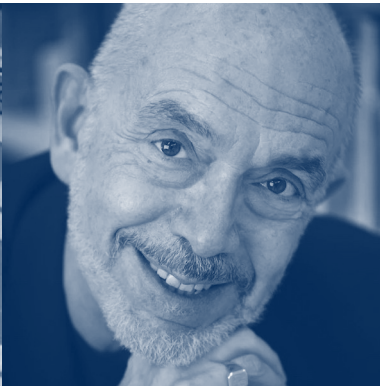




MORSELIFE  
LITERARY  
SOCIETY  
2026



DAVID BALDACCI



WALLY LAMB



CLARE LESLIE HALL

PLEASE JOIN OUR HOSTS  
CYNTHIA BERENSON, PENNY BLUMENSTEIN AND MARLENE STRAUSS  
FOR THE

# 2026 LITERARY SERIES

AS THEY INTRODUCE  
AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026  
*STRANGERS IN TIME* BY **DAVID BALDACCI**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026  
*THE RIVER IS WAITING* BY **WALLY LAMB**

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026  
*BROKEN COUNTRY* BY **CLARE LESLIE HALL**

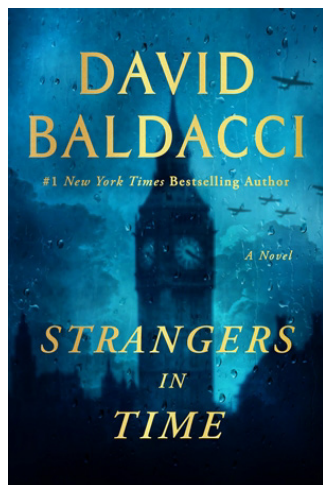
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 – ***BONUS FEATURE!***  
*JOYRIDE* BY **SUSAN ORLEAN**

THE COLONY PAVILION  
155 HAMMON AVENUE • PALM BEACH  
8:45AM — REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST  
9:30AM — PROGRAM

FOR INFORMATION 561.242.4661 OR [EVENTS@MORSELIFE.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@MORSELIFE.ORG)

## STRANGERS IN TIME BY DAVID BALDACCI

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026



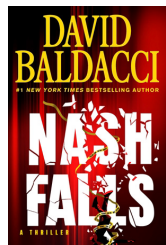
Fourteen-year-old Charlie Matters is up to no good, but for a very good reason. Without parents, peerage, or merit, he steals what he needs, living day-to-day until he's old enough to enlist to fight the Germans. After barely surviving the Blitz, Charlie knows there's no telling when a falling bomb might end his life.

Fifteen-year-old Molly Wakefield has just returned to a nearly unrecognizable London. One of millions of children to have been evacuated to the countryside Molly has been away from her home for nearly five years. Her return, however, is not the homecoming she'd hoped for as she's confronted by a devastating reality: neither of her parents are there.

Without guardians and stability, Charlie and Molly find an unexpected ally and protector in Ignatius Oliver, and solace at his bookshop, The Book Keep. Mourning the recent loss of his wife, Ignatius forms a kinship with both children, and in each

other they rediscover the spirit of family each has lost.

As bombs continue to bear down on the city, Charlie, Molly, and Ignatius learn that while the perils of war rage on, their coming together and trusting one another may be the only way for them to survive.



### Hot off the Press:

David has a new book coming out in November which he will also discuss at our January event. Copies of *Nash Falls* will be provided that day.



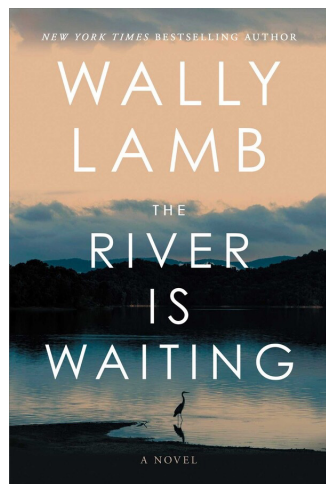
Photo credit John Groo

## ABOUT DAVID BALDACCI

David Baldacci is a global #1 bestselling author, and one of the world's favorite storytellers. His books are published in over 45 languages and in more than 80 countries, with 150 million copies sold worldwide. His works have been adapted for both feature film and television. David Baldacci is also the cofounder, along with his wife, of the Wish You Well Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting literacy efforts across America. Still a resident of his native Virginia, he invites you to visit him at [DavidBaldacci.com](http://DavidBaldacci.com) and his foundation at [WishYouWellFoundation.org](http://WishYouWellFoundation.org).

