

COMMUNITY  
OF WRITERS



Squaw Valley, CA

OMNIUM GATHERUM  
& NEWSLETTER

2008-2009

ISSUE 13

COMMUNITY OF WRITERS AT SQUAW VALLEY  
OMNIUM GATHERUM & NEWSLETTER  
2008-2009, Issue 13

### Community of Writers at Squaw Valley

A Non-Profit Corporation #629182  
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[www.squawvalleywriters.org](http://www.squawvalleywriters.org)

Newsletter edited and designed by  
**Maxima Kahn**  
with support and advice from  
**Brett Hall Jones**

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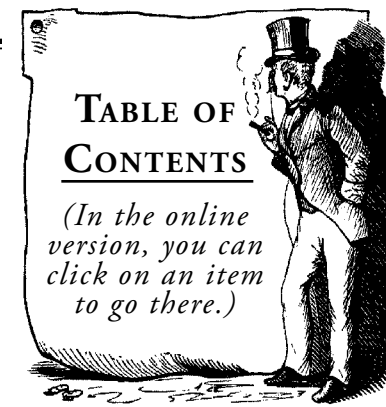
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their major contribution to the Community  
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PLEASE NOTE: *We are not able to fact-check  
the submitted news. We apologize if any  
incorrect information is published.*



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## A Note from the Editor

### Welcome to the Omnium Gatherum & Newsletter!

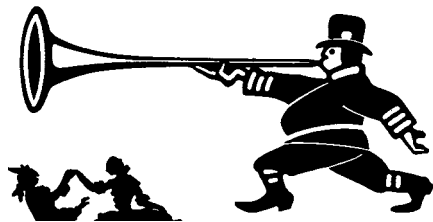
After two years of publishing the *Omnium* as a PDF available on our website only, we have returned to a printed format with the online version also available. Being readers, we know the love of holding a real object in our hands. However, the costs of printing and mailing the *Omnium* are substantial. We were able to publish this year thanks to a special donation in honor of Oakley Hall. If you would like to help us continue to publish, please consider making a contribution to the Community of Writers or advertise with us. All of the advertising dollars go towards the costs of producing this forum that helps keep our community members in touch with one another.

In these challenging times we need the inspiration and insight of our writers even more to provide a reflection, a beacon, instigation and relief, to name only a few of the possible functions of good writing. Staff and former participants have a wealth of wonderful new books recently out or coming out soon. I encourage you to check them out. It's up to all of us to keep literature thriving, to support the authors and publishers in our community.

**We hope you enjoy this issue. Let us know!**

—Maxima Kahn  
maxima@squawvalleywriters.org

### Send Us Your News!



#### PAST PARTICIPANT OR STAFF?

Do you have news you would like us to include in the newsletter? We print publishing credits, awards and similar new writing-related achievements, and also include births. **News should be from the past year only.** Please compose it in third person, using complete sentences. Include titles, periodicals, publisher, and publication dates, as needed. **It helps us if your news is sent in the correct format.** See examples in this issue.

**Deadline: September 15, 2009 for next issue.**

***We dedicate this issue of the Omnium Gatherum & Newsletter to the memory of co-founder Oakley Hall, founder and tireless advocate of our Community of Writers.***



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# 2009

**POETRY WORKSHOPS:** July 18 - 25

Cornelius Eady · Robert Hass · Brenda Hillman  
Sharon Olds · Evie Shockley  
and special guest Galway Kinnell

**WRITERS WORKSHOPS:** August 1 - 8

Dorothy Allison · Bill Barich · Max Byrd  
Michael Carlisle · Ron Carlson · Alan Cheuse  
Mark Childress · Leslie Daniels · Gill Dennis  
Carol Edgarian · Janet Fitch · Karen Joy Fowler  
Lynn Freed · Dagoberto Gilb · Molly Giles  
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Amy Tan · Kem Nunn · Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston  
Jane Vandenburgh

**SCREENWRITING:** August 1 - 8

*Production commitments will determine the  
availability of staff members and guests.*

Eugene Corr · Pamela Gray · Michael Lehmann  
Toney Merritt · Christopher Monger · Judith Rascoe  
Tom Rickman · Lisa Rosenberg · Camille Thomasson  
Tom Schlesinger · Michael Urban



**Jimmy Santiago Baca:** Sunbelt Publications published his collection *Rita and Julia* in September 2008. Grove Press will release his new novel, *A Glass Of Water*, in fall 2009. Heinemann is publishing *Metamorphosis: Stories about Learning, Loving, and Living* in 2009, and New Directions is coming out with a comprehensive collection of his work in Spanish.

**Lucille Clifton:** Her newest collection of poems, *Voices*, was published in November 2008.

**Robert Hass:** His collection *Time and Materials* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the Northern California Book Award.

**Brenda Hillman:** Her newest collection, *Practical Water*, is forthcoming from Wesleyan University Press in 2009.

**Galway Kinnell:** Mariner Books published the paperback edition of his recent collection, *Strong Is Your Hold*, in 2008.

**Yusef Komunyakaa:** His most recent collection, *Warhorses*, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in September 2008.

**Li-Young Lee:** His collection of poems *Behind My Eyes* (with audio CD) was published by W. W. Norton in 2008.

**Sharon Olds:** Her new collection, *One Secret Thing*, was published by Knopf in September, 2008.

**Gerald Stern:** His most recent collection of poems, *Save the Last Dance*, was published in May 2008.

**C. D. Wright:** Her most recent collection of poems, *Rising, Falling, Hovering*, was published by Copper Canyon Press in April 2008.

**Dean Young:** His most recent collection of poems, *Primitive Mentor*, was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in January 2008. His collection of poems *Embryo* (Believer Books/McSweeney's) was nominated for a Northern California Book Award in 2008.

**Kevin Young:** His most recent collection of poems, *Dear Darkness*, was published by Knopf in September 2008. The paperback edition of his book *For the Confederate Dead* was also published by Knopf in September. ■





# POETWATCH

## POETRY PARTICIPANTS

**Kazim Ali (98):** He has two new books forthcoming in 2009: a novel, *The Disappearance of Seth*, from Etruscan Press, and a book of lyric essays, *Bright Felon*, from Wesleyan University Press. His most recent of book of poetry is *The Fortieth Day*, published in 2008 by BOA Editions. [www.kazimali.com](http://www.kazimali.com)

**Stephanie Anagnoson (07,05,04):** See Writers Workshop Participant News.

**Dan Bellm (03,97,95,92):** His new book of poems, *Practice*, was published by Sixteen Rivers Press in San Francisco. <http://sixteenrivers.org/>

**Michelle Bitting (05):** Her first full-length collection, *Good Friday Kiss*, was chosen by Thomas Lux as the winner of the DeNovo First Book Award and was published by C & R Press in 2008. Poems are published or forthcoming in *Narrative*, *Nimrod*, *Many Mountains Moving*, and others. She will complete an MFA in Poetry through Pacific University, Oregon, in January.

**Noah Blaustein (07):** August Cole Amaya Blaustein was born on 08-08-08.

**Lorraine Bonner (92,91):** She has turned to "the decidedly non-linear practice of sculpture" and will be showing in the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco, ([www.moadsf.org](http://www.moadsf.org)) this coming February.

**Cynthia Broshi (05,01):** Two poems (one of them begun at Squaw) were published this fall in *Portland Review*.

**Elizabeth Chapman (07,04,01):** She was awarded the Robert McGovern Publication Prize for Poetry. Ashland Poetry Press (Ashland University, Ohio) will publish her collection, *Light Thickens*, in April 2009. She wrote the title poem at Squaw Valley during her first Poetry Week there.

**Sharon Charde (07,03,01):** She had her first full-length collection of poems, *Branch In His Hand*, published by Backwaters Press in November. [www.sharoncharde.com](http://www.sharoncharde.com)

**Ching-In Chen (07):** Ching-In's novel-in-poems, *The Heart's Traffic*, was selected by Eloise Klein Healy for the Arktoi imprint of Red Hen Press (February 2009, [www.redhen.org/arktoi.asp](http://www.redhen.org/arktoi.asp)). Her poem-play "The Geisha Author Interviews" was nominated for a John Cauble Short Play Award and recommended for development at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Poems published or forthcoming in *Poemeleon*, *Water-Stone Review*, and *Iron Horse Literary Review*.

**Amanda Chiado (07,06):** Her work has appeared in *The Rambler*, *The California Poets in the Schools Annual Anthology*, and is forthcoming in *Fence* and *Dusie*. Her first baby, Isabella Marie Bozzi, was born in 2008, the day before her 30th birthday.

**Gretl Claggett (05):** Gretl has just signed on with Kuhn Projects to represent her corporate memoir *Do This, Get That*. Her poem "The Net" appeared in *Submerged: Tales from the Basin* and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

**Catharine Clark-Sayles (03 Writing the Medical Experience):** Her first book of poetry, *One Breath*, has just been published by Tebot Bach Press. Several of the poems were written at Squaw Valley's "Writing the Medical Experience" workshop.

**Kevin Conder (05):** He has two poems coming out in the Summer 2009 issue of *Quiddity*. He will also be reading his poems on the journal's companion National Public Radio program. [www.sci.edu/quiddity/about.html](http://www.sci.edu/quiddity/about.html)

**Diane Dawber (06):** Her new collection for younger readers, *Looking for Snowfleas*, was published by Borealis Press. Her new non-fiction book, *A New Spin on the Rotation Diet*, was published by the Health Pursuits Group. Her grandson Alexander was born October 2, 2008.

**Maureen Epstein (92 Art of Wild):** Her poetry collection *Quickening* was published by March Street Press in 2007. Poems have appeared recently in *Avocet*, *Calyx* and *Sand Hill Review*.

**Sharon Fain (04):** Sharon was a resident poet at I-Park Arts Colony for the month of May and was in residence at Blue Mountain Center in September-October. Her work is forthcoming in *Poetry East*, *Hayden's Ferry Review* and the *Spoon River Poetry Review*.

**Chanda Feldman (06):** She is a 2008-2010 Stegner Fellow in poetry at Stanford University. Her poems appeared in *Prairie Schooner* and the *Southern Review*.

**Ann Fisher-Wirth (00,92):** Her third book of poems, *Carta Marina*, will be published by Wings Press in April 2009. With Laura Gray Street she is coediting an international anthology of contemporary ecopoetry in English, *Earth's Body*. During the past year she was a finalist for the *Mississippi Review* Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Connecticut Review*, *Sentence*, *Poetry International*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Oxford American*, *32 Poems*, and other journals, and in the anthologies *White Ink: Poems on Mothers and Motherhood*, *Letters to the World*, *Bear Flag Republic*, and *Artifice and Marrow*.

**Molly Fisk (04,99,95,92):** In November her second CD of radio commentary, *Blow-Drying a Chicken*, was released, and a poem appeared on *Poetry Daily* (poems.com). She continues to write weekly essays for community station KVMR in the Sierra Foothills.

**Gretchen Fletcher (05):** She won the Poetry Society of America's Bright Lights, Big Verse competition and read her poem, "Two Giant Men in New York," in Times Square where she and the poem were projected on the Panasonic Jumbotron. Her chapbook *That Severed Cord* was published in summer 2008 by Finishing Line Press.



**CB ('Lyn) Follett (04,02,95):** Her new poetry collection, *And Freddie Was My Darling*, just came out in November 2008 from Many Voices Press in Montana. Follett's Arctos Press just published a poetry collection by Lowell Jaeger, *Suddenly Out Of A Long Sleep*. After seven years, Follett and Squaw Valley alum Susan Terris have ended, with regret, the publication of *Runes: A Review of Poetry*.

**Melissa Fondakowski (02):** Her poem "Lab" published in the January 2008 issue of *Many Mountains Moving*, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

**Marcene Gandolfo (03):** Her poems have appeared recently or are forthcoming in *Harpur Palate*, *Bayou*, *Poet Lore*, *Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry* and *Red Wheelbarrow*.

**Lise Goett (06,94,92,90,88):** She will be a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome for the month of April 2009. Her poems appeared in the 2008 Winter issue of *Western Humanities Review*.

**Kythe Heller (07):** Her poetry has been published in 2008 by *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *POOL*, *Salamander*, *The Wick* (Harvard University), and in the chapbook *Immolation* (Monk Honey, Brooklyn, NY). Performance work has been staged this year at WAXworks and BAX in NYC, Harvard University, and at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Currently she is working on a commissioned poetry and performance project called "Experiments with Fire" at Harvard University, where she is also pursuing an MDiv degree. [kytheheller@gmail.com](mailto:kytheheller@gmail.com).

**Brad Henderson (06):** (AKA, the neo-cowboy poet and blues-rock drummer

Beau Hamel) Poems from his full-length collection, *Secret Cowboy at the Raw Bar*, recently appeared in *Pedestal Magazine*, *Poetry Now*, *the Other Voices International Project* (on-line anthology), and the *Building Bridges SFWC Anthology*. The November 2008 issue of *Sunset* magazine gave positive press to Bistro 33 Poetry Night, the twice-monthly year-round reading series which Henderson co-hosts with "Dr. Andy" Jones.

**M. Miriam Herrera (05,02,99):** Her new chapbook, *Kaddish for Columbus*, was a finalist in New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition by Finishing Line Press and was published in January, 2009. [miriamherrera.poems.googlepages.com](http://miriamherrera.poems.googlepages.com)

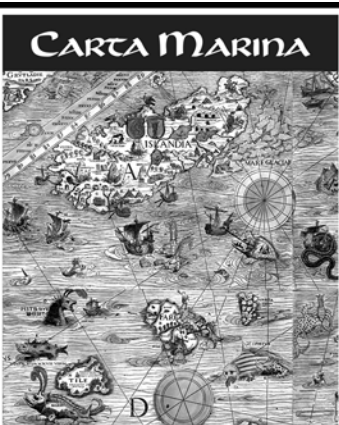
**Harmony Holiday (07,05):** She was one of the winners of the first annual Life-Long Press publication contest in 2008.

**Sarah Jefferis (01):** Her first book of poems, *Forgetting the Salt*, was published by Foothills Press.

**Patricia Spears Jones (99,94,92):** She is the featured poet in *The Oxford-American 10th Southern Music Issue* with two CDs. Other writers in the issue are Roy Blount, Jr. and Sven Birkerts. [www.psjones.com](http://www.psjones.com)

**Maxima Kahn (07,06):** In 2008, her poems were published in *Slant*, *Eureka Literary Magazine*, *Wisconsin Review* and *Left Curve*.

**Marilyn Kallet (05,98,96):** Her new book of collected poems, *Packing Light: New and Selected Poems*, was published by Black Widow Press in January 2009. She published an essay in *Poets & Writers* (March/April 2008). Her review of Alice Friman's *The Book of the Rotten Daughter* appeared in *Prairie Schooner*



**CARTA MARINA**

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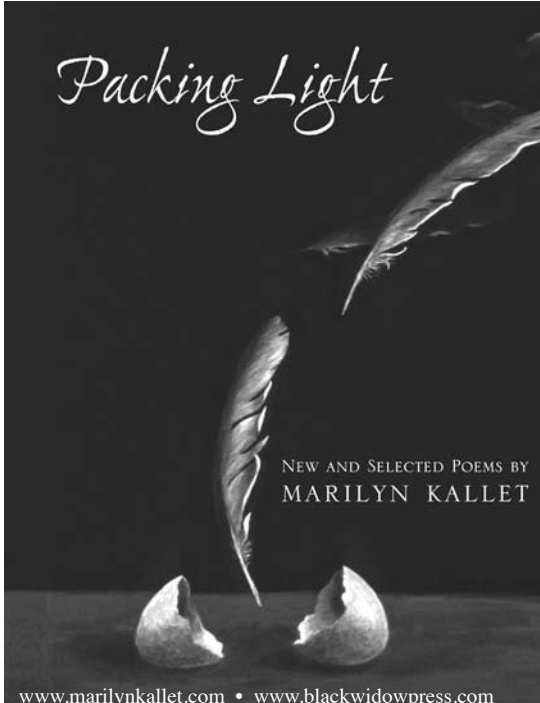
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(summer 2008); and the review of Ellen Bass's *The Human Line* appeared in the July/August online edition of *American Book Review*. Marilyn's poems appeared online in *New Works Review* and at Poetz.com, the environmental issue. "Currents" and "Healing Chant in the Shade of the Nuclear" were anthologized in *Outscapes: Writings on Fences and Frontiers*, 2008. In March 2008, she directed the Young Writers' Institute at the University of Tennessee. She will be teaching a poetry writing workshop for the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Auvillar, France, this June. Her poetry blog can be found at: [www.redroom.com/author/marilyn-kallet](http://www.redroom.com/author/marilyn-kallet)

**Andrew Kaufman (08,01):** Sixteen sonnets from his *Cinnamon Bay Poems* appeared in *Signale aux der Bleeker Street 3: Junge Literatur aus New York*, translated by Bernd Huppauf (Wallstein

Verlag, Germany, 2008). Two poems are forthcoming in *The New York Quarterly*. He presented a paper at the February, 2009 AWP conference on "Lyric Selves and Global Imperatives: Toward a Poetics and Ethics of Encounter."

**Julia Levine (95):** Her new collection of poetry, *Ditch-tender*, was published by University of Tampa Press in 2008.

**Nadine Lockhart (formerly Kachur) (05):** She received three writing residencies: A two-week winter International Writing Fellowship to Oaxaca, Mexico; a one-week summer Writing Residency to Casa Libre in Tucson, Arizona; and a three-week spring residency working with Tony Hoagland at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in Florida. Lockhart also received a scholarship to attend the Poets and Writers Picnic/Sunflower Festival Writing Con-

ference in New Mexico. She received her MFA in Creative Writing, with an emphasis on poetry, from Arizona State University in December. In January, 2008, along with two other poets, she began a monthly reading series in Phoenix, Arizona. This past summer, Lockhart expanded genres by acting in two separate roles in a community theatre production of *The Vagina Monologues*, and by writing for *The Herald* as the Art Hop correspondent in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

**Sabra Loomis (03,91,89):** Loomis is the author of *House Held Together by Winds*, a new Harper Perennial Trade Paperback Original (August 2008), which won the 2007 National Poetry Series Open Competition as selected by James Tate.

**Glenna Luschei (99):** She has published two new books of poetry, *Libido Dreams*

by Artamo Press and *Total Immersion* by Presa Press. Her collected works, *Salt Lick*, by West End Press is due out in 2009. She has also had work in a number of anthologies, such as *White Ink*, *Letters to the World*, a WOMPO anthology, and *Bear Flag Republic*. *Parnassus* presented a comprehensive study of her poetry, written by Leonard Berkman. And she recently published a new issue of her magazine, *Solo Cafe*. [www.solopress.org](http://www.solopress.org)

**Sarah Maclay (06,97):** Her second full length collection, *The White Bride*, was published by University of Tampa Press in early 2008. Her poem "My Lavenderdom" was selected for *The Best American Erotic Poems From 1800 to the Present* (Scribner) and her "Anne B to Henry 8" was *Verse Daily's* August webmonthly feature. She is now a full-time member of



## BEAR FLAG REPUBLIC

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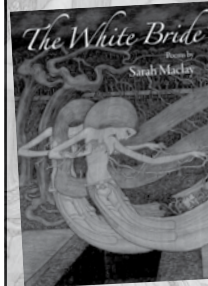
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—David St. John

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the English faculty of Loyola Marymount University, where she teaches poetry and creative writing, and she received another Pushcart nomination. Individual poems have appeared this year in the *Burnside Review*, *Poemeleon*, *Tampa Review*, *Cider Press Review*, *LUNA*, *Poetry International*, *La Fovea*, *poeticdiversity* and *The Laurel Review*, as well as in Spanish translation in *Luces y Sombras*. They have also been translated into French for publication in *Dans la lune*. Her critical writing appears in *Poetry International*.

**Karyna McGlynn (06):** Her first full-length collection, *I Have to Go Back to 1994 and Kill a Girl*, received the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry and will be published by Sarabande Books in 2009. She recently released a chapbook, *Alabama Steve* (Destructible Heart Press, 2008), and has another chapbook, *Small Shrines*, forthcoming from Cinematheque Press.

**Judy Michaels (01,92,91/03 Writing the Medical Experience):** Her poetry collection *Reviewing the Skull* will be published by WordTech in January, 2010.

**Sara Michas-Martin (08,03):** She received a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize, a full fellowship to the Vermont Studio Center and published poems in *APR*, *Bird Dog*, *Court Green*, *DIAGRAM*, *Field*, *Forklift Ohio*, *Harp & Alter*, *jubilat* and *Pool*.

**Norman Minnick (06):** He has edited an anthology of young poets entitled *Between Water and Song* that will be published by White Pine Press in 2009.

**Rusty Morrison (95,94,93):** See her profile on page 18.

**Gabrielle Myers (07):** Her poems appeared in *Damselfly Press Online*, *Caesura*, *Solitary Plover* (online), and *If Poetry Journal*.

**Jim Natal (97):** He became the series curator and director of The Hassayampa Institute Presents: The Literary Southwest at Yavapai College in Prescott, AZ.

**Kathleen O'Toole (05,03,01):** Individual poems have appeared in *Little Patuxent Review*, *Potomac Review*, *Christian Century*, and *Frogpond*. An essay is forthcoming in *Modern Haiku*.

**Mary Petrosky (07):** Her poems are forthcoming in the Winter 2009 issue of *Calyx*, in an anthology of atheist poetry by Incarnate Muse Press, and in the Spring 2009 issue of *The Journal of New Jersey Poets*, along with a review of poet Teresa Carson's first book, *Elegy for the Floater*. In 2008, as part of a collaboration with painter Terri Moore, her Argentina Series of poems was featured in the exhibit The Red Beret at the Main Gallery in Redwood City, CA. In 2008, Mary also launched the Peninsula Literary Series, a bi-monthly reading series featuring writers from the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Suzanne Roberts (04):** Her second collection of poems, *Nothing to You*, was published with Pecan Grove Press. She was named "The Next Great Travel Writer" by *National Geographic Traveler Magazine*.

**Larry Ruth (06,04,02,00):** One of his poems was published in the *Berkeley Poetry Review*.

**Eliot Schain (07,02,99,98):** He has been included in the new anthology *Bear Flag Republic, Prose Poems and Poetics* From California, edited by Christopher Buckley and Gary Young.

**David Scronce (08,05,03):** He has a poem at [www.PoetryBay.com](http://www.PoetryBay.com) (Fall 2008 issue) and three poems in the Spring 2009 issue of *5AM*.

**Elaine Sexton (98):** Her second book of poems, *Causeway*, was published by New Issues (Western Michigan University) in 2008, with poems featured in *O! the Oprah Magazine*, *the Massachusetts Review*, *New Letters*, and on *Poetry Daily*. *Causeway* was the subject of an interview with the poet featured on Critical Mass, a blogsite hosted by National Book Critics Circle. This year she became a contributor reviewing art for *Art in America*.

**Evie Shockley (99):** She has poems appearing or forthcoming in *Harvard Review*, *Achiote Seeds*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Pluck!*, *La Petite Zine*, *Alehouse*, *The Drunken Boat*, *Ecotone*, *The Southern Review*, *PMS: poemmemoirstory*, and *Tuesday; An Art Project*. Her poetics essay on the line was published in *Center: A Journal of the Literary Arts*. She will be

joining the Community of Writers' poetry staff this summer.

**Scot Siegel (07):** His first full-length book, *Some Weather*, is forthcoming from Plain View Press this winter. Scot's poem, "The Zoning Officer's Resignation Letter," received First Prize in the Oregon State Poetry Association fall contest, and "Maybe" received First Honorable Mention. His Squaw Valley poem, "The Day Father's Shop Burned to the Ground," was a semi-finalist for *Nimrod International's* Pablo Neruda Poetry Prize. Other poem's appeared in *Acorn*, *Windfall*, *Essence* (UK), *The Externalist*, *The Enigmatist*, and *The Portland Alliance*, among others. Pudding House Publications has accepted Scot's next book, a chapbook called *Untitled Country*.

## Some Weather Scot Siegel

The lyric word whispering in the office, singing in the family, charting policy for the land. —KIM STAFFORD

A rally for consciousness to sanctify the details of "how we legend our selves." —MAUREEN ALSOP

Scot Siegel's poems are unafraid of joyous things... the songs and weather of a full, interior life.

—DAVID BIESPIEL

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—client (SVCW participant)

**Contact Elizabeth Chapman  
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**N. Colwell Snell (02):** His book *Hand Me My Shadow* won the following awards: Readers' Choice Award for Best Collection of Poetry, sponsored by *Salt Lake City Weekly*, and 2nd Place for the Utah Center for the Book Award in connection with the Utah Arts Council and the Utah Humanities Book Festival. He conducted an interview with Carolyn Forché which was published in the Winter edition of *Weber, The Contemporary West*.

**Melissa Stein (99):** Her poems were published or are forthcoming in *Indiana Review*, *North American Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Nimrod*, and her work won the Barbara Bradley Award and a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Prize.

**Jeanine Stevens (07):** Rattlesnake Press published her collection *Eclipse*, and poems appeared in *The South Dakota Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Alehouse*, *West Wind*, and *Edge*. She was awarded first place in the Ina Coolbrith Poetry Contest (Nature Category), and was a finalist for the Ekphrasis Prize.

**George Stratton (03):** His chapbook, *Granite Land—Lava Land*, came out from March Street Press in April. He is now teaching writing at Napa Valley College's non-credit division.



**Sally Van Doren (06,03,01):** Her poems have appeared recently in *American Poet*, *anti*, *Crayon*, *Margie*, *PingPong*, *Saubuck*, *Southwest Review*, and *Verse Daily*. Her book, *Sex at Noon Taxes*, which won the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, was published in April 2008 by Louisiana State University Press.

**Sara Wallace (05):** A poem she wrote at Squaw two years ago won *Cream City Review's* annual poetry contest, the Beau Boudreaux Poetry Prize.

**Mary Jane White (06):** Her translation of Marina Tsvetaeva's "Poem of the End" will appear in the Winter 2009 Translation issue of *The Hudson Review*, and her villanelle "For My Father, And His Mother" appeared in the University of Iowa's Daily Palette website poetry feature on January 9, 2009. She was awarded the John Woods Scholarship by the Prague Summer Program sponsored by the University of Western Michigan. New poems appeared in *The Iowa Review*, translations of Tsvetaeva in *The New England Review*, and a translation of Montale in *Agni Review* online.

**Ian Randall Wilson (08,04,93):** See Writers Workshop Participant News.

**Ernie Wormwood (02,00,98):** He has had poems published in *Flights*, *MIPO's Café*, *Café*, *Innisfree Poetry*, and the anthology *Poem, Revised* from Marion Street Press.

**Mark Wunderlich (93):** He has new poems forthcoming in *Poetry*.

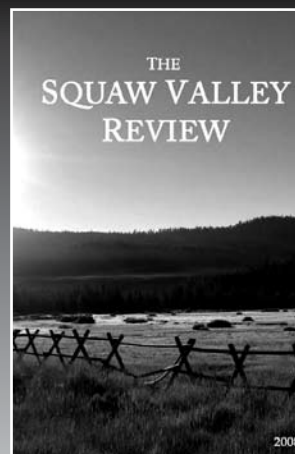
**Bill Yake (98):** He had two poems featured in Nalini Nadkarni's *Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections to Trees* (University of California Press, 2008). Two of his poems were also among the six poems chosen as winners for the EcoLit Contest by Seattle's *Knock* magazine. Other poems appeared in

*Moving Mountain*, *Fine Madness*, *Raven Chronicles*, *Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts*, *Snow Monkey* and the Tacoma Art Museum in the exhibit "Telling Stories." His review of *Taos Mountain*, a posthumous collection of poetry and painting by Robert Sund, also appeared in *The Pacific Rim Review of Books*.

**Harry Youtt (03):** In 2007, Harry received a Pushcart Prize nomination for a poem that he originated during the 2003 Squaw Valley Workshop. In January 2008, Harry's paper "Frosting the Words: Consciousness Dynamics of Plain Speech Resonance Poetry" was published in *Consciousness, Theatre, Literature and the Arts* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, London 2008). In summer 2008, Harry initiated a new poetry workshop in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program.

**Sondra Zeidenstein (01,94,92,91,90):** This year, four of her poems were included in the anthology *Love after Seventy*, published by Wising Up Press; two were published in the online journal *le nouveau monde vert*; one was published in the online journal *PersimmonTree*; two were published in the online journal *New Verse News*.

