

2021-2022 SCHEDULE OF AUTHORS

**TUESDAYS AT THE BILTMORE IN PHOENIX | WEDNESDAYS AT GRAYHAWK IN SCOTTSDALE
THURSDAYS AT HACIENDA DEL SOL IN TUCSON | FRIDAYS AT THE BILTMORE IN PHOENIX**



NOVEMBER 9-12
BRIT BENNETT
The Vanishing Half

The Vignes twins, Stella and Desiree, grew up in the 1960's in a small Louisiana community that prided itself as being composed of light-skinned black residents. They were both tall and beautiful and dreamed for a life beyond being a rich white woman's maid and to escape the location of their father's lynching. Identical twins and best friends, their life choices split them apart. The book spans three generations and is told in flashbacks exploring themes of racism, familial bonds and what it is like to deny your authentic identity. The story of *The Vanishing Half* will set its claws in you and not let go until the final sentence.



JANUARY 11-14
GAYLE TZEMACH LEMMON
The Daughters of Kobani

This is the extraordinary true story of the young Kurdish women in Syria who decided to fight ISIS in order to reclaim their lives and their bodies, saving their families, homes and towns in the process. It is almost unthinkable that these civilian homebodies, kept by culture from choosing a mate or pursuing higher education, freely became fierce soldiers to defeat the brutality of the ISIS state and prove that contemporary female warriors can be heroes, too.



FEBRUARY 8-11
IMBOLO MBUE
How Beautiful We Were

Set in the fictional African village of Kosawa, this is the story of a people living in fear amidst environmental degradation wrought by an American oil company. Pipeline spills have rendered farmlands infertile. Children are dying from drinking toxic water. Promises of clean-up and financial reparations to the villagers are made—and ignored. The country's government, led by a brazen dictator, exists to serve its own interest. Left with few choices, the people of Kosawa decide to fight back. Their struggle would last for decades and come at a steep price.



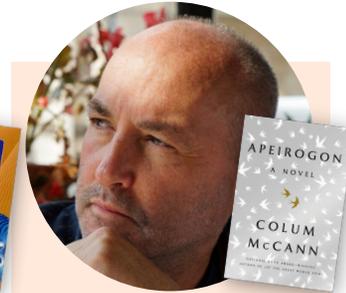
MARCH 8-11
PAULINA BREN
The Barbizon

The Barbizon was a New York City women-only hotel that catered to the glamorous, famous and ordinary. Opened in 1927, it became a destination for the modern woman seeking a career in the arts, the place to stay for women seeking fame and fortune. Before the hotel's residents, such as Sylvia Plath, Grace Kelly, Liza Minelli, Joan Didion, and Meg Wolitzer became household names, they were young women arriving at the Barbizon with "a suitcase and a dream." *The Barbizon* was a place for women to remake themselves or come into their own. It remained a women-only hotel until 1981, and this book shares its rich history.



APRIL 5-8
C. PAM ZHANG
How Much of These Hills is Gold

Ba dies in the night; Ma is already gone. Newly orphaned children of immigrants, Lucy and Sam are suddenly alone in a land that refutes their existence. Fleeing the threats of their western mining town, they set off to bury their father in the only way that will set them free from their past. Both epic and intimate, blending Chinese symbolism and reimagined history of the California Gold Rush with fiercely original language and storytelling, *How Much of These Hills Is Gold* is a haunting adventure story, an unforgettable sibling story, and the announcement of a stunning new voice in literature.



MAY 10-13
COLUM MCCANN
Apeirogon

In geometry, an apeirogon or infinite polygon is a polygon with a countably infinite number of sides. This story consists of many sides and complex parts that are meticulously woven together. It's rooted in a real-life friendship between two men united by loss. Crafted from fictional and non-fictional material, this novel crosses continents and centuries, tying together time, politics, nature, and history. Two fathers, one Palestinian, one Israeli, live in a world of conflict that affects every aspect of their daily lives. Their worlds change forever when the daughter of one is killed by a rubber bullet, the daughter of the other by suicide bombers. The fathers learn of each others' stories, recognize the loss in each other, and attempt to use their grief as a weapon for peace.