PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS, SPEAKERS, AND PUBLISHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN LOS ANGELES WRITERS’ CONFERENCE 2014.

PANELISTS INCLUDE: KATHRYN FITZMAURICE, SAMANTHA DUNN, GARY PHILLIPS, LISA CRON, REYNA GRANDE, BARBARA DESANTIS, ANITA FINLAY, TIFFANY WINDSOR, RUTH KLEIN, ELIZABETH L. SILVER, NATASHIA DEON, NANCY SPILLER, SHERI FINK, ERIN AUBRY KAPLAN, LINDSAY LEES

The “LA Writers’ Conference 2014: Revitalize Your Writing, Journey to Publication” will offer aspiring and seasoned writers the opportunity to learn from industry professionals about the realities of the writing industry, and how to avoid potential pitfalls.

**When:** March 1, 2014

**Where:** Curacao Training Center (near the Staples Center)

An all-day conference on March 1st, the [LA Writers' Conference](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e8tue4rf36359dfa&llr=98clqncab), hosted by nonprofitliterary organization [**Women’s National Book Association, Los Angeles**](http://www.wnba-books.org/la/)**,** will be an opportunity for aspiring and seasoned writers to learn about the writing industry from professionals such as **Samantha Dunn**, author of “Failing Paris,” “Faith in Carlos Gomez: A Memoir of Salsa, Sex, and Salvation,” **Lisa Cron**, author of “Wired for Story: The Writer's Guide to Using Brain Science to Hook Readers From the Very First Sentence,” **Reyna Grande**, award-winning novelist and memoirist, author of “Across a Hundred Mountains,” and “Dancing with Butterflies,” **Anita Finlay**, actor, commentator and author of the No. 1 Amazon’s Women in Politics book list for 16 weeks, “Dirty Words on Clean Skin,” and **Gary Phillips**, veteran crime novelist, and editor and contributor to the “Black Pulp” and “Black Pulp II” collections, as well as other noted industry professionals.

The curriculum will educate writers about the realities of this industry and potential mistakes to avoid, style, intersecting genres, the craft of memoir writing, journey to publication, the submission process, and editing. Wine and cheese networking will also be offered in the all-day conference.

**Editors Please Note:**

**Event:** LA Writers’ Conference, Revitalize Your Writing, Journey to Publication

**When:** March 1st - 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

**Where:** Curacao Training Center,

1605 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Tickets:** Member - $79 - Non Member - $99

**More information and tickets:** [WNBA-LA](http://www.wnba-books.org/la/index.html), [www.wnba-books.org/la](http://www.wnba-books.org/la)

**Social Media:** [Google+](https://plus.google.com/u/1/b/112295195779741145188/112295195779741145188/) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WomensNationalBookAssociationLosAngelesChapter) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/WNBA_LA)

**The LA Writers’ Conference 2014 Program:**

**The Art of Memoir Writing** with **Reyna Grande** - "The past is never dead. It's

not even past." -- William Faulkner, Requiem for a Nun. Join us for this interesting

discussion on the craft of memoir and learn how to bring your past to life. What

techniques can you use to turn your personal experiences into a vivid, engaging

page-turner?

**Hook, Line and Sinker** with panelists **Barbara DeSantis, Lisa Cron**, and

**Samantha Dunn**. Learn these tips on how to hook your readers from the very first

page. What common mistakes do writers make in their manuscripts and what can

you learn from them?

**Journey to Publication** with panelists **Elizabeth Silver, Nancy Spiller**, and

**Natashia Deon**. Join our three expert panelists as they share details of the

journey from the spark of an idea to seeing yourself in print.

**The Submission Process: Traditional and Independent Approaches**

with panelists **Tiffany Windsor, Sheri Fink,** and **Erin Kaplan**. You will learn about

design, packaging, branding, and more as you are inspired to submit your

work...whether you choose a traditional approach or an independent one.

**Definition of Genres** with **Gary Phillips**. Literary genres are determined by

technique, tone, content...and by the critics' definitions of the genres. Discover

where your work fits, and what to do when you find out.

