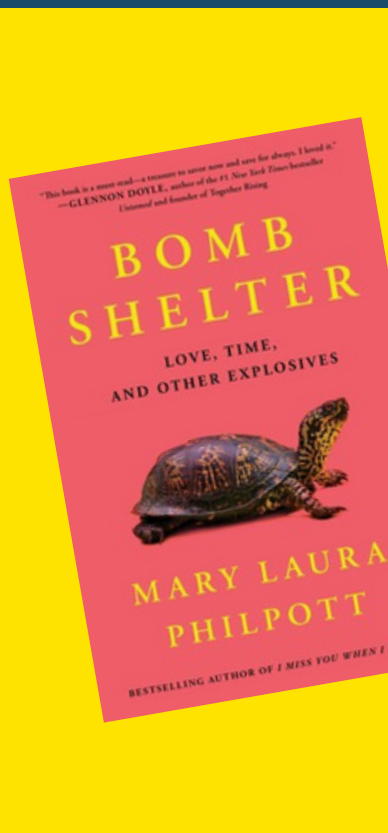


# GECRC ANNUAL LITERARY EVENT FUNDRAISER

## FEATURING ACCLAIMED AUTHOR

# MARY LAURA PHILPOTT



## THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

Glen Oak Country Club, Glen Ellyn

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What started as an annual donation to GECRC has grown into also supporting GECRC families through the Kiwanis Snack Pack Program that was created more than eight years ago. **Kiwanis has been an important supporter of GECRC for more than a decade!**

Kiwanis is able to support GECRC in these significant ways through their fundraising efforts throughout the year. This spring they are selling onions and hanging flower baskets to raise money to donate to many organizations in our community. If you are interested In this fundraiser, contact GECRC board member Penny Linneweh at [plinneweh@comcast.net](mailto:plinneweh@comcast.net)



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## GLEN ELLYN

# WELCOME!

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Thank you for joining us to celebrate literacy and the many ways that the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC) impacts lives. GECRC not only provides important reading and math support to some of our most vulnerable community members – our students – but also creates connections as our students form relationships with our staff and tutors. Each of us who has an opportunity to directly connect in the work of GECRC is positively impacted.

Tonight, we celebrate literacy and reading. Our much acclaimed author, Mary Laura Philpott, and her book, *Bomb Shelter*, is a NY Times Book Review editor's choice and is recognized as one of NPR's books of the year. Most recently, Mary Laura, who lives with her family in Nashville, was the winner of the prestigious Southern Book Prize.

According to Mary Laura, "One reason we read is to know that burst of recognition when someone supplies new language for that which we once found indescribable." And doesn't that also really underscore why we do the work we do at GECRC?

Whether you are here tonight to see Mary Laura Philpott, or to support the work of GECRC, or both, we are delighted. Funds raised through tonight's event help fund GECRC's after-school and summer school literacy programs, now spanning school sites in District 41 and District 89. GECRC serves a growing number of students living in our community who sometimes lack the resources needed to achieve. We know that when all of our children succeed, we as a community succeed. And, as you listen to Mary Laura, know that you are helping ensure the academic and life success of some of our most vulnerable citizens. AND, you support the very importance of reading!

Thank you for being here and for your support of GECRC!

**Celia Rodee**

*GECRC Board President*





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# ABOUT US....



The Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC) is a non-profit after-school and summer academic tutoring and mentorship program. Our mission is to help children from under-resourced families acquire the necessary academic skills to move successfully through grades K-12 and into adulthood. GECRC programs emphasize literary and community involvement, using the talents of teachers, volunteer tutors, and local support services. The after-school program supports more than 175 K-8 students annually at three District 41 school sites and one District 89 school site, as well as hosting a six week long GECRC Summer Program.

Core literacy services are supplemented through collaborations with community service providers to offer children a variety of enrichment and socio-emotional learning opportunities. GECRC strives to help parents and caregivers support their children's educational and social development.

Read more about GECRC on our website, which you can access from your phone by scanning the code below:



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# OUR FEATURED AUTHOR

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## MARY LAURA PHILPOTT



Mary Laura Philpott is the author of the new memoir *Bomb Shelter: Love, Time, and Other Explosives* (April 2022), which was called a “masterwork” by the New York Times and a “beautifully wrought ode to life” by the Washington Post.

It was also named an Editor’s Choice by the New York Times Book Review, one of the Best Books of 2022 by NPR, an Indie Next pick by booksellers nationwide, an Amazon Editor’s Choice selection, and a notable or most anticipated book by publications ranging from PEOPLE magazine to the Washington Post to the Read with Jenna community on TODAY.com, among others. Most recently, *Bomb Shelter* won the 2023 Southern Book Prize for non-fiction.

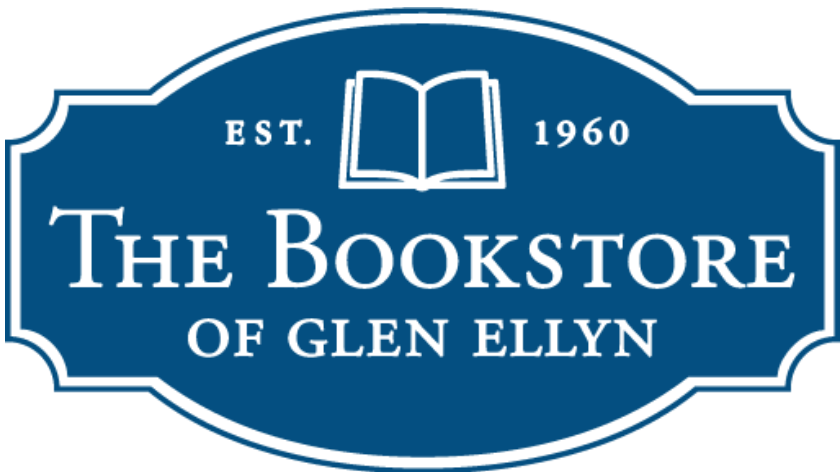
Mary Laura is also the author of the national bestseller *I Miss You When I Blink* — which was named one of NPR’s Favorite Books of 2019. Her essays examining the overlap of the absurd and the profound in everyday life have been featured by The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, and many other publications. Additionally, Mary Laura (yes, she goes by both names) is a former bookseller and was an Emmy-winning co-host of A Word on Words, the literary interview program on Nashville Public Television. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with her family.



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# HOW TO VOLUNTEER

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## About

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## Eligibility

We welcome and actively seek adults, college students and high school students to tutor during the after-school and summer programs. Regular commitments from volunteers are important, whether it is once a month, once a week or a few days a week. We can be flexible with your schedule. Find current and future volunteer opportunities on the GECRC website or by scanning the code below:



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