

# Poets & Writers ((LIVE))

San Francisco • Inspiration • January 14–15, 2017



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# Poets&Writers

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|             | MAIN THEATER   | SMALL-GROUP SESSION 1                      | SMALL-GROUP SESSION 2                       | NETWORKING EVENTS                                     |
|-------------|--|--|---|---|
| 9:00-10:00  | Check-in, Coffee-up  |  |   |   |
| 10:00-10:45 | Juan Felipe Herrera:<br>Poetry Keynote                               |  |   |   |
| 10:45-11:30 | The Poet in the World:<br>Juan Felipe Hererra and<br>Jane Hirshfield |  |   |   |
| 11:45-12:30 | Inspired Editors:<br>Publishing as Creative<br>Collaboration         | Jane Hirshfield:<br>Generative<br>Energies |   |   |
| 12:30-2:00  | LUNCH  |  |   |   |
| 2:00-2:45   | Grant Faulkner:<br>The Power of Writing<br>With Abandon              | Benjamin Percy:<br>Set Pieces              | Rusty Morrison:<br>Courting the<br>Emergent | Small Press<br>and Lit Mag<br>Fair                    |
| 3:00-3:45   | Benjamin Percy:<br>The Art of Suspense                               |  |   |   |
| 4:00-4:45   | Joyce Lee: Poetry Slam<br>and Exquisite Corpse                       |  |   |   |
| 5:00-6:00   | Inspiration Experiment:<br>Susan Orlean, Ben<br>Arthur, et al.       |  |   |   |
| 6:00-8:00   |  |  |   | Literary Mixer:<br>EvenKeel<br>Lounge at<br>Pier 2620 |

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**9:00 to 10:00** ————— Enjoy a cup of coffee (or three) and get to know the staff of Poets & Writers as well as your fellow audience members as we prepare for a full day of advice and creativity, and forge lasting connections as writers.  
**Check-in and Coffee-up**

**10:00 to 10:45** ————— U.S. poet laureate **Juan Felipe Herrera** delivers some opening remarks on creativity and inspiration and reads a selection of his work.  
**Poetry Keynote**

**10:45 to 11:30** ————— Acclaimed poet **Jane Hirshfield** joins **Juan Felipe Herrera** on stage for a conversation about poetry, followed by a Q&A session with the audience.  
**The Poet in the World**

**11:45 to 12:30** ————— *Poets & Writers Magazine* senior editor **Melissa Faliveno** leads a discussion about publishing as collaboration and the many ways editors guide, inspire, and propel a writer's creativity. Particular attention will be paid to editors' advice for writers on what to expect from the publishing process, from manuscript draft to finished book. Panelists include editors **Jordan Bass** of McSweeney's Books, **Rusty Morrison** of Omnidawn Publishing, **Ethan Nosowsky** of Graywolf Press, and **Steve Wasserman** of Heyday Books.  
**Inspired Editors:  
The Publishing Process as  
Creative Collaboration**

### *11:45–12:30 Small-Group Session*

*Jane Hirshfield will present **Generative Energies: A Conversation and Workshop***

*One reason to write a poem is to bring both language and self into new and unforeseen possibilities of being. The not yet knowable can have no fixed recipe or formula. And yet, the unwritten poem can be courted, invited, offered a pen. In this session we will discuss some ways that can be done, ranging from practical strategies of time and place to seed-ideas to opening new ground of heart, mind, and intention. Participants may want to bring with them pen and paper or some other way to write.*

**12:30 to 2:00** ————— Local restaurants and delis in the area offer participants a number of options for lunch.  
**Lunch Break**

And, beginning at 12:30, join us for a **Small Press and Lit Mag Fair**. Browse a selection of local literary magazines and small-press titles and meet the editors throughout the afternoon and into the evening. Stay tuned for a complete list of participating journals and presses.

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2:00 to 2:45

### The Power of Writing With Abandon

**Grant Faulkner**, executive director of National Novel Writing Month, discusses the power of diving in, banishing one's inner editor, and taking creative risks by writing with abandon. Topics will also include the often-disregarded keys behind every great work: setting an audacious goal and a deadline, tracking your daily progress, and connecting with others in a creative community. Come prepared to write—with abandon!

#### 2:00 to 2:45 *Small-Group Session (1)*

Fiction writer **Benjamin Percy**, a frequent contributor to Poets & Writers Magazine who also writes the *Green Arrow* and *Teen Titans* series at DC Comics, will present **Set Pieces**.