**Laurie Zimmerman (99,01):** Christopher Buckley chose four of her poems for the 2008 New Letters Award, which includes a \$1,500 prize and publication. Kim Addonizio picked another poem of hers to win the River Styx 2008 Poetry Prize, which also includes \$1,500 and publication. She has been published most recently in *Orion Magazine*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Mid-American*, among others. ■



## SQUAW VALLEY REVIEW 2008

continues the Squaw Valley Community of Writers Poetry Program tradition of publishing a collection of poems begun during the poets' week together in July. Poets submitted three poems—whether completely revised or exactly the same as the day the poem was first imagined—and three volunteer editors (participants of the Poetry Program) selected which poems to include in the Review. Proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund, enabling more poets to attend the workshop.

As of March 2009, the *Squaw Valley Review* 2008 is in the final editing stages, with a print release expected in early summer. More information, including table of contents, sample poems and benefit readings in Northern California and Texas will be available soon on the website:

[http://www.squawvalleywriters.org/poetry\\_anthology.html](http://www.squawvalleywriters.org/poetry_anthology.html)



## Participant Profile: Rusty Morrison

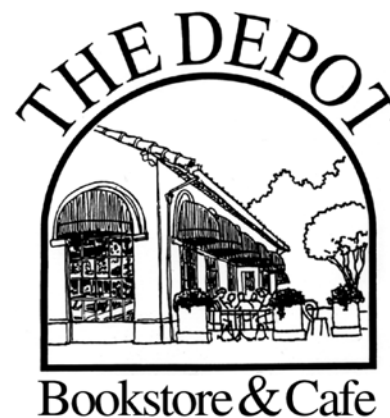
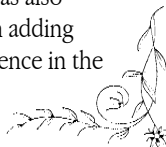


Rusty Morrison attended the Poetry Workshop three years in a row in '93, '94, and '95. She had been a teacher for 18 years, mainly at the high school level, but her experience at Squaw Valley helped to inspire her to enter the MFA program in Creative Writing at Saint Mary's College, where she studied with Brenda Hillman and Lyn Hejinian among others.

The time she has devoted to her writing has been well spent. In September 2008, the Academy of American Poets announced that Rusty Morrison's collection *the true keeps calm biding its story* (Ahsahta Press) was chosen by poets Rae Armantrout, Claudia Rankine, and Bruce Smith to receive the 2008 James Laughlin Award, which gives \$5,000 to the most outstanding second book by an American poet published in the previous year. Written in the aftermath of her father's death, the collection is a book-length sequence of poems about loss and the transformation she experienced in reconciling herself to it. About the selection, Claudia Rankine says: "In Rusty Morrison's *the true keeps calm biding its story* the poem transforms into a machine for transmitting lines across impossible distances. . . . In the end we, as readers, are left with a stunning collection, written into the silence of everlasting loss."

The collection also won Ahsahta Press' 2007 Sawtooth Prize, selected by Peter Gizzi, and the 2007 Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award, selected by Susan Howe. In addition, she recently won the 2008 Patricia Goedicke Prize in Poetry from *Cutbank*, the University of Montana's literary magazine. *Whethering*, her first collection, won the 2004 Colorado Prize for Poetry, and she has been a recipient of the Cecil Hemley (2006), and Robert H. Winner (2003) Memorial Awards from The Poetry Society of America. In April she will receive the 2009 George Bogin Award from the Poetry Society of America, selected by John Yau. Her criticism and poetry have appeared or are forthcoming in *American Poetry Review*, *Bomb*, *Boston Review*, *Chicago Review*, *Pleiades*, *New American Writing*, *Volt*, *Verse*, and elsewhere.

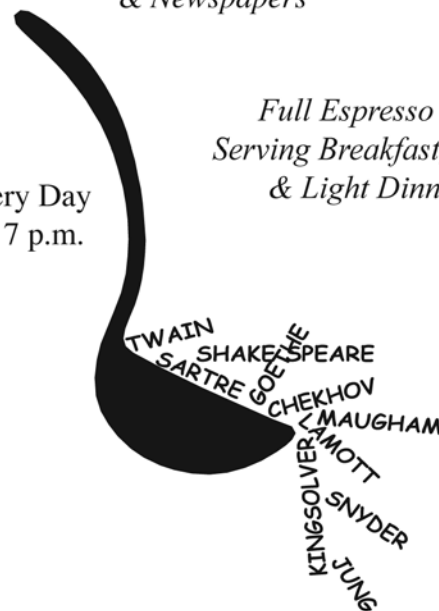
In 2001 she embarked, with her husband Ken Keegan, on the adventure of starting Omnidawn Publishing ([www.omnidawn.com](http://www.omnidawn.com)). When asked what inspired her, she replied, "Lyn and Brenda were very enthusiastic about the idea of giving back to the community, and creating community, with writing. Lyn said to the class one day, 'If you want to be invited to the best parties, you'd be wise to learn to give good parties.' I brought that notion home and talked with my husband. He decided it would be a good thing. It's a huge amount of work, but endlessly valuable. It is an honor to bring books to a reading public." Since 2001, they have published 23 collections of poems by an impressive array of well-known and lesser-known authors, including an award-winning book by Martha Ronk and Lyn Hejinian's *The Fatalist*, which was chosen as one of *The Village Voice's* 25 Favorite Books of 2003 and was also mentioned in *Publishers Weekly's* Best Books of 2003. In 2006 Omnidawn began adding Fabulist and New Fabulist Fiction to their list. Rusty is currently the Poet in Residence in the MFA program in Creative Writing at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. ■



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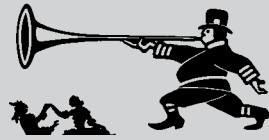


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# Summer 2008 Special Thanks and Photo Gallery



There are many people who work to make the conference happen each summer; some have a formal relationship with the Community of Writers, and some are friends and family.

First of all, we thank our magnificent staff that makes the conference what it is, and our many donors who make it possible. Many thanks to **Lisa Alvarez, Diana Fuller, Andrew Tonkovich, Louis B. Jones**, who despite their roles as directors and/or teaching staff



Amy Tan, Anne Lamott,  
Mark Childress

are to be seen in the days before the conference moving tables and chairs; to **Kaitlin Klaussen**, who coordinated housing for us with Audrey Rose trailing after; to **Stacey Knapp** for running the bookshop with warmth and style. We'd also like to thank **Debbie Lane of The Bookshelf** who helped us tremendously with the bookstore. Thanks also to **Ariane Simard** for running our intern program, coordinating our snack bar and handling special events, and



Ariane Simard

**Jennifer Dietz, Tracy Hall, David Womack, Sasha Federoff, and Joan Klaussen** for filling in the gaps wherever needed.



David Womack

Many thanks to members of the Board and Squaw Valley locals who have been tremendously generous with their time over the years: **Eddy & Osvaldo Ancinas, Amy Tan & Lou Demattei; Joan and Peter Klaussen; Barbara Hall; Mimi & Burnett Miller; Geri Thayer; and Max Byrd.**

Our work waiver crews make each conference run smoothly. For their labor



Gary Short, Louis B. Jones, Andrew Tonkovich

during poetry we thank **Paula Bennett, Alex Chambers, Joshua Davis, Whitney Devos, Liberty Heise, Sara Michas-Martin, Michelle Raust and Lauren Shapiro**, and for their work during the writers workshops, our gratitude



Paul Calandrino and  
Jen Dietz

goes to **Jen Conley, Sarah Fang, Ryan McBride, Gretchen McCullough, Mike Odom, Steve Potter and Breeze Vincinz.**

Thanks also to our friends **Paul Calandrino, Emma Bailey, Justin Bailey, Thomas Estler, Adam Haight, Tad Hall, Hunter Jones, Margot Miller, Jessica Sievert, Tom Taylor** and especially to **Steve Susoyev** for omniscience and omnipotence. Thanks also to the Screenwriting helpers: **Rebecca Rufer, Jason Wolos, Jason Boyce, and Chris Upham.** Thanks to **Chelsea Snell** for childcare. And thanks to **Sands Hall** for the inimitable Follies. Thanks also to **Maxima Kahn** for editing and designing the *Omnium Gatherum & Newsletter*.

We send our great appreciation to **Justin Casey and Tom O'Neill** of the **Olympic Plaza Food and Beverage** for their lovely venues; and **Ena Arbueza** for her remarkable dinners.



The Hall Family: Tad, Tracy,  
Barbara, Brett and Sands



Ena Arbueza

The Board and Staff of the Community of Writers would especially like to thank **Nancy Wendt, President of the Squaw Valley Ski Corp.** who has continued to create an environment where a conference such as ours is possible; and to their wonderful staff: **Ernst Hager, Tom Kelly, Christine Horvath, Cynthia Braga, Linda Law** and the **Security Team** (who are superb ambassadors).

—Brett Hall Jones, Executive Director



The annual Poetry Workshop softball game!

# The Sounds of Summer 2008

## Music Heard in the Office

—Lisa Alvarez



### Van Morrison: Moondance

Van Morrison got a workout last summer. This classic collection served our needs. "Into the Mystic" was our favorite.

### Alison Krauss and Robert Plant: Raising Sand

Alison Krauss and Robert Plant unite and make the most of what each brings. Listen to them take on Townes Van Zandt, Tom Waits, the Everly brothers, Sam Phillips and others.

### Keb' Mo': Keb' Mo'

This debut CD by bluesman Keb' Mo' still makes us happy after all these years, "Victims of Comfort" still as relevant as ever.

### Jackson Browne: Solo Acoustic, Vol. 2

We've been waiting for this one. It features fewer big hits and instead showcases his often overlooked songs.

### Emmylou Harris: Songbird

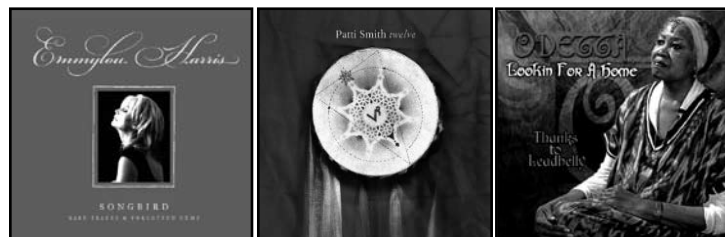
This four-CD collection gathers together Harris' personal favorite songs and rare performances, duets and collaborations, many of which were never released before and spanning 40 years (how can that be?). Inspiring.

### Patti Smith: Twelve

Smith takes on 12 of rock's anthems and puts her own stamp on them, from Hendrix's "Are You Experienced?" and the Stones' "Gimme Shelter" to Nirvana's "Smells like Teen Spirit" and the Doors' "Soul Kitchen."

### Odetta: Looking for a Home

Odetta's powerful tribute album to Huddie Ledbetter, better known as "Leadbelly." Check out her haunting version of "In the Pines." Henry Butler plays piano.



## Participant Profile: Jeffrey Brown

Jeffrey Brown attended the Screenwriting workshop in 2008 to work on a script, *Into the Roar*, about the impacts of the war on the veterans and their families, inspired by his work with veterans dealing with their grief and anger. Although he has temporarily shelved this project, he has his hands full with a wealth of other noteworthy endeavors. Taking as a role model his father, a pediatrician who spent his life working in disaster relief around the world, Jeffrey has turned his career as a producer, director and screenwriter towards films that have a social impact.

He is producing the film adaptation of the National Book Award-nominated novel *Sold*. The film will be shot in India and Nepal in the fall. To date the script is with Danny Boyle's co-director of *Slum Dog Millionaire*, Loveleen Tandan. He also has interest from Oscar-winning visual effects director Robert Legato and director Julia Ormand. The story follows Lakshmi, who is sold by her impoverished family to a brothel, where she is brutalized. She eventually escapes and then returns to save her friends. Jeffrey is making the film out of a desire to bring attention to the global sex slave trade, which affects approximately 20 million women, mostly teens, each year. He is developing educational materials and a documentary to go along with the film and has partnered with Not For Sale.org and Maiti Nepal to help raise money to rescue children from the sex slave trade.

He also plans to shoot *Run the Tide*, his first feature as a director this year. *Run the Tide* is the story of the love between two half-brothers of different

racess and their conflicted relationship with their incarcerated mother as she gets out of prison after six years.

Jeffrey started making films when he was 12, attended NYU film school and then made a dramatic short, *Molly's Pilgrim*, which won an Oscar. He says of winning an Oscar so early in his career, "It messed me up for a few years. My expectations of myself were so high." He partnered with Finn Taylor for ten years, co-writing *Dream with the Fishes* (1997) and *Pontiac Moon* (1994) and also, more recently, working on *Into the Roar*. After years of directing toy commercials to support his family, he realized, "I wasn't serving the world the way I was supposed to."

Jeffrey grew up in Uganda for seven years, which kindled an early interest in shamanism that has continued for thirty years. Returning to the States, he spent a great deal of time with the Hopi and the Sioux. He has worked with Michael Meade and African shaman Malidoma Somé, helping gang kids, and was involved in starting a branch of a non-profit called Boys to Men in Northern California, mentoring boys at risk. He is passionate about healing; self, others and the world, and is currently also developing a movie based on the autobiographical story of Malidoma Somé, *Of Water and the Spirit*. He is motivated to bring some of the ancient messages from indigenous cultures to the screen. Specifically, he is interested in bringing shamanic dramas to the mainstream worldwide audience. He feels this is what needs to happen next after *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.



# SCREENWRITING STAFF NEWS



**Gene Corr:** He is writer, director, producer of a new documentary, *From Ghost Town to Havana*, with Roberto Chile as cinematographer and co-producer in Havana. The sandlot ball fields of Havana and East Oakland and two inspirational coaches inspire and give young kids a sense of fair play, confidence and athletic and life skills. In addition he was awarded a residency by the Film Society/SFFilm Commission at the Embarcadero Office Space.

**Pam Gray:** She wrote a remake of *A Star is Born* for Warner Bros., which is currently being cast. Her screenplay *Betty Anne Waters* will be produced in early '09, starring Hilary Swank. She is also writing an adaptation of the bestseller *Dewey*, *The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* with Meryl Streep attached to star as the librarian. Additionally, *Walk On The Moon* is being adapted for Broadway.



**Christopher Monger:** He directed *A Sense of Wonder*, the faux documentary of two interviews with the late Rachel Carson, based on the play, and performed by Kailani Lee, currently on the festival circuit. In production is his untitled project based on the story of autism-advocate and animal behaviorist Temple Grandin for HBO Films. Currently he is writing *Dangerous Doses*, based on the book by Katherine Eban about the contamination of America's pharmaceutical drug supply by counterfeiters, for HBO films.

