



WEHO READS NOIR – AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Steph Cha is the author of “Follow Her Home”. Her writing has appeared in The L.A. Times, The L.A. Review of Books, and Trop Magazine. A graduate of Stanford University and Yale Law School, she lives in her native city of Los Angeles, California. “Beware Beware” is her second novel.

Sarah Clarke starred in her first on-camera role in the short film “Pas De Deux”, in which she was recognized with the CINY Award (Cine Woman NY) for Outstanding Performance at the Brooklyn Film Festival. After making guest appearances on “Sex and the City” and “ED,” she landed her starring role on Fox’s acclaimed television series “24,” where she portrayed the role of “Nina Meyers” for three seasons.

Kim Cooper is the creator of 1947 project, the historical blog that spawned Esotouric's popular crime bus tours, including The Real Black Dahlia and Pasadena Confidential. With husband Richard Schave, Kim curates the cultural and forensic science salons of LAVA - The Los Angeles Visionaries Association. Kim's books include "Fall in Love For Life," "Bubblegum Music is the Naked Truth," "Lost in the Grooves" and an oral history of the band Neutral Milk Hotel. Her debut novel, the fact-based "The Kept Girl" stars the young Raