



Arkansas Literary Festival
April 20-22, 2007 • River Market District

ADULT AUTHORS

CONGER BEASLEY JR.

Conger Beasley, Jr., divides his time between Missouri and Colorado. His works center on the themes of nature, ecology, landscape, and Native-American cultures. A knowledge of and interest in history (especially the Civil War) permeates Beasley's work, most notably in *Shelby's Expedition to Mexico: An Unwritten Leaf of the War*. He has received a Western Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.

Sunday, April 22, 1:15 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Hands on History Room

DANIEL BLACK

Daniel Black, a native of Blackwell, Ark., received his Ph.D. in African American Studies at Temple University. Black founded the Nzinga-Ndugu society, whose focus is instilling character in African-American youths. His latest novel, *The Sacred Place*, is the story of a community of African Americans who stand up against generations of lynchings and violence in a rural Mississippi town.

Sunday, April 22, 2:30 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

MELANIE SUE BOWLES

After learning of the mistreatment of many horses, Melanie Sue Bowles created what would become the Proud Spirit Horse Sanctuary. What began with just one horse evolved into a 320-acre facility in Mena, Ark. *The Horses of Proud Spirit* is the true story that inspired the Emmy award-winning PBS documentary of the same name.

Saturday, April 21, 11:30 a.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Hands on History Room

CHRISTY AKINS BRAWNER

Christy Akins Brawner is a 9th-grade English and creative writing teacher at Wynne High School in Wynne, Ark. In her writing, Brawner explores the essence of Christianity and observes that issues of faith are often confused with issues of religion. She and her husband Jeff served for seven years as missionaries in Brazil with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Brawner is sponsored by the Coulson Foundation.

Sunday, April 22, 1:15 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

KEVIN BROCKMEIER

Little Rock resident Kevin Brockmeier has published stories in *The New Yorker*, *The Oxford American*, *McSweeney's*, and *The O. Henry Prize Stories* anthology. *The New York Times Book Review* calls his short-story collection, *Things that Fall from the Sky*, "delightful, sad and often magical. Brockmeier's small, carefully made worlds are...definitely fantastic and miraculously, utterly human."

Sunday, April 22, 4 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

RALPH BURNS

Ralph Burns has published six books of poems and has won two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, among others. He edited the literary magazine *Crazyhorse* for fifteen years. Burns teaches English and co-directs creative writing at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Saturday, April 21, 1 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

PAT CARR

Pat Carr has written twelve books of fiction, including *If We Must Die*, a finalist for a PEN book award. Her stories have been published in *The Southern Review*, *Yale Review*, *Best American Short Stories*, and others. Her latest book is *The Death of a Confederate Colonel*.

Sunday, April 22, 2:30 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

LAURA PARKER CASTORO

Laura Parker Castoro has written and published thirty-six books. She is immediate past President of the Board of the Communications Arts Institute, which oversees the Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow, a working writers' residence program in Eureka Springs, Ark. She was named to the Arkansas Writers Hall of Fame in 2005 and is the author of *A New Lu* and *Icing on the Cake*, which both focus on the modern woman's life as she sees it.

Saturday, April 21, 11:30 a.m.

Cox Creative Center

RON DAVIS

Ron Davis serves as the No Child Left Behind/Regional School Improvement Consultant for the Tennessee Department of Education. He is the author of *The Disenfranchisement of the African American Males, 18 to 35*. He has advanced degrees in Business Administration, Technical Writing, and Policy Studies.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing

TOM FRANKLIN

Tom Franklin is the author of the short-story collection *Poachers* and the novel *Hell at the Breech*. With his last two books earning him comparisons to Charles Frazier and a solid spot in the forefront of contemporary Southern literature, Franklin returns with the gothic novel *Smonk*, a darkly comic adventure set in Old Texas, Ala.

Session 1: Saturday, April 21, 4 p.m.

River Market, Clark Room

Session 2: Sunday, April 22, 1:15 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

NIKKI GIOVANNI

Nikki Giovanni is a world-renowned poet, writer, commentator, activist, and educator. Since publishing her first poetry collection in 1968, she has received countless honors, including three NAACP Image Awards, the Langston Hughes Award for Distinguished Contributions to Arts and Letters, and the Rosa Parks Woman of Courage Award. She is University Distinguished Professor of English at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

Friday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.

