

# literary and cultural programming at TPL

## 2024 success and spring 2025 program lineup

Board Education

Monday, March 24, 2025

**Gregory McCormick**, Manager, Cultural & Special Events Programming

**Linda Hazzan**, Director, Communications, Programming & Customer Engagement



## salon series



New books. Big ideas. Join the conversation

## on civil society



Challenge perspectives. Learn from one another through civil discourse

## TPL literary and cultural programming

### cultural community programming



Raising up community voices. Celebrating diversity and cross-cultural understanding.

for torontonians

**our literary and cultural programs:**

- Encourage and enable participation and access at the city and neighbourhood level
- Supplement and extend the information found in library collections
- Offer an alternative way for people to access and better understand information
- Encourage participation in the civic and cultural life of the city
- Address the cultural and leisure-related interests of the community

**for the library**

**our literary and cultural programs:**

- Encourage visits to our library branches
- Attract new users of the library, and/or introduce new collections or services to existing users
- Raise the profile of the library as a vital place of cultural engagement
- Provide opportunities to develop and strengthen partnerships
- Support the City's priorities of livability and prosperity by helping to build and sustain a creative city.

# 2024 successes

## 2024 successes new cultural programming



- **15 events** for all ages including art workshops, author talks, film screenings and more
- Placed events in **8 branches + virtually and offsite**
- **393** customers attended/watched a TPL JH event
- Partnered with Miles Nadal JCC.



- **13 events** for all ages including author talks, cookbook events, visual art discussion and a sold out dance event
- Placed events in **9 branches + virtually and offsite**
- **405** customers attended/watched a TPL IHC event
- Partnered with Aga Khan Museum

## 2024 successes: What's at Stake series



- Starting in Fall 2023, one of TPL's biggest initiatives in years
- **30 events** including **in-person, virtual and hybrid + pre-shows, exhibits and activations**
- In-person + virtual attendance totaled **4,245**
- More than **125,000** engagements with on-demand IF content
- **+ TPL advocacy, signage, special edition library totes, the Banned Books Tower, the Book Sanctuary and massive reach for our campaign**



### North York Central concourse space

- **19 events** in 2024
- A number of high-profile events had excellent attendance (**4 sold out events**)

## pre-shows & civil forums

2024 successes  
new program formats



- **9 pre-shows or Civil Forums** in 2024
- Workshops, bingo, scent stations in ancient Greece, sing-a-longs, silk-screening
- Incredibly popular with audiences (**all 9 sold out**)

# 2024 successes by the numbers

**77**  
events **12,006**  
program attendees

Dramatic growth in  
**in-person attendance**

**108%↑** in-person  
attendance

**221%↑** salon series

**89%↑** growth in **on-demand engagement**

**Average attendance per event** more than doubled **153%↑**

**Number of sold out events** more than tripled

**8** in 2023 → **26** in 2024

# 2025 programming spring preview

# spring 2025 preview salon series

SALON SERIES

## Neko Case

The Harder I Fight The More I Love You



Neko Case



Sook-Yin Lee



Appel Salon  
Mon Feb 3

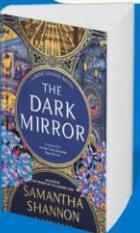
SALON SERIES

## The Dark Mirror

A Bone Season novel...



Kelly Robson



Appel Salon  
Mon Mar 3

SALON SERIES

## One Minute More

Robert Rotenberg's latest...



Robert Rotenberg



Johanna Schneller



NYCL Concourse  
Wed Feb 26

# spring 2025 preview salon series

SALON SERIES

## The Hebridean Baker

Highland Cooking & Storytelling ...



Coinneach MacLeod



Jess Allen

PRESHOW



Appel Salon  
Tue Mar 4

tpl:

## Suckerpunch

Race, body image, friendship



Scaachi Koul



Elamin



Appel Salon  
Tue Mar 11

# spring 2025 preview salon series

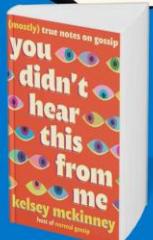
SALON SERIES

## Normal Gossip

You didn't hear this from me...



Kelsey McKinney



Appel Salon  
Mon Mar 17



Sarah Hagi

PRESHOW

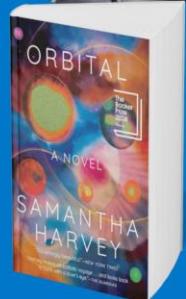
SALON SERIES

## Orbital

The 2024 Booker Prize-Winner



Samantha Harvey



Appel Salon  
Tue Mar 18



Rachel Geise

The  
Booker  
Prize  
2024

SALON SERIES

## Glorious Exploits

Ancient Greece by a young Irish novelist



Ferdia Lennon



Michael LaPointe

Appel Salon  
Wed Mar 19



# spring 2025 preview salon series

SALON SERIES

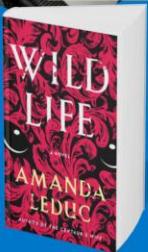
## Wild Life

When our cages our broken...



