ANDERSON - The Friends of the Anderson County Library, in cooperation with Anderson University, is pleased to announce the teller roster for the 10th annual Starburst Storytellers’ Festival.

Each year the Starburst Storytellers’ Festival features award-winning tellers from around the country for a week. During the day tellers perform at schools throughout Anderson County, with a teller-in-residence at Anderson University performing for students bused from Anderson School District Five to on-campus venues, assisted by members of the university’s Teaching Fellows Program. At night, the tellers perform at the Anderson County Library, located at 300 N. McDuffie St. in downtown Anderson.

This year the festival will take place from Oct. 19-24. Being the 10th anniversary, the tellers participating are audience favorites from past years. Doug Berky opens the event at 3 p.m. Oct. 19 with “Foibles, Fables, and Other Imaskinations.” Berky weaves together many art forms to create the fabric of his stories. Masks, puppets, mime, drama, comedy, music and storytelling are integral elements that help an audience experience his thought-provoking stories. Weeknight performances start at 6:30 p.m. Monday night, Oct. 20, will feature the return of champion liar Adam Booth, of West Virginia. He’ll be joined again by Geraldine Buckley, of Maryland by way of Great Britain, and Megan Hicks, of Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday evening, Oct. 21, members of the Clemson Area Storytelling Guild (CAST) will perform. The program features tellers Charlee Duvall, Bill Eister, Cathelene Morris and Judy Seeley. Jay Wright, president of the Foothills Writers’ Guild, will be the evening’s emcee.

Buckley returns Wednesday night with her extraordinary stories, and “Two Cinderellas” a special telling program featuring Booth and Megan Hicks.
On Thursday evening, Tim Lowry, of Summerville, brings his stories about “Seersucker, Sweet Tea and Souse Meat.” It’s Lowry’s third appearance on the library stage and he also performs as the teller-in-residence at Anderson University.

The festival closes Friday night, Oct. 24, with a special return engagement by Andy Offutt Irwin, of Covington, Georgia. Coming back for his fourth Starburst Festival, Offutt brings with him his guitar and stories of his favorite aunt, Marguerite, an 80-year-old-something widow who with her friends opened the “Southern White Old Lady Hospital” in rural Georgia.

Offutt will be joined on stage by The Covered Bridge acoustic folk trio, featuring Michael “Porkchop” Branch and Dustin Owens of WRIX radio and Jay Wright with a program of original songs and music, several tunes having won first place awards in songwriting contests.

In addition to Anderson University, festival sponsors include AnMed Health Carolina Cardiology, AnMed Health Family Medicine Residency, Blue Ridge Electric, The Peoples Bank, T.L. Hanna High School National Honor Society, Kay McKee, Marian Moorhead, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Stone, Caroline Tolbert and the board of trustees of the Anderson County Library System. The Friends Board of Directors also wishes to recognize The Bleckley Inn and graphic artist Jennifer Walker for their contributions.

All performances are free. For more information, contact the library’s community services coordinator Marybeth Evans at 864.260.4500 ext. 107.

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