



THE HELICONIAN CLUB

since 1909

presents

*For busy people who like to read*

# LITERARY SERIES 2023-24



## **Three Series**

**8 sessions each,  
including a lecture, a question  
period and a book signing by  
the author.**

**Refreshments included. Cash Bar**

## IT'S OUR 27TH SEASON

Talented Canadian writers talk about their latest book at the Heliconian Club, a charming venue with its large rose window and vaulted ceilings in the heart of Yorkville. Art Exhibits by Club members adorn its walls and change monthly.

Enjoy a glass of wine and French cheese on a cracker or a cup of tea and a slice of lemon loaf before the presentation. Take part in a Question and Answer Session and have your book signed by the author.

Elizabeth Hay, Charlotte Gray, Michael Crummey and Zoe Whittall are returning. Meet debut authors, Saeed Teebi, Ann Shin, Christopher Cameron and Sheila Murray.

There is a Tuesday and a Thursday Series comprised of 8 lectures. (These lectures will be recorded and the link sent out a week after the in-house lecture.)

Doors open at 6:45 pm for refreshments and conversation; the talk begins at 7:30 pm.

## VIRTUAL SERIES

For those of you who cannot attend either the in-house Tuesday or Thursday Series, a virtual series of 8 lectures is available. It focusses on 8 talented Canadian writers from coast to coast; for example, Janie Chang, Tsering Yangzom Lama, Chelene Knight and Joseph Kakwinokanasum.

The links to all the lectures will be accessible from their launch date until August 31st, 2024.

The books for the three series are available from Ben McNally Books.

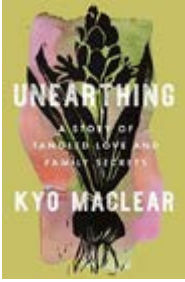
## SECURE YOUR SEATS NOW

Purchase your subscriptions online.

An in-person subscription is \$235 and includes \$15 for The Club's Capital Improvement Fund and HST. Online subscriptions can be added on at check out.

A subscription for one online 8-lecture series is \$140. Two online series costs \$210, and it is only \$240 if you sign up for all three.

# THE TUESDAY LITERARY SERIES



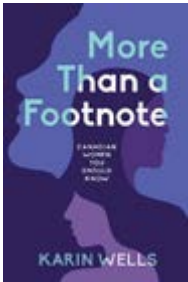
**KYO MACLEAR**

*Unearthing:  
A Story of Tangled Love  
and Family Secrets*

**Sept 26 / Oct 3 online**

An unforgettable memoir about a family secret revealed by a DNA test, the lessons learned in its aftermath, and the indelible power of love.

Three months after Kyo Maclear's father dies in December 2018, she gets the results of a DNA test showing that she and the father who raised her are not biologically related.

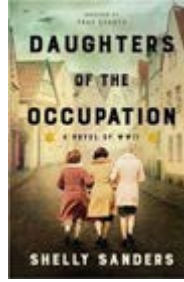


**KARIN WELLS**

*More Than a Footnote:  
Canadian Women You  
Should Know*

**Oct 17 / Oct 24 online**

There are women throughout Canada's history who when faced with a locked door, have looked for a key — or a battering ram. Award-winning writer Karin Wells tells the stories of women like... Mina Benson Hubbard, who finished the mission to map northern Labrador that had killed her explorer husband, and Vera Peters, MD, who revolutionized treatments for Hodgkins lymphoma and breast cancer.



**SHELLY SANDERS**

*Daughters of the  
Occupation*

**Nov 14 / Nov 21 online**

Based on a true story, this powerful novel is set in Latvia's capital during the horrific Rumbula massacre when 30,000 Jews were slaughtered over two days in 1941. When Miriam and her family are rounded up and forced to live in the Jewish ghetto in Riga, Miriam chooses to give up her children... Thirty-five years later, Miriam's granddaughter... Sarah's quest for the truth may threaten her freedom....



**Suanne Kelman will  
give a lecture on**

*Demon Copperhead*

by **BARBARA  
KINGSOLVER**

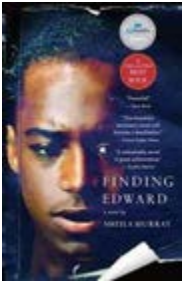
**Jan 16 / Jan 23 online**

Charles Dickens wrote David Copperfield from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children. ... transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys.

In-person: 7:30pm Doors open 6:45pm

Refreshments included Cash bar

# THE TUESDAY LITERARY SERIES



**SHEILA MURRAY**

*Finding Edward*

**Feb 20 / Feb 27 online**

Cyril Rowntree migrates to Toronto from Jamaica in 2012. Managing a precarious balance of work and university he begins to navigate his way through the implications of being racialized in his challenging new land. A chance encounter with a panhandler leads Cyril to a suitcase full of photographs and letters. Cyril begins to look for the rest of Edward's story.



**MICHAEL CRUMNEY**

*The Adversary*

**Mar 19 / Mar 26 online**

In an isolated outpost on Newfoundland's northern coastline, Abe Strapp is about to marry the daughter of a rival merchant to cement his hold on the shore when the Widow Caines arrives to throw the wedding and Abe's plans into chaos. That ruthless act of sabotage is the opening salvo in a battle between the man and woman who own Mockbeggar's largest mercantile firms.



**VINCENT LAM**  
interviewed by  
**Suanne Kelman**

*On the Ravine*

**Apr 16 / Apr 23 online**

An exquisitely crafted novel, piercing in its urgency and breathtaking in its intimacy, about the devastating experience of addiction. Combining the depth of his experience as a physician with the brilliance of his literary talent, Vincent Lam creates a world electric in its precision, radiant in its detail. *On the Ravine* is a gripping novel of profound emotional force, a soaring achievement from a singular voice in Canadian fiction.



**ANDRE NARBONNE**

*Lucien and Olivia*

**May 14 / May 21 online**

*Lucien and Olivia* is a comic statement on the beautiful waywardness of life. Lucien is a marine engineer on a Canadian tanker. While on one-month leave in Halifax, he meets Olivia, a brilliant philosophy student at Dalhousie University, who takes an immediate dislike to him. What begins as mutual antipathy changes when they discover how compatible their oddities are.

In-person: 7:30pm Doors open 6:45pm

Refreshments included Cash bar

# THE THURSDAY LITERARY SERIES



**ELIZABETH HAY**  
*Snow Road Station*

**Sept 14 / Sept 21 online**

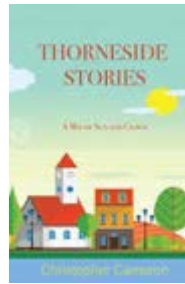
A witty and wise narrative about thwarted ambition, unrealized dreams, the enduring bonds of female friendship. In 2008, as snow falls without interruption, an actor blanks on her lines. Fleeing the theatre, she beats a retreat into her past and Snow Road Station, a barely discernible dot on the map of Ontario. Lulu Blake, in her sixties now, is a sexy, seemingly unfooled woman well-versed in taking risks.



**ZOE WHITTALL**  
*The Fake*

**Oct 12 / Oct 19 online**

A con artist can make you feel like the luckiest person on earth just to be in their presence. But when Shelby and Gibson find out Cammie is a pathological liar, they struggle to understand what they really want from her — sometimes they want to help her heal, and sometimes they want revenge. But the biggest question of all is: how honest can they be about their own character?



**CHRISTOPHER CAMERON**  
*Thornside Stories:  
A Mix of Sun and Cloud*

**Nov 9 / Nov 16 online**

Welcome to Thornside. If you're a new arrival, the place may look like just another sleepy town nestled among the rolling hills of Lindsfarne County. But spend some time here, meet the people, and you'll soon see much more. The secrets of their intertwined lives could wake the dead — or in one case, have the opposite effect.