**Tom Rickman:** His screenplay, *Front of the Class*, was based on a book by the same name. It was presented on December 7, by Hallmark Hall of Fame, to a glowing response and national critical acclaim.

**Lisa Rosenberg:** She is writing a column on storytelling for SF360, the S.F. Film Society's website. She is seeking a production deal for her screenplay, *Crawl Space*, based on Edie Meidav's novel of the same name. She was selected by the San Francisco Film Society to direct the first two Screenwriting Classes in the new Educational Program: Launch Your Screenplay and Complete the Journey. The third in the series, Rough to Polish, will take place in the fall.

**Tom Schlesinger:** Tom co-created *The Stranger*, an action-adventure television series now being shot in Morocco. He was the Story Consultant on *Prom Night in Mississippi*, a documentary about teenage race relations in Morgan Freeman's Mississippi town; *Heart of Fire*, a feature film about child soldiers in Eritrea; and *Ayla*, a feature film about honor killings in Germany.

**Camille Thomasson:** She continues with the adaptation of Regina Louise's memoir, *Somebody's Someone* (published in 2003), for Lifetime. Additionally, she is writing the Stacey Bess Story, based on the autobiography *Nobody Don't Love Nobody*, for Hallmark Hall of Fame, as well as *The Lois Wilson Story*, based on the book by the same name.

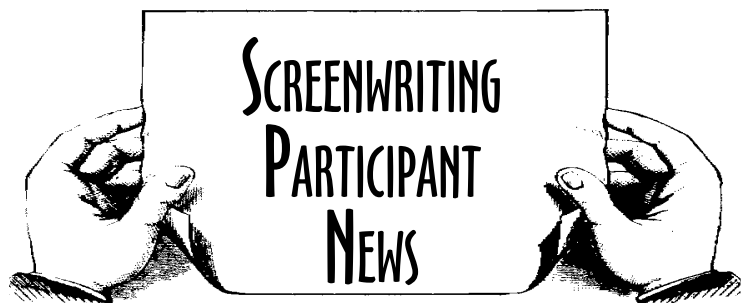
**Christopher Upham:** His documentary film, *War Within*, is being completed with consulting editor Eric Neudel (*Eyes on the Prize, Vietnam: A Television History*). His other projects include a comic travel novel,

*Juliette and the Crowd in Frank*, and story consulting/editing for arms trafficking investigator Kathi Austin's memoir, which was purchased by Paramount.

**Michael Urban:** He has been in production on a test shoot for a feature he wrote and is hoping to direct, *Difficult Child*. He is still working on a feature for Plan B/Paramount called *The Killing* to be directed by Jacob Estes. Additionally, he is collaborating with Camille Thomasson on a comedy feature called *Outlaw Inlaw*.

**Jason Wolos (04):** He is the principal at Fine Dining Productions, which has produced various projects from marketing to instructional videos. Currently his feature, *Trattoria*, an original script, is planned for production in 2009. He is also teaching a class in shooting digital video as part of the new educational program at the San Francisco Film Society. ■





**Marie Amsler (07):** She won a one-year scholarship given by German TV and is one of the few chosen to work with TV producer, Claudia Gladziejewski, who helped develop *The Lives of Others*. Her screenscript, *Esperanza*, was optioned in October by Enigmafilms, Munich (Germany) and has a Swiss director attached, Sebastian Kutzli, as well as the editor of *The Lives of Others*. Production is scheduled for 2010 in Hamburg and the Pyrenees.

**Sara Baker (95,91):** Her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Yale Journal of Humanities in Medicine*, *The Healing Muse*, and *The Journal of Poetry Therapy*. Her essay "Listening and Observing" appeared in the book *The Art of Grief: The Use of Expressive Arts in a Grief Support Group*, published by Routledge, 2008. She presented workshops at the International Society for the Arts in Healthcare Conference and the Writing and Wellness Connections Conference in Atlanta. [www.saratbaker.com](http://www.saratbaker.com)

**Jan Baross (94):** Her new book, *Ms. Baross Goes to Paris*, an illustrated travel guide, was published by MPolo Press in 2008. Her award-winning novel, *Jose Builds a Woman*, is now a screenplay and is making the rounds.

**Matt Boatright-Simon (08):** He has been writing/directing/producing all of the commercials, documentaries, and narrative projects for Christian Audigier, a fashion designer in Los Angeles. He hopes to go into preproduction on his script *October* in early 2009.

**Denise Bostrom (07,93,89):** Her first YouTube video, *Get Out the Vote...*, featuring Dave Smullen singing his song, "America" appeared in October. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifG6LeOTyJ8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifG6LeOTyJ8)

**Jason Boyce (05):** His film *Barry Johnson* won 2nd place in the Iron Filmmaker Contest, part of the California Independent Film Festival. He is planning to direct his first feature, *Medicine Run*, fiscally sponsored by FAF. Currently he is seeking production outlets for his animated bird film entitled *The Art of Racing*.

**Jeffrey Brown (08):** See his profile on page 23.

**Ashia Chacko (08):** Her original script *Black Box* has garnered eight awards, received positive coverage from The Weinstein Company, and was recently novelized. Currently, she has a new family script in process called *Child-Therapist*.

**Eugenie Chan (04):** Her play *Bone to Pick*, performed in 2008 for the Cutting Ball Exit Theater, was recently listed as one of the Best of 2008 by the *San Francisco Bay*

*Guardian* and will tour festivals in Cairo and Seoul. She was admitted as a Resident Playwright to New Dramatists in New York and the Playwrights Foundation in San Francisco. Her play *Daphne Does Dim Sum* premiered at Centenary Stage in New Jersey. Her play *Kitchen Table* received a reading by Playwrights Horizons in NYC in April 2008. She received commissions from the San Francisco Foundation for the plays *Fall: A Child* and *Circus: A Diaspora Play* and a grant from the same foundation to collaborate with Cutting Ball Theatre in San Francisco and the Grotowski-based Theatre Zar in Poland. Additionally, she will direct her short film *Silk Fan* in April.

**David Corbett (01,99,91,89,88):** See Writers Workshop Participant News.

**Fay Darmawi (08):** She has submitted *Turtle Beach* for admission into the 2009 Tribeca All Access program in New York City.

**Sheri Davenport (07):** In June Sheri optioned her screenplay *Kiss Me Lucky* to Empire Productions. It was the script she workshopped at Squaw Valley.

**Skye Dent (94):** She obtained her MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts in 2007, taught at The NYU William H. Cosby Future Filmmakers Workshop, purchased the remake rights of the 1972 Sidney Poitier film *A Warm December*, obtained the commitment of Dennis Haysbert to star, began writing a video game for MINDLab/NIH, and just signed a contract to teach a TV Development course at Cal State Northridge.

**Tyler Dilts (00):** See Writers Workshop Participant News.

**Melanie Dixon (05):** Her horror script, *Frost*, is in development at Lions Gate UK. She adapted fellow alumnae Tim Wendel's novel, *Castro's Curveball*, for the screen; the script is currently with William Morris.

**Jack Estes (05):** His script just took 1st place in the Film Makers 6th Annual International Screenplay Competition and is among the final 10 for Scriptshark.

**Bill Flanagan (05):** He won three REMI's for *Johnson's Pages* and *The Clear Horizon* at the Worldfest, Houston. *The Good Samaritan* also won Monterey Film Commission, The Writers Network, and was a runner up in Scriptshark where *The Clear Horizon* won the competition.

**William Farley (05):** Recently he completed a film of John O'Keefe's solo performance of Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself* and a 30-minute film on the unique 82-year old artist Elaine Badgley-Arnoux.

**Christina Ferguson (08):** She teamed up with Linda Kelly (*Deadheads*) to rewrite an original script, *Box of Rain*, with Gordy Hoffman. This is a fictional account of a family of Deadheads, dealing with the death of Jerry Garcia (previously a Sundance Finalist).

**Vibeke Gad:** She has completed a miniseries for Danish Radio/TV Drama, *To Live the Truth*, and a TV-Series, *The Train*. She recently screened her docudrama *The Harmonica* on television.

**Lisa Ginsberg (06):** Her short film *Joystick Blues* had wide festival showing and *Girtalk* was picked up for distribution.

**Sheldon Gleisser (05):** His short story "Converts" was a runner-up in the Mary Shelley awards for new stories of horror, fantasy, or science fiction and was published in the Spring 2008 issue of *Rosebud* magazine. His short story "Natural Selection" was published in the online journal *Yellow Mama* in August of 2008.

**Lisa Gold (08):** She made the Nicholl SemiFinals this year, ranking in the top 30 scripts out of more than 5,200 submissions and was accepted to the AFI Directing Workshop for Women.

**Daniel Hanna (08):** He has just completed his MFA in Film Production at USC.

**Sean Hoessli (04):** He currently, works for Yuco, a design firm in Hollywood, while pursuing several movie, television and web projects as an independent producer, including the adventure/comedy TV series *Hopjockey* (www.Hopjockey.com) and *Mendocino*.

**Duane Allen Humeyestewa (02):** With his partner **Deepa Donde (03)**, he co-wrote and co-produced their recent feature film *Periphery*, which is currently in post-production. *Periphery* was also selected for IFP's prestigious Independent Filmmaker Lab last June, and the trailer was showcased during IFP's Festival last September. Currently the team is developing two more features under their company banner Red Elephant Films.

**Marjory Kaptanoglu (07):** Her scripts placed in the following contests for 2008: *Devil's Lure* was a semifinalist in Screenwriting Expo and Scriptapalooza. *Direct Descent* won first place in Script Savvy. *Just Kill Me Now* was a semifinalist in WriteMovies. *Raise You One Dead Body* finished in the second round of the British Short Screenplay Competition.

**Nancy Kelly (01,83):** She produced and directed a documentary, *Moments in Time*, in partnership with KRCB Public Television as Executive Producer in 2008. Currently she is continuing her documentary on Chicago dance, *Stories To Tell*, as well as post production on the Point Reyes 99NRA convention. A segment from her memoir, *When We Were Cowgirls*, entitled *Seasons*, appeared in the Spring edition of the *West Marin Review*.

**Michael Kinomoto (Wilson) (05):** He collaborated on the Emmy Award-winning documentary *White Light Black Rain* for HBO as Assistant Producer. Steven Okusaki

directed. He is an editor at Link T.V.

**Jonas Koester (08):** He has three producers looking at his script *The Agreement*.

**James Kohlberg (04,WW 03):** He just completed *Trumbo*, a documentary on Dalton Trumbo's life and letters starring Liam Neeson. Additionally, he has started an international film sales and finance company to add to his production efforts, enabling him to increase the scope of his Essential Entertainment and Essential Productions.

**Erich Stonestreet (06):** His parody *Goodnight Bush*, written under the name Erich Origen, was published by Little, Brown in May. www.goodnightbush.com

**Steve Susoyev (06-00,98):** See Writers Workshop Participant News.

**Tim Wendel (05,89-86):** See Writers Workshop Participant News.

**Tiffany Laufer (06,03):** She was the cinematographer for Chad Benton's short film, *Women's Work*, which was screened at the AFI Festival in October 2008. Her new TV project on organic food, *Journey to Your Plate*, features Jack Hourigan (The Food Network and Slice TV).

**Julie Lipson (08):** Her script *Mercy*, *Mercy* placed in the Nicholls Fellowship Awards for 2007. Currently she is doing a rewrite for producer Cliden Diamond on *L.A. River* and developing a reality T.V. show called *Get A Job* with producer Fila Barnett. She has also received interest in *Grand Theft Piano* from Jinks Cohen (*American Beauty*). She is Program Coordinator for Theater of Hearts/Youth First in Los Angeles.

**Lynn Logan (08):** Her script *Dying For Emily* was chosen as one of the top ten in the Austin Film Festival.

**Regina Louise (04):** Her memoir, *Somebody's Someone* (published by Agate Publishing in 2003), is currently being adapted by Camille Thomasson for Lifetime Television.

**Moses Ma (08):** He plans to shoot his first feature in the summer of 2009, as well as a five minute short to test a new script, an adaptation from a Hong Kong action film. He is launching a new tech venture in January, The Spirituality Network, part home-study video course, part news channel and part social network.

**Aparna Malladi (06):** She plans to go into pre-production with *Hanglider* in December. Arati Misro is attached as producer, and there is a distributor willing to serve as co-executive. She has found a distributor who will provide finishing funds for her feature length film *Mitsein*.

**Elizabeth McDermott (07):** She was hired by New Zealand producer Craig Newland to do a rewrite on a project entitled *Radio Pirates*, which then was optioned by Ed Pressman.

**Robert McEwen (04):** His script *Son of A Gonne* has been optioned to Dan Riley of Port Magee Pictures. He has accepted an invitation as resident playwright at Chicago Dramatists and is currently adapting for screen his newest award winning play, *Cholo*.

**Holly Payne (08):** Her third novel, *Big Ugly*, due out in May 2009, has been optioned by Momentum Cinema, and she has been hired to do the screenplay adaptation.

**Leena Pendharker (04):** She has formed an LLC with producer Megha Kadakia to produce *Raspberry Magic*, scheduled for completion in June '09 and *RK Dandekar Finds Home*, which is in development. She received the Roy Dean grant for *Raspberry Magic* and was a finalist for the Sundance

Labs. Currently Leena is teaching film production at Loyola Marymount University and Otis College of Art and Design.

**Owen Prell (02):** He is a founder, with Tracy Wheeler, of the Chrissy Field Screenwriter's group. He and Wheeler have acquired the rights to, and are adapting, Wallace Stegner's *The Spectator Bird* into a feature length film. Prell is also currently in post-production on his documentary film *Finding Nico*.

**Richard Raucci (04):** He has finished his fourth feature script this year and is currently working with a producer, formerly with CAA and SONY Pictures, to get one or more of his scripts produced.

**Kimberly Reed (06):** Her documentary *Prodigal Sons* has been included in the following festivals: AFI, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Denver International, Palm Springs International, Big Sky Documentary Film Fest. Showing on BBC Storyville, the film was the critic's choice in 7 major UK outlets. IndieWIRE names *Prodigal Sons* as one of the "Five Undistributed Gems of 2008" and KQED selected it as one of best films of 2008. She is waiting for distribution and plans to shoot her narrative feature, *Please Check One*, late in 2010.

**Matt Reutta (05):** He was key assistant location manager on *Milk*; wrote, produced and directed a children's TV pilot called *Kid's Club*, which he is now pitching; and finished his second feature, *Man Up Above*, scheduled for production in the fall.



