



The nonprofit Pat Conroy Literary Center will host the 4th annual Lowcountry Book Club Convention as a live-streamed event on Saturday, September 12—featuring *New York Times* best-selling novelists

Grady Hendrix

(*The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires*) and

Wiley Cash

(*The Last Ballad*); actress, counselor, and author

Ruthie Landis

(*Beyond the Book Club*); and a trio of authors selected by Wiley Cash's **Open Canon Book Club**

:
Lori Horvitz

(*The Girls of Unusually*),

Silas House

(*Southernmost*), and

Crystal Hana Kim

(
If You Leave Me
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The **Lowcountry Book Club Convention** was created by Conroy Center executive director Jonathan Haupt as an opportunity for local book club members—and those considering joining or forming a book club—to gather together to discuss ideas for deepening their reading experiences and strengthening the bonds of their literary communities. This year's convention will be presented virtually and in partnership with

everMore Books

and

SCETV Lowcountry

, with the generous support of the

Pulpwood Queens Books Club

, the largest book club in the U.S.

Broadcast from the SCETV Lowcountry studio in Beaufort, the live-streamed video of the Lowcountry Book Club Convention will be freely available on the Pat Conroy Literary Center's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/patconroyliterarycenter), with the recorded videos posted afterwards to the Conroy Center's YouTube channel. Limited in-person attendance for this event is now sold out.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:30 to Noon: Ruthie Landis, author of *Beyond the Book Club: We Are the Books We Must Read*, will lead an interactive workshop for our in-person and online participants to help enrich their reading experiences as members of a literary community. Landis's workshop will also incorporate a discussion of Pat Conroy's 1972 teaching memoir *The Water Is Wide*.

Noon to 1:00 p.m.: Lunch break, catered by **Debbi Covington** for our in-studio audience.

(No live-streaming at this time.)

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.: *New York Times* best-selling novelist and winner of the 2019 Pat Conroy Legacy Award **Wiley Cash** will discuss his innovative **Open Canon Book Club** in conversation with a trio of writers selected for the Open Canon (participating remotely): memoirist **Lori Horvitz** (*The Girls of Unusually*) and novelists **Silas House** (*Southernmost*) and **Crystal Hana Kim** (*If You Leave Me*).

3:00 to 4:00 p.m.: *New York Times* best-selling horror writer **Grady Hendrix** will discuss his new novel *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires*, inspired by his mother's long-running book club in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, where he was raised. (Hendrix will be presenting remotely.)

Books by the presenters will be available through the Beaufort-based independent bookstore NeverMore Books (www.nevermorebooks.com).

ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

Winner of the 2019 Pat Conroy Legacy Award of the Southern Independent Booksellers

Alliance, **Wiley Cash** (pictured at top) is the *New York Times* bestselling author of three novels, most recently *The Last Ballad*. He has led dozens of writing workshops around the country, including for the Pat Conroy Literary Center. Cash currently serves as writer-in-residence at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. In September 2018, he launched the Open Canon Book Club to highlight the voices and contributions of a diverse group of writers and foster greater understanding and empathy through their portrayals of the American experience.

www.wileycash.com/opencanon

Raised in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, novelist and screenwriter **Grady Hendrix** is the author of *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires*. He is also the Bram Stoker Award-winning author of *Paperbacks from Hell*, and the Shirley Jackson and Locus Award

nominated author of *Horrorstör*, *My Best Friend's Exorcism*, and *We Sold Our Souls*. His writing has also been featured in

Playboy,

the

Village Voice,

and

Variety.

www.gradyhendrix.com

Lori Horvitz is the author of the memoir *The Girls from Unusually* (winner of the 2016 IPPY Award for Autobiography/Memoir and the 2015 USA Best Book Award for Gay & Lesbian Nonfiction, and a finalist for the 2015 IndieFab Book of the Year Award for Autobiography & Memoir). Her writing has appeared in a variety of journals and anthologies including

South Dakota Review, *Southeast Review*, *Hotel Amerika*,

and

Chattahoochee Review.

A professor of literature and language

at UNC Asheville, Horvitz also directs the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. www.lorihorvitz.com

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Silas House is the author of five novels, most recently *Southernmost* (winner of the 2019 Judy Gaines Young Award and the 2019 Weatherford Award for Fiction, and a finalist for the Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction and the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction). His book for middle-grade readers,

Same Sun Here

, was a finalist for the E. B. White Read-Aloud



[Herald Tribune](#) columnist, the [New York Times](#) and [NPR's All Things Considered](#). She has been a frequent guest on the radio and in the media as

an author. She is currently a professor at Columbia University and a contributing editor at [www.minienergy.com](#).