September Program
September 21, 6:00 PM - Selby Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota

Ground Truths
The Notorious Dozier School for Boys.

Ben Montgomery
Reporter, Tampa Bay Times

Late in 2008, five elderly men -- former wards of the state of Florida -- stood before a microphone on the campus of Florida’s oldest reform school. The stories they told about being abused at the Florida School for Boys in the 1950s and ‘60s, and about classmates who went missing, were enough to compel the state to launch a formal investigation into abuse and deaths at the school. But the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s investigation left more questions than it answered. Were there really only 31 boys buried in the clandestine cemetery on the campus? And how did they die? Ben Montgomery, an investigative reporter at the Tampa Bay Times spent seven years trying to answer those questions. He got the attention of forensic anthropologists and archaeologists from the University of South Florida, who used ground-penetrating radar and found there were actually 55 graves. Then they convinced the state to let them excavate the graveyard, to try to find the truth.