



THE STRENGTH *of* WOMEN
THE POWER *of* COMMUNITY



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Noël de Paris
Author's Corner

As part of *A Christmas Affair*, The Junior League of Austin welcomes talented authors from right here in Texas to the 2008 Author's Corner. This year's authors will be signing books by the Main Tree.

Linda Francis Lee
The Ex-Debutante

Thursday, November 20, 10 am – 1pm

Carlisle Wainwright Cushing, of the old-moneyed Willow Creek, Texas Wainwrights, is a divorce lawyer, far away in Boston, where no one, including her fiancé, knows she's an heiress. But now, years later, Carlisle is lured back to Texas to deal with her mother's latest divorce and the family-sponsored 100th annual debutante ball which is on the verge of collapse. Suddenly the determined lawyer is weighing the merits of beads vs. crystals on ball gowns all the while trying to figure out how to tell her deeply Southern mother that she is engaged to a Yankee. Things go from bad to worse and when good ol' Southern boy Jack Blair shows up on the opposite side of the divorce court, making her wonder if the man is going after her mother in the proceedings, or her, given the pesky little fact that she left him three years earlier...

The Ex-Debutante battles the impossible need to both leave home and return home—and in the process she teaches us something about the grace of looking beyond image and embracing the messy imperfections of love, family and home.

Bestselling author of nineteen novels, including the bestseller *The Devil in the Junior League*, Linda Francis Lee is a former Texas Debutante who has high hopes that all photos of the experience are long gone. She currently lives in New York City with her husband where she is at work on her next novel.

Jen Ohlson

Every Town Needs a Trail

Thursday, November 20, 2pm – 4pm

Every Town Needs a Trail celebrates the lore and heritage of Austin's Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail that was inspired by the vision and leadership of Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson. It is the cultural story, a scenic story, an environmental story, and a universal story about the deep need in all of us to maintain and cherish our nation's open spaces, which in turn, shape the essence of our very own being.

Experience the magic of the Town Lake Trail. Share in the wisdom of some of its most inspirational residents beginning with Lady Bird Johnson and including first hand stories from President Bush, Willie Nelson, Matthew McConaughey, the late Ann Richards, Lance Armstrong, UT basketball coach Rick Barnes, Texas Governor Rick Perry and many more. Enjoy the story about a Trail with an amazing past, a vibrant present and the hope of a perpetual future. Let Every Town Needs a Trail be your guide along the path of Austin's crown jewel -- a path to live by and a place to be well.

Jen is a sports reporter in Austin. Her message provides a powerful, inspirational call for health and fitness awareness, community involvement, expansion and preservation of open space and a vision of a better life for all who seek it. Her greatest honor has been the opportunity to work on this project with her father.

Winner of the 2008 National Independent Publisher Book Award for Best Regional Book
Winner of the 2007 Barbara Jordan Media Award for Individual Contribution
Winner of the 2008 National Ben Franklin Award as Best Regional Book

Sarah Bird

How Perfect Is That

Friday, November 21, Noon – 2pm

Blythe Young—a wannabe Texas princess, a heroine as plucky, driven, and desperate as Vanity Fair's Becky Sharp—is plummeting precipitously from up- to downstairs, banging her head on every step of the Austin social ladder as she falls. Not unlike the country as a whole, Blythe has surrendered to a multitude of dubious moral choices and is now facing the disastrous consequences: bankruptcy, public humiliation, a teensy fondness for the pharmaceuticals, and no Pap smear for ten years. But worst of all, she is forced to move back into the fleabag co-op boardinghouse where she lived when she was a student at the University of Texas.

Funny, fast-paced, sharp-eyed, an old-fashioned morality tale with an appropriately twenty-first-century ending, *How Perfect Is That* is a comic triumph of a novel.

Sarah Bird is the author of five previous novels: *The Yokota Officers Club*, *Virgin of the Rodeo*, *The Mommy Club*, *The Boyfriend School*, and *Alamo House*. She is a columnist for the *Texas*

Monthly and has written for The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, O Magazine, Glamour, and Mademoiselle, among other publications. She lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, George, and son, Gabriel.

Adam Jones

Rose Bowl Dreams

Saturday, November 22, Noon – 2pm

In a powerful memoir that transcends sports, Adam Jones crafts a remarkable story of becoming a college football fan through the best teacher around – his mother. *Rose Bowl Dreams* develops the parallel stories of a son and his mother, a crisis of faith, and three fraught football seasons that end in bittersweet triumph. Along the way, Adam Jones lays bare the heart and passionate soul of the college football fan. Part Dan Jenkins, part Anne Lamott, this memoir explores the question of why Texas, the brass buckle of the Bible belt, becomes completely and blasphemously spiritually connected with a game played by kids.

Adam Jones has crafted a rare book in this brilliantly written memoir and appreciation of football and family. He recounts a journey that ends with the home team winning the championship-in one of the most remarkable football games ever played. But it is also a faith journey, marked with frustration and sorrow, with excitement and joy. All fans experience this in their life. This is one fan's story.

Adam Jones publishes the popular, irreverent and very funny college football web site www.Jonestopten.com, "The Truth about College Football since 1995." Jones, who lives in Austin, is a highly regarded public speaker and spends his life away from writing as the COO of the Texas Education Agency.