



SOUTHERN UTAH BOOK FESTIVAL

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Cedar City, Utah

FRIDAY NIGHT WELCOME EVENT

Southern Utah University + Southern Utah Book Festival Welcome Event

Friday, October 9 • 6:30 p.m. sharp, until about 8 p.m.

Sharwan Smith Student Center Theater, Southern Utah University

- **Introduction & opening remarks** — Christopher Nelson, emcee
SUU alumnus and editor, Green Linden Press.
- **Readings by three SUU creative writing alumni** — Jamison Conforto, Sydney Beals-Cole & Shauri Thacker (~5 min each)
- **Alumni speed round** — How their writing degrees shaped their professions (under 10 min)
- **Introduction** — Elizabeth Suggs
- **Featured author: Sam Weller** — Presentation, reading & interview (~45 min)
Two-time Bram Stoker Award winner and Ray Bradbury's authorized biographer.
- **Audience Q&A** — ~10 min

No catering — please eat beforehand. Sam Weller's books will be for sale.

Parking: North lot between the technology and business buildings (open after 4 p.m.).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Cedar City Library

303 N 100 E, Cedar City • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Panels, workshops and reading circles all day long in three rooms plus open reading & writing circles. **Full schedule on the back.**

WRITING CONTEST

Micro fiction & poetry. Open through **Sunday, October 11, at noon.** Winner published on our website. **Scan to submit.**



SouthernUtahBookFestival.org

SouthernUtahBookFest@gmail.com

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tag us in socials! @sub_fest on Instagram, #SouthernUtahBookFestival everywhere!

Presented with support from





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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. • Cedar City Library • 303 N 100 E, Cedar City, Utah

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Entrance on the northeast side of the building

TIME	EAST ROOM — Reader's Track	WEST ROOM — Writer's Track	SPECIAL COLLECTIONS — Nonfic, Poetry & More	READERS & WRITERS CIRCLES (tables, main open floor of the library)
10:00–10:45	Picture This: Books & the Art of Illustration Janet Sumner Johnson (Mod) Kaela Rivera Anders Roseberg	Page to Stage & Screen: Adapting and Writing for Performance Jessica Tvordi (Mod) Bill Kershnik Bryan Young	Writing the Great Outdoors: Utah, the West & Regional Folklore Simmons Buntin (Mod) Chadd VanZanten Danielle Dubrasky	Reading Circle 0: "Why Read Horror?" / Reading What Scares Us (Horror Reading Chat) Facilitator: Steve Capone, Jr.
11:00–11:45	Beyond Space Opera: Lo-Fi Sci-Fi & Soft Fantasy L.E. Modesitt Jr. (Mod) Jo Schneider Lyn Worthen Haley Cavanagh Bryan Young	Upmarket Fiction: Blending Commercial and Literary Fiction Aly Kay Tibbitts (Mod) Jonathan Reddoch Jennifer Sinor Iris Moonflower	Preserving Southern Utah's Stories: Local History & Historical Fiction Georgia C. Smith (Mod) Samantha Hastings Rosalyn Eves	Reading Circle 1: Reading What We Love (Romance Chat!) Facilitator: TBD
12:00–12:45	Tension in Horror Nathaniel Darkish (Mod) Steve Capone, Jr. Andrew Pixton Elizabeth Suggs C.R. Langille	Writing Routines & Discipline: How Authors Finish Projects Johnny Worthen (Mod) Lucy Tayco Price Taffy Lovell Cheree Alsop Jessica Tvordi	Is Poetry the Fifth Element III Danielle Dubrasky (Mod) John Belk Andrea Batt Cindy King Simmons Buntin	Reading Circle 2: Reading What Intrigues Us (Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reading Chat) Facilitator: Tyler Tarter
1:00–1:45	Why YA? Why We Love YA/MG Books (WHYA?) Kaela Rivera (Mod) Elaine Vickers Becca Lee Gardner Amanda Luzzader Rosalyn Eves	Writing Romance 101: Craft, Tropes & Genre Expectations Hillary Slaughter (Mod) Mindy Strunk Joanna Reeder Elizabeth Suggs Nicole Kimzey	True Stories: Narrative Nonfiction Jennifer Sinor (Mod) Mick Batt Georgia C. Smith Allison Hong Merrill	Writers Circle 1: Query & Submission Clinic (workshop / discussion) Facilitators: C.R. Langille & Elizabeth Copps
2:00–2:45	Why Love Stories Matter Amanda Jones (Mod) Dana LeCheminant Haley Cavanagh Cheree Alsop Kelly Fae Wilson	Revision Deep Dive: Cutting, Layering & Trusting the Process Elaine Vickers (Mod) Rosalyn Eves John Belk Jonathan Reddoch Adam J. Sherman	AI, Ethics, and the Future of Writing Steve Capone, Jr. (Mod) Tyler Tarter L.E. Modesitt Jr. Sam Weller	Creators' Workshop: ZINES! ZINES! ZINES! Facilitator: Andrea Batt
3:00–3:45	How We Got Here: Author Origin Stories & the Long Game Johnny Worthen (Mod) Taffy Lovell Jared Garrett Becca Lee Gardner Allison Hong Merrill	Agents, Queries & Debuts: Getting Your First Book Out the Door Samantha Hastings (Mod) Jo Schneider Elizabeth Copps	Breaking Into the Biz: Small Presses, Indie Publishing, What New Authors Need to Know M.T. Christen Mindy Strunk (Mod) Stephanie Jaeger Steve Capone, Jr. Karl Beckstrand	Writers Circle 2: Flash Fiction Writing Workshop Facilitator: Jonathan Reddoch
4:00–4:45	Mystery Caryn Larrinaga (Mod) Johnny Worthen Samantha Hastings Janet Sumner Johnson	Worldbuilding Across Media: Comics, Games & Novels Bryan Young (Mod) Bill Kershnik L.E. Modesitt Jr. Jared Garrett	Self Publishing vs. Traditional Publishing Lyn Worthen (Mod) Amanda Luzzader Stephanie Jaeger Tyler Tarter Dana LeCheminant	Writing Circle 3: Writing Spooky Stuff (Workshop) Facilitator: Elizabeth Suggs



PITCH A PUBLISHER

Whisper House Press, Battalion Press and Phantasmograph Books and Stories are taking pitches in 10-minute slots. Scan to see who wants what, then sign up at the registration table.

Tag us in socials!

@sub_fest on Instagram,
#SouthernUtahBookFestival everywhere!

(Mod) = moderator. Please arrive early. Full bios and updates at SouthernUtahBookFestival.org