

LitFest IN THE Dena Saturday's program

Talk Story to Me

12:30pm • Chapel of the Gardens

Join storyteller and producer **Josh Evans**, celebrated state and voice actor **Atticus Batacan**, and one of LA's most celebrated poets **bridgette bianca** for a riveting conversation designed to equip you with immediately usable information to get you into the game. A Q&A and live coaching with audience members included.

The Art of Literary Translation

12:30pm • Old Radiance Hall

What is literary translation? Is it simply carrying over words from one language to another, or is there more to it? Join **Magdalena Edwards**, **KB Thors**, **Elisa Wouk Almino**, and **Amanda L. Andrei** (moderator) share ideas, tips, and resources for people interested in breaking into the art of literary translation.

Queer Writers Tracing Literary Ancestries

12:30pm • Cloister Garden

As poets of color, our queer literary lineages are often inaccessible, rare, and at times, nonexistent. We celebrate our queer literary elders who have inspired and emboldened us to write, love, share, and change the binary stories of this world. With **Cynthia Dewi Oka**, **Angela Penaredondo**, **Heidi Restrepo Rhodes**, and **Vickie Vértiz**, moderator.

Book Talk & Literary Podcasting

12:30pm • Art Gallery

Join literary and book podcasters as they reveal their inspirations, significant prep and research, learning on the fly, and standout guests. With **Tod Golberg**, co-host of Literary Disco; **Brad Listi** of Otherppl; **Mike Sakasegawa** of Keep the Channel Open; **Traci Thomas** of The Stacks; and moderator **Peter Riehl** of the Chills at Will podcast.

Local Presses Read

12:30pm • Courtyard Nook

Red Hen Press 12:30pm-12:55pm: **C. Bain**, **Ron Koertge**, **Douglas Manuel**, and **Phuong T. Vuong**

Cahuenga Press 12:55pm-1:20pm: **Jeanette Clough**, **James Cushing**, **Phoebe MacAdams**, and **Harry E. Northup**.

FlowerSong Press 1:20pm-1:45pm: **Adrian Ernesto Cepeda**, **Iris De Anda**, **Livette Resto**, **Fernando Salinas**, and **Anatalia Vallez**.

Making a Picture Book Process to Publication

2:00pm • Chapel of the Gardens

Get a peek behind the scenes of picture book creation, a beloved medium for all ages. Be inspired by our author show and tell! Featuring **Danielle Davis**, **Maple Lam**, **Andrea J. Loney**, **Mirelle Ortega**, and **Dana Middleton**, moderator.

San Gabriel Valley Food Club Family-Style Book Promotion

2:00pm • Old Radiance Hall

Five poets from diverse backgrounds discuss how a love for local eats brought them together. From planning events to celebrating new books to creating a speakers bureau. Featuring **Angela Peñaredondo**, **Vickie Vértiz**, **Ashaki M. Jackson**, **F. Douglas Brown**, and **Xochitl-Julisa Bermejo**, moderator.

Not-Quite Silenced Voices Overcoming Abuse of Authority

2:00pm • Cloister Garden

From nonfiction to mysteries, these authors' works reveal authority figures silencing dissent by abusing their power. Their stories examine how people survive, circumvent, and overcome these abuses to create real change. With **Julia Bricklin**, **Tori Eldridge**, **Naomi Hirahara**, **Jeri Westerson**, and **Paula Bernstein**, moderator.

Biblio Sinensis A Tea & Book Discussion

2:00pm • Art Gallery

You're invited to enjoy one of America's coziest hobbies: tea and books. The podcast Biblio Sinensis covers habits by readers and tea drinkers, and recommendations by Tea Sommelier **Stefanie Warner** and book publisher **Eugene Cordell**. Enjoy a taste of our fantasy blends as well as an improvised tea recommendation for one of the LitFest in the Dena authors!

New Verse Speculative Poetry

2:00pm • Courtyard Nook

Speculative poetry speaks of other worlds, times, and tropes similar to speculative fiction authors. Please join Poet Laureate **Wendy Van Camp** and local speculative poets **Neil Citrin**, **Denise Dumars**, **Jean-Paul L. Garnier**, and **L.K. Ingino** to hear their imaginative verse and answer your questions about speculative poetry.

