





# Writers Week Guest Speakers for February 7-11, 2011

revised 1/12/11

Name	Photo	Biography
Grace Acosta		<p><b>Grace Acosta</b> was born in Los Angeles. She graduated from Stanford University with a degree in English. Grace has worked at various jobs: English teacher in Japan, fundraiser for the Japanese-American National Museum in Los Angeles, then the YWCA in Palo Alto. She has also worked for Stanford University's Office of Admissions as an evaluator of freshman applications. Grace has been a columnist for the Town Crier since 2003, and is married with two children. She enjoys reading, writing, and lavishing an inexplicable amount of attention on the family dog, Parker.</p>
Dan Archer		<p><b>Dan Archer</b> was born in London and moved to the United States in 2007. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in French and Spanish from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and a master of fine arts from the Center for Cartoon Studies in Vermont. He has made a career for himself over the past seven years as a freelance comics journalist, specializing in graphic narratives on U.S. politics and history. His work has appeared in Alternet, Wired magazine, The Guardian, the Huffington Post and other publications around the globe. His employers have included <a href="http://archcomix.com">archcomix.com</a>, <a href="http://bloomsburyusa.com">bloomsburyusa.com</a>, Farrar, Strauss and Giraud, Insomnia Publications, <a href="http://archburger.com">archburger.com</a>, the Penguin Group. He also was an online communications manager for the Penguin Group in London and is an instructor in the <a href="#">graphic novel project</a> through the Creative Writing Department at Stanford University.</p>



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Cara Black		<p><b>Cara Black</b> lives in San Francisco with her husband, a bookseller, and son. She grew up in the Bay Area, attended Woodside High School and gets to Paris whenever she can. Murder in the Latin Quarter, the 9th in her Paris-based mystery series, the Aimee Leduc Investigations, comes out in March. Her bestselling novels have been nominated for mystery awards and are translated into five languages. Her website is <a href="http://www.carablack.com">www.carablack.com</a></p>
Jack Bowen		<p><b>Jack Bowen</b> graduated from Stanford University in 1995 with Honors in Human Biology. He went on to earn a Masters Degree in Philosophy from California State University, Long Beach graduating Summa Cum Laude. Jack's debut novel, "The Dream Weaver" made the San Francisco Chronicle Bestseller list in March 2006, the Amazon Top 500, and was one of the Kepler's Bookstore top-10 sellers of the year in 2006. The book was released as an Anniversary Edition in 2008. His second book, "A Journey Through the Landscape of Philosophy" was released in 2007 as a major college philosophy textbook and he is currently working on his third book. Jack was also a two-time All-American water polo player at Stanford, an alternate goalie of the 1996 Olympic Team, and a member of the 2000 Olympic Training Team. Also an avid musician, he has been a recording drummer on over ten albums. His most recent band, Amboy Kelso, was a Bay Area favorite releasing their third album in Spring, 2004. He can also be heard on the book's theme song, "Beautiful Colors."</p>



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Joshua Blake Edwards		<b>Joshua Edwards</b> is currently a Stegner Fellow and the director of Canarium Books ( <a href="http://www.canariumbooks.org">www.canariumbooks.org</a> ). His first collection of poetry, <i>Campeche</i> (with photographs by his father, Van Edwards), will be published April 1, 2011 by Noemi Press and his translation of Mexican poet Maria Baranda's book-length poem, <i>Ficticia</i> , was published by Shearsman Books in September 2010. His poems and translations have appeared in <i>Slate</i> , <i>Chicago Review</i> , <i>Northwest Review</i> , <i>Colorado Review</i> , and elsewhere.
Rob Ehle		<b>Rob Ehle</b> is the art director at Stanford University Press and a recent Stegner Fellow. His stories have appeared in <i>New England Review</i> , <i>American Short Fiction</i> , <i>Epoch</i> , and elsewhere, and have been shortlisted twice in Best American Nonrequired Reading. He's currently writing a novel.
John W. Evans		<b>John W. Evans</b> is the Jones Lecturer in poetry at Stanford University, where he was previously a Wallace Stegner Fellow. His poems appear in <i>Poetry Daily</i> , <i>The Missouri Review</i> , <i>Boston Review</i> , <i>The Southern Review</i> , <i>Gettysburg Review</i> , <i>Hayden's Ferry Review</i> , and elsewhere. His chapbook, <i>Zugzwang</i> , was published in November 2009 by RockSaw Press. Formerly a Peace Corps volunteer in Bangladesh and middle school teacher, he serves as executive director of the Katie Memorial Foundation (KMF), a nonprofit organization that promotes grassroots international public health work in the developing world. He lives in Palo Alto.

