



MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

On **MARCH 18** our guest will be **JAMES McBRIDE**. **Registration closes on March 15** – don't delay, contact us now to register!

* **Online Access:** Conveniently register & pay online for luncheons. See our [EVENTS](#) page.

* **Mail Delivery:** When mailing in your luncheon registration, it's always a good idea to call or email us to let us know it's on its way.

* **Membership:** Guests are welcome to attend two luncheons per season as non-members. See our website's [JOIN US](#) page for details and to learn about our Spring 2020 Promotion offered for new BALS memberships.

Brickell Avenue Literary Society

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BrickellLiterary.org



Brickell Avenue Literary Society

Miami's Best Book Club Since 1988 – For Lovers of Good Literature



JAMES
McBRIDE
**DEACON
KING KONG**

James McBride, *Deacon King Kong*

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 12:00 PM

The registration deadline is March 15th

Register online or by email / phone / mail

James McBride, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction for *The Good Lord Bird*, set his newest novel, *Deacon King Kong*, in tumultuous 1960s Brooklyn. He weaves a wise and witty tale about what happens to the witnesses of a shooting, showing that not all secrets are meant to be hidden, that the best way to grow is to face change without fear, and that the seeds of love lie in hope and compassion. An accomplished musician as well as an award-winning author, Mr. McBride is recipient of the National Humanities Medal and Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University.

A Bit About the Book | *Deacon King Kong*

In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .45 from his pocket, and in front of everybody shoots the project's drug dealer at point-blank range.

The reasons for this desperate burst of violence and the consequences that spring from it lie at the heart of *Deacon King Kong*, James McBride's funny, moving novel and his first since his National Book Award-winning *The Good Lord Bird*. In *Deacon King Kong*, McBride brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the African-American and Latinx residents who witnessed it, the white neighbors, the local cops assigned to investigate, the members of the Five Ends Baptist Church where Sportcoat was deacon, the neighborhood's Italian mobsters, and Sportcoat himself.

As the story deepens, it becomes clear that the lives of the characters--caught in the tumultuous swirl of 1960s New York--overlap in unexpected ways. When the truth does emerge, McBride shows us that not all secrets are meant to be hidden, that the best way to grow is to face change without fear, and that the seeds of love lie in hope and compassion.

Bringing to these pages both his masterly storytelling skills and his abiding faith in humanity, James McBride has written a novel every bit as involving as *The Good Lord Bird* and as emotionally honest as *The Color of Water*. Told with insight and wit, *Deacon King Kong* demonstrates that love and faith live in all of us.

Publisher: Riverhead Books

Photo: Chia Messina

Upcoming 2020 Luncheons

We meet at noon at

Temple Israel of Greater Miami – Wolfson Auditorium

(enter at BridgePrep gate)

137 NE 19th Street

Miami, FL 33132

Wednesday, **March 18: James McBride** with *Deacon King Kong*

Monday, **April 27: Julia Alvarez** with *Afterlife*

For additional event details and to register, please visit BrickellLiterary.org.

Each author event carries a per-person charge to cover lunch, a signed copy of the speaker's book, and parking; for Couples and Individuals, the fee is \$50, and for Young Professionals (ages 35 and younger), the fee is \$30.

Please note that we must give a firm count of participants five days prior to each event; regretfully we cannot refund for cancellations not received without at least five days' notice.