

2024 Alaska Book Week Events Schedule

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<p>Saturday, Oct. 5, Optional Intensives, Friday, Oct. 4</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>2024 Alaska Writers & Illustrators Conference UAA Wendy Williamson Building Click here for Conference info</p>
<p>October 5 This event will take place during the Alaska Writers & Illustrators Conference</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>Debut Authors Panel Come meet local debut authors, Jena Benton, Susan Pope and Neva Post as they share their journey into publishing in the current market. both traditional and self-published. Bring questions and prepare for your own publishing journey by learning about what they wish they knew then that they know now. Jena Benton is a traditionally published picture book author of <i>Kauai's Call</i>, Island Heritage Press 2024. Susan Pope is a traditionally published memoir author of <i>Rivers and Ice</i>, Riddle Brook Publishing 2024. Neva Post is a self/independently published author of <i>Alaska Yeti Series</i>, Icicle Ink 2023/24.</p>
<p>Saturday, October 5, Noon to 1:00 pm Writers Block Bookstore</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>UAA Graduates Poetry Reading Keila Aurelio and Katalyna Moua, UAA English Department graduates, read from their chapbook projects.</p>
<p>Sunday, October 6, 6:00 – 8:00 pm Writer's Block Bookstore</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>Rich Chiappone Reading Places Characters in a Vast and Unforgiving Arctic Wilderness Rich Chiaponne will read from his new book <i>Uncommon Weather: Alaska Stories</i>. This book is “an eclectic mix of character-driven stories that deliver a panoramic picture of Alaska— from the cold city streets of Anchorage to picturesque but emotionally treacherous small Alaska towns; from the rough-and-tumble commercial fishing world of the distant Aleutian Islands to a remote river in the Brooks Range, where the vast and unforgiving Arctic wilderness puts romance to a severe test.” Link to publisher.</p>
<p>Monday, October 7, 6:00 p.m. at Alaska Pacific University in the auditorium on the ground floor of the Carr Gottstein building</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>From Jet Set to Dip Nets: Writing Ethically about Places Foreign and Familiar In Alaska, the way we view the land where we live matters. Whether writing fiction or venturing to the grocery store, our interactions with this northern landscape remain unique. Join author and APU professor John Messick as he shares excerpts from his book and discusses the complexities of writing about travel while figuring out what it means when a writer decides to call a place home.</p>

<p>Tuesday, Oct. 8 6:00 – 7:00 pm Wasilla Public Library (500 N Crusey St., Wasilla AK)</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>An Evening with Tricia Brown in Honor of <i>The Queen of Fairbanks</i> Moderator: Carol Sturgulewski, Sponsored By: 49 Writers, Mat-Su Health Foundation, Friends of Wasilla Public Library, Wasilla Public Library, Alaska Center for the Book</p> <p>Irene Mary Sherman (1911-1995) was America’s northernmost bag lady for decades, walking or pedaling the streets of the town she loved while spreading her unique brand of friendship. Born into a pioneer gold-mining family, Irene was terribly burned in a cabin fire at age five, and she bore those scars—physically and mentally—for life. A picture of resilience as she marched around town in many layers of old clothes, Irene was warmly applauded on her three-wheeled cycle in the annual Golden Days Parade. In this frontier town known for its individualism, Irene’s story embodies the grace and goodness of its people. More...</p>
<p>The discussion is part of the Friends of the Library annual meeting Wednesday, Oct. 9 in the Ann Stevens Room at Loussac Library in Anchorage. Reception at 5:30 pm, Friends of the Library annual meeting at 6:15, and discussion at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>A Library Conversation with the New Administration Anchorage has a new mayoral administration, and a search for a new library director is underway. What’s ahead for Anchorage Public Library? Join Friends of the Library and municipal representatives in a conversation about the library’s future. Topics could include new staffing, upcoming changes to the Alask Room, a downtown library, the library as a community center—what’s on your mind? The event is free and open to the public. Friends of the Library is a nonprofit group that raises awareness about Anchorage libraries, and funding for books, programs, and materials. Click here for more information.</p>
<p>Thursday, October 10, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. @ Title Wave Books</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>Meet Local Author Joe Jackson Joe Jackson, author of <i>It’s Only Fishing</i>, will read from his recent book <i>Chasing The Dark</i> and discuss the adventures and misadventures he experienced while “chasing the dark and seeking the fins, furs, and flurries of wings beyond it.”</p>
<p>Saturday, Oct., 12, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Title Wave Books</p>	<p>Live</p>	<p>Calling All Kids! Four Authors, Four Storytimes, and Loads of Activites.</p>
<p>Link to the YouTube interview here.</p> <p>Link to the YouTube video of Lily Tuzroyluke reading from her new novel here.</p> <p>Note: This reading contains a description of child sexual abuse.</p>	<p>Virtual</p>	<p>Willie Hensley Interviews Lily Tuzroyluke</p> <p>Willie Iggiagruk Hensley interviews Lily Tuzroyluke about <i>Sivulliq: Ancestor</i>, her debut novel and about the book she is currently working on. That book is about indigenous residential schools in Canada in the 1950s.</p> <p>In a second video, Lily Tuzroyluke reads from the book she is currently working on. Please note that the content includes a description of child sexual abuse.</p>