Amanda LeDuc

Kerry Clare



Jack's Room  
Wed Mar 26

SALON SERIES

## Free

Amanda Knox's Search for Meaning



Amanda Knox

HOST PENDING

Appel Salon  
Thu Apr 17



SALON SERIES

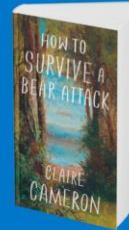
## How to Survive a Bear Attack

A memoir



Claire Cameron

Waubgeshig Rice



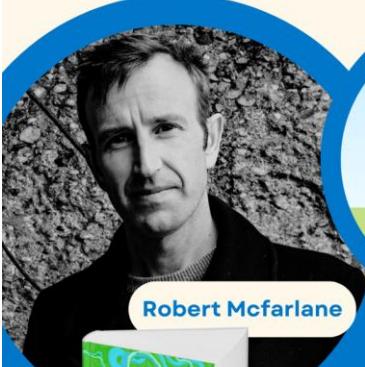
Appel Salon  
Mon Mar 31

# spring 2025 preview salon series

SALON SERIES

## Is a River Alive?

Legal rights for nature...



Robert Mcfarlane



HOST PENDING

Appel Salon  
Mon May 26

SALON SERIES

## A Case of the Cozies

Three CanCrime Novels



Liz Renzetti, Bianca Marais, Uzma Jalaluddin



North York  
Concourse  
Wed Jun 11

# spring 2025 preview on civil society

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

## The Unruly Heart of Freedom

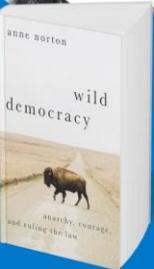
On Wild Democracy



Anne Norton



Sanjay Ruparelia



Appel Salon  
Thu Jan 30

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

## On Book Banning

A personal freedom to read ...



Ira Wells



Charles Foran



Appel Salon  
Tue Feb 25

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

## On Questioning Authority

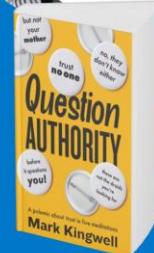
Does it matter anymore?



Mark Kingwell



Randy Boyagoda



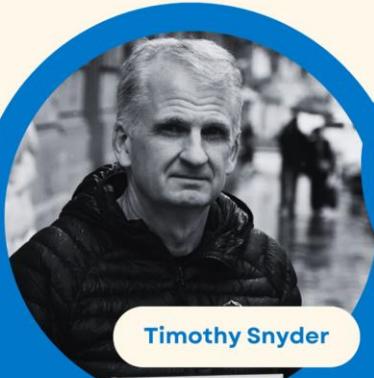
Jack's Room  
Thu Feb 27

# spring 2025 preview on civil society

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

## On Freedom

Our only chance for survival

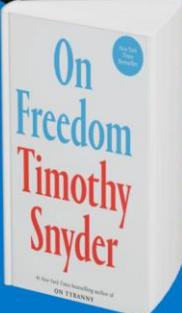


Timothy Snyder



Nahlah Ayed

PRESHOW



Appel Salon  
Fri Apr 4

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

## Visions of Inequality

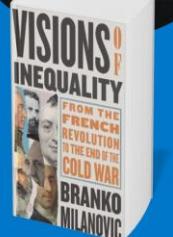
from the French Revolution to the Cold War



Branko Milanovic



Sanjay Ruparelia



Appel Salon  
Thu Apr 24

# spring 2025 preview asian heritage

ASIAN HERITAGE

## Once Upon a Time in Chinatown



Gordon Lam



North York Concourse  
Wed May 21

ASIAN HERITAGE

## The Book of Records

A mirror in the face of history



Madeleine Thien



HOST PENDING

Appel Salon  
Mon May 5

ASIAN HERITAGE

## The Chinese Head Tax

Righting Canada's Wrongs



Arlene Chan



Jack's Room  
Wed May 14

# spring 2025 preview black history

BLACK HISTORY

## Before the 6ix

What is the Toronto Sound?



Del Cowie



Solitair

Appel Salon  
Tue Feb 11

BLACK HISTORY

## Reimagining Past and Future

Black Historical Fiction



Suzette Mayr



Kai Thomas

& others

Appel Salon  
Tue Feb 18



BLACK HISTORY

## The World so Wide

"a brilliant first novel"

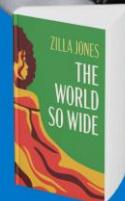


Zilla Jones



Aparita Bhandari

Jack's Room  
Mon Apr 28



BLACK HISTORY

## Black in Blues

A colour and the story of my people



Imani Perry

PENDING

Appel Salon  
Tue May 20



# spring 2025 preview

## jewish heritage

JEWISH HERITAGE

### The Paris Novel

Food, art & fashion in 1980s Paris



Ruth Reichl

Johanna Schneller

PRESHOW

Appel Salon

Tue Apr 29



JEWISH HERITAGE

### Falling in Love with Nora Ephron AT THE MOVIES



Ilana Kaplan, Esther Zuckerberg & Shinan Govani

Appel Salon

Thu May 29



PRESHOW

JEWISH HERITAGE

### Film Screening: This is My Life



This is my life

Introduction by Johanna Schneller

Miles Nadal JCC

Thu May 8

# spring 2025 preview virtual series

new

- new virtual content strategy
- a sponsored series on classic books
- 1-2 monthly series on Fridays
- each session features a discussion about one short classic book
- coordinated collections and other content pieces
- each session repackaged for on-demand (video & podcast)

VIRTUAL SERIES

## Friday Short Classics

with Michael LaPointe



Michael LaPointe

2nd Friday monthly

12pm



ETHAN FROME  
EDITH WHARTON

VOYAGE IN THE DARK  
JEAN RIBES

ANIMALS IN COUNTRY  
KAZUAKI KAWABUCHI

TONI MORRISON  
SULA

The Lover  
Duras



thank you  
questions?