



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Eau Claire, WI – September 3, 2019

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## Topics That Matter Featured at the Chippewa Valley Book Festival

In its 20th year, the Chippewa Valley Book Festival is proud to bring the community topics that matter: female empowerment, immigrant experience, mental health, and parenting challenges. Each year the book festival offers authors and book selections that represent a variety of themes and topics. This year is no exception. These highlighted topics are just a sampling of what will be offered at this year's festival. The book festival will be held from October 21–October 27, 2019, with the majority of events open to the public and FREE. It will feature eighteen authors and more than twenty events. Join your fellow neighbors in celebrating the written word by attending one (or more) of the events.

### FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

#### **Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time**

Inspired by the film of the same name, Tanya Lee Stone's *Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time*, tackles the questions: why are there 130 million girls around the globe not being educated? And what can we do about it? Stone will explore how educating girls is the single most powerful tool we have to make our world a safer, healthier, more functional place. This event will include a mini-screening (one chapter) of the film. Event details: Wednesday, October 16, at 7:00 p.m. in Centennial Hall (Room 1614) at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire.

#### **Mrs. Bond: The True Role of Female Spies During the First World War**

When someone mentions female spies, especially during the era of World War I, often the only names they can recall are either the notorious femme fatale Mata Hari or the saintly nurse Edith Cavell. However, the real role of women in espionage was far more varied and prevalent. Anna Lee Huber will explore the fact and fiction behind these female secret agents, explore the spy rings with which they worked behind enemy lines, and examine their lives after the guns fell silent. The featured book is *Treacherous is the Night*. Event details: Monday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Altoona Public Library.

### IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCES

#### **Making the Unseen, Seen: Giving Voice to Diverse Characters in Fiction and Beyond**

Neel Patel's debut story collection, *If You See Me, Don't Say Hi*, gives voice to our most deeply held stereotypes and then slowly undermines them. His characters, almost all of who are first-generation Indian Americans, subvert our expectations that they will sit quietly by. This program will discuss the importance of turning peripheral characters into primary ones, both its challenges and delights. Gain a better understanding of the impact literature, television, and film have on shaping the identities of people from different walks of life. Event details: Monday, October 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom at the University of Wisconsin–Stout.

### MENTAL HEALTH

#### **Don't Call Me Crazy: Navigating Mental Health with Compassion, Understanding, and Honesty**

While roughly 20% of Americans live with a mental illness, more than half of those who suffer have gone untreated for the past year. Kelly Jensen, editor of *(Don't) Call Me Crazy: 33 Voices Start the Conversation about Mental Health*, will talk about her own experiences with depression and anxiety as well as where and how she decided to get help for herself when she turned 30. Using what she learned from her own life, Jensen will discuss where and how to talk about mental health, as well as tools and resources for cracking open those discussions. Event details: Thursday, October 17, at 5:00 p.m. in Schofield Hall at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire.

## PARENTING CHALLENGES

### **Small Animals: Parenting in the Age of Fear**

Changing patterns in family structure, rampant consumerism, and social panics spawned by the 24-hour news cycle have transformed child-rearing from an inherently private relationship into an all-consuming, competitive sport. Building on her own harrowing experiences, Kim Brooks will reveal how expectations of parents have changed over the course of a single generation and how these expectations—fueled by fear rather than reality—pressure mothers to report one another. The featured book is *Small Animals: Parenthood in the Age of Fear*. Tickets are required for this FREE event. Event details: Thursday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the Riverfront Room at the Pablo Center at the Confluence.

For full festival details and complete list of authors, visit [www.cvbookfest.org/schedule](http://www.cvbookfest.org/schedule). Author photos and book jackets as well as Chippewa Valley Book Festival logos can be found at: [www.cvbookfest.com/media](http://www.cvbookfest.com/media)

*The Chippewa Valley Book Festival partners with the Pablo Center at the Confluence, and the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire Foundation to provide literary programming for all Chippewa Valley residents.*

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