



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Vegas Valley Book Festival Set For Oct. 30-Nov. 2**

*Authors, Events, Entertainment & Enjoyment For All Ages And Genres*

The 12th annual **Vegas Valley Book Festival will take place Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 2013**, with most programs scheduled at the downtown Historic Fifth Street School, located at 401 S. Fourth St. The largest annual literary event in Las Vegas, the book festival will bring together more literary and cultural programs than ever before. The festival is expected to feature more than 165 authors and 100 events, including 45 panel discussions, four keynote speakers, readings, book signings, workshops, vendor exhibits, art exhibitions, spoken word performances and other special programs for a diversity of genres, ages and cultural backgrounds. Most events are free and open to the public. This year's festival is a featured event of the Nevada sesquicentennial celebration.

This year's Vegas Valley Book Festival will present authors and events for:

- Children - in Centennial Plaza, adjacent to the Fifth Street School;
- Young Adults - in two tents on the south side of the Fifth Street School;
- Adults – at the Fifth Street School;
- The Comic Book Fest at the Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Road;
- Nevada Humanities Salon at the Historic Fifth Street School; and
- Ten pre-festival events at a variety of sites around the valley.

A slate of special projects will offer local authors and readers additional opportunities to participate:

- Spark! – a teen poetry writing/performance project with cash prizes;
  - Flash! The Short, Short Fiction writing contest, with cash prizes;
  - Las Vegas Writes Project, publishing an anthology of short stories and essays – “Progress” – by local authors, in collaboration with Huntington Press;
  - The Crystal Bookmark Awards – recognizing an individual and an organization for literary excellence and advocacy; and
  - The Illustrated Word art exhibitions, coordinated with five local galleries.
- More details on each project and pre-festival events are available at [www.vegasvalleybookfestival.org](http://www.vegasvalleybookfestival.org).

Keynote speakers will include Catherine Coulter, Robert E. Hall, Walter Dean Myers, and Luis Alberto Urrea. Author of 65 books that made The New York Times Bestseller List, Coulter alternates writing suspense thrillers with historical romances. She will open the festival on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Clark County Library.

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### PRODUCING PARTNERS



Relationship thought-leader and former chief executive officer Robert E. Hall will lecture at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, at the Charleston Heights Arts Center, located at 800 S. Brush St. Author of “This Land of Strangers: The Relationship Crisis That Imperils Home, Work, Politics and Faith,” Hall delivers a wake-up call regarding a destructive trend we face – the unraveling of our relationships at home and work, in politics and faith. With compelling research, gritty stories and humor, he lays out the accumulating cost, the cause and cure of our decline.

Children’s and young adult literature author Walter Dean Myers, the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, will make the opening Saturday presentation – “Reading Is Not Optional” – at 10 a.m. Nov. 2, in the Historic Fifth Street School auditorium.

Award-winning author Luis Alberto Urrea will deliver the closing address at 5 p.m. Nov. 2 in the same location. Urrea (pronounced oo-ray-uh) is a master of language and a gifted storyteller who uses his dual Mexican/American life experiences to explore greater themes of love, loss and triumph. He has written 13 bestselling books, including Pulitzer Prize finalist “The Devil’s Highway” and popular historical novels “The Hummingbird’s Daughter” and “Queen of America.”

For more information on the keynote speakers, go online to [www.catherinecoulter.com](http://www.catherinecoulter.com), [www.robertehall.com](http://www.robertehall.com), [www.walterdeanmyers.net/](http://www.walterdeanmyers.net/), and [www.luisurrea.com/](http://www.luisurrea.com/).

The book festival also will offer 80 young adult authors – the largest free gathering of young adult authors in the U.S. – for panel discussions, book signings and a costumed evening “Prom through the Ages.” The festival site will host five stages with readings, entertainment and poetry; a “Feasting on Wheels” food court with a variety of local food trucks; children’s activities; art and vendor exhibits; interactive writing projects; and many other special programs.

The Vegas Valley Book Festival is produced by the city of Las Vegas; Las Vegas-Clark County Library District; UNLV’s Black Mountain Institute; Las Vegas Review-Journal; Las Vegas chapter of AIGA, the professional association for design; Barnes & Noble; and Nevada Humanities, a festival founder. For more festival information, call (702) 229-5902 or go online to [www.vegasvalleybookfestival.org](http://www.vegasvalleybookfestival.org).

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**Editor’s note:**

High-resolution photos of the keynote speakers are available for download

at [ftp://ftp.lasvegasnevada.gov/Is/2013\\_Vegas\\_Valley\\_Book\\_Festival/Keynote\\_Speakers/](ftp://ftp.lasvegasnevada.gov/Is/2013_Vegas_Valley_Book_Festival/Keynote_Speakers/). Photos of the Historic Fifth Street School are available at [ftp://ftp.lasvegasnevada.gov/Is/Historic\\_Fifth\\_Street\\_School/](ftp://ftp.lasvegasnevada.gov/Is/Historic_Fifth_Street_School/). No password is required.

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