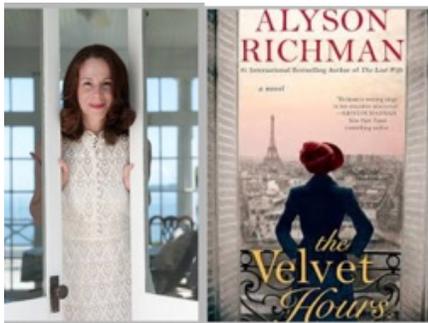




Hadassah Rhode Island's 7th Annual Book and Author Luncheon

Wednesday, August 9, 2017
OceanCliff, Newport, RI



Alyson Richman is the #1 internationally bestselling author of six novels, including "The Lost Wife" and "The Garden of Letters", both national and international bestsellers. At Books on the Beach 2017 she will be talking about her sixth and latest novel, "The Velvet Hours" (Berkley/Penguin, September 2016).

With a degree in art history and Japanese studies from Wellesley College, she is an accomplished painter, and her novels combine her deep love of art, historical research, and travel. Her novels have been published in eighteen languages. She has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe in support of her work.

Her most recent novel, "The Velvet Hours", explores the mystery surrounding a Paris apartment once owned by the elusive courtesan, Marthe de Florian. Upon Marthe's death at the onset of WWII, her granddaughter shuttered the apartment for unknown reasons, and it remained that way, untouched, for close to 70 years. When the apartment was finally opened up in 2010, a magnificent portrait of Madame de Florian by the 19th century painter, Giovanni Boldini, was discovered hanging above the mantel, along with love letters from Boldini in de Florian's vanity drawer. The painting later sold for over two million euros at auction.

Ms Richman lives in Long Island with her husband and two children, where she is currently at work on her seventh novel, "The Family Cloud."

Her website is <https://www.alysonrichman.com>.



Photo Credit: David Ignaszewski

Joanna Rakoff has written for The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Vogue, and other publications.

At Books on the Beach 2017, she will talk about her memoir, "My Salinger Year", described as poignant, keenly observed, and irresistible. It is a memoir about literary New York in the late '90s, where Joanna in her job as assistant to the storied literary agent of J. D. Salinger, is tasked with responding to Salinger's voluminous fan mail. But as she reads the deeply candid letters from his fans, she finds herself abandoning the agency's form letter and writing her own responses. Over the course of the year, she finds her own voice by acting as Salinger's, on her own dangerous and wonderful terms.

Published in 2014, "My Salinger Year" has won numerous awards, including GoodReads Choice Awards Finalist, Amazon Best Book of the Month, June 2014 and Oprah.com Summer Must Read Books. Ms. Rakoff's first novel, "A Fortunate Age" (2009) won the Goldberg Prize for Jewish Fiction by Emerging Writers and the Elle Readers' Prize, and was a New York Times Editors' Choice and a San Francisco Chronicle best seller.

Ms Rakoff lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Her website is <http://www.joannarakoff.com>