



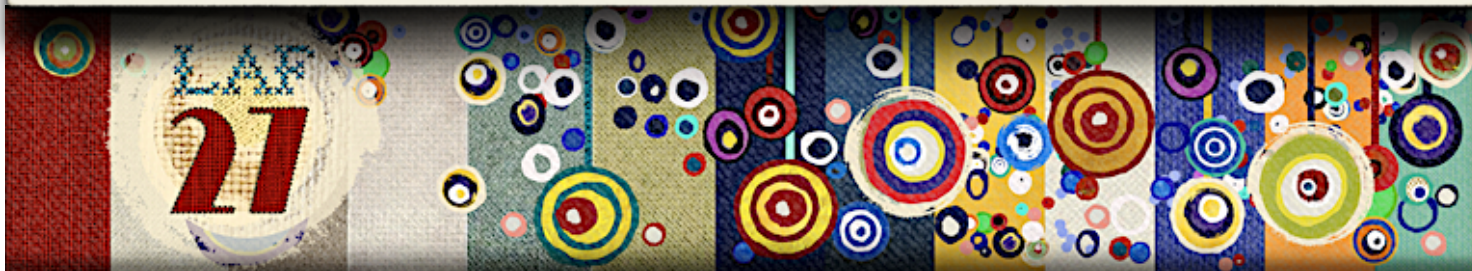
Sponsored by the CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM of the Grossmont College English Department with generous funding from the Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges (FGCC), and from WACC, the World Arts and Cultures Committee.



# 2023 LITERARY ARTS FEST

## NEWSLETTER

ALL EVENTS ARE ON CAMPUS AND FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Find author bios, learning resources, and more, on the official LAF 27 website: [grossmont.edu/laf](http://grossmont.edu/laf).



**APRIL 24**

**WHY LIT MATTERS**

student panel

2-3:15pm • GRIFFIN GATE

**SONIA GUTIÉRREZ**

story writer, novelist, author of *Dreaming with Mariposas*  
7-8:15pm • GRIFFIN GATE  
(BLDG. 60, SOUTHWEST OUTSIDE CORNER OF STUDENT CTR.)



**APRIL 25**

**MARGARAT NEE**

zine workshop:

11am-12:15pm • PVAC LOBBY

**NEW VOICES**

reading and exhibition of new student writing  
7-8:15pm • PVAC THEATRE  
(PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS CTR.)



**APRIL 26**

**ADAM DEUTSCH**

poet and publisher

12:30-1:45pm • GRIFFIN GATE

**SHILPI SOMAYA GOWDA**

novelist

2-3:15pm • GRIFFIN GATE

**TARA STILLIONS WHITEHEAD**

fiction writer and poet

7-8:15 pm • GRIFFIN GATE



**APRIL 27**

**MONI BARRETTE**

graphic lit and social justice

12:30-1:45pm • BLDG 34 LOBBY

(HEALTH AND SCIENCES COMPLEX)

**RAYMOND LUCZAK**

Deaf gay poet, playwright, and novelist

7-8:30pm • BLDG 34 LOBBY

(HEALTH AND SCIENCES COMPLEX)



**MONDAY, APRIL 24**

2-3:15pm • Griffin Gate • **WHY LIT MATTERS**

This annual, student-favorite event features a panel of Grossmont College students and faculty sharing moving and powerful personal accounts of the role literature has played in their journeys, advocating the relevance of literature and its potential to inspire change, cultivate humanity, and serve us in, both, personal and global ways.

7-8:15pm • Griffin Gate • **Sonia Gutiérrez**

Scholar, educator, poet, story writer, and novelist, Sonia Gutiérrez is the author of *Spider Woman / La Mujer Araña* (Olmeca Press, 2013) and *Dreaming with Mariposas* (Flowersong Press, 2020), winner of the Tomás Rivera Book Award 2021 and honorable mention for the Isabel Allende Most Inspirational Fiction Award. Written as a series of vignettes in the style of Tomás Rivera and Sandra Cisneros, *Dreaming with Mariposas* recounts the story of the Martínez family as told through the eyes of *transfronteriza/transboundary* Sofia "Chofi" Martínez. Chofi



witnesses institutional racism, sexual harassment, and colorism and learns to navigate her parents' dreams and her dreams as she discovers her superpower, the strength of her Mexican Indigenous heritage, and the spirit world.