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Joshua Foster		<p><b>Joshua Foster</b> was born and raised in Rigby, Idaho. He attended the University of Arizona's Master of Fine Arts program, studying fiction and nonfiction writing. He graduated in 2008 and returned to Idaho to work on his father's grain and potato farm, which he continues to do intermittently while a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University.</p> <p>Josh's short stories and essays have won awards and been featured in various publications including Fugue, Irreantum, Dialogue, South Loop Review, and Idaho Magazine, and has work forthcoming in Hawk &amp; Handsaw. His work has recently been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and a Best of the Web prize. He is also the nonfiction editor for the online magazine Terrain.org: A Journal for the Built &amp; Natural Environments.</p>
Betsey Franco		<p><b>Betsy Franco</b> has written over eighty books, including young adult novels, picture books, and poetry collections, along with a play, a handful of sketch comedies, and a funnyordie video. Two of her latest books are Metamorphosis, a novel illustrated by her son Tom Franco and read on audio book by her sons James Franco and Dave Franco, and Falling Hard, 100 Love Poems by Teenagers. Betsy is also an actor on TV and film and is a member of a sketch comedy troupe, Suburban Squirrel. NEW: audio of METAMORPHOSIS, JUNIOR YEAR, read by James and Dave Franco, drawings in the novel by Tom Franco (Candlewick), ZERO IS THE LEAVES ON THE TREE, NorCal Indie Booksellers Award for Best Illustrated Children's Book 2009 (Tricycle), POND CIRCLE, Bank Street 2010 Best Books of the Year list (Simon &amp; Schuster), A CURIOUS COLLECTION OF CATS, Lee Bennett Hopkins Honor Award (Tricycle)</p>



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Name	Photo	Biography
Katie Ginder-Vogel		<p><b>Katie (Beman) Ginder-Vogel</b> is a graduate of Stanford University with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English, Katie has more than ten years of experience as a writer and editor. Past clients have included Clif Bar, Avalon Organics, Wag Pet Hotels, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and the Delaware Environmental Institute. She currently writes for Cuadpro Marketing and Abbey Road Programs and edits scientific papers, grant proposals, and reports for universities and nonprofits.</p> <p>Katie is a 1993 graduate of Los Altos High School and taught at Egan Intermediate School in Los Altos from 2002-2006.</p>
Pam Gullard		<p><b>Pamela Gullard's</b> stories have appeared in the <i>North American Review</i>, <i>Arts and Letters</i>, <i>The Iowa Review</i>, <i>TriQuarterly</i> and other journals and anthologies. Her collection, <i>Breathe at Every Other Stroke</i>, published by Henry Holt, includes a story that won a PEN Syndicated Fiction Project Award, and another that took first place in the H.G. Roberts Fiction Contest judged by Gordon Lish. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. In September, 2009, Scottwall Associates published the third in a series of histories Pamela wrote with Nancy Lund, <i>Under the Oaks: Two Hundred Years in Atherton</i>. She lives in Menlo Park with her husband Mike. They have two sons.</p>

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Name	Photo	Biography
Seth Harwood		<b>Seth Harwood</b> grew up in Cambridge and the Boston area and graduated from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in 2002. His latest novel, <i>Young Junius</i> , is now available from Tyrus Books at all fine stores. It is billed as "The Wire meets Cambridge, MA of 1987." <i>Jack Wakes Up</i> (Three Rivers Press, 2009) , two <i>Jack Palms</i> sequels, and <i>Young Junius</i> are all available as free audiobooks on iTunes, and at <a href="http://sethharwood.com">sethharwood.com</a> . Seth currently lives in San Francisco where he teaches English and creative writing at Stanford and the City College of San Francisco. He can be contacted by email at <a href="mailto:seth@sethharwood.com">seth@sethharwood.com</a> and on Twitter (@sethharwood).
Ellen Hopkins		<b>Ellen Hopkins</b> is the New York Times bestselling author of <i>Crank</i> , <i>Burned</i> , <i>Impulse</i> , <i>Glass</i> , <i>Identical</i> , <i>Tricks</i> , and <i>Fallout</i> . Her novels are praised by teens and adults alike, and she has been called the "bestselling living poet in the U.S." by <a href="http://mediabistro.com">mediabistro.com</a> . She lives with her family in Carson City, Nevada. She is a regular speaker at schools, book festivals and writers conferences across the US, and now throughout the world. Learn more about her outreach to teens at <a href="http://www.ellenhopkins.com">http://www.ellenhopkins.com</a> .




