

SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE NEWS

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NEW PRESENTERS FOR 2006

The San Francisco Writers Conference will have a dream team of literary favorites for the upcoming 2006 event. Here is an update on the presenters confirming as of the first of September:

Gayle Lynds (*Robert Ludlum's The Altman Code*); **Terry Ryan** (*The Prize Winner of Defiance Ohio—See below for more on this one!*); **Jennifer Crusie** (*Manhunting*); **Jamie Raab** (VP Warner Books); **Daisy Marles** (*Publishers Weekly*); **Dianne Jacob** (*Will Write for Food*); **Elissa Haden Guest** (*Iris & Walter*); **Sam Horn** (*Tongue Fu!*); **Zilpha Keatley Snyder** (*The Egypt Game*); **James Dalessandro** (*1906*); **Bob Mayer** (*The Writer's Toolkit*); **Jan Wahl** (KRON Movie Critic); Pamela Johnson; **Walter M. Mayes** (*Walter the Giant Storyteller*), and noted writing coach **Hal Zina Bennett**.

This year the list of presenters is decidedly multicultural with popular authors **Firoozeh Dumas** (*Funny in Farsi*); **Samina Ali** (*Madras on Rainy Days*); **Lalita Tademy** (*Cane River*), and **Rose Castillo Guilbault** (*The Farmworker's Daughter*). In addition, The Very Reverend **Alan Jones**, of Grace Cathedral, will talk about his books including *Reimagining Christianity*.

Literary agents will include: Andrea Brown; Kimberley Cameron; Dena Fischer; Lilly Ghahremani; Diane Higgins; Michael Larsen; Donna Levin; Elizabeth Pomada; Amy Rennert; Laura Rennert; Katharine Sands; Robert Shepard; Irene Webb; Ted Weinstein and many others.

A new sponsor this year is iUniverse and **Diane Gedymin**, editorial director of iUniverse, will explain new publishing options beyond the traditional New York publishers.

Presenters returning from the 2005 conference include: Maja Thomas (Warner Book and Audio Books); Deb Werksman (Sourcebooks); Sam Barry (Harper San Francisco); Elaine Petrocelli (owner of Book Passage); Alan Rinzler (Jossey Bass); Leonard Schlain; Elisa Southard; Teresa Leyung Ryan; Penny Warner; Herbert Gold; Pat Holt; D. P. Lyle; Kathleen Antrim; Kathi Goldmark; Jewelle Gomez; Cara Black; Kevin Smokler (*Bookmark Now, Writing in Unreaderly Times*); Barbara Santos; Holly Payne; Jonathan Kirsch; Mary Mackey; Dennis Dalrymple; Dan Poynter; Mary Roach; Wild Writing Women; and many others. Check the website frequently at www.sfwriters.org for additions and updates to the presenters' list.

PRIZE WINNER OF DEFIANCE, OHIO

Our good friend **Terry Ryan** will soon have the thrill of seeing her book, *The Prize Winner of Defiance Ohio*, up on the big screen. (The San Francisco debut is on September 30.)

We are delighted that Terry will be on hand at the 2006 San Francisco Writers Conference to discuss the process of turning that heartwarming book into the movie that will star Woody Harrelson and Julianne Moore. The movie's tag line: "How I raised ten kids on 25 words or less" refers to her mom's uncanny ability to write winning jingles for contests popular in the 1950s. The book will be re-released in both trade and mass-market versions and (as Pat Holt suggests) it makes a great Christmas gift.

Terry's SFWC session will be moderated by **Jan Wahl**, KRON Movie Critic. If you live in the Bay Area, you'll know Jan by the theatrical hats she loves to wear.

The movie will be the topic of conversation on the Oprah show on September 30. If you'd like to see a clip of the movie, go to: <http://movies.yahoo.com/shop?d=hv&cf=trailer&id=1808681782>

SFWC WRITING CONTEST NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES!

According to SFWC Writing Contest Director Laurie McLean, it is never too early to enter the inaugural San Francisco Writers Conference Writing Contest. In fact, she has already begun to receive entries even though our deadline isn't until the end of the year. The judges are selected and we are excited about the buzz being created in the media for this event.

So why not join in the fun and submit an entry. In fact, submit as many as you like! Who knows? Next February you could be standing in front of your fellow attendees and presenters to receive your accolades.

SFWC is all about speeding you towards publication. A winning contest entry will look great on your writer's resume. Check out our website for all the details! www.sfwriters.org

UPCOMING WRITING EVENTS

"PITCH YOUR BOOK!" NIGHT

Women's National Book Association -SF

September 22, 2005 Swiss Louis Restaurant at Pier 39 www.swisslouis.com

This event allows WNBA members and other Bay Area writers to learn from literary agent's and acquisition editor's expertise. The evening will provide an opportunity to interface individually with them in a relaxed atmosphere enjoying a lovely dinner overlooking the San Francisco Bay. Whether you decide to pitch or not, come with your book idea, manuscript and passion.

This year's participants include:

Jennifer Jaeger, Associate Agent - Andrea Brown Literary Agency.

