



# LITFEST PASADENA

Saturday, April 30, 2:00pm-8:00pm

Mountain View Mausoleum

CHAPEL of the GARDENS - 1st floor

OLD RADIANCE - 2nd floor

2:00pm-3:00pm

**BROWN AND DEEP GREEN HILLS**

*LA's Speculative Lens*

"Brown and deep green hills" Octavia Butler wrote in her notebook, and her stories run deep with an understanding of Pasadena and Los Angeles. When location informs every bit of who you are, it imbues your stories with something more. **DR. JALONDRA DAVIS, NATASHIA DEÓN, and NICOLE D. SCONIERS** speak of their speculative fiction, their LA experiences that make their way to the page, the city they mined for their work, and the layers of this city that exist just beyond the veil of reality. Moderated by **KATE MARUYAMA**.

**THE GEOGRAPHY OF CRIME**

Filmmaker Thom Anderson quipped in his cult collage essay, *Los Angeles Plays Itself*, "If you identify more with the city of Los Angeles than the movie industry, it's hard not to resent the idea of Hollywood." It's easy to forget that LA is much more than the projection of Hollywood. **STEPH CHA, CLAIRE PHILLIPS, JERVEY TERVALON, and ANTOINE WILSON** discuss the Los Angeles novel, linked inevitably with the noir genre, getting its drive from the city's borders, both real and imagined, spun in the rays of frantic sunshine and the long shadows of a familiar dread.

3:30pm-4:30pm

**WHEN THE DARK SIDE CALLS**

*Dissecting our love of horror*

Is there something "wrong" with us for loving horror? Why do otherwise "nice" people revel in the darkness of this genre? Authors **CARLOS ALLENDE, PETER ATKINS, JO KAPLAN, and MICHAEL PAUL GONZALEZ** discuss what draws them to write horror, what draws people to read horror, and consider how horror is used as a prism for social commentary, metaphysical speculation, and even humor.

**MURDER IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

*Sordid Stories of Tinseltown's Criminal Underbelly*

Why is LA such a hotbed of crime, and criminal myth? Why does it capture the criminal literary imagination? Who are our heroes, victims, and villains? What pathologies thrive in a media-soaked city, offering stars not just in the sky above, but under our very feet? Hear the down and dirty from true crime writing legends **LIZ BROWN, JULIA BRICKLIN, FRANK GIRARDOT, JR., and CHRISTINE PELISEK**. Moderated by **JILLIAN LAUREN**.

5:00pm-6:00pm

**SCI-FI, RACE, AND EMPOWERMENT**

*How Octavia Butler*

*Changed the American Literary Landscape*

Join author **SHONDA BUCHANAN**, devotee and avid reader of all things Octavia Butler, and social psychologist and poet **ASHAKI JACKSON**, for a discussion of how science fiction and near future literature and the racialization of the future equaled empowerment in the world of Octavia Butler.

**MYSTERIOUS DIMENSIONS**

What is it about the mystery that is a perennial draw since before Poe's "Murders in the Rue Morgue"? Why are we drawn to a puzzle, yearn for the answer? What is revealed of a material nature and, more importantly, a psychological one? Join these adept practitioners on a panel seeking the answers: adult and teen thriller writer **WENDY HEARD**, bestselling author **JOE IDE**, Edgar Award nominee **KWEI QUARTEY**, NAACP Image Award winner **PAMELA SAMUELS YOUNG**, and Anthony Award winner **GARY PHILLIPS**, moderator.

7:00pm-8:00pm

**IN CONVERSATION: CONNELLY & HURWITZ**

It all began in 1992 with **MICHAEL CONNELLY** bringing us Hieronymus Bosch cast "adrift in a hellish landscape of Los Angeles" and has continued to this day with *The Dark Hours*, book #36. For **GREGG HURWITZ**, Evan Smoak as Orphan X arrived in 2016, with the newly released *Dark Horse* being the 7th book in the series. How do these veteran crime thriller writers maintain interest in their characters and stories over such an extended series? How do they determine what will keep their readers engaged? Additionally, both Connelly and Hurwitz's works have been adapted for the big screen. How does novel writing differ from screenwriting; what modifications must be made? What can be advantageous for a story seen onscreen and what may the viewer lose in translation? How do these authors retain the essence of their characters, the vibes of their books, and replicate them for the big screen?

# LITFEST PASADENA

**Wednesdays, 6:00pm-9:00pm**

Altadena Library, 600 E. Mariposa St., Altadena, CA 91001

**MAY 4**

6:00pm-7:00pm

**THE MACONDO WRITERS' WORKSHOP**  
*A Homeland for Writers Making Change*

In 1995, Sandra Cisneros began Macondo, gathering writers around her kitchen table. It is open to writers of every stripe and color and has grown to an organization with over 200 members. Macondo welcomes those with a passion for social justice paired with excellent writing. Come join us! With PAT ALDERETE, CECILIA CABALLERO, RENÉ COLATO LAÍNEZ, AND JUANITA E. MANTZ.

7:15pm

**2022 JONATHAN GOLD AWARD presentation**

A while ago Jean Guerrero was a student in my class at USC. Getting to know her and her work, I knew she would make a name for herself as a writer. Jean is a risk taker in life and on the page. She's earned an Emmy as an investigative border reporter for KPBS, was named the 2019 "Journalist of the Year" by the Society for Professional Journalists (San Diego), has had her reporting cited by members of Congress, and has penned *Hatemonger: Stephen Miller, Donald Trump, and the White Nationalist Agenda*. Jean is fearless, funny, grounded, ambitious, a great friend, and truly deserving of the 2022 Jonathan Gold Award.—Jervey Tervalon, LitFest Pasadena co-founder and artistic director

7:45pm-8:45pm

**"TO CHANGE THE WORLD" - Can writing truly transform?**

James Baldwin maintained that writing can indeed change the way people look at the world. Four leading California writers consider the transformative nature of writing—on their readers and even themselves as creators—and whether literature can really advance social justice. Featuring REYNA GRANDE, RACHEL HARPER, NAOMI HIRAHARA, AND ATTICA LOCKE.

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**MAY 11**

6:00pm-7:00pm

**FRIENDSHIP & THE LITERARY LIFE**

How writers support each other, through thick and thin. Featuring longtime writer friends RHODA HUFFEY and MICHELLE LATIOLAIS, followed by poet TIM STILES and his friend through the ages, LitFest Pasadena co-founder, teacher, and author JERVEY TERVALON.

8:00pm-9:00pm

**THE UNCAGED VOICE: *Transcending Bondages***

People are incarcerated inside and out of prison: physically, mentally, and emotionally; in body and in imagination. Finding that voice on the page is liberating and illuminating. Join JOE LOYA, PATRICK O'NEIL, LUIS RODRIGUEZ, and JASMINE WILLIAMS as they discuss the voiceless behind bars, the programs that serve them, and how to free your voice wherever you are, in whatever space you find yourself.



# LITFEST PASADENA

**Saturday, May 7, 1:00pm-8:00pm**

Red Hen Press

1540 Lincoln Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103

1:00pm-2:15pm

## **THE FUTURE OF PUBLISHING**

Learn from local and internationally renowned publishers about the future of publishing, how to be a literary citizen, and how to get published! Should you look for an agent? Is your book better suited for corporate or independent presses? Find out the answers to your writing, editing, publishing questions, and more! Featuring Sales Rep for the Western US at Independent Publishers Group Julia Callahan moderating, this panel will explore the world of publishing from the perspective of different types of presses, LELAND CHEUK with 7.13 Books, TOBI HARPER with Red Hen Press, NEELANJANA BANERJEE from Kaya Press, ERIC MORAGO with Moon Tide Press, and CARRIE PATERSON with DoppelHouse Press.

