

LITFEST PASADENA

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021

Noon - 12:50pm

Stories of the New Unionism

Activist writers and educators offer inspiring context on the recent successful and ongoing struggles to secure labor justice; telling stories, revisiting history, critiquing and celebrating the resurgence of a birthright tradition. Featuring **Arlene Inouye, Rafael Jaime, Carolina A. Miranda, Christine O'Connell, Lindsay Zafir, Todd Wolfson,** and **Mia McIver,** moderator.

1:00pm - 1:50pm

Our SoCal DNA

How location affects how, when, where, and what is written. Listen in on how Southern California influences the work and literary community of these writers from across the City of Angels. Featuring **Ryka Aoki, Aimee Bender, Natashia Deón, Deborah A. Lott, Luis Rodriguez, Michael Torres,** and **Monica Fernandez,** moderator.

2:00pm - 2:50pm

Our Culinary Table

Join **Elisa Callow** (*The Urban Forager: Culinary Exploring & Cooking on L.A.'s Eastside*) and **Bill Esparza** (*L.A. Mexicano: Recipes, People & Places*) in conversation with award-winning journalist and LA chronicler **Val Zavala,** as they look beyond the trends to celebrate the authentic traditions of the multitude of food cultures represented in Southern California.

3:00pm - 3:50pm

Writing While Black

Writing Ourselves explains itself as we write as black folk into existence. With **Donnell Alexander, Rachel Harper, Keenan Norris, Kia Penso, Lisa Teasley,** and **Jervey Tervalon.**

4:00pm - 4:50pm

Graphic Description

In this panel with comics creatives, graphic novels are discussed - from the mechanics of putting one together to matters of inclusivity and representation. Featuring artist **Mariah-Rose Marie; Amanda Meadows,** Senior Editor at Oni Press; **Pamela Ribon,** screenwriter on *Moana* and creator of *SLAM!*; **Josh Trujillo,** co-writer for Marvel's first gay, teen Captain America; **Carly Usdin,** director and creator of *Heavy Vinyl*; **Shannon Watters,** Senior Editor at BOOM! Studios and co-creator of *Lumberjanes,* and moderator **Gary Phillips,** writer of the *Be-Bop Barbarians* and *Matthew Henson and the Ice Temple of Harlem.*

5:00pm - 5:50pm

Speculative Los Angeles

Perched on the edge of the Pacific, Los Angeles is a fantastical place where ghosts, shapeshifters, future dystopias, and fantasy thrive. Imagine waves breaking against Century City skyscrapers, psychic death cults that gather in abandoned Hollywood theatres to plot destruction, and canyons and coastline walled off for the wealthy. Join **Denise Hamilton, Lynell George, Kathleen Kaufman,** and **Duane Swierczynski** as they discuss inspiration and process for writing sci-fi and fantasy fiction in their new *Speculative Los Angeles* short story anthology from Akashic Books, publisher of Los Angeles Noir.

10-Minute Interludes

Between each live stream panel
— ten minutes before the top of every hour —
don't miss the "interludes"!

SATURDAY, MAY 15

12:50pm - 1:00pm

Julia Long, Pasadena Walking Tours

Tour of public art throughout Pasadena Village

Mary Fitzpatrick / East Pasadena Poets

"What to Do from Confinement"

Linda Dove / East Pasadena Poets

"The Haptics"

Beverly LaFontaine / East Pasadena Poets

"This Skin Is Not Enough to Keep Me Warm"

Lois P. Jones / East Pasadena Poets

"Apple"

1:50pm - 2:00pm

Raundi Moore-Kondo / Poets in Distress

"My California Roots"

Arminé Iknadossian / Zephyr Poets

"California Love"

Vroman's Bookstore

Thanks its customers

Ron Koertge

"An Uneasy Trance Will Never Break"

Kim Dower

"Thanking My Breasts"

Alene Terzian-Zeitounian / Zephyr Poets

"Insurrection Snapshot #1"

2:50pm - 3:00pm

Gerda Govine Ituarte / Pasadena Rose Poets

"Visit to Godfather's"

Raundi Moore-Kondo / Poets in Distress

"You Don't Need a Ticket"

Ayb Marapao, senior, Pasadena High School

"Dear Covid"

Rainesford Stauffer

An Ordinary Age

Jervey Tervalon

"Walking"

Rare Bird Books

3:50pm - 4:00pm

Lynne Thompson / 2021 LA Poet Laureate

"Once, We Were Rivers"

Tim Stiles

2021 Jonathan Gold Award Winner

A Collection of Poems

4:50pm - 5:00pm

Omega Sci Fi Awards

Various readings

Johnny Bender / Poets in Distress

"Elemental"

5:50 - 6:00pm

Johnny Bender / Poets in Distress

"Letter to Self"

Cathie Sandstrom / East Pasadena Poets

"Standing Up in a Slim Boat"

Cathie Sandstrom / East Pasadena Poets

"She Ages"

"Negative Space"

Short film

Narration is a poem by Ron Koertge

A lovely remembrance of how a boy bonded with his father.

