



THE SITTING ROOM

A COMMUNITY LIBRARY

SPRING 2006 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 170 EAST COTATI AVENUE COTATI, CA 94931

SPECIAL EVENTS

Note: These events are free and open to all. They will be held either at the Sitting Room itself or at J.J. Wilson's house, 2025 Curtis Drive, just off Petaluma Hill Rd., south of E. Cotati Blvd. and Sonoma State Univ. You may park in the lot belonging to our good neighbors, the Church of Christ, just next door, thus leaving J.J.'s driveway free for people who may need to use the ramp.)

SARAH BAKER, OAKLAND BLUES MOTHERS, 1:00PM

Sunday, March 12, At J.J.'s house, Potluck lunch at noon

One of the great migrations to California occurred during World War II, when work in the Kaiser shipyards brought scores of people, both black and white from the southern United States to California. The black population of Richmond and Oakland, California, mostly from the south, increased by 80% at this time! Although not everyone worked in the shipyards, those who did needed to be fed. The astute women who opened restaurants and cafes in both cities served this huge new population. The resulting sense of community drew musicians such as Ivory Joe Hunter, John Lee Hooker, and Jimmy McCracklin, who began to play their blues during supper. "Supper" clubs provided not only a social venue, but an entirely new kind of blues—the East Bay Sound—nourished by these forward-thinking business women. Described as a "slow drag," this combination of Louisiana-Texas blues soon became known world wide for its unusual, mournful sound. In this multi-media presentation, Sarah honors these musical mothers and the legacy of music and community that emerged from their work.

ANNA-LISA COX, A STRONGER KINSHIP: ONE TOWN'S EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF HOPE AND FAITH

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00pm, At J.J.'s house

Anna-Lisa Cox joins us to discuss her recent study of Covert, Mich., home to 2,600 residents today—1,200 Caucasians, 900 African-Americans and 500 Hispanics. That's an unusual mix for a rural Midwestern town, which, as Cox reveals, has an intriguing history. Focusing on the late 19th-century, Cox, a historian at Chicago's Newberry Library, recounts how Covert became racially integrated just after the Civil War and how its residents lived harmoniously thereafter, even as other American towns practiced segregation or ended up bedeviled by racial hatred.

ETEL ADNAN, IN THE HEART OF THE HEART OF ANOTHER COUNTRY

Wednesday, March 29, Noon. SSU Library, Schulz 3001

NOTE DIFFERENT LOCATION

Etel Adnan is a local treasure (and friend of The Sitting Room) whose visit to SSU is always a cause for celebration. A native of Lebanon, she has lived in the Bay area, Paris and Beirut since the 1950's. Adnan has published numerous works of poetry and prose whose hallmark is an "intense emotive strength of perception." She will be reading from her latest work, *In the Heart of the Heart of Another Country*, a haunting meditation on place and history. Not to be missed! For more info, contact Barbara Lesch McCaffrey, 664-2273, If you are unable to be there in person, you can view it at: www.streaming.sonoma.edu

25TH(!) BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR THE SITTING ROOM

Sunday, May 7, from 2 to 5, At J.J.'s house

Come one, come all to celebrate the quarter century of reading and writing (+ good conversations) that go on at this unique community resource. As usual, there will be cake and fruit and flowers for the guests; presents (anything on paper) are welcome. Copies of our Spring publication, *Readers Unite!*, (see notice inside) will be available and contributors will read aloud from their brief essays. The event will take place at J.J. Wilson's house at 2025 Curtis Drive, right near Sonoma State University. If you need directions and/or want more information, please telephone J.J. in May, 795-9028.

ANNETTE PARKS, BRIDGE WORK

Monday, May 15, Potluck 6:00pm, the Sitting Room

Annette Parks, long time friend of the Sitting Room, is back from her travels with a new novel tucked under her arm. *Bridge Work*. Set on California's redwood coast in the early 1970's, this novel explores the cataclysmic changes taking place in the people and land of this era. Join us for potluck and conversation.

