

**What if We All
Read One Book
TOGETHER?!**



2025 EVENTS

Conduit to Destiny®



**Greensboro
Public Library**

Author Laura Carney begins her Greensboro residency October 7 and will attend One City, One Book events through October 23, 2025.

Message From the Director

Hello Fellow Readers,

Every other year the Greensboro Public Library celebrates our city's rich literary heritage with the One City, One Book community read. This year's selection is the best-selling memoir, *My Father's List: How Living My Dad's Dreams Set Me Free*, by Laura Carney. It's the story of how Laura—with the help of family, friends, and even strangers—found the courage to go after her own dreams after realizing those of her free-spirited father.

I actually listened to *My Father's List* as an audio-book and the author's voice truly adds a layer of emotional connection to this story. So, I'm very excited that Laura will be here in person for multiple events as she shares this life-changing experience with her father's bucket list.

Brigitte H. Blanton, Director



More In Store!



There's much more in store! Learn about the other fantastic programs throughout September and October as we celebrate *My Father's List*. Enjoy book discussions, teen programs, writing workshops and more. Use the QR code or click on this [link](#) (if you're viewing online) for a complete calendar of One City, One Book events.

Teas from Around The World

**One City, One Book Community Tea
and Modern Prairie Meetup**

Laura Carney • Stacey Lauren • Danielle Spinola

**Wednesday, October 8 at 3 pm
Central Library • 219 N. Church St.**



Modern Prairie

Join One City, One Book author Laura Carney and *Do The Thing* podcaster Stacey Lauren for a lively tea and discussion of Laura's travels while checking off her father's bucket list. This free event is hosted by Danielle Spinola of Abeille Voyante Tea Co. and Melissa Gilbert's brand, Modern Prairie co-founded with Nicole Haase. Laura, Stacey, and Danielle will share their experiences working with Modern Prairie and the connections it nurtures.

Danielle Spinola is the owner and T(ea)EO of Abeille Voyante Tea Co., also known as AVTeaCo, located in Pittsburgh, PA. She has studied the healing properties of herbs for more than 30 years and earned her certificate in medicinal plants from Cornell University in 2023.

Stacey Lauren is the creator of the Do The Thing™ movement and visionary behind the Do The Thing Challenge, a connection-driven experience that generates confidence, courage, and community through action.

Family, Legacy, Destiny

One City, One Book Community Celebration
An Evening with Laura Carney

**Tuesday,
October 7
6 - 8:30 pm** | **Piedmont Hall
Greensboro Coliseum
1921 W. Gate City Blvd.**

FREE ADMISSION • EVERYONE WELCOME



Laura Carney

Join us for a special evening with Laura Carney, author of *My Father's List: How Living My Dad's Dreams Set Me Free*. She will discuss her book in conversation with Donna Washington and Melanie Brooks. Afterwards, there will be a book signing with the author.

- 6 pm** • The evening begins with a **Community Partner Resource Fair** showcasing over 20 local organizations.
- 7 pm** • Celebrate the beginning of **Laura Carney's Greensboro Residency**. Her memoir, *My Father's List*, chronicles her journey to complete her late father's bucket list as she discovers the healing power of purpose.
- 8 pm** • **Book Signing** and Community Partner Resource Fair.

Laura will discuss her journey with dynamic women who bring unique voices to themes found in the book. Award-winning storyteller Donna Washington, known for vivid performances and a magnetic stage presence, will lend her wisdom and some stories to the discussion. Joining them is Melanie Brooks, author of *Writing Hard Stories* and *A Hard Silence: One Daughter Remaps Family, Grief, and Faith When HIV/AIDS Changes It All*, who brings thoughtful insight into how we turn personal pain into a powerful narrative. Laura Beth Vietor of @LBtheLoverofBooks will moderate the discussion. She hosts live author chats on her BookTube channel.



Donna Washington



Melanie Brooks




Laura Beth Vietor

About Laura

Laura Carney is a writer and copy editor in New York. Her work as a copy editor has been primarily in magazines, for 20 years, such as *Good Housekeeping*, *People*, and *GQ*. Her best-selling book *My Father's List: How Living My Dad's Dreams Set Me Free* was published by Post Hill Press in June 2023. Laura has appeared on *CBS News Sunday Morning*, *NPR*, and *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*, among other TV programs. She has been covered by the *Washington Post*, *AARP*, *Woman's Day*, and Maria Shriver's *Sunday Paper*, among other publications. *My Father's List* was one of the Best Books of 2023 in *Real Simple* magazine. She cofounded and teaches the Pioneer Project with Do The Thing founder Stacey Lauren for Melissa Gilbert's brand Modern Prairie. She is pictured here in the arms of her father, Michael "Mick" Carney.






