

BOOK BAG

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June 2015



Printers Row 2015

Denise I. O'Neal

The Chicago Tribune presents the 31st Annual Printers Row Lit Fest, hailed as the largest book gathering in the Midwest, June 6-7 in the South Loop's historic Printer's Row.

Headliners of the event include Bob Saget (pictured), actor and New York Times bestselling author of his memoir *Dirty Daddy*; LeVar Burton (pictured), children's author and founder of the Reading Rainbow recently honored with the L.A. Times Innovator's Award for his lifetime achievements in literacy and the 2015 winner of the Chicago Tribune's Young Adult Literary Award; and David Axelrod, senior strategist on President Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns and former senior advisor in the White House.



Local authors include crime novelists Shane Gericke, whose latest novel *Blown Away* is due out in September 2015; Robert Goldsborough, author of Nero Wolfe mysteries and Sara Paretsky, creator of the sassy South Side Chicago private investigator VI Warshawski and Michael A. Black, author of 25 books



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Panache Publishing/Verve News Wire

Shakespeare revisited

Kill Shakespeare: Backstage Edition Vol I, a 400-plus page volume of the first 12 issues of *Kill Shakespeare* (IDW; \$39.19CDN); [amazon](#).

If you are not familiar with the series, *Kill Shakespeare* is the brain child of Conor McCreery and Anthony Del Col, based on The Bard's iconic literary characters. The writers, along with artists Andy Belanger, brought the classic works of the English writer to a new audience in a first-ever format.

For those who have followed the graphic novel since its debut the tome includes never released art and something very few were privileged to view— McCreery and Del Col's original pitch that hooked the editors at IDW.

The release date is June 2. **kill-shakespeare**

June 2015 releases

Charlie Martz and Other Stories, Elmore Leonard (early stories by the writer who died in 2013): June 16

The **Coloring Book: A Comedian Solves Race Relations in America**, Colin Quinn (Non Fiction): June 9

Finders Keepers, Stephen King (Suspense): June 2

Finding Audrey, Sophie Kinsella (Young Adult): June 9

In the Unlikely Event, Judy Blume (Fiction): June 2

Killing Monica, Candace Bushnell (Contemporary): June 23

Modern Romance, Aziz Ansari (Non Fiction): June 16

More Fool Me: A Memoir, Stephen Frey (Biography): June 9

My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell She's Sorry, Fredrik Backman (A Modern Fairytale): June 16

Once Upon a Time in Russia, Ben Mezrich (True-Life Crime): June 2

Palace of Treason, Jason Matthews (Thriller): June 2

The **President's Shadow**, Brad Meltzer (Culper Ring series): June 16

Shadowshaper, Daniel Jose Older (Fantasy): June 30

Sick in the Head: Conversations About Life And Comedy, Judd Apatow (Non Fiction): June 10

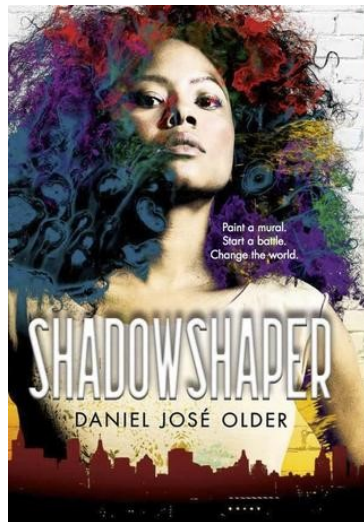
The **Tide Watchers**, Lisa Chaplin (Historical Fiction): June 30

Truth or Die, James Patterson with Howard Roughan (Suspense): June 22

The **Ultimate Betrayal**, Kimberla Lawson Roby (Reverend Curtis Black Series): June 9

Watch the Lady, Elizabeth Fremantle (Suspense): June 9

The **Wrong Man**, Kate White (Suspense): June 16



Comic Corner:



Peanuts Gang on exhibit

“Pigskin Peanuts,” an exhibit paying homage to illustrator Charles Schulz’ iconic Peanuts characters’— Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Woodstock, et al— football antics, is the subject of the Elmhurst Historical Museum’s upcoming installment.

The traveling tribute, which arrives fresh from being on display at the William J. Clinton Library in Arkansas, is a salute to the Gang’s 65th anniversary.

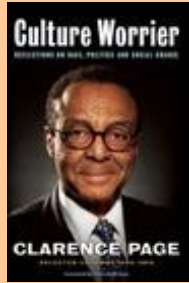
Introduced in 1950 the beloved characters became international icons after their first televised special “A Charlie Brown Christmas” in 1965.

Schulz’s beloved characters gridiron action was the subject of more than 250 football-themed strips.

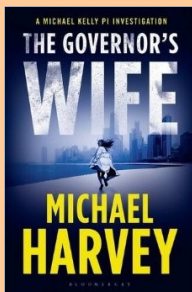
In addition to the exhibit, on display June 12-Aug. 9, 2015, the museum will host football-themed programs and events throughout the summer, including a Touchdown Tailgate 1 p.m. June 28.

