

Bestselling author to speak at annual literacy luncheon

Vail Daily staff report
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The Literacy Project is hosting its 25th Annual Luncheon and a bestselling author is coming to the Vail Valley to help mark the occasion. Taking place on Tuesday, July 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., this year's event will feature Shilpi Somaya Gowda and her bestselling novel, "A Great Country," a powerful story about an Indian American family navigating identity, community, and the American Dream. "Gowda's work beautifully echoes The Literacy Project's mission to foster learning and connection across cultures, making her a meaningful and exciting voice," said Executive Director Colleen Gray. "We are thrilled to welcome her as this year's featured speaker."

Full of heart and insight about family, immigration, and belonging, Gowda's stories have sold over two million copies worldwide. Published in 2024, "A Great Country" was named a Top Book of 2024 by Elle, Cosmo, and Real Simple, along with over 25 additional publications. By writing about the collective search for home and identity, Gowda brings readers together in a way that resonates universally. "I'm honored to be the keynote speaker at this year's luncheon supporting The Literacy Project of Eagle County," said Gowda. "I believe our highest aspiration as Americans is to come together in pursuit of something greater, and that's exactly what The Literacy Project does: neighbors helping one another, regardless of differences in background, culture or economic class."



COURTESY PHOTO

Shilpi Somaya Gowda will speak at The Literacy Project's 2026 luncheon.

In addition to Gowda's presentation, guests can look forward to an original piece created by featured artist Jen Hammond, which will be offered at the event's auction. By using painting and writing to externalize emotion and work through concepts, Hammond's art incorporates her own poetry and prose within the layers, creating a dialogue between word and image, thought, and emotion.

New this year is the online auction, which will be open July 13-17 and will require registration prior to the event. For the third year in a row, 4 Eagle Ranch is hosting the luncheon where attendees will be treated to a catered meal, select beer and wine, and a stunning view. Located in the Eagle River basin, the sprawling 1,000-acre ranch was originally homesteaded in 1885 and is an important part of Eagle County's western heritage.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit literacyprojecteaglecounty.org.

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VAIL BRIDGE STREET
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AMERICA DAYS PARADE Golden Peak to Lionshead Village

10am - 12:30pm

LIVE MUSIC & ACTIVITIES

Lionshead Village Bus Stop

12:30 - 2:00pm Guerilla Fanfare

2:15- 3:30pm Funk in the Name

Vail Village, between Solaris and International Bridge

12:30 - 2:00pm Brothers of Brass

2:15 - 3:30pm Bourbon Brass Band

Ford Park

HAATS Blackhawk Landing @ Lower Bench

12 - 2:00pm

Patriotic Concert at The Amp

2pm

DJs at Gondola One (#1) Lawn

Dj Mandy

Ian Campbell B2B Calvin Campbell

Aspens | DJ DRU

5:00pm



FIREWORKS
(Canceled due to fire restrictions)

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