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David Ichioka		<p>I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania but grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles.</p> <p>I attended Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, where I graduated with a degree in film. I started professionally creating animated logos and titles, then moved into the field of TV animation.</p> <p>After moving to the San Francisco Bay Area, I created and produced <i>Bump In The Night</i>, a series for ABC. It is here that I met my wife Edie, who was the show's editor. Recently, we collaborated on a documentary about the renowned filmmaker Walter Murch.</p> <p>Besides Bump in the Night, I've had directing or producing roles in animated shows and movies like <i>The PJs</i>, <i>Gary &amp; Mike</i>, <i>Tim Burton's Corpse Bride</i>, and <i>Happy Tree Friends</i>.</p> <p>Alongside media creation, Edie and I share an obsession with food. In 2005 we combined the two by creating the web site <i>Bunrab.com</i>. It has two food sections: <i>Yummy Chow</i>, which is a collection of restaurant reviews, and <i>Daily Feed</i>, a blog about food and the food scene in the Bay Area.</p>

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Name	Photo	Biography
Dana Kletterer		Dana Kletter is a writer, musician, teacher, and current Stegner Fellow at Stanford. Her work appears in Michigan Quarterly Review, San Francisco Chronicle, Boston Phoenix and on Interscope, Rykdodisc and Mammoth Records.
Heidi Kling		<b>Heidi R. Kling</b> is the author of SEA (Putnam, 2010) an IndieNextPick and Goodreads "Mover & Shaker", contributed to this fall's VISITOR'S GUIDE TO MYSTIC FALLS (Smart Pop, 2010), which is based on the popular CW series, "Vampire Diaries" and contributed a short-story to the upcoming anthology TRUTH & DARE, which will be published in both the UK and U.S. (May 2011). Heidi earned her MFA in Writing for Children from the New School, and her BA in Creative Writing/Literature from UC Santa Cruz. Heidi is currently at work on a paranormal romance trilogy about modern day witches and warlocks that surf and swordplay. She lives with her husband and two children in Palo Alto, California, and longs for a beach shack of her own.





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Name	Photo	Biography
Phuong Ly		<p><b>Phuong Ly</b> was born in Vietnam and grew up in North Carolina. She attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majoring in journalism and American history. She began her journalism career at the Charlotte Observer, where she chronicled the remaking of public housing. For seven years, she was a reporter at the Washington Post, writing about immigrant communities. In 2006, a portfolio of her stories about immigrants won the American Society of Newspaper Editors/ Freedom Forum Award for Outstanding Writing about Diversity and was included in the book "Best Newspaper Writing 2006-2007." Since then, she has been a freelance writer, consultant and teacher. Her articles have appeared in The Washington Post Magazine, the Washington Monthly, People, Business 2.0, Bloomberg News and other publications. In 2009, she received a grant award for stories about immigration from the Institute for Journalism and Justice. As a consultant, her clients have been nonprofits, including Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. She has taught classes on writing and diversity issues at the Poynter Institute, the Freedom Forum's Diversity Institute and the Hearst Symposium.</p>
MaryLee McNeal		<p><b>MaryLee McNeal</b> writes both fiction and poetry, and leads a weekly poetry workshop at Hope House, a drug and alcohol treatment residence for women. She is currently working on a novel.</p>