**David Sawle (07):** He wrote and produced his critically successful film *Never Enough*, a narrative feature, self distributed. In it, he delves into the lives of the wealthy and examines the destructive culture of consumerism that pervades most American lives.

**Rebecca Sanders (03):** Her script *Esther* was optioned by Omar Kaczmarsk's OK Company, Los Angeles. She is currently co-producing a feature film, *Shanti*, for Smera Productions, to be filmed in India this year.

**Samya Sattar (08):** She received an offer from a notable Bay Area screenwriter and producer for her feature screenplay *Rickschaw Crossing*. In addition she has also been working as associate producer and script advisor on another feature film, scheduled for production in spring 2009.

**Lisa Swenson (05):** She is in preproduction for her script *Saltwater*, for which she has completed a trailer to raise funds and interest. Production is scheduled for mid-2009.

**Richard Schimpf (06):** Fresh off the team that filmed Lynn Hershman Leeson's award-winning film *Strange Culture*, he is again involved with alum Lise Swenson on a ground-breaking short, *Mr. Gary on the Feedback Show*, which is now in post-production. Funds are being raised for completion.

**Mabel Valdiviezo (05):** Writer/director Mabel Valdiviezo is testing scenes of her political thriller *Soledad's Awakening* at the SFSDF's Directing Actors Workshop. The award-winning script (Best Feature Screenplay at the Florida Media Market and Sundance Screenwriting Lab finalist), has been pitched to indie producers in the U.S. and Chile, and is one of 12 finalists for

the new SF Film Society Kenneth Rainin Filmmaking Grants. Her award-winning short based on the feature is entitled *Soledad Is Gone Forever*. She is also developing a romantic comedy, *Parallel Lies*, with partner Cesar Viana-Teague.

**Tracy Wheeler (05,02):** She and Owen Prell have acquired the rights to, and are adapting, Wallace Stegner's *The Spectator Bird* into a feature length film. This is the second project Prell and Wheeler are co-producing, but their first time as co-writers. Founders and members of the Chrissy Field Screenwriter's group, Prell and Wheeler met at Squaw in 2002.

**Myrton Running Wolf (05):** He worked for PBS in the research department on a five-part series on the history of the American Indian, *We Shall Remain*, broadcast in the fall of 2008.

**Mia Zuckerkandel (06):** A KRON writer/producer, she has written three spec scripts for episodic television: *Big Love*, *Friday Night Lights*, and the award-winning *Mad Men*.

**Derek Zavala (06):** He has completed the final draft of his screenplay *The Long Walk Home* and is presently seeking production interest. He has also completed a Media Studies degree.

**Yun Suh (08,05):** She is doing the final cut of her documentary *City of Borders* that follows the regulars at Jerusalem's only gay bar, where Israelis and Palestinians find common ground. The film was selected for the Berlin Film Festival, and the trailer won the Best Short Award at Vermont CineSlam in 2008. The film has received completion funding from Corporation for Public Broadcasting and is expected to be broadcast on PBS nationwide in 2009. ■



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*Review*

S A N T A M O N I C A

## Hard Times for Writers

Louis B. Jones

The publishing business seems in a shambles like everything else. Chain bookstores are closing down their big “flagships” on streets like Michigan Avenue. Intrepid editors and smaller imprints are being withdrawn quietly from the field. Agents are refraining from sending out their favorite clients’ new work because they know that editors in their present despondency will only have to turn it down. One of the big publishing houses, for a while, actually placed a moratorium on acquiring new manuscripts, like a greengrocer who decides maybe business will pick up if he just stops receiving shipments of those damn vegetables. (It was Houghton Mifflin. They soon awoke from that hysterical paralysis.) The books that are being published are increasingly the sure-fire kinds of things – sure-fire in all categories, highbrow and low-.

This community of writers of ours, every summer at our little congeries of dusty parking lots in the Sierra, gets together with certain shared hopes. Maybe the highest hope people bring up here is that the secret might be imparted of how to capture the “Truth/Beauty” chimera; maybe something will rub off – whether a habit or a technique – that will put into your hands the magic of the great sentence, the wonderful story, the profound character. We’ve all somewhere glimpsed the flashy tailfeathers of that combination “Truth-and-Beauty,” even if it was long ago, even back in high school, and just the memory keeps us trying to lure it into our own homemade pages. But there is a more practical ambition people bring to the conference every summer, the ambition to get published. To learn how business is done. To learn how editors think. To get some contacts, in case it’s true that connections matter. But with the publishing business these days in such a mercenary spirit, the writer can feel there’s cause to give up hope. The writer might begin to think it’s smart to start mistrusting her own heart, and start doing the kinds of things other people succeed so famously with. As if that’s what “technique” and “art and craft” consist in: re-doing what’s worked before.

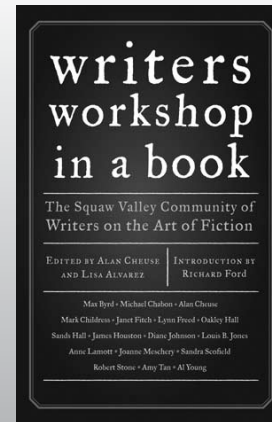
The thing to remember is that the publishing business is always in a shambles. Those editors and agents in New York are some of the smartest, wisest creatures in the world, but in a very important sense, *They don’t know what they want*; they’ll be the first to say it. This winter may be a time of extraordinary turbulence but chaos and benightedness are publishing’s creative condition. Once years ago on the phone to my agent, I was complaining of how worrisome I found it that Random House was being bought by Bertelsmann, and she said with almost a sigh, “Oh, that’s just the end-of-the-world, that’s always happening.” Since then, I’ve thought

*Continued on next page*

of that fine remark every time I've flown into New York, or been down on street level, and noticed, strictly from an architectural point of view, how much messy, noisy demolition is going on at all times. The end-of-the-world is going on every day on every streetcorner; it's the method by which business is done.

The thing that's invincible is literature. It's more durable than the Condé-Nast building at 4 Times Square or the Random House offices at 1745 Broadway, and it's more durable than the people who work in those buildings, or than the writers and the readers. What you do on your own workbench is the most important and redeeming activity because there really always will be an elite class of people – and they deserve the name “elite,” though there are legions of them – who flip past the frontpage headlines, the basketball scores, the recipes and the restaurant reviews and the celebrity gossip – all of which is very nice in its own way, but they want to get to that back page where a book is considered at length. They know that's where the most effective and humane conversation about the world can be found.

The winter of 2009 feels like a replay of the “Great Depression” but writers have to keep on doing what they can't help doing anyway: growing their weird crystals in their absolutely still environments. Hard times or no, writers can't be looking over their shoulders. Possibly the beleaguered, straitened book editors, just these days, do have to be practical and lower their sights a little bit. They have to keep the house solvent, and they have to keep their own jobs or we won't have editors. In *Borders* and in the *NY Times Book Review* for the foreseeable future, plenty of the sure-fire melodramas will be served up – both the fiction and the nonfiction versions of melodrama – served up to that large and dependable readership who open a book in order to have their preconceptions confirmed, about the world and about themselves. Such more marketable books aren't really about our lives, rather they propose to distract us from our lives. A number of successful writers do see themselves in the entertainment business. They feel that, as artists, they succeed to the extent that they hold people's attention. Attention-holding is the game. And they're certainly not wrong. Attention-holding is presumably just the kind of art or craft you're supposed to learn in “creative writing” classes. And it's true, a novel's first obligation is not to be boring. (Courtesy Henry James.) However, I think writers might be selling themselves short if their plan is just to get the attention of as many people as possible for as long as possible. Such writers, in the attention-getting endeavor, compete with television shows, which usually do a better job of it. The writer with a surer purpose doesn't want to just hold people's attention, he wants to reward people's attention. That's a whole other kind of investment, and it's a relationship that must grow over time, like a marriage. In this light, if you're an artist during hard times (compared with, say, a bricklayer), you're fundamentally lucky. Because anyway, even the most deluxe form of publication wouldn't save you from your workbench, and you're pretty much always in hard times. Your metabolism is evolved for it, for stamina and resourcefulness with longer-range ends in view. ■



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## Published Alumni Reading Series

Often referred to as the “this could be you” reading, the Community of Writers has welcomed some remarkable writers back to Squaw Valley for the Published Alumni Reading Series to read from their books and talk about their journey from unpublished writers to published authors.

**Our 2008 Published Alumni** were introduced by staff members and former participant Cai Emmons.

**JOSHUA FERRIS** attended the Writers Workshop in 2003. He read from his novel *Then We Came to the End*, a finalist for the 2007 National Book Award. A national bestseller, the *New York Times* named it one of the ten best books of 2007. His short fiction has been published recently *Tin House*, *The Iowa Review*, *Best New American Voices*, *Prairie Schooner*, *New Stories from the South*, *The Guardian*, and *Granta*. [www.thenwecametothetheend.com](http://www.thenwecametothetheend.com)

**CHRISTINA MELDRUM** attended the Writers Workshop in 2005. She is the author of the novel *Madapple*, which was published in May 2008 by Alfred A. Knopf. Knopf will also publish her second novel. After working in grassroots development in Africa, she earned her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. She has worked for the International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, and as a litigator at the law firm of Shearman & Sterling. [www.christinameldrum.com](http://www.christinameldrum.com)

### *In 2009 we will welcome:*

**DAVID BAJO** has worked as a journalist and translator and has published stories in *The Cimarron Review*, *Zyzzyva* and *The Sun*. Viking published his first novel, *The 351 Books of Irma Arcuri*, in 2008. He has a story in the current issue of *Five Chapters*. He attended the Community of Writers on a UC Irvine MFA Program Scholarship in 1987 and 1988. [www.davidbajo.com](http://www.davidbajo.com)

**FRANCES DINKELSPIEL** is the author of *Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California*, which was published by St. Martin's Press in November 2008. A former reporter for the *San Jose Mercury News*, her freelance work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *People* magazine. She also writes the literary blog “Ghost Word.” She attended the Community of Writers in 2003 and 2004. [www.francesdinkelspiel.com](http://www.francesdinkelspiel.com)



**JAMIE FORD** is the author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* (Ballantine) an IndieBound NEXT List Selection for February 2009. Jamie is the great-grandson of Nevada mining pioneer, Min Chung, who emigrated from Kaiping, China to San Francisco in 1865—where he adopted the Western name “Ford,” thus confusing countless generations. He attended the Community of Writers in 2006. [www.jamieford.com](http://www.jamieford.com)

**VICKI FORMAN** is the author of the forthcoming book *This Lovely Life: A Memoir of Premature Motherhood* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Her work has appeared in the *Seneca Review* and the *Santa Monica Review*, as well as the anthologies *Love You to Pieces: Creative Writers on Raising a Child With Special Needs*, *This Day: Dairies From American Women*, and *Literary Mama: Reading for the Maternally Inclined*. [www.vickiforman.com](http://www.vickiforman.com)

**TANYA EGAN GIBSON** is the author of the novel *How To Buy a Love of Reading*, which will be published in May 2009 by Dutton. She attended the Community of Writers in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2004. [www.tanyaegangibson.com](http://www.tanyaegangibson.com)



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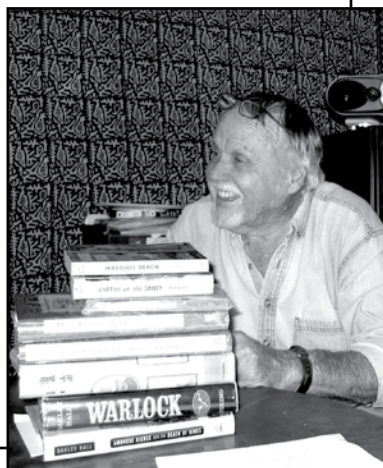
## In Memoriam: Oakley Hall

Last spring, Oakley Hall died at the age of eighty-six. By recent generations of participants Oakley will be remembered as a magnanimous, warm, welcoming, unassuming figure, maybe a ducal presence at the periphery of the conference, a tennis player remaining rangy on into his eighties, who at conference events tended to sit with his wife Barbara in chairs close to the center, always with high expectations as if a wonderful meal were to be spread before them. Born in San Diego and reared partly in Hawaii, educated at San Diego State and UC Berkeley, and then at the University of Iowa's writing program, Oakley began by writing mysteries as a young man and then steeply raised his ambitions and produced *Corpus of Joe Bailey* and *Warlock*, both highly regarded today. His two great legacies to writers are the writing program at UC Irvine, where with Hazard Adams he created a workshop modeled on the University of Iowa Workshops; and the Squaw Valley Community of Writers, co-founded with Blair Fuller, which this year celebrates its fortieth anniversary. He always felt that the literary establishment was unfairly concentrated in the east, and hoped both institutions would foster a literary community out west of the Rockies. Anyone who looks around will conclude, he seems to have succeeded.



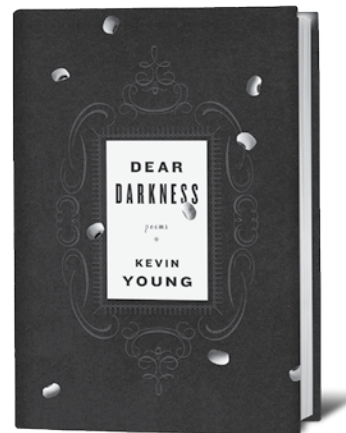
Not only as an artist and an administrator, but also as a man, Oakley was an education to us. The practice of writing can be hedged about with nervousness, but Oakley had a way of putting people at ease with a plain

candor that absolved all insecurities or pretensions. He was merciful as a critic but, also, blessedly no-bullshit. He was as patient with the vagaries of the book business as he was with the parade of Follies acts before him on Friday night; and as sincerely delighted, too, some of the time. He was courteous as the eminent must be. Also, he never stopped doing what he loved. In the last year, he'd been growing fascinated by the Guinevere-Lancelot relationship at Camelot, doing research, receiving books by mail-order, and at the time of his death there was an unfinished manuscript on his desk.



