

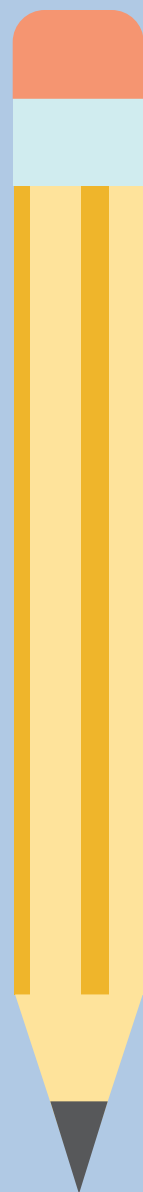
SONOMA STATE
UNIVERSITY

SONOMA

COMMUNITY

WRITERS

FESTIVAL



WELCOME

ROHNERT PARK, CA-Sonoma State University's English Department and Zaum Literary Magazine will host the Sonoma Community Writers Festival, a community-based series of readings, panels, workshops and a bazaar featuring over 40 Bay Area independent literary organizations. The event is set for Thursday, April 4, 2024 at Sonoma State University's Student Center from 4pm to 9pm. Sonoma State University is located at 1801 E. Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park . The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. <https://english.sonoma.edu/community-writers-festival>

The Sonoma Community Writers Festival is a collaboration between English and Creative Writing faculty at Sonoma State University, the Zaum literary magazine student staff, and various local independent literary organizations. The mission of the festival is to offer more opportunities for the Bay Area literary community to assemble, network and celebrate diverse voices. The festival programming will occur in the Student Center and other locations on the SSU campus, with scheduled readings and panels in both ballroom and classroom environments, as well as workshop spaces devoted to collaborative writing. There will also be a table bazaar for organizations and publishers to promote their services and products.

The Department of English at SSU is one of the university's largest. Students who wish to major in English may choose one of three plans, each of which provides a coherent program with a particular emphasis. After a core of required courses, students will follow programs leading to a Bachelor of Arts in English degree with a concentration in English and American Literature, Creative Writing, or English Education. The English Department offers one of Sonoma State University's most robust graduate programs; the M. A. in English offers students the choice of an emphasis in literary criticism, creative writing, or rhetoric and English education.

Zaum, in its 28th year of publication, is entirely student produced and edited. Each issue publishes the work (poetry, fiction, nonfiction or visual art) of student writers at any institution. The magazine is distributed over the entire Bay Area, and also receives national and international distribution.

4:00 - 8:00PM

Readings, Panels, Workshops & Table Bazaar

8:00PM

Keynote Discussion

Stevenson Hall 1400

CAMPUS MAP



- 1** Darwin Hall
- 2** Stevenson Hall
- 3** Student Center
- P** General Parking

READINGS SCHEDULE

4-4:50PM

Alexander Valley

Readings from the Mendocino Coast Writers Conference and Noyo Review

Pamela Bordisso, antmen pimentel mendoza, Rashaan Meneses, Virgie Tovar, Ebony Haight, Frej Barty, Eliana Yoneda

Bennett Valley

Wordrunner Press: eBooks and Chapbooks

Judith Day, Ed Mycue, Mary Holman Tuteur

Sonoma Valley

Bilingual Reading of the Poetry of German Poet Max Sessner

Francesca Bell, Angelika Quirk, Max Sessner

5-5:50PM

Sonoma Valley

Sixteen Rivers Press: Voices of the San Francisco Bay Area Watershed

Matthew M. Monte, Rosa Lane, Christina Lloyd, Murray Silverstein, Alice Templeton, Terry Ehret

