



SPEAK, MEMORY

JULY 20 – JULY 23, 2019

PROGRAM - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SATURDAY, JULY 20

10:00 AM
Big Tent Registration Opens

10:00 AM
– 1:00 PM
Upper Green Typewriter Rodeo
For a special keepsake from the 25th anniversary of the Sun Valley Writers' Conference, visit the Typewriter Rodeo poets at their tent and they will write a personal poem for you on the topic you select. Not to be missed!

12:30 – 2:30 PM
Pavilion **First Showing:** *the*
CHOIR and CONDUCTOR

At the very first Sun Valley Writers' Conference, director **FREIDA LEE MOCK** presented her Academy Award-winning film, *MAYA LIN*, about the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. She is back with a feature-length documentary about another gifted female artist, **ANNE TOMLINSON**, the visionary conductor who helped create one of the world's foremost choirs, the Los Angeles Children's Chorus which conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen says "is the best children's chorus I've ever heard." The film, which captures Tomlinson and the LACC singers during their 2018 summer Tour to exotic Iceland and Norway, was entirely supported by executive producer Helen Bing and the Bing family. This is a special Private Sneak Preview screening dedicated to Bing, Tomlinson and the remarkable young singers, many of whom you will hear live on the Pavilion stage on Monday evening. The director will talk with Anne Tomlinson and Helen Bing after the film.

Second Showing:

The film will be shown again at 3:00 PM, ending at 4:30 PM in the Opera House. No discussion will follow. For those who signed up in advance to attend this showing, you will have plenty of time to attend the 5:00 PM Pavilion talk.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

2:30 – 5:30 PM Typewriter Rodeo

Upper Green

Want an original verse to match your mood? Come to the Typewriter Rodeo tent and poets **SEAN PETRIE**, **DAVID FRUCHTER** and **SARAH BEACH** will write one for you on the spot. Name your pleasure—a love poem, a remembrance of someone, a laugh-out-loud rhyme—and the poets will do your bidding on their vintage typewriters.

3:00 – 4:00 PM Breakout Sessions

- Why I Talk to Americans About Food

When he was a young writer for *Gourmet* magazine, **FRANCIS LAM**—now the host of American Public Media’s award-winning radio show *The Splendid Table*—told stories about how chefs become obsessed with cooking omelets; about being a bumbling intern at a superb restaurant; and about spending a cross-country train ride in the café car. But over time, Lam began to believe that food writing must be about more than deliciousness and obsessions. True food stories are always about people, about longing, identity, belonging, politics, and the complicated life of emotions. Lam will recall some of the people he’s met, talked to, and argued with, and tell us how he came to realize something fundamental not just about himself, but about the universality of hunger.

- Big Game: The NFL in Dangerous Times

If there is a perfect match between writer and subject, then **MARK LEIBOVICH** and the National Football League are indeed that match. Author of the fascinating book, *BIG GAME: THE NFL IN DANGEROUS TIMES*, and an admitted lifelong New England Patriots fan, Leibovich has an instinct for both the telling anecdote and the tart takedown. He will take us behind the NFL iron curtain for an unvarnished view of the highly paid, sometimes swaggering players and the big-name millionaires who own the teams. He can call the games with the best of them, but he is mindful of the serious headwinds—from the domestic abuse scandals to the concussion problems—facing the sport that, in spite of everything, he still loves.

Opera House

- Film: *the*
CHOIR and CONDUCTOR

Second Showing

The film ends at 4:30 PM and no discussion will follow, so you will have plenty of time to attend the 5:00 PM Pavilion talk.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