Philander Smith College, M.L. Harris Auditorium

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS

Christopher Hitchens is a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair* and a visiting professor of liberal studies at the New School in New York City. He also regularly writes for *Atlantic Monthly* and *Slate*. He was named one of the “Top 100 Public Intellectuals” by Foreign Policy and Britain’s Prospect. His latest title is *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*.

Sunday, April 22, 1:15 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

CARY HOLLADAY

Cary Holladay, an O. Henry Prize-winner and a fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts, is the author of a novel and three collections of short stories. Bobbie Ann Mason praises Holladay’s latest collection, *The Quick-Change Artist*, as “delightful and engaging and heartfelt, with quirky characters and wonderful phrasings. A triumph!”

Saturday, April 21, 4 p.m.

River Market, Clark Room

ANDREW HOLLERAN

Andrew Holleran is the author of *Dancer from the Dance*, *Ground Zero*, and *The Beauty of Men*. He lives in Florida and Washington, D.C. *Grief*, his first novel in a decade, is a haunting exploration of the nature of loss and grief and the illusion of intimacy.

Saturday, April 21, 11:30 a.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

JASHUB ISRAEL

During a period of civil unrest in Trinidad, Jashub Israel emigrated to the United States. He settled first in New York City and later moved to Memphis. A former intelligence officer for the Shelby County Gang Unit, Israel educates churches, schools, businesses, and community organizations about gang activity. He is Vice President of the Black Men Bible Institute and author of the memoir *From Hell to Harlem*.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing

ELIZABETH JACOWAY

Elizabeth Jacoway is the author or editor of six books, including the recently published *Turn Away Thy Son: Little Rock, the Crisis That Shocked the Nation*. A native of Little Rock, Jacoway received her Ph.D. in American History at the University of North Carolina in 1974. She taught history at the college level for eight years before “retiring” at the age of thirty-five to raise a family and write books.

Saturday, April 21, 4 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

DAVID JAUSS

David Jauss is the author of two collections of short stories, including the AWP Award-winning *Black Maps*, and two books of poems, including the Fleur-de-Lis Prize-winning *You Are Not Here*. He teaches at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and at Vermont College.

Sunday, April 22, 4 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

PATRICIA SPEARS JONES

Patricia Spears Jones, born and raised in Forrest City, Ark., is the author of two poetry collections: *The Weather That Kills* and the recently published *Femme du Monde*. She is an prize-winning African-American poet, playwright, arts writer, and performer. Jones is also co-editor of a groundbreaking, multi-ethnic, women's poetry anthology, *Ordinary Women*, and a contributing editor to *Heliotrope* and *Bomb*.

Session 1: Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.

Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing

Session 2: Saturday, April 21, 1:00 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

JANIS F. KEARNEY

An Arkansas native and founder of Writing Our World Press, Janis F. Kearney published the historic *Arkansas State Press* for a number of years before joining President Bill Clinton's administration as his personal diarist. Her latest book, *Conversations: William Jefferson Clinton, from Hope to Harlem*, is the product of interviews with over 100 men and women who knew Clinton personally.

Saturday, April 21, 2:30 p.m.

Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing

BRIAN AND TERRI KINDER

Brian and Terri Kinder are singers/songwriters who perform rollicking concerts for kids. Brian teaches music and fine arts at Washington Magnet Elementary in Little Rock. He has been a touring artist with the Arkansas Arts Council. Their music is available on the following recordings: *One More Time*, *A Kid Like You*, *Special Days*, and *Brian Kinder Again*.

Saturday, April 21, 2:30 p.m.

Main Library, Youth Services Program Room

NICK KOTZ

Washington Post reporter Nick Kotz won the Pulitzer Prize and the first Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award. Before becoming a journalist, Kotz studied at the London School of Economics and served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. His fifth book on American history and public policy is *Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Laws that Changed America*. Kotz appears courtesy of the Clinton School of Public Policy.

Saturday, April 21, 1 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

SANDY LONGHORN

Sandy Longhorn is the author of *Blood Almanac*, which won the 2005 Anhinga Prize for Poetry. Her recent poems either have been published or are forthcoming in *Blackbird*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *MARGIE*, and elsewhere. She lives in Little Rock, and she teaches at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock.