Bennett Valley

Feather Press Presents Birds of Paradise

Jennifer Barone, Cassandra Dallett, Ingrid Keir, Kalechi Ubozoh

Alexander Valley

BAQWA Presents: Readings by Bay Area Queer Writers

Liz Faraim, Wayne Goodman, Richard May, R.L. Merrill

Russian River Valley

Wet Cement Press Reading

Thoreau Lovell, Michelle Murphy

6-6:50PM

Stevenson 1301

Bay Area Poets

Peter Kline, Randall Mann, Brittany Perham

Bennett Valley

Reed Magazine Reading

Sophie Aust, Allegra Balbuena, Ian Meadows, Dylan Mueller, Ryan Steel

Alexander Valley

Selections from Recent Jambu Press Titles

Virginia Barrett, Bobby Coleman

Sonoma Valley

Blue Light Press Poets

Diane Frank, Emilie Lygren, Prartho Sereno, Mark Tate,
Ellery Akers, Steve Trenam

Russian River Valley

South Asian American Writers Read

Amna Ali, Moazzam Sheikh

7-7:50PM

Stevenson 1301

**Red Light Lit: The Poetics of Seduction—Love, Power, and
the Erotic Imagination**

Michael Foulk, Yume Kim, Loria Mendoza, Christine No,
Noah Sanders

Russian River Valley

Take Place: SFSU Creative Writing Program

Laird Harrison, Elodie Townsend, Evan Burkin, Michaela Chairez,
Christopher Jones

Sonoma Valley

WTAW Press & Betty

Anita Felicelli, Michelle Cruz Gonzales, Lillian Howan, Joanna
Choi Kalbus, Julian Mithra, Marianne Villanueva,
Olga Zilberbourg

Alexander Valley

Bazaar Writers Salon

Kim Addonizio, Kirstin Valdez Quade, and Kathleen Winter

Bennett Valley

Dominican MFA Students and Alumni Reading

Brennen Belogorsky, Bonnie Carasso, Deidre Cavazzi, Caitlin
Howery, Matthew Kline, Meg Neville, Dave Seter,
Nichole Turnbloom

Stevenson 1201

A Reading of the Napa Valley Writers Conference Staff

Andrea Bewick, Iris Jamahl Dunkle, Caroline Goodwin,
Angela Pneuman

PANELS/WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE

4-4:30PM

Russian River Valley **Sebastopol Center for the Arts: Writing Salon—Create & Critique**
Linda Loveland Reid

One of the many programs at Sebastopol Center for the Arts focuses on literary endeavors. Under this umbrella, we sponsor the Sonoma County Poet Laureate program, publish a poetry anthology, sponsor the Lit Crawl where dozens of authors draw hundreds of readers and writers to crawl through downtown Sebastopol celebrating our diverse literary community. In June we offer Reverberations, an art exhibit with 56 art pieces by famous artists, each accompanied by an ekphrastic poem from local poets. Most recently, we have established a Writers Salon, offering a place where writers can read their work and get feedback from professionals.

4-5:10PM

Dry Creek Valley **The Art of Brevity: Crafting the Very Short Story**
Grant Faulkner

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 hints and 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. In this workshop, Grant Faulkner, co-founder of 100 Word Story and the author of *The Art of Brevity*—will discuss how a different type of creativity emerges within a hard compositional limit, exploring the many different forms that short shorts can take. Come prepared to write short pieces and explore the expansiveness of succinctness.

Stevenson Hall 1211 **Picture This: Art as a Catalyst for Crafting Poems**
Virginia Barrett

In this eye-catching, generative workshop, we will explore the intersection of art and poetry. Participants will be introduced to the ekphrastic poetry process; in Greek, *ékphrasis* means “description.” Ekphrastic writing describes a work of visual art, using the artwork as a source for personal and imaginative interpretation. Facilitator Virginia Barrett will introduce participants to several diverse examples of ekphrastic poems and then discuss ways poets use art as an entryway into writing. Workshop participants will have the opportunity to look at some examples of art and then respond to them in a poetic brainstorm, generating lines, imagery, and ideas they may later use to craft a finished poems.

Stevenson Hall 1206 **Feasts, Fasts, Fights: Prompts for Writing Stories of Memorable Meals**
Marianne Rogoff

Have you been hungry, satisfied, left with the bill, a happy camper, lazy snacker, secret sinner? Describe the sensory textures and emotional dynamics of turning-point meals: the tensions and pleasures of cooking and eating with lovers, family, and gatherings of friends. For writers of fiction or memoir, all levels are welcome.