3:00 – 4:00 PM Breakout Sessions *continued*

- [The Browns of California](#)
In her very readable and evocative book, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **MIRIAM PAWEL** gives us a dual narrative: the story of the Golden State and the history of the Brown family, notably the two governors, Pat and Jerry, who helped guide California in the last half of the twentieth century and on into the twenty-first. What a rich story it is: The Gold Rush, the Free Speech Movement, the rise of Silicon Valley—she conveys it all, not as a recitation of events, but rather through beguiling, detail-rich portraits of the two very different men who led it, the garrulous father and the more cerebral son, and also of the women in the family. Joining Pawel to share her personal reflections and memories will be **KATHLEEN BROWN**, former California State Treasurer and an integral part of the Brown dynasty.
- [First Novels, Magical Writers](#)
Come hear three young authors talk about their novels, about keeping the faith and keeping their heads down while they were struggling to write (and then publish) their first works of fiction. They come from very different worlds: **EMILY RUSKOVICH**, raised in the Idaho panhandle on Hoodoo Mountain, is the author of the novel, *IDAHO*, a haunting and mysterious love story; **BRANDO SKYHORSE**'s novel *THE MADONNAS OF ECHO PARK*, winner of the Pen/Hemingway Award, braids together the captivating stories of eight Mexican-American residents of the Los Angeles neighborhood where the author grew up; and **MADHURI VIJAY**, born in Bangalore, India, follows a privileged and restless young Indian woman on her odyssey into the strife-ridden mountains of Kashmir in the much-praised first novel, *THE FAR FIELD*. The three will talk about their books, their writing lives, and about what's ahead.

3:00 – 5:30 PM Meet old friends and new for a no-host cocktail reception before the evening talks.
Upper Green

5:00 – 6:00 PM [The British Are Coming: The War for America](#)
Pavilion
DAVID HALBERSTAM MEMORIAL LECTURE
Anyone who has read a book by **RICK ATKINSON** knows the range of gifts and moral passion he brings to the writing of history, particularly military history. As he did in his Pulitzer Prize-winning *LIBERATION TRILOGY* about World War II, he makes battlefields come alive with riveting detail while never losing sight of the carnage involved and the cost in lives. Now, in the initial volume of a new trilogy, *THE BRITISH ARE COMING: THE WAR FOR AMERICA*, he turns to the American Revolution, beginning with the battles at Lexington and Concord. Join this master historian as he shows us, with fresh and vivid urgency, just how long the odds were for American success, and what an amazing story this is.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

8:00 – 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast
Lodge Terrace

9:00 – 10:00 AM Breakout Sessions

- Q&A with Carl Hiaasen
Spend some time with the person Dave Barry calls “one of South Florida’s most vital natural resources.” **CARL HIAASEN** will answer questions about writing the characters in his novels, his powerful convictions about society and the environment, and his career as a columnist for *The Miami Herald* in what is sure to be an entertaining and utterly hilarious session.
- The Resurgence of Authoritarianism
We are living in a time in which authoritarianism is definitely on the rise and liberalism seems under siege everywhere. Daily there is another story from another part of the planet where an autocrat or tough guy is solidifying power and curtailing freedoms. No one can speak to this trend better than **ROBERT KAGAN**, a senior fellow at Brookings and a contributing columnist for *The Washington Post*. The author of seven books and one of the most original commentators on this perilous time for liberal democratic values, Kagan will talk about the confluence of events that have led to the resurgence of anti-democratic sentiment around the globe and about what can and should be done to counteract it.
- In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History
There is a difference between remembrance of history and reverence for it. When Mayor **MITCH LANDRIEU** addressed the people of New Orleans in May 2017 about his decision to take down four Confederate monuments, including the statue of Robert E. Lee, he struck a nerve nationally, and his speech has now been heard or seen by millions across the country. Join Landrieu as he discusses the key lessons from his book, the history of racism that has shaped our society, and the ways America can reckon with its past.
- Reporting in the Age of President Donald Trump
These are complicated times to be a journalist. No one knows this better than **MARK LEIBOVICH**, the Chief National Correspondent for *The New York Times Magazine*. In his book, *THIS TOWN*, he wittily dissected the symbiotic relationship between the politicians and the press in the nation’s capital. Then came the election of Donald Trump and that relationship took on a kind of enlivening animosity. So how does it feel to be a reporter on the ground now? Should the rest of us be cynical about the media or optimistic? Leibovich will tell us what it’s like to be in the center of the D.C. storm and talk about the perils and pleasures, the difficulties and responsibilities, of the profession he practices with such skill and infectious glee.

SAM MOTT
MEMORIAL
FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY, JULY 21

9:00 – 10:00 AM Breakout Sessions *continued*

- Helicopters, Snowplows, and Scandals: Why Helping Kids Too Much Harms Them, and What to Do About It
When the college admissions scandal hit the news earlier this year, the name of **JULIE LYTHCOTT-HAIMS** was everywhere. The former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford and the author of *HOW TO RAISE AN ADULT: BREAK FREE OF THE OVERPARENTING TRAP AND PREPARE YOUR KID FOR SUCCESS*, she was quoted media-wide, offering her prescient analysis of parenting gone mad. She has become the sane sage decrying an epidemic of hovering, competitive (even criminal) parenting. Bottom line: we are not fostering healthy independent young people. She will talk about her book, about the admissions mania, and about the damage we are doing to our stressed-out children and to the society at large.
- What Homer Has to Teach Us
Novelist **MADLINE MILLER** has lived much of her past years in the company of the Greeks. Her first novel, *THE SONG OF ACHILLES*, winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction, is a moving and original retelling of the legend of Achilles and the Trojan War. It astonishes all these centuries later to have your eyes opened and your heart broken as if reading this story for the first time. Miller is a writer passionate about bringing Homer's epic poems into modern prose, so we can marvel again at their beauty and depth. She will talk about Achilles and Patroclus, the folly of gods and men, and about empathy, which is one of literature's most important gifts.
- "Led By What Was Given" (W.S. Merwin): Letting Poetry Lead Us in Our Daily Lives
How does poetry serve us? How may we deepen our relationships with the poems we read or write? Award-winning poet **NAOMI SHIHAB NYE** will lead a passionate and insightful discussion about ways to connect, grow and change with poems in our everyday lives, focusing especially on the work of W.S. Merwin, William Stafford, and Mary Oliver.
- The Original Voice of Tommy Orange
The word went around. It bounced from reader to reader, critic to critic, on the internet and in book reviews. A stunning new voice had been raised, one full of originality and outrage, profanity and humor. That voice belongs to **TOMMY ORANGE**, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and winner of the 2018 Pen/Hemingway Award for his debut novel, *THERE, THERE*. If you want to understand your country, its aches and wounds and urban core—specifically the Native Americans' struggle to make lives here—then read it you must. In conversation with **ANDREW PROCTOR**, Executive Director of Literary Arts in Portland, Oregon, Tommy Orange will talk about his book, its indelible characters, and about his own literary path and passions.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

9:00 – 10:00 AM Breakout Sessions *continued*

- The Stories We Carry: Writing Memoir

Join **DANI SHAPIRO**, the author of five memoirs, including *INHERITANCE*, *HOURGLASS*, and *DEVOTION*, for a personal, informative exploration of how she practices her art and her craft. Shapiro’s books span diverse subjects: from her tumultuous upbringing in an Orthodox Jewish community, to her explorations of spirituality and the nature of our deepest relationships, to questions of family secrets and personal identity in a time of changing societal attitudes toward bioethics. A gifted and beloved teacher of writing, she is as wise and generous in articulating the process of writing about her own life as she is in practicing it.

10:30 – 11:35 AM The Case Against Intelligent Design: True Stories from Florida

Pavilion

Called “America’s finest satirical novelist,” **CARL HIAASEN** has made a literary sport out of writing about the odd folks and crazy happenings in South Florida, his home turf. He has written, as he himself describes it, “the first (and possibly only) novel ever written about sex, murder and corruption on the professional bass fishing tour.” Join this longtime columnist for *The Miami Herald*—where his column at one time or another has ticked off “just about everybody in South Florida, including his own bosses”—for a deep dive into the bizarro world of his favorite state.

