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Please note: We are not able to fact-check the submitted news. We apologize if any incorrect information is published.
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
Glen David Gold · Sands Hall · James D. Houston
Michael Jaime-Becerra · Louis B. Jones
Joanne Meschery · Jason Roberts
Sandra Scofield · Gregory Spatz
Andrew Tonkovich · Rick Wartzman · Al Young

PUBLISHED ALUMNI:
David Bajo · Frances Dinkelspiel · Jamie Ford
Vicki Forman · Tanya Egan Gibson

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS:
Rhoda Huffey · Diane Johnson · Malcolm Margolin
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


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.


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 Embryoyo (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.

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 08-06-08.

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) 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


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

Diane Dawber (06): Her new collection for younger readers, Looking for Snowflakes, 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 Eppstein (92 Art of Wild): Her poetry collection Quickening was published by March Street Press in 2007. Poems have appeared recently in Arocet, 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.

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.

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 eco-poetry in English, Earth’s Body. During the past year she was a finalist for the Connecticut 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.

~ 8 ~

~ 9 ~

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.

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* *SPWC 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. miriamherrerapoems.googlepages.com

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


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

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


“Marilyn Kallet’s [poetry] shines with a high intensity light into the underground of ordinary lives, creating bridges between the North and the South, America and Europe, as well as a marriage between the brain’s left and right hemispheres—reason and passion. In this marvelous collection, the process of art illuminates life’s path.”

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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


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 Café. 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
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 atheistic 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 (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, Achioite Seeds, Columbia Poetry Review, Pluck!, La Petite Zine, Ablehouse, The Drunken Boat, Ecotone, The Southern Review, PMS: poememoirstory, 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.


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“While her manner is gracious, she is unafraid to say what needs saying.” —client (SVCW participant)

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(650) 380-2466 or email deathlessprose@mac.com
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 Forche 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*, *Ping Pong*, *Sawbuck*, *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, Catboat: A Journal of the Arts, Snow Monkey* and the *Tacoma Art Museum* in the exhibit “Telling Stories.” His review of *Tao Mountain*, a posthumous collection of poetry and painting by Robert Sund, also appeared in *The Pacific Rim Review of Books*.


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.

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**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
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. *Whithering*, 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). 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.
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 are to be seen in the days before the conference moving tables and chairs; to Kaitlin Klausen, 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 Jennifer Dietz, Tracy Hall, David Womack, Sasha Federoff, and Joan Klausen for filling in the gaps wherever needed.

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 Klausen; Barbara Hall; Mimi & Burnett Miller; Geri Thayer; and Max Byrd.

Our work waiver crews make each conference run smoothly. For their labor during poetry we thank Paula Bernett, 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 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 Galberum & 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 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
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 Philips 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.

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 races 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 about bringing shamanic 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 *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.

**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 screenplay, Esperanza, was optioned in October by Enigmafilm, Munich (Germany) and has a Swiss director attached, Sebastian Kurzli, as well as the editor of The Lives of Others. Production is scheduled for 2010 in Hamburg and the Pyrenees.


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 You Tube video, Get Out the Vote…, featuring Dave Smallest singing his song, “America” appeared in October. www.youtube.com/watch?v=4G6LeOTyJ8

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 Teatre Zar in Poland. Additionally, she will direct her short film Silk Fan in April.


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 MINDlah/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 alumna Tim Wendel’s novel, Castro’s Curved Ball, 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 (Deadbeats) 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 Girltalk 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 Humeystewa (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 9NRA 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 TV.

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 Lafer (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 Gun 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. On the 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 Kaczmarczk’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 *Rickshaw 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 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.
Hard Times for Writers

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. 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.
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 in Tin House, The Iowa Review, Best New American Voices, Prairie Schooner, New Stories from the South, The Guardian, and Granta. www.thenwecametotheend.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

In 2009 we will welcome:


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

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

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


OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Community of Writers awards full and partial tuition waivers to talented writers and poets. These scholarships increase the cultural diversity of the workshops and allow talented writers to participate who would otherwise not be able to attend. Please join our friends, former participants and staff in donating what you can.

You may direct your tax-deductible contribution to the program of your choice. Log on to http://www.justgive.org to donate online with a credit card, or send a check to:

Squaw Valley Community of Writers
PO Box 1416, Nevada City, CA 95959

THANK YOU!
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
PUBLISHED BY KNOPF

FREE! A POEM A DAY FOR 30 DAYS
We will deliver them by e-mail during the month of April. All you have to do is visit us at www.aaknopf.com/poetry and sign up for POEM-A-DAY.
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.


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.


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.