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Name	Photo	Biography
Suruchi Mohan		<b>Suruchi Mohan</b> , a native of India, is an award-winning journalist who covered high-tech and business news for McGraw Hill and International Data Group publications through the nineties. Her nonfiction has appeared in <i>San Jose Mercury News</i> , <i>Reader's Digest</i> , <i>Sacred Fire</i> , and numerous other publications. <i>Divine Music</i> is her first work of fiction. Mohan lives in Northern California with her family.
Tami Mulcahy		<b>Tami Mulcahy</b> is past president and currently continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the West Coast Songwriters Associations. WCS assists writers, performing artists, publishers and producers in their music careers. In addition, she acts as liaison to the WCS Advisory Board, fostering connections with NARAS (the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences - the Grammy's), hit songwriters in Nashville and Los Angeles, and Program Directors for entertainment and performance venues. The love of writing songs began in her teens. The completion of her first CD titled <i>White Wall</i> in 1999 forced her to step into the performance arena. Starting with small intimate settings, within three months she was opening act at the Mountain Winery in Saratoga. Tami continues to write and record new music. She lives here in Los Altos and is known to many parents and students as the mom who volunteered at Santa Rita grade school, teaching songwriting to kids. This experience led to a second CD titled <i>Kids Rock</i> , of which the song <i>Welcome to the World</i> was featured in an independent film project that won the Panasonic New Vision award.


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Sharon Noguchi		<p><b>Sharon Noguchi</b> is a reporter in the Metro section of the San Jose Mercury News. She covers primarily K-12 education, but like all reporters at the paper, also covers other subjects when needed -- which in this era of shrinking revenue and staffing, is all the time.</p> <p>She began at the Mercury News 26 years ago, working first as a copy editor on the (now defunct) afternoon paper then the morning paper; and the moving on to copy editing and laying out the opinion page, working as an editorial writer, then going back to reporting. Previously, she worked as a reporter at the Palo Alto Times, which became the Peninsula Times Tribune, then moved to Japan for five years and worked in Tokyo at newspapers and news services. In 2004 she returned to Tokyo for a year to research foreign migrant workers.</p> <p>She grew up in Palo Alto, attending Cubberley High School, and attended UC-Santa Cruz and UC-Berkeley.</p> <p>She has two daughters, a junior in high school and a freshman in college, who serve as her reluctant informants on youth culture.</p>
Katia Noyes		<p><b>Katia Noyes's</b> first novel, CRASHING AMERICA, was a Book Sense Notable Book and was chosen as one of the Ten Best Gay/Lesbian Books of 2005 by Amazon.com and the United Kingdom's Rainbow Network. It was also nominated for the Northern California Book Award, Publishing Triangle Award, Lambda Literary Award, and Violet Quill Award. Her second novel, A PARTIAL HISTORY OF MY DELUSIONS, is finished. Crashing America, was "highly recommended" by the Amercian Library Association's GLBT Roundtable.</p>


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Hilton Obenzinger		<p><b>Hilton Obenzinger</b> writes fiction, poetry, history and criticism. These excerpts are from a forthcoming autobiographical novel, <i>Busy Dying</i>. Born in 1947 in Brooklyn, raised in Queens, and graduating Columbia University in 1969, he has taught on the Yurok Indian Reservation, operated a community printing press in San Francisco's Mission District, co-edited a publication devoted to Middle East peace, worked as a commercial writer and instructional designer. He received his doctorate in modern thought and literature from Stanford University in 1997. Currently, he teaches advanced writing and American literature at Stanford. He is Associate Director of Stanford's Hume Writing Center for Honors and Advanced Writing. His most recently published works include <i>a*hole: a novel</i>, an experimental fiction on parents and children, creators and creations, gods and mortals (Soft Skull Press, 2004); <i>Running Through Fire: How I Survived the Holocaust by Zosia Goldberg as told to Hilton Obenzinger</i>, an oral history of his aunt's ordeal during the war (Mercury House, 2004); <i>American Palestine: Melville, Twain and the Holy Land Mania</i>, a literary and historical study of America's fascination with the Holy Land (Princeton University Press, 1999); <i>Cannibal Eliot and the Lost Histories of San Francisco</i>, a novel of invented documents that recounts the history of San Francisco from the Spanish conquest to the 1906 earthquake and fire (Mercury House, 1993); <i>New York on Fire</i>, a history of the fires of New York in verse, selected by the <i>Village Voice</i> as one of the best books of the year and nominated by the Bay Area Book Reviewer's Association for its award in poetry (Real Comet, 1989); <i>This Passover Or The Next I Will Never Be in Jersualem</i>, a sequence of poetry and prose which received the American Book Award of the Before Columbus Foundation (Momo's Press, 1980). Earlier books include <i>The Day of the Exquisite Poet is Kaput</i> and <i>Bright Lights! Big City!</i>, and he is one of the featured poets in <i>Five on the Western Edge</i> (Momo's Press, 1977). He is also co-</p>
		<p>editor, with Leslie Gottesman and Alan Senauke, of <i>A Cinch: Amazing Works from the Columbia Review</i> (Columbia University Press, 1969).</p>