ONE CITY, ONE BOOK CINEMA


Films that inspired this year's
One City, One Book selection:

MY FATHER'S LIST

by Laura Carney



THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13) 9/9, 6:30PM	THE WIZARD OF OZ (G) 10/11, 12:00PM
THE MUPPET MOVIE (G) 9/13, 12:00PM	THE SOUND OF MUSIC SING-ALONG (G) 10/18, 2:30PM
FIELD OF DREAMS (PG) 9/27, 2:00PM	FORREST GUMP (PG-13) 11/06, 6:30PM
WILD (R) 10/9, 6:30PM	THE THIN MAN (PG) 11/15, 2:30PM



Hemphill Branch Library
2301 W. Vandalia Rd. • 336-373-2925

Conversations with a President

Friday, October 17 at 11 am
Well • Spring Retirement Center
4100 Well Spring Dr.

Canadian journalist and public historian Arthur Milnes's unlikely friendship with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter began nearly 25 years ago. Milnes interviewed the former president, and the pair's discussions continued over the many years that followed. In conversation with author Laura Carney and librarian Beth Sheffield, Milnes will share what he learned about the Carters. His first book on the couple, *Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter: A Canadian Tribute*, was published in 2011 and was launched by the former president and first lady at a ceremony in Plains, GA. In 2021 his book *98 Reasons to Thank Jimmy Carter* was published.

Called a "national treasure" by a Canadian first lady, Arthur Milnes was awarded the King Charles' Coronation Medal earlier this year.

Nature After Dark

Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 pm
Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch
1420 Price Park Rd.

Best-selling author Leigh Ann Henion will share insights from her new book, *Night Magic: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark*. Known for her immersive explorations of the natural world, Henion invites readers to embrace the beauty and mystery of nature after dark.

Together, Henion and Laura Carney will discuss the power of wonder in personal transformation and the deep connections between storytelling and environmental awareness. This is a unique opportunity to hear from two writers whose work encourages an appreciation for the natural world.



After the talk, take part in a guided twilight walk through the woods surrounding the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch. This one-hour stroll offers the opportunity to experience the themes of *Night Magic* firsthand—observing the natural world as it transitions into night. Whether you're an avid environmentalist or a curious wanderer, this event offers inspiration to see nature through a lens of renewed awe.

Register by emailing:
melanie.buckingham@greensboro-nc.gov

Bucket List Challenge Kickoff

Wednesday, October 8 at 7 pm

Glenn McNairy Branch • 4860 Lake Jeanette Rd.

Ready to realize your dreams? Join us for this modified version of the Do the Thing/Modern Prairie Bucket List Challenge. Best-selling author **Laura Carney** completed her late father's bucket list and knows firsthand the power of saying yes to life. *Do The Thing* founder and podcaster **Stacey Lauren** will join Laura as well as creative writing instructor and author of *Happy Iceland*, **Anne Marie Wells**.

This isn't another vision board session; it's about real change. Whether your goals involve travel, creativity, wellness, personal growth, or anything else—the sky's the limit. You will be part of a supportive group as we keep each other accountable and celebrate every win along the way.

After the live event, the journey continues on the Greensboro Public Library's **Facebook Page** with two weeks of curated prompts and challenges that will get you thinking, moving, and maybe even booking that trip or launching that dream project. You will receive guided activities, daily motivation, and exclusive content—all designed to fit your schedule and help you define what matters most. Expect real stories, big inspiration, and a community ready to support one another.

The evening will be moderated by Dr. Love Jones, Ph.D., Human Rights Director for the City of Greensboro. Jones is the founder of Interwoven Consulting, an entrepreneurial endeavor focused on individual and organizational development.



Bucket List Challenge Finale

Wednesday, October 22 at 6:30 pm

Central Library • 219 N. Church St.

Congratulations! You've made it to the end of the One City, One Book Bucket List Challenge. Celebrate with Author **Laura Carney** and special guest, activist and founder of More Good Today, **Mary Latham**. Participants can share their progress and insights, and plan next steps. We will have fun with giveaways and shout-outs. Bring your dreams, your courage, and your calendar. It is time to say YES to your life, and this is the moment to start.

