

From: Eva Melas | Community of Writers eva@communityofwriters.org
Subject: Benefit Poetry Reading details--please reply
Date: June 17, 2019 at 12:16 PM
To: Brett Hall Jones / Community of Writers brett@communityofwriters.org



Dear Poets,

The Benefit Reading is nearly here! We are so excited and so grateful for your time in making this happen. Thank you!

I am writing with lots of details for the reading. If you have any questions, please let me know via email or text. **My cell is 530-913-8443**. I plan to be at the venue around 3 pm that day, so don't hesitate to give me a call or show up with any questions.

Please reply to this email with a quick "Got It" or something similar so I know you have these details. Thank you!

TRAVEL

Brett is in Squaw but you can reach her via email or phone if you have questions about your airfare, car rental, pickup, etc. She is handling all of those details.

READING OVERVIEW

As you know, the reading will be held in a beautiful hall at the historic Saint Joseph's Cultural Center in Grass Valley, and COW alum Maxima Kahn will be our MC.

As we have in the past, we will have a book sale, signing, and reception after the event.

TRAVEL PLANS: (Let me know if anything is changing here)

- Bob and Sharon will drive up together.
- Brenda and Jane will drive up together.
- Forrest will pick up David at the airport.
- Greg is picking up a rental car when he lands.

Does that sound right?

ARRIVAL AND LOCATION:

First of all: It is and will be fairly warm here (forecast 86--last year was 95 for reference), so please plan accordingly. The reading venue is an old historic building but it DOES have air conditioning, so the temperature inside should be pretty pleasant.

You can check in at the Grass Valley Courtyard Suites at 3pm (Saturday, check out is 11am). If you arrive sooner, they may be able to check you in sooner--just ask. 210 North Auburn Street, Grass Valley. I have confirmed your reservations earlier this week and all is well. For more info on the hotel: <http://www.gvcourtyardsuites.com/>

The hotel has a bar and lounge that are open all day, so if you get there before check in and they can't check you in early, you can leave your bags at the front desk and have a snack or drink at the hotel until your room is ready. For dinner, some local nearby restaurants include Sergio's (<https://www.yelp.com/biz/sergio-caffe-grass-valley>), a Taste of Thai (<https://www.yelp.com/biz/taste-of-thai-grass-valley>), Toffanelli's (<https://www.yelp.com/biz/toffanellis-grass-valley>), Watershed at The Owl (<https://watershedattheowl.com/>), and Grass Valley Brewing Company (<https://www.gvbrew.com/>).

Please gather at Saint Joseph's (410 S. Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945) by 6pm. The reading will start promptly at 7pm. The doors open at 6:00 for the public, so if you'd prefer to come earlier so you aren't in that swarm, feel welcome. (However, please arrive no later than 6:30.) We have a private air-conditioned green room area for you with snacks (cheese/crackers/fruit), water, and wine (please let me know ASAP if you have allergies or other food issues so I can be sure to work around those). There is parking in front of the venue, and just down the street behind the venue. There will be signs directing you to parking (and probably a volunteer out in the front of the venue as well) so you should have no problem finding a place. When you arrive, please text me or look for me. We will also have our eyes out for you so we can escort you to the green room.

FLOW OF THE EVENING:

Our emcee for the evening, Maxima Kahn, will speak briefly about the Community of Writers, thank the volunteers, and then introduce Community of Writers alum Judy Crowe, who will read a poem or two from her new book. After that, Maxima will introduce the first of you to read. Then each of you will each read for approx 12 minutes.

We are thinking of doing reverse alphabetical by last name, so the order of the reading will be as follows (if that works for everyone):

- Gregory Pardlo
- Sharon Olds

Charon Cho
-Jane Miller
-David Tomas Martinez
-Brenda Hillman
-Bob Hass
-Forrest Gander

At the end of the reading, we will have a book signing and reception. Depending on the size of the crowd, this will last 30-60 mins.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions at this time. Brett will be in touch very soon with a separate email about Saturday and your trip up to the Valley.

With much gratitude and anticipation,

Eva Melas
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