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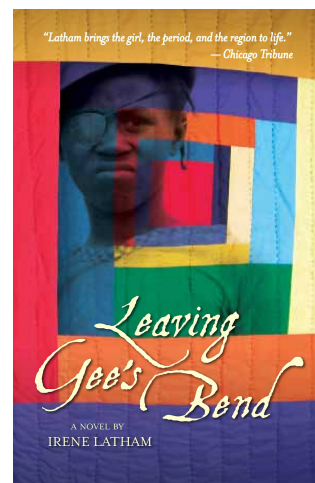


Ludelfhia Gets a New Look!

Dear Friends,

When *Leaving Gee's Bend* was first released by G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin back in 2010, I had no idea the adventures that were in store for me and Ludelfhia!

Seven years and hundreds of presentations later, I still adore sharing Ludelfhia and *Gee's Bend* with readers. I'm so grateful to all of you for joining me on this journey. And I am pleased as patchwork to share with you this new paperback edition from [NewSouth Books](#). Isn't she gorgeous?!



For those who may not be familiar with *Leaving Gee's Bend*, it's historical fiction set in 1932 Gee's Bend, Alabama. It's got a gutsy heroine, adventure, misfortune, love, family, humor, mystery, quilts... and a mule named Delilah.

Get your copy today at an [Independent bookseller](#) near you... or [Amazon](#)... or, come to the release event! Details below.

We Love Gee's Bend Day!

Sunday, April 23, 2017

2 pm

[Emmet O'Neal Library](#)

50 Oak Street, Mountain Brook, AL 35213

Gee's Bend quilters Mary Ann Pettway and China Pettway will be joining us!!! Community members will share quilts, memories, favorite scenes, and more! Featured guests include Mary Allison Haynie ([Alabama Folklife Association](#)), Lillis Taylor ([Bib & Tucker](#)), Claudia Pettway ([That's Sew Gee's Bend](#)), and others! You're invited to share your Gee's Bend story as well!

Books will be available for purchase from [Reed Books](#). Pound cake and Coke courtesy of the library. I hope you'll come to this FREE event!

If you can't make the event but have a Gee's Bend memory or story you'd like to share, please send a reply to this email! I would be honored to share your words/images with the group!

April is National Poetry Month!

I love April. You can find a roundup of National Poetry Month online goodness over at [Jama's Alphabet Soup](#) including

[Our 2017 Progressive Poem](#)

My National Poetry Month poem-a-day project ARTSPEAK! now in its third year. For 2017 my focus is [Portraits!](#)



Twitter #FirstBookChat Thursday April 6, 7 pm EST on the topic of how poetry can bring us together

[Daily poetry podcasts](#)

A beautiful gallery of [poetry broadsides](#)

and so much more! Thanks to all of you for the joy you deliver to the world, and for all the ways you make the world a more beautiful place.

Quick List of Recommended Media:

[The White Helmets](#) - Oscar winning film about the good works by regular people in war-torn Syria

[Brooklyn Duo](#) playing a cover of [LA LA LAND](#) by Justin Horowitz (on cello and piano)

[WIRED FOR STORY](#) by [Lisa Cron](#) - this book has reshaped everything I thought I knew about writing novels!

["You May Want to Marry my Husband"](#) by [Amy Krouse Rosenthal](#) - a *New York Times* piece that was printed just 10 days before her death

[A peek into the life of a 17 year old](#) (through photographs taken by our son Eric)

[Woody Allen: A Documentary](#) on Netflix - learn how his approach to making films can be applied to all arts

And now, go forth and ...

read a poem. Write a poem. [Put a poem in your pocket](#). Share a poem. Most of all, remember you ARE a poem!!

Love,
Irene

p.s. What is your One Little Word for 2017? It's never too late to choose one... mine is "[Abundance](#)."

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