## Squaw Valley Writers

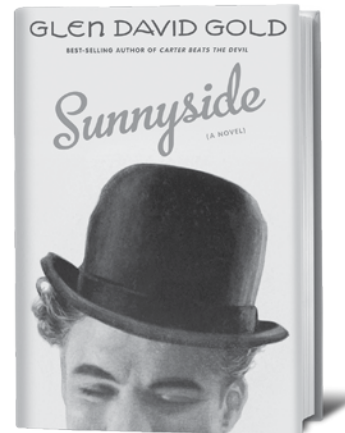
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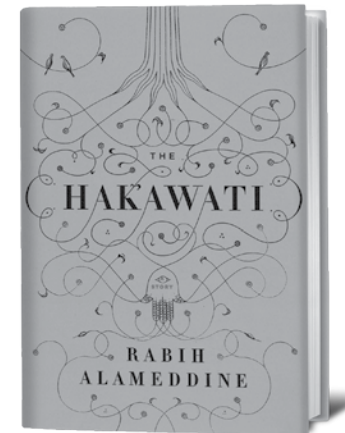
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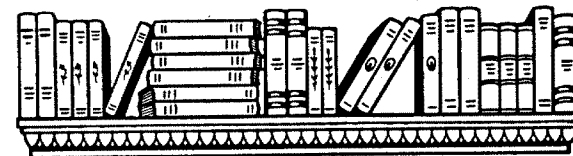
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## WRITERS WORKSHOP STAFF NEWS

**Rabih Alameddine:** His new novel, *The Hakawati*, was published in 2008 by Knopf.

**Dorothy Allison:** In 2008 she was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Emory University's Center for Humanistic Inquiry, and was awarded the 2007 Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction.

**Will Allison:** Free Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, published the paperback edition of his first novel, *What You Have Left*, in June 2008, and Recorded Books released the audio version in December. *The San Francisco Chronicle* named the novel a Notable Book of 2007, when it was originally published in hardcover.

**Lisa Alvarez:** A story of hers was included in *Latinos in Lotusland: An Anthology of Contemporary Southern California Literature*, published by Bilingual Press (April 2008), and another will be published in the Norton anthology *Sudden Fiction Latino*.

**Bill Barich:** *A Pint of Plain: How the Irish Pub Lost Its Magic But Conquered the World* will be published by Walker & Company in April 2009. His essay "One Pound Sterling" was published in the Fall 2008 issue of *Narrative Magazine* online.

**Clark Blaise:** The Canadian publisher Porcupine's Quill has published volumes 3 and 4 of his *New and Selected Stories*. In January, *Biblioasis* (also Canadian)

published Volume One of his *Selected Essays*.

**James Brown:** His memoir, *The Los Angeles Diaries* (HarperCollins), has been optioned for film by independent producer and writer Art Monterastelli. His fiction and personal essays have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Redivider: A Journal of New Literature and Art* (Emerson College), *Orange Coast Magazine* (a tribute to Oakley Hall), and anthologized in *Best American Sports Writing of 2006*, *Great American Sports Writing* (ESPN Books), and *Oral Interpretation* (Allyn & Bacon). He also was interviewed in *Esquire*.

**Ron Carlson:** The paperback edition of his novel *Five Skies* was published by Penguin in April 2008.

**Michael Chabon:** His collection of essays *Maps and Legends* was published by McSweeney's in 2008.

**Alan Cheuse:** His most recent novel, *To Catch the Lightning*, was published this fall by Sourcebooks. The novel won Grub Street's 2009 National Book Prize in Fiction. His collection of travel essays *A Trance After Breakfast* will come out this summer. [www.alancheuse.com](http://www.alancheuse.com)

**Jane Ciabattari:** Her short story "MamaGodot" was published in the 20th anniversary issue of *Chautauqua* magazine, which included work from faculty from the Chautauqua Writers'

Center over the past year. ("MamaGodot" has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize). Her story "Aftershocks" was published in *KGB Bar Lit*. In March she was elected president of the National Book Critics Circle. She is a contributor to *Critical Mass*, the award-winning NBCC board blog. In July 2008, she was fiction writer in residence at The Writers' Center at the Chautauqua Institution.

**John Daniel:** His new book, a collection of essays titled *The Far Corner: Northwestern Views on Land, Life, and Literature*, will be published in April by Counterpoint. John recently served as master of ceremonies for the 2008 Oregon Book Awards ceremony in Portland. [www.johndaniel-author.net](http://www.johndaniel-author.net)

**Karen Joy Fowler:** Her novel *Wit's End* was published by Putnam in 2008. The Plume paperback edition will appear in April 2009.

**James N. Frey:** *How To Write a Damn Good Thriller* will be published by St. Martin's Press in 2009. [jamesnfrey.com](http://jamesnfrey.com)

**Blair Fuller:** His memoir of his part in George Plimpton's first adventure in "participatory journalism" appeared in the Summer issue of *The American Scholar*. A new piece is scheduled to be published in the new *West Marin Review*, spring 2009.

**Dagoberto Gilb:** *The Flowers*, a novel, was published in 2008 by Grove Press.

**Glen David Gold:** His new novel, *Sunnyside*, will be published by Knopf in May 2009.

**Herbert Gold:** His memoir, *Still Alive: A Temporary Condition*, was published in July by Arcade.

**Sands Hall:** Sands is Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at Franklin & Marshall College, in Lancaster PA. Her story "Hide & Go Seek" was published in *The Iowa*

*Review* and an essay, "Snow," appeared in *Taboe Quarterly*. Her adaptation of Alcott's *Little Women* was produced by the Foothill Theatre Company in Northern California as part of their 07-08 Season.

**John Harvey:** Harcourt published his mystery novel *Cold in Hand* in September. The paperback edition of his novel *Gone to Ground* appeared in October.

**Mary-Rose Hayes:** Her second novel, co-authored with Senator Barbara Boxer, a political thriller titled *Blind Trust*, will be published by Chronicle Books in July 2009. She continues to teach novel writing with the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, Arizona State University. [www.maryrosehayes.com](http://www.maryrosehayes.com)

**Dewitt Henry:** His book of interconnected essays, *Safe Suicide*, was published in January 2008 by Red Hen Press.

**James D. Houston:** The Anchor paperback edition of his novel *Bird of Another Heaven* appeared in April 2008. His book of stories and essays *Where Light Takes its Color From the Sea* was published by Heyday Books in April. He was honored as this year's Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writer by the Reynolds School of Journalism of the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Diane Johnson:** Her novel *Lulu in Marrakech* was published by Dutton in October.

**Louis B. Jones:** His short story "The Epicurean," published in the *ThreePenny Review*, has received a Pushcart Prize and was published in the Pushcart anthology in 2008. His fiction appeared in *Green Mountains Review* in 2007 and will appear in *Santa Monica Review* in spring 2009. *Threepenny Review* published his social commentary in the Winter issue.

**Anne Lamott:** The Riverhead Trade paperback edition of her book *Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith* came out in February 2008.

**Adair Lara:** Chronicle Books published the second edition of *The Granny Diaries* in March 2008.

**Michelle Latiolais:** Her novel *A Proper Knowledge* was published by Bellevue Literary Press in May 2008.


**Janis Cooke Newman:** The Harcourt paperback edition of her novel *Mary* (published in hardcover by MacAdam/Cage) was a Bay Area Bestseller, a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize Finalist, a *Booksense* Year-End Highlight, and was chosen as *USA Today's* Best Historical Fiction of the Year.

**Kem Nunn:** He was the screenwriter and co-executive producer on the TV series

*John from Cincinnati*. The DVD set of the first season was published in April 2008.

**Varley O'Connor:** Two of her shorter prose pieces have recently appeared in *The Sun* magazine. "Suki," a personal essay, was published in October 2007. Her short story "The Empathic" came out in February 2008. Her creative writing exercise, "Putting Characters into Action," which applies acting terminology to writing, was published in the anthology *Naming the World*, new from Random House in January 2008.

**David Perlman:** *The San Francisco Chronicle* honored David Perlman at a gala celebration occasioned by his 90th birthday at the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park on December 1. He continues as *San Francisco Chronicle* Science Editor.



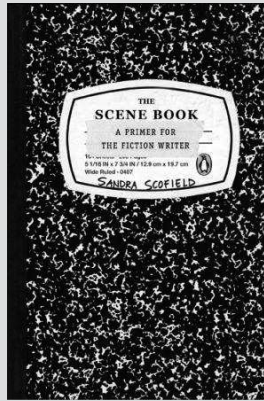
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**Cecile Pineda:** She was a featured author at the opening of the University of California, Berkeley's 40th anniversary of the Ethnic Studies Library and Ethnic Studies Department. Cecile's recently completed play, *Like Snow Melting in Water*, is under consideration at the summer 2009 Bay Area Playwright's Foundation.

**Frederick Reiken:** His wife Cailin and he had a daughter, Arcadia, in August.

**Richard Reinhardt:** The University of Oklahoma Press recently reissued his *Workin' on the Railroad: Reminiscences from the Age of Steam* in paperback.

**Sandra Scofield:** The Penguin paperback edition of *The Scene Book: A Primer for the Fiction Writer* was published in 2007.

**Alice Sebold:** Her novel *The Lovely Bones* is being adapted into a film of the same name by Peter Jackson. It is due for release in 2009. She will be the editor of *Best American Short Stories* in 2009.

**Gregory Spatz:** His new novella, *Time Trials*, was published in the Fall 2008 issue of *Santa Monica Review*. He also has new stories coming out in *Kenyon Review* and *The New England Review* this spring. He also has a debut solo CD out, *Fiddler's Dream*, with tracks featuring Caridwen Irvine-Spatz, Mighty Squirrel and The Jaybirds. For more info visit [www.gregoryspatz.com](http://www.gregoryspatz.com)

**Robert Stone:** The Harper Perennial paperback edition of his memoir, *Prime Green: Remembering the Sixties*, was published in 2008.

**Anthony Swofford:** The paperback edition of his novel *Exit A* was published by Scribner in February 2008.

**Amy Tan:** She wrote the libretto for *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, which premiered

in September 2008 with the San Francisco Opera. The book *Fate! Luck! Chance! Amy Tan, Stewart Wallace, and the Making of The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Ken Smith was published by Chronicle Books in August 2008.

**Jervey Tervalon:** He won first place for Signed Commentary from the Los Angeles Press Club for his essay "The Slow Death of a Chocolate City," published by the *LA Weekly* last year.

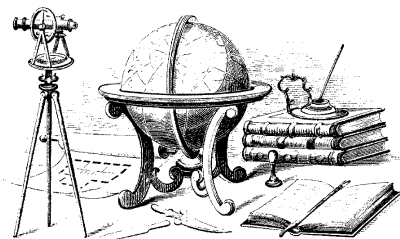
**Andrew Tonkovich:** He hosts a new weekly book culture program on Pacifica Radio affiliate KPFK 90.7 FM in Los Angeles. "Bibliocracy" focuses on literary fiction and nonfiction.

**Susan Trott:** Her story "Night of the Swami" was published in the Fall 2008 issue of *Santa Monica Review*.

**Jane Vandenburg:** Her memoir, *A Pocket History of Sex in the Twentieth Century*, will be published in March by Counterpoint.

**Rick Wartzman:** His new book, *Obscene in the Extreme: The Burning and Banning of The Grapes of Wrath*, was published September 2008 by PublicAffairs and was selected by the *L.A. Times* as one of its 50 favorites of the year.

**Al Young:** *Something About the Blues* (book & CD) was published by Sourcebooks Media Fusion in November 2007. ■



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## Participant Profile: Jamie Ford



Jamie started out in the advertising world, attending art school in Seattle to become an illustrator, and then working as an art director and copywriter. On his website he writes, "I've won an embarrassingly large amount of meaningless awards including 400+ Addys, 7 Best-of-Shows, and my work has appeared in *Adweek*, *Advertising Age*, *Graphis* and *Communication Arts*. I also had a commercial appear on an episode of The U.K.'s Funniest Commercials inspired by an embarrassing incident with a bidet."

His debut novel, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* was released by Ballantine on January 27, 2009, and is already in its fifth printing. He has spent the last month touring in such places as Dallas, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Milwaukee. This March, *Hotel* is the New Reads Book Club pick for Barnes & Noble; it has also been a Borders Original Voices Pick. At the end of February, the novel reached #30 on the *New York Times* Bestseller list.

Jamie describes *Hotel* as "basically the story of the Japanese Internment in Seattle during WWII, but seen through the eyes of a 12-year old Chinese boy, named Henry." Henry befriends a Japanese girl named Keiko, who is eventually sent to the internment camps. The novel

tells the story of their friendship and innocent love set against the backdrop of war, alternating between segments set in 1940s and the perspective of Henry, looking back on his life forty years later. Jamie calls it "a love story and a family story," but also admits the book is "a bit more than that," as it deals with issues of race and history and even dips into the Seattle Jazz scene of the 1940s. The initial idea for the novel was inspired by an "I am Chinese" button that Jamie's father was made to wear by his own father during WWII so that he would not be mistaken for Japanese. Like many novels, it began as a "sliver of a story" and grew from there. Keeping the ending in mind helped Ford to expand the story to a novel. "I look at storytelling as either banking or spending emotional currency with the reader. Good or bad, happy or sad, the ending is where those emotional debts are paid."

Jamie says his transformation from a "bored hobbyist" to taking his writing seriously came from surviving Orson Scott Card's Boot Camp and then attending the Squaw Valley Community of Writers Workshop in 2006. At Squaw, Jamie met an editor who suggested he quit his job and "write this book as soon as you can." Jamie says, "Well, I didn't quit my day job anytime soon, but I did write like mad. I finished the book a few months later." Then he queried agents, chose Kristin Nelson, and his novel was auctioned to Random House. Jamie was overjoyed.



In addition to Random House's marketing efforts, Jamie has been busy on his own with his website and blog, guest blogging on numerous sites, giving interviews, attending the Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Association's Feast of Authors, and doing a multi-city book tour. His engaging blog chronicles his experiences as a writer and the ins and outs of the book world, including many recent entries about touring, in which he recommends Traditional Medicinals Throat Coat Tea for the inevitable voice loss, gives the name of a great new Asian restaurant in Seattle, and advises that "even the smallest Indie store matters." But he bemoans the loss of time to write: "My second novel, *Whispers of a Thunder God*, is sitting here staring at me like an orphaned child. And since I tend to write obsessively, this time off has only allowed seeds of doubt to germinate

about the narrative structure.... Nice to know the relative success of *Hotel* hasn't quelled my internal critic."

Jamie has won the 2006 Clarity of Night Short Fiction Contest, was First Runner-Up in the 2006 *Midnight Road* Reader's Choice Awards, and the story that was the seed of *Hotel* was a finalist in *Glimmer Train*'s Fall 2006 Short Story Award For New Writers. He has been published in *The Picolata Review* and online at *Flashing in the Gutters* and *Fictional Musings*. His graphic novel script, *Gaiman*, will be published in *Secret Identities: The First Asian American Superhero Anthology* in spring 2009.