PRESENT AT THE CREATION:

THE SONOMA COUNTY ROADWRITERS

Saturday, June 17th, at 7 pm, the Sitting Room

The Sonoma County RoadWriters (Doug Stout, Vilma Ginzburg, Batja Cates, David Beckman and Jennifer Weil) bring you an evening of poetry and improvisation. The RoadWriters are a traveling troop of California poets who lift the veil on the creative process, bringing you into the fun, inspiration and risk-taking that are part of the act of writing. Share our skills, craftsmanship and excitement about poetry through live performance, read from our ever-growing anthology of poems on the creation of poetry, submitted by over 30 area poets, Involve the audience, taking suggestions and improvising -- the ultimate literary "high wire act." So you're invited to be PRESENT AT THE CREATION. We look forward to an evening of poetry, improvisation and fun with you.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

If you would like to be on the Sitting Room's e-mail announcement list, contact Karen Petersen, kpetersen@santarosa.edu. She will tell you of any fast-breaking events at the Sitting Room and remind you of the scheduled ones, as well as alerting you to other relevant cultural gatherings in the county.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SSU WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

SSU Women's Resource Center hosts a rich program of lectures, films, conferences and performances. For a complete program and location information, call 664-2845 or visit the WRC web site, www.sonoma.edu/CampusLife/WRC/

MARCH 1, 7pm, ICC Gallery, Student Union 7:00pm, "The History of Women's History Month" with founders **Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter and Paula Hammett.**

MARCH 21, 7pm Cooperage, **Dr. Beez Schell**, "We've Come A Long Way, Baby! A History of Women in American Sport"

SSU ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 pm, Cooperage.

SSU students FREE, \$10 general.

Wilma Mankiller, former Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, will speak.

SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE ARTS & LECTURES

For complete information on this series, call Community Education, 527-4372 or check their website www.santarosa.edu/communityed (All events are FREE and open to the public. Campus parking is \$3.00). Highlights of the series include:

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006, 12:15PM

Burbank Auditorium, Santa Rosa Campus

Delores Huerta, Campos de Suenos /Fields of Dreams

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2006, 12:15PM

Newman Auditorium, Santa Rosa Campus

Beating the Odds: Women in Science at SRJC Tell Their Stories

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006, 10AM-NOON

Rm. 1588, Emeritus Hall, Santa Rosa Campus

Gillian Conoley White Space: The Uses of the Page in the Poem, a Creative Writing Workshop

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2006, 12:15PM

Newman Auditorium, Santa Rosa Campus

Collaborative Process in the Arts

Leslie Cole and Claude Smith

WOW! Women on Writing Conference, Sat., March 4, 2006, at Skyline College in San Bruno (see map at www.skylinecollege.edu) If interested, email Marijane Datson at mjdat@pacbell.net

JEAN & CHARLES SCHULZ INFORMATION CENTER

For a complete schedule of lectures, exhibits and special events, call 664-4240 or visit their website, www.libweb.sonoma.edu/.

Melanie Kent Steinhardt: The Life and Art of an Émigré

University Library Art Gallery, through March 24, 2006.

Melanie Kent Steinhardt was an aspiring Bohemian Jewish artist who left Europe in 1939 and finally settled in California in 1941. This diverse and compelling collection of compositions, portraits and landscapes blends European Expressionism with an émigré's troubled impressions of two World Wars, a woman's place in a male dominated world, and her new life in America.