12:00 – 1:00 PM Dave Eggers: Word and Deed

Pavilion

DAVE EGGERS is the celebrated author of many books of fiction and nonfiction, including *THE CIRCLE*, *A HOLOGRAM FOR THE KING*, *THE MONK OF MOKHA* and *THE PARADE*, covering subjects from technological privacy to modern migration. Join him as he talks with PBS *NewsHour* Senior Correspondent **JEFFREY BROWN** about his literary passions, both on the page and in the world. Eggers is not only an accomplished writer, but a literacy and human rights advocate and a champion of the printed word: founder of the independent San Francisco publisher McSweeney’s, and co-founder of the 826 National network of tutoring and literacy centers. Among many honors, he has received the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award for Education, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the TED Prize.

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Lower Green

Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Upper Green

Typewriter Rodeo

For a jolt of wit or wisdom, solace or laughter, be sure to visit the Typewriter poets to solicit your very own original verse. On their vintage typewriters, they will grant your request for a poem, be it about a dog, an old friend, or the Sun Valley landscape. You ask, the poets produce.

1:45 – 2:15 PM

Pavilion

West Terrace

ART & WORDS Exhibition Walk-Through

SUNDAY, JULY 21

2:30 – 3:30 PM Breakout Sessions

- [The Lies That Bind: Identity in our Age](#)
In his profoundly original and timely book, *THE LIES THAT BIND: RETHINKING IDENTITY*, the moral philosopher **KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH** urges us to rethink the very nature of identity and, indeed, how identity politics in this country and around the world are in danger of tearing people apart. Gender, religion, race, nationality, class, culture—these are the categories by which we identify ourselves; yet often, in fact, they are riddled with contradictions and falsehoods and not what they seem. Join Appiah, the eminent Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University and the author of several prize-winning books, for a talk that will challenge our assumptions about how identities work at both the public and private levels in the anxious, conflict-ridden twenty-first century that we call home.
- [The Field of Blood: How America Tears Itself Apart](#)
There are shelves full of books about the Civil War era. It is rare for someone to dig deep and find something new to say about that perilous and divisive time. But that is precisely what Yale historian **JOANNE FREEMAN** achieves in her recent book, *THE FIELD OF BLOOD: VIOLENCE IN CONGRESS AND THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR*. In her meticulously researched and cautionary tale, she tells how the vitriolic debates on the floor of the U.S. Congress led to actual brawls and death threats and helped push the country towards war. A tale of extreme polarization, conspiracy theories in the press, splintering political parties, and a new technology that scrambled American politics—the telegraph—it reveals much about America’s past and present.
- [A Hollywood Writer Divulges the Secret\(s\) of His Craft](#)
If you want to know how to be a successful writer in Hollywood, here’s the hot tip: every story that makes it to the screen more or less adheres to the same three-act formula, be it a gritty crime procedural or a cartoon about pigs. Such is the wisdom of **SIMON RICH**, the creator and showrunner of the comedic TV series *Man Seeking Woman* and *Miracle Workers* (both based on his very funny books). Join him in a witty dissection of two seemingly disparate films, *HOME ALONE*, starring Macaulay Culkin, and *THE FLY*, starring Jeff Goldblum. What does a heartwarming Christmas comedy about an eight-year-old boy have in common with a violent science fiction thriller about a deformed mutant? Everything!

SUNDAY, JULY 21

2:30 – 3:30 PM Breakout Sessions *continued*

- The Red Daughter: The Remarkable Life of Stalin's Daughter

In his sixth novel, *THE RED DAUGHTER*, **JOHN BURNHAM SCHWARTZ** imaginatively inhabits the life of Svetlana Alliluyeva (1926-2011), the only daughter of Joseph Stalin, who, in his three decades as the tyrannical ruler of the Soviet Union, was responsible for the deaths of more than twenty million people. Fourteen years after her father's death, at the height of the Cold War, Svetlana became the most important Soviet citizen ever to defect to the West, arriving in New York to throngs of reporters and a nation hungry to hear her story. By her side was a young lawyer sent by the CIA to smuggle her into America. That lawyer was John Burnham Schwartz's father. Drawing upon private papers and years of extensive research, Schwartz will recreate for us the story of an extraordinary, troubled woman's search for a new life and a place to belong.

