



23RD ANNUAL LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL

NEWSLETTER APR 2019 THRU

ALL EVENTS IN GRIFFIN GATE BLDG. 60

MONDAY, APRIL 22

11AM - 12:15 PM
SELF-PUBLISHED AUTHOR PANEL
 featuring Vera Sanchez, Ronald Clark,
 and Felicia Williams

7 - 8:15 PM
NEW VOICES
 student reading

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

11 AM - 12:15 PM
 poet and author **MARILYN CHIN**

7 - 9 PM
 poet **ILYA KAMINSKY**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

2 - 3:15 PM
STUDENT POETRY SLAM emceed by
GILL SOTU

7 - 8:15 PM
 author and journalist **JOHN GIBLER**

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

11AM - 12:15 PM
WHY LITERATURE MATTERS

7 - 8:30 PM
 author **ANTHONY SWOFFORD** and
 memoirist **CHRISTA PARRAVANI**
STUDENT WRITING CONTEST AWARDS

DID YOU KNOW?

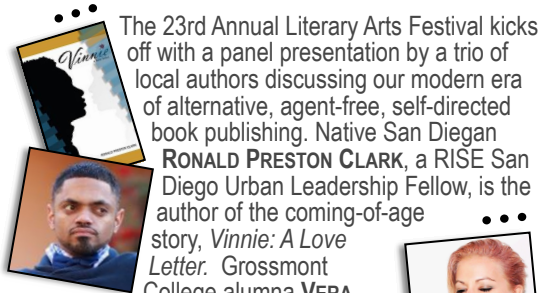
The LAF offers FLEX credit for extracurricular attendance. At the start of the semester, complete a Project Proposal for one or more events and submit it with your Professional Development contract.



For inquiries about the LAF, contact **Festival Director DANIELA SOW** | 619-668-1743 | daniela.sow@gcccd.edu. To recommend content changes or additions to the LAF 23 website (coming soon), contact the **KARL SHERLOCK** | 619-644-7871 | karl.sherlock@gcccd.edu. Literary Arts Festival archives, as well as info about our Program's workshops and degree certificate, are on our English Department website: www.grossmont.edu/english/cw.

GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COLLEGE DISTRICT

8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020 | 619-644-7000 www.grossmont.edu | www.gcccd.edu | Chancellor: Cindy L. Miles, Ph.D | Governing Board: Elena Adams, Linda Cartwright, Bill Garrett, Debbie Justeson, Brad Monroe. Student Members: Edwin Hernandez Armenta (Grossmont), Kyrie Macogay (Cuyamaca) | Grossmont President: Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Ed.D.


Mon., April 22, 11 AM - 12:15 PM
SELF-PUBLISHED AUTHOR PANEL


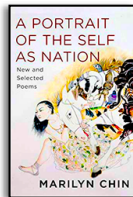
SANCHEZ is the self-published author of the epistolary memoir,



The 23rd Annual Literary Arts Festival kicks off with a panel presentation by a trio of local authors discussing our modern era of alternative, agent-free, self-directed book publishing. Native San Diegoan **RONALD PRESTON CLARK**, a RiSE San Diego Urban Leadership Fellow, is the author of the coming-of-age story, *Vinnie: A Love Letter*. Grossmont College alumna **VERA**

Prison Letters: Walking with Honor and the forthcoming *Put a*. Also an alumna of the Grossmont

College Creative Writing Program, San Diego poet **FELICIA WILLIAMS** is the self-published author of the poetry chapbook, *Autology*, and editor of the popular local indie mag, *Madwoman*.

Tues., April 23, 11 AM - 12:15 PM
author MARILYN CHIN


Asian American poet and author **MARILYN CHIN** reads from her newest collection, *A Portrait of the Self As a Nation* (Norton 2018). Chin, an SDSU professor emerita, is the author of five collections of poetry on themes of Asian American feminism and bi-cultural identity, and a novel, *Revenge of the Mooncake Vixen*. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the United Artists Foundation Fellowship, the PEN Oakland/ Josephine Miles Literary Award, two National Endowment for the Arts grants, and five Pushcart Prizes. Chin appeared as a featured guest on Bill Moyers's, *The Language of Life* series and her poem, "The Floral Apron," was selected by BBC to represent Hong Kong during the 2012 London Olympics. In January 2018, she was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. For more info, visit MARILYNCHIN.ORG.


Mon., April 22, 7 - 8:15 PM
NEW VOICES
Student Reading

Exceptional writers from this semester's creative writing classes and workshops are invited by Creative Writing Program instructors to perform some of their best new and original works of fiction, literary nonfiction, poetry, drama, spoken word, mixed media word art, and other hybrid and innovative forms. Raw, well crafted, powerfully authentic—this student-centered semesterly event is always a crowd favorite for Grossmont faculty and students, alike.

NEW VOICES

Tues., April 23, 7 - 9 PM
poet ILYA KAMINSKY

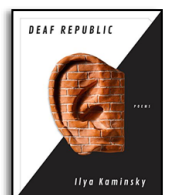

Short-listed for the Neusdadt International Literature Prize and awarded the Lannan Foundation's Literary Fellowship, Russian-born poet **ILYA KAMINSKY** is

the editor of the *Ecco Anthology of International Poetry* (HarperCollins 2010) and the author of numerous internationally published and translated works, including the acclaimed *Dancing In Odessa* (Tupelo Press 2004), named Best Poetry Book of the Year by *ForeWord Magazine* and winner of the Whiting Writer's Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Metcalf



Award, the Dorset Prize, and *Poetry* magazine's Ruth Lilly Fellowship. Kaminsky has worked as a law clerk for San Francisco Legal Aid and the National Immigration Law Center, as well as the Court Appointed Special Advocate for Orphaned Children in

Southern California. Kaminsky will be reading from his much anticipated new collection, *Deaf Republic*, selected poems of which have already been awarded the coveted Pushcart Prize. Kaminsky is currently a professor of English and Comparative Literature at San Diego State University. More info at ILYAKAMINSKY.COM.



Wed., April 24, 2 - 3:15 PM

3rd Annual STUDENT POETRY SLAM hosted by GILL SOTU

Open to all Grossmont College students, poets will battle for the bragging rights of being crowned the next Grossmont College Grand SLAM champion. Hosted by writer, musician, dj, and performance poet, Gill Sotu, the competition is limited to a dozen participants from which the top six will be selected to advance to Round Two.

Teacher and social advocate **GILL SOTU** facilitates poetry workshops within San Diego County's juvenile detention center, including weekly workshops with local juvenile inmates. Currently, he is a teaching artist with The Old Globe Theatre, as well as the Artist In Residence at Makers Church in San Diego. He has just finished an Artist In Residency at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation. Featured on NBC 7's *Art Pulse TV*, Sotu has partnered and performed with the San Diego Symphony, and hosted *TEDx San Diego* in 2017. Sotu was the 2006 Grand Slam Poetry Champion of Ventura County and a three-time winner of the Borders Poetry Slam, and has been named 2012 and 2013 San Diego Raw Performing Artist of the Year. Visit GILLSOTU.COM.

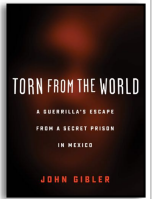


Wed., April 24, 7 - 8:15 PM

JOHN GIBLER author and advocacy journalist



Writing and living in Mexico, author **JOHN GIBLER** writes journalism-based creative nonfiction through the lens of political history. Gibler's four books from City Lights Press include *I Couldn't Even Imagine That They Would Kill Us* (2017); *Mexico Unconquered: Chronicles of Power and Revolt* (2015); *To Die in Mexico: Dispatches From Inside the Drug War* (2011); and, his latest



release, *Torn from the World: A Guerrilla's Escape from a Secret Prison in Mexico* (2018). Gibler's writing has been featured in *California Sunday Magazine*, NPR's "All Things Considered," and *The New Yorker*. He has reported for *Left Turn*, *In These Times*, *Common Dreams*, *Yes! Magazine*, *Colorlines* and *Democracy Now!*, and *Huffington Post*.

Gibler's narrative-based writing humanizes the Mexican struggle on many levels. Sujatha Fernandes, author of *Curated Stories: The Uses and Misuses of Storytelling*, praises Gibler's powerful recounting of the forced disappearance of Andrés Tzompaxtle Tecpile for "[unearthing] the brutal machinery of state-sanctioned torture and terrorism in Mexico today. It is also a deeply lyrical story of survival against the odds, enabled by communities of resistance and solidarity. This book must provoke an outcry. We cannot know this story and see the world in the same way." Find out more about Gibler's writing at CITYLIGHTS.COM. This event is made possible by a generous grant from WACC, the **World Arts and Cultures Committee of Grossmont College**.



sponsors

Poets & Writers



The 23rd Annual Literary Arts Festival events are made possible in part by **Poets & Writers** through grants it has received from The James Irvine Foundation and the Hearst Foundations, by the support of **WACC**, the World Arts & Cultures Committee of Grossmont College, and by the many individuals who have generously given to the Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca College's **Creative Writing Fund**. Thank you for your valued support!



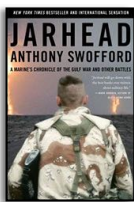
Thurs., April 25, 11 AM - 12:15 PM

WHY LITERATURE MATTERS student/faculty panel

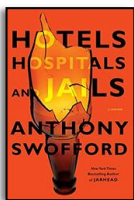
Annually held during the LAF, this popular event showcases poignant personal testimonials that demonstrate literature's indefatigable capacity to serve and inspire us in ways both personal and global and arguing passionately for the absolute necessity of literature in our everyday lives.

Thurs., April 25, 7 - 9 PM

authors ANTHONY SWOFFORD and CHRISTA PARRAVANI



The 23rd Annual Literary Arts Festival finale features authors **ANTHONY SWOFFORD** and **CHRISTA PARRAVANI**. Anthony H. Swofford is the author of the novel *Exit A* (Simon and Schuster 2008) and two memoirs: *Hotels, Hospitals, and Jails* (Twelve 2012) and the bestseller, *Jarhead* (Scribner 2004), chronicling Swofford's experiences while serving in a U.S. Marine Corps Surveillance and Target Acquisition/Scout-Sniper platoon during the Gulf War. *Jarhead* received the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for the Art of the Memoir and was adapted to a hit film in 2005 by director Sam Mendes. Swofford's writing has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *Slate*, *Harper's*, *Men's Journal*, *The Iowa Review*, and other publications. A graduate of the Iowa Writer's Workshop, Swofford is the recipient of the Michener-Copernicus Fellowship and presently teaches creative writing at West Virginia University.



Swofford's spouse, memoirist Christa Parravani, is an internationally exhibited photographer whose work has been represented by the Michael Foley Gallery in New York City and the Kopeikin gallery in Los Angeles. Parravani's *Her: A Memoir* (Thorndike Press 2013) is a raw and captivating account of her identical twin's rape and subsequent death from drug overdose, as well as the author's own struggle to recover after the tragedy. Author Nick Flynn praises *Her* as a "reckless yet delicate, familiar yet otherworldly, precise yet with the soul of a fairytale, and deeply moving in surprising ways." *Publishers Weekly* describes it as "a finely wrought achievement of grace, emotional honesty, and self-possession." Parravani earned her MFA in Visual Art from Columbia University and her MFA in Creative Writing from Rutgers Newark. She has taught photography at Dartmouth College, Columbia University as well as UMass, Amherst.



Student Writing Contest Awards

Before the reading, winning entries of the Student Writing Contest will be recognized, and the First Place prize winner will read the winning manuscript. The Student Writing Contest challenges participants to compose creative or expository prose in response to a prompt collaboratively designed by composition and creative writing instructors. Students are asked to work directly with an excerpt from one of the works by the featured authors of this year's Literary Arts Festival. Finalists' essays will be available in the event program.