Saturday, April 21, 1 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

REGINALD MARTIN

Reginald Martin is Coordinator of the African-American Concentration in Literature at the University of Memphis, where he is the youngest full professor in the history of the University. He is the author or editor of eight books, including *A Deeper Shade of Sex*, a collection of erotic poetry, fiction, and essays by African-American writers.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Pyramid Art, Books & Custom Framing

WALTER MAYES

Walter “The Giant Storyteller” Mayes’s motto is “Love, Food, Shelter, Clothing...Books!” Mayes is a nationally respected storyteller, author, speaker, and children’s literature advocate. His message is one of books and stories as a daily necessity in all children’s lives.

Session 1: Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m. (*Special Ticketed Event*)

Children’s Breakfast, Clinton Center

Session 2: Saturday, April 21, 2 p.m. (*Professional Development Workshop*)

Main Library, Board Meeting Room

Session 3: Sunday, April 22, 1:15 and 2:15 p.m. (*For Kids and Adults*)

Main Library, Youth Services Program Room

ROLAND MESNIER

Chef Roland Mesnier served five U.S. presidents as Executive Pastry Chef and is the author of *All the Presidents Pastries: Twenty-Five Years in the White House: A Memoir*. He began his first patisserie job in 1956 at the age 12 in Burgundy, France. Mesnier has received numerous honors and awards, including 20 gold medals in pastry competitions around the world.

Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m. (*Special Ticketed Event*)

River Market, Clark Room

KAREEM MOODY

Kareem Moody, a self-proclaimed “former unreachable ‘kid’” is the program director of Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids (P.A.R.K.) in Little Rock. Moody is the author of *Raise Them Up: The Real Deal on Reaching Unreachable Kids*, a parenting resource based on Christian values.

Sunday, April 22, 1:15 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

ALISON MOORE

Alison Moore is an award-winning author of three books: *Small Spaces Between Emergencies*, *Synonym for Love*, and *The Middle of Elsewhere*. Moore is a former assistant professor of English/Creative Writing in the MFA Creative Writing Program at the University of Arizona and a current Humanities Scholar in Fayetteville, Ark.

Session 1: Saturday, April 21, 12:30 p.m.

Main Library, Board Meeting Room

Session 2: Sunday, April 22, 4 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

JACK PENDARVIS

Jack Pendarvis is the author of two humorous short-story collections: *The Mysterious Secret of the Valuable Treasure* and the forthcoming *Your Body Is Changing*. He is also a contributing editor to *Paste* magazine and a contributing writer to *The Oxford American*. His work has appeared in *The Believer*, *McSweeney’s*, and the *2006 Pushcart Prize Anthology*.

Saturday, April 21, 4 p.m.

River Market, Clark Room

RON RASH

Ron Rash holds the John Parris Chair in Appalachian Studies at Western Carolina University. His most recent novel, *The World Made Straight*, won the 2006 Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction. A collection of his short stories, *Chemistry*, is forthcoming.

Sunday, April 22, 1:15 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

JONATHAN REYNOLDS

Jonathan Reynolds is an acclaimed screenwriter, playwright, and author. The author of a bi-weekly food column for *The New York Times Magazine* for six years, he has just published a food memoir titled *Wrestling With Gravy*. Reynolds is the recipient of Rockefeller and Guggenheim Fellowships and the Dramatists' Guild Flora Roberts Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Theatre. Reynolds is sponsored by the Historic Arkansas Museum.

Saturday, April 21, 1 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

MICHELLE RICHMOND

Michelle Richmond is the author of *The Year of Fog*, *Dream of the Blue Room*, and *The Girl in the Fall-away Dress*, a highly praised story collection. A native of Alabama, Richmond lives in San Francisco, where she teaches creative writing. Her stories and essays have appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *Playboy*, *The Florida Review*, *Stories from the Blue Moon Café*, and others.

Sunday, April 22, 2:30 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

THOMAS F. SCHALLER

Thomas F. Schaller is associate professor of political science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and author of *Whistling Past Dixie: How Democrats Can Win Without the South*. Schaller has published commentaries in a variety of national newspapers and is a columnist for the *Washington Examiner*. He has developed a nationwide reputation as a progressive blogger. Schaller appears courtesy of Hendrix College.

