



Maureen Corrigan

Beloved book critic
for NPR's *Fresh Air*,
former reviewer for
The Washington Post,
and author.



63rd Annual

Creative Living Series

Take Your Curiosity Out For A Talk

PO Box 225, Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Photo by Scott Brown



Amy Stewart



LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
THE EDUCATION OF AN ARTIST

DANIEL POLLACK-PELZNER



Amy Reinhard

Celebrating 63 years of bringing nationally and regionally known speakers to McHenry County.

Woodstock Fine Arts Association, an independent, all-volunteer, non-profit organization, debuted the Creative Living Series in 1964.

Recent WFAA projects:

- Awarded \$14,000 to seven high school seniors accomplished in the arts from high schools throughout McHenry County.
- Received a \$2,500 operations grant from the Illinois Arts Council.



Please visit us: www.woodstockfinearts.org

IMPORTANT:
Order by May 31 to retain your 2025-2026 series seats. New subscriptions available June 2.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

- Phone: (815) 338-5300
- Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Closed Monday
- www.woodstockoperahouse.com

☐ Please send ____ series tickets @ \$139* each: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please make check payable to: **Woodstock Opera House**
MAIL TO: Woodstock Opera House
121 Van Buren • Woodstock, IL 60098

**Season
Subscribers
SAVE 30%**

Total Due: \$ _____

Series tickets are non-refundable

Single tickets may be available and can be purchased through the Box Office for \$33* after September 9.
*\$5 Opera House fees included

Creative Living Series

All programs begin at 10 a.m. ➤ Coffee and conversation offered at 9 a.m.



Maureen Corrigan

**Leave Me Alone,
I'm Reading**
October 15, 2026

As the iconic voice of NPR's *Fresh Air* for over 30 years, Maureen Corrigan has been described as "brilliant," "hilarious," "passionate" and "eloquent." She is a past juror for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and an award-winner for criticism, non-fiction book reviewing and free speech advocacy. After you experience this deep dive into books and the life of a book critic, what are the chances you'll go home with at least one fantastic book recommendation from this well-read friend? Very high, indeed.



Craig Bergmann & Russell Buvala

**The Art of Fine
Gardening**
November 19, 2026



Traditional North Shore gardens are famous world-wide for their unique designs and breathtaking beauty. President and Landscape Architect Craig Bergmann and Horticultural Director Russell Buvala have created many such gardens in their 40-year collaboration. Sharing their artistic vision into the essential partnership between design and horticulture, they describe how a two-dimensional plan is

transformed into a living masterpiece that reaches its full potential over time. They'll send you home with tips from their years of in-the-garden experience on how to create far-from-the-lowest-common-denominator landscapes.



Amy Reinhard

**Home for the Holidays:
From Woodstock to
Hollywood**
December 17, 2026

Woodstock native and Netflix's worldwide President of Advertising Amy Reinhard shares her trajectory from Woodstock High to a Harvard BA and MBA to a career in entertainment. A seasoned executive with a number of different roles over the years, her expertise covers film financing to content acquisition, distribution, and live-action and animated production. She has also led major deals to buy world-class special effects studios. Before Netflix, she served as President of Worldwide TV Licensing at Paramount Pictures.



Daniel Pollack-Pelzner

**Lin-Manuel Miranda:
The Education of
an Artist**
February 18, 2027

*Photo by Andie
Petkus Photography*

The incredible, never-before-told story of Miranda's path from often-isolated child to winner of multiple Tonys and Grammys for his Broadway hits *Hamilton* and *In the Heights*, a global chart-topper for songs in *Moana* and *Encanto*, and the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize and a MacArthur Genius Grant. Drawing on interviews with Miranda's family, friends, mentors, and Miranda himself, Daniel Pollack-Pelzner delves into the experiences that shaped the artist's new way of telling American stories and of speaking to new audiences.



Sara Levine

Women Behaving Badly
March 18, 2027

Photo by Jeffrey L. Kurysz

Though she describes herself as an "exceedingly polite person from Ohio," Sara Levine's novels are all about women behaving badly. She first mastered the "hilariously unlikable" protagonist in the cult classic *Treasure Island!!!* and continued the streak in *The Hitch*. The novel's main character is an "exhausting but endearing" control freak more devoted to her Newfoundland dog than to people. Levine shares how she was able to put niceness aside and write these very funny, critically acclaimed books.



Amy Stewart

**The Tree Collectors:
Tales of Arboreal
Obsession**
April 15, 2027

Photo by Scott Brown

Focusing on the deeply human connection to the world's largest plants, Amy Stewart moves beyond botany to explore the profound human desire for legacy, healing, and connection. She shares poignant stories of the "arboreal" obsessed—healers, visionaries, and community builders—people whose lives have been transformed by their relationship with trees. You'll leave with a new perspective on the giants in your own backyard—and perhaps the inspiration to start a collection of your own.

Illinois
ARTS
Council

Creative Living is
partially supported by
the Illinois Arts Council.



Past Speakers: Shelby Van Pelt, Olympian Bonnie Blair, Jonathan Eig, Miguel Cervantes, Judy Collins, Rebecca Eaton, Dr. Temple Grandin, Maya Angelou, Billy Collins, Carol Marin, Charlie Trotter, Phil Ponce, John Bredar, Dr. Michael Roizen, Beverly Sills, Martha Stewart, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Rick Kogan, Wally Phillips, Joan Benny, Rick Steves, Studs Terkel, Joseph Epstein, Amy Dickinson, Ann Patchett, Geoffrey Baer, Rick Bayless, John Callaway, Scott Simon, Robert Wittman, Bill Kurtis, Sarah Paretsky, Gene Siskel, Eddie Ross, Leslie Hindman, and Jeffrey Lyons