

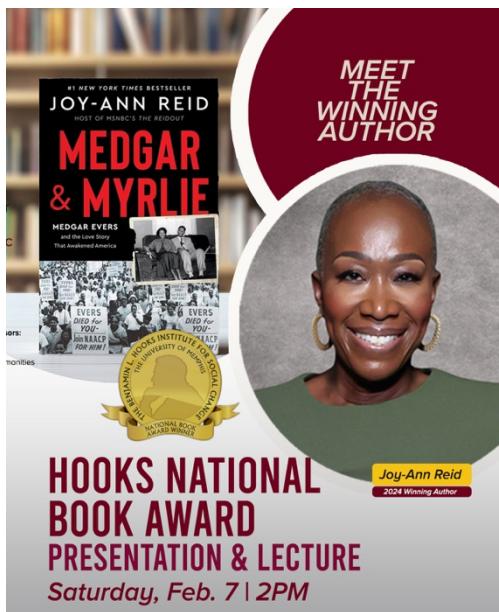
For Immediate Release

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Joy-Ann Reid Set to Accept the 2024 Hooks National Book Award and Speak at the University of Memphis

The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis will host author and journalist Joy-Ann Reid for the presentation of the 2024 Hooks National Book Award. Reid will speak on her award-winning book *Medgar & Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America* (Mariner Books). The event will take place Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 2pm at the University of Memphis in the Michael D. Rose Theatre.



“Joy-Ann Reid effectively explores Medgar and Myrlie Evers as partners in love and in civil rights activism. What makes this book so interesting is that it really explores the two of them together, the love story that they had and the impact of their love story in Medgar’s work, but also the work that Myrlie takes up after Medgar is assassinated. We see them working as co-leads in civil rights and that’s not something we normally see, and that’s what makes this such a compelling book,” says Dr. Terrence Tucker, chair and professor in the University of Memphis Department of English and chair of the Hooks National Book Award committee.

“In the push for civil rights, we usually think about it in terms of anger or outrage, but Reid’s book brings love into the center of the civil rights

movement...the love for people in addition to the love Medgar and Myrlie had for each other and their family. The power of their love led Medgar and Myrlie Evers to work, tirelessly to make our country better.”

This event is free and open to the public, although reservations are required and may be reserved at memphis.edu/HooksBookAward. Affordable and secure parking is available in the Zach Curlin Garage.

Quick View Event Details:

Hooks National Book Award Presentation and Lecture

Joy-Ann Reid, author of *Medgar & Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America* to receive the award and discuss her book.

University of Memphis. Michael D. Rose [Theatre](#)

Saturday, February 7, 2PM

Reservations should be made at memphis.edu/HooksBookAward

The event is made possible by:

Presenting sponsors: UofM African & African American Studies; UofM Hardin Chair of Excellence in Journalism

Community Sponsors: Memphis Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc; Ting Internet and Mobile

University of Memphis Sponsors: Department of English; Department of History; Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities

About Joy-Ann Reid

Joy-Ann Reid is a journalist, author, documentary film producer and social and political commentator. She is the former host of *The Reid Report*, *AM Joy*, and “*The ReidOut*” on MSNBC (a two-time NAACP Award-winning and Emmy nominated nightly news analysis program). Her latest project: *The Joy Reid Show*, airs on YouTube and on all audio podcast platforms.

Reid has written four books, two of which were New York Times best sellers: *Medgar and Myrlie: the Love Story That Awakened America*, which made the *Times* best-seller list and won the 2025 NAACP Image Award in the biography category; and *The Man Who Sold America*, which was also made the *Times* best-seller list. Additionally, Reid authored, *Fracture: Barack Obama, The Clintons and the Racial Divide*, and the foreword to *Kamala Harris: Selections from the Official White House Photography*.

A 1991 Harvard graduate with a documentary film concentration, Reid has worked in talk radio for Radio One; was the managing editor of TheGrio.com; was a political operative for America Coming Together in 2004; and worked for the 2008 Barack Obama presidential campaign.

Reid is a proud honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She and her husband Jason co-own the production company, Image Lab Media Group, which produces *The Joy Reid Show* and an upcoming documentary on Medgar Evers.

About the Hooks National Book Award

The Hooks Institute's National Book Award is presented, annually, to a nonfiction book published in the calendar year that best furthers understanding of the American civil rights movement and its legacy. A panel of judges representing various disciplines and academic institutions in Memphis awards the annual honor. The winner was chosen

from a group of 47 nominations covering a diverse field of subjects related to the civil rights movement and its legacy.

Hooks National Book Award Committee

The Hooks Institute extends its gratitude to the 2024 Hooks National Book Award committee. In addition to Tucker, chair of the English Department at the University of Memphis, the committee includes Dr. Daryl Anderson, Jr., Assistant Professor of English at LeMoyne-Owen College; Dr. Brian Kwoba, Associate Professor of History at the University of Memphis; Dr. Ladrica Menson-Furr, assistant dean of the UofM College of Arts and Sciences and associate professor of English and Dr. Shatavia Wynn, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Africana Studies at Rhodes College.

For more information, visit memphis.edu/benhooks/programs/book-award.php.

About the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change

The Benjamin L. Hooks Institute implements its mission of advancing social change and strengthening democracy through research, service, and historical preservation. Institute programs include community outreach; funding faculty research initiatives on community issues; implementing community service projects; hosting conferences, symposiums and lectures; and promoting local and national scholarship on civil and human rights. The Hooks Institute is an interdisciplinary center at the University of Memphis. Contributory support for the Hooks Institute, including funding from individuals, corporations and foundations, is administered through the University of Memphis Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information, visit memphis.edu/benhooks

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