4:00 – 5:00 PM

*Pavilion
and
Lawn*

FRANK
MCCOURT
MEMORIAL
LECTURE

Remembrance of Things That Never Happened

Does a memoir contain more truth than a novel? Are the stories more accurate for purporting to be "real?" The celebrated writer **ALICE MCDERMOTT** thinks perhaps not. The author of eight novels, from her first, *A BIGAMIST'S DAUGHTER*, to her most recent, *THE NINTH HOUR*, McDermott is fascinated by the slippery nature of memory and by the kinship between memoir and fiction, particularly the much-in-vogue autobiographical fiction. She will talk about the differing forms, about memory and memoirs—including those of her late friend, the writer Frank McCourt—and about the fine art of making stuff up.

5:30 – 6:30 PM

*Pavilion
and
Lawn*

Churchill: Walking with Destiny

We think we know Winston Churchill. There have been countless books, movies and documentaries. But British historian **ANDREW ROBERTS'** recent biography makes the man come alive as never before. In a book that's been called "the best single-volume biography of Churchill yet written," Roberts traces the arc of Churchill's life from boyhood through military service to leadership of his country in its darkest days. With prodigious, original research and deep insight, Roberts gives us a revelatory, multi-dimensional portrait. His Churchill is ambitious, witty, emotional, stubborn and gifted with a sense of his own destiny. Roberts will talk about the man and his life, and about the unique passions of the biographer.

MONDAY, JULY 22

8:00 – 9:00 AM
Lodge Terrace Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 AM Breakout Sessions

- The Ethicist
For a dose of high morally inflected fun, many of us turn every Sunday to *The New York Times Magazine* to read the wit and wisdom of *The Ethicist*, aka **KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH**, eminent philosopher, author, and former president of PEN/America. People send Appiah their questions—from the lighthearted to the most painful—to elicit his calm and reasoned advice on ethical quandaries, such as “I detest the NRA. What should I do with my gun?” and “Is it OK for a Chinese restaurant to favor Chinese patrons?” to name just two. In this session, you will have the opportunity, at last, to present your own ethical conundrums to The Ethicist in person, and, perhaps, to marvel at his Solomonic replies. (Note: Questions will be gathered and chosen in advance.)
- The Two Commanding Generals
The Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **RICK ATKINSON** has spent the better part of 20 years researching, thinking and writing about the two most important American commanding generals: George Washington and Dwight David Eisenhower. For his award-winning LIBERATION TRILOGY about World War II, he acquainted himself with every facet of Eisenhower’s life and leadership. He is now deep into the American Revolution, having recently published THE BRITISH ARE COMING: THE WAR FOR AMERICA, the first volume of a new trilogy. Here we get Washington’s every thought and move, his steep learning curve on the battlefield. In conversation with **VAN GORDON SAUTER**, the former head of CBS News, Atkinson will talk about what makes for a successful commander general, the qualities of heart and mind that distinguished these two men.
- Alexander Hamilton: The Man, the Myth and the Musical
Before we all became obsessed with HAMILTON, courtesy of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s groundbreaking musical, **JOANNE FREEMAN** was fascinated by the man she calls the most impulsive and difficult of the founding fathers. Professor of History and American Studies at Yale University, Freeman was in high school when she first discovered his writings—and his influence—going on to become one of the country’s foremost Hamilton scholars. Featured in the PBS documentary about Broadway’s HAMILTON, she will tell us about the man behind the myth, someone who could be prone to rigid and reactionary views, but who was ultimately driven, she argues, by fear for the very survival of the new nation.