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

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’ Workshops:

ALICE SEBOLD
THE ALMOST MOON

“A haunting, searing novel.”
—Boston Globe

ANITA AMIRREZVANI
the BLOOD of FLOWERS

“Darkly humorous... leaves no controversy untouched.”
—Newsweek.com

ERICH ORIGEN
and GAN GOLAN
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Writers Workshop Staff News
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.


James N. Frey: How To Write a Damn Good Thriller will be published by St. Martin’s Press in 2009. 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 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 Taboo 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.


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

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 Luxalt 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.


 Seeking Submissions

Canary, an online literary magazine on the environmental crisis, seeks submissions of poems, short fiction and essays (maximum 1500 words) on the poignant beauty of our world and its heartbreaking systematic losses.

Please read Canary before submitting:
www.hippocketpress.com/canary.cfm
Email submissions to gailentrekin@gmail.com


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.


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.
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.


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


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.


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

Jane Vandenburgh: 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.
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 World War II 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 Story 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

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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

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. She gave birth to a daughter in

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.

Jayne Kattner (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.

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*.


Diana Corbin (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 AFW website. An excerpt from her memoir-in-progress appears in the Fall 2008 issue of the *Belleview 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

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

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
“Marie Etienne’s ability to find humor in her haunting journey makes this a fascinating and powerful story.”

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“Marie Etienne has written a brutally frank and captivating memoir that will have readers rooting for her at each step along the way.”

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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

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, Ishangy,” was published in the October issue of LOST Magazine (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, 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

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

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 (Feiwel & 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 re-launched Walkabout Jones as an art and political web magazine, which also includes video, music and photography. www.walkaboutjones.com


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


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

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


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
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. arcroft.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 Stage Blackford Nonfiction Writing Award from the Virginia Quarterly Review.

Eric Martin (08,00,95): Recent Squaw grads Eric Martin and Jayneel 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

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

Karen Moulding (08,07): Her story “The Emergency,” excerpted from her novel, The Untrainable Heart, was published in Fawlt Magazine (www.fawltmag.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 slpitongue.com in 2007. The Untrainable Heart was a finalist in the 2007 Pantheon Prize for Fiction contest.


Barbara Falconer Newhall (06,03,02): She has started a blog: www.BarbaraFalconerNewhall.com


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.


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.


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...
by Fourteen Hills Press. Stories from the collection have appeared or are upcoming in Southwet 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.


Meredith Resnick (01,99): Her essay “Too Young To Have a Mother That Old” by NPR’s DimeStories, and her essay “My Own Person” was produced for radio www.mpr.org.

Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum (02): 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.

Mars and Minerva (95): An excerpt from his short story collection, A summer for Lovers, was published in the New York Times. His novel The Last Queen, and the Struggle for Hawaii, is now out in paperback. His 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

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.

Kris Saknussem (03): His novel Private Midnight (formerly The Windose 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.

Elliot 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 Mondays has been nominated for a James Beard Award and is now out in paperback.

Emile Norman: By His Own Design (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

Tim Wendel takes revelations, and Tim Wendel has secrets, cross-purposes and dimensions.” —Colson Whitehead

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“Send me anything this guy writes, he’s the rare and real deal.” —Ken Bruen

The criminal-as-detective gimmick takes a footnote to World War II and masterfully expands it into a novel of dynamic action and human dimension.” —Colson Whitehead

“In Red Rain, Tim Wendel takes a powerful 4.5 liter, fuel-injected V8 Cadillac Sedan Deville of a novel. And with Steven Thomas behind the wheel, it’s an absolute joyride—an enormously satisfying debut.” —Martin J. Smith

“Satirical and stylish . . . [with a] vividly described Southern California setting.” —Chicago Tribune

“The criminal-as-detective gimmick works. This is a good start.” —Kirkus Review

“Send me anything this guy writes, he’s the rare and real deal.” —Ken Bruen

www.timwendel.com
Her 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.


**Ellen Sussman (96,80):** Her new book, *Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia of Sex,* was published by Bloombury in June 2008. The paperback of her bestselling *Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave,* was published by Writer’s Lair in 2007.

**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

**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

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


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

**Kirsten Whatley (06):** Her first nonfiction book, *Preserving Paradise: Opportunities in Volunteering for Hawai’i’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 *ZYZZYVA* 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 Shaye Areheart Books/Random House in July 2009. The short story she workedshop 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.


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—Ian Randall Wilson, author of *Hunger and Other Stories*

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by Ronald Alexander

Illustrated by Nathan Garr

The beaches in Venice, California are in trouble. The grassy park and pristine sand have been defiled by dogs and their owners. Challenged with bringing order to the oceanfront, Sergeant Smeltzoff of the LAPD vows to succeed in what may be his last mission before retirement. But things get very complicated when his estranged gay son moves back from New York with his dog, Benedetta illustrated with more than 40 black and white line drawings.

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