



Literary Indulgence Book Festival 2026 Program

Theme: The New Faces of Education: Where Learning and Literature Converge

Date: Saturday, July 18, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: FSCJ Kent Campus – 3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32205

Admission: FREE

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

MAIN STAGE

10:00 AM - GRAND OPENING

Welcome Ceremony & Festival Kickoff

- Opening remarks by Founder Marie Morton
- Introduction to the day's theme and special guests
- First prize drawing announcement

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM Featured Panel Discussion

"The New Faces of Education: Where Learning and Literature Converge"

- 5 panelists (former & current teachers, professors turned published authors, poets, filmmakers & screenwriters, bookstore owner)
- **Panelists:** [Mariah Jones](#), [S.E. Smith](#), [PeTika Tave](#), [Michelle Flores](#), [Frank Goodin II](#)
- Moderated by [Rekia Beverly](#), this dynamic discussion explores how educators are reshaping the literary landscape at the intersection of teaching and storytelling.

11:20 AM – 12:20 PM Workshop

"AI, Adaptation, and the Future of Storytelling" – [Frank Goodin II](#)

- Discover how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is moving beyond "tools" to become a collaborative partner in the creative and educational process. Hear firsthand from a professor who has successfully integrated AI into the curriculum to enhance—rather than replace—student creativity and critical thinking. Join a vital conversation on maintaining the "human heart" of storytelling while embracing the efficiency of future-forward technology.

12:25 PM – 1:25 PM Marketing Masterclass

"Building Your Author Platform: Social Media Strategies That Work" – Jolene MacFadden

- Practical social media training
- **Limited to 18 participants**
- Workbook provided

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Workshop

"Becoming an Authopreneur: Designing the Career You Dream Of" – S.E. Smith

- Presented by international best-selling author who was a former teacher
- Interactive demonstration

Workshops: \$20 per Class | All Access + Free Raffle Ticket For Only \$50

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Keynote Presentation

The Literary Indulgence Book Festival is proud to feature [Nikesha Elise Williams](#)

An author with a gift for bringing family histories and generational stories to life. Her work weaves rich narratives where history, heritage, and heart intertwine. After years of independent publishing, Nikesha makes her traditional debut with ***The Seven Daughters of Dupree***, a moving generational tale that follows seven women across time. You'll get an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at the craft required to weave together an intricate exploration of mothers, daughters, and the legacies they inherit. It is a unique opportunity to connect with one of the most influential literary voices right here in Jacksonville, FL, and walk away with a personalized, signed copy of this instant classic!



Only books purchased at the Literary Indulgence Book Festival are eligible for signing.



FESTIVAL PROGRAM

LITERARY YOUTH PAVILION

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Young Writers Workshop (Ages 6-12)

"Super Story Writing Workshop" - [Brianna Ellis](#)

- Interactive writing exercises
- Story sharing circle
- Each child receives encouragement & gifts
- **Limited participants. Register today.**

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Giveaways & Interactive Activities

- Facepainting
- Books & Bubbles Giveaway - Every child finds a story and a smile
- Grand Giveaway - Free bookbags and supplies for back-to-school. [Green Sims Williams Family Foundation Partnership](#)

ART GALLERY ANNEX ROOM

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM **Amelia Island Writers Panel Discussion**

- *Demystifying Publishing Options: Traditional, Hybrid or Self?*
- [Panelists: Jane Buyers & Julia McDermott](#)
 - [Donna Overly, Moderator](#)

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM **"Learning through Stories"**

- [Rekia Beverly](#) will share stories from her Mrs. Ashbury book series, which represents teachers as positive and welcoming figures in the lives of their students.
- [David Gillespie](#) - reads aloud from his lively multi-award winning, rhyming picture book, *Floo Flocky Doo to the Rescue* that has won rave reviews from teachers, parents and children alike.

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM **Refreshingly Southern Sip & Speak**

- An intimate Author Meet & Greet with complimentary sweet tea, lemonade, and light refreshments.