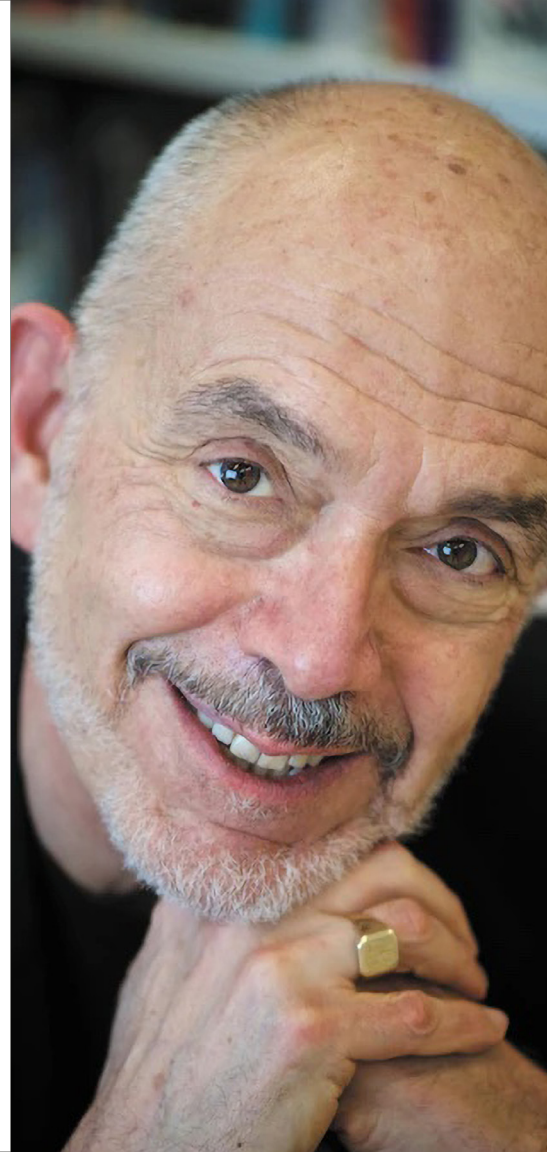
## THE RIVER IS WAITING BY WALLY LAMB

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026



*The River is Waiting* is a wrenching, vulnerable novel that never shies away from the issues many families reckon with today: economic pressures, incarceration, addiction, and untimely death. With a deft eye, endless nuance and compassion, and gorgeous prose, Lamb explores the uses and misuses of power in a novel that, while grounded in realism, is ultimately hopeful.

The story of Corby Ledbetter, a struggling young father, is not an easy read – but an unforgettable one. New fatherhood, the loss of his job, and a spiraling secret addiction have thrown Corby's life and marriage into a tailspin. After accidentally causing a devastating tragedy that tears the family apart, Corby is sentenced to prison and struggles to survive life on the inside. He witnesses frightening acts of cruelty and violence but also experiences small acts of kindness and elemental kinship with a prison librarian and some of his fellow inmates, including a tender-hearted cellmate and a troubled teen desperate for a role model. Buoyed by them and by his mother's enduring faith in him, Corby begins to transcend the boundaries of his confinement, sustained by his hope that mercy and reconciliation might still be possible. But can his crimes ever be forgiven by those he loves?



## ABOUT WALLY LAMB

Called “a modern-day Dostoyevsky [who] never grapples with anything less than life’s biggest questions,” by the New York Times Book Review, Wally Lamb is the author of six New York Times best-selling novels and is an historic, three-time Oprah’s Book Club Pick. His bestselling novels include *I’ll Take You There*, *We Are Water*, *Wishin’ and Hopin’*, *The Hour I First Believed*, *She’s Come Undone*, and *I Know This Much is True*, which became a hit, critically acclaimed, Emmy-award-winning HBO limited series starring Mark Ruffalo. His latest novel and his third Oprah’s Book Club pick is *The River is Waiting*.

