

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
Spring Book Sale
April 6–12, 2025

during regular hours in front of The Library Store.
 Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County
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Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library
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Author Talks **RPL Online Author Talks**

Presented by the Rochester Public Library, FFRPL and the Library Speakers Consortium.

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This is how we roll

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Please consider a **planned gift** through FFRPL. Planned giving is any deferred gift intended to benefit the future of the Rochester Public Library. Bequests, life insurance, IRAs, trusts and annuities all make a lasting difference, and giving through FFRPL is the best way to ensure that your gift will **support the Library now and into the future.**

Please contact Executive Director Donna Borgus for more information:
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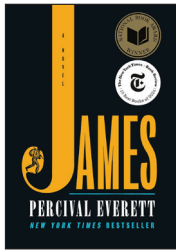
Presented by

Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

BOOKS SANDWICHED
IN
Spring 2025

All livestream reviews will be posted to YouTube at 'Rochester Public Library NY'

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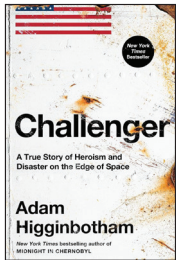


March 18

James by Percival Everett

James is a brilliant reimagining of the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, told from the enslaved Jim's perspective. "A masterpiece that will help redefine one of the classics of American literature ..." — *Chicago Tribune*

Presenter: **Dr. Cassandra Scherr** is an Assistant Professor of English at St. John Fisher University and specializes in African and African American literature.



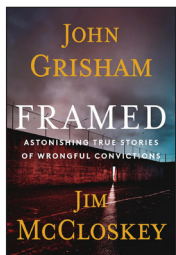
March 25

Challenger: A True Story of Heroism and Disaster on the Edge of Space by Adam Higginbotham

Based on extensive new archival research and original reporting, *Challenger* provides a definitive account of the 1986 space shuttle

disaster. It's a tale of ambition, ingenuity, hubris, and heroism; and of the investigation that ultimately revealed how politics and power drove the failed mission.

Presenter: **Jim Bader** is Director of the RMSC Strasenburgh Planetarium, an astronomy and space enthusiast, a planetarian, and a life-long learner.



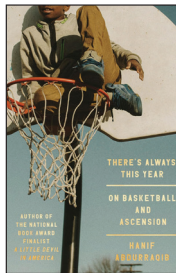
April 1

Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions by John Grisham and Jim McCloskey

Bestselling novelist John Grisham's real-life passion for justice led to his work with Jim McCloskey of

Centurion Ministries, the first organization dedicated to exonerating innocent people who have been wrongly convicted. These true stories expose prevalent injustices in our criminal justice system, as well as the racism and corruption that make wrongful convictions so difficult to reverse.

Presenter: **Jon Getz** is an attorney and certified federal court mediator in the Rochester region. He is the past director of the Innocence and Justice Project at University of Buffalo School of Law.



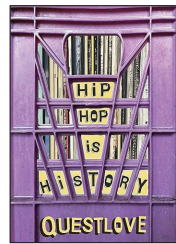
April 8

There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension by Hanif Abdurraqib

Abdurraqib's personal storytelling and historical exploration of excellence is "... not only the most original sports book I've ever read but one of the most moving books I've

ever read, period."—Steve James, director of *Hoop Dreams*

Presenter: **Jacob Scott** served as a Teacher, School Counselor, Assistant Principal, and Principal before becoming the Chief Operating Officer for the Rochester City School District. He is passionate about mentoring student-athletes, giving back to his community, and making a meaningful impact.



April 15

Hip Hop is History by Questlove

In this landmark book, Questlove—six-time Grammy Award-winning musician, Academy Award-winning filmmaker, drummer, DJ, producer, director, and *NYT* bestselling author—

offers a perceptive, personal reflection on the first 50 years of the "miraculous, mercurial genre" of hip hop. He traces the creative and cultural forces that made and shaped hip hop; highlights chart-topping hits; and includes insider stories from top names in the industry.

Presenter: **Jose DaCosta** is a retired corporate executive with a deep appreciation for history, culture, and the arts. As the Founder of Exodus To Jazz Productions, he produced 75 jazz concerts in Greater Rochester, featuring world-renowned musicians.

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Please register to attend: ffrpl.org

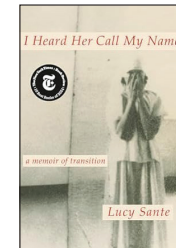


April 22

Briefly Perfectly Human: Making an Authentic Life by Getting Real About the End by Alua Arthurs

This transformative memoir from America's most visible death doula outlines how embracing our mortality can help us lead more fulfilling, authentic lives. Alua has been present for thousands of end-of-life moments, and she helps manage all aspects of patient care, from practical business matters to medical directives, memorial planning, and quiet moments, when emotional stories are often expressed.

Presenter: **Emily Hessney Lynch** is a social media consultant, writer, professor, library trustee, book club organizer, and mother who believes that we should all talk about death more often.

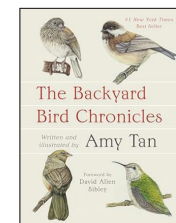


April 29

I Heard Her Call My Name: A Memoir of Transition by Lucy Sante

Sante's memoir of late-in-life gender transition "is moving for many reasons, but primarily for its observations about aging and vanity ... Her sharpness and sanity, moodiness and skepticism are the appeal." —*The New York Times*

Presenter: Comedic autobiographical transgender storyteller **Penny Sterling** has more than six hours of stories about her life, so she's not sure what you think you'll get with a single line.



May 6

The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan

A gorgeous, witty account of birding and nature, written and illustrated by the bestselling author.

"The sketches and words are a record of my life. They contain what puzzled me, thrilled me, what made me laugh and also grieve. ... what changed me when I was naïve and curious and wondered about a bird I saw for the first time." — Amy Tan

Presenter: As President and CEO of the Seneca Park Zoo Society, **Pamela Reed Sanchez's** job is to have people from all walks of life fall in love with the living world.

The Central Library is accessible to people with disabilities. To request specific accommodations, call 585-428-8304 ten days prior to the program.

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