

ICL Reads 2024 Speaker Biographies

THE FEATHER THIEF by Kirk Wallace Johnson



Jeff Mishur is co-owner of Art Excursions, a company that provides private guiding in Chicago; lectures; and boutique art and culture tours in the United States. A popular speaker about art historical and travel topics, he holds an M.A. in Art History and has taught at the university level for many years.

<http://artexcursions.com/ae/Home.html>



Frederick Hannie Sr. “As the owner/operator of a successful dental laboratory I continue to hone my hand to eye coordination daily as I make dental prosthetics that mimic life. It’s only natural that these skills spill over into my other passions such as fly tying.

I began writing as a way to share fly patterns and techniques, first in newsletters and then magazines. My articles and flies have appeared in nearly every major fly fishing-related publication including the only one dedicated to fly tying, “Fly Tyer”, where my flies have been used for the cover twice. “

Fred Hannie was named Fly Tying Forum.com’s Fly Tier of the Year in 2010 and in 2012 won Fly Fishing & Tying Journal’s tying competition. Also, among his accolades is the prestigious Charles E. Brooks Lifetime Achievement Award from Fly Fishers International. His book, Fly Tying with Monofilament, was published in 2015. His book, Uncommon Flies, was published in 2021. His Instagram tag is fred_hannie.



Lillian Holden has worked for Openlands (local-non-profit) for 5 years primarily coordinating and implementing Openlands Birds in My Neighborhood Program and serving as a public ambassador for Openlands African American Heritage Watertrail. In her new role, Water Trail Specialist, Lillian implements and coordinates Openlands water trails. From birding to paddling, her breadth of work involves building and inspiring advocates for nature at multiple scales with a lens on history and heritage.

She is an emerging leader in the fight toward the metamorphosis of mother earth and our cultural lens on the treatment of nature and takes pride in sharing fortifying experiences outdoors for all ages that serve dual purposes: educational and extensions of what the individual needs most. During her free time, she weaves in moments to crochet all whilst mentoring youth as part of The Keller Science Action Center at the Field Museum's FEUGO (Fellows United for Environment, Growth, and Opportunity) program, Planning for Black Birders Week 2023, and while being an Aspen Ideas Fellow. <https://openlands.org/people/lillian-holden/>



Erica Duijzer is a seasoned professional in the field of autism intervention, currently serving as the Senior Director of The Autism Program at Hope in Springfield, Illinois. As a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Erica has dedicated her entire professional career to working with individuals with autism.

Since starting her journey in 2007, Erica has gained valuable experience in various aspects of autism services, including community living arrangements (CILAs) for adults and pediatric community-based therapy. Her commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those with autism is evident in her work. Residing in the Chicagoland area, Erica is not just a professional in her field; she is also a compassionate advocate. In her role at The Autism Program at Hope, Erica continues to contribute to the well-being of individuals and families in the Springfield community, making a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by autism. <https://hope.us/erica-duijzer/>



Kirk Wallace Johnson is an author and screenwriter. His books include The Fishermen and the Dragon: Fear, Greed, and a Fight for Justice on the Gulf Coast, The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century, and To Be a Friend is Fatal: the Fight to Save the Iraqis America Left Behind. He is also the creator of *Drug Spies*, a scripted series about pharmaceutical espionage. He is the founder of the List Project to Resettle Iraqi Allies.

His writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Foreign Policy*, among others. Prior to founding the List Project, Johnson served in Iraq with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Baghdad and then Fallujah as the Agency's first coordinator for reconstruction in the war-torn city.

He is a senior fellow at the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy, and the recipient of fellowships from the American Academy in Berlin, Yaddo, MacDowell, and the Wurlitzer Foundation. Prior to his work in Iraq, he conducted research on political Islamism as a Fulbright Scholar in Egypt. He received his BA from the University of Chicago in 2002. Born in West Chicago, he lives in Los Angeles with his wife, son, and daughter. <https://authorsunbound.com/kirk-wallace-johnson/>