Walking Through Fire Hope & Resilience in Middle Grade and YA Fiction

3:30pm • Chapel of the Gardens

MG & YA writers must be honest, understanding and respecting the developmental/emotional needs of readers, creating characters who can walk through the fire without being consumed by it, tackle difficult obstacles and emerge resilient and hopeful. With **Chris Baron**, **Julie Buxbaum**, **Yi Shun Lai**, **Sally J. Pla**, and **Margaret Finnegan**, moderator.

A Life of Crime

3:30pm • Old Radiance Hall

Join four crime writers to hear how they started, who influenced them, and who continues to inspire their criminally good books. With *NY Times* best-selling author **Rachel Howzell Hall**, Edgar Awards-winner **Jordan Harper**, debut novelist **Lauren Thoman**, and MWA Grand Master **Walter Mosley**. Moderated by **Eric Beetner**.

Making a Name for Yourself Publicity in the Literary World

3:30pm • Cloister Garden

How can you make you and your work stand out? Featuring **Megan Beatie** from MB Communications, **Holly Watson** from Holly Watson PR, and **Laura Stegman** of Laura Segal Stegman Public Relations, with Red Hen Press Media Director **Monica Fernandez** moderating. We'll take a deep dive into the world of literary publicity and marketing.

Debut Women Over 60

3:30pm • Art Gallery

Publishing at this age creates its own challenges when women over 60 are often seen as invisible or irrelevant. Yet they know the value of their stories and are compelled to share them with the world. Featuring **Carolyn Campbell** (nonfiction), **Gerda Govine Ituarte** (poetry), **Carla Sameth** (memoir), **Judith Teitelman** (fiction), and multi-genre author **Terry Wolverton**, moderator.

The Ovary Office

3:30pm • Courtyard Nook

Using poetry in a court-like setting, The Ovary Office will read work inspired by the recent assault on women's rights and power over their own bodies. In a post-Roe era, our voices are more important than ever. Get ready to have your wig blown back, baby! With **bridgette bianca**, **VKali**, **Pam Ward**, and **Jaha Zainabu**.

Book Banning & Gatekeepers

Curation vs Censorship

5:00pm • Chapel of the Gardens

Panel presented by the **Children's Literature Council of Southern California**. Featuring authors **Ernesto Cisneros**, and **Benson Shum**, author and educator **Sharon Langley**, librarian **Candice Mack**, and **Lynn Kysh**, CLCSC president as moderator.

Writing the Killer Crime Novel Or How to Increase Your Odds of Getting Published

5:00pm • Old Radiance Hall

This workshop with **Joe Ide**, acclaimed author of the IQ series, discusses the ingredients for making a compelling story, methods for creating dynamic characters & sharp dialogue, his approach to building action scenes and the basics of rewriting. Joe will also share his knowledge of the publishing gatekeepers and other practical, vital aspects of getting your manuscript published.

Writing Trauma

5:00pm • Cloister Garden

Panelists discuss how writing trauma through a variety of genres can make the material malleable, how to write about the traumatic situation when people are still living, how to navigate the spaces in which it happened, and the necessity of self-care.

With **Shondra Buchanan**, **Cassandra Lane**, and **Carla Sameth**, and **Rhonda Mitchell**, moderator.

Required Love

5:00pm • Art Gallery

While the big screen may have abandoned the tropes we loved in the 1990's, romantic comedies are alive and well in fiction. With deeper characters and more inclusive storylines. Join us as we talk about what makes a great romance, how comedy makes it sing and why we still love a happy ending. Featuring **Erin Judge**, **Suzanne Park**, **Kate Spencer**, **Elissa Sussman**, and **Lian Dolan**, moderator.

Chapel of the Gardens 6:00pm Special Guest Author Nina Revoyr

Author of the critically acclaimed *A Student of History*, Nina Revoyr's depiction of our cities and historical roots of race and economic division informs us, enlightens us, and tells us why the written word matters. She'll share her observations, perspective and learned experiences followed by a Q&A.

LitFest IN THE Dena Sunday's program

Bells Toll Ad Infinitum

12:30pm • Chapel of the Gardens

The LA Ahmanson Senior Citizen Center's Inaugural Creative Writing preserves the stories of underrepresented BIPOC women writers and seniors from SoCal. Bells Toll is a collection of poetry, personal essays, autofiction, and creative nonfiction. **Mary Dubriel, Maggie Marquez, Anita Parnell, and Chetera Watson** discuss their works that are acts of literacy service to have their bells ring for centuries to come. **Shandela Contreras**, moderator.

Writing Our Own History & the Writers Who Shaped Us

12:30pm • Old Radiance Hall

Five 1st generation writers, **Sarah Rafael Garcia, Jenise Miller, Luivette Resto, Amy Shimshon-Santo** and **Angelina Sáenz**, will discuss "Writing Our Own History & the Writers Who Shaped Us." In this panel, we will read our own writing and reflect on the writers who catalyzed that work for us.

Reclaiming Witches & Monstrous Women

12:30pm • Cloister Garden

Witches and monstrous female archetypes are found everywhere in classic literature, from A 1001 Nights to Ramayana. These poets and writers re-script female myths, reclaim female archetypes, and shift the lens from vilifying and victimizing to embracing and celebrating. With **Olga Garcia Echeverria, Jamie Asaye FitzGerald, Tanya Ko Hong, Alicia Vogt Saenz, and Sehba Sarwar**, moderator.

In the Belly of the Beast Understanding Los Angeles

12:30pm • Art Gallery

What is the City of Los Angeles, the City of Angels. Four authors—LA watchers and witnesses, dissectors and analysts—discuss the City's identity, the truth below longstanding stereotypes, and the influence living here has on the stories they create. Featuring **Rosecrans Baldwin, Natasha Deón, and Mike Sonksen**, moderator.

Pasadena Rose Poets

12:30pm • Courtyard Nook

Since 2016, the Pasadena Rose Poets are "unobtrusive pause creators, reading in "unexpected places" including Pasadena City Council meetings. The group's goal is to "have poetry flow within the fabric of Pasadena."

Come hear Pasadena Rose Poets **Teresa Mei Chuc, Kate Gale, Gerda Govine Ituarte, and Hazel Clayton Harrison**.

Bookstores We Love

2:00pm • Chapel of the Gardens

It's a talent to survive as a niche, independent bookstore and we're thankful for the bookstores that keep upping their game with their creativity, perseverance, and community connection. This year we celebrate **Flintridge Bookstore** (Rob Gibbs), **North Figueroa Bookshop** (Mads Gobbo), **Octavia's Bookshelf** (Nikki High), **The Ripped Bodice** (Taylor Capizola), and **Zibby's Bookshop** (Sherri Puzey). Moderated by **Erin Judge**.

Writing From Our Immigrant Hearts

2:00pm • Old Radiance Hall

Four distinguished poets share their journeys from their homeland to America, their visions as they began a new life here, their dreams, experiences, and views on life. With **Teresa Mei Chuc, Lisbeth Coiman, Toti O'Brien, Alicia Vigueur-Espert, and Thelma T. Reyna**, moderator.

Crafting the Future

2:00pm • Cloister Garden

Science fiction teaches us not only where we can go wrong, but more importantly, where we can go right. With books touching on climate change, gentrification, AI, mental illness and a future through a queer lens, writers talk about how Science Fiction can help us imagine - and then create - a better world. Featuring **Ryka Aoki, Ezra C. Daniels, Cody Sisco, Sherri L. Smith, and Kate Maruyama**, moderator.

Power of One

2:00pm • Art Gallery

Power of One, published in 2003 by Traude Gomez (text) and Brian Biery (photos), featured the untold chronicles of community members. What does it mean to prioritize community over self? **Angela Aguirre, Tom Coston, Shibli Haddad, and Hilary Thomas** analyze what inspires them to attempt to create positive change and how one person truly can change the course of the world. **Brian Biery**, facilitator.

Reader's Theatre

The Joy of Reading Aloud

2:00pm • Courtyard Nook

Performer and author **Anne Louise Bannon**, along with **Petrea Burchard** and **Janet Wertman** read, demonstrating the power of literature shared aloud. Audience will learn how anyone can be more effective when reading aloud and participate in a quick Reader's Theatre experience.