**SAEED TEEBI**  
*Her First Palestinian:  
And other stories*

**Jan 11 / Jan 18 online**

Saeed Teebi's intense, engrossing stories plunge into the lives of characters grappling with their experiences as Palestinian immigrants to Canada. A doctor, a math professor, a university student, a lawyer, a widower, a refugee. These taut and compelling stories engage the immigrant experience and reflect the Palestinian diaspora with grace and insight.

# THE THURSDAY LITERARY SERIES

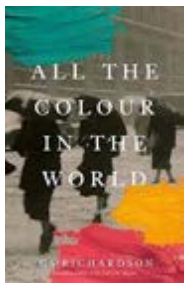


**ANN SHIN**

*The Last Exiles*

**Feb 15 / Feb 22 online**

Inspired by true events, *The Last Exiles* is a searing portrait of a young couple in North Korea and their fight for love and freedom. Jin and Suja met and fell in love while studying at university in Pyongyang. She was a young journalist from a prominent family, while he was from a small village of little means. Outside the school, North Korea has fallen under great political upheaval, plunged into chaos and famine.

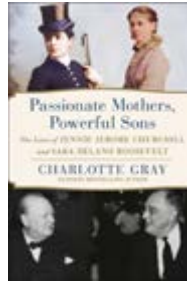


**C.S. RICHARDSON**

*All the Colour in the World*

**Mar 14 / Mar 21 online**

The story of the restorative power of art in one man's life, set against the sweep of the twentieth century—from Toronto in the 20s and 30s, through the killing fields of World War II, to 1960s Sicily. Eight-year-old Henry receives his first set of colouring pencils (and a pocket knife for the sharpening) and the colours and stories of the great artists take hold, and become Henry's unique way of seeing the world.



**CHARLOTTE GRAY**

*Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons*

**Apr 11 / Apr 18 online**

A captivating dual biography of two famous women whose sons would change the course of the 20th century—by award-winning historian Charlotte Gray. Born into upper-class America in 1854, Sara Delano (mother of Franklin Delano Roosevelt) and Jennie Jerome (mother of Winston Churchill) concentrated their energies on enabling their sons reach the epicenter of political power on two continents.



**Suanne Kelman will give a lecture on**

*Small Things Like These*

by **CLAIRE KEEGAN**

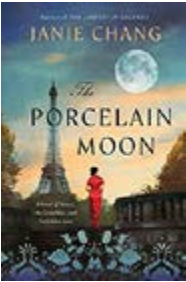
**May 9 / May 16 online**

Claire Keegan's gem of a novella, *Small Things Like These* is a moving tale of complicity and human decency. Keegan is the author of prize-winning short fiction, including two story collections, *Antarctica* and *Walk the Blue Fields*. Subtle and truthful, her work has been widely praised for its emotional honesty. As one critic put it, she has "an eerily acute ear for dialogue, but her real gift is for what goes unsaid."

In-person: 7:30pm Doors open 6:45pm

Refreshments included Cash bar

# THE VIRTUAL LITERARY SERIES

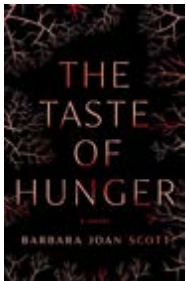


**JANIE CHANG**

*The Porcelain Moon*

**Sept 13 online**

France, 1918. In the final days of the First World War, Pauline Deng runs away from her uncle's home in Paris to evade a marriage being arranged for her in Shanghai. Camille Roussel is planning her escape from an abusive marriage and seeking to end a love affair... *The Porcelain Moon* is a tale of forbidden love, identity and belonging, and what we are willing to risk for freedom.

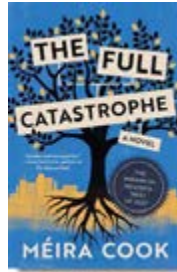


**BARBARA JOAN SCOTT**

*The Taste of Hunger*

**Oct 11 online**

A family saga about Ukrainian immigrants in the early 20th century, the power of desire, Baba Yaga fairytales, and a moment that changes everything. In Saskatchewan in the late 1920s, a fifteen-year-old Ukrainian immigrant named Olena is forced into marriage.... Barbara Joan Scott masterfully explores the pull of family, the fallout of thwarted desire, and the power of redemption and forgiveness.

