

LAF 21

21st annual Literary Arts Festival

APRIL 24TH

THROUGH

APRIL 27TH



ALL EVENTS IN GRIFFIN GATE,
Building 60 (Griffin Center)
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1

Mon., April 24, 2–3:15 PM

"VIVA LITERATURA!"

Join Grossmont College students from Julie Cardenas's Introduction to Literature and PUENTE courses as they celebrate and present passionate arguments as to why literature—perhaps more than ever—matters.

2

Mon., April 24, 7–8:15 PM

DENISE BENAVIDES

Oakland-based Denise Benavides, Queer Xicana Poet and Performance Artist, shares her work with urgency—using the stage/page to confront themes of xenophobia, relocation, sexuality, religion, and love. Always, love. She writes to document, to archive, and to hold space for what has been lost. She is currently

touring with her first book, *Split*, from Kórima Press. An alumna of Grossmont College, she holds an MFA in Creative Writing and a Bachelor's of Arts in English from Sarah Lawrence. She currently teaches at Skyline College.

Find more about Denise Benavides at her official website:

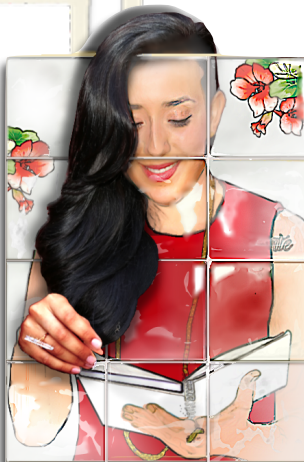
www.denisebenavides

SPLIT**poems by Denise Benavides**

Denise Benavides's debut collection *Split* is a dedication to motherlessness and abandon—to a nightly killing and rebirths. At its worst, it is all teeth masticating through the body in an attempt to interrogate and cut out what no longer serves the Self. It is a collection not meant for the weak, but for those willing to walk through what haunts them the most.

Available from Kórima Press:

korimapress.com



1

Monday APRIL 24, 2 PM

VIVA LITERATURA!

student panel

2

Monday APRIL 24, 7 PM

poet & performance artist

DENISE BENAVIDES

reading & book signing

3

Tuesday April 25, 11 AM

panel & performance

BUILDING BRIDGES

the work of Luis Alberto Urrea

4

Tuesday April 25, 7 PM

NEW VOICES

student reading

5

Wednesday April 26, 11 AM

AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

poetry slam competition

6

Wednesday April 26, 7 PM

performance poet & musician

GILL SOTU

reading & performance

7

Thursday April 27, 7 PM

author

LUIS ALBERTO URREA

reading & book signing

plus

WRITING PROJECT winners

For inquiries about the LAF, contact the **Festival Director: SYDNEY BROWN** | 619-644-7523 | sydney.brown@gcccd.edu. Access to our archives for past Literary Arts Festivals, as well as information about our Creative Writing Program's workshops and degree certificate, are available on our English Department website.



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COLLEGE DISTRICT: Chancellor: Cindy L. Miles, Ph.D
Governing Board: Greg Barr, Bill Garrett, Edwin Ramon Hiel, Debbie Justeson, Elena Adams. Student Members: Sebastian Caparelli (Grossmont), Evan Esparza (Cuyamaca) • Grossmont President: Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh

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Tues., April 25, 11 AM–12:15 PM

BUILDING BRIDGES: THE WORK OF LUIS ALBERTO URREA

Drawing upon excerpts of Luis Alberto Urrea's poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and comics, students and faculty offer an engaging discussion of the themes of community, identity, equity and transformation in the Urrea's writing. Presented in collaboration with Latino Alliance.

Tues., April 25, 7–8:15 PM
NEW VOICES student reading

This semester's standout Creative Writing student writers read their original works of short fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, novel excerpts, drama, and mixed media word art.

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Wed., April 26, 7–8:30 PM

GILL SOTU performance poet and musician

Sotu engages people to become their truest and most inspired selves and take an active part in their local and global community. He addresses topics such as social justice, racial empowerment, masculinity, and love.

Weaving poetry into musical performances and improvisational songs, he is a forceful undercurrent of soulful, comedic, and thought-provoking passion. Charismatic, Gill quickly garners people's attention and doesn't let go until he says "thank you." There will be an opportunity for Q & A, and attendees can purchase his album (*Neo Nostalgia*) and poetry chapbook (*How to Love Gods and Acrobats*).

More info at gillsotu.com.



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Wed, April 26, 11AM–1PM

"AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL" poetry slam

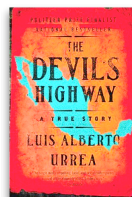
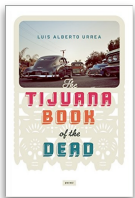
Open to all Grossmont College Students, poets will battle for the title of Grossmont College Grand SLAM champion with works addressing issues of social justice. Hosted by visiting writer and performance poet, Gill Sotu. Competition limited to 10-12 participants (names will be drawn from a hat for Round One, and the top 6 will advance to Round Two).

Thurs., April 27, 7–8:30 PM

LUIS ALBERTO URREA reading & book signing

Hailed by NPR as a "literary badass" and a "master storyteller with a rock-and-roll heart," Luis Alberto Urrea is a prolific and internationally celebrated writer who uses his dual-culture life experiences to explore greater themes of love, loss and triumph. A 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist for nonfiction and member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame, Urrea is the critically acclaimed and best-selling author of 16 books, winning numerous awards for his poetry, fiction and essays. Born in Tijuana to a Mexican father and American mother, Urrea is most

recognized as a border writer, though, he says, "I am more interested in bridges, not borders." Urrea earned an undergraduate degree in writing from the University of California at San Diego, and did his graduate studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder. After serving as a relief worker in Tijuana and a film extra and columnist-editor-cartoonist for several publications, Urrea moved to Boston, where he taught expository writing and fiction workshops at Harvard. He also taught at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. Urrea lives with his family in Naperville, IL, where he is a distinguished professor of creative writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago. This event is funded in part by a grant from the World Arts and Cultures Committee.

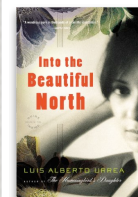


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Thurs., April 27, 7–8:30 PM
WRITING PROJECT winners

The Writing Project inspires students from the English Department's Pre-Transfer Writing Program to compose creative works in response to a prompt collaboratively designed by composition and creative writing instructors. The prompt asks students to work directly with an excerpt from one of the works of Luis Alberto Urrea. The finalists' essays will be collected in a publication, and the winner will read their work and receive recognition from Urrea this evening.

For more info, contact Alan Traylor at alan.traylor@gccd.edu

**Luis Urrea's award-winning books include...**

Ghost Sickness. Cinco Puntos Press. 1997. (poetry)
Nobody's Son. University of Arizona Press. 1998. (memoir; American Book Award winner)

The Hummingbird's Daughter. Little, Brown and Company. 2005. (novel)

The Devil's Highway. Little, Brown and Company. 2004. (nonfiction; Lannan Literary Award winner; Pulitzer Prize finalist)

Into the Beautiful North. Little, Brown and Company. 2009. (novel)

Tijuana Book of the Dead. Soft Skull Press, 2015. (poetry)

Visit Luis Alberto Urrea on-line:

www.luisurrea.com