Sunday, April 22, 4 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

JOHN SEED

John Seed is the co-author of *Thinking Like a Mountain: Towards a Council of All Beings*. Seed is one of the leading proponents of the philosophy of deep ecology and the founder/director of the Rainforest Information Centre in Australia. A world-renowned lecturer, he also has created other environmental education projects, which include films, CDs, and workshops. Seed appears courtesy of the Arkansas Earth Day Celebration.

Saturday, April 21, 4 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

CHARLES J. SHIELDS

Charles J. Shields has been a teacher, a reporter on public radio, a journalist, and is the author of several nonfiction books for young people. His most recent book, *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*, explores the genius behind the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Sunday, April 22, 2:30 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

HAMPTON SIDES

A native of Memphis, Hampton Sides is editor-at-large for *Outside* magazine and winner of the 2002 PEN USA Award for nonfiction. His books chronicle intense moments in history, from the Bataan Death March to the September 11th tragedy to the violent American West of the mid-nineteenth century, the latter of which is the subject of his latest book, *Blood and Thunder*. Sides is sponsored by the Historic Arkansas Museum.

Saturday, April 21, 2:30 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

TRICIA SUELLENTROP

Tricia Suellentrop was selected in 2005 as one of *Library Journal's* "Movers and Shakers" for her work with teens in the correction system. Suellentrop is a co-author of the third edition of *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries* and the *School Library Journal's* column, "Teenage Riot." She oversees youth services and programming for 13 libraries in Kansas. Suellentrop appears courtesy of the Central Arkansas Library System.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Main Library, Board Meeting Room

MILTON VIORST

Milton Viorst, a historian and journalist, is a senior scholar at the Middle East Institute and has written six books on Middle Eastern politics. The latest, *Storm from the East: The Struggle Between the Arab World and the Christian West*, was published in 2006. Viorst, a Harvard graduate, was born in 1930 in Paterson, N.J., and has extensive papers, articles, and books to his credit. Viorst lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife Judith, an acclaimed author and poet. Sponsored in part by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Saturday, April 21, 11:30 a.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

ALLISON WALLACE

Allison Wallace is the author of *A Keeper of Bees: Notes on Hive and Home*, which weaves personal narrative with the science of beekeeping. The result is an array of literary, philosophical, and theological musings. She teaches in the Honors College at University Central Arkansas in Conway.

Sunday, April 22, 4 p.m.

Cox Creative Center

MICHAEL WALLIS

Pulitzer Prize-nominated author Michael Wallis has published ten best-selling books. Born just off Route 66, Wallis has written extensively about the "Mother Road" and the American West. You may recognize him as the voice of Sheriff in the Disney-Pixar film *Cars* and the host of PBS's *American Roads*. His latest book is *Billy the Kid: The Endless Ride*.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

FRANK WARREN

In 2004, small-business owner Frank Warren began asking people to write down secrets and mail them to him anonymously on postcards. Postsecret.com, the community art project that resulted from Warren's request, now attracts over 3 million visitors per month. Warren's latest hardcover compilation of postcard secrets is *The Secret Lives of Men and Women*.

Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

MILLER WILLIAMS

Miller Williams, of Fayetteville, Ark., is the author, editor, or translator of 32 books, including 14 volumes of poetry. Williams was named one of the 20 best poets now writing in English by a multinational board of the journal *Visions International*. He was the inaugural poet for Bill Clinton's second swearing-in as president.

Saturday, April 21, 2:30 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center

DANIEL WOODRELL

Daniel Woodrell's work, including his latest novel *Winter's Bone*, can be relied upon for two things: a dedication to his Ozark roots and an uncanny ability to tell a story like no other. Five of his most recent novels were selected for 100 Notable Books of the Year by *The New York Times*. His book *Tomato Red* won the PEN Center USA West Literary Award for the Novel in 1999.

Sunday, April 22, 1:15 p.m.

Historic Arkansas Museum, Ottenheimer Theater

RANDALL B. WOODS

Randall B. Woods is the Cooper Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Woods is the author of numerous books dealing with various aspects of American history. In 1995 he published *Fulbright: A Biography*, which won the Ferrell Prize for Best Book on U.S. Foreign Relations and the Ledbetter Prize for Best Book on Southern Studies. Woods's latest book is *LBJ: Architect of American Ambition*, which received glowing reviews in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Christian Science Monitor*.

Saturday, April 21, 1 p.m.

Main Library, Darragh Center