*The shower scene in Psycho, the train station shoot-out in The Untouchables, the escape from the booby-trapped cave in Raiders of the Lost Ark. These set pieces are what audiences gaspingly recall three hours, three months, three years after they leave the theater. But they are not limited to to the multiplex. We will discuss the timing and arrangement of the set piece within short stories, essays, novels, memoirs, films and comics so that you might include similar crescendos that will transform your stories from merely memorable to iconic.*

#### 2:00 to 2:45 *Small-Group Session (2)*

Poet and publisher **Rusty Morrison** will present **Courting the Emergent**.

*Writing classes typically focus on praxis—teachable techniques currently in vogue. But most of us would agree that we must break with conventions if an impulse of emergent possibility, of poesis, arises to carry us beyond the current norms of our writing style. In this session, we'll discuss how and why one might ask poesis—thrilling, unexpected directions—to spring from astute attention to what is waiting, nascent, in one's praxis. I'll suggest catalysts that I use to ask my intuition to listen for unanticipated directions of value. This conversation is appropriate for new poets and for poets who are quite proficient in their craft. Participants are encouraged to bring a few lines/stanzas of their own work in order to begin catalysts, which participants can then continue at home. Bring some lines/stanzas that excite you & stanzas that you'd like to revise. I'd like you to have both in hand, as we consider catalysts you might use in the future. If you forget to bring materials, I'll have alternatives ways for you to try the catalysts.*

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3:00 to 3:45

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### The Art of Suspense

Expect the unexpected in this edge-of-your-seat lecture by inimitable **Benjamin Percy**, author of three novels, two story collections, and a new book on craft, *Thrill Me: Essays on Fiction*. How do you keep your reader in suspense? He'll tell you later.

4:00 to 4:45

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### Poetry Slam and Exquisite Corpse

Writer, poet, storyteller, educator, and two-time Oakland Grand Slam Champion Joyce Lee performs a selection of her work then leads the Poets & Writers Live audience in assembling the greatest poem of all time—in real time.

5:00 to 6:00

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### The Inspiration Experiment

Acclaimed author **Susan Orlean**, singer-songwriter **Ben Arthur**, and three other special guest-artists working in different mediums present an inspired series of linked performances, followed by a conversation, led by **Kevin Larimer**, about the creative process and the roots of inspiration.

6:00 to 8:00

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### Literary Mixer

Join us for a drink at the nearby EvenKeel Lounge, located in our conference hotel, Pier 2620. Relive the day's program, compare notes, prepare for tomorrow's program, and exchange contact information to stay connected with your fellow writers. The first drink is free with your paid Poets & Writers Live registration!

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|             | MAIN THEATER  | SMALL-GROUP SESSION 1                                 | SMALL-GROUP SESSION 2  | SMALL-GROUP SESSION 3                                 |
|-------------|---|---|--|---|
| 9:00-10:00  | Check-in, Coffee-up                                     |   |  |   |
| 10:00-10:45 | Kay Ryan:<br>Poetry Reading                             |   |  |   |
| 10:45-11:30 | Here Because There:<br>War, Immigration, Poetry         | Danielle Svetcov:<br>Want the Agent?<br>Be the Agent! | Jennifer March Soloway:<br>Finding an Agent: Who,<br>What, Why, Where, and How | Anna Ghosh:<br>You Should Write a Book<br>About That! |
| 11:45-12:30 | The Perfect Pitch                                       |   |  |   |
| 12:30-2:00  | LUNCH   |   |  | Open Mic  |
| 2:00-2:45   | Craft Capsules  | Grant Faulkner:<br>Art of Brevity                     |  |   |
| 3:00-3:45   | The Work After the Work:<br>Finding Time to Write       | Matthew Zapruder:<br>Sad Dictionaries                 |  |   |
| 4:00-4:45   | Ishmael Reed & Tennessee Reed:<br>Writing in the Family |   |  |   |
| 5:00-6:00   | Jonathan Franzen:<br>Featured Fiction Reading           |   |  |   |

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**9:00 to 10:00** \_\_\_\_\_ The coffee (and conversation) will be flowing as we prepare for a second full day of  
**Check-in and Coffee-up** advice and inspiration.

