

San Francisco Writers Conference News

SAN FRANCISCO WRITERS CONFERENCE NEWS

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2006 San Francisco Writers Conference News

Office: 1029 Jones Street, SF, CA 94109

Venue: Mark Hopkins Hotel

FEBRUARY 2006 EDITION

This is the final update (we hope!) prior to the 2006 San Francisco Writers Conference on February 17-19 at the InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel. We know you are as excited as we are that it is almost here.

Here are some last minute tips and news that you might find helpful as you plan your trip. We have included directions, travel tips and more.

TIME TO ARRIVE:

We suggest you get to the Mark Hopkins as soon as you can this Friday but not before 1 PM!

Registration will be from 1PM until 7PM on Friday with the first sessions beginning at 2 PM. FYI those first sessions will be:

1. Forensics for Fun & Profit/D.P. Lyle/Barclay Room/2nd Floor
2. 9 Steps to Writing a Bestselling Thriller/Gayle Lynds/Willard Room/2nd Floor

If you simply can't make it on Friday, registration begins again at 8AM on Saturday. Go to the Mark Hopkins lobby where signs and a volunteer will direct you to the registration area. Continental breakfast will be served on Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 to 8:30 AM.

Oh, don't worry if you have to miss the Friday sessions. D.P. Lyle and Gayle Lynds will be doing other sessions during the weekend. (Although a French documentary crew will be filming Gayle at this session. In addition to her subject, this will also be a good lesson on the PR & marketing that is a big part of being a

successful author!)

There are over 50 sessions to delight every writer this year. See the updated schedule to be posted on the website LATER this week. The schedule on there now has been rearranged but still gives a good idea of how the event sessions will flow.

WHAT TO WEAR:

YOUR SFWC NAME BADGE! No kidding. You will NOT be allowed into any sessions without it.

As for the rest of your outfit, attire at the conference is business casual. You will want comfortable clothing for the late-night Open Mic events. Please wear comfortable shoes! Also bring a sweater and a rain coat as it can get chilly and blustery outside in San Francisco this time of year. Right now we are having glorious sunny weather, but that can change quickly.

WHAT TO BRING:

Make sure you bring a pen and notebook for taking notes during the sessions, and business cards to share with agents, editors and your fellow conference attendees. Don't bring your entire manuscript. Do bring a brief synopsis or one page description of your book. Bring copies of the first few pages of your novel as well.

WHAT TO EAT:

San Francisco is foody heaven. Make sure to check your attendee bag when you register at the conference for a dinner guide to some of the city's great local restaurants. Remember that breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday are provided to all conference participants.

SPECIAL THINGS TO SEE AND DO:

While you're in San Francisco, be sure to stop by the new Beat Museum near Vallejo Street and Grant Avenue. Check out this celebration of the Beat culture. Also visit the one-and-only City Lights Bookstore at Columbus and Broadway. Then take in the new Jack Kerouac exhibit at the San Francisco Public Library on Larkin and Grove streets. There you will see the original scroll on which Jack Kerouac penned "On The Road."

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS TO THE INTERCONTINENTAL MARK HOPKINS

HOTEL

It's never been easier to get to our conference. You can drive or take a bus, ferry, BART, cable car, or taxi. You can even combine several modes of transportation. If you have any questions or get lost, please call the Mark Hopkins Concierge at: 415 616 6908.)

DRIVING:

From the Bay Bridge / Highway 80 / Oakland Airport

- * Follow signs to San Francisco / Bay Bridge
- * From the two right lanes on the bridge, take the first exit to Fremont Street
- * Stay on Fremont Street until it crosses Market Street (three blocks)
- * Fremont then turns into Front Street
- * Go two blocks and turn left on California Street
- * Continue eight blocks up the hill
- * The InterContinental Mark Hopkins is located on the left side at California and Mason Streets

From San Francisco Airport / The Peninsula

- * From #101 North into San Francisco, take the 9th Street exit
- * Continue on 9th Street crossing Market Street
- * Stay in the two right lanes
- * After you cross Market Street, 9th Street turns into Larkin Street
- * Continue 13 blocks on Larkin Street and turn right on California Street
- * Continue five blocks
- * The InterContinental Mark Hopkins is on the right side at Mason Street

