

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New York Times Bestselling Author Forrest Pritchard Comes to Stark County Second speaker in Library's new *Speaking of Books Author Series***

**September 29, 2016 (Canton, Ohio)** – Join Stark County District Library this fall for the next installment of the new *Dr. Audrey Lavin Speaking of Books Author Series*, which brings acclaimed writers to Stark County who inspire lively discussion and community conversation while exemplifying literary excellence. The debut 2016-2017 season includes four special evenings planned at the Canton Palace Theatre.

New York Times bestselling author Forrest Pritchard will be at the Canton Palace Theatre on October 18 at 6:30 p.m. His book "Gaining Ground" chronicles the farming adventures of Forrest, a seventh generation farmer, as he attempts to make the family farm profitable for the first time in years. On harvest day, when five tractor-trailer loads of grain reaped a meager paycheck of \$18.16 he realized his family's farm must radically change course. The following season, he devoted himself to farming organically and sustainably, raising free-range cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and chickens. Twenty years later, his farm is one of the oldest "grass finished" farms in the country.

"Forrest's visit is a must see if you're passionate about the farm-to-table movement, organic food, farmers' markets, or even family-run businesses. He shares his story with humor despite the trials he faced and brings a large personality to this popular topic," said Marianna DiGiacomo, Community Services Director. "We're excited to bring such an in-demand speaker to Stark County."

Each bestselling author will speak about their book, followed by a wide-ranging question and answer session. The evening will end with a book signing and Friends of the Library volunteers will have copies available for purchase.

This new series launch is one of the Library's newest innovations to help Stark County "Share Smart" as part of its reimagining as The Smart Store®. It is named for Dr. Audrey Lavin, a local "celebrity" author, a globe-trotting academic, a champion of writers, and a tireless supporter of the Library.

Forrest's book is also this year's One Book, One Community Stark County selection. One Book, One Community is a collaboration of several libraries in the area which encourages Stark County residents of all ages join together in reading a common book and share ideas through community conversation.

Reserve free tickets to any of the author events at [starklibrary.org/speakingofbooks](http://starklibrary.org/speakingofbooks).

The complete debut season's schedule includes:

**Michael Hingson**

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The lead off author for the series was 9/11 survivor and bestselling author Michael Hingson. Michael's book, *Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust* chronicled his harrowing escape from the 78<sup>th</sup> floor of the World Trade Center with the help of his guide dog, Roselle.

**Forrest Pritchard**

Tuesday, October 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Forrest Pritchard is a seventh generation farmer and New York Times bestselling author. His book, *Gaining Ground, A Story of Farmer's Markets, Local Food and Saving the Family Farm*, was named a top read by Publishers Weekly, The Washington Post and NPR's The Splendid Table. Forrest is also this Stark County's One Book, One Community selection for 2016.

**Terry McMillan**

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

#1 New York Times bestselling author Terry McMillan fell in love with books as a teenager while working at the local library. She studied journalism at UC Berkeley and screenwriting at Columbia before making her fiction debut with *Mama*, which won both the Doubleday New Voices in Fiction Award and the American Book Award. She lives in Pasadena, California.

**Garth Stein**

Tuesday, April 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Garth discusses his bestselling book *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, the writing process, and more. He's the author of three other novels: including his latest, *A Sudden Light*. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is the contemporary classic narrated by the beloved canine character, Enzo. It's sold 6 million copies, been translated into 35 languages, and spent more than three years on the NYT bestseller list.

**ABOUT THE LIBRARY**

One of the 9 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county's oldest library – Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 105,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.85 million items from its 1.4 million item collection and providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents more than 9,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 260,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its "no overdue fines" policy, the BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit <http://www.starklibrary.org>.

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*Stark County District Library: Start Smart. Stay Smart. Share Smart.*