

# Elizabeth Letts coming to Fox Cities Book Festival

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## FULL TEXT

The 12th annual Fox Cities Book Festival, running Oct. 7-13, is right around the corner and will be featuring New York Times best-selling author Elizabeth Letts.

Letts is known for her most recent book "Finding Dorothy." Her richly imagined novel tells the story behind "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," the book that inspired the iconic film, through the eyes of author L. Frank Baum's intrepid wife Maud.

Fans of "The Wizard of Oz" will delight in this novel. The New York Times wrote, "As with all great historical fiction, the allure of Finding Dorothy is the curiosity it inspires. Readers will find themselves wanting to know more, wondering what is fact and what is Letts's imagination. In this case, Letts has brought an unknown woman to life in an engaging and thorough novel."

Some facts about "The Wizard of Oz":

Oconomowoc's Strand Theater hosted the world premiere of "The Wizard of Oz" on Aug. 12, 1939 —three days before the big Hollywood premiere.

The "horse of a different color" was actually more than one horse. They used powdered Jell-O to create the colors, and the most difficult part of filming the scene was that the horses wanted to lick the Jell-O off their coats.

Judy Garland's closest relationship on the set was with Margaret Hamilton —in real life, the Wicked Witch was kind and got along well with children.

In the famous scene when the house is sucked up into the vortex of the tornado, the set designers made a miniature scale model of the house and filmed it falling —and then reversed it.

The song, "Over the Rainbow," was almost cut from the film. The reprise, originally sung during a scene in the witch's castle, was actually cut. Film of that scene has never been found.

These fun facts, along with a set of discussion questions are available on the author's website, [elizabethletts.com](http://elizabethletts.com).

Letts will be presenting at 1 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Lawrence Memorial Chapel during the festival. Books will be available for purchase during the event, and the author will be signing after.

There are 56 other presenters at nine additional venues the other six days of the festival, including Newbery-award-winning author Avi. Avi will be presenting to students at six area school districts and will be signing books from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha.

All Fox Cities Book Festival events are free and open to the public and do not require tickets or registration. The Fox Cities Book Festival works closely with area public libraries and schools on the festival and the Fox Cities Reads. The full schedule of events can be viewed at [foxcitiesbookfestival.org](http://foxcitiesbookfestival.org), or grab a booklet from your local public library.

Following the festival this year, the organization is planning a Lunch & Launch from noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 15 at Long Cheng Marketplace in Appleton to announce the NEA Big Read: Fox Cities Reads 2020 titles. The event will include a brief presentation by Dr. Pafoua Her, Appleton's first Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator, a poetry reading courtesy of local poet, Gaochi Vang, and live music. Participants are encouraged to purchase lunch from one of the marketplace vendors while they enjoy the announcement program.

Ashley Thiem-Menning is director of the Kaukauna Public Library.

## DETAILS

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