**The LA Writers’ Conference 2014 Panelists:**

**Keynote Speaker Kathryn Fitzmaurice,** award-winning motivational speaker, and author of children’s books**,** knew she wanted to become a writer at age 13 after spending a summer with her grandmother, who was a science fiction author. Years later, after teaching elementary school, she now writes full time, and lives with her husband, two sons, and her dog, Holly, in Monarch Beach. <http://kathrynfitzmaurice.blogspot.com/>

**Ruth Klein** is an internationally renowned writer, speaker, business and book branding consultant combined with leveraging and monetizing her client's expertise. Ruth is the owner of the award-winning boutique firm, The Marketing/Time Source, and author of six books, including the best-selling “Time Management Secrets for Working Women: Getting the Most out of Each Day.” She helps authors write winning book proposals for agents and publishers. Her words and work have been featured in national magazines, and she is often quoted widely by major newspapers, television and radio, most recently in *O*: The Oprah Magazine. [www.ruthklein.com](http://www.ruthklein.com/)

**Tiffany Windsor** is best known in the creative community as the founder of the Cool2Craft community featuring the popular Cool2Craft YouTube web series. As past producer/host of Aleene's Creative Living Television show, Tiffany oversaw the production of over 2,000 episodes and served as the editor of more than 60 monthly issues of the show's companion magazine. She has made regular appearances on QVC and HSN and has authored numerous hard-cover and soft-cover craft books. Her extensive consulting experience covers all facets of the craft industry including design, product development, manufacturing, retail, publishing, packaging, events, consumer education and more. [www.cool2craft.com](http://www.cool2craft.com/)

**Gary Phillips**. Booklist noted of Phillips novel “Warlord of Willow Ridge,” "Phillips is a veteran crime novelist who creates a plausible post-apocalyptic scenario in which the safety of middle-class America can dissolve in a moment. Exciting, violent, and entertaining." He was editor and contributor to the bestselling anthology Orange County Noir as well as fulfilling both of those roles with Black Pulp and the upcoming Black Pulp II collections. Currently he is vice president of content and editorial for ebook novella publisher Stark Raving Group (SRG), and teaches in the MFA creative writing program at Antioch. For SRG he has upcoming a crime novella featuring a character called McBleak, a one percenter who steals from the one percent. Phillips has won a Himes and a Brody for his fiction.

**Lisa Cron** is the author of “Wired for Story: The Writer's Guide to Using Brain Science to Hook Readers From the Very First Sentence” (Ten Speed Press). Her video tutorial “Writing Fundamentals: The Craft of Story” can be found at Lynda.com. Lisa has worked in publishing at W.W. Norton, as an agent at the Angela Rinaldi Literary Agency, as a producer on shows for Showtime and CourtTV, and as a story consultant for Warner Brothers and the William Morris Agency. Since 2006, she's been an instructor in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program. Lisa works with writers, nonprofits, educators and organizations, helping them master the unparalleled power of story, so they can move people to action – whether that action is turning the pages of a compelling novel, trying a new product, or taking to the streets to change the world for the better.

**Elizabeth L. Silver** is the author of the novel, “The Execution of Noa P. Singleton” (Crown). She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, the MA program in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia in England, and Temple University Beasley School of Law. Her short work can be seen or is forthcoming in several publications, including The Millions, the Huffington Post, and The Los Angeles Review. She has taught English as a Second Language in Costa Rica, writing and literature at Drexel and St. Joseph's Universities in Philadelphia, and has worked as an attorney in Texas and California. She is currently working on her second book and an original film script. [www.ElizabethLSilver.com](http://www.elizabethlsilver.com/)

**Natashia Deón** is a Los Angeles attorney, creator of the reading series “Dirty Laundry Lit,” and has an MFA from UC Riverside. A Pushcart Prize nominee, Deón is a PEN Center USA Emerging Voices Fellow, a Bread Loaf Writer's Conference scholarship recipient, and VCCA Fellow. Her stories and essays have appeared in *The Rumpus, The Rattling Wall, Asian-American Lit Review, B O D Y, and The Feminist Wire, You*. Deón has taught creative writing for Gettysburg College, PEN Center USA, and 826LA.

**Reyna Grande** is an award-winning novelist and memoirist. She has received an American Book Award, the El Premio Aztlán Literary Award, and the Latino Book Award. In 2012, she was a finalist for the prestigious National Book Critics Circle Awards. Her works have been published internationally in countries such as Norway and South Korea.

Her novels, “Across a Hundred Mountains,” (Atria, 2006) and “Dancing with Butterflies” (Washington Square Press, 2009) were published to critical acclaim. Her latest book, “The Distance Between Us,” was published in August 2012, by Atria Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. In this memoir, Reyna writes about her life before and after illegally emmigrating from Mexico to the United States. A National Book Circle Critics Award finalist, “The Distance Between Us” is an inspirational coming-of-age story about the pursuit of a better life. The *Los Angeles Times* hailed it as 'the Angela's Ashes of the modern Mexican immigrant experience."

