

2019 Library Luminaries

CANDACE BOWES-KURTZ & DAVID KURTZ

host

ROBERT MCKEE

Candace Bowes-Kurtz and David Kurtz moved to Washington Depot 3 years ago from Malibu, CA, where they met and raised their 4 children. Candace is a freelance producer of commercials for Toyota, ESPN, and Gatorade as well as countless others. A former ballerina, she enjoys classes at Hartt, Steps, and Alvin Ailey, and also has a love and talent for botany and gardening, which have become a big part of her life in Washington.

David is a composer of countless scores, primarily for television. He has contributed original music for all genres: Comedy (*Charles in Charge*), Sci-Fi (*Alien Nation*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*), Drama (*DEA*, *Fortune Dane*), and Reality (*American Detective*). His Daytime Drama scores for the #1 and #2 shows on CBS (*The Young and the Restless* and *The Bold and the Beautiful*) have earned him 11 Emmy Awards and many more nominations, and his body of work has earned him 16 Most Performed Background Scores Awards from ASCAP. He is currently working on a musical and developing his own original screenplay.

Although Candace and David still maintain homes in LA and New York, they love their life here and have already nurtured wonderful friendships. They are grateful to the stewards of this special place, and feel fortunate to have this opportunity to give back.

Robert McKee, a Fulbright Scholar and member of the Hollywood Hall of Fame, is the most sought after writing lecturer around the globe. He has dedicated the last 35 years to educating and mentoring screenwriters, novelists, playwrights, poets, documentary makers, producers, and directors internationally. McKee's former students include over 65 Academy Award Winners, 250 Academy Award Nominees, 250 Emmy Award Winners, over 1000 Emmy Award Nominees, and 100 Writers Guild of America Award winners.

Quincy Jones, Ed Saxon, Steve Pressfield, and others have called McKee “the Aristotle of our time” because of his insight into the substance, structure, style, and principles of the grand art of story. Peter Jackson (writer/director of *Lord of the Rings*, *They Shall Not Grow Old*) lauds him as “The Guru of Gurus.” For the creatives at Pixar (*Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo*, *Up*, *Inside Out*), McKee's Story Seminar is a rite of passage.

In the UK, McKee wrote and hosted 12 episodes for the BBC's Filmworks series and was awarded the BAFTA for his special entitled *J'accuse Citizen Kane*. His first book, *Story*, won the International Moving Image Book Award, and articles on McKee have appeared in hundreds of newspapers and magazines around the world. He has been profiled by Bob Simon of *60 Minutes* for CBS news, portrayed by Brian Cox in the Oscar-nominated film *Adaptation*, and has played himself in the film *20 Dates* and the TV series *The Simpsons*.

SANDRA ELIZABETH CANNING

hosts

CAROLINE WEBER

Twenty years ago, **Sandra Elizabeth Canning**, a retired art and antiques dealer, moved to Washington, CT, from New York City where she had raised her 5 children. Sandra quickly became involved with Gunn Memorial, serving two terms as a Trustee and for many years co-chairing the Washington Connecticut Antiques Show.

In 1979, Sandra and Jeanne Moore Amory founded Bedford Green Antiques in Bedford Village, NY, serving a wide range of collectors, architects, and designers. The firm exhibited annually at the Winter Antiques Show sponsored by New York City's East Side Settlement House. She has also served as President of The American Friends of the Mauritshuis Museum in the Hague Netherlands, as the American Representative of The Beckford Society in London, and as a fundraiser for Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, also in London.

Sandra has given several luminary dinners in the past and enjoys this stimulating opportunity to raise funds for the library, which she and her grandchildren adore.

Caroline Weber is a professor of French and Comparative Literature at Barnard College, Columbia University; she has also taught at the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton. Her books include: *Proust's Duchess: How Three Celebrated Women Captured the Imagination of Fin-de-Siècle Paris* (Knopf 2018), a finalist for the American Library in Paris Book Prize and the winner of the French Heritage Society Book Award, and *Queen of Fashion: What Marie-Antoinette Wore to the Revolution* (Henry Holt 2006), which was named a best book of the year by *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, and which *The Wall Street Journal* called one of

the five best books ever written about France. In addition to many scholarly articles and museum catalogue essays, she has contributed essays to such non-specialist publications as *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, *The Financial Times*, *London Review of Books*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post Book World*, *Book Forum*, *Scala Regia*, *Vogue*, *W Magazine*, *Town & Country*, and *New York Magazine*.

