



LITERARY SOCIETY  
OF THE SOUTHWEST

# Experiencing LITERATURE & AUTHORS

## 2023-2024 SCHEDULE OF AUTHORS

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

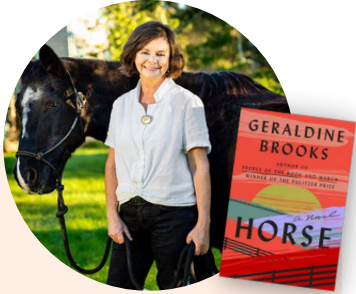
Phoenix

WEDNESDAYS

Scottsdale

THURSDAYS

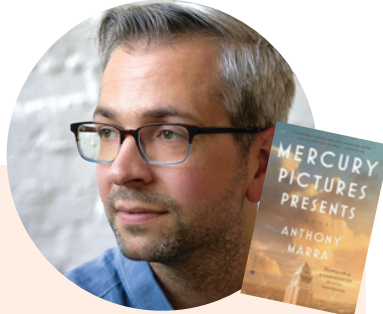
Tucson



NOVEMBER 14-17  
**GERALDINE BROOKS**  
*Horse*

This fascinating and engaging novel unravels the story of Lexington, the greatest racehorse and sire of all time, against the historical backdrop of enslaved Black horsemen. A young enslaved groom named Jarrett bonds with this magnificent antebellum horse from birth and eventually becomes his trainer and protector. This compelling storyline is woven with other plot lines that take you from before the Civil War to 1956 to current day.

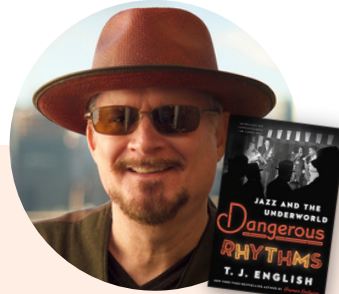
Geraldine Brooks is known for impeccable research in her historical novels, such as her Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *March*. An avid horse woman and former war correspondent, this leader in literature will be making her second appearance at the Literary Society of the Southwest.



JANUARY 9-12  
**ANTHONY MARRA**  
*Mercury Pictures Presents*

Set in 1940s Hollywood and Italy, this is a sweeping novel that centers around Maria Lagana, a strong-willed Italian refugee who emigrated to the US with her mother after her Socialist father was sentenced to internal exile in Mussolini's Italy. She is hired at a B-movie studio, Mercury Pictures, and rises through the ranks. Her boss, whose antics and often hilarious dialogue are right out of the screwball comedies of that era, helps to make for laugh-out-loud reading.

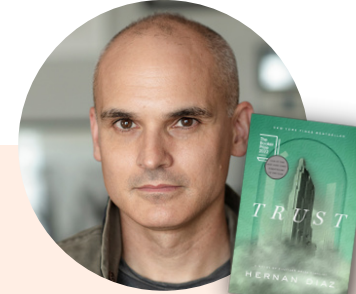
Marra, with his humor, compassion, and light touch, reminds us of the innocent immigrants that were either interred or labeled enemy aliens and what their life was like. This is an entertaining read that took Anthony Marra eight years to write and showcases his penchant for messy people. The Literary Society of the Southwest is pleased to have him as a returning speaker.



FEBRUARY 13-16  
**TJ ENGLISH**  
*Dangerous Rhythms: Jazz and the Underworld*

*Dangerous Rhythms* is the true story of the historical relationship between jazz musicians and the American Mob. It is the inside story told in brisk prose. From the early 1900s through Prohibition until the '40s, jazz was written and performed mainly by African Americans in big cities like New Orleans, Chicago, and New York. Sadly these same musicians were not safe from the racist attitudes that surrounded them, so they sought protection from violence and unfair salaries. They found both in a mutually beneficial exchange with the Mob, who needed the entertainment to draw in crowds to support their enterprises. Jazz became hot.

The beautifully researched book will enrich your appreciation of the people who created jazz and the unlikely individuals who protected them.



MARCH 12-15  
**HERNAN DIAZ**  
*Trust*

The roaring twenties of New York is the setting of this intricate and smart novel. This is a story about the dissonance between money as a taboo and a force that shapes and supports lives. Different narrators and styles tell the story.

Unpredictability is the author's device in structure as well plot, making this novel fascinating and difficult to put down. Whom do you *Trust*?

Hernan Diaz's first novel, *In the Distance*, was shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize and Pen Faulkner Award. *Trust* is under development with HBO and Kate Winslet. Will Hernan Diaz win his Pulitzer this year? We will find out in May.



APRIL 16-19  
**MAGGIE O'FARRELL**  
*The Marriage Portrait*

Set in Florence in the Renaissance in the house of de'Medici, this novel centers around Lucrezia de'Medici, an obscure daughter of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. Unexpectedly thrust into marriage to the ruler of Ferrero, Modena, and Reggio, her life forever changes in an unfamiliar, sometimes unwelcoming court, with a husband she finds captivating as well as repulsing. Despite her rank and nobility, Lucrezia's future truly hangs in the balance until she realizes her paramount responsibility to provide an heir for her husband.

From the author of *Hamnet*, Maggie O'Farrell, with beautiful prose, creates a compelling portrait of a woman who must use her mind to survive. Maggie O'Farrell is the winner of The Women's Prize for Fiction and the Book Critics Circle Award for her novel *Hamnet*.