Gutiérrez's poems and fiction are widely published in journals such as *Crate*, *Fringe Magazine*, *City Works Literary Journal*, *Hinchas de Poesía*, *London Journal of Fiction*, and *Huizache*. Her writing also appears in anthologies such as *Lavanderia*, *sunshine noir II*, *Magee Park Poets Anthology*, *Poetry of Resistance: Voices for Social Change*, *San Diego Poetry Annual*, *La Jornada Semanal* (Mexico City), and *Tres en Suma* (Madrid). While her bilingual poetry collection, *Paper Birds / Pájaros de papel*, is awaiting publication, Gutiérrez is currently moderating *Poets Responding* and working on a poetry collection, *Sana Sana Colita de Rana*, as well as her first picture book, *The Adventures of a Burrito Flying Saucer*. She is also coeditor of *The Writer's Response* (Cengage Learning, 2016).



**FESTIVAL AND PROGRAM CO-COORDINATORS:** Adam Deutsch, Karl Sherlock, and Daniela Sow. Info about our Creative Writing Program's workshops and degree certificate are on our English Department website: [grossmont.edu/cwp](http://grossmont.edu/cwp).

**GROSSMONT COLLEGE** • 8800 Grossmont College Drive, San Diego, CA 92020 • 619-644-7000 • [www.grossmont.edu](http://www.grossmont.edu) • Governing Board Members: Elena Adams, Linda Cartwright, Debbie Justeson, Brad Monroe, Julie Schorr Student Members: Sasha Reva, Courtney Etnyre. • Chancellor: Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D. • Grossmont College President: Denise Whisenhunt, J.D.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 25

### 11am-12:15pm • PVAC Lobby • MARGARAT NEE 'zine workshop



The do-it-yourself literary journal, or "zine," is the vanguard of revolution, promoting visual and cultural literacy, and creating avenues for resistance, advocacy, and change. Margaret Nee of San Diego's own Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go hosts an engaging and important workshop and discussion on zines! Founded in 2002 by Elke Zobl, the all-women Grrrl Zines Network group is based in Southern California and facilitates workshops in campuses and community venues such as Hillcrest LGBT Centre, San Ysidro Public Library, SDSU, Cal Poly SLO, California State San Marcos, Hillcrest Book Faire, Portland Zine Symposium, Mobilivre-Bookmobile, the S/he Collective, and San Diego

Indymedia. Nee holds an MFA degree from UCSD and has been involved in various community arts projects before joining GZAGG. She published her first zine, *OYA: a feminist rag*, in the mid 1990s and has since created *Dogrrrl* and the popular *Radical Pet* and has collaborated on other zines such as *From the Ground Up*. In addition to owning her own business, The Art of Dog, Nee Nee co-directs Girl Zines-a-Go-Go with SDSU Special Collections archivist and librarian Kim Schwenk,

### 7-8:15pm • PVAC Theatre • NEW VOICES reading

In this consistently crowd-pleasing semesterly event, standout students from this semester's Creative Writing Program courses and workshops take the mic to perform their original works of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and hybrid forms.



## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24



### 12:30-1:45pm • Griffin Gate • ADAM DEUTSCH poet

Adam Deutsch is the author of the debut full-length collection, *Every Transmission* (Fernwood Press, 2023) and a chapbook, *Carry On: Elegies* (H\_NGM\_N Books, 2008).

His work appears in *Poetry International*, *Thrush*, *Juked*, *AMP Magazine*, *Ping Pong*, *Typo*, *Barn Owl Review*, *Crannog*, *Pank*, and many others. Deutsch received his MA from Hofstra University and his MFA from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is also the publisher of Cooper Dillon Books and teaches here in the Grossmont College English Department, where he coordinates the Creative Writing Program.



### 7-8:15pm • Griffin Gate • TARA STILLIONS WHITEHEAD novelist and story writer

A native Southern Californian filmmaker and writer Tara Stillions Whitehead is the author of three books, including a hybrid chapbook, *Blood Histories* (Galileo Press 2021), and two full-length story collections, including her debut collection, *The Year of the Monster* (Unsolicited Press 2022), and the soon-to-be-released *They More Than Burned* (forthcoming from ELJ Editions in 2023).



