

***St. Louis County Library***      ***News Release: August 14, 2007***  
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**National Book Award Winning Author Jonathan Franzen to Speak at SLCL**

St. Louis County Library Foundation presents National Book Award winning author Jonathan Franzen who will discuss his latest book, “The Discomfort Zone: A Personal History,” Friday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. at Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. The program is free and open to the public. Master of Ceremonies will be Don Marsh, KWMU radio host of “St. Louis on the Air.” The Friends of the Library Foundation will host a private author reception before the event. To join the Friends and receive an invitation to the private reception, call 994-3300.

“The Discomfort Zone,” is Franzen’s memoir of growing up in Webster Groves, Mo. It’s a portrait of a middle-class family weathering the turbulence of the 1970s, and a vivid personal history of the decades in which America turned away from its mid-century idealism and became a more polarized society.

These chapters of a midwestern youth and New York adulthood are warmed by the same combination of comic scrutiny and unqualified affection that characterize Franzen’s fiction, but here the main character is the author himself. Sparkling, daring, arrestingly honest, “The Discomfort Zone” narrates the formation of a unique mind and heart.

Franzen is the author of “The Corrections,” winner of 2001 National Book Award for fiction; the novels “The Twenty-Seventh City” and “Strong Motion” and a collection of

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essays, "How to Be Alone." His honors include a Whiting Writers Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the American Academy's Berlin Prize. He writes frequently for *The New Yorker*, and he lives in New York City.

Franzen was born near Chicago, and grew up in Webster Groves. After graduating from Swarthmore College, in 1981, he studied at the Freie Universität in Berlin as a Fulbright scholar and later worked in a seismology lab at Harvard University's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Franzen will be available to answer questions and sign books following his presentation. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the program. The event is co-sponsored by the Pasta House Company and McArthur's Bakery.

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Contact St. Louis County Library by phone 314-994-3300, (TDD\TTY) 314-994-9255 or visit [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org).

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