Jamie lives in Great Falls, Montana with his wife and children. He says, "Yep, it's chaos, but the good kind of chaos." [www.jamieford.com](http://www.jamieford.com) ■



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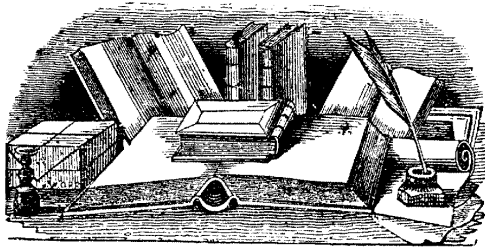
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## WRITERS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT NEWS

**Ronald Alexander (02):** His third novel, *The War on Dogs: in Venice Beach* (illustrated by Nathan Geare), was published by Hollyridge Press in spring 2008. *The War on Dogs* was included in WordTheatre's annual "Novel and Memoir Beginnings," co-sponsored by the American Booksellers Association.

**Lisa Alvarez (95,93):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Anita Amirrezvani (01):** Her first novel, *The Blood of Flowers*, was published in paperback in May and was long-listed for the 2008 Orange Prize for Fiction in the UK, as well as being sold to publishers in 28 countries. [www.bloodofflowers.com](http://www.bloodofflowers.com)

**Stephanie Anagnoson (07,05,04):** She had an essay published in the Fall 2008 issue of *UU World* on spirituality in the workplace. She gave birth to a daughter in September.

**Lea Aschkenas (02,99):** She will serve as the summer 2009 writer-in-residence at Can Serrat, an international artists' colony in the Montserrat Mountains northwest of Barcelona.

**Jaynel Attolini (08):** The six-word love story she submitted to *SMITH Magazine* will be published in *Six Word Memoirs on Love and Heartbreak* by Writers Famous and Obscure by HarperPerennial.

**judy b. (00):** Her screenplay *Mighty, Mighty Estro and the Super Duper Paroxysms for Peace* was a quarterfinalist for the 2008 Bluecat Screenplay Award.

**Elaine Beale (02):** Her novel *Another Life Altogether* will be published in 2010 by Spiegel and Grau, a division of Random House's Doubleday group.

**Krista Benjamin (03):** She received a Professional Artist Grant and the Robert Gorrell Literary Award from the Sierra Arts Foundation. Two of her poems will be reprinted in *Creative Writers' Handbook, 5th edition*, and *Manual for the Creative Writers' Handbook* (Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2009) by Allan Lefcowitz.

**Irwin Borof (01,97,92):** His novel, now titled *Evidence of Prejudice*, a legal thriller set in 1945 San Francisco, has been published by Eloquent Books. [eloquentbooks.com/evidenceofprejudice.html](http://eloquentbooks.com/evidenceofprejudice.html)

**Denise Bostrom (07,93,89):** See Screenwriting Participant News.

**John Brantingham (07,03):** Finishing Line Press is publishing his chapbook *The Mediterranean Garden*, and Garrison Keillor recently read one of his poems on Writer's Almanac on NPR.

**Ellen Bravo (01,00):** Her non-fiction book *Taking on the Big Boys, or Why*

*Feminism is Good for Families, Business and the Nation* won two awards: *Foreword Magazine's* gold-medal Book of the Year Award for women's issues, and an Outstanding Academic Title award from *Choice* magazine.

**James Brown (87,86):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Jamie Cat Callan (90):** Her latest book, *French Women Don't Sleep Alone: Pleasurable Secrets for Finding Love*, was bought by Kensington Press this year and was released in March 2009. She received a fellowship to work at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts this past year.

**Michael Chabon (87,86):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Amanda Chiado (07,06):** See PoetWatch for her news.

**Alix Christie (00):** Alix's novel *Hard News* was in the running for the Top 10 finalists on the Amazon Breakthrough Novel award. And was a ABNA Books Top 100 Semifinalist 2008.

**Meg Waite Clayton (00):** Her novel *The Wednesday Sisters* was published in June by Ballantine Books, and has become a national bestseller. She has also just sold a new novel to Ballantine, tentatively titled *The Ms. Bradwells*.

**Denise Emanuel Clemen (06):** Denise has received fellowships to the Virginia Center of the Creative Arts (Oct. '08), the Vermont Studio Center (Feb. '09), and has a piece in the November issue of *Two Hawks Quarterly*.

**David Corbett (01,99,91,89,88):** His most recent novel, *Blood of Paradise*, was nominated for four national awards, including the Edgar, and was named one of the Top Ten Mysteries & Thrillers of 2007 by the *Washington Post* and a *San*

*Francisco Chronicle* Notable Book. His upcoming novel, *Wheel of Shadows*, will appear in the fall of 2009. His short story "Pretty Little Parasite" appeared in *Las Vegas Noir* this past year, and his story "Dead by Christmas" will appear in *Phoenix Noir* in 2009. [www.davidcorbett.com](http://www.davidcorbett.com)

**Diana Corbin (05):** Her story "Catch" was published in *Two Hawks Quarterly* in May 2008.

**Eileen Cronin (06,05):** She was awarded the Washington Writers' Prize for Short Fiction from Washington Independent Writers (now American Independent Writers). Her short story appeared in the *G.W. Review* and is now on the AIW website. An excerpt from her memoir-in-progress appears in the Fall 2008 issue of the *Bellevue Literary Review* and is available on the *BLR* website. Her novel *Lead Soul* was again a finalist in the Pirate's Alley Faulkner-Wisdom competition in 2008.

**Debra A. Daniel (01):** Her poetry chapbook *As Is* was published in February from Main Street Rag Publishing Company. [www.mainstreetrag.com](http://www.mainstreetrag.com)

**Jasmin Darznik (06):** She has been awarded a Steinbeck Fellowship for 2008-2009, and her memoir will be published by Grand Central in 2009.

**Bob Davis (08):** "The Control Freak's Guide to Hallucinating" was just accepted by *PANK* magazine, along with two other surreal short stories of his. The stories will be in print in fall 2009, but they are already available online at [www.pankmagazine.com/read/february09.html](http://www.pankmagazine.com/read/february09.html)

**Tracy DeBrincat (96):** Her poem "Swallow" was accepted for inclusion in the 2008 edition of the *Coe Review*. The short story "Spontaneous Light" appeared in the Spring/Summer 2008 issue of

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Marie Etienne is the author of *Storkbites: A Memoir*. She attended the Squaw Valley Community of Writers. She is a competitive springboard diver and lives in California with her sons.



*Phantasmagoria*. A short short, “Chinese,” was published in *West Wind Review*. Her short story collection *Moon Is Cotton & She Laugh All Night* was selected as a finalist for the 2008 Noemi Prize and semi-finalist for the 2008 Black River Chapbook Competition.

**Tyler Dilts (00):** His first novel, *A King of Infinite Space*, will be released in late April by World Parade Books.

**Lee Doyle:** *The Love We All Wait For*, a novel, was published in 2008 by Komenar Publishing. [www.leedoyleauthor.com](http://www.leedoyleauthor.com)

**Merridawn Duckler (07):** Her short stories have appeared in *Green Mountains Review* and *Night Train*, and her non-fiction has appeared in *Narrative* and *Isotope*, and was nominated for the 2009 *Best Creative Nonfiction*. Her script/libretto for *Beowulf* has been accepted for the 2009 season at the Broad Theater in Los Angeles.

**Maureen Duffy (02):** Her essay about a remote game park in Africa, “Pax, Ishango,” was published in the October issue of *LOST Magazine* ([www.lostmag.com](http://www.lostmag.com)). She received her MFA in writing from Bennington College in January.

**Selden Edwards (71-69):** His debut novel, *The Little Book*, was published by Dutton in 2008 and appeared on numerous bestseller lists. He was a charter student of the Community of Writers in 1969.

**Marie Estorge (01):** Written under the pen name Marie Etienne, her second memoir, *Confessions of a Bi-Polar Mardi Gras Queen*, was published in February 2009 by Alluvium Books.

**Joshua Ferris (03):** One of his stories was published in the *New Yorker* in July 2008.

**Barbara Fischkin (95):** She is writing a weekly column, [momnot.calm](http://momnot.calm),

for the online edition of *Spectrum Magazine*, the national autism magazine: <http://www.spectrumpublications.com/>

**Seth Fleisher (08,06):** Stories from his collection-in-progress on fathers have appeared or are forthcoming in the *Bellevue Literary Review* and *Pearl*.

**Jamie Ford (06):** See profile on page 46.

**Vicki Forman (94):** Her creative nonfiction manuscript *This Lovely Life* was chosen to win the 2008 Bakeless Prize and is scheduled to be published by Houghton Mifflin Mariner Paperbacks in summer 2009. She will also be a fellow at Bread Loaf in August 2009.

**Martha Frankel (98):** Her memoir *Hats & Eyeglasses* was published by Tarcher/Penguin. The paperback appeared in February. [www.marthafrankel.com](http://www.marthafrankel.com)

**Alison Gee (07,01):** Her memoir *The Peacock Cries for Rain* was bought by St. Martin’s Press and is due out by the end of 2009.

**Darien Hsu Gee (99):** Under the pen name Mia King, she has published two novels: *Good Things* (Berkley Books/Penguin USA) was released in 2007 and was a national bestseller; *Sweet Life* (Berkley Books/Penguin USA) was released in 2008 and was a pick for the Doubleday, Literary Guild and Book of the Month book clubs. Her third novel, *Table Manners* (Berkley Books/Penguin USA) will be released in August 2009. [www.miaking.com](http://www.miaking.com)

**Aleta George (05):** She is a contributor to *Bay Nature*, *Smithsonian* magazine, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

**Tanya Egan Gibson (04,02-00):** Her novel *How To Buy a Love of Reading* will be published by Dutton in May 2009. Her second child, Cole Raines Gibson, was born in May 2008.

**Sandra Giedeman (96,93):** She was a finalist in the New Orleans University Poetry Contest judged by Andrei Codrescu. In May, she read at Shakespeare & Company in Paris. In 2008, her poetry was published in *Fieralingue* (Italy), *Shaking Like a Mountain*, the *California Poetry Quarterly*, and *Two Hawks Quarterly*.

**Glen David Gold (97,96):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Andrea Alban Gosline (04):** With illustrator Lisa Burnett Bossi she celebrated the launch of *The Happiness Tree: Celebrating the Gifts of Trees We Treasure* (Feiweil & Friends, 2008).

**Lev Grossman (95):** *The Magicians* will be published by Viking in August 2009.

**Lise Haines (99):** Bloomsbury will publish her third novel in the U.S. and the U.K. in fall 2009. She is currently Writer In Residence at Emerson College. She can be reached at: Lise\_Haines@Emerson.edu.

**Daniel Halem (03,02):** He has relaunched *Walkabout Jones* as an art and political web magazine, which also includes video, music and photography. [www.walkaboutjones.com](http://www.walkaboutjones.com)

**Carolyn Harris (07,02-00):** Her story "The Graveyard Shift" appeared in *r.k.v.r.y quarterly literary journal*, Winter 2008. A re-print of "A Tale of Two Towns" was published in *Through A Glass Darkly: Americans View Themselves From Abroad*. Carolyn blogs at <http://blog.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/lynscircle/>

**Dorothy Hearst (04):** Her novel *Promise of the Wolves* was published by Simon & Schuster in June 2008.

**Steve Hermanos (05):** His short story "The Good Samaritan" was published in *Lullwater Review* in July. He will gladly email the story to any interested friends

and acquaintances. [SF415home@aol.com](mailto:SF415home@aol.com)

**Sheila Himmel (08):** The book she workshopped last summer, *Hungry: A Mother & Daughter Fight Anorexia*, will be published in August 2009 by Berkeley Trade Paperback.

**Elizabeth Kadetsky (04,97):** Her fiction appeared in *Best New American Voices 2008*, *Guernica Magazine* and is forthcoming in *Triquarterly*, and was cited in several competitions including the *Glimmer Train's* Family Matters contest. Her essay "Modeling School" appeared in *Antioch Review* and *Going Hungry*, an anthology from Anchor Books. In September, she joined the creative writing faculty as a visiting assistant professor in fiction and creative nonfiction at University of Pittsburgh. This year she also signed with Eleanor Jackson at the Elaine Markson literary agency for her fiction and nonfiction.

**Maxima Kahn (07,06):** See PoetWatch.

**Joseph Kennedy (98):** He has published in *Natural History Magazine*, *Mobius*, and his fourth book, *The Tropical Frontier*, will be published this year. He can be reached at [Kennedy@lava.net](mailto:Kennedy@lava.net)

**David Kerns (05):** His novel *Standard of Care* has been honored as a finalist in the 2008 National Indie Excellence Book Awards. [www.davidkerns.com](http://www.davidkerns.com)

**James Kohlberg (04 Screenwriting,03):** See Screenwriting Participant News.

**Michelle Latiolais (89):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Edan Lepucki (07):** Her story "Animals" won second place in the *StoryQuarterly* 2007 Fiction Contest, and her story "The Baby" from *CutBank* was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. The story she workshopped at Squaw Valley, "Good Dog," will be

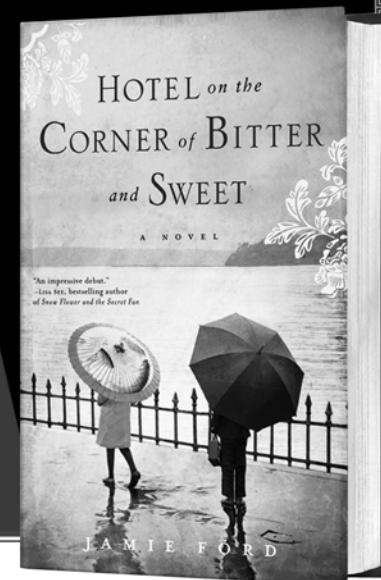
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published in the Spring issue of the *Los Angeles Review*.

**David Roy Lincoln (99,96):** He won the 2008 James C. McCormick Isherwood Fellowship for work on his new novel, *Liberty Boys*.

**Paulette Livers (07):** She was awarded a writing residency this past summer at Artcroft, a 400-acre artists' retreat and working farm at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. [artcroft.org](http://artcroft.org)

**Amy Logan (08,06):** Her essay, "Flipping the Bird at Fear," was published in *Mothering Heights' Manual for Motherhood, Volume 1: What we wish we knew before we became short order cook, shuttle driver, laundress, mother*. The anthology, published in 2008, by Mothering Heights Press, became an Amazon #1 best-seller in the Motherhood category and hit #7 in Essays.