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2:30pm-3:45pm

## **THE CRAFT OF WRITING: A Genre Panel Discussion**

Join local Los Angeles-based authors in a riveting discussion on the craft of writing. What writing methods work for them? How do they manage to write, publish, and promote books despite having separate, often full-time jobs of their own? Where does their inspiration come from? And what is the best advice for how a writer can turn into an author? All this and more will be explored! Featuring Red Hen Press Media Manager MONICA FERNANDEZ moderating, this cross-genre panel will explore the craft of writing across all genres, from poetry (with DR. KATE GALE), memoirs (with DEBORAH A. LOTT), short stories (with PETE HSU), nonfiction/essays (with NAMRATA PODDAR), and fictional novels (with CHARLES HARPER WEBB this is a general craft writing panel any aspiring author would not want to miss!

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4:00pm-5:15pm

## **THE CRAFT OF WRITING WORKSHOP**

This generative workshop features leaders in their genres: KATE GALE representing poetry, DEBORAH A. LOTT representing memoirs, CHARLES HARPER WEBB representing novels, and PETE HSU representing short stories! You will be able to select which “class” to go to, and receive intimate personal instruction and writing inspiration in this generative writing workshop!

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5:30pm-6:45pm

## **LOCAL AUTHORS FROM LOCAL PRESSES READING!**

Join us to hear readings from incredible local authors published by local presses! These authors are sure to entertain and delight your senses and imagination with a range of literature so there’s something for everyone. Featuring JACKSON BLISS published by 7.13 Books, GUSTAVO HERNANDEZ published by Moon Tide Press, CLAIRE PHILLIPS published by DoppelHouse Press, KATHERINE TREJO and SCOTT MARTIN-ROWE co-published by Lil Libros, and CHARLES HARPER WEBB published by Red Hen Press with moderation by TOBI HARPER.

# LITFEST PASADENA

Saturday, May 14, 1:30pm-5:30pm

Pasadena Presbyterian Church, 585 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91101

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## GAMBLE LOUNGE

1:30pm-2:30pm

### BEYOND WORDS

#### *Picture Book Authors Who Delight and Inspire*

These amazing authors write the stories that shape us from the very beginning. Picture books offer so many unique viewpoints, and our panel's books cover the gamut: from pure imagination to real life heroes. This is a panel for an adult audience that is interested in the process and insights of being a picture book author. Featuring MARLA FRAZEE, HELENA KU RHEE, ANDREA J. LONEY, MICHELLE MARKEL, and DANA MIDDLETON, moderator.

3:00pm-4:00pm

### FACING THE UNKNOWN

#### *Inclusivity and Hope in Today's Middle Grade Fiction*

Experience growing up in SoCal through a child's eye. That's what these amazing middle grade authors do so well. Their diverse and exciting novels delight, surprise, illuminate, and inspire. Bring your questions and enthusiasm! Featuring CHRIS BARON, ERNESTO CISNEROS, LORI SNYDER, BRENDA WOODS, and DANA MIDDLETON, moderator.

4:30pm-5:30pm

### RESILIENCE

#### *An Open Book Memoir Panel*

Three remarkable individuals overcame monumental obstacles. Their inspiring accounts range from transforming from founder and leader of the Dallas Bloods to sought-after prison mentor; surviving childhood sexual abuse and conquering the 7 highest peaks in the world; being paralyzed a result of gang warfare and becoming a respected English professor. Featuring ANTONG LUCKY, OBED SILVA, SILVIA VASQUEZ-LAVADO, and JEFF HOBBS, moderator.

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## SOUTH HALL

1:30pm-2:30pm

### WHEN COVID CAME CALLING

#### *Local Poets, Doctors, Frontliners, in Poems & Personal Stories*

Poet Laureate Emerita of Altadena, THELMA T. REYNA, features 4 distinguished poets from her award-winning book, *When the Virus Came Calling: COVID-19 Strikes America*; and 4 doctors sharing their frontline experiences in poetry from *Doctor Poets & Other Healers*. Together these 2 books capture the losses, heartbreak, grit, and resilience of everyday people and healthcare heroes living through and battling this historic pandemic.

