

# Festival of Books preparing for September

The annual Florence Festival of Books, a book fair for authors and publishers, will take place Saturday, Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with preliminary events on Friday to compliment the book festival. The event is hosted by the Friends of the FEC and the FFOB planning committee.

Though the festival is more than two months away, the planning committee is already hard at work. Committee members include chairman and Siuslaw Public Library director Meg Spencer, along with FFOB founders Connie Bradley and Judy Fleagle.

Now in its sixth year, the book fair continues to be a popular gathering for authors, publishers and potential future authors. The public is invited to this free event to meet the authors and have their books signed.

The book fair continues to adapt and grow each year to enhance the literacy event.



The book fair will feature at least six publishers. In addition, writers are invited to bring their manuscripts for a chance to meet with publishers representing many genres: fiction, non-fiction, memoir, children's literature, fantasy, mystery, young adult, poetry and more. Nearly 20 of the authors in attendance will be local residents.

Kevin Rhodes, events center director, said the annual event has grown every year. "It's not only a good opportunity for increased exposure for the authors and publishers, but it serves as a great networking tool as well."

On Friday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m., a panel of authors will speak on the topic "My first book: the process of idea to print." Different authors will discuss their unique journey of the first book and how it made its way to a printed publication.

The event will take place in the FEC theater and is free to attend.

At 7 p.m. that evening, suspense thriller author Phillip Margolin will be the featured keynote speaker for the festival. Margolin has written 19 novels, many of them New York Times bestsellers, including the recent "Woman with a Gun," "Worthy Brown's Daughter," "Sleight of Hand" and the "Washington Trilogy."

Each displays a unique, compelling insider's view of criminal behavior, which comes from his long background

as a criminal defense attorney who has handled 30 murder cases. Winner of the Distinguished Northwest Writer Award, Margolin lives in Portland, Ore.

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door for the conversation with Phillip Margolin.

Registration for authors and publishers for the Florence Festival of Books is now open through the Festival website at [www.florencefestivalofbooks.org](http://www.florencefestivalofbooks.org).

For more information, contact Jennifer Connor at the FEC at 541-997-1994 or email Meg Spencer at [meg@siuslawlibrary.org](mailto:meg@siuslawlibrary.org).



Photo cutline: Florence Festival of Books planning committee members (from left, sitting): Karen Nichols, Judy Fleagle, Connie Bradley and Kevin Mittge; (Standing, from left): Bonnie MacDuffee, Jennifer Connor and chairman Meg Spencer. (Not pictured is Ellen Taylor)