FESTIVAL PROGRAM

COURTYARD STAGE

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Raffles and prizes throughout the day, vendors, food trucks and music with [Andre Griffin](#), DJ DreOne

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Poetry & Essay Readings

- Original spoken works by authors & educators: [Michelle Flores](#), [Cheri M. Hines](#), [JC Destini](#) & [Brianna Ellis](#)
 - Host: [Brittany Ellis](#)

12:20 PM - 12:25 PM Raffle Drawing **#1: Author Book Bundle (5-7 signed books) + Festival Merchandise (Tote Bag/ T-shirt/Pen/Bookmark)** Value – Priceless 😊

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM Voices from the Classroom

- Short readings and moderated Q&A with author & educators: [Sherna Spearman-Lott](#), [Petika Tave](#) & [Dr. Roy Christopher](#)
 - Moderator: [Brittany Ellis](#)
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1:25 PM - 1:30 PM Raffle Drawing **#2: Beach & Book Lovers Gift Basket** Value - \$175

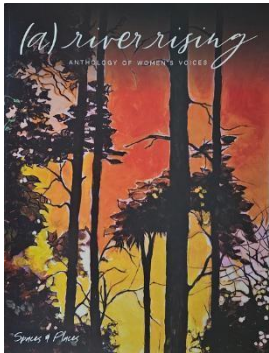
3:50 PM - 4:00 PM Closing Celebration Remarks

Raffle Drawing **#3: Barnes & Noble E-Gift Card** Value - \$200

FESTIVAL PROGRAM



ART GALLERY



In a special collaboration with [Women Writing for \(a\) Change Jacksonville](#), join us as we close out the exhibit at the FSCJ Kent Campus Art Gallery. This showcase features various artists whose work appears in the **(a) river rising: Anthology of Women's Voices: Spaces and Places**. This collection delves into the profound meanings of 'place' and 'space,' offering a beautiful interpretation of these themes through the eyes of each artist.

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

ART GALLERY & COURTYARD STAGE: Author Showcase

40 Featured Authors

Multiple Genres:

- Children's & Young Adult
- Literary Fiction
- Genre Fiction (Mystery, Romance, Sci-Fi/Fantasy)
- Non-Fiction & Memoir
- Poetry & Essays
- Educational & Self-Help

Authors available for signing and conversation throughout the day.



FESTIVAL PROGRAM

THE FESTIVAL PLAYBOOK: CURATED FUN & INTERACTIVE ZONES

RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWINGS

How to Enter:

- Get entry form at registration or pay at website www.literaryindulgence.com
- \$5 per ticket
- Must be present to win
- Drawings at **12:20 PM**, **1:25 PM**, and **3:50 PM**

** Receive a **free** raffle ticket with food purchase from the Big Boss Burger food truck!

- Raffle Drawing **#1: Author Book Bundle (5-7 signed books) + Festival Merchandise (Tote Bag/ T-shirt/Pen/Bookmark) Value – Priceless 😊**
- Raffle Drawing **#2: Beach & Book Lovers Gift Basket Value - \$175**
- Raffle Drawing **#3: Barnes & Noble E-Gift Card Value - \$200**

FESTIVAL PASSPORT CHALLENGE

Complete activities to win prizes:

- Get Passport form at registration table or festival volunteer
- Visit 10 different author tables - win festival tote bag
- Attend 3 workshop sessions – *receive another free raffle ticket!*

FAMILY FUN ZONE (10:00 AM - 3:00 PM)

- Writing workshop & storytelling session
- Face painting
- Free books/bubbles & bookbags (with supplies) for children (while it lasts!)

SOCIAL MEDIA WALL

- [#LitIndulge2026/ #JaxReads/ #LearnAndRead/ #YouthLiteracy/ #LiteraryIndulgence](#)
- Post festival photo with [#LitIndulge2026](#) - win bookmark set/LI pen
- Share your festival moments!