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Neighbors Michigan



Article published November 03, 2010 Comments (0) Recommendations (0) + 'Writers on the River Book Fair' to feature more authors

TEMPERANCE - Local, national, and award-winning authors of literature ranging from mysteries and fiction to children's and young adult will be featured Nov. 14 at a book signing at the Bedford branch library.

The annual "Writers on the River Book Fair," to be from noon to 3 p.m. at the library, 8575 Jackman Rd., has been held for 11 years at the Ellis Reference and Information Center in Monroe.

However, the event was moved to the library in Bedford Township because of the expansion and renovation project at Ellis, which has been closed since July and is expected to reopen in early 2011.

"Moving to south county gives us an opportunity to expand our audience and gives our regular writers' fans a good excuse to go to Bedford and see this beautiful facility," project coordinator Bernie Smith said. "We'll move back to Ellis next year when the renovation is complete."

So far, 39 writers have signed up to appear at the event, making it one of the biggest in the fair's history.

"The list of authors goes on and is sure to include someone of interest for every age," Ms. Smith said.

Many of the authors have appeared at past book fairs, but the event will include new authors.

"Usually the number of authors is in the 30s. This will be one of the larger book fairs for us," Nancy Colpaert, director of the Monroe County Library System, said.

Among the outstanding Michigan writers scheduled to appear are Donald Lystra, the author of Seasons of Water and Ice, which was named a Michigan Notable Book for 2010 by the Library of Michigan and won the 2009 Midwest Book Award for fiction.

Mr. Lystra, who divides his time between Ann Arbor and a farm in Leelanau County in northern Michigan, worked for many years on electrical power plants before beginning to write fiction in the 1990s.

Among the other writers will be Gregg Tyler Milligan, who is the author of recently released A Beautiful World, an autobiographical work that details the physical, emotional, and sexual abuse he suffered during his boyhood from his mother and his struggle to overcome illiteracy.

Mr. Milligan, a spokesman for the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network and internationally known child abuse prevention advocate, has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

A Canton, Mich., resident, he earned a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights University in Adrian and went on to earn a master's degree in computer engineering. He works as a computer information systems executive.

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