ABBEY DARER & TOM ROSENWALD

host

MARSHA MASON

Tom and Abbey have been active members of the Litchfield County community since 1991, where they have owned homes in New Preston, Warren, and now on Plumb Hill Road in Washington. After many years in the advertising industry, Tom is enjoying a second career as an executive recruiter. Abbey is an interior designer with clients from coast to coast. They have 5 children, 6 grandchildren, and are about to adopt a dog. Tom has served on the Board of New Milford Hospital and is an active participant in Conversations on the Green. Abbey is a member of the Washington Art Association, where she has embarked on oil painting.

Marsha Mason has received 4 Academy Awards nominations for her roles in the films *The Goodbye Girl*, *Cinderella Liberty*, *Only When I Laugh*, and *Chapter Two*. She has been the recipient of 2 Golden Globe Awards for her film roles and an Emmy Award nomination for her role on *Frasier*. Her credits include *The Middle*, *The Good Wife*, *Madam Secretary*, and *Grace & Frankie*. Broadway roles include *Impressionism* with Jeremy Irons, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Night of the Iguana*, *The Good Doctor*, *King Richard III*, and *Cactus Flower*. Regionally she has starred in *All's Well That Ends Well* at Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, *A Doll's House*

at ACT in San Francisco, *Arms and The Man* at Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, and *Watch on the Rhine* at Arena Stage in Washington, DC. She has directed *Chapter Two* and *Steel Magnolias* at the Bucks County Playhouse, the first female *An Act of God* with Paige Davis at the Arizona Theatre Company, and the world premiere of Tennessee Williams' *Talisman Roses* starring Amanda Plummer at the Tennessee Williams Festival in Provincetown, MA. Currently, Marsha is Associate Director with Jack O'Brien for the Roundabout Theater's production of *All My Sons* on Broadway.

SHIRIN GHOTBI & JOSH SILVERMAN

as hosts and luminary

Shirin & Josh have been weekenders in Roxbury since 2012, along with their 2 children Leila and Dara and their 2 dogs Jesse James and Bonnie. Shirin makes jewelry, specializing in ancient Roman designs.

Josh Silverman is Etsy's Chief Executive Officer, leading the company as it builds a marketplace allowing over 2 million creative entrepreneurs around the world to sell to over 37 million buyers looking for handcrafted, artisanal, or vintage items. With his 2 decades of experience growing consumer technology companies and scaling global marketplaces, Josh has rapidly accelerated growth at Etsy and enabled the company to become the first carbon neutral global e-commerce player. Previously he was the CEO of Skype and the CEO/Co-Founder of Evite. Josh has a deep commitment to community and civic engagement. He currently serves as Chairman of CodeNation.org, a non-profit that equips students in under-resourced schools with both fundamental coding skills and professional experiences, and serves on the Board of the ClubbedThumb Theater.

CAROLINE & JASON KLEIN

host

WILL SCHWALBE

Caroline and Jason Klein have loved their weekend escapes to Litchfield County for 6 years, and are frequent visitors to the Gunn Memorial Library, along with their two young children. Jason is a multi-time digital media entrepreneur, founding and selling one of the first digital agencies and now running Listen-First, the leading social media analytics software company for media, entertainment, and global consumer brands. Caroline spent 12 years working in the Bloomberg Administration and now serves on various boards. They discovered this area thanks to **Ben Loehnen**, who will be facilitating the evening's conversation. Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of Avid Reader Press, a division of Simon & Schuster, Ben has edited a long list of writers, including James Lee Burke, Steve Case, Ross Douthat, Chip and Dan Heath, A.J. Jacobs, and Richard Rhodes. He lives in Sharon, CT, and New York City.

Will Schwalbe is an author, editor, and podcast host. His book *The End of Your Life Book Club* spent 3 months on *The New York Times* bestseller list, won the Books for a Better Life award for Best Inspirational Memoir, and was named one of the top 10 books of the year by *Entertainment Weekly*, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Indie Choice. His most recent book is *Books for Living: Some Thoughts on Reading, Reflecting, and Embracing Life*. Will is also the author (with David Shipley) of the business bestseller *Send: Why People Email So Badly and How to Do it Better*. He is currently an executive vice president and editor at Macmillan, and founder of the website Cookstr.com. Will is also the host of the podcast *But That's Another Story*, where he interviews people about a book that changed their life.