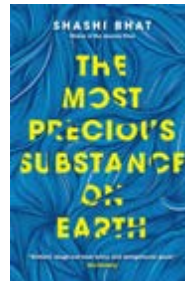


**MÉIRA COOK**

*The Full Catastrophe*

**Nov 8 online**

A compassionate and funny novel about defining yourself, the communities that support us, and the journeys that secrets propel. Charlie Minkoff, a thirteen-year-old boy born with intersex traits, would be happy to be left alone. ... perpetually wondering about the father who abandoned him, and tormented in school because of his differences, Charlie navigates the assorted catastrophes of his life.



**SHASHI BHAT**

*The Most Precious Substance on Earth*

**Jan 10 online**

*The Most Precious Substance on Earth* tells stories of Nina's life from the nineties to present day, when she returns to the classroom as a high school teacher with a haunting secret. *The Most Precious Substance on Earth* is a sharp-edged and devastating look at how women are conditioned to hide their trauma and suppress their fear, loneliness, and anger, and an unforgettable portrait of how silence can shape a life.

View anytime from launch

until August 31, 2024

# THE VIRTUAL LITERARY SERIES



**TSERING  
YANGSOM LAMA**

*We Measure the Earth  
with Our Bodies*

**Feb 14 online**

Breathtaking in its scope and powerful in its intimacy, *We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies* is a gorgeously written meditation on colonization, displacement, and the lengths we'll go to remain connected to our families and ancestral lands. Told through the lives of four people over fifty years, this novel provides a nuanced, moving portrait of the little-known world of Tibetan exiles.



**DARCY  
TAMAYOSE**

*Ezra's Ghosts*

**April 10 online**

Award-winning author Darcy Tamayose returns with *Ezra's Ghosts*, a collection of fantastical stories linked by a complex mingling of language and culture, as well as a deep understanding of grief and what it makes of us. Binding the stories together is an intersect of arrival and departure—in a quiet prairie town called Ezra.



**JOSEPH  
KAKWINOKANASUM**

*My Indian Summer*

**Mar 13 online**

Three kohkums, a man named Crow, two best friends, and a drug dealer . . . twelve-year-old Hunter may be getting out of Red Rock sooner than he hoped. As the Labour Day weekend arrives, so does a new friend with old wisdom and a business opportunity that might be just what a boy at the crossroads needs.



**CHELENE KNIGHT**

*Junie*

**May 8 online**

1930s, Hogan's Alley is a thriving Black and immigrant community located in Vancouver's East End. As Junie finds adulthood, exploring her artistic talents and burgeoning sexuality, her mother sinks further into the bottle while the thriving neighbourhood once gushing with potential begins to change. As her world opens, Junie intuits the opposite for the community she loves.

View anytime from launch

until August 31, 2024



Heliconian Hall  
35 Hazelton Ave.,  
Toronto

Cumberland exit of  
Bay subway station



Subscriptions to the  
Literary Series may be  
purchased online  
(details at [www.heliconianclub.org](http://www.heliconianclub.org)).

## About the Toronto Heliconian Club

The Toronto Heliconian Club, a non-profit organization, is open to women actively engaged in the arts or those with long term interest in/ support for the arts. The Club offers a new art exhibit by club members each month, a Concert Series, Dance performances, a series of Salons, three Literary Series and a weekly Life Drawing Group open to all.

Heliconian Hall was purchased by the Club for \$8,000 in 1923. Its architecture is Carpenter's Gothic and its acoustics are a boon to musicians and other performers.

For information on rental and availability of the Hall, contact the General Manager at 416-922-3618 or [rentals@heliconianclub.org](mailto:rentals@heliconianclub.org). Annual memberships range from \$155 to \$325 plus HST. For information about becoming a member contact [membership@heliconianclub.org](mailto:membership@heliconianclub.org).

[www.heliconianclub.org](http://www.heliconianclub.org)



**THE HELICONIAN CLUB**  
WOMEN LIVING IN THE ARTS