



**TEXAS
BOOK
FESTIVAL**

For more information, please contact:
Brenda Thompson, 512-461-5644
brenda@brendathompson.com

Please note: Media credentials are required to cover the Texas Book Festival. Credentialed media receive priority access to author sessions. Please complete the form located here http://texasbookfestival.org/Press_Room.php and return to allison@brendathompson.com by Oct. 15.

September 30, 2013

Texas Book Festival to host First Edition Literary Gala with celebrity Festival authors Oct. 25

AUSTIN—The Texas Book Festival will host its First Edition Literary Gala at the Four Seasons Hotel on Friday, Oct. 25 at 6:30 p.m. The traditional prelude to the Festival weekend, the Gala is an elegant evening of culture with some new fun and quirky twists for 2013, according to Lois Kim, executive director.

At the 6:30 cocktail reception hosted by AT&T, guests can browse an eye-popping collection of silent auction items while enjoying a quartet from the popular string collective Mother Falcon. Author and jazz/gospel musician James McBride, whose *The Good Lord Bird* is nominated for the National Book Award, will sing to kick off the program, and will also speak.

“We are also thrilled to have as Gala presenters Meg Wolitzer, whose *The Interestings* was a big book club book hit this summer; Jeff Lindsay for crime, mystery, and *Dexter* fans; and American trivia king and author Ken Jennings as our emcee for the evening,” Kim says.

This year, the Festival’s Texas Writer Award (formerly known as the Bookend Award), awarded annually by the Author Selection Committee to an individual whose career represents the best voices coming out of Texas, will go to Steven Weinberg. Weinberg is one of the world’s most influential theoretical physicists, whose ground-breaking

research and writing has received numerous awards, including the Nobel Prize in Physics and the National Medal of Science.

“I’m so excited that we are honoring a Texas writer who has made such significant contributions to both the academic and literary communities,” says Steph Opitz, literary director.

The First Edition Literary Gala supports the Festival and all of its charitable programs, including Reading Rock Stars, Texas Public Library Grants, and the Fiction Writing Contest for junior and high school students. The Gala is co-chaired by board members Janna Paulson and Viki Chupik.

A special feature of this year’s Gala will be a presentation honoring the legacy of Mary Margaret Farabee, founding co-chair of the Texas Book Festival and one of Austin’s most beloved citizens. Farabee helped make the Festival a success in its early years, and stayed involved through her passion for the Reading Rock Stars program.

Limited Gala tables and individual seats are currently available; the event sells out every year. To purchase tickets, call 512-477-4055 or email lindsey@texasbookfestival.org. Individual tickets are \$500. Preferred “Leather Bound” tables are \$10,000, and “Hard Cover” tables are \$5,000. Authors’ Circle sponsorships, which include extensive Festival VIP benefits, are \$15,000.

Silent auction items include spectacular getaway packages—a week at Casa Hyder in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; Travaasa resort packages in Austin and Hawaii; and Four Seasons hotel getaways in Toronto, St. Louis, Houston, Dallas, and Austin. The auction will also feature the always-beloved special author dinners, and an eclectic array of collectibles, including jewelry, art, furniture, and books. Some auction items will be available for preview on the TBF website the week of October 14.

###

About the Texas Book Festival

The Texas Book Festival is a nonprofit organization that celebrates authors and their contributions to the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of dedicated volunteers, the Festival is held on the grounds of the Texas Capitol every fall. The Festival features author readings from more than 225 renowned Texas and national authors, panel discussions, book signings, musical entertainment, live cooking demonstrations, and children’s activities. Thanks to donors, sponsors, and 1,000 volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. The TBF supports Texas public libraries and literacy through its Library Grants and Reading Rock Stars programs, and also hosts events year-round. Visit www.texasbookfestival.org for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook and Twitter @texasbookfest.