

# Popular professor Elliot Engel to kick off Sunset Theatre lecture series

♣ Literary lecturer Dr. Elliot Engel will inaugurate an eclectic new series of talks and performances for 2018 as the Friends of the Library Sunset Signature Series gets underway.

The series is sponsored by the Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau, the City of Asheboro and the Friends of the Randolph County Public Library.

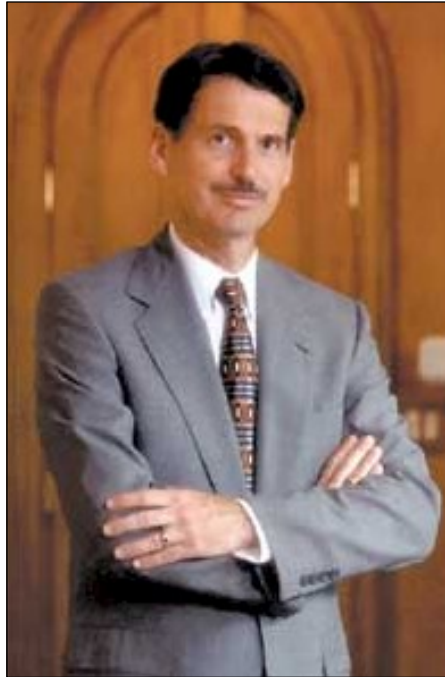
Engel will appear at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 23, with a lively talk, "Our Slippery Mother Tongue: A Light History of English." His appearance is free and the public is invited.

Using anecdotes, analysis and large doses of humor, Engel will bring to life the fascinating development of the English language from the Anglo-Saxons, to the invading French and beyond.

Engel has delivered his highly entertaining but historically detailed talks worldwide over his 30-year career. He is author of 10 books; his lecture series about Charles Dickens appeared on PBS stations around the country; and four of his plays have been produced in the past 10 years.

In 2009, he was inducted into the Royal Society of Arts in England for his academic work and his promotion of Dickens. Sales of his CDs and DVDs have raised funds for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London, which Dickens helped found in 1852.

Engel lives in Raleigh and has taught at UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University and Duke University.



Dr. Elliot Engel

He holds a Ph.D. from UCLA, where he won the Outstanding Teaching Award.

Installments of the series following Engel will take place in March, May and September (see reverse for a full schedule).

In March, Asheville busker and radio personality Abby the Spoon Lady will perform, accompanied by Chris Rodrigues another Asheville street performer who is a one-man band.

Abby developed her talent while hitchhiking and hopping freight trains through 48 states. She's a mainstay on the streets of Asheville and a radio personality who performs around the country, sharing her music and telling stories about her experiences.

Asheboro native Holly George-Warren will take the stage in May. One of the country's foremost music

journalists, George-Warren is most recently author of the biographies *A Man Called Destruction: The Life of Alex Chilton*, *from Box Tops to Big Star to Backdoor Man*, and *Public Cowboy No. 1: The Life and Times of Gene Autry*.

She is currently working on a biography of Janis Joplin. Her husband, author and musician Robert Burke Warren, will play music as a soundtrack for her talk.

September's installment will feature journalist Kevin Maurer, who has been embedded with various U.S. military forces since the beginning of the war in Iraq. He is author of *No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama Bin Laden*, which was the top-selling hardcover book of 2012.

**FRIENDS OF  
THE LIBRARY**

**SUNSET**

*Signature  
Series ♦ 2018*

Literary Lecturer

**DR. ELLIOT ENGEL**

**7 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018**



Join popular lecturer Dr. Elliot Engel for “Our Slippery Mother Tongue: A Light History of English.” Engel’s blend of literature, humor, history and enlightening entertainment — including his talks on Dickens, Poe, Twain and more — have delighted audiences around the world for 30 years. He is author of 10 books; his lecture series on Charles Dickens appeared on PBS stations; and he has had four plays produced in the last 10 years. He lives in Raleigh and has taught at UNC, NCSU and Duke.

**Asheville Busker and Radio Personality**

**ABBY the SPOON LADY**

*with Chris Rodrigues*

**7 P.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018**



Abby’s a spoon player. She’s not fancy; she has just learned to puff her chest a bit. Through a series of miscellaneous circumstances, she has come to be known as the “Spoon Lady” and is enjoying the ride. She performs with her buddy Chris Rodrigues, a one man band and street performer in Asheville. She’s also a radio broadcaster and host of “Busker Broadcast” on Asheville’s FM 103.3. Abby is an accomplished storyteller, and will share the unique experiences that led her to life as a street performer.

**Grammy-Nominated Music Journalist**

**HOLLY GEORGE-WARREN**

*with Robert Burke Warren*

**7 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018**



Asheboro native Holly George-Warren is one of the country’s foremost journalists. A two-time Grammy nominee, George-Warren has penned biographies of Alex Chilton and Gene Autry, and is currently at work on a biography of Janis Joplin. Named one of the top women music critics “you need to read” by Flavorwire.com, she is also author of innumerable other books, anthologies, articles and album notes. Her husband, musician/author Robert Burke Warren, will provide a soundtrack for her talk.

**Author and Embedded Journalist**

**KEVIN MAURER**

**7 P.M. Thursday, September 13, 2018**



Kevin Maurer is the author of several books, including *No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission That Killed Osama Bin Laden*. A North Carolina native, Maurer has covered the military for more than 10 years. In 2003, he followed the 82nd Airborne Division during the initial invasion of Iraq. He returned to cover the soldiers more than a dozen times, most recently in 2010 when he spent 10 weeks with a Special Forces team in Afghanistan. He also was embedded with U.S. soldiers in east Africa and Haiti.

*Sponsored by the Heart of North Carolina Visitors  
Bureau ♦ City of Asheville ♦ Friends of the Library*  
**FREE ♦ FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 800-626-2672**

**SUNSET THEATRE**  
**234 Sunset Avenue ♦ Asheville, N.C.**

*Photo of Abby by Brandycharlynn licensed under the Creative Commons-Share Alike 4.0 International License.*