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5th Annual Evanston Literary Festival, May 11-19

The fifth annual Evanston Literary Festival ([evanstonlit.org](http://evanstonlit.org/)) will be held May 11-19, 2019, at sites around Evanston to celebrate the city’s vibrant literary community and history. The Festival will include dozens of events featuring fiction, poetry, nonfiction, children’s literature, storytelling, graphic novels, writing workshops, and much more, with many prominent authors, many of whom live or work in Evanston. Admission to all events is free.

The Festival begins on Sat., May 11, with the second annual Evanston Literary Festival Book Fair, where local publishers, authors, and literary organizations will sell their books and offer information at the Evanston Public Library (1703 Orrington), 2-5pm. The evening of May 11, the Festival will feature an event at 6pm at Bookends & Beginnings Bookstore (1712 Sherman) called “Celebrating Evanston Voices,” which will include prominent Evanston writers such as Reginald Gibbons and Parneshia Jones.

The Festival also features many local authors and Northwestern professors, including Shalini Shankar's new book, *Beeline: What Spelling Bees Reveal about the New American Childhood* (May 14), the launch of Hollis Clayson's *Illuminated Paris* (May 17), and an event with the authors of *Billionaires and Stealth Politics* (May 17).

The Northwestern Spring Writers’ Festival will be held May 13-15, with Lesley Nneka Arimah, Layli Long Soldier, and Esmé Weijun Wang speaking at Northwestern University as part of the Evanston Literary Festival.

Several events at this year’s Festival held at Comix Revolution focus on graphic novels, including an event on May 11 with Ken Krimstein, a panel discussion on May 16 with One Book One Northwestern about the new graphic novel version of *The Handmaid’s Tale*, and panels with graphic novelists and So What? Press to discuss the growth of comics in the Chicago area (May 19) and horror in comics (May 15). Prominent panelists will include Keiler Roberts and Marnie Galloway.

Another focus of this year’s Festival is writing about global issues. On Mon., May 13, an event on telling the stories of migrant people will feature the nonprofit group 90 Days, 90 Voices and Northwestern professor Wendy Pearlman. On Sat. May 18, the Evanston-based poetry journal RHINO will hold a reading of global and translated poetry. On the evening of May 18, a variety of authors will present a reading on “Migration, Home, and the Endless Search for Belonging,” including prominent poets (such Faisal Mohyuddin) and up-and-coming student writers.

The Festival will include authors from two Evanston-based publishers. Rebecca Sive will talk about her Agate book,*Vote Her In: Your Guide to Electing the First Woman President* on May 18 and the legendary 100-year-old activist Timuel Black will discuss his Northwestern University Press book *Sacred Ground* on the concluding day of the Festival, May 19.

The Festival also includes several free writing workshops (with pre-registration), and the Evanston Public Library will host an event about Biblioboard on May 14 to help authors.

The Evanston Literary Festival—created in partnership with the Chicago Book Expo, Bookends & Beginnings bookstore, Northwestern University’s Creative Writing Program, Comix Revolution, and the Evanston Public Library—was founded by co-organizers Lynn Haller and John K. Wilson as a way of bringing attention to Evanston’s authors, independent bookstores, and literary culture.

For the full schedule of the Evanston Literary Festival, including times, venues, descriptions, and additional events, go to [www.evanstonlit.org](http://www.evanstonlit.org/). To find logos and images, go to [www.evanstonlit.org/press-kit](http://www.evanstonlit.org/press-kit). Events are free and open to the public.