



# 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

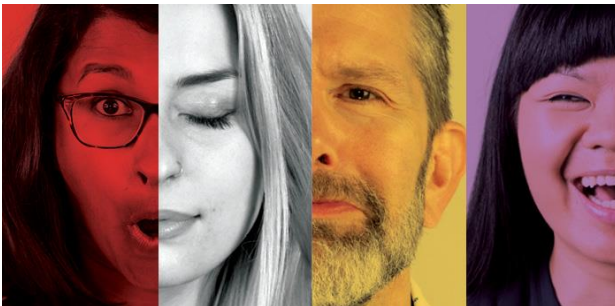


## salon series



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

# 2024 successes

## new spaces



### 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...



Samantha Shannon



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

SALON SERIES

## The Hebridean Baker

Highland Cooking & Storytelling ...



Coinneach MacLeod



Jess Allen



PRESHOW

Appel Salon  
Tue Mar 4

SALON SERIES

## Suckerpunch

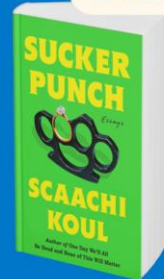
Race, body image, friendship



Scaachi Koul



Elamin



Appel Salon  
Tue Mar 11

SALON SERIES

## Normal Gossip

You didn't hear this from me...

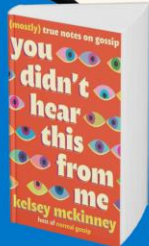


Kelsey McKinney



Sarah Hagi

PRESHOW



Appel Salon  
Mon Mar 17

SALON SERIES

## Orbital

The 2024 Booker Prize-Winner

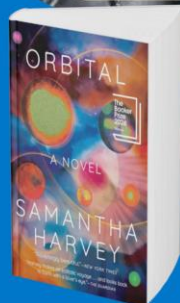


Samantha Harvey



Rachel Geise

The  
Booker  
Prize  
2024



Appel Salon  
Tue Mar 18

SALON SERIES

## Glorious Exploits

Ancient Greece by a young Irish novelist



Ferdia Lennon



Michael LaPointe



Appel Salon  
Wed Mar 19



SALON SERIES

## Wild Life

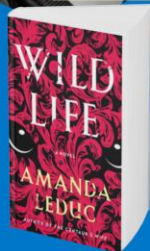
When our cages are broken...



Amanda LeDuc



Kerry Clare

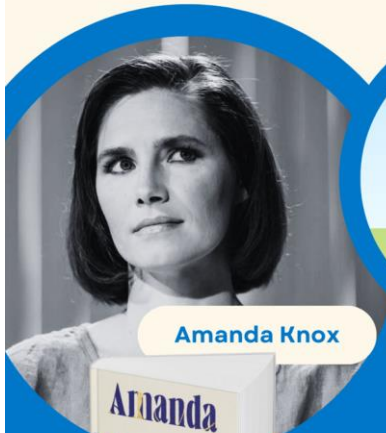


Jack's Room  
Wed Mar 26

SALON SERIES

## Free

Amanda Knox's Search for Meaning



Amanda Knox



HOST PENDING



Appel Salon  
Thu Apr 17

## spring 2025 preview salon series

SALON SERIES

## How to Survive a Bear Attack

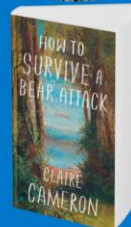
A memoir



Claire Cameron



Waubgeshig Rice




Appel Salon  
Mon Mar 31

# spring 2025 preview salon series

SALON SERIES

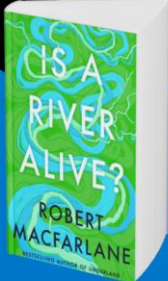
## Is a River Alive?

Legal rights for nature...



HOST PENDING

Robert McFarlane






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



ON CIVIL SOCIETY

## The Unruly Heart of Freedom

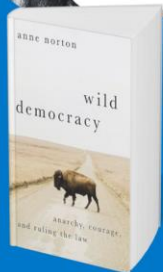
On Wild Democracy



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



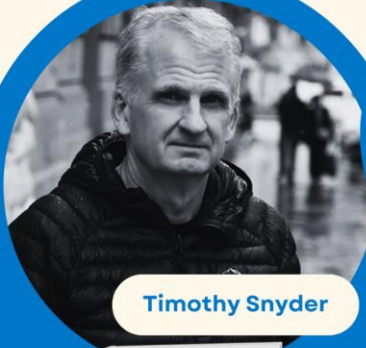
Jack's Room  
Thu Feb 27

# spring 2025 preview on civil society

ON CIVIL SOCIETY

## On Freedom

Our only chance for survival



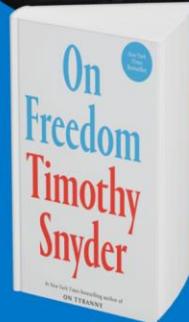
Timothy Snyder



Nahlah Ayed

PRESHOW

Appel Salon  
Fri Apr 4



ON CIVIL SOCIETY

## Visions of Inequality

from the French Revolution to the Cold War

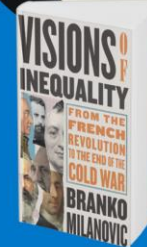


Branko Milanovic



Sanjay Ruparelia

Appel Salon  
Thu Apr 24



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



Appel Salon  
Mon May 5

HOST PENDING

ASIAN HERITAGE

## The Chinese Head Tax

Righting Canada's Wrongs



Arlene Chan



Jack's Room  
Wed May 14

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

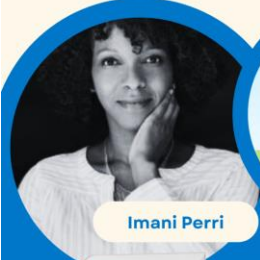


Jack's Room  
Mon Apr 28

BLACK HISTORY

## Black in Blues

A colour and the story of my people



Imani Perri



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



Appel Salon  
Tue Apr 29

**PRESHOW**

**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



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





**thank you**  
questions?