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	Photo	
Ken Pontac	 A photograph of Ken Pontac, a man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a dark jacket and a cap. He is holding a small white dog with a red bow around its neck. They are outdoors with green foliage in the background.	<p><b>Ken Pontac</b> has over twenty years experience in the animation industry, creating content for television, video games, and computer applications. A few of the cultural icons he has been involved with include the enduring green clayboy Gumby, the impulsive green monster Mr. Bumpy from ABC TV's Bump in the Night, and the transmogrifying green gladiator the Blob from the hit videogame series ClayFighter. Oddly enough, green is not Pontac's favorite color. Pontac has written scripts for animated television episodes that have been translated into a dozen languages and shown around the world. He directed the UPN prime time animated program Gary &amp; Mike, for which his episode "Phish Phry" won an Emmy for Best Art Direction, and was nominated for an Emmy for his writing on the Discovery Kids series ToddWorld. His LazyTown song "You Are A Pirate" has become an Internet meme, enjoying ten million hits on YouTube and inspiring multiple mash-ups and drunken karaoke videos. Most recently Pontac story edited and wrote for the ridiculously popular (and ridiculously violent) Happy Tree Friends animated series as well as providing dialog for Sega's MadWorld (a video game so brutal and antisocial it makes Happy Tree Friends look like a public service announcement). Pontac's work on the charmingly pro-social animated series Arthur may offset some of the karmic debt incurred by his other literary efforts, but will probably only bump him up from tapeworm to tree-frog on the reincarnation cycle. Pontac lives in Sausalito with a beautiful redheaded nurse and his crazy dogs, Whistle and Mickey Blue Eyes.</p>



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Name	Photo	Biography
Keith Raffel		<b>Keith Raffel</b> , as counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee, held a top secret clearance to watch over CIA activities. As a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, he founded UpShot Corporation, the award-winning Internet software company, and sold it to Siebel Systems. He has also been a carpenter, college writing instructor, candidate for elective office, and professional gambler. These days he stays busy writing his mysteries and thrillers in his hometown of Palo Alto, California where he lives with his wife and four children. His last book, <i>Smasher: A Silicon Valley Thriller</i> , was a national bestseller. Check the latest news at <a href="http://www.keithraffel.com">www.keithraffel.com</a> .
Andy Raskin		<b>Andy Raskin</b> is the author of <i>The Ramen King</i> and <i>I: How the Inventor of Instant Noodles Fixed My Love Life</i> (Penguin/Gotham Books, May 2009). His essays and personal nonfiction narratives have been broadcast on public radio's <i>All Things Considered</i> and <i>This American Life</i> , and published in <i>The New York Times</i> , <i>Gourmet</i> , <i>Wired</i> , <i>Women's Health</i> , <i>CNN/Money</i> and <i>Playboy</i> (the Japanese edition).  Prior to becoming a writer, Andy was a computer programmer, a management consultant, a Japanese TV show producer, a translator, and the CEO of a venture-backed Internet startup. He holds an MBA from the Wharton School, an MA in International Studies from the Lauder Institute, and a bachelor's degree in computer science from Yale. A judge for the 2009 James Beard Foundation Journalism Awards, Andy resides in San Francisco.




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Hank Rosenfeld		<b>Hank Rosenfeld</b> is an author (“The Wicked Wit of the West”) and freelance folk journalist for the <i>LA Times</i> and other publications. His stories appear on NPR radio shows like, "All Things Considered." When he lived in San Francisco, he drove a taxicab and produced a rock-and-roll show at KSAN FM. When he lived in NYC, he wrote plays and was on staff at SPY Magazine. When he lived in Israel, he worked as a deejay on a pirate radio ship called “The Voice of Peace.” He also drove a Good Humor ice cream truck in Detroit and once, while living in Athens, he was arrested for robbing the National Bank of Greece. After a brief beating, he was found innocent, given a recipe for <i>tzatziki</i> and deported.

