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Slow and Steady

The 2014 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award will be presented to Ann Patchett.

By *Administrator* on October 24, 2014



Ann Patchett will be honored for her work by the tulsa library trust in december. Photo by Heidi Ross.

Slow and steady wins the race for American novelist Ann Patchett, who painstakingly plots and plans her fictional masterpieces, which flow so effortlessly on the printed page.

“I am much more of a tortoise than a hare,” says the *New York Times* bestselling author, who will visit Tulsa Dec. 5 and 6 to accept the Tulsa Library Trust’s 2014 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. “I like to work out my stories in my head for a very long time – sometimes for months and months – before I actually sit down to write. If it weren’t for my nonfiction, which comes together more easily, no one would

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Karen Shade | November 5, 2014

know I was alive!”

Hailed as one of the most interesting and

“It’s very important for me to write about things that interest me and to set certain challenges for myself especially when writing a novel,” says Patchett. “If a story isn’t challenging enough, I won’t finish it.”

unconventional writers of her generation, Patchett has dazzled readers for more than two decades with her award-winning novels, including *The Patron Saint of Liars*, *Taft*, *The Magician’s Assistant*, *Bel Canto*, *Run* and *State of Wonder*. Just as intriguing are her three nonfiction titles: *Truth & Beauty*, a memoir about her friendship with writer Lucy Grealy; *What Now?* an expansion of her graduation address at Sarah Lawrence College; and, most recently, *This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage*, a collection of essays examining the theme of commitment.

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As the co-owner of Parnassus Books, an independent bookstore in Nashville, Tenn., Patchett devotes a great deal of time to reading the works of others. At the time of this interview, she had just finished reading Rick Bragg’s biography of Jerry Lee Lewis. Since opening in 2011, Parnassus has flourished, and Patchett has become a spokeswoman for independent booksellers.

“Maybe it’s working because I’m an author, or maybe it’s working because Karen (Hayes, the co-owner) toils away like

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For Art’s Sake: A Salute to Art Tatum

Karen Shade | November 5, 2014

Thursday, Nov. 6 Lauded jazz pianist Peter Nero plays For Art’s Sake: A Salute to Art Tatum at the Armstrong Auditorium, 14400-A S. Bryant Road, in Edmond. The acclaimed,...

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An advertisement for the 6th Annual Wrangler Race to the Rodeo Sweepstakes. The background is blue with a yellow banner at the top that says "6TH ANNUAL WRANGLER RACE TO THE RODEO". Below the banner, it says "SWEEPSTAKES" and "Enter HERE" in a circular graphic. The main image shows a cowboy, Trevor Brazile, riding a brown horse. He is wearing a black cowboy hat, a black shirt, and blue jeans. He is holding a lasso. To the right of the image, it says "WIN A WRANGLER NFR PRIZE PACK". At the bottom left, it says "TREVOR BRAZILE 11-time All-Around World Champion". At the bottom right, there is a Wrangler logo and the text "LONG LIVE COWBOYS!".

life depends on this bookstore ... or maybe we just got lucky. But this luck makes me believe that changing the course of the corporate world is possible," she says. "[Large websites and online bookstores don't] get to make all the decisions; the people can make them by choosing how and where they spend their money. If what a bookstore offers matters to you, then shop at a bookstore. If you feel that the experience of reading is valuable, then read a book. This is how we change the world: We grab hold of it. We change ourselves."

Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Series

Honoring Ann Patchett

Award Presentation at Black-tie Dinner

Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m.

Librarium, 1110 S. Denver Ave., Tulsa

Call 918.549.7366 to purchase tickets.

Free Public Presentation

Saturday, Dec. 6, at 10:30 a.m.

Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., Tulsa

Visit www.helmerichaward.org for related events and more information.



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