CAROLYN KLEMM
hosts
FRANCESCA AMFITHEATROF

With over 35 years of experience in Litchfield County real estate, **Carolyn Klemm** knows nearly every property in the 26 villages and towns throughout the area. Articles in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, and newspapers throughout the USA, House & Garden TV, MSNBC, and others have recognized Carolyn's sales prowess, her joie de vivre, and unique abilities of connecting and networking people. Some of her luminary clients include NBC's Tom Brokaw, Diplomat Henry Kissinger, US Ambassadors William vanden Heuvel and William Luers, and authors Barbara Taylor Bradford and Stuart Woods. Carolyn has many celebrated Wall Street clients, as well as numerous top attorneys and Hollywood personalities.

Born in London, Carolyn came to America and grew up in Scarsdale, becoming a buyer and fashion designer at Lord & Taylor, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Bergdorf Goodman. She also managed a dozen boutiques from New York to Chicago. Along the way she gained expertise in food and entertaining by attending famed culinary school Cordon Bleu, and regularly serves clients' favorites at legendary dinner parties.

Francesca Amfiteatrof spent her childhood in Moscow, Tokyo, Rome, and England, where she attended boarding school. A graduate of Central St. Martins, London, and the Royal College of Art, she received her master's degree in jewelry and silversmithing, and subsequently trained with a master craftsman near Padua. Francesca launched her own line of jewelry in 1994, after which she was asked to design collections of houseware for Alessi. She was soon commissioned by Chanel, Fendi, Asprey, Garrard, Marni, and Wedgewood to create jewelry and accessories. In 2001 she

set up RS&A, a London-based agency that commissioned work from artists Yayoi Kusama, Maurizio Cattelan, the Chapman brothers, Paul McCarthy, and Damien Hirst, to name but a few. In 2010 she opened the Gucci Museo in Florence as Head Curator, and during her tenure was responsible for curating shows by Bill Viola, Cindy Sherman, and Joana Vasconcelos.

Francesca then became the first-ever female Design Director appointed by Tiffany & Co. Her launch collection, Tiffany T, included a range of minimalist necklaces, cuffs, and rings meant for layering and daily wear. She went on to spearhead the repositioning of the Tiffany Blue Book collection, which included 250 unique pieces of jewelry. Additional collections followed, culminating in the launch of HardWear in 2017.

In 2019, she became the Artistic Director of Jewelry and Watches at Louis Vuitton, where her first collection debuts in May of this year. At the same time, Francesca has also set up and launched her own brand, Thief and Heist.

CHRISTINA & PETER KLEMM
host
BRETT HEYMAN

Christina and Peter Klemm live in Washington with their daughters, Natalie (11), Victoria (8), and Diana (5). They are actively involved in the community and work in their family real estate business. While work is a passion, they also enjoy travel, tennis, golf, skiing, and most importantly, spending time with family and friends. Christina is Secretary of the Gunn Memorial Board of Trustees and is currently serving her third term as Trustee.

Brett Heyman resides in New York City with her husband and 3 children. A “decent” folk guitarist and former director of PR for

Gucci, Brett is the Founder and Creative Director of Edie Parker, a modern accessories label with an inherent sense of luxury, irreverence, and wit.

A collector of vintage bags, jewelry, furniture, and compliments, Brett began treasure hunting for clutches while growing up in LA and has amassed more than 100 evening bags from the 1950s and '60s. When she could no longer find bags from this era, she began researching the original designers and fabrication techniques. Finding no manufacturer left from that time, she decided to remake the items she collected for a new generation. Named for her daughter Edie Parker Heyman, the brand evolved out of Brett's love of mid-century style and is inspired by American post-war design innovation, the unexpected use of materials, and the personal, artisanal way of manufacture.

Since its inception, Edie Parker has produced accessories that make a statement. Conceived as a line of clutches, the brand now offers bags in a range of sizes, materials, and methods of fabrication. It also includes jewelry and a growing home collection. All maintain a sense of optimism, saturation, and luminosity. Launched in 2012, the Edie Parker bespoke program allows customers to personalize their bags and home items, selecting shape, color, font, and other details. The line is carried in over 100 outlets worldwide including Moda Operandi, Neiman Marcus, Bergdorf Goodman, and Saks Fifth Avenue.