Knights Valley **Historical Fiction for Beginners**
Carla D. Williams

Historical fiction tells a story recognizing real lives from key events and time frames, while placing at the center fictional characters never mentioned in official reports. This writing demands authentic creations of social norms and movements, customs and habits as well as diverse viewpoints. Writers will learn how to explore a main character's journey in fictional moments that may shift societal views, alter human relationships or change ways of thinking. We will lean on research into cultural trends and social events, creating worlds that could have been true, while also including historical figures for the times. The core of the workshop is based on writing for settings, characters and social struggles in the 19th and 20th centuries, such as School Integration in the 1960s, or the 1992 March for Women's Lives, or the impact of the anti-war movement after the US Invasion of Iraq.

Stevenson Hall 1207 **Writing @ Sex and Love**
Joey Garcia

Publications seek good writing about love and relationships because readers are hungry for it. So, from confessionals to fiction, there are plenty of ways to spin your personal experiences. Learn how to write realistic and emotionally-driven love and sex scenes. We will also discuss how to manage the fear of revealing personal details about yourself or your friends, how to recognize and capitalize on relationship trends, how to research markets for your writing, and more.

Darwin Hall 102 **Sitting Room: Our Panoply of Poets**
Iris Dunkle, Kim Hester-Williams, Maya Khosla, Patti Trimble, Terry Ehret

Our panoply of poets, assembled for this fine festival from our very local Sitting Room Library: Terry Ehret, Iris Jamahl Dunkle, Patti Trimble and Maya Khosla (by video from India) will be introduced by the gal who does everything best, Kim Hester-Williams; she will speak to their many honors and accomplishments before they introduce themselves by reading from their most recent and sometimes in process poems. For now, let's just look at some of the definitions of that alliterative word PANOPLY: A completed or impressive collection of things — or better perhaps — a splendid display.

Stevenson Hall 1102

Demystifying Small Press Publishing

Peg Alford Pursell, Diane Frank, Bianca Hernandez-Knight, Jennifer Joseph, Sarah Alvarez

Once writers finish a manuscript, deciding how to publish, and where to send it, can be daunting. What are your chances of getting it published? What will the experience of working with an editor/publisher be? And with so many presses to choose from, how do you decide the best avenue for publishing? In this panel, the panelists—representing four different award-winning Bay Area presses—will discuss what you can expect from a small press vs. a larger one, what they look for when deciding what to publish, and what to expect out of the process of publishing a book with a small press. The panel will conclude with a Q&A session.

5:20-6:30PM

Darwin Hall 102

Apogee Press Poetry Procedural and Prompts: Channeling, Erasure, Ekphrasis, Collaboration

Susanne Dyckman, Elizabeth Robinson, Barbara Tomash, Laura Walker

This hybrid event will feature Laura Walker, Barbara Tomash, Susanne Dyckman and Elizabeth Robinson reading from their 2022/2023 books and diving into the procedures they employed in each project. The session will include ideas and prompts for putting these practices into play in your own work. This will be a rich and lively conversation about how these remarkable books came into being. Discussion will focus on psalmbook by Laura Walker (Apogee Press, 2022), written through a process of channeling the Book of Psalms, an act of radical listening; Her Scant State by Barbara Tomash, (Apogee Press, 2023), a complex erasure of Henry James' Portrait of a Lady; and Rendered Paradise by Susanne Dyckman and Elizabeth Robinson, (Apogee Press, forthcoming in 2023), collaborative poems written in response to artwork by Vivian Maier, Agnes Martin, and Kiki Smith. Our event will include brief readings by the authors and a panel discussion of their procedures. Participants will also provide writing prompts and are open to a Q & A session if desired.