For more information, contact beth.sheffield@greensboro-nc.gov.

Family Ties: Stories & Memories of Finding Home

Guilford Technical Community College • 601 E. Main St. • Jamestown, NC

Tuesday, October 21 at 1 pm

Join us for a thought-provoking author conversation exploring the bonds of family—particularly through the lens of fathers and the legacies they leave behind. Hear from three acclaimed authors whose deeply personal narratives connect across cultures, generations, and life experiences.

Laura Carney, author of *My Father's List*, shares her journey of completing the life list left behind by her late father—a story of grief, growth, and honoring a parent's dreams. Curtis Chin, in his memoir *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*, offers a poignant and humorous look at growing up in Detroit in the 1980s as a gay Chinese American kid—where the family restaurant served as both sanctuary and battleground. Zelda Lockhart, author of *Trinity*, weaves a multi-generational novel that centers on the voices of Black women and the family legacies they inherit and redefine.

Discover the ways fathers shape our identities, how food and culture become anchors of belonging, and what it means to make peace with the past while forging our own path forward. Expect an engaging afternoon filled with humor, heartache, and healing, as these authors invite us to reflect on our own family stories.



Memoir Workshop

Laura Carney • James Tate Hill
and Heather Frese



Author Heather Frese
The Baddest Girl on the Planet



Author James Tate Hill
Blind Man's Bluff

Saturday, October 11 at 3 pm
Glenn McNairy Branch • 4860 Lake Jeanette Rd.

Laura Carney, James Tate Hill, and Heather Frese will lead a memoir-writing workshop for aspiring writers. James Tate Hill is author of the memoir, *Blind Man's Bluff*, a New York Times Editors' Choice. His fiction debut, *Academy Gothic*, won the Nilsen Literary Prize for a First Novel. Editor of AWP's *The Writer's Chronicle* and *Monkeybicycle*, he was born in Charleston, West Virginia, and currently lives in Greensboro, NC.

Heather Frese's debut novel, *The Baddest Girl on the Planet*, won the Lee Smith Novel Prize. Her second novel, *The Saddest Girl on the Beach*, was released in 2024. Coastal North Carolina is her longtime love and source of inspiration, her writing deeply influenced by the wild magic and history of the Outer Banks. She currently writes, edits, and teaches in Raleigh, NC.

To register, please call Glenn McNairy Branch at 336-373-2015 or email Madeline.Anglin@greensboro-nc.gov.

Films and Conversation

Laura Carney • Curtis Chin • Zelda Lockhart

Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 pm
Greensboro History Museum • 130 Summit Ave.

Laura Carney will share her journey of completing the life list left behind by her late father with a short film by Erin Everson. We will also screen PBS's *Warren King: King of Cardboard* by filmmaker Curtis Chin. The third film is about Zelda Lockhart, author of *Trinity*, and her work in Africa and in the healing garden. A discussion with the panelists will follow the films.



Zelda Lockhart

Armed solely with cardboard and glue, Asian American Warren King builds life-size sculptures of impressive realism in Filmmaker Curtis Chin's *Warren King: King of Cardboard*. Erin Everson is a filmmaker pursuing a master's in philosophy in screen studies at Trinity College Dublin. She is a passionate storyteller and approaches all she does with compassion, sensitivity, and respect. Dr. Zelda Lockhart is a current Fulbright Specialist engaged in cross-cultural story projects for generational healing.

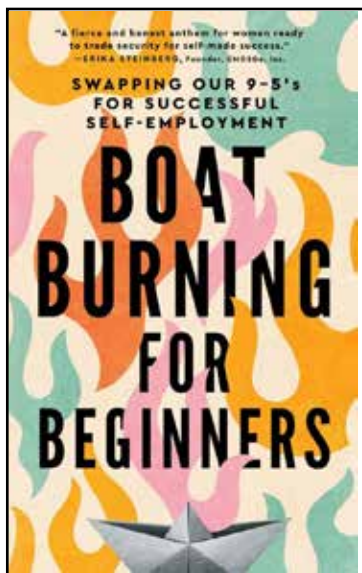


Filmmaker Curtis Chin

Lunch & Learn: Follow Your Heart to a New Career

Laura Carney • Abigail Seymour • Maria Hicks-Few

Monday, October 20 at 12 pm • Central Library • 219 N. Church St.