MONDAY, JULY 22

9:00 – 10:00 AM Breakout Sessions *continued*

- [A Slice of Life: Cookbooks and the Worlds They Reveal](#)
The memoirist Laurie Colwin once wrote that to understand a culture, you must read its cookbooks. Good cookbooks conjure worlds, evoking the senses, the drama and comedy of putting a meal on the table, the histories of families, cities, and countries. The celebrated host of *The Splendid Table* and former *New York Times Magazine* columnist **FRANCIS LAM** will be interviewed by award-winning food writer **ALEKSANDRA CRAPANZANO** (EAT. COOK. LA.) about his favorite cookbooks—the ones that have inspired trips to foreign lands (or just to the kitchen cupboard), the tried and true that he keeps nearby at all times, and those that have sparked a deep love and curiosity for a world he had not previously known.
- [A Novelist Talks about Her Craft and her Country](#)
In her fiction, Korean American author **MIN JIN LEE** explores what it means to be an immigrant, and all that falls from that one seemingly simple word. The author of the novels *PACHINKO* and *FREE FOOD FOR MILLIONAIRES*, Lee has written about Korean immigrants in Japan and first-generation Koreans in Queens, New York. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Lee came to the United States in 1976 when she was seven, and grew up in Queens and worked in Manhattan, where her parents owned a jewelry store. She will talk with **MITCHELL KAPLAN**, co-founder of the Miami Book Fair and owner of the great independent bookstore chain Books & Books, about race and identity, and what it means to be at once an American writer and a Korean-American writer in these complicated and contentious times while never giving up her sense of wonder.
- [The Ninth Hour: Alice McDermott on her Most Recent Novel](#)
In many of her novels, the writer **ALICE MCDERMOTT** has given us the world of Irish Catholic Americans—their place in America, their faith and longings, their secrets and shame. She returns to those themes in her most recent book, *THE NINTH HOUR*, yet it seems wholly original territory—both bleak and lovely, hopeful and melancholy. She begins in a Brooklyn tenement in the early twentieth century and you can feel the time and place in every detail. She will talk about the novel and about the interplay of historical research and the unfettered imagination in its creation.

MONDAY, JULY 22

9:00 – 10:00 AM Breakout Sessions *continued*

- [What Saturday Night Live and TOY STORY Have in Common](#)
The average episode of *SNL* has the same running time as most Pixar films, including the all-time classic *TOY STORY*. But despite their shared running time (roughly 90 minutes for each) they would seem to have little in common. While most Pixar films take over five years to produce, each episode of *SNL* is written, rehearsed and shot in less than six intense, breathless days. On the surface, *SNL*'s process would seem drastically different from Pixar's, but there's a surprisingly large amount of creative overlap, steps you can't afford to skip, no matter how little time you have. Comedy writer **SIMON RICH** has written successfully for both and will give an instructive and amusing look into the creative process of these two iconic storytelling franchises.
- [Leadership in War](#)
In his upcoming book, **ANDREW ROBERTS** will turn to a subject that continues to fascinate him: how leaders steer their nations in a time of war. The award-winning author of *CHURCHILL* and *NAPOLEON*, Roberts will offer up a comparison of nine people who led their countries through the greatest wars the world has ever seen and thus shaped human history. In addition to Napoleon and Churchill, the list includes Nelson and Stalin, Hitler and de Gaulle, Marshall and Eisenhower and Thatcher. Roberts will tell us about their strengths and weaknesses and about what qualities—judgement, nimbleness, character—make for a good leader in an embattled time.

9:00 – 10:30 AM
Upper Green

[Typewriter Rodeo](#)

Whoever imagined poetry improv? That's the magic of the Typewriter Rodeo poets. Like singing troubadours of old, they travel around with their vintage typewriters, ready to offer up original poems upon request. Visit their tent and you will come away with a spontaneously-written verse on the subject of your choosing.

10:30 – 11:30 AM
Pavilion

[Real American: Becoming Whole](#)

JULIE LYTHCOTT-HAIMS' first book, *HOW TO RAISE AN ADULT*, took on the harm of helicopter parenting and turned her into a prominent cultural commentator. Now, in *REAL AMERICAN*, a luminous memoir that is both poetic and piercing (and sometimes funny), she writes about her struggles with identity and race, laying bare her own wounds and the wounds of the country. The beloved, high-achieving child of a white mother and a black father, she fought to find her place, not sure where she belonged. From her efforts to tame her hair to her conflicted feelings about the skin color of her own children, she writes about race in a wholly original and nuanced way, enumerating the slights that accrue even in an outwardly blessed life like hers. Her self-acceptance is hard-won—and thrilling—and she will tell us how she finally achieved it.

