

WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR...

The FOL, founded in 1966 and celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year, 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) that provides key financial support to all library departments. These are just some of the popular programs and services we fund:

- Free Museum Passes
- 100 WiFi Hotspots to Borrow
- Library of Games and Gadgets
- Equipment for Podcast Studio
- 3D Printers and Cricut Craft Maker
- Adult Lectures and Author Events
- Online Homework Help and College Counseling
- Free SAT Prep
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration
- Adult and Schreiber HS Book Clubs
- Pride Month Programs
- Children's Great Library Card Adventure
- ESOL and Citizenship Classes
- Children's Chess Program
- Lunar New Year Festival
- SoundSwap Concerts
- Mandarin Classes
- Banned Books Week Programs
- Loanable Kindles and Chromebooks
- CPR and Defensive Driving in Spanish
- Local History Exhibits and Projects

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YOUR INVITATION TO THE
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FEATURING

EMMA STRAUB

Bestselling author of *American Fantasy*, one of the most anticipated novels of 2026



IN CONVERSATION WITH

MEG WOLITZER

Moderator and bestselling novelist



FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026 • 11AM—1:30PM
THE GARDEN CITY HOTEL

11 a.m.	Welcome Reception and Sign-In
11:30 a.m.	Lunch and Program Begin Promptly
1:30 p.m.	Book Signing

EVENT SPONSORS

Kim and John Keiserman
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EMMA STRAUB

American Fantasy
(Riverhead Books, April 2026)



PHOTO: ALPHA SMOOT

Bestselling author Emma Straub is one of the most beloved voices in contemporary fiction. Her most recent novel *This Time Tomorrow* – a wry and profoundly moving story about a father-daughter relationship that mirrored her own – was an instant *New York Times*-bestseller and further established Straub as the “queen of the Summer novel” (*Entertainment Weekly*).

Her new novel, *American Fantasy*, is about a newly divorced, 50-year-old woman, Annie, who reluctantly boards a themed cruise for fans of a popular 90s boy band, only to find herself unexpectedly reconnecting with her teenage self. The novel poignantly and hilariously explores themes of aging, nostalgia, fame, and second chances at mid-life.

Straub explains: “*American Fantasy*, like *This Time Tomorrow*, is about time and love and loss. It’s about figuring out who you are, and if you’re okay. (You’re okay.) It’s about loving the past because it was easier, and figuring out how to leave things that are no longer serving you behind for an uncertain future.”

Straub is the author of six books for adults: the novels *This Time Tomorrow*, *All Adults Here*, *The Vacationers*, *Modern Lovers*, *Laura Lamont’s Life in Pictures*, and the short story collection *Other People We Married*. She also has written three books for young readers. Her books have been published in more than twenty languages.

A graduate of Oberlin College with an MFA in Fiction from University of Wisconsin-Madison, Straub was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2024. She and her husband own Books Are Magic, an independent bookstore with two locations in Brooklyn, where she lives with her family.

AMERICAN FANTASY

What reviewers are saying



NAMED A MOST ANTICIPATED BOOK OF 2026 BY THE NY TIMES, PEOPLE, TODAY SHOW, TIME, AND HARPER’S BAZAAR

“Straub depicts a wonderfully immersive world . . . A delightfully nostalgic novel about how the things we loved in the past have the power to shape our future.”

Kirkus (STARRED REVIEW)

“I can hardly remember the last time I read anything that brought me such pure joy . . . It brims with truth and humanity and insight, and it made me snort like a pig. I loved it. I think the entire country will love it.”

Ann Patchett, #1 New York Times bestselling author

“A treasure chest of a story, filled with Straub’s signature warmth, humor, compassion, and insight.”

Coco Mellors, bestselling author of Blue Sisters

“*American Fantasy* is such a fun, delicious, big-hearted book.”

Taylor Jenkins Reid, #1 New York Times bestselling author

“Emma Straub is the most empathetic and open-hearted writer in literature. It is pure joy to see her turn to the emotionally complicated territory of teenage nostalgia and what it means to reconnect with the feelings of youth from the realities of middle age . . . Straub uncovers the beauty and regret of reconciling who we once were with who we are now.”

Kevin Wilson, bestselling author of Nothing to See Here

“Peak intelligence, and criminally readable.”

Maria Semple, bestselling author of Where’d You Go, Bernadette

MEG WOLITZER

Acclaimed novelist
Program moderator



PHOTO: NINA SUBIN

Meg Wolitzer is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Sleepwalking*, *The Interestings*, *The Uncoupling*, *The Ten-Year Nap*, *The Female Persuasion*, *The Position*, and *The Wife*, which was made into an acclaimed film starring Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce. She is also the author of the young adult novel *Belzhar*, a picture book, *Millions of Maxes*, and co-author with her son Charlie Panek of a new middle-grade novel, *Found Sound*.

Her short fiction has been published in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Pushcart Prize*. Wolitzer is the host of the live program “Selected Shorts” at Manhattan’s Symphony Space, for which she also hosts the radio show and podcast. She was the featured speaker at the FOL’s Book & Author Luncheon in 2011 and 2019.

Wolitzer has been a guest artist in the Princeton Atelier program at Princeton University and taught in the MFA program at Stony Brook Southampton, where she co-founded and co-directs BookEnds, a one-year non-credit intensive in novel writing. Additionally, she has taught in the graduate writing programs at the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Columbia University, Skidmore College, the University of Houston, Boston University, and Barnard College.

Wolitzer was born in Brooklyn, grew up in Syosset and graduated from Syosset High School. Her mother is novelist Hilma Wolitzer (a Book & Author Luncheon featured author in 1989). She attended Smith College before transferring to Brown University, where she graduated in 1981. She studied creative writing at both institutions and wrote her first novel during her senior year.

She lives in New York City with her husband.