From Golden Gate Bridge / Highway 101 / Napa / Sonoma

- * Take the Golden Gate Bridge to the Lombard Street exit
- * Follow Lombard Street approximately 14 blocks
- * Turn right on Van Ness Street (still Highway #101)
- * Continue ten blocks, turn left on Clay Street
- * Continue six blocks, turn right on Taylor Street
- * Continue two blocks and turn left on California Street
- * The InterContinental Mark Hopkins is one block on the right side at Mason Street

BY AIRPORT TAXI

Taxis are available from the lower level of each terminal at SFO. Travel time is generally 30 minutes. Cost is around \$40.00.

BY AIRPORT BUS

Shared-ride shuttle vans are available from the upper level of each terminal at SFO. Transportation time is generally 30 to 45 minutes. Cost is \$10.00 to \$12.00.

BY BART

You have two choices. Either take BART to the Powell Street station and catch the Powell Street cable car up the hill to California Street. The hotel is located one block up the hill on the left at Mason Street. Or take BART to the Embarcadero station and catch the California Street cable car. Get off at Mason Street.

All BART stations with parking facilities offer Extended Weekend parking, which allows BART riders to park their vehicle from the start of train service on Friday to 2:00 am Monday (2:00 am Tuesday, since President's Day is considered an official holiday by BART). BART riders at stations where there is a daily fee requirement (currently Daly City and Colma stations) must pay the daily fee for Friday.

For schedules and station information, visit www.bart.gov. Prices vary, but for example a one-way ticket from the San Francisco International Airport to the Powell Street Station is \$5.15.

BY CABLE CAR

The hotel is accessible by both the California Street and Powell Street cable car lines. And what a delightful way to travel to and from the InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel. The cable cars stop right outside the hotel's lobby. The cost of a single ride on a cable car is \$5.00, but there are many discounts. Visit <http://www.sfmuni.com/cms/mms/fares/fareinfo.htm#cable> for further fare information.

BY BUS

The nearest bus stop is on the 1 California line at Sacramento and Powell. From the stop, walk one block to California Street. Turn right and walk one block up the hill to Mason Street. Bus fare is \$1.50 for adults, but there are many options. Be sure to ask for a transfer when you buy your ticket, even if you do not plan to transfer, as it won't be offered later. For further information about schedules and fares visit <http://www.sfmuni.com>.

BY FERRY

From the Ferry Building, walk across the Embarcadero one block up to the foot of California Street at Embarcadero Center. Take the California Street Cable Car up the hill to Mason, the Mark's front door.

PARKING OPTIONS:

The Mark Hopkins garage is \$51.30 for overnight parking.

The Masonic and Grace Cathedral parking garages at California and Taylor streets have a maximum fee of \$27 for each 24-hour period.

The Sutter Stockton garage on Bush between Stockton Street and Grant Avenue charges \$26 for Friday or Saturday from 7 am-6 pm. Sundays from 7 am-6 pm are a bargain at \$7.00.

INAUGURAL SFWC WRITING CONTEST FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Since this was our first writing contest, we hoped to receive a sufficient number of entries to cover the cost of the prize money. We were stunned by the response. Nearly 300 participants from the U.S. and overseas sent their entries in to the SFWC offices for the inaugural San Francisco Writers Conference Writing Contest.

It was a tough job to judge all the unique writing talent, but we did manage to select the finalists and winners in our four categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children's Books and Poetry. The winners will be announced at the conference during lunch on Saturday, February 18th. The finalists are listed below. If you see a finalist at the conference, be sure to offer your congratulations.

"I was very impressed by the variety and quality of the writing,"_ said Laurie McLean, SFWC Writing Contest Director. "I can easily see some of the winners becoming published authors._"

SFWC WRITING CONTEST FINALISTS:

POETRY:

Antoinette Scalise/Your Smile
Penelope Schott/Don Quixote
Adele Mendelson/Knowing Better
Emily Jiang/Chang-O and the Jade Hare
Christine Schonewald/Home
Sally Ketchum/Catboat: post race
Corky Wedge/I Still Dance
Adrena Zawinski/The Pickers
Bernard A. Loposer/Phaedo: The Cave Revisited
Amanda Bern/Whole
Amanda Bern/December
Jacqueline Summers/The Disappearing Mother
Sophie Morgan/Tumpa
Karen Vanderlaan/Leftover Love
Dorsetta Hale/Keyboard Players
Irene Jiang/Hurricane

