

Turn The Page

The Cape Cod Book Festival is poised to bring storytellers and book lovers together for an inspired weekend of reading and signings.

By Leslie Hatton

Author and founder of The Cape Cod Book Festival (CCBF) Lois Cahall shares, “I believe in this festival—a new cultural footprint in Massachusetts for both locals and washashores, for charitably minded readers and for those who enjoy rubbing elbows with great thinkers. These are people with New England sensibilities. My kind of people. Our kind of people. And for someone that has lived and traveled all over the world, I can tell you that Cape Cod is that rare kind of place that somehow moves forward by simply standing still.”



Lois Cahall

Cahall is no stranger to the endeavor of bringing the written word to the masses—she pioneered The Palm Beach Book Festival which is now in its 10th successful year. As someone who fell in love with the Cape as a result of spending her childhood summers in Harwichport, then later sharing that same magic with her own children, she considers Barnstable her personal epicenter and the place where she feels most at home.

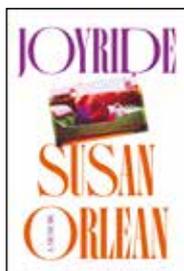
It gnawed at her, however, that there wasn't a book festival here in this place that she loved so thoroughly. So when Rory Kennedy said to her in an email, “If anyone should do it, it should be you!” Cahall set out to establish The

Cape Cod Book Festival as a 501 c 3 nonprofit. She personally curates a theme that ties each author together. This year's focus is love because as Cahall says, “We could all use a little bit more of that.”

The atmosphere is as awe-inspiring and soul-satisfying for the participants as it is for the authors themselves. Unlike other popular literary events with several speakers appearing at once scattered across a location, CCBF is a contained, inclusive experience. Think quality over quantity.

Compiling an impressive board of directors and advisors whose, “biographies read like the Pen/Faulkner awards,” Cahall says, “You may recognize some famous names—and their literary pedigrees from their parents who are fixtures in history, our libraries and our bookstores. But they have also carved their path and built their own legacy in the arts and in literature.”

This year, the festival promises to bring inspiration and insight over a two-week span beginning on October 18th at The Cotuit Center For The Arts with prolific author Susan Orlean whose novel *The Orchid Thief* was adapted into the movie *Adaptation*, starring the iconic actress Meryl Streep and whose current novel, a memoir, is called *Joyride*, which she will



Susan Orlean



Mitch Albom



discuss alongside moderator and former Oprah Book Club editor, Leigh Haber. On October 24th, Cahall will moderate a discussion at Sandwich High School featuring acclaimed author, Mitch Albom of *Tuesdays with Morrie* fame, who arrives on Cape to share his latest work, *Twice*, where the basis of the novel is the question, “what if you got to do everything in your life—again?”

Wrapping up the festival on October 25th back at The Cotuit Center For The Arts, author Eliana Ramage will discuss her book *To The Moon And Back*, a tale about becoming the first Cherokee astronaut, and Joseph Finder will share the most recent thriller he has penned, *The Oligarch's Daughter*, a love story intertwined with espionage.

Cahall beams, “I think Cape Codders provide a rich buoyant tapestry for its neighbors.” Grab a book buddy and purchase your tickets for Mitch Albom's event at Titcomb's Bookshop located at 432 Route 6A in Sandwich, and for the Orlean, Ramage and Finder events, tickets can be purchased at the box office at The Cotuit Center For The Arts at 4404 Falmouth Road in Cotuit. Please note that only books purchased through Titcomb's Bookshop or live at the events are eligible for autographs. 📖