



Evansville Vanderburgh
Public Library

200 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Evansville, Indiana 47713

812.428.8200
evpl.org

CONTACT:

Becca Scott

Director of Communications & Community Impact

812.428.8200 ext. 1437

media@evpl.org

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For Immediate Release

Author of *A Fever in the Heartland* to Open 2025 EVPL SPEAK Series

Evansville, Indiana – Timothy Egan, author of, “A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan’s Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them,” will kick off Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library’s 2025 SPEAK series. [Egan’s free presentation](#) will be held Wednesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Evansville.

“A Fever in the Heartland” describes the rise of the KKK in Indiana--with numerous references to Evansville--and how one woman brought about its downfall. The book is a New York Times bestseller and was a top circulating title at EVPL last year.

“The authors selected for SPEAK 2025 encourage us to reflect on our individual and shared pasts, connect through past human experiences, and then build a more thoughtful future,” said Erika Qualls Barnett, Director of Programming and Outreach, EVPL.

“Through ‘A Fever in the Heartland,’ Egan teaches us about the rapid rise of racial, religious, and ethnic hate among Hoosiers not long ago. In his presentation, Egan will discuss the book and help us understand how this social and political movement happened in ‘the uniquely American state’ of Indiana.”

Egan is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, and is also the author of other bestsellers, including “The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dustbowl,” which won the 2006 National Book Award and was featured in Ken Burns’ 2012 documentary, “The Dust Bowl.”

Sponsored by the [EVPL Foundation](#), SPEAK events are free and open to all. Additional information about this SPEAK event, upcoming related programs and book discussions, and more is available at evpl.org/speak2025.

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. Later this year, authors Ralph Shayne, Kwame Alexander, and Angela Jackson-Brown will share their insights as part of the 2025 SPEAK series. 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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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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