

**Friends of
the Library**

≡ **SUNSET** ≡

*Signature
Series ♦ 2018*

Maurer chronicles America's soldiers

NC-based journalist embedded with troops co-authors account by Navy SEAL who confronted Osama bin Laden

♣ Nearly a decade spent reporting on the experiences of American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan eventually put award-winning journalist Kevin Maurer atop the bestseller list as co-author of *No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama bin Laden*, with a Navy SEAL who was present when bin Laden was killed.

Maurer will talk about his experiences with the book and as an embedded journalist with U.S. troops around the world in the concluding talk of the 2018 Friends of the Library Sunset Signature Series at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 13, at the Sunset Theatre in downtown Asheboro.

Maurer's appearance is free and the public is invited. The series is sponsored by the Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau, the City of Asheboro and the Friends of the Library.

The format of the talk will be a conversation between Maurer and Mike Adams of Asheboro. Adams was editor of *The Fayetteville Observer* in 2003 when he hired Maurer for the newspaper's military beat.

Shortly after joining the *Observer*, Maurer 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 has also embedded with American soldiers in east Africa and Haiti.

No Easy Day, written with SEAL Mark Owen (a pen-name for Matt Bissionnette), spent several weeks atop the



Kevin Maurer

New York Times Best Seller List and became the best selling hardback book of the year.

Owen and Maurer followed *No Easy Day* with *No Hero: The Evolution of a Navy Seal* in 2014, a *New York Times* bestseller. Last year, Maurer co-authored *American Radical: Inside the World of An Undercover Muslim FBI Agent* with Tamer Elnoury, which also landed on the bestseller list.

Other books he has co-authored include *Lions of Kandahar: The Story of a Fight Against All Odds* with Rusty Bradley; *No Way Out: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan* with Pulitzer Prize winner Mitch Weiss; and *Hunting Che: How A U.S. Special Forces Team Helped Capture the World's Most Famous Revolutionary*, also with Weiss.

Based in Wilmington, Maurer is a native of Virginia Beach, Va., and a graduate of Old Dominion University.

Mark your calendars!

**We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel Authors
HERB FRAZIER, BERNARD E. POWERS JR.
& MARJORY WENTWORTH**

7 P.M. SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019



At 9:05 p.m. on June 17, 2015, a 21-year-old white supremacist murdered nine churchgoers and wounded five others attending a prayer meeting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. Journalist Herb Frazier (right), historian Bernard Edward Powers Jr. (left) and South Carolina Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth (center) will share reflections from their book *We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel* in a powerful discussion of history, race, faith and forgiveness.

Country Music, Original Ballads and Stories

JIM AVETT

7 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019



North Carolina native Jim Avett, who now lives in Cabarrus County, grew up singing gospel tunes with his preacher father and family. During his career as a welder, music remained a part of his life. After retiring in 2008, he recorded a gospel album, *Jim Avett and Family*, featuring sons Scott and Seth — the Avett Brothers — and daughter Bonnie. Since then he has recorded three more albums of original country ballads, including last year's *For His Children and Ours*, and has toured nationally.

New York Times Best Selling Author

JERRY BLEDSOE

7 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019



Catch up with *New York Times* Bestselling author — and local favorite — Jerry Bledsoe as he shares stories of his life as a writer from his new memoir, *Do-Good Boy: An Unlikely Writer Confronts the '60s and Other Indignities*. Known in these parts as the fabled *Greensboro Daily News* columnist, Bledsoe is author of true crime tales *Bitter Blood*, *Blood Games*, *Before He Wakes* and *Death Sentence*, as well as the nostalgic *The Angel Doll* and *A Gift of Angels*, and numerous compilations of his newspaper columns.

SEPTEMBER, 2019 — TBD