Stevenson Hall 1101

From a Reader to a Critic: A Journey to Becoming a Book Reviewer

Jane Ciabatteri, Anita Felicelli, Joan Frank, Olga Zilberbourg, Peg Alford Pursell

George Orwell famously wrote “...the prolonged, indiscriminate reviewing of books is a quite exceptionally thankless, irritating and exhausting job.” Three literary critics, all members of the National Book Critics Circle, will discuss how as passionate readers (and writers) they came to reviewing books as a job and how that initial passion figures into today's literary culture and climate. As time permits, panelists may also share tips on how to get started as a book reviewer.

Dry Creek Valley

Writing for Self-Discovery in School

John Creger, Dan Zhou

Most students go through school like robots, not expecting to encounter learning that actually matters to them. And why is this? Our current curriculum is based on an incomplete notion of learning that mostly leaves out students' personal growth and development. The Personal Creed Organization aims to change this. We advocate weaving self-discovery as a developing strand up through the curriculum. Join us in provocative writing exercises and lively conversations aimed at rejuvenating our dying curriculum!

Stevenson Hall 1102

Chicanofuturism Now!

Rocio Anica, Scott Russell Duncan, Patrick Fontes, R.
Ch. Garcia, Jenny Irizary, Luis Valderas

With many futurisms rising, how can the speculative imagination apply to narratives and thoughts on the future of Chicana/o/x people, who will be the future plurality of this land? Artists, writers, and thinkers from the upcoming Chicanofuturism Now! multi-genre anthology accept the challenge of the future and see how other futurisms might intersect and what makes Chicanofuturism distinct, and what the future for la raza is now.

Darwin Hall 103

Tabletop Storytelling: Gaming as Emergent Narratives

Johnny Nolen, Dr. Roberto Faller, Jesse Ragazzino, Dr.
Derek Blechinger, David Zeeman

Are gaming and writing really all that different? In this panel we explore how both are fertile grounds for emergent narratives, the ways in which each can serve as opportunities to generate and explore content for the other, and the mutually heuristic nature of collaborative storytelling.

Knights Valley

Conjuring Characters in Fiction Writing

Claudia Morales

We'll be exploring the intricate process of conjuring characters and addressing their layers of complexity. With a focus on how racialised and characters with disabilities have been portrayed in literature, this workshop aims to delve deep into the critical analysis of character building. Through close reading, prompts, and guided activities, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities to deconstruct and refuse while crafting and conjuring characters.

Stevenson Hall 1201

Applying to Writing Conferences and Residencies: Tips and Advice

Marcy Gordon, Joey Garcia, Iris Dunkle, Chingling Wo, Eliana Yoneda

Writers residencies and conferences can do wonders for your writing career. They can offer a much-needed respite from the stress of everyday life, give you space to create, discuss, and be inspired by other writers. However, finding and getting accepted into the right program can be a bit of a mystery if you aren't familiar with the process. We're bringing together representatives of some local conferences and residencies to talk you through the process of identifying the virtues of these programs, which ones are right for you, how to stand out in your application and make the most of your time there once accepted.

6:40-7:50PM

Stevenson Hall 1102

The Joys of Translating and Being Translated

Petr Hruška, Ági Bori, Francesca Bell

Czech Petr Hruška, Hungarian Ági Bori, and American Francesca Bell engage the world of translation in different ways. Petr Hruška is primarily a poet and writer who is usually the person being translated. Ági Bori is a Hungarian translator specializing in the work of Miklós Vámos. A long-time citizen of the United States, Bori is fluent enough to translate in both directions. Francesca Bell is a poet and translator who has co-translated from Arabic and translated on her own from German. Her work has been translated into Italian, Hungarian, German, and Czech. Hruška, Bori, and Bell will bring these perspectives together to engage in a lively discussion of the importance of translation and of its many pleasures. The panel will also feature a few brief, bilingual readings. Organized by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (<https://modlang.sonoma.edu/>)

Darwin Hall 102

Prophet/Profit: On Being a Writer in the 21st Century

Josh Fernandez, Joey Garcia, Karlee Vincent

Throughout history, poets, artists, and writers have acted as a nation's conscience, expressing controversial or provocative truths and ideas. They have forced us to see, admit, and imagine what we could not yet acknowledge or accept. But now, with 4 million books published each year, writers are increasingly advised to avoid being political or unpalatable in order to sell more books. In this session, we'll explore the calling of a 21st century writer, including what it takes to thrive while speaking truth to power.