**Nancy Spiller** is a writer and artist living in Los Angeles. A fourth generation Californian and native of the San Francisco Bay Area, she was a staff writer at the *San Jose Mercury News* and *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* and editor at the *Los Angeles Times Syndicate*. Her articles and essays have appeared in numerous publications, including the *Los Angeles Times, Salon.com, Cooking Light*, and *Town & Country*. She is the author of the novel, “Entertaining Disasters: A Novel (With Recipes)” and the memoir, “Compromise Cake: Lessons Learned from My Mother's Recipe Box,” and teaches in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program. For more information, visit: [www.nancyspiller.org](http://www.nancyspiller.org/)

**Sheri Fink** is a No. 1 best-selling, award-winning children's author, creator of "The Whimsical World of Sheri Fink" children's brand, and an international speaker. Her first children's book, “The Little Rose,” was a No. 1 best-seller on Amazon for over 60 weeks, became the No. 1 top-rated ebook on Amazon, and received a gold medal in the 2012 Readers Favorite International Book Awards. Her children's book series received the Gold Mom's Choice Award for excellence in family friendly entertainment. Sheri was selected by CBS Los Angeles as one of the top three authors in her local area, a distinction she shares with Dean Koontz. Sheri was most recently awarded with the Gold Medal by the Readers Favorite International Book Awards for “The Little Gnome” and “Exploring the Garden with the Little Rose.”

**Erin Aubry Kaplan** is a Los Angeles journalist and columnist who has written about African-American political, economic and cultural issues since 1992. She is currently a contributing editor to the op-ed section of the *Los Angeles Times*, and from 2005 to 2007 was a weekly op-ed columnist – the first black weekly op-ed columnist in the paper's history. She has been a staff writer and columnist for the *LA Weekly* and *New Times Los Angeles*. She is a regular contributor for many publications, including Salon.com, Essence, Black Enterprise, BlackAmericaWeb, Ms. and the Independent. She is also a regular columnist for *make/shift*, a quarterly, cutting-edge feminist magazine that launched in 2007.

**Samantha Dunn** is the author of the novel “Failing Paris,” and the memoirs “Not By Accident: Reconstructing a Careless Life” and “Faith in Carlos Gomez.” Her essays are widely anthologized, including the recent collections by Seal Press, “Drinking Diaries and Dancing at the Shame Prom,” as well as “True Tales of Lust and Love,” by Counterpoint. Her writing has been featured in many national publications, including *O* the Oprah Magazine, *Ms., Glamour, InStyle, Salon* and *Redbook*. An active member of PEN Center USA, she has served as advisor to its fellowship programs for developing writer, Emerging Voices and The Mark. She works as a staff writer at the Orange County Register, and teaches memoir at the UCLA Writers Program, where she was named Instructor of the Year in 2011.

**Barbara DeSantis** - A native New Yorker, Barbara has worked in the book publishing industry for more than 30 years. Her career began at Simon & Schuster where she worked as an Associate Director of Publicity for the Adult Trade Division. Later she moved to Los Angeles and worked as a freelancer, doing marketing and promotion for many of the major Houses including Penguin, Dutton, Plume, Viking, Atria, Broadway, New Press, as well as smaller publishers, independent and university presses, and individual authors.

**Anita Finlay** is an author, actor and commentator. Her book, “Dirty Words on Clean Skin,” a shocking exposé examining the bias plaguing women who dare to lead, has been No. 1 on Amazon's Women in Politics books for 16 weeks. On the curriculum at Pasadena City College, “Dirty Words on Clean Skin” is part of the Clinton Presidential Library. Speaking on behalf of women's empowerment, Anita has been interviewed by over 120 different news and radio programs including Harold Fisher's Daily Drum, The Bill Cunningham Show, Kendall Moore Show/Talk of Chicago, The Grindstone, Knoxville Journal, NPR, E. Curtis Johnson at WKYNO and U.S. News & World Report. Website: [http://www.anitafinlay.com -](http://www.anitafinlay.com/) [Anita on IMDB](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0003006/)

**Lindsay Lees** is a writer, host of the BlogTalk radio show "Over The Influence" and coordinator of the WNBA/LA writing critique groups. She received her bachelor’s degree in Creative Writing from Manchester Metropolitan University and is currently working on her first novel about the effects of growing up in family systems of addiction. Lindsay has been published by After Party Chat and Pens On Fire. Follow her at [twitter.com/acoablogradio](http://twitter.com/acoablogradio)