**10:00 to 10:45** \_\_\_\_\_ Former U.S. poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet **Kay Ryan** will read a  
**Poetry Reading** selection of her work.

**10:45 to 11:30** \_\_\_\_\_ **Javier Zamora** leads a conversation with **Solmaz Sharif**, **Barbara Jane Reyes**, and  
**Here Because There:** **Javier O. Huerta** about the impact that U.S. imperialism has had on their work,  
**War, Immigration, Poetry** families, and communities, and what it means to write from within the empire.

### *10:45 to 11:30 Small-Group Session (1)*

*Danielle Svetcov of Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary will present **Want the Agent? Be the Agent!***

*What do agents do all day? Play agent for a while and find out. Agent Danielle Svetcov will lead the group in reviewing two query letters and deciding which one to represent. Then, we'll plot out a submission strategy, set proper expectations for the author, and prepare for publisher reception.*

### *10:45 to 11:30 Small-Group Session (2)*

*Jennifer March Soloway of Andrea Brown Literary Agency will present **Finding an Agent: Who, What, Why, Where, and How.***

*You know you need an agent, but how do you find the right agent who will best represent your work and future literary career? Jennifer March Soloway will share tips on how to research, locate, and approach agents best suited for you and your project(s); how to submit to an agent; how to write a query; as well as explain standard author/agent agreement terms; what your agent will do and not do for you; and answer your questions.*

### *10:45 to 11:30 Small-Group Session (3)*

*Anna Ghosh of Ghosh Literary will present **You Should Write a Book About That!***

*For nonfiction writers only. Agents are often the first sounding board for book ideas from their authors. Anna Ghosh will lead a discussion of selected ideas submitted by attendees (one to four paragraphs) to figure out which ones might be worth developing and why. For nonfiction writers only.*



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**11:45 to 12:30**  
**The Perfect Pitch**

Poets & Writers editor in chief **Kevin Larimer** leads a discussion with three literary agents about how authors can make a good first impression—in query letters, book proposals, and even at social gatherings. Panelists include **Anna Ghosh** of Ghosh Literary, **Jennifer March Soloway** of Andrea Brown Literary Agency, and **Danielle Svetcov** of Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary Agency. Poets & Writers Live participants will have an opportunity to submit their pitches in advance, and a select group will be invited on stage to participate in the program.

**12:30 to 2:00**  
**Lunch Break**

Local restaurants and delis in the area offer participants a number of options for lunch.

Or, bring a bag lunch and join us for an **Open Mic Reading**. Sign up at morning registration for an opportunity to share your work in front of an audience in the San Francisco Art Institute's outdoor amphitheater. Poet **Jason Bayani** and **Jamie FitzGerald**, director of Poets & Writers' California office and Readings & Workshops (West) program, will emcee. Each reader will be asked to adhere to a strict five-minute time slot.

**2:00 to 2:45**  
**Craft Capsules**

Three authors deliver a series of quick, concise, and creative talks on matters of craft:

“About Aboutness” by poet **Matthew Zapruder**, “You Are What You Read: Narrative Structure and Other Cravings” by novelist **Bich Minh Nguyen**, and “Once Upon a Verb” by creative nonfiction writer **Constance Hale**.

**2:00 to 2:45 Small-Group Session**

**Grant Faulkner**, cofounder of *100 Word Story* and San Francisco's *Flash Fiction Collective*, will present ***The Art of Brevity***.

*In flash fiction, the whole is a part and the part is a whole. The form forces the writer to question each word, to reckon with Flaubert's mot juste, and move a story by implications. Flash stories are built through gaps as much as the connective tissue of words, so what's left out of a story is often more important than what's included. A single sentence can serve the function that a paragraph or even a chapter might in a longer work. In this session, Grant Faulkner will discuss how a different type of creativity emerges within a hard compositional limit. Come prepared to write short pieces and explore the expansiveness of succinctness.*



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**3:00 to 3:45**

**The Work After the Work:  
Finding Time to Write**

*Poets & Writers Magazine* associate editor **Dana Isokawa** joins four authors whose “day jobs” fuel (or not) their creative work for a conversation about unlikely sources of inspiration, juggling responsibilities on and off the page, and other aspects of creativity in the life of the working writer. Do you struggle to carve time out of a busy schedule to write? You won’t want to miss this panel featuring poets **C. Dale Young** and **Rusty Morrison** and fiction writers **Bich Minh Nguyen** and **Grant Faulkner**.