MONDAY, JULY 22

- 12:00 – 1:00 PM *Pavilion* Martin Amis and The Rub of Time
As an internationally renowned journalist, critic, and novelist (THE RACHEL PAPERS, MONEY, TIMES ARROW to name but three), **MARTIN AMIS** has always turned his keen intellect and unrivaled prose loose on an astonishing range of topics—politics, sports, celebrity, America, his own life (he is the son of the novelist Kingsley Amis), and, of course, literature (especially his “twin peaks” of the art, Bellow and Nabokov). Amis has never shied away from being provocative, but he has also never been dull. Join him as, with his customary razor-sharp wit and kinetic language, he discusses his extraordinary literary life, his literary loves and hates, and his book THE RUB OF TIME—a scintillating collection of his best nonfiction work over the past two decades—with Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright **AYAD AKHTAR**.
- 1:00 – 2:30 PM *Lower Green* Lunch
- 1:45 – 2:15 PM *Pavilion West Terrace* *ART & WORDS* Exhibition Walk-Through
- 2:30 – 3:30 PM Breakout Sessions
- The Jungle Grows Back: Our Imperiled World
Recent years have brought deeply disturbing developments around the globe. In the face of global disarray, American public sentiment increasingly leans toward withdrawal. However, the world remains full of dangerous actors who, left unchecked, possess the desire and ability to make things worse. In his passionate and nuanced book, THE JUNGLE GROWS BACK, **ROBERT KAGAN** argues that the tendency to withdraw and to focus on our foreign policy failures misunderstands the essential role America has played for decades in keeping the world’s worst instability in check. He will talk about his book and about the role of the United States in upholding the liberal world order.
 - Why Novels Matter
Join three celebrated American novelists as they talk about their work, their passion for the form, and their commitment to telling the truth in fiction. **TOMMY ORANGE** is the author of THERE, THERE, a propulsive, wholly original story of urban Native Americans that won the 2018 Pen/Hemingway Award, among many honors. **DANZY SENNA** is the author of five books of fiction and nonfiction, including her most recent, NEW PEOPLE, a sharp-eyed take on race and class in today’s America. **VENDELA VIDA** has written four novels, her most recent being THE DIVER’S CLOTHES LIE EMPTY, a literary thriller deemed by critics to be her best. Despite the overt differences in their work, their books share an underlying theme, that of identity. They will talk about that and about why novels matter in our turbulent, current events-obsessed times.

MONDAY, JULY 22

2:30 – 3:30 PM Breakout Sessions *continued*

- The End of Secrets: Family History in the Age of Bioethics

In the spring of 2016, **DANI SHAPIRO**, the author of four memoirs, received the stunning news through a genealogy website that her father was not her biological father. Her newest memoir, *INHERITANCE*, captures her urgent quest to unlock the story of her own identity, a story that had been scrupulously hidden from her for more than fifty years. It caused her to rethink everything she knew about herself, her roots, her family, the ground underneath her. Shapiro will talk with author and physician **ABRAHAM VERGHESE** about living in a time in which science and technology are uncovering long-held secrets and about the capacities of the human heart to contend with the consequences of what we discover.

4:00 – 5:00 PM I Raise My Voice: The Chamber Singers of the Los Angeles Children’s Chorus in Concert

*Pavilion
and
Lawn*

Come hear 19 young women from the famed ensemble, the Chamber Singers of the **LOS ANGELES CHILDREN’S CHORUS**, in a joyful, inspiring program of song and recitation. Hailing from Los Angeles County, the ensemble of 16- 18-year-olds will sing about and speak to the deepest themes: love, compassion, family and the dreams of young women. Started in 1986 to provide music and choral education to young people of diverse backgrounds, the LACC has enchanted audiences, not just in Southern California, but all over the world. Now, under the direction of new artistic director **FERNANDO MALVAR-RUIZ**, they will raise their voices on the Pavilion stage.