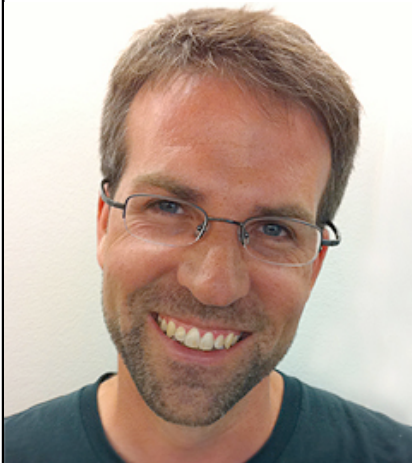
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Daniel A. Seddiqui		<p>Like lots of college grads, <b>Daniel Seddiqui</b> was having a hard time finding a job. But despite more than forty rejections, he knew there were opportunities out there. So he set out on an extraordinary quest: fifty jobs in fifty states in fifty weeks. And not just any jobs. His goal was as much to explore America as to explore different careers, so he chose jobs that reflected the culture and economy of each state.</p> <p>Working as everything from a cheesemaker in Wisconsin, a border patrol agent in Arizona and a meatpacker in Kansas to a lobsterman in Maine, a surfing instructor in Hawaii and a football coach in Alabama, Daniel chronicles how he adapted to the wildly differing people, cultures, and environments. From one week to the next he had no idea where he was going to sleep, what he was going to eat, or how he would be received. He even became a roving news item, appearing on CNN, Fox News, <a href="#">World News Tonight</a>, <a href="#">MSNBC</a> and the Today Show—which was good preparation for his stint as a TV weatherman.</p>


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Jeremy Adam Smith		<p><b>Jeremy Adam Smith</b> was born in Manchester, Conn. He has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Florida. Smith is a veteran social entrepreneur, with experience launching and managing cross-platform projects for a number of nonprofits. He served a senior editor at Greater Good magazine in Berkeley, which was nominated for numerous magazine awards during his tenure, and publisher of Dollars &amp; Sense Magazine in Boston. As deputy director of the Independent Press Association from 2000 to 2005, he was involved with launching many projects, including the Independent Press Development Fund, a network of ethnic newspapers, a fellowship for journalists of color, a paper-buying coop, and many technical assistance services. In 2009, he helped launch Shareable.net, which explores how new technology is enabling new ways of sharing information and resources. Smith is also the co-editor of a series of science anthologies, most recently "Are We Born Racist?" and author of "The Daddy Shift: How Stay-at-Home Dads, Breadwinning Moms, and Shared Parenting Are Transforming the American Family," published in 2009.</p>

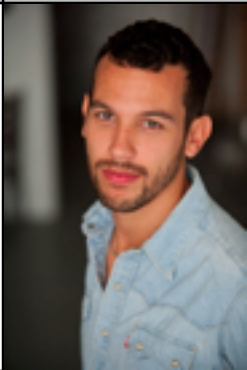
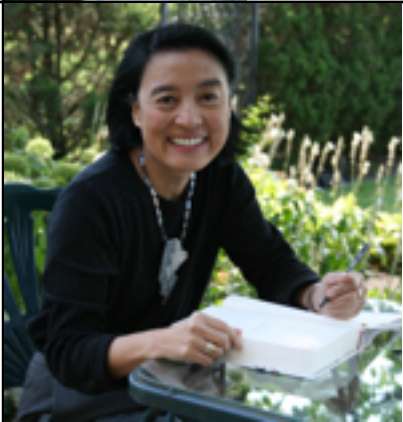
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Jenka Soderberg		<p><b>Jenka Soderberg</b> was born in Washington D.C. She has a bachelor of science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, where she majored in Humanities in Foreign Affairs. She also has a certificate from the Bancaixa Institute for Justice and Peace Studies in Spain. A skilled computer programmer, she co-founded a company that designed and built websites. She turned those talents toward journalism in 1999, when she helped organize the Independent Media Center, which provided grassroots coverage of the World Trade Organization protests in Seattle and World Bank protests in Washington DC. The organization now comprises a network of more than 200 centers worldwide. In 2005, working for Common Ground Relief, Soderberg built and managed the website that was the main coordination point for thousands of volunteers in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. For that work and reporting in the Palestinian Territories in 2004, she was honored by the International Association of Women in Radio and Television. She joined KBOO public radio in 2007. As news director, she developed a curriculum and training schedule for the news staff, volunteers and other station employees. She taught them about the news production process, deadlines, the basics of writing, writing for radio, how to research source material and how to conduct interviews. She also has developed and implemented media training programs in the West Bank for the International Middle East Media Center.</p>
Phil Taylor		<p><b>Phil Taylor</b> is in his 20th year at Sports Illustrated, where he is currently one of the two authors of the Point After, the magazine's popular back-page column. Taylor has built a reputation as one of the magazine's most versatile staffers, writing about college football and basketball in addition to covering the NBA, NFL, Major League baseball and the Summer and Winter Olympics.</p>