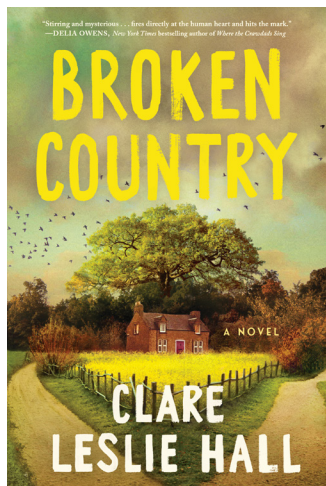
Lamb has received numerous honors and awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts grant, the Connecticut Center for the Book’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the Connecticut Bar Association’s Distinguished Public Service Award, the Barnes and Noble “Writers for Writers” Award, the Connecticut Governor’s Arts Award, The National Institute of Business/Apple Computers “Thanks To Teachers” award, and the 2010 Arts and Letters award from the YMCA of New York City.

Wally and his wife Christine live in northeastern Connecticut and are the parents of three sons, Jared, Justin, and Teddy.



## BROKEN COUNTRY BY CLARE LESLIE HALL

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026



Beth and her gentle, kind husband Frank are happily married, but their relationship relies on the past staying buried. But when Beth's brother-in-law shoots a dog going after their sheep, Beth doesn't realize that the gunshot will alter the course of their lives. For the dog belonged to none other than Gabriel Wolfe, the man Beth loved as a teenager—the man who broke her heart years ago. Gabriel has returned to the village with his young son Leo, a boy who reminds Beth very much of her own son, who died in a tragic accident.

As Beth is pulled back into Gabriel's life, tensions around the village rise and dangerous secrets and jealousies from the past resurface, this time with deadly consequences. Beth is forced to make a choice between the woman she once was, and the woman she has become.

A sweeping love story with the pace and twists of a thriller, *Broken Country* is a novel of simmering passion, impossible choices, and explosive consequences that toggles between the past and present to explore the far-reaching legacy of first love.

## ABOUT CLARE LESLIE HALL

After many years living and working in London as a journalist and writing *Pictures of Him* and *Days You Were Mine*, Clare, her husband and three children moved to an old farmhouse in Dorset. The house, the ancient fields surrounding it and the farmers who have a deep connection to the land inspired the setting for *Broken Country*.



Photo credit Oli Green

# LITERARY SOCIETY AUTHORS 2012-2025

|                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 2025              | Chris Whitaker, <i>All the Colors of the Dark</i><br>Griffin Dunne, <i>The Friday Afternoon Club: A Family Memoir</i><br>Amor Towles, <i>Table for Two</i><br>Colm Toibin, <i>Long Island</i> |   |
| 2024              | James McBride, <i>The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store</i><br>Abraham Verghese, <i>The Covenant of Water</i><br>Jeannette Walls, <i>Hang the Moon</i>   |   |
| 2023              | Anthony Doerr, <i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i><br>Hernan Diaz, <i>Trust</i> *<br>Jennifer Egan, <i>The Candy House</i><br>Geraldine Brooks, <i>Horse</i>   |   |
| 2022<br>(VIRTUAL) | Chris Bohjalian, <i>Hour of the Witch</i><br>Kristin Harmel, <i>The Forest of Vanishing Stars</i><br>Laura Dave, <i>The Last Thing He Told Me</i>   |   |
| 2021<br>(VIRTUAL) | Emma Donoghue, <i>The Pull of the Stars</i><br>Brit Bennett, <i>The Vanishing Half</i><br>Ann Patchett, <i>The Dutch House</i>  |   |
| 2020              | Delia Owens, <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i><br>Tara Westover, <i>Educated</i><br>Andrew Gross, <i>Button Man</i>  | Jeanine Cummins, <i>American Dirt</i><br>Heather Morris, <i>Tattooist of Auschwitz</i><br>(VIRTUAL) |
| 2019              | Michael Ondaatje, <i>Warlight</i><br>Andrew Sean Greer, <i>Less</i> *<br>Kamila Shamsie, <i>Home Fire</i>   |   |

