

DAYBREAK

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GOOD MORNING, EAST TENNESSEE

Scholar to explore what makes Putin tick

Knox County Public Library invites the public to join Dr. Oleg Manaev for a Books Sandwiched In discussion of "The Man without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin" by Masha Gessen. The talk will be at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 27, in the East Tennessee History Center auditorium, 601 S. Gay Street.

Reading the book is optional. Attendees may bring lunch. Drinks are available to purchase.

Manaev has an insider's perspective of Eastern European politics. When in 2010 the leadership of the Belarusian State University — on order from the KGB — pressured Manaev to resign, 130 well-known scholars from 30



Manaev

countries sent a letter of protest to Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, preserving his position. Manaev was arrested the following year by the Minsk Riot Police and was called "a pawn of the West" by Lukashenko. Finally, Manaev's contract with the university was canceled, ending his 40-year tenure.

Manaev has held visiting professorships at universities in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Europe and Japan. He has authored 200 scholarly articles and 20 books on media, political process, and democracy. Currently, Manaev serves as a Global Security Fellow at

the University of Tennessee Institute for Nuclear Security.

"I'm really impressed by how Gessen's book flows on multiple tracks, tracing Putin's life back to boyhood, the story of his hometown of St. Petersburg, his KGB experience, and finally the last quarter-century of Russian history," Manaev said.

"Even though many interpretations remain controversial, this book helps to understand modern Russia."

Books Sandwiched In will continue Oct. 18, when Brandon Hollingsworth, WUOT's "All Things Considered" host/producer, discusses "All These Worlds Are Yours: The Scientific Search for Alien Life" by Jon Willis.

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