*3:00 to 3:45 Small-Group Session*

*Poet, editor, translator, and professor **Matthew Zapruder** will present **Sad Dictionaries**.*

*In this small group session, we will discuss practical strategies and methods (including writing exercises) for using the dictionary to get to work as poets, and make poetry happen. We will do some writing and, as time allows, discuss preliminary results.*

**4:00 to 4:45**

**Writing in the Family**

**Ishmael Reed** joins **Tennessee Reed** on stage for a reading and conversation about literature and family, followed by an audience Q&A.

**5:00 to 6:00**

**Featured Fiction Reading**

**Jonathan Franzen**, the author of five novels, including *The Corrections* and *Freedom*, and five works of nonfiction, including *Farther Away* and *The Kraus Project*, reads from his latest novel, *Purity*, then joins **Kevin Larimer** for a conversation and audience Q&A.



**Jessica Ankeny** is the author of *One Simple Step to Keeping a Clean Gun* (Dancing Girl Press, 2013), and her poems can be found or are forthcoming at the *Cincinnati Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Spillway*, *Menacing Hedge*, and elsewhere. She was a poetry fellow at the WxW Tomales Bay Workshop in 2016 and a poetry fellow at the A Room of Her Own Retreat in 2015. She is the poetry editor of the *Black Rabbit Review* and lives in Los Angeles with her cat Joni Mitchell.



**Ben Arthur's** new album, *Call and Response*, is a collection of “answer songs.” Arthur has released six previous albums and two novels, and is the host of the video series SongCraft Presents. Guests so far have included My Brightest Diamond, John Wesley Harding, Vienna Teng, Lera Lynn, Ximena Sarinana, and others. Arthur has performed live on national television and syndicated radio, and has shared the stage with artists including Dave Matthews, Tori Amos, Bruce Hornsby, Shawn Colvin, and Toots and the Maytals. He has licensed songs to ABC, CBS, Showtime, Lifetime, and PBS.



**Jordan Bass** is the executive editor of McSweeney's Publishing, where he has helped to edit and design dozens of books, both fiction and nonfiction, since 2004.



**Jason Bayani** is the author of *Amulet*, published by Write Bloody Publishing. He has an MFA from Saint Mary's College. A former Kundiman fellow, Bayani is a longtime veteran of the National Poetry Slam scene and in 2016 he was a featured artist for the United States of Asian America Festival in SF for his one-person show, “Locus of Control.” He is currently the artistic director for Kearny Street Workshop in San Francisco and continues to perform regularly.



**Ric Carrasquillo** is a cartoonist, illustrator and animator living in San Francisco. He has had the opportunity to illustrate for books, editorial, advertising and film. His work has been recognized by *Graphis*, the Good Design Awards, and the Cartoon Art Museum. He has ridden an elephant and a camel but, not a horse.



**Melissa Faliveno** is the senior editor of *Poets & Writers Magazine*. She received a BA in English and creative writing from the University of Wisconsin and an MFA in creative nonfiction writing from Sarah Lawrence College. She has worked as an editorial assistant for a major fiction publisher and an editor for an independent nonfiction press based in the Midwest. She is also a freelance writer and book reviewer, and has taught creative writing to high school students and incarcerated men in New York City. Her fiction and nonfiction has appeared in *DIAGRAM*, *Din*, *Isthmus*, and *Lumina*. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.



**Grant Faulkner** likes big stories and small stories. He is the executive director of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), the cofounder of 100 Word Story, and a founding member of San Francisco's Flash Fiction Collective. His essays on creative writing have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Poets & Writers Magazine*, and *Writer's Digest*, and his stories have appeared in dozens of literary journals. He recently published a collection of hundred-word stories, *Fissures*, and is currently writing a book of essays on creativity that will be published by Chronicle Books in 2017.



**Jamie FitzGerald** has been with Poets & Writers since 2005, and directs the California office and Readings & Workshops (West) program. Her poetry is forthcoming in *Wide Awake: Poets of Los Angeles and Beyond*, and has appeared in magazines including *Works & Days*, *Mom Egg Review*, *Cultural Weekly*, and *Literary Mama*. She was the recipient of an Academy of American Poets College Prize at the University of Southern California, earned an MFA in poetry from San Diego State University, and is originally from Hawaii. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two daughters.



**Jonathan Franzen** is the author of *Purity* and four other novels, including *The Corrections* and *Freedom*, and five works of nonfiction and translation, including *Farther Away* and *The Kraus Project*, all published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the German Akademie der Künste, and the French Ordre des Arts.



**Anna Ghosh** began her career as a literary agent in New York City in 1995 and was a partner at Scovill Galen Ghosh before moving to San Francisco to found Ghosh Literary in 2013. Anna's client list includes *New York Times* best-sellers, award-winners, as well as unheralded gems. Her literary interests are wide and eclectic and she is known for discovering and developing new writers. She is particularly interested in literary narratives and books that illuminate some aspect of human endeavor or the natural world.



**Juan Felipe Herrera** is the twenty-first poet laureate of the United States (2015–2016) and is the first Latino to hold the position. From 2012–2014, Herrera served as California State Poet Laureate. Herrera's collections of poetry include *Notes on the Assemblage*; *Senegal Taxi*; *Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems*, a recipient of the PEN/Beyond Margins Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *187 Reasons Mexicanos Can't Cross The Border: Undocuments 1971-2007*. He is also the author of *Crashboomlove: A Novel in Verse*, which received the Americas Award. His books of prose for children include: *SkateFate*, *Calling the Doves*, which won the Ezra Jack Keats Award; *Upside Down Boy*, which was adapted into a musical for young audiences in New York City; and *Cinnamon Girl: Letters Found Inside a Cereal Box*. Herrera is also a performance artist and activist on behalf of migrant and indigenous communities and at-risk youth.



**Javier O. Huerta's** first book, *Some Clarifications y otros poemas* (Arte Publico Press, 2007), was awarded the Chicano/Latino Literary Prize from the University of California at Irvine. His most recent book is *American Copia: An Immigrant Epic* (Arte Publico Press, 2012).



**Jane Hirshfield's** most recent books are *The Beauty* (Knopf, 2015), long-listed for the National Book Award and a *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of 2015, and *Ten Windows: How Great Poems Transform the World* (Knopf, 2015), winner of the Northern California Book Award in Creative Nonfiction. A current chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Hirshfield's work appears in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, the *Paris Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *Poetry*, and eight editions of *The Best American Poetry*.



**Dana Isokawa** is the associate editor of *Poets & Writers Magazine*. She received her MFA in poetry from New York University as the Fromer Fellow, and a BA in philosophy from Princeton University. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.



**Kevin Larimer** is the editor in chief of Poets & Writers, where he edits *Poets & Writers Magazine*, oversees the organization's website, and directs Poets & Writers Live. He holds a degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and received his MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he was the poetry editor of the *Iowa Review*. He has delivered talks on independent publishing and served on a number of panels at events such as the National Book Festival; the Sozopol Fiction Seminars; the International Poetry Conference in Koprivshitzza, Bulgaria; the Iceland Writers Retreat; the Slice Literary Writer's Conference; Poets Forum; the Writer's Hotel; and the AWP Conference. His poems have appeared in *Fence*, *Pleiades*, *Verses*, *Poetry International*, and a dozen other literary magazines.





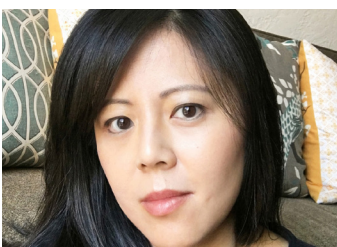
**Constance Hale** is a San Francisco–based journalist and the author of three books on language and literary style, including *Sim and Syntax*. She has been called “Marion the Librarian on a Harley, or E. B. White on acid.” Her profiles, essays, and articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Atlantic*, *Afar*, and *Honolulu*. In 2016 she published a book on the evolution of hula, *The Natives Are Restless*, and a children’s book, *Iwalani’s Tree*.



**Joyce Lee** is a writer and performance poet from Oakland. Lee has performed live in countries including Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Turkey, and the Bahamas, as well as at the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles, TV One’s Versus & Flow, Oakland’s first annual Pride Parade, the Armory in San Francisco, Harbin Hot Springs, and the Nuyorican Poet’s Cafe in New York. She has also lectured and performed for Google, Facebook, Stanford University, and the University of California in Berkeley. Her poetry and performance footage is available on YouTube, NPR’s Snap Judgment, and her personal website, [www.themuseworkshop.com](http://www.themuseworkshop.com).



**Rusty Morrison** is copublisher of Omnidawn Books, as well as the author of five books, including *The True Keeps Calm Biding its Story* (Ahsahta, 2008), which won the Sawtooth Poetry Prize, the Academy of American Poets James Laughlin Award, the Northern California Book Award, and the Poetry Society of America’s DiCastagnola Award. She has taught in MFA programs, has been a visiting poet at colleges, and teaches workshops through Omnidawn and elsewhere. Her website is [www.rustymorrison.com](http://www.rustymorrison.com).



**Bich Minh Nguyen**, who also goes by Beth, is the author of the memoir *Stealing Buddha’s Dinner*, which received the PEN/Jerard Award, as well as the novels *Pioneer Girl* and *Short Girls*, which received an American Book Award. She teaches in and directs the MFA in Writing Program at the University of San Francisco.



**Ethan Nosowsky** is the editorial director at Graywolf Press. He began his career at Farrar, Straus and Giroux and has also been the editorial director at McSweeney’s. He has edited books by Jeffery Renard Allen, Hilton Als, Kevin Barry, David Byrne, Vikram Chandra, Geoff Dyer, Dave Eggers, Sarah Manguso, Maggie Nelson, and Jenny Offill, among many others. He has taught in the Creative Writing program at Columbia University and has contributed to the *Believer*, *Bookforum*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Threepenny Review*. He lives in Oakland.



**Susan Orlean** has been a staff writer at the *New Yorker* since 1992. She is the author of seven books, including *Rin Tin Tin*, *Saturday Night*, and *The Orchid Thief*, which was made into the Academy Award-winning film *Adaptation*. Her website is [SusanOrlean.com](http://SusanOrlean.com)



**Benjamin Percy** is the author of three novels, the most recent among them *The Dead Lands* (Grand Central, 2015). He is also the author of *Red Moon* (Grand Central, 2013) and *The Wilding* (Graywolf Press, 2010), as well as two books of short stories. His craft book, *Thrill Me: Essays on Fiction*, will be published by Graywolf Press in October, and his next novel, *The Dark Net*, is due out in 2017 from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. He also writes the Green Arrow and Teen Titans series for DC Comics. His honors include a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Whiting Writers' Award, the Plimpton Prize, and inclusion in Best American Short Stories and Best American Comics.



**Ishmael Reed** is an author, songwriter, publisher, and activist. Reed is the author of thirty books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, most recently *The Complete Muhammad Ali* (Baraka Books, 2015), and the essay collection *Going Too Far: Essays About America's Nervous Breakdown* (Baraka Books, 2012). He is the founder of the nonprofits Before Columbus Foundation and PEN Oakland. Reed's honors include a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, the University of Buffalo's 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award, the National Book Award, and a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award. He received the 2008 Blues Songwriter of the Year award from the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame, and is San Francisco's first Jazz poet laureate. With his daughter Tennessee Reed, he publishes the online literary magazine, *Konch* ([www.ishmaelreedpub.com](http://www.ishmaelreedpub.com)).



**Tennessee Reed** is the author of seven poetry collections, as well as a memoir and a novel. She has read her work throughout the United States, as well as in England, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Israel and Japan. She is the secretary of PEN Oakland and the managing editor of *Konch*.



**Barbara Jane Reyes** is the author of *To Love as Aswang* (Philippine American Writers and Artists, Inc., 2015). She was born in Manila, Philippines, raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is the author of three previous collections of poetry, *Gravities of Center* (Arkipelago Books, 2003), *Poeta en San Francisco* (Tinfish Press, 2005), which received the James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets, and *Diwata* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 2010), which received the Global Filipino Literary Award for Poetry. She is also the author of the chapbooks *Easter Sunday* (Ypolita Press, 2008) *Cherry* (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs, 2008), and *For the City that Nearly Broke Me* (Aztlán Libre Press, 2012).



**Kay Ryan**, former United States poet laureate and Pulitzer Prize–winner, was born in California in 1945 and grew up in the small towns of the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert. Since 1971, she has lived in Marin County in Northern California. Ryan has published several collections of poetry, including *New Rooms* (Grove Press, 2015); *The Niagara River* (2005); *Say Uncle* (2000); *Elephant Rocks* (1996); *Flamingo Watching* (1994), which was a finalist for both the Lamont Poetry Selection and the Lenore Marshall Prize; *Strangely Marked Metal* (1985); and *Dragon Acts to Dragon Ends* (1983). Ryan’s first European collection, *Odd Blocks: Selected and New Poems*, was published in England in August 2011. Her collection *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in April 2011.



**Solmaz Sharif** has published poetry in the *New Republic* and *Poetry*, and has received a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. She is currently a Jones Lecturer at Stanford University. Her first poetry collection, *Look*, was published by Graywolf Press in 2016.



**Kevin Simmonds** is a writer and musician originally from New Orleans. He is the author of *The Nob of Dorian Corey: ドリアン・コーリーの能* (Galvez & Allen, 2016), *Bend to It* (Salmon Poetry, 2014) and *Mad for Meat* (Salmon Poetry, 2011), and the editor of *Ota Benga Under My Mother’s Roof* (University of South Carolina, 2012), and *Collective Brightness: LGBTIQ Poets on Faith, Religion & Spirituality* (Sibling Rivalry, 2011). A frequent collaborator with poet Kwame Dawes, he composed the musical score for the multimedia works *Voices of Haiti*, *Hope: Living & Loving With HIV in Jamaica* and *Wisteria Twilight Songs From the Swamp Country*. He splits his time between San Francisco and Tokyo.



**Jennifer March Soloway** is an associate agent with the Andrea Brown Literary Agency. Although she mostly represents children’s literature, she is also open to adult fiction. Her wish list includes action-packed thrillers and mysteries. But as much as she loves a good thriller, she finds her favorite novels are literary stories about ordinary people, especially those focused on family, relationships, sexuality, mental illness, or addiction.



A former freelance writer, **Danielle Svetcov** has been representing nonfiction and fiction at Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary for the past eleven years. Her authors range from *New York Times* reporters to dairy farmers in South Dakota. Books she has sold include the short story collection *You Only Get Letters From Jail*; the memoir *Half Baked: The Story of My Nerves, My Newborn, and How We Both Learned to Breathe*; and the narrative *Deep: Freediving, Renegade Science, and What the Ocean Tells Us About Ourselves*; she can be reached at [dsvetcov@lgrliterary.com](mailto:dsvetcov@lgrliterary.com).





**Steve Wasserman** is publisher and executive director of Heyday Books. Prior to joining Heyday Books, he was an editor-at-large of Yale University Press; a partner at the Kneerim & Williams Literary Agency; served for nine years as editor of the *Los Angeles Times Book Review* where he helped launch the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books; was editorial director of Times Books at Random House, where he helped to publish Barack Obama's *Dreams From My Father*; and was publisher and editorial director of Hill & Wang and the Noonday Press at Farrar, Straus and Giroux.



**C. Dale Young** is the author of four collections of poetry including *The Halo* (Four Way Books, 2016). His linked collection of stories, *The Affliction*, is due from Four Way Books in early 2018. A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation, he practices medicine full time and teaches in the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers.



**Javier Zamora** was born in El Salvador and migrated to the United States when he was nine. He is a 2016–2018 Wallace Stegner Fellow, as well as a 2016 Ruth Lilly/Dorothy Sargent Fellow, and holds fellowships from CantoMundo, Colgate University, MacDowell, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Yaddo. His first book is forthcoming from Copper Canyon Press in fall 2017.



**Matthew Zapruder** is the author most recently of *Sun Bear* (Copper Canyon, 2014) and *Why Poetry*, a book of prose about poetry, forthcoming from Harper Collins in 2017. An associate professor and director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Saint Mary's College of California, he is also editor at large at Wave Books, and editor of the Poetry Column for the *New York Times Magazine*. He lives in Oakland.

**Poets & Writers Live** is an initiative developed in response to interviews and discussions with writers from all over the country. When we asked what Poets & Writers could do to support their writing practice, time and again writers expressed a desire for a more tangible connection to other writers. So we came up with a living, breathing version of what Poets & Writers already offers: Poets & Writers Live.

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Poets & Writers extends special thanks to all of the panelists and readers for their participation.

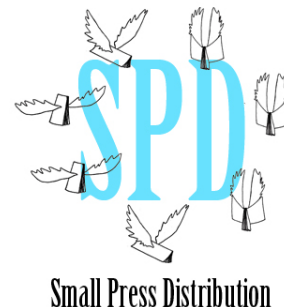
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