Whitehead is an alumna of University of Southern California's historic School of Cinematic Arts, then later graduated from San Diego State University's MFA writing program. After working as a DGA assistant director and then as assistant to the executive producers of two number one prime time television shows, Whitehead left Hollywood to pursue projects that subvert celebrity worship and the dangerous narratives promoted by mainstream American media.



### 2-3:15pm • Griffin Gate • SHILPI SOMAYA GOWDA novelist

Shilpi Somaya Gowda is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the novels *Secret Daughter* (Harper Collins 2010), *The Golden Son* (Harper Collins 2016), and, more recently, *The Shape of Family* (Custom House 2020). Translated into over thirty languages. Gowda holds an MBA from Stanford University, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was a Morehead-Cain scholar. She has served on the Advisory Board of the Children's Defense Fund, and is a Patron of Childhaven International, the organization for which she volunteered in India. She now lives in California.



An Assistant Prof. of Film, Video, and Digital Media Production at Messiah Univ., Whitehead also heads the renowned Young Writers Workshop. Her stories were among *Wigleaf's* Top 50, and appear in journals and anthologies such as *Cream City Review*, *The Rupture*, *Fairy Tale Review*, *PRISM international*, *Chicago Review*, *Pithead Chapel*, *Hobart*, and others. She has been nominated for Best of the Net, the Pushcart Prize, and the AWP Intro Journals.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 27

### 12:30-1:45pm • Allied Health & Nursing Bldg. Lobby (Rm. 34-206) MONI BARRETTE comics, graphic literature, and social justice



Librarian, graphic literature aficionado, and "passionate nerd," Moni Barrette, is the co-founder and VP of Creators Assemble (CA!), and international network of independent comic book creators and educators and librarians, to put comics into the hands of readers and comics/pop culture learning outcomes into schools and libraries. A public librarian and an adjunct professor at San Diego State University, Barrette is Director, Collection Development & Publisher Relations for LibraryPass, and President for American Library Association's Graphic Novel and Comics Round Table. She is also a frequent panelist at San Diego and New York Comic Con, and San Diego Comic Fest and Wonder-Con, hosting industry networking events and providing instruction to educators and librarians. She will also be serving as judge this year for the 2023 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grant.

### 7-8:30pm • Allied Health & Nursing Bldg. Lobby (Rm. 34-206)

#### RAYMOND LUCZAK, Deaf & queer poet, writer, playwright, filmmaker

Raymond Luczak lost most of his hearing as an infant and, while attending Washington, D.C.'s Gallaudet University, learned American Sign Language (ASL) and discovered Deaf gay culture for the first time. Now, he is the celebrated author of over twenty books, including his recent poetry collections, *Once Upon a Twin: Poems* (Gallaudet University



Press 2021) and *Chlorophyll* (Modern History Press, 2022). His recent nonfiction book releases include *A Quiet Foghorn*, a follow-up to his critically acclaimed *Assembly Required: Notes from a Deaf Gay Life* (RID Press 2009). His new novel, *Widower, 48, Seeks Husband*, is available this year from Rattling Good Yarns Press. He has also edited a number of anthologies, including most recently *Lovejets: Queer Male Poets on 200 Years of Walt Whitman* (Squares & Rebels, 2019) and his current project, *Mollyhouse*, a journal for queer, disabled, and neurodivergent writers.

Luczak's writing continues to be widely anthologized in disability-lit and queer collections, including *Beauty Is a Verb* (Cinco Puntos Press), *The Deaf Way II Anthology* (Gallaudet University Press), and *Best Gay Short Stories 2008* (Lethe Press). His works appear in *Poetry*, *BLOOM*, *TheaterWeek*, *Art & Understanding*, *Silent News*, *The Ragged Edge*, *The Dramatists Guild Quarterly*, *Handwave*, *Deaf Arts UK*, *Out*, *The Tactile Mind*, *Typo Magazine*, *Wordgathering*, *Poetry*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *The Hazmat Review*, and others. In 2014, he was among the first Deaf artists to participate in the Deaf Artists Residency Program at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Arts in Red Wing, Minnesota. Raymond Luczak now lives in Minneapolis.