3:00pm-4:00pm

### TELLING ON YOURSELF

#### *The Challenges and the Rewards of Writing Memoir*

When you're writing a memoir, it all boils down to one burning question: How much do I dare reveal? Joins us to talk about the joys and difficulties of writing about our lives. Featuring CASSANDRA LANE, TEMBI LOCKE, MAGGIE ROWE, ERIKA SCHICKEL, and SAMANTHA DUNN, moderator.

4:30pm-5:30pm

### YAY, YA!

Young Adult authors discuss writing for teens and the importance of books that empower teens to self-advocate and embrace their identity in the face of social pressures that reinforce conformity. Featuring ALEXANDRA OVERY, BRANDIE JUNE, CARLY HEATH, DANA CLAIRE, NAZ KUTUB, and ZABÉ ELLOR.

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## FELLOWSHIP HALL

1:30pm-2:30pm

### COWBOYS & CONDUCTORS

Are you finding it increasingly difficult to traverse today's complicated world? You are not alone. Listen in as a horse-whispering cowboy DUSTIN DAVIS and orchestra conductor turned CEO PAUL JAN ZDUNEK share their journeys and lessons learned. Their boundless approach to extremely complex issues yielding transformative results is the essence of GREY LEADERSHIP®.

3:00pm-4:00pm

### LOVE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Romance is sometimes viewed as escapism; after all, we aren't always guaranteed a happily ever after in real life. So how do writers of contemporary romance—who can't utilize the clothing or social conventions of a bygone era to transport their readers—incorporate today's realities into their characters' love stories. With ALANA QUINTANA ALBERTSON, CB LEE, AUSTIN SIEGEMUND-BROKA, EMILY WIBBERLY, MAUREEN LENKER (moderator).

4:30pm-5:30pm

### MODERN LOVE

Romance is known for conventions and tropes—it's one of the iconic markers of the genre. But how do writers today update those tropes, as they may become outdated in a modern society, to suit today's reader. With authors TESSA DARE, SARAH KUHN, MINERVA SPENCER, and REBEKAH WEATHERSPOON.



# LITFEST PASADENA

**Saturday, May 14, 3:00pm-8:00pm**

Vroman's Bookstore

695 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91101

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3:00pm-4:00pm

**EATING OUR WORDS**

What better worlds to explore for the fiction writer than those involving food and drink? The obsessions of chefs, the observations of food writers, the rivalries between beer makers, the challenges of alcoholics, the friendships forged over the love of a great dish... all of these have been explored by the exceptional authors on this panel. Colleen Dunn Bates, a longtime food writer and former publisher of Prospect Park Books, leads a conversation about fiction, food, drink, and how these creative worlds intersect with novelists KIM FAY (*Love & Saffron*, a new #1 Indies Next Pick), MICHELLE (*Search*, an acclaimed new novel whose protagonist is a food writer), and J. RYAN STRADAL (author of the bestsellers *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* and *Kitchens of the Great Midwest*).

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5:00pm-6:00pm

**CALIFORNIA DREAMING AND SCHEMING**

California is different, the only state, for starters, named after an imaginary land. In the early 16th century romantic novel, *The Deeds of Esplandian*, Garcia Ordóñez de Montalvo wrote, "Know ye that on the right hand of the Indies there is an island called California ... very close to the Terrestrial Paradise." The name was good enough for Cortes and Cabrillo and mapmakers of the day, and for the schemers and dreamers of today who were born or drawn here. Five California writers discuss the effect of this imaginary land on their work and lives. Featuring MARY CAMARILLO, DANA JOHNSON, MARY KURYLA, J. RYAN STRADAL, and LOU MATHEWS, moderator.

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7:00pm-8:00pm

**CONGRESSMAN ADAM SCHIFF**

*In Conversation*

*with Larry Wilson, Public Editor of the Pasadena Star-News*

ADAM SCHIFF is the United States Representative for California's 28th Congressional District. In his role as Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Schiff led the first impeachment of Donald J. Trump. His recently published book, *Midnight in Washington*, probes Republican lawmakers' failure to do the right thing in the face of Trump's abuse of presidential power. Unlike many books written by politicians, this one is as engaging and enlightened as the Congressman himself.