Ted Weinstein - Literary Management

Robert Preskill - LitWest Group - Attorney, Legal and Literary Representation

Summer Dawn Laurie - Senior Editor - TenSpeed Press

Catherine Fowler - Redwood Agency

Donna Levin - agent, Manus & Associates Literary Agency

Dena Fischer - agent, Manus & Associates Literary Agency, Palo Alto

Lisa Campbell - associate editor, Chronicle Books

5:30p.m. Cocktails and Networking

6:30 p.m. Dinner (an agent and/or editor will be seated at each table)

7:30-9:00p.m. Individual manuscript "Pitching" by attendees (sign up at the event)

Price: \$39 member, \$45 non-member (sign up as a member that night with check for \$84 made out to WNBA-SF) includes no-host bar, full-course dinner & parking (first two hours validated)

Please RSVP by September 15, 2005 as event fills quickly

Contact: Vicki Weiland at: vcweiland-writer@yahoo.com or (415) 614-2533

Remit check to: Women's National Book Association-SF c/o Vicki Weiland PO Box 641796, San Francisco, CA 94164-1796.

PUBLISHING SEMINAR (IN FRANCE)

with **Literary Agents Michael Larsen & Elizabeth Pomada**

Saturday, Sept. 24, 10--5, Vieux Nice

This humor-filled energizing class will show "3 Ways to Make Yourself Irresistible to Any Agent of Editor." With feedback on your work by two who've worked as agents, as authors, and in publishing for 30 years. 100 Euros. www.larsenpomada.com Telephone: 011 33 4 9392 23 09

LITQUAKE, A SAN FRANCISCO LITERARY FESTIVAL

October 7-15, 2006

Litquake gives everyone who reads a reason to put down their books and get out of the house. Named Best SF Lit Scene by San Francisco magazine, this annual literary festival features a full schedule of events (some free!) from October 7-15, 2005.

Litquake's opening night will feature a tribute to the 50th anniversary of the first reading of Ginsberg's *Howl* at the 6 Gallery. Co-produced with City Lights, *Howl Redux: Allen Ginsburg's Howl and Other Revolutionary Writers of San Francisco* will pair authors and celebrities to give voice to seminal Bay Area writers who have put the Bay Area on the international literary map. Works by Jack London, Mark Twain, Gertrude Stein, Dashiell Hammett, Jack Kerouac, Randy Shilts and more will be read by Daniel Handler, Cintra Wilson, Amy Tan, Armistead Maupin, devorah major, Barry Gifford and special guests. *Howl Redux* takes place Friday, October 7 at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco. Advance tickets will be available through www.cityboxoffice.com <<http://www.cityboxoffice.com/>> .

With two events happening daily, everyone will have the chance to catch themed readings in great local venues, such as storytelling at Porchlight, Kidquake, Sports Literature, Noir, True Confessions: Single Women of a Certain Age, Poetry, Humor, Science, Unpublished Writers, as well as an evening of film, when Philip Kaufman discusses what it took to adapt Tom Wolfe's novel *The Right Stuff*.

Andrew Sean Greer, Sean Wilsey, Amy Tan, Daniel Handler, Beth Lisick, Armistead Maupin, ZZ Packer, Richard Rhodes, Mary Roach, Robert Mailer Anderson, Michelle Tea, Po Bronson are among the more than 250 authors expected to participate.

A complete list of authors, times and venues is available at www.litquake.org <<http://www.litquake.org/>> . Admissions vary according to event, with some free of charge.

THE QUILL AWARDS, October 22 on NBC

Finally, a red carpet/black-tie televised awards show for BOOKS! According to their website, www.QuillsLiteracy.org, the Quill Awards are a consumer-driven celebration of the written word created to inspire reading while promoting literacy. The Quills is the first national book awards program in which the people, not the critics, decide who's the best of the best. Quills staff identified thousands of English-language titles, released in the U.S between August 1, 2004 and July 31, 2005.

The Quill Nominating Board, a group of 6,000 librarians and booksellers, established, somehow or other, the short list of five books for each category. Then the general public was able to vote at Barnes and Nobel and Borders book stores, or on line. (Sorry, we missed the deadline for voting.) There was a lot to criticize—there were no options for writing in your personal favorites and some books show up in several categories—but any television show that features books and writers is a step in the right direction. So, let's all watch the Quill Awards on October 22 on NBC.

NEWS FROM THE SFWC FAMILY

On October 25th, one of your favorite SFWC presenters, **Elisa Southard**, will be on the *Fox & Friends* television show talking about her marketing and promotion strategies from her book, *Break Through the Noise*. It will air early on the West Coast since it airs live 7AM-9AM EST! Check your local listings for the station.

Leonard Shlain will be on the lecture circuit from Maui to Thailand in the next few months. He wrote to tell u his latest book, *Sex, Time and Power*, won the Quality Paperback Book Club Award for the best non-fiction in its category.

“Many of you have asked about the progress of my forthcoming book, *Leonardo's Brain* (Viking 2006), a speculative examination of the structure of Leonardo's brain that could account for this one historical individual's extraordinary creativity in both science and art. The answer: sloooowly. I had a number of major distractions this last year concerning my health but I am getting back on track...” We are sure it will be worth the wait, Leonard!

Please note—We email almost all of our registration and conference information to you, so if you change your email address, be sure to let us know. Cheers! Michael and Elizabeth 415 673-0939/
SFwriterscon@aol.com

If you enjoy getting these emails let us know and feel free to pass them along to your writer friends. Anyone can sign up for this newsletter at www.sfwriters.org. If you have writing-related news to share, send it to us at Barbara@sfwriters.org .

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