<p>Link to the YouTube video of the discussion here.</p>	<p>Virtual</p>	<p>Writing the Hard Parts: Sharing Stories of Grief, Trauma, and Healing</p> <p>One of an author’s biggest challenges is writing about grief, whether it’s the pain of a dysfunctional family, the loss of a loved one, violence, substance abuse, extreme physical or mental anguish. Join two Alaska authors—Marian Elliot and Matthew Komatsu—who have tackled those challenges and who now encourage other writers to work past the fear and intimidation that can come with writing about “the hard parts.”</p> <p><i>Moderated by Carol Sturgulewski.</i></p>
<p>Click here to view the YouTube video where Jen Funk-Weber talks about making puzzle and activity books and how she evolved from a reluctant reader to an enthusiastic one.</p> <p>Click here for the link to the special Alaska Book Week Puzzle Jen made for us.</p>	<p>Virtual</p>	<p>The Puzzling Writer</p> <p>Jen Funk-Weber Jen-Funk Weber began writing professionally while working as a winter caretaker for remote lodges in Alaska, often passing six months or more with no electricity, running water, or human neighbors. Jen has written numerous puzzle and activity books, including books for Hollywood movies like Nancy Drew and The Spiderwick Chronicles and books for video games like Minecraft and Animal Crossing. Most recently, Jen’s written the Puzzler’s Guide series, which started with The Puzzler’s Guide to Alaska and was followed by The Puzzler’s Guide to Oregon. The series continues with the October 8th release of The Puzzler’s Guide to California.</p>
<p>Link to this video on YouTube here.</p>	<p>Virtual</p>	<p>Writers with New Books</p> <p>Author David Stevenson interviews four writers with newly published books. This interview features Rich Chiappone, Judith Lethin, Lisa Roderick, and Jon Waterman.</p>
<p>Click to link to the YouTube video of the McGuire’s discussion.</p>	<p>Virtual</p>	<p>Thomas McGuire & Rosemary McGuire: Father and Daughter Alaska Authors Discuss a Lifetime of Shared Stories</p> <p>Tom McGuire and Rosemary McGuire talk about their writing careers, writing fiction and non-fiction that draws from their experiences in Alaska, and how to write about those experiences in meaningful ways.</p>

<p>Click this link for the podcast.</p>	Virtual	<p>Interview with Melinda Moustakis</p> <p>Melinda Moustakis is the author of the novel <i>Homestead</i> (Flatiron Books 2023) which was named an NPR Best Book of the Year and a finalist for the Colorado Book Award. It was also selected as the Alaska's Great Reads adult title in 2024 for the National Book Festival.</p> <p>In this 49 Writers Active Voice Podcast, Melinda Moustakis talks about her novel <i>Homestead</i> that was selected as Alaska's Great Reads adult title in 2024 for the National Book Festival.</p>
<p>Presented on the <i>Alaska Quarterly Review</i> YouTube Channel</p> <p>The link for this video of Mary Jones reading her poetry will be available here on Sunday, October 6.</p>	Virtual	<p>Mary Jones Short Story Reading from <i>The Goodbye Process</i></p> <p>In addition to <i>Alaska Quarterly Review</i>, her stories and essays have appeared in many journals including Electric Literature's Recommended Reading, Subtropics, EPOCH, Epiphany, Santa Monica Review, Brevity and elsewhere. The recipient of a summer prose fellowship from The University of Arizona Poetry Center, her work has been cited as notable in The Best American Essays and appeared in The Best Microfiction 2022. She teaches fiction writing at UCLA Extension.</p>
<p>Click here to access the podcast.</p>	Virtual	<p>Trekking the Brooks Range and Embracing Wilderness with Michael Engelhard</p> <p>In this podcast produced by 10 Adventures, Michael Engelhard, author of <i>Arctic Traverse: A Thousand Mile Summer of Trekking the Books Range</i>, talks about the beauty, challenges, and significance of hiking the almost uninhabited wilderness of Alaska's Brooks Range.</p>
<p>Click here to link to the YouTube video of the discussion.</p>	Virtual	<p>A Conversation with John Straley</p> <p>Join Nancy Lord and John Straley for a discussion of John's books and career. John's forthcoming novel, <i>Big Breath In</i>, features a retired marine biologist turned amateur sleuth</p>

Link to the YouTube video here.	Virtual	<p>Celebrating John Haines</p> <p>Lila Vogt, Heather Lende, and Toby Widdicombe join author Rachel Epstein to celebrate and discuss the publication of <i>May the Owl Call Again: A Return to Poet John Meade Haines, 1924-2011</i>.</p>
Click here to link to the discussion on YouTube.	Virtual	<p>Losing the Plot: Elements of Fiction that Keep Us Hooked</p> <p>Jamey Bradbury, author of <i>The Wild Inside</i>, and Sharon Emmerichs, author of <i>Shield Maiden</i>, discuss story elements in their writing—with a focus on character and setting as it relates to plot.</p>
Click here to watch the YouTube video of this discussion.	Virtual	<p>Writing Historical Fiction</p> <p>Erik Hirschmann, Lily Tuzroyluke, Kris Farmen, and Ewoyn Ivey discuss the challenges of writing historical fiction.</p>
The link for this video of Erin Coughlin Hollowell reading her poetry will be available here on Friday, October 11 .	Virtual	<p>Erin Coughlin Hollowell Poetry Reading</p> <p>Erin Coughlin Hollowell is the author of the poetry collections <i>Pause</i>, <i>Traveler</i> (2013) and <i>Every Atom</i> (2018), both published by Boreal Books, and <i>Corvus</i> and <i>Crater</i> published by Salmon Poetry in 2023. Her work was featured in an exhibit at the Anchorage Museum entitled <i>Water Stories: Visual Poetics and Collective Voices</i> by artist Andrea Wollensak. In addition to <i>Alaska Quarterly Review</i>, she has appeared in <i>Poetry Ireland Review</i>, <i>Orion Magazine</i>, terrain.org, <i>Prairie Schooner</i>, and featured on the Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day website. Hollowell's poetry has been recognized by awards from the Rasmuson FoundaMon, a Connie Boochever Award, and an Alaska Literary Award. She directs the Storyknife Writers Retreat and the Kachemak Bay Writers' Conference.</p>