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Justin Torres		<b>Justin Torres's</b> first novel, <i>We the Animals</i> , will be published in September. His stories have been published in <i>Granta</i> , <i>Tin House</i> , and other publications. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers Workshop.
Gail Tsukiyama		<b>Gail Tsukiyama</b> is the author of six novels, including <i>Women of the Silk</i> (1991), <i>The Samurai's Garden</i> (1996), and her latest novel <i>The Street of a Thousand Blossoms</i> (2007). Born in San Francisco to a Chinese mother and a Japanese father, she has received the Academy of American Poets Award and the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award. She was the first author to receive the Asia Pacific Leadership Award from the Center of the Pacific Rim and the Ricci Institute. A resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, Tsukiyama has taught at several universities and colleges and was a judge for the Kiriyaama Book Prize and the PEN/Hemingway Book Award. In 2001, she was one of fifty authors chosen by the Library of Congress to participate in the first National Book Festival in Washington D.C. Tsukiyama has been a guest speaker at the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, the Sydney Writers' Festival, and the Vancouver and Toronto International Festival of Writers.

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Kirstin Valdez Quade		<b>Kirstin Valdez Quade</b> is a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. She received her B.A. from Stanford and her M.F.A. from the University of Oregon. Her work has appeared in The New Yorker, The Best of the West 2010, the Colorado Review, and the Northwest Review. Currently she is at work on a collection of stories and a novel.
Melanie M. Watkins, M.D.		<b>Melanie M. Watkins, M.D.</b> , is a graduate of Stanford University School of Medicine and a board-certified psychiatrist. She spent most of her academic training as a single parent. Dr. Watkins is also an African-American physician who overcame challenges and barriers along her path, such as teenage pregnancy and being the first in her family to graduate from college. A natural motivational speaker, Dr. Watkins has spoken at colleges and medical schools on issues regarding minority-student and single-parent-student success. She is a published author with short stories and articles in various popular publications, including stories in the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series. In addition, she has published academic medical articles in peer-reviewed journals. In 2005, Lifetime television optioned the rights to her story to make a TV movie.




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	Photo	
Rita Williams		<p><b>Rita Williams</b> was in that first wave of women journalists on TV and started on-air almost forty years ago. The past 30 years she's worked as a reporter for KTVU-TV in Oakland. The sheriff of San Francisco has called Rita a pit bull dog with a heart... a term she loves because she is known for her digging, her exclusives but also her compassion as a reporter.</p> <p>Rita's won several Emmies, Tellies, a PASS award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, a public service award from the Society of Professional Journalists and other awards. Recently, she was one of the lead investigative reporters in the Oakland BART shooting stories that contributed to a prestigious Peabody award and Edward R. Murrow award to KTVU.</p> <p>Williams also taught broadcast news writing at Stanford and was a Knight Fellow there in 1985-86. She has a master's in political science/ international affairs from George Washington University and a B.A. in journalism from Texas Tech University. She is a former staffer/press secretary for the late Texas Congressman George Mahon, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. She worked as a news reporter at KSAT-TV in Texas from 1975 to 1978. In 1978 she moved to the West Coast, working as news reporter for KQED-TV in San Francisco before she joined KTVU in 1980.</p>

## Writers Week Guest Speakers for February 7-11, 2011

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Name	Photo	Biography
Norman Zelaya		<p><b>Norman Zelaya</b> is a writer born and raised in San Francisco. He received his MFA in Creative Writing in 2001 from SFSU. He has since published stories in journals such as ZYZZYVA, Fourteen Hills, and NY Tyrant. His work is reflective of his experiences growing up in the Mission during the 80s. He is currently looking for representation for a newly completed novel.</p> <p>Norman works as a Special Education teacher serving the children of his community</p>