**Leza Lowitz (99):** She has recently been named Fiction Editor of *Kyoto Journal*. Essays are forthcoming in *Call Me Okaasan: Adventures in Multicultural Mothering* (Wyatt-MacKenzie Publishing) and *To Japan With Love* (ThingsAsian Press).

**Dave Morris (08):** He was selected for the Staige Blackford Nonfiction Writing Award from the *Virginia Quarterly Review*.

**Eric Martin (08,00,95):** Recent Squaw grads Eric Martin and Jaynel Attolini left Squaw inspired. Together they are working on creating an outstanding writing group based in San Francisco to carry them forward in their writing and publishing. They are presently looking for 1-2 more serious hard-working writers to join them. Eric Martin may be reached at: [eemartin1012007@yahoo.com](mailto:eemartin1012007@yahoo.com)

**Rusty Morrison (95,94,93):** See profile page18.

**Karen Moulding (08,07):** Her story "The Emergency," excerpted from her novel, *The Untrainable Heart*, was published in *Fault Magazine* ([www.faultmag.com](http://www.faultmag.com)) in 2008. Her story "Theories" (from her novel *The Naked Shopper*), originally published on Nerve.com in March 2007, has been selected for the second *Best of Nerve "Smut" Anthology*, to be published in 2009 by Chronicle Books. Her story "Glitter," also from *The Naked Shopper*, was published on [sliptongue.com](http://sliptongue.com) in 2007. *The Untrainable Heart* was a finalist in the 2007 Parthenon Prize for Fiction contest.

**Nami Mun (02):** The French edition of *Miles from Nowhere*, her first novel, was published in 2008. The US edition, as well as other translations, is forthcoming in January 2009. [www.namimun.com](http://www.namimun.com)

**Barbara Falconer Newhall (06,03,02):** She has started a blog: [www.BarbaraFalconerNewhall.com](http://www.BarbaraFalconerNewhall.com)

**Janis Cooke Newman (01,98,97):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Kem Nunn (79):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Varley O'Connor (88,89):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Mike Odom (08):** In July, he received First Prize for Best Feature Story (Division D) in the 2008 Alabama Press Association Better Newspaper Contest for a 2007 story in the *Fairhope Courier*, where he works as a reporter. In September, he was named Nonfiction Editor of *Oracle*, the University of South Alabama's fine arts magazine.

**Kristin Ohlson (92,88):** Her story from *Gourmet* magazine called "Kabul Nights" is featured in *Best American Travel Writing 2008*.

**Lucia Orth (95):** Her novel *Baby Jesus Pawn Shop*, begun at Squaw Valley, was published in November by the Permanent Press.

**Mary Otis (01):** Her story, "Pilgrim Girl," was published in the Tin House anthology *Do Me: Tales of Love and Sex* and reviewed favorably in *The New York Times*. In November 2008, her story, "Odin, King of Hearts" was published in *Woof: Writers on Dogs* (Viking). She was recently hired as core faculty in the UC Riverside MFA Program in Creative Writing.

**David Page (03,02):** His guide *Yosemite and the Southern Sierra Nevada* was published by The Countryman Press.

**Victoria Patterson (06):** Her collection of interlinked short stories, *Drift*, will be published in June 2009 with Houghton Mifflin. Her short fiction has appeared or

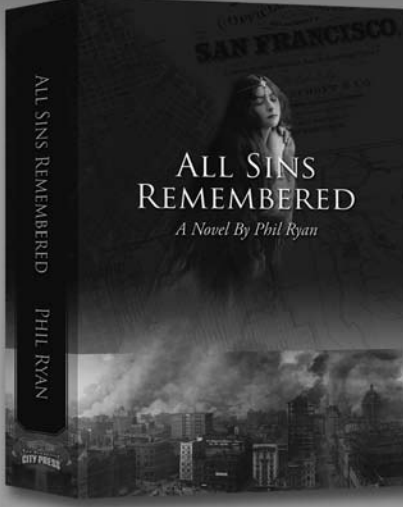
is forthcoming in *The Southern Review*, *The Florida Review*, and *Santa Monica Review*.

**Todd James Pierce (95-92):** *Las Vegas Noir*, an anthology of short fiction which he co-edited, was published as a trade paperback by Akhasic Books in May 2008. His personal essay on Internet gambling, "Bonus Hunter," appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *The Missouri Review*, and a new set of poems appeared in the Spring 2008 issue of *The Gettysburg Review*.

**Yoav Potash (08,05):** *Crime After Crime*, his documentary film, screened at Oakland's Temple Sinai in September.

**Jenny Pritchett (04):** She won the 2008 Michael Rubin Chapbook Award for her debut collection of stories, *At or Near the Surface*, judged by *Tin House* founding editor Holly MacArthur and published

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- Panarama, Newsletter of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, by Charles Fracchia

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by Fourteen Hills Press. Stories from the collection have appeared or are upcoming in *Southwest Review*, *Northwest Review*, *Boulevard*, *Salt Hill*, and *Fiction Attic*; one was chosen for the *Best of the Web 2008* anthology from Dzanc Books.

**Frederick Reiken (95):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Sue Repko (06):** A short-short, "How I Give Birth to My Mother," appeared in *Tattoo Highway*, while another story, "Holding Patterns," was published in *Broken Bridge Review*. Her poem "Holy Land Everywhere" went online at Midway Journal in November. [www.suerepko.com](http://www.suerepko.com)

**Meredith Resnick (01,99):** Her essay "My Own Person" was produced for radio by NPR's DimeStories, and her essay "Too Young To Have a Mother That Old" appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago*

*Tribune*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Newsday* and others.

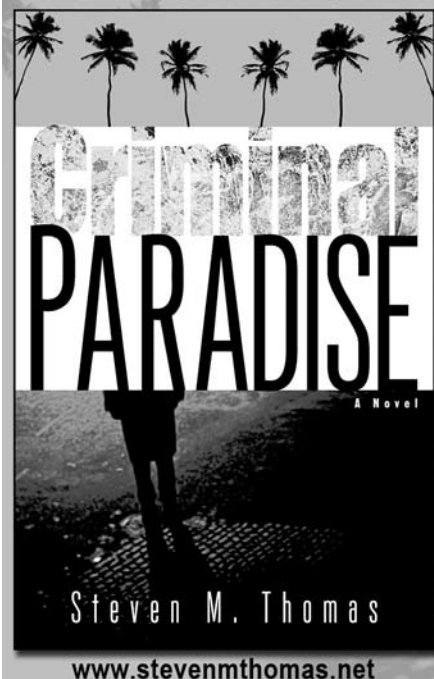
**Harriet Rohmer (05):** Her new collection of stories about environmental heroes for young teenagers, *Heroes of the Environment*, will be published by Chronicle Books in fall 2009.

**Robin Romm (03):** Her memoir, *The Mercy Papers: A Memoir of Three Weeks*, was published by Scribner in January 2009. The paperback of her collection *The Mother Garden* will be published shortly. [www.robinromm.com](http://www.robinromm.com)

**Amy Kathleen Ryan (06):** Her young adult novel *Vibes* was released by Houghton Mifflin Company in fall 2008.

**Phil Ryan (97):** His novel *All Sins Remembered* was published in April 2008 by San Francisco City Press.

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**Kris Saknussemm (03):** His novel *Private Midnight* (formerly *The Window in the Mirror*) is due out from Overlook Press in March, and has received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*. He won First Prize in the *Missouri Review's* first Audio Contest in the 10 Minute Play category for "Memory Wound," which comes from the novel.

**Eliot Schain (07,02,99,98):** See PoetWatch.

**Alice Sebold (97,96):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Mike Shaler (07,02,00):** He won honorable mention for "Filling in the Blanks" in *Glimmer Train's* May 2008 Short Story Award for New Writers.

**Julia Flynn Siler (04,03):** Her nonfiction book *The House of Mondavi* has been nominated for a James Beard Award and

is now out in paperback. Her next book, *The Lost Kingdom: The Sugar King, the Last Queen, and the Struggle for Hawaii*, will be published by Grove/Atlantic Press in 2011.

**C. Kevin Smith (02,01):** He published three essays in the *Redwood Coast Review*: "Eye of Newt" (Winter), "A Roof of My Own" (Spring) and "Fire Season" (Fall). He appeared in the award-winning documentary *Emile Norman: By His Own Design*, which received its national premiere on PBS in June. His monologue "Beginning to Burn" won the Carl Cherry Center's One on One Monologue Competition and was performed at the Center's annual monologue festival by Jill Jackson. [www.ckevinsmith.com](http://www.ckevinsmith.com)

**Susanna Solomon (97):** Her story "A Well Defined Trail" came in third place in the Inland Empire California Writers Contest. The story will be published in their publication, *Fresh Ink*.

**Robin Somers (06):** Robin is hosting a monthly televised poetry show, titled "Live Poets Society" that airs on Cable 27 in the Palo Alto area and was selected to read in Santa Cruz's 26th Annual Celebration of the Muse poetry festival this coming spring.

**Teresa Stores (05):** Her new novel, *Backslide*, was published by Spinster's Ink in 2008.

**Cora Stryker (06):** She is the recipient of the 2008-2009 Steinbeck Fellowship at San Jose State to complete revisions on her first novel, *Manzanita*, a love story set in a post-petroleum San Francisco.

**Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum (02):** She published her second collection of short fiction, *Swimming With Strangers* (Chronicle Books), this November. Stories in the collection appeared in 2008 issues of

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This is a terrific story, jammed with secrets, cross-purposes and revelations, and Tim Wendel has made a fine novel of it." —OAKLEY HALL

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the journals *One Story* and *The American Scholar*, as well as in the forthcoming anthology *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*, 2009. In September 2008, Kirsten joined the faculty at Purchase College, SUNY, where she teaches fiction writing.

**Christine Sunderland (05):** Her new novel, *Offerings*, has been contracted by OakTara (formerly Capstone) to be released in 2009. *Offerings* is the sequel to *Pilgrimage*, published in 2007 by Capstone.

**Steve Susoyev (06-00,98):** In May 2008, his book *Return to the Caffè Cino* won the Lambda Literary Foundation award for Drama. His article "Ireland Honors Terrence McNally's Corpus Christi" appeared in the July-August 2008 issue of *The Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide*. His article "The Resurrection of Corpus Christi" appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *White Crane Journal*.

**Ellen Sussman (96,80):** Her new book, *Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia of Sex*, was published by Bloomsbury in June 2008. The paperback of her bestselling book, *Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave*, was published in July 2008. [www.ellensussman.com](http://www.ellensussman.com)

**Kathleen Sweeney (99):** Her collaborative screenplay (with co-writers Kate Hagerman and Alystyre Julian), *The Lodestar*, was short-listed for the 2009 Sundance Screenwriter's Lab. Her first book, *Maiden USA: Girl Icons Come of Age* (Peter Lang, 2008), made its debut this past year, and she is now Content Editor for a series of books on environmental leadership for girls published by the Girl Scouts. She also joined the Advisory Board of Girls Write Now, a non-profit organization that pairs inner city girls with women writers in year-long mentorships. To learn more: [www.girlswritenow.org](http://www.girlswritenow.org)

**Amy Tan (87):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Jervey Tervalon (93,92):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Steven M. Thomas (00):** His SoCal literary crime fiction novel, *Criminal Paradise*, was published by Ballantine in March. The book's protagonist, Robert Rivers, will return in *Criminal Karma*, which will be published by Ballantine in May 2009, a month after the paperback version of *Criminal Paradise* arrives in bookstores.

**Sheila Thorne (04):** Sheila has writing published recently or forthcoming in *divide*, *Louisiana Literature*, and *Talking River Review*.

**Wendy Nelson Tokunaga (02,01):** She received her MFA in Writing from University of San Francisco in October, and completed her second novel for St. Martin's, *Love in Translation*, which will be published in fall 2009. [www.WendyNelsonTokunaga.com](http://www.WendyNelsonTokunaga.com)

**Andrew Tonkovich (95,93):** See Writers Workshop Staff News.

**Cameron Walker (04,02):** She is the fiction editor of *A River & Sound Review*. [www.riverandsoundreview.org](http://www.riverandsoundreview.org)

**Maureen O'Leary Wanket (06):** Her first piece of published fiction, "The Cameraman," appears in issue 11 of *Esopus Magazine*.

**Spring Warren (03):** Her first book, *Turpentine*, is coming out with Grove/Atlantic in September 2008. [www.springwarren.com](http://www.springwarren.com)

**Tim Wendel (05,89-86):** His new novel, *Red Rain*, was published by Writer's Lair Books. [www.timwendel.com](http://www.timwendel.com)

**Kirsten Whatley (06):** Her first nonfiction book, *Preserving Paradise: Opportunities in Volunteering for*

*Hawaii's Environment*, was published in August by Island Heritage Publishing.

**Naomi Williams (05):** She won a 2009 Pushcart Prize for her story "Rickshaw Runner." Her short fiction also appeared this year in *ZYZZYA* and *The Gettysburg Review*.

**Ian Randall Wilson (08,04,93):** His novella *Great Things Are Coming* was published in *The Gettysburg Review* and now, in book form, by Hollyridge Press. They are simultaneously releasing his collection of stories *Absolute Knowledge*, in February 2009.

**Mingmei Yip (98):** Her novel *Peach Blossom Pavilion* was released by Kensington Books.

**Alia Yunis (04):** Her first novel, *The Night Counter*, will be published by Shayne Areheart Books/Random House in July 2009. The short story she workshoped at Squaw Valley was published in *Crab Orchard Review* this past fall, and she also has pieces in the anthologies *Hunger and Thirst* (City Works Press, 2008) and *Dinarzad's Children* (University of Arkansas Press, 2008). She is currently teaching screenwriting and film production in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

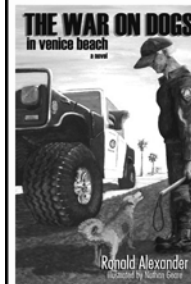
**Alexi Zentner (2005):** His short story "Trapline" appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *Narrative Magazine* and was selected for the 2008 Narrative Prize. His short fiction will appear in *Atlantic Monthly*, *Slice Magazine*, and *Green Mountains Review* in 2009. [www.alexizentner.com](http://www.alexizentner.com) ■

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—Jaynel Attolini, *Six Word Memoirs on Love and Heartbreak* by Writers Famous and Obscure (HarperPerennial)

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