

APRIL 2018
23-26
GRIFFIN GATE BLDG. 60

LAF 22

LITERARY ARTS FEST NEWSLETTER

www.grossmont.edu/laf

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MONDAY APRIL 23

11 AM fiction writer **EMMA SMITH-STEVENS**, reading/book launch

7 PM **NEW VOICES** student reading

TUESDAY APRIL 24

11 AM **ZINE FEST** w/Grrrl Zines-a-Go-Go's **Margarat Nee**

7 PM poet **ADA LIMÓN** reading & book signing

WEDNESDAY APRIL 25

2 PM **STUDENT POETRY SLAM** w/**Gill Sotu**

7 PM **WE NEED DIVERSE BOOKS** panel w/YA author **Cindy Pon** & poet **Janine Joseph**; moderated by **Denise Benavides**

THURSDAY APRIL 26

11 AM **WHY LITERATURE MATTERS** student panel

7 PM author **KAZIM ALI** reading & book signing
+ **Student Writing Contest Awards**

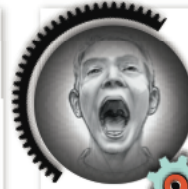
DID YOU KNOW?

The LAF offers FLEX credit for extracurricular attendance. Simply complete a Project Proposal for one or more events and submit it with your Professional Development contract.

Mon., April 23, 11 AM - 12:15 PM
EMMA SMITH-STEVENS reading

Native New Yorker Emma Smith-Stevens debuted her first novel, *The Australian* (Dzanc Books) in 2017. A former fiction editor for *The Mondegreen*, she teaches with the Bard Prison Initiative in New York's Hudson Valley. Her writing appears in numerous periodicals, including *BOMB Magazine* and *PANK*.

She received Special Mention in The Pushcart Prize XL: Best of the Small Presses, and her work has been selected twice for inclusion in *Wigleaf's* Top 50 (Very) Short Fictions.



Mon., April 23, 7 - 8:15 PM
NEW VOICES

Student Reading

Exceptional writers from this semester's creative writing classes and workshops come together 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. This semesterly event is a crowd favorite for Grossmont faculty and students, alike.

Tues., April 24, 7 - 9 PM
poet ADA LIMÓN

sponsored by WACC

Poet Ada Limón is the author of four books of poetry, including *Bright Dead Things* (Milkweed Edition). Named one of the Top Ten Poetry Books of 2015 by *The New York Times*, *Bright Dead Things* was a finalist that same year for the National Book Award in Poetry, the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Of its author, poet Nikky Finney, a National Book Award winner, states, "Ada Limón doesn't

write as if she needs us. She writes as if she wants us. Her words reveal, coax, pull, see us. In *Bright Dead Things* we read desire, ache, what human beings rarely have the heart or audacity to speak of alone—without the help of a poet with the most generous of eyes."



Limón's other books include *Lucky Wreck* (Autumn House Press 2005), *Sharks in the Rivers* (Milkweed Edition 2010), and *This Big Fake World* (Pearl Editions 2005), winner of the 2005 Pearl Poetry Prize.



Tues., April 24, 11 AM - 12:15 PM
ZINE FEST w/
MARGARAT NEE of Grrrl
Zines-a-Go-Go



Do-it-yourself indie journals, "zines," engage visual and cultural literacy, and promote empowerment, advocacy, and change. Learn the "how" and all-important "why" of creating your own zine with

Grrrl Zines-a-Go-Go's Margarat Nee. Originally founded in 2002 by Elke Zobl, Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go is an all-women group based in Southern California that facilitates workshops in campuses and community venues such as Hillcrest LGBT Centre, Hillcrest Book Faire, the S/he Collective, San Diego Indymedia, and others. Although the group's aim is to foster the empowerment of young women through the production of fanzines and self-published works, this LAF event is open to participants of any gender identity.

Margarat Nee is the creator of the zines *OYA: a feminist rag*, *Dogrrrl*, and *Radical Pet*. She holds an MFA degree from UCSD. Along with SDSU Special Collections archivist and librarian Kim Schwenk, Nee co-directs Girl Zines-a-Go-Go.



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 22 website, 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, Greg Barr, Bill Garrett, Edwin Ramon Hiel, Debbie Justeson. Student Members: Brandon Vivero (Grossmont), Kyrie Macogay (Cuyamaca) | Grossmont President: Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Ed.D.



Wed., April 25, 2 - 3:15 PM
STUDENT POETRY SLAM
 hosted by **GILL SOTU**

sponsored by WACC

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 & 2013 San Diego Raw Performing Artist of the Year.