BARBARA & GENE KOHN

host

DANI SHAPIRO

Gene and Barbara Shattuck Kohn moved into Erich Rossiter's The Sumacs 14 years ago. Gene is the chairman of the international architectural and planning firm Kohn Pedersen Fox, which he

founded in 1976. He is also the chair of PublicColor in New York. Barbara had a career in investment banking, first at Goldman Sachs and subsequently founding the firm Shattuck Hammond Partners. She currently sits on several corporate boards, the board of Gunn Memorial Library, and is chair of the Four Freedoms Park Conservancy in New York. Gene and Barbara love houses, art, gardens, and sports, and they are the doting parents of 2 highly verbal Bernese Mountain dogs.

Dani Shapiro's books include the memoirs *Hourglass*, *Still Writing*, *Devotion*, and *Slow Motion*, and five novels including *Black & White* and *Family History*. Her work spans diverse subjects from her tumultuous upbringing in an Orthodox Jewish community and the tragic death of her father to her explorations of spirituality and the nature of our deepest relationships. Dani's *New York Times* best-selling memoir, *Inheritance*, was recently published by Knopf.

Dani's essays and journalistic pieces have appeared in numerous publications including *The New Yorker*, *Salon*, *n+1*, *Tin House*, and *Vogue*, and have been widely anthologized. She contributes regularly to *The New York Times Book Review* and has been broadcast on *This American Life*.

Along with teaching writing workshops around the world, Dani has taught at Columbia and New York University, and is co-founder of the Sireland Writers Conference in Positano, Italy. In February of 2019, Dani launched an original podcast, *Family Secrets*, in collaboration with iHeart Media. The podcast features stories from guests who—like Dani—have uncovered life-altering and long-hidden secrets from their families' past. She lives with her family in Litchfield County, CT.

ROD PLEASANTS & STEVE GODWIN

host

LINDA ALLARD

Rod and Steve are widely respected in the luxury residential design and construction industries, as respective heads of the New York-based firms Mclver Morgan and Godwin Residential Construction, and as patrons of culture. Rod has served on the Board of Directors of the New York Theater Workshop, The Royal Oak Foundation, and Gunn Memorial Library, Inc. In addition to proudly running Godwin since 1982, Steve is an accomplished equestrian who has specialized in dressage since winning regional championships in the sport. Residents of Manhattan and Washington, CT, they are also parents of Jessica, who gave birth to Olive Rose Oncel in March. The news comes quickly on the heels of another, figurative, birth—the launch of POP, an architecture studio that Jessica and her husband Okan Oncel founded with Rod and Steve last year. The business is already hard at work on a variety of apartments, lofts, and freestanding homes in New York and Northwest Connecticut, as well as an exciting rooftop hangout and a regional performing arts center. The newly minted grandfathers could not be more proud.

Linda Allard is the former designer for Ellen Tracy, an avid gardener, an art enthusiast, and an advocate for environmental preservation. Her home and gardens, with their majestic view of the Litchfield Hills, have been featured in several periodicals. She is author of *Absolutely Delicious*, a handwritten collection of favorite recipes, illustrated with her own watercolor paintings. Since retiring from the fashion industry, Linda is committed to developing her skills as an artist and continues to be a benefactor of special interests within the community.

SOPHIE SUTTON & JEFFREY DRUBNER

host

PETER ELLIOT

Sophie Sutton & Jeffrey Drubner have lived in Washington for over 15 years. Their children were heavily involved with Gunn Memorial Library when they were little, finding it an oasis of knowledge, friends and fun. They consider the Library an integral part of their lives and are delighted and honored to support its robust place in the community.

Peter Elliot is Bloomberg's Food and Wine Czar—the Global Product Manager and Editor-in-Chief of *DINE*, the company's dining portal. He has been with Bloomberg for 28 years and is a James Beard Award winner for his work on Bloomberg Radio. Peter has hosted award-winning conversations with chefs like Jamie Oliver and Suzanne Goin, as well as experts on the business of food, such as Danny Meyer, Ben Leventhal, and Rene Redzepi. He is the author of *Sirio: The Story of My Life and Le Cirque*, which was a finalist for the 2005 IACP awards, and has also written for *Vanity Fair*, *Town & Country*, and *Food & Wine* magazines. Peter is a frequent guest moderator for Bon Appetit, American Express, and the National Restaurant Association, and is also a judge on the Food Network's *Iron Chef America* series and a member of the James Beard Foundation.

Born in New York City, Elliot was educated in Britain and is a graduate of the University of St. Andrews. When not in restaurants around the world, he lives in New York City and his family home in Litchfield, CT.