Stevenson Hall 1101

Pathway to Publication for Queer Writers

Liz Faraim, Wayne Goodman, Richard May, R.L. Merrill

Four LGBTQ+ authors with multiple published books will present pathways to publication for Queer authors. The how of publishing your work begins with why you write and what you write. Each presenter will briefly tell you their why, what, and how. They will discuss self-publishing, small presses, major publishers, finding an agent, using an editor. They will cover realities of writing (financial and otherwise), getting used to hearing no, finding and giving literary support, learning from criticism, creating and seizing opportunities, marketing your publications, and dealing with success. There will be time for questions.

Knights Valley

Seven Lessons I Learned from Writing a Memoir

Meredith Pike-Baky

What are some helpful hints for writing a memoir? After spending many years assembling a collection of vignettes, I pulled them together, got lots of feedback and did copious revision, then produced a memoir. I learned some important lessons in the process. Come share your interest in writing and avoid the mistakes I made!

Dry Creek Valley

Visuals and Narratives: An Ekphrastic Flash Workshop

Lita Kurth and Tania Martin

In this ekphrastic workshop, Tania Martin and Lita Kurth, co-founders of Flash Fiction Forum, will provide samples of art works and prompts based on art works to create flash fiction and possibly flash nonfiction (or even poetry). We'll write in sessions ranging from five to fifteen minutes, and participants may share if they wish. We'll include a list of places to submit flash-length writing.

Darwin Hall 103

The Writer and The Literary Citizen

MK Chavez, Gillian Conoley, Alex Mattraw, Michael J. O'Connor

Each panelist will read briefly from their work and discuss how they define being a literary citizen (part of a community in whatever way that manifests for them: locally, nationally, globally) by focusing on what literary citizenship has meant to them as writers and humans. Q and A with audience participation to follow.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS BIOS

8:00 PM | Stevenson Hall 1400



Sam Sax is the author of *PIG* (2023, Scribner), *Yr Dead* (2024, McSweeney's), *Madness*, and *Bury It*. They were the two time Bay Area Grand Slam Champion and have received fellowships from The NEA, Poetry Foundation, The Academy of American Poets and Yaddo. Work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation* and elsewhere. Sam currently serves as an *ITALIC* Lecturer at Stanford University.



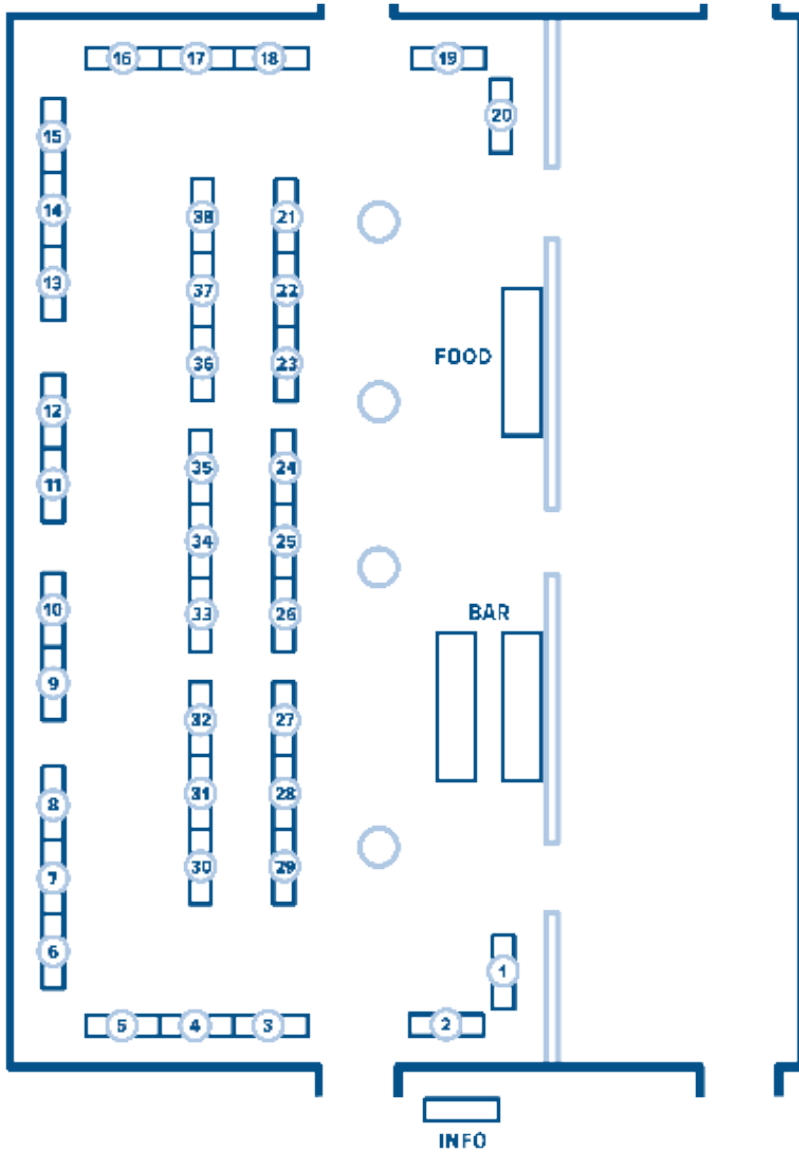
Hieu Minh Nguyen is the author of two collections of poetry, *This Way to the Sugar* (Write Bloody Publishing, 2014) and *Not Here* (Coffee House Press, 2018), which went on to win the Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry. Some awards and fellowships Hieu has received include the Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University, a McKnight Writing Fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship. His work has appeared in *Poetry Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere. He is a graduate of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. Hieu lives in Oakland and is a Jones Lecturer in Poetry at Stanford University.



Kim Hester-Williams teaches at SSU in the English and American Multicultural Studies departments. She is co-editor of the award-winning anthology *Racial Ecologies* published by the University of Washington Press in 2018. In addition to her scholarly work on the representation of race, gender, economy and ecology in new media, popular culture, and film, she writes poetry which is eco-feminist-centered and grounded in the long tradition of Afro/Black poetries.

TABLE BAZAAR DIRECTORY

BALLROOM B, C & D



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

100 Word Story

Apogee Press

Aunt Lute Books

Bay Area Queer Writers Association

Bay Area Queer Zine Fest

The Bay Area Writing Project

Bazaar Writers Salon

Belize Writers Conference

Blue Light Press

Cat Island Games

CSU East Bay's

Department of English

The Department of English at SSU

Department of Modern Languages
and Literatures at SSU

Dominican University MFA Program

Feather Press

The Flash Fiction Forum

Jambu Press

Manic D Press

Marin County Free Library

Mendocino Coast Writers'
Conference

Midnight Chem

Mumblers Press

Napa Valley Writers' Conference

North Bay Letterpress Arts

Noyo Review

offpress

The Personal Creed Project

Poetry Flash: Literary
Review & Calendar

Red Light Lit

Redwood Writers

Reed Magazine

Russian River Books & Letters

Sebastopol Center for the Arts

Sixteen Rivers Press

The Sitting Room Library

Somos en escrito Literary
Foundation Press

Sonoma County Library
& The Wine Library

Take Place of SFSU

VOLT

Weavers Press

Wet Cement Press

Wordrunner Press

Writing Between the Vines

WTAW Press

Zaum

THANK YOU

Strategic Communications

Brittany Eldred

Janet Durkin

Sandy Destiny

Conference and Events Services

Sarah Gillespie

Kindra Kautz

Associated Students

Department of English/Creative Writing

***Zaum* Literary Magazine**

A special Thank You to our beloved Kate Sims, English Department Manager and all-around wunderkind

And to the Bean Pigeon, forever and always



**SCAN
FOR MORE
DETAILS &
INFORMATION**

english.sonoma.edu/community-writers-festival