Wed., April 25, 7 - 8:15 PM
WE NEED DIVERSE BOOKS
 w/YA novelist **CINDY PON** and poet **JANINE JOSEPH**
 sponsored by Poets & Writers

"Young Adult" literature is one of the most popular genres of our time, and is reigniting a lifelong love for reading, but how well does it represent the faces, values, and cultures of its readers? Poet **Denise Benavides** moderates this informative and entertaining panel, with Young Adult fiction author Cindy Pon and poet/author Janine Joseph.

Southern Californian **Cindy Pon** is a critically acclaimed Young Adult author recognized for diversity and multiculturalism in her sci fi/fantasy writing. Pon is the author of four novels, including *Want* (Simon Pulse 2017), listed by SYFY as one of its Top 10 sci fi and fantasy novels of 2017, and chosen by *Paste Magazine* as the top YA novel of the year. **Janine Joseph** is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Oklahoma State University. She serves on the Advisory Board for the Center for Poets & Writers at OSU-Tulsa, and is the author of *Driving without a License* (Alice James Books, 2016), a 2014 winner of the Kundiman Poetry Prize and a 2017 Oklahoma Book Award finalist. Her poems and essays about growing up undocumented in America have appeared in a variety of journals and anthologies, including *Kenyon Review Online*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and others. She is also a member of Undocupoets, a fellowship sponsored by Sibling Rivalry Press to promote the work of undocumented poets and raise consciousness about the structural barriers that they face in the literary community.



Poets & Writers



The events of the 22nd Annual Literary Arts Festival 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 26, 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. This year, select students from American Literature II, taught by Professor Sydney Brown, will argue passionately for the absolute necessity of literature in our everyday lives, perhaps now more than ever!



Thurs., April 26, 7 - 9 PM
KAZIM ALI reading & book signing

sponsored by WACC



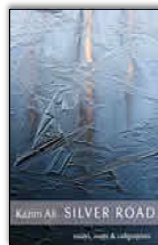
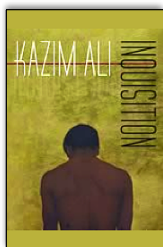
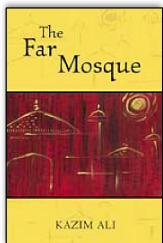
Our finale to the 22nd Annual Literary Arts Festival is Kazim Ali, the celebrated LGBTQ poet, novelist, and memoirist. Born in the U.K. to Muslim parents of Indian, Iranian and Egyptian descent, Ali holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of Albany-SUNY, and an M.F.A. from New York

University. He is also a former member of the Cocoon Theatre Modern Dance Company and has taught at Oberlin College and the low-residency Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine.

Library Journal praises Kazim Ali for continuing "his task of creating a rejuvenated language that longs to be liberated from the weight of daily routine and the power of dogmatic usage...writing in the tradition of Wallace Stevens, Ali is clearly a poet of ideas and symbols, yet his words remain living entities within the texture of the poem." His books of prose include the recently published novel, *The Secret Room: A String Quartet* (Kaya Press 2017) and a collection of essays, *Fasting for Ramadan: Notes from a Spiritual Practice* (Tupelo Press 2011). Featured in Best American Poetry 2007, Ali has authored several acclaimed books of poetry, including *Sky Ward* (winner of the Ohioana Book Award in Poetry), *The Far Mosque* (winner of Alice James Books' New England/New York Award), and *The Fortieth Day*. Ali's new poetry collection, *Inquisition* (Wesleyan Poetry), and his new memoir, *Silver Road: Essays, Maps & Calligraphies* (Tupelo Press), are due to be released in early 2018.

Kazim Ali received an Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council. Ali has been a regular columnist for the *American Poetry Review* and a contributing editor for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs' *Writer's Chronicle*. He now resides in Ohio and is an associate professor of Creative Writing and Comparative Literature at Oberlin College.

Go on-line to the official LAF 22 website to find out more about Kazim Ali, including links to interviews, multimedia, book reviews, and selected works by the author.



Student Writing Contest Awards

Before Kazim Ali's 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. Look for contest details to be announced soon on our LAF 22 website.

BOOKS BY KAZIM ALI

Poetry
All One's Blue. Harper Collins India, 2016.
Bright Felon. Wesleyan University Press, 2009.
The Far Mosque. Alice James Books, 2005.
The Fortieth Day. BOA Editions, 2008.
Inquisition. Wesleyan University Press, 2018.
Sky Ward. Wesleyan, 2013.

Nonfiction
Ana's Nin. Agape Editions, 2017.
Fasting for Ramadan. Tupelo Press, 2011.
Resident Alien. U of Michigan Press, 2015.
Orange Alert. U of Michigan Press, 2010.
Silver Road. Tupelo Press, 2018.

Fiction
The Disappearance of Seth. Etruscan Press, 2009.
Quinn's Passage. blazeVox books, 2005.
The Secret Room. Kaya Press, 2017.
Uncle Sharif's Life in Music. Sibling Sivalry, 2016.
Wind Instrument. Spork Press, 2014.