LITFEST PASADENA

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021

Noon - 12:50pm

The Twists and Turns of True Crime

As the true crime genre gains popularity across all media platforms, discussions on whose story gets told and how they are told become more and more relevant. In this panel, we discuss the changing narratives of true crime and the ways in which the experience of victims of both crime and the criminal justice system are being centered in the conversation. Featuring bestselling author and podcaster **Rabia Chaudry** (*Adnan's Story*), **Alex Marzano-Lesnevich** (*The Fact of a Body*), **Rachel Monroe** (*Savage Appetites*), and Pasadena's own **Chip Jacobs** (*The Darkest Glare* and *Arroyo*). Moderated by **Julia Callahan**.

1:00pm - 1:50pm

Authors and Airwaves

Publishers are looking to podcasts as a major media resource to publicize their authors. How does a podcaster stand above the thousands of podcasts by creating quality content? This panel discussion includes prominent podcasters, authors, and those who do both, on how they started podcasting, mistakes they've made, and the benefits of continuing to release episodes of their shows. Led by "Drinks with Tony" podcaster **Tony DuShane** with *The Uspeakable Podcast's* **Meghan Daum**, and *Moms Don't Have Time to Read Books* author and podcaster **Zibby Owens**.

2:00pm - 2:50pm

Modern Kid Lit: *Writing from the Heart*

Today's middle grade fiction is full of diverse voices and experiences. Each of these authors takes us on a quest for meaning and acceptance through the lens of childhood. Middle grade authors discuss how writing for children means writing from the heart. Featuring **Tracy Holczer**, **Rajani LaRocca**, **Mae Respicio**, and **Dana Middleton**, moderator.

3:00pm - 3:50pm

Don't Hit Repeat

With the recent surge in hate crime and violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander community, we're reminded of America's historic anti-Asian racism. Esteemed movie critic **John Powers** and community leader **Jinghuan Liu Tervalon** converse with filmmaker **Myles Matsuno** about his documentary, *First To Go*, the story of Ichiro Kataoka, the first San Francisco Japanese person taken by the FBI after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ichiro's daughter, Mary, tells the story of his resilience, strength, and joy in the face of adversity. The panelists discuss, what are the parallels between past and present ignorance? How do we stand up and stop anti-Asian hate crimes? How do we change the arc of continuing racism? Come find out.

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021

(continued)

4:00pm - 4:50pm

Untangling the Family Story

No territory is richer for the fiction writer than the family, and no territory is more fraught with challenges. Join four acclaimed authors—**J. Ryan Stradal** (*The Lager Queen of Minnesota*); **Steph Cha** (*Your House Will Pay*), **Sergio Troncoso** (*Nepantla Familias*), and **Amy Meyerson** (*The Imperfects*)—in a conversation about mining family relationships for storytelling, character, and universal truths. Moderated by **Colleen Dunn Bates**, founder of Prospect Park Books.

5:00pm - 5:50pm

Publishers' Roundtable

Get a crash course on the publishing industry from representatives from a few of Southern California's fantastic publishers, plus a self-published author. Reps from **Red Hen Press**, **Unnamed Press**, **Lil' Libros**, and **TSEHAI Publishers**, as well as **Julia Callahan**, former Director of Sales & Marketing at Rare Bird, and self-publishing author **Tim DeRoche**, discuss their differing business models, what publishers look for, what the process is like, and how best to approach them. Learn industry tips and tricks in this can't-miss panel.

SUNDAY, MAY 16

Interludes

12:50pm - 1:00pm

Léna Garcia / Locavore Lit LA

Managing Editor

Angelina Coppola / Light Bringer Project

Program Coordinator

Reading LLLA students' short stories

Alexis August / Light Bringer Project Intern

Reading LLLA students' short stories

Aimee Bender / LLLA Participating Author

Reading excerpt from her short story "Crew"

1:50pm - 2:00pm

Karol Ruth Silverstein, author of *Cursed*

Reading, talking beginnings, and when it's good to break the rules, along with a writing prompt!

Claire Phillips

Reading an excerpt from her memoir *A Room with a Darker View: Chronicles of My Mother and Schizophrenia*

2:50pm - 3:00pm

"6th Grade Cannibals"

Short film by Jeanette Castillo

Carla Sameth / Pasadena Rose Poets

"June 2020, Alarm Goes Off"

Elline Lipkin / East Pasadena Poets

"I Think of the Lipsticks"

Jervey Tervalon

"The Snake"

3:50pm - 4:00pm

Shahé Mankerian / Zephyr Poets

"The Last Mosque"

Teresa Mei Chuc / Pasadena Rose Poets

"Agent Blue"

Teresa Mei Chuc / Pasadena Rose Poets

"Photosynthesis"

Carla Sameth / Pasadena Rose Poets

"What Her Son Knows"

Gerda Govine Ituarte / Pasadena Rose Poets

"Mothers Who Carry Their Own Water"

Dexter Booth

"Love in the Time of Insurrection"

4:50pm - 5:00pm

"Dark Pasadena"

From Mountain View Cemetery and Mausoleum
With **Jervey Tervalon** and **Tom Coston**

5:50pm - 6:00pm

Kate Gale / Pasadena Rose Poets

"Gender Difference According to the Bible"

Gerda Govine Ituarte / Pasadena Rose Poets

"Lakeside"

Tina Pasadena / Poets in Distress

"Wordsmith"

Thank you for joining us!