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2018 | J.D. Vance, <i>Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis</i><br>Jillian Cantor, <i>The Lost Letter</i><br>Amor Towles, <i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i><br>Colson Whitehead, <i>The Underground Railroad</i> * |
| 2017 | Tracy Kidder, <i>A Truck Full of Money</i><br>Martha Hall Kelly, <i>Lilac Girls</i><br>Gloria Steinem, <i>My Life on the Road</i>  |
| 2016 | David McCullough, <i>The Wright Brothers</i><br>Allison Pataki, <i>The Accidental Empress</i><br>Alice Hoffman, <i>The Marriage of Opposites</i>   |
| 2015 | Christina Baker Kline, <i>Orphan Train</i><br>Sue Monk Kidd, <i>The Invention of Wings</i><br>Anthony Doerr, <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> *  |
| 2014 | Colum McCann, <i>Transatlantic</i><br>Nancy Horan, <i>Under the Wide and Starry Sky</i><br>A.M. Homes, <i>May We Be Forgiven</i>   |
| 2013 | Robert Massie, <i>Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman</i><br>Julie Otsuka, <i>The Buddha in the Attic</i><br>Madeline Miller, <i>The Song of Achilles</i>   |
| 2012 | Jennifer Egan, <i>A Visit From The Goon Squad</i> *<br>Paula McLain, <i>The Paris Wife</i><br>Erik Larson, <i>In The Garden of Beasts</i>  |

\* Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

# A CHAMPION OF EXCELLENCE

## MORSELIFE CONTINUES TO RAISE THE BAR IN SENIOR HEALTHCARE.

MorseLife consistently receives and maintains some of the most prestigious awards and recognition in our field. We work tirelessly to ensure that we have success in all pillars within our organization – upholding our mission, accomplishing our goals, staying ahead of the curve, having employee satisfaction and retention, maintaining efficient operations, and above all, providing exemplary service to the seniors in our care. While some of these awards specifically honor a certain aspect of our organization, they each reflect the outstanding work taking place across our entire continuum of care.



**5 Star Rated by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services:** MorseLife has achieved the highest possible rating indicating excellent quality of care and performance on both a national and state level.



**Governor's Gold Seal Award for Long-Term Care Excellence:** This prestigious award is presented to only 1 percent of over 700 nursing homes in Florida. MorseLife has maintained this recognition for the past 17 years.



**Joint Commission Accreditation:** MorseLife has maintained this recognition since 2018. It signifies that a healthcare organization has met rigorous, nationally recognized standards for quality and safety in patient care. It indicates our commitment to providing high-quality, safe and effective care, and is a nationally recognized symbol of quality.



**Best Nursing Home by US News & World Report:** For over 10 years, MorseLife has received this distinction as a top-performing nursing home in areas like short-term rehabilitation and long-term care.



**Best Senior Living by US News & World Report:** This distinction signifies MorseLife has met rigorous, data-driven standards and earned high ratings based on consumer feedback. We are recognized for our overall excellence in independent living, assisted living, memory care and continuing care retirement.

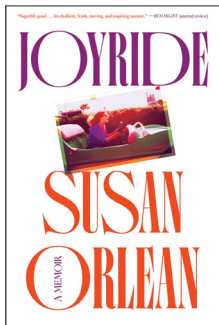
## RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

**Our MorseLife Team Makes This All Possible.** We would not be able to achieve these awards without the time, commitment, dedication and passion we receive from our incredible staff on a daily basis. Having the above recognition is a testament to the hard-working team we employ at MorseLife. We are honored to have received the following awards: Best Place to Work by South Florida Business Journal, Great Place to Work, and Fortune Best Workplaces in Aging Services.



# BONUS FEATURE

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026  
CONVERSATION WITH  
SUSAN ORLEAN  
AS SHE DISCUSSES  
*JOYRIDE*



Susan Orlean is an American journalist, television writer, and bestselling author of *The Orchid Thief* and *The Library Book*. She has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 1992, and has contributed articles to many magazines including *Vogue*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, and *Outside*.

“The story of my life is the story of my stories,” writes Susan Orlean in this extraordinary, era-defining memoir from one of the greatest practitioners of narrative nonfiction of our time.

*Joyride* is a magic carpet ride through Orlean’s life

and career, where every day is an opportunity for discovery and every moment holds the potential for wonder.

Infused with Orlean’s signature warmth and wit, *Joyride* is a must-read for anyone who hungers to start, build, and sustain a creative life. Orlean inspires us to seek out daily inspiration and rediscover the marvels that surround us.

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