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## CONTACT THE FOL

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## WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR...

The FOL, founded in 1966, is the library’s longest-serving volunteer organization. We are dedicated to strengthening the ties between the library and the community through fundraising, programming, outreach, and advocacy. The FOL is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides key financial support to all library departments, including funding the following popular programs and services:

- Free museum passes
- Loanable Kindles and Chromebooks
- Library of Games and Gadgets
- Podcast studio
- 3D printers
- Adult lectures and author events
- Tutor.com online homework help
- SoundSwap concerts
- Free SAT/ACT prep
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- Banned Books Week programs
- Children’s Chess Program
- Adult and Teen Book Clubs
- Pride Month programs
- Great Library Card Adventure
- Citizenship classes
- Lunar New Year Festival
- Teen Late Night Study Hall

## THANK YOU TO OUR LUNCHEON ATTENDEES, SPONSORS AND DONORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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**FOL** FRIENDS OF THE  
PORT WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

54TH ANNUAL RICHARD DODGE WHITTEMORE

# BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

HONORING AMY G. BASS

FEATURING

**DANI SHAPIRO**

*Author of the acclaimed new  
novel Signal Fires and best-  
selling memoir Inheritance*

IN CONVERSATION WITH  
**DANIEL PAISNER**

*Author, ghostwriter  
and podcaster*



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**SYLVIA DUNSKY  
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**THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 • 11AM–2:30PM**  
**THE GARDEN CITY HOTEL**  
45 Seventh Street, Garden City

## DANI SHAPIRO

*Signal Fires*  
(Knopf Publishing Group)



Photo: Beowulf Sheehan

Dani Shapiro is the author of 11 books and the host and creator of the hit podcast “Family Secrets.”

Her most recent novel, *Signal Fires*, her sixth and first in 15 years, was named a best book of 2022 by *Time Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Amazon*, NPR and others, and is a national best-seller. It explores the shattering aftermath of a deadly car accident involving three teenagers, two families, and the consequences of a long-hidden lie.

Shapiro’s most recent memoir, *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* (2020), recounts how she learned through a recreational DNA test that her father was not her biological parent. It was an instant *New York Times* best-seller and will be the basis of a feature film. Her other memoirs include the best-sellers *Slow Motion*, *Devotion*, and *Hourglass*.

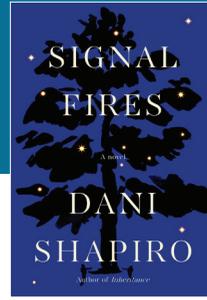
Shapiro has also written for the screen. She is currently adapting Sue Miller’s best-selling novel *Monogamy* for a film with Holly Hunter projected to star and produce. She is also adapting *Signal Fires* for television.

*Still Writing*, Shapiro’s book on the process and craft of writing, is being reissued on the occasion of its tenth anniversary this year. She has taught writing at Columbia University and New York University, and is the co-founder of the Sirenland Writers Conference in Positano, Italy.

She lives in Litchfield County, Connecticut, with her family.

## SIGNAL FIRES

*What the critics are saying*



“Dani Shapiro’s profound new novel jumps around in time to piece together the story of three teenagers, a car accident, two families and what persists even after neighborhoods change, people grow old, relationships fray and collective memories fade.”

*NPR Fresh Air 10 Favorite Books of the Year*

“A powerful work that delves into the consequences of a long-hidden lie.”

*Washington Post 50 Best Fiction Books of 2022*

“Gorgeous ... Have your tissues ready.”

*A Real Simple Best Book of the Year*

“The author’s attention to craft is so detailed, so invisible, that 250 pages feel simultaneously taut and timeless.”

*Los Angeles Times*

“As Shapiro draws connections between seemingly disparate threads, she creates a moving portrait of guilt, grief, and fate. And she shows, in aching terms, how life is made up of random moments—missed opportunities and curious circumstances—and that it only takes a second for everything to change.”

*Time Magazine 10 Best Fiction Books of 2022*

“A beautiful exploration of the connections between two families and the reverberations from a teenager’s lie ... Shapiro imagines in luminous prose how each of the characters’ lives might have gone if things had turned out differently.”

*Publishers Weekly*

“The celebrated memoirist returns to fiction with a lyrical and propulsive novel ... the richly drawn characters and moody atmospheric make the book hard to put down.”

*Oprah Daily*

## DANIEL PAISNER

*Author, ghostwriter and podcaster*



Daniel Paisner is a journalist, author, and podcaster with more than 70 books to his credit, including 17 *New York Times* best-sellers.

As a celebrated ghostwriter he is the “voice” of Serena Williams, Steve Aoki, John Kasich, Whoopi Goldberg, Denzel Washington, Ron Darling, Gilbert Gottfried, Anthony Quinn, and dozens of other celebrities. Paisner is the winner of two NAACP Image Awards for his work with *Shark Tank* panelist and serial entrepreneur Daymond John. His novel *A Single Happened Thing* was named an Indies Finalist as best book of the year by the editors of *Foreword Reviews*. A longtime supporter of the FOL, he was a featured author at this Luncheon for his nonfiction book *Horizontal Hold* in 1992.

Paisner has been profiled in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *ESPN: The Magazine* and on NPR. *New York* magazine called him “the world’s most prolific ghost,” which, as he notes, may or may not have been a compliment. Paisner hosts the popular podcast *As Told To*, which features interviews with fellow ghostwriters and co-authors on the art of collaboration. His most recent novel, the “darkly funny and painfully true” *Balloon Dog*, was published in June 2022.

A graduate of Tufts University with a B.A. in English, Paisner received an M.S. in Journalism from Boston University.

He lives in Port with his family.

## AMY G. BASS

*FOL President Emerita*



Amy G. Bass, our first-ever Luncheon Honoree, is the FOL’s President Emerita following a long and illustrious tenure as President. Thanks to her dedication and grace, the FOL has become an indispensable partner to the library and one of Port’s most well-respected organizations. The FOL’s Annual Book & Author Luncheon is the North Shore’s leading book event, having featured many literary luminaries, and is a beloved community tradition due to her vision.

A Port Washingtonian since the age of three, Amy is a Schreiber High grad and a lifelong patron and devotee of our library. She recalls many visits to the old Bellevue Avenue library building as a child and teen. Her first contact with the FOL came in 1986 when she attended this very event, where one of the featured authors was Luncheon-favorite and frequent program moderator Susan Isaacs. Amy joined the FOL board in 1988.

Amy’s commitment to the Port Washington community is evidenced by her many leadership positions. These include serving as President of the Board of Education for the Port Washington School District, founding President and now President Emerita of The Ed Foundation, board member of the League of Women Voters of Port Washington-Manhasset and chair of its annual State of the Town Luncheon, and 30-year board member of the Community Chest of Port Washington.

She has received too many honors to list – and the FOL is proud to add to that number.