5:30 – 6:30 PM E Pluribus Unum: How a Divided America Can Win the Future by Finding Common Ground

*Pavilion
and
Lawn*

An inspiring, no-nonsense leader and social justice champion, **MITCH LANDRIEU** stepped up at a time when New Orleans was struggling. Mayor from 2010-2018, he will share stories about this once-descending city and his efforts to put NOLA on the map as a great American comeback story. It is a story of people coming together across the lines that typically divide us to find common ground. Using one of our nation’s founding mottos *E Pluribus Unum* as a rallying cry, Landrieu also discusses his recent experiences in helping chart a path forward for the country in today’s environment in which we find ourselves divided by race, class and politics.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Lodge Terrace

Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Pachinko: How a Historical Novel about Koreans in Japan Captivated the World

Every now and again a book comes out of nowhere and captures the imaginations of readers (and critics) because it speaks to a moment of time in an uncanny and moving way. Such is the case of **MIN JIN LEE**'s 2017 novel *PACHINKO*, which was ultimately translated into 29 languages. The story of four generations of a poor immigrant Korean family who try to make new lives in twentieth-century Japan, the book touches on big themes—immigration, identity, homesickness, discrimination—not in a grand way, but through the characters. Lee, who is Korean American, will talk with **JEFFREY BROWN** of the PBS *NewsHour* about where the idea came from, about all the interviews and research she did for the book, and about its amazing global reception.

OR

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Democracies in Retreat, Dictatorships on the Move

Around the globe the populists and autocrats seem to be increasing their grip. To talk about the disturbing trends and destructive alliances are friends and former diplomatic colleagues **VICTORIA NULAND** and **STROBE TALBOTT**. Nuland served under Republican and Democratic administrations as Assistant Secretary of European and Eurasian Affairs and envoy to NATO, rising to the rank of Career Ambassador, the highest in the United States Foreign Service. Talbott was the Deputy Secretary of State in the Clinton administration, then headed the Brookings Institution for 16 years. The two will talk about the current difficulties plaguing the Atlantic Community and U.S. diplomacy while Russia is pursuing predatory policies towards the West and collaborating with China.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

10:30 – 11:30 AM Horizon: Barry Lopez in the World

For decades, award-winning environmental writer and journalist **BARRY LOPEZ** has been one of our most revered literary voices about the joys and the consequences of human inhabitation of the earth. Thirty years after receiving the National Book Award for his seminal book *ARCTIC DREAMS*, Lopez returns with the career-defining work *HORIZON*, in which he immerses us in six far-flung regions of the world as he ponders humanity’s long history of quests, explorations and exploitations of nature. In conversation with **ANDREW PROCTOR**, Executive Director of Literary Arts in Portland, Oregon, Lopez will describe his very personal search for purpose in a fractured world, taking us nearly from pole to pole—from modern megacities to some of the most remote regions on the earth—and across decades of lived experience.

OR

10:30 – 11:30 AM The Magic of Circe

How do you make a story about the Greek gods feel so completely alive and feel so relevant? That is the gift of **MADLINE MILLER**, whose novel *CIRCE* became an international best seller. It is the story of the bewitching goddess known in *THE ODYSSEY* for transforming Odysseus’s men into pigs, before helping him on his journey home. Banished by Zeus to an island, Miller’s Circe finds strength in her art and her solitude, even as she longs for connection. The author in effect claims Circe back from ancient mythology and breathes new life into her as a strong, passionate and, yes, sometimes angry woman, one who speaks very much to our times. Miller will talk about the book, her research for it, and her enduring goal of adapting classical texts to modern forms.

12:00 – 1:00 PM “Tell My Story”: The Power of Poetry

Pavilion

The award-winning poet **NAOMI SHIHAB NYE** is known for her luminous, inspirational spirit both on the page and off. Drawing on her Palestinian-American heritage, the cultural diversity of her home in Texas, and her extensive travels, Nye writes from her deep concern with the world’s troubling issues and deep empathy for people around the globe. She will read recent poems, by herself and others, that speak not only to her passionate engagement with the world around her, but also to the power of poetry itself to address and ameliorate what ails us. We can imagine no more fitting or resonant voice to carry with us from the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Sun Valley Writers’ Conference than hers.

1:00 PM

Lodge Terrace

Farewell lunch for full conference pass holders and guest writers.