He lives in the woods of northeastern Pennsylvania with his wife, Kren, his children, and a neighborly bear named "Fardels" with boundary issues.

Jason Reynolds

Jason Reynolds is a #1 New York Times bestselling author, a Newbery Award Honoree, a Printz Award Honoree, a two-time National Book Award finalist, a Kirkus Award winner, a two-time Walter Dean Myers Award winner, an NAACP Image Award Winner, and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honors. He's also the 2020–2021 National Ambassador for Young

People's Literature. His many books include *Stamped*, *When I Was the Greatest*, *The Boy in the Black Suit*, *All American Boys* (cowritten with Brendan Kiely), *As Brave as You*, *For Every One*, *the Track series* (*Ghost*, *Patina*, *Sunny*, and *Lu*), *Look Both Ways*, and *Long Way Down*, which received a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Honor. He lives in Washington, DC.

Laura Sibson

After a career in undergraduate counseling, Laura Sibson pursued an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. When she's not writing in a local coffee shop, you can find her running the neighborhood streets or hiking with her dog. She lives in Philadelphia with her husband and their two sons. Her debut young adult novel, *The Art of Breaking Things* came out in 2019 and her second young adult novel, *Edie In Between* came out in the summer of 2021.

Mike Sielski

A star in the sports journalism world, MIKE SIELSKI is a columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer and the author of three books. Published in 2009, *Fading Echoes: A True Story of Rivalry and Brotherhood from the Football Field to the Fields of Honor* received starred reviews from both Publishers Weekly and Library Journal. The Associated Press Sports Editors voted him the country's top sports columnist in 2015. Sielski lives in Bucks County, Pa., with his wife and two sons.

Philip William Stover

Philip William Stover splits his time between Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and New York City. He has an MPS in Interactive Telecommunications and an MFA in writing. He is a clinical professor at New York University. As a freelance journalist, his essays and reviews have appeared in Newsday, The Forward, the Tony Awards, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Houston Chronicle, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and other national publications. For many years he ghosted with an international best-selling women's fiction author. He has published multiple middle-grade novels for Simon & Schuster and was the American Theater critic for About.com.

Fasaha M. Traylor

Fasaha founded and directed an independent school, administered a program to link resources of a local university with community needs, served on the board of a national human rights group, and chaired the boards of a child advocacy and a grant makers organization. She is a 22-year veteran of philanthropy and now a principal of Lift Every Voice, LLC. She was awarded a National Science Foundation fellowship, the Art Peters Memorial Fellowship (journalism) and the Temple University Urban Fellowship.

Chuck Wendig

Chuck Wendig is the New York Times bestselling author of *Star Wars: Aftermath*, as well as the Miriam Black thrillers, the Atlanta Burns books, and the Heartland YA series, alongside other works across comics, games, film, and more. A finalist for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer and the cowriter of the Emmy-nominated digital narrative *Collapsus*, he is also known for his popular blog, terribleminds.com, and his books about writing. He lives in Pennsylvania with his family.

Kate White

Kate White is the award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of seven psychological thrillers, including *Have You Seen Me?* (2020), named a best book of the month by Amazon, and the upcoming *The Fiancée* (June 2021). In addition to writing stand-alone psychological thrillers, Kate is the author of eight Bailey Weggins mysteries. The most recent, *Such A Perfect Wife* (2019), was nominated for an International Thriller Writers Award.