NON-FICTION:

Elaine Jordan/Mrs. Ogg Played the Harp
Geri Spieler/Unlikely Assassin: Sara Jane Moore and the Plot to Kill the President
Lawrence Hedges/Seven Deadly Fears
Leema Graham/Dancing the Inner Serpent: Memoirs of a Snake Priestess
Paul Walker/Mainstream Metaphysics
Deborah Chang/Battle Number One
S. Kay Murphy/Tainted Legacy
Per Wehn/Top Species
Annette Langer/Places that End in "Ee-Ya"__

CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

Patricia Bingham/Name-Seeking

Jacqueline Summers/Escape to Ice Cream Bay
Alan Jordan/The Monster on Top of the Bed
Tami Casias/Three: A Teenager's Struggle with the Power of Change
Ellaraine Lockie/Pickles, Pumpkins and Parents
Chris Staubach/Tyrone, The Big Dig and the Dinosaur
Emily Jiang/Paper Daughter
Donna Patroulis/Finding Pim
Suzanne LaFetra/The Toasty Bed Roaster of Rosebud McBeet
Sheila Berenson/In The Still of the Nile

FICTION:

Amy Bridges/The Rattlesnake Princess
Catherine Thorpe/Dorado
Pogo Heinz/Ordinary Infernal Machinery
William Reed/The Egyptian
Linda Joy Myers/Secret Music
Tracy Koretsky/Ropeless
Pamela Johnson/Time in Five Directions
Kate Reynolds/Pundonor: A Point of Honor
Anna Koontz/At the Right Hand of the Indies

WEST COAST LIVE AT THE PLUSH ROOM!

This year, the popular weekend radio program, West Coast Live, will be held at the Plush Room at the York Hotel, a mere ten blocks away from the Mark. Conference attendees, friends and family are most welcome to be part of the studio audience at this live Saturday morning radio show. To order tickets, call 415-664-9500 and mention the special writers conference rate. You'll get \$3 off the regular \$15 price for reserved tickets. Walk-in tickets are slightly higher, but our registration desk will have \$3 off coupons if you or your spouse/companion decide to go at the last minute. It's great fun and you get coffee and a nosh, too. The show starts at 10 AM and goes until noon, at the Empire Plush Room, 940 Sutter Street. Doors open at 9:30 AM. For more info, check out www.WCL.org.

A CONFERENCE FIRST:

The 2006 San Francisco Writers Conference Anthology, published by Lulu.com, includes writing by some of our presenters, attendees, scholarship winners and volunteers. We very much appreciate all of the talented people who submitted stories, poems, and essays. Had we included everyone, the book would have been over 800 pages long! Copies will be on sale at the Lulu.com table at the conference. We believe that this is the first time a conference has printed a "real-time_" print-on-demand anthology of that year's participants. Talk about fresh voices.

ANTHONY RAPP SIGNS HIS BOOK

If you want to meet SFWC Presenter and film/stage star Anthony Rapp a couple of days early, go to his book signing/reading at Booksmith, 1644 Haight on Thursday at 7PM. His book is WITHOUT YOU: A Memoir of Love, Loss, and the Musical RENT.

WANT MORE ROOM IN YOUR LUGGAGE OR MORE SPACE IN YOUR HOUSE?

What's the difference between a child who can't read and a child who has nothing to read? None. But the Children's Book Project is making a difference. Since 1992, they have been getting new and used books into the hands of children who otherwise wouldn't have them. By this fall, they will have given away one million books.

So if you want more room in your luggage or more space in your house after the conference, bring used children's books you no longer need when you come. It's one way to help raise readers for your books. There will be a box behind registration to put your books in. Many thanks for your help. For more info about CBP, visit www.childrensbookproject.org.

NEWS FLASH!

Bonnie Solow, L.A. Literary Agent, is coming back to San Francisco and needs an assistant to provide administrative and editorial support. She is at bsolow@solowliterary.com

See you soon,

All of us at the San Francisco Writers Conference