



# Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## The GPPL announces its 2019 Books on the Lake authors

- **New format this year – May 3 & 4**

GROSSE POINTE, MI – January 23, 2019 – Three award-winning authors will speak at the 2019 Books on the Lake May 3 and 4. The authors are Desiree Cooper, Lillian Li and Maria Semple.

“We’ve modified the format this year to accommodate more people,” said Jessica Keyser, Library Director. “On Friday, May 3 we’re having a panel discussion with all three authors at the Pierce Middle School Auditorium.” The traditional luncheon with the authors will be held on Saturday, May 4 at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. The cost of the Friday night event will be \$10 and the Saturday luncheon tickets will be \$40 each. Tickets will go on sale Saturday, April 6.

Local author, Desiree Cooper is a 2015 Kresge Artist Fellow, former attorney, Pulitzer-Prize nominated journalist and community activist. A sought-after creative writing instructor, she conducts readings from her flash fiction collection, *Know the Mother*. This award-winning collection was published by Wayne State University Press in March 2016.

Lillian Li, author of *Number One Chinese Restaurant: A Novel*, is a resident of Ann Arbor, MI. This debut novel was inspired by her waitressing experience centered on the complicated lives and loves of people

working at the fictional Beijing Duck House. Described as a, “striking new literary talent,” her book was featured in Best-of-the-Season lists of *The Wall Street Journal*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Time*, *The Millions* and *Bookbub*.

This year’s national bestselling author is Maria Semple. Semple’s novels include *This One is Mine*; *Where’d You Go*, *Bernadette* and *Today Will Be Different*. *Where’d You Go*, *Bernadette* was translated into 18 languages, spent a year on the New York Times bestseller list, won the American Library Association’s Alex Award, was shortlisted for the Women’s Prize for Fiction and will be a major motion picture, starring Cate Blanchett, in March 2019.

**Attached photos:** 01-23-19\_GPPL\_BooksontheLake-Cooper.jpeg; 01-23-19\_GPPL\_BooksontheLake-Li.jpeg and 01-23-19\_GPPL\_BooksontheLake-Semple.jpeg

**Suggested captions:** 1. Local author, Desiree Cooper is a former attorney, Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and community activist. Her award-winning collection of flash fiction, *Know the Mother*, was published by Wayne State University Press in 2016.  
2. Lillian Li’s debut novel, *Number One Chinese Restaurant: A Novel*, is inspired by her waitressing experience. She received her BA from Princeton and her MFA from the University of Michigan. Her work has been featured in *Guernica*, *Granta* and *Jezebel*. She is a resident of Ann Arbor, MI (photo credit: Margarita Corporan)  
3. Bestselling novelist, Maria Semple’s fiction, has been described as hilarious, original, whip smart, razor-sharp, wacky, eccentric, darkly comic, achingly funny and deeply touching. The author of three novels, *Where’d You Go*, *Bernadette* will be a major motion picture starring Cate Blanchett in March 2019. (photo credit: Elke Van de Velde)

#### **About the Grosse Pointe Public Library**

The Grosse Pointe Public Library was founded in 1929. With three locations serving the residents of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods, the mission of the library is to expand learning, inspire creativity and connect our community. For more information visit <http://www.grossepointelibrary.org>