Narrating Your Own Audiobook

3:30pm • Chapel of the Gardens

Producing an audiobook costs time and money. Is it worth it? Come learn the pros and cons.

Featuring **Debra Deyan**, owner of Deyan Audio Services, the world's largest independent producer of audiobooks, and authors **Vanessa McGrady, Janet Ambrosi Wertman, and Petrea Burchard**, moderator.

Comic Disruption

3:30pm • Old Radiance Hall

Books - including comics and graphic novels - mean more to a reader when they can see themselves in the story and characters. Come hear comic writers and illustrators who have worked to puncture and break traditional norms and constraints, and how they - and even readers - can drive publishers to continue to be and be even more willing to green light more inclusive storylines and characters. With **Shing Yin Khor, Jarrett Williams, James F. Wright, and Josh Trujillo**, moderator.

Kindred

3:30pm • Cloister Garden

Octavia E. Butler's brilliance and significance as a literary creative is still being uncovered. Butler's book *Kindred* (1979) explores time travel as ancestral memory and as a key to the complications of the present. **International Black Writers and Artists Los Angeles** chapter members **Ron Covington, Tricia Cochée, and Hazel Clayton Harrison** examine the literary elements of *Kindred*, the impact and influence it has had across generations, book bans, and cinematic adaptations. Moderated by **Nikki High**.

Culinary Culture: How Food Connects Us to Our Wellbeing

3:30pm • Art Gallery

Authors share their diverse perspectives of the culinary world. From fiction, to memoir, to the fusion of art and food, we explore how our wellbeing is inextricably tied to how we feed ourselves and each other through delicious food, artistic expression, and human connection. Featuring **Kim Fay, Fanny Singer, Maite Gomez-Rejón, and Lian Dolan**, moderator.

Notes & Letters

3:30pm • Courtyard Nook

Bill Cushing reads his poetry to the improvised accompaniment of professional jazz guitarist **Chuck Corisiero**.

How to Get Published

5:00pm • Chapel of the Gardens

Learn about how to get published from these local publishers of all genres: **Monica Fernandez**, Media Director of Red Hen Press, literary fiction, creative nonfiction, memoirs, poetry; **Chris Heiser**, Publisher of Unnamed Press, fiction, nonfiction; **Melanie Romero**, Editor, Lil' Libros, children's bilingual books; **Elias Wondimu**, Founding Director of Tsehai Publishers, all genres; **Julia Callahan**, sales rep with the distributor Independent Publishers Group (moderator).

Shaking Hands

Crossing the Chasm

5:00pm • Old Radiance Hall

Can we shake hands across the chasm of our apparent differences to learn what brings us together? Borrowing the title from "Shaking Hands," a poem by Padraig O Tuama, a gay Catholic poet and practitioner of conflict resolution in Ireland, **Benin Lemus, Jeff Rogers, Brenda Vaca, and Ron L. Dowell** discuss how in a country like ours, torn by deep divisions, poetry can be the vehicle to make sense of a fractured world and meet it with reverence, joy, and humor.

Outrageous Literary Stories

5:00pm • Cloister Garden

Often the writing life can be unrewarding and tedious, but the stories that come from it are often a reward. Come hear writers try to top each other in telling the most compelling, entertaining, and awkward moments of their literary lives!

Featuring **Jean Guerrero, Gary Phillips, Tim Stiles, and Jervey Tervalon**.

BOOKISH

5:00pm • Art Gallery

Sandra Tsing Loh, host of the literary podcast BOOKISH, along with producer **Samantha Dunn**, talk book trends, tech, mishaps, and funny, awkward and inspiring moments on their Southern California News Group show. Plus: *Black Candle Women* author **Diane Marie Brown** joins them live.

East Pasadena Poets

5:00pm • Courtyard Nook

The East Pasadena Poets, who have been gathering for ten years to celebrate and support the art and craft of poetry, will share and discuss some of their favorite poets. Featuring **Linda Dove, Mary Fitzpatrick, Lois P. Jones, Beverly Lafontaine, Elline Lipkin, Cathie Sandstrom, and Judith Terzi**.