The museum is located at 120 E. Park Ave, Elmhurst. New summer hours, June 13-August 30 are 1-5 p.m. Sundays, and Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; 1-8 p.m. Third Thursdays of the month. [elmhursthistory](http://elmhursthistory.org)

Book it:



Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist Clarence Page discusses his latest book *Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change: Selected Columns (1984-2014)*, 11:30 a.m. June 8, The Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Court. **clarencepage**



Mike Kelly returns

Michael Harvey signs copies of the latest installment in the Michael Kelly series, 7 p.m. June 24, Anderson's Bookshop, 123 W. Jefferson, Naperville. **andersons**

Turow talks

The Book Stall hosts a centennial celebration for Saul Bellow featuring Scott Turow and Eugene Kennedy and a performance by Vitalist Theatre performing Joan Koch's adaptation of Bellow's *The Silver Dish* and other works, 6 p.m. June 10 at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State. **bookstall**

The Classics Revisited

Diane L. LaFonte

The Secret Garden

Sometimes life's deepest lessons can be taught by children, their resilience and ability to dream, an eternal beacon of hope.

Frances Hodgson Burnett realized this when writing *The Secret Garden*, the story of Mary Lennox, who is first described as a sickly, foul-tempered and unloved ten-year-old girl.

The book, written in 1911, mirrors the author's life—both taken from the country of their birth to a foreign land, both experiencing the death of their parents followed by a reversal of fortune, both having a “secret” garden that helped heal her soul.



Burnett's character, now a literary masterpiece, makes it painfully obvious that in addition to poor health Mary suffers from the lack of affection. Born in India to wealthy British parents too concerned with their own lives to devote time to their daughter, the young heroine develops quite a nasty attitude, frowning upon life and its unkindness.

When a cholera epidemic kills her parents, along with the servants who cared for her, Mary she is sent to England to live with a widowed uncle she never met. Shortly after arriving, Mary learns of a secret garden that belonged to her late aunt, who met her untimely demise while perched upon an old tree branch in her garden, resulting in her uncle having the garden locked and the key buried.

Throughout the novel Burnett uses Mary's lonely, displaced beginnings as a means to parallel her change in character as she transforms from a tyrannical, selfish child into an ordinary ten-year-old girl surrounded by friends and playmates.

Mary evolves both emotionally and physically through the book's end, coming to appreciate and even find joy in her new life.

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The mystery behind the locked garden piques Mary's curiosity, initiating an effort to enter the forbidden garden to learn what lies beyond the locked gate. Now, having friends to count on, Mary solicits their help in her quest to discover the secrets that lay locked away beyond the garden's gate.

Burnett makes it clear that Mary's new demeanor can be attributed to the power of kindness, simplicity and understanding as illustrated by her friend Dickon, his special abilities with animals and nature the panacea for Mary's rejuvenation.

Her sickly, bedridden cousin Colin also experiences a physical and emotional transformation attributed to Dickon and his persuasive ways on instituting positive thoughts.

It is apparent Burnett's work was influenced by the New Thought, theosophy and Christian Science movements, which were enjoying great popularity at the time the novel was written. The author's idiosyncratic fusion of these philosophies evident, appearing as a continued vein running through the book's pages.

The premise of the movement being— the Christian God represented an entity of unified mind and spirit with whom any person might commune. The Christian God's spirit was present everywhere (especially in nature) and extolled the power of positive thinking, holding it to be a form of communion with the divine spirit where one could cure oneself through positive "magical" thinking or change one's fortunes, also a central theme throughout the book.

To grow from isolation to friendship, from solitude to joy, from self loathing to delight in a world surrounded by nature are themes that are very esoteric yet deeply felt and Burnett beautifully evokes these basic ideologies in *The Secret Garden*.

Unfortunately, the book, originally marketed to both adult and juveniles, wasn't as celebrated as Burnett's previous works. It wasn't until the rise of scholarly work in children's literature over the past quarter century, *The Secret Garden* has steadily risen to prominence, and now stands among Burnett's best known works.

It is not surprising that today the resilient, shining, sentimental work of prose is now counted among the best written children's books of the twentieth century.

Continued from cover

including *Crimes at Midnight*, a thriller set in Washington, D.C.

Raymond Benson, the first American author to write James Bond novels, and creator of the Black Stiletto thriller series, will also be among the roundup of authors at the event.

Local Chicago news icon Joel Daley and chefs and cookbook authors Rick Bayless (Frontera Grill, Topolobambo) and Rick Tramonto (TRU) will be in residence as well as cookbook author and food developer Wilbert Jones, whose most recent book *Chicago Blues* is an ode to blues musicians from the Mississippi Delta to Chicago.

For more information, visit **printersrow**