Politics and Perspectives: Women in History

Thursdays in March, Noon - 1 p.m., Salazar 2021

MARCH 2, "The New Chinese Entrepreneurial Woman: What Would Confucius Say? Or Mao?" (Professor Randall Dodgen), "Is It Already too late? What really happened to Roe v. Wade?" (Professor Catherine Nelson)

MARCH 9, "Romancing Pocahontas; or Naked Cartwheels in Jamestown" (Professor Kathleen Noonan), "Women & Missions in Early California" (Professor Michelle Jolly)

MARCH 16, "Male Impersonators in Early 20th Century San Francisco" (Professor Nan Alamilla Boyd), "Dykes or Whores: Sexism, Homophobia, and Military Women's Catch-22" (Professor Steve Estes)

MARCH 23, "Sex in the Temple: Fantasy or Slander?" (Professor William Poe)

MARCH 30, "Immigrant Women: Challenges to Historiography" (Professor Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp), "Queen Ealswith and the Mercians" (Professor Judith Abbott)

- CALL FOR ENTRIES! -

READERS UNITE!

Readers Unite is our name and writing a tribute to an influential book/poem/essay is our game for this Spring's Sitting Room Publication. Write a mini essay (400 words or so, and some people have written in poetry not prose) on one book/poem/essay which had an impact on you. Once you pick your book, the essay will write itself. It can be as informal and colloquial as you want -- most of the essays so far are quite personal and moving. Send a draft to J.J. Wilson via her e-mail boxcar@sonic.net, if you want some instant feedback, **but the final must be submitted in camera ready hard copy, with generous margins, by regular mail (postmarked March 1) to The Sitting Room Publication Project, 170 E. Cotati Ave., Cotati, CA 94928.** All contributions which fulfill these guidelines will be published. Please include as much information as you can about your book's author/title/publisher/date, because some readers will be using our essays as a what to read next list.

READERS UNITE! will be "published" at the Sitting Room's Birthday Party on Sunday, May 7, 2006 and our authors will be invited to read their essays at that event, if they wish. We see this year's theme as a celebration of the readers in our community -- it is, after all, what we do best here at The Sitting Room, with its thousands of fine books that have been donated to us over our 25 years of existence.

WORKSHOPS & BOOK GROUPS, ON-GOING & NEW

Some free, some for fee, telephone/email organizers for details and to reserve a place

Mondays (2nd and 4th), 7 p.m., no fee, all levels, all genres welcome. Telephone Carolyn Allen, 584-3523 or Pat Tyler, 696-9640 to find out about the few openings coming up in this long running workshop.

Creative Writing Workshops with Terry Ehret and Dan Coshnear.

Cost: \$180 for eight week session plus \$20 donation to the Sitting Room. To reserve a space or find out more about these workshops, e-mail tehret99@comcast.net. \$50 deposit required to hold your space.

Poetry and Mythology with Terry Ehret

Monday Mornings 9-12 February 13-April 10 (no class February 20)
This workshop is for anyone interested in exploring the common metaphoric ground between mythology and poetry. The workshop is open to writers at all levels. Writing exercises are generative and playful, the workshop discussions supportive, and the entire experience inspiring for all.

A NOVEL IDEA, KRCB, FM 91, with host Rosemary Manchester. Second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm,

MARCH 8, Mystery stories by Nadia Gordon, author of *Sharp Shooter*, *Death By The Glass*, *Murder Alfresco*.

APRIL 12: Richie Partington, an authority on books for Young Adults.

MAY 10: Sarah Baker will join me to discuss Denise Giardina's magnificent novel, *Saints And Villains*, a fictionalized biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the gifted theologian who was murdered by the Nazi regime.

SITTING ROOM BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Third Wednesday of every month, 2pm to 4pm, no fee, all welcome, led, tugged, pushed, dashed after, by Rosemary Manchester and J.J. Wilson. The March author will be Jane Smiley. For more info, email Rosemary Manchester at rmanch@pacbell.net or telephone her at 823-3477.

Writers' Critique Circle with Terry Ehret and Dan Coshnear

Wednesday Evenings 6:30-9:30 Starting February 15
This is a new workshop for writers seeking a supportive and dedi-

cated group to share new writing and get feedback, suggestions, and critique. The workshop will also provide an opportunity for writers to share their creative process, develop their editing skills, and exchange ideas for publishing. (For fee and contact info, see above.)