Are you considering a career change or dreaming of starting a new venture? Maybe you are seeking inspiration and guidance. Join us as we focus on the book *Boat Burning for Beginners: Swapping Our 9 to 5's for Successful Self-Employment* with contributing author Abigail Seymour, *My Father's List* author Laura Carney and City of Greensboro's Deputy Director of Human Rights, Maria Hicks-Few.

Boat Burning for Beginners shares the inspiring stories of women who transitioned from traditional 9-to-5 jobs to successful self-employment, building businesses and lives on their own terms. The book delves into the pivotal moments and private doubts the women faced, and the realities of navigating the challenges of entrepreneurship. It's a "permission slip" and a "wake-up call" to embrace the fire within and pursue what's truly possible.

Bring your lunch; drinks will be provided.
Registration is suggested. To register or more information,
email: Beth.Sheffield@greensboro-nc.gov.

Writing Letters to Achieve Your Dreams

Laura Carney • Arthur Milnes

Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 pm
Benjamin Branch • 1530 Benjamin Pkwy

Discover how to write a meaningful letter to a public figure or someone you admire, or to advocate for a cause. Special guest Arthur Milnes, a journalist, U.S. presidential historian, and past speechwriter to the prime minister of Canada, joins us to share highlights from letters he has written to world leaders and changemakers. Arthur helped Laura check "talk with the president" off her father's bucket list. Supplies will be provided and no experience is needed.

Arthur Milnes has written 15 books including studies of numerous Canadian leaders, along with volumes examining Canadian-American relations and Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H. W. Bush, and Franklin Roosevelt.



Teens "Talk to the President" • Writing to be Heard

Laura Carney • Arthur Milnes

Friday, October 17 at 5:30 pm
Greensboro Cultural Center • 200 N. Davie St.

Would you like to learn how you could talk to the president? The Greensboro Public Library Teen Advisory Group welcomes authors Laura Carney and Arthur Milnes as they discuss how to make change happen and be heard as a young person. This discussion will be moderated by members of the Teen Advisory Group and Laura's niece, Savannah Wilson.

Come with your ambition, appetite, and curiosity! We will have an engaging discussion about dreaming big and being heard by important people over pizza and refreshments.



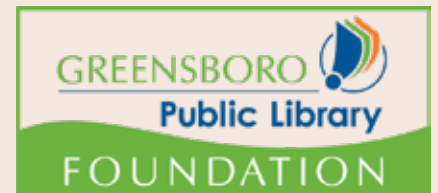
Community Partners

The Greensboro Public Library would like to thank our community partners for their assistance with the One City, One Book community read. With a long history of collaboration, the library is fortunate to work with more than 500 partners including: advocates, animal friends, artists, businesses, coalitions, experts, foundations, museums, non-profits, schools, service organizations and more. Both the Greensboro Public Library and Greensboro History Museum are firmly woven into the fabric of this community. Professional staff at the library and museum build strong ties to individuals and organizations by cultivating meaningful partnerships. In this way, we co-create with our community which ensures that customers can find their Conduit to Destiny®.

When planning programming for our customers we are seeking impact rather than ordinary. Our objective is to provide transformative experiences. From early literacy initiatives to computer workshops for seniors, the Library promotes learning opportunities for residents of every age and ability.

Event Funding

One City, One Book is made possible through funding from the Greensboro Public Library Foundation. Although public funds cover basic needs for the Library's operating budget, private funding is critical to take the Library from adequate to excellent. The Greensboro Public Library Foundation provides financial assistance to enhance the programs, facilities, services, book collections, and other Library needs. Please consider a donation to the Foundation by visiting this website: greensborolibraryfoundation.org.



Library Locations

Benjamin Branch • 1530 Benjamin Parkway • 336-373-7540

Central Library • 219 North Church Street • 336-373-2471

Glenwood Branch • 1901 West Florida Street • 336-297-5000

Hemphill Branch • 2301 West Vandalia Road • 336-373-2925

Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch • 1420 Price Park Road • 336-373-2923

McGirt-Horton Branch • 2501 Phillips Avenue • 336-373-5810

Glenn McNairy Branch • 4860 Lake Jeanette Road • 336-373-2015

Vance Chavis Branch • 900 South Benbow Road • 336-373-5838

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www.GreensboroLibrary.org