



EXPLORE

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For Immediate Release

SPEAK 2024 Complete Author Series Announced

March 6, 2024 – Four authors, including three bestselling novelists and a physician who focuses on the importance of play, will be part of Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library’s [SPEAK 2024](#) series.

As previously announced, SPEAK will begin on March 21 with historical fiction writer Kate Quinn. Three additional authors have been added to the series: Elin Hilderbrand, Dr. Anthony DeBenedet, and Victoria Christopher Murray.

“SPEAK 2024 is about intentional enjoyment, and our featured authors are known for helping readers escape into a great story or teaching about the importance of recreation,” said Erika Qualls Barnett, Programming Manager, EVPL. “[EVPL’s annual reading challenge theme, Read - Discover - Play](#), reminds us of the pleasures of reading, the joy of discovery, and the value of play. SPEAK 2024 presenters will inspire audiences to embrace enjoyment as an essential part of life.”

Quinn is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of historical fiction. Her most recent novels prominently feature the roles of women as spies, pilots, snipers, code breakers, and other key protagonists in acts of resistance and espionage during World Wars I and II. These books, *The Alice Network*, *The Huntress*, *The Rose Code*, and *The Diamond Eye*, are all best sellers and have had high circulation among EVPL patrons. Quinn will discuss her research and works on [Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in Old National Events Plaza Ballroom A](#).

Hilderbrand, known as “The Queen of the Beach Read,” will speak on [Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m. in Aiken Theatre](#). Hilderbrand has written 33 novels, primarily set in the summer season of Nantucket. With more than 20 million books sold, Hilderbrand is regularly at the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list and is among the top five circulating adult authors at EVPL.

Dr. DeBenedet is a practicing physician, writer, and behavioral-science enthusiast, and is an advocate for the importance of play in the lives of both children and adults. His interviews and writings have been featured in multiple media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Today* show, *Washington Post*, and *TIME Ideas*. Dr. DeBenedet will share his expertise on [Tuesday, September 10 at 7 p.m. at EVPL Central](#).


The SPEAK series will conclude in October with Victoria Christopher Murray, bestselling novelist and Christian fiction writer. Murray is the co-author of *New York Times* instant bestsellers, *The Personal Librarian* and *The First Ladies*. Murray is also a Christian fiction writer, and five of her *Seven Deadly Sins* novels have become Lifetime movies. Murray will speak on [Thursday, October 24 at 7 p.m. at Ivy Tech Evansville](#).

Sponsored by the [EVPL Foundation](#), these four events are free and open to all. Special ticketed receptions are planned for Quinn, Hilderbrand, and Murray, with proceeds benefitting the EVPL Foundation.

More information about SPEAK is available at www.evpl.org/SPEAK-2024.

(more)

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[SPEAK: An Explorative Lecture Series](#), an evolution of One Book, One Community, is a lecture and discussion series that brings authors and thought leaders to Evansville. Through SPEAK, 'EVPL hopes to further our vision of communities united through shared exploration and understanding by supporting and encouraging conversation.'

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Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library has served our community for more than a century. With eight locations throughout Vanderburgh County, immediate access to hundreds of thousands of digital resources, and a dedicated team of library professionals, EVPL strives to create opportunities for you to discover, explore, and connect with your library. For more information, visit evpl.org.

*The **Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library Foundation** is a 501(c)3 organization established to support EVPL. Foundation Board Members are engaged and activated community members. Working in partnership with Library Leadership and Library Trustees, Foundation Board Members support EVPL through fundraising, volunteering, and advocacy. More information about the Foundation and supporting SPEAK is available at evpl.org/foundation.*

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