

Half Past 6 o'clock

COCKTAILS AND TOURING THE TABLE DECORATIONS

Literary themed tables are decorated by Gala Committee members, table hosts, and other volunteers, featuring books and items from personal collections.

Music by *Latin Carnaval*

7 o'clock

READINGS

Robert Boswell

ZZ Packer

Ann Weisgarber

Quarter Past 8 o'clock

DINNER

Menu curated by Elouise "Ouisie" Jones

9 o'clock

TALK BY

Justin Cronin

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IN PRINT
POETS & WRITERS
Ball
2012

with **JUSTIN CRONIN**

GALA CHAIRS

Susie and Sanford Criner

and the Board of Directors

of INPRINT

cordially invite you to the

IN PRINT
POETS & WRITERS
Ball
2012

with **JUSTIN CRONIN**

Saturday, February 18, 2012

6:30 pm

Houston Country Club

Black Tie

JUSTIN CRONIN, a professor of English at Rice University and graduate of Harvard University and the Iowa Writers Workshop, published his first novel, *Mary and O'Neil*, in 2001 to critical acclaim: the book received both the PEN/Hemingway Award and the Stephen Crane Prize for First Fiction. His second novel, *The Summer Guest*, was a Book Sense national bestseller.

It wasn't until 2010, however, when Cronin published *The Passage*, his third novel, that he became a household name. Cronin's blockbuster epic—the first in a trilogy—debuted at #3 on *The New York Times* Best Seller list. This “wild, headlong, sweeping extravaganza of a novel” (Jennifer Egan) derives its power from its exploration of the same themes that Cronin made his own in his earlier novels: love, honor, courage, valor, and the bonds between parents and children. A #1 “Indie Next Pick,” named one of the “10 Best Novels of the Year” by *Time Magazine*, and on more than a dozen “Best Books of the Year” lists (including *The Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and NPR/On Point), *The Passage* is “addictive, terrifying, and deeply satisfying. Not only is this one of the year's best thrillers; it's one of the best of the past decade—maybe one of the best ever” (*Men's Journal*). *The New York Times Book Review* calls it “a blockbuster ... astutely plotted and imaginative,” and Stephen King warns, “Read this book and the ordinary world disappears.” According to *Time Magazine*, “What makes *The Passage* special is the extraordinary level of verbal craft and psychological insight” that Cronin brings to the telling.

The Twelve, the second novel in the trilogy, will be released in 2012, and a film based on *The Passage* is now under development. Cronin and his wife live in Houston with their two children.

ROBERT BOSWELL, holder of the Cullen Chair in Creative Writing at the University of Houston with his wife Antonya Nelson, is the author of six novels, including *Century's Son*, *Mystery Ride*, and *Crooked Hearts*; three story collections; a play; a cyberpunk novel; and two books of nonfiction. His most recent story collection, *The Heyday of the Insensitive Bastards*, described by *O: The Oprah Magazine*, as “an unnerving, fascinating collection,” was a finalist for the 2010 PEN USA Literary Award in fiction. He has received numerous awards, including National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Iowa School of Letters Award for Fiction, and the PEN West Award for Fiction. His stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Best American Short Stories*, *O. Henry Prize Stories*, *Pushcart Prize Stories*, *Esquire*, *Colorado Review*, and many other magazines. Boswell also teaches creative writing at the Warren Wilson MFA Program.

ZZ PACKER's debut short story collection, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*, was a PEN/Faulkner finalist and a *New York Times* Notable Book, and was selected by John Updike for *The Today Show* Book Club. *The New York Times Book Review* writes, “*Drinking Coffee Elsewhere* is a superb story, its wry and mournful tones bound together by a complex psychological portrait,” and the *San Francisco Chronicle* says, “Packer ... has ... a captivating eye for detail and ... a bold and often thrilling usage of language and style.” Her stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Story*, *Ploughshares*, *Zoetrope*, and *The Best American Short Stories 2000* and *2004* and have been read on NPR's “Selected Shorts.” Her nonfiction has been featured in *The New York Times Magazine*, and she has appeared several times as a commentator on NPR's *Talk of the Nation* and on MSNBC. Her honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Whiting Writers Award, and she was recently named one of America's Best Young Novelists by *Granta Magazine*.

ANN WEISGARBER learned the basics of creative writing from Inprint Writers Workshops. Her debut novel, *The Personal History of Rachel DuPree*, was first published in England, where it was longlisted for the Orange Prize and was a finalist for the Orange Award for New Writers. Published by Penguin in the United States, it won the Texas Institute of Letters' Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction, the Langum Prize for American Historical Fiction, and was shortlisted for the Ohioana Award. It was a “Barnes & Noble Discover New Writers” book and an “Indie Next List Great Read.” Alice Walker called the novel “an indelibly affecting teaching story,” and Jeffery Lent wrote that it is a “grand achievement of the first rate.” The film rights have been optioned by actress Viola Davis. Ann recently completed her second novel, which takes place in Galveston during the 1900s.



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