

Salina Reads
Kick-off Program
Saturday, February 3, 2024
10:15 a.m.

Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

Salina Reads is a community reading event with the mission to strengthen community connections by widening perspectives and deepening understanding about differing points of view through literature, shared experience and discussion.

Books

Lab Girl by Hope Jahren
Wild Words compiled by Megan Kaminski
Diary of a Young Naturalist by Dara McAnulty
Finding Wonders by Jeannine Atkins
She Persisted by Chelsea Clinton
Wild Words edited by Megan Kaminski

Themes

Nature and plants
Women scientists
Mental health and illness

Community Connections

The Humanity of Science: Laura Van der Pol, The Land Institute
Mental Health and Illness: Esther Kency, Central Kansas Mental Health Center
A Call to Action: Sabrina Rosario, Kansas Wesleyan University Community Resilience Hub

Artists

Poetry Readings by Aubrey Streit Krug
Music by Ann Zimmerman
Artwork by Melissa Dehner

Laura van der Pol is the Lead Soil Ecologist with The Land Institute, a research-based organization to advance perennial grain crops. Laura is a National Science Foundation Fellow with a PhD in Soil Ecology from Colorado State University. She studies how perennial grains interact with the soil with a focus on developing pathways to sustainable food systems. Prior to immersing herself in earth, she taught high school science, measured plants in the arctic, and served on the high seas as an Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. Her other passions include

playing with her daughter, running long distances, and consuming stories.



Esther Kency is the Crisis Services Director for Central Kansas Mental Health Center. She has spent most of her career working with adolescents and their families; including the foster care system. She has worked in a residential setting, and for the last 8 years has worked in community mental health. Ms. Kency received her undergraduate degree from Wichita State University in Psychology, and her Master's Degree from Friends University in Family Therapy. She is also a certified MAB (Managing Aggressive Behavior) trainer. Ms. Kency enjoys spending time with her husband and son, doing yoga, and watching movies.



Sabrina do Rosario is the Director of KWU Community Resilience HUB. She joined KWU in 2022 as the Campus Coordinator for the Community Resilience Hub. Originally from São José dos Campos, Brazil, Sabrina has been living in the USA for eight years, three of those in Kansas. Her inspiration to study and advocate for

the environment was influenced by experiencing the exuberant wonders of the Atlantic Rain Forest, visiting beaches on São Paulo North shore, and enjoying the mountains from Paraíba Valley, where she grew up. She studied Biological Sciences, and earned an M.B.A. in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development. In Salina, Sabrina leads the University United Methodist Church's community garden.



Aubrey Streit Krug is the Director of Perennial Cultures Lab for The Land Institute. She is a writer, teacher, and agricultural researcher who studies relationships between humans and plants. She grew up in a small town in rural Kansas and loves rocky prairie hillsides. Her recent creative and scholarly writing has been published in

ASAP/J, The New Territory, The New Farmer's Almanac, and Plants, People, Planet. She lives with her family



in Lindsborg, Kan.

Ann Zimmerman Ann Zimmerman works musical magic with songs of life on the windy plains. She sings the prairie into universal language. Her music celebrates the joy, sorrow, grandeur and silliness of life, especially life on the prairies. She backs her rich voice with piano, guitar and the audience itself. Ann's concerts tell stories and paint portraits, brilliantly colored and unexpected, sparked with an irresistible stage presence. She appears annually at The Land Institute in central Kansas and debuted in 2018 at the Walnut Valley Festival, Winfield, Kan. She entertains nationally at festivals, farmers markets, fancy theaters, conferences and



backyards — a hundred dates a year.

Melissa Dehner discovered her love for art and nature as a child growing up in Colorado, and later Kansas. She still spends tons of time outdoors, walking with her dog, watching and listening to birds, and taking note of the endless details in trees and plants, insects, and animals. Her art and exhibit design work have appeared in Scientific American, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Linda Hall Library, and most recently a permanent Ice Age mammals exhibit in UMKC's Department of Geosciences. Melissa has taught design and illustration

courses at the high school and college levels, and she has owned HoneyBee Creative, LLC, in Fairway, Kan.,



since 2003.

Funding for this program is provided by Humanities Kansas, a nonprofit cultural organization that connects communities with history, traditions, and ideas to strengthen civic life.



**HUMANITIES
KANSAS**

A Movement of Ideas