The Great American Novella with Rebecca Lawton.

Thursdays, March 2 – 30, 7-9pm, \$100 for cost of workshop + \$20 donation to the Sitting Room.

It's longer than a short story, briefer than a novel. But what other characteristics set the novella apart from other forms? In this workshop, we'll read and discuss a handful of classics, including *A River Runs Through It* by Norman MacLean and *Legends of the Fall* by Jim Harrison. Each week we'll explore setting, characterization, plot, structure, texture, and style. Writing exercises during the course of the class will help us begin our own novellas. The final evening is reserved for personal consultation with the instructor on work completed during the course. Rebecca Lawton, M.F.A., is the author of *Reading Water: Lessons from the River* and other works. Email becca@beccalawton.com for more information, and enroll with a deposit of \$25 to Rebecca Lawton, P.O. Box 654, Vineburg, CA 95487-0654.

Prose Poem/ Flash Fiction Workshop with Terry Ehret

Friday Mornings 9-12 February 17-April 14 (No class March 24)
What exactly is a prose poem? Happily, the form defies strict definitions, leaving its practitioners free to invent and discover. This workshop is open to all writers, prose and poetry, beginning and experienced, young and old, male and female or anything in between. (For fee and contact info, see above.)

Sundays from 10am to 1pm. Workshops with Charles Rubin and the Inner Light Foundation. \$40. Upcoming workshops:

MARCH 19: "Techniques for Health and Wholeness"

APRIL 23: "You are what you dream." See www.innerlight.org for complete details.

A FEW DOES AND DONTs AT THE SITTING ROOM

If you would like to have access to the Sitting Room for relaxing reading or for a good stint of work, you should have a key. They are obtained by calling J.J. Wilson at 795-9028, or emailing Karen Petersen, kpetersen@santarosa.edu. By the way, these keys all have to be made from the original, so DO NOT DUPLICATE them please, for any reason.

As most of you know, our library is a place where you can eat and talk. However, if you eat, please put your trash into the dumpster out back so that ants are not attracted to us; and, if you are talking on a cell phone and others are working in the library, please step outside – for smoking also, of course. Bring your laptops, if you want, but we do also have electric typewriters there. For music, headphones please. Please do continue our pleasant tradition of writing in the mid-room Journal – it does not have to be just compliments or complaints, but can be recommendations for books or articles, snatches of poetry, ideas about L*I*F*E, etc. – It is nice to get to know some of the Sitting Room regulars through their entries since we're hardly ever there at the same time. The back room is designated as a Quiet Room, where you are free from conversation and interruption, and a lot of work does get done there.

It has been cold lately, but try to resist grouping all the heaters around you in one room, as that can overheat the electrical system and blow a fuse or worse.

We have instituted a new Circulation System that will be foolproof (ha/ha!). Please use the new cream colored borrower's slips, filling out each and every line including what year it is. And remember, books with blue dots only can go home with you; the rest are a permanent part of the reading room collection and are to be read at the Sitting Room itself.



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COTATI, CA 94931

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- SAVE THE DATE! -

SEVENTH ANNUAL SONOMA COUNTY BOOK FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 16, 10 to 5, Free admission.

Old Courthouse Square, downtown Santa Rosa



Annual celebration of PWLB (People who love books)! This year's Sonoma County Book Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, the whole day devoted to the independent booksellers who do so much for the community, the many writers from near and far who come to meet their readers in person and v.v., the fine, fun, and free children's programming in its own special tent, and so many other treats. If you would like to volunteer, the organizing committee holds monthly meetings at the Central Library in downtown Santa Rosa, 2nd Mondays of the month, 6pm. There are fund raisers to plan, committee meetings for authors, children's programming, etc. as well as jobs on the Big Day, both for the Book Festival itself and for the popular Sitting Room booth, so do remember to SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 16. For up-to-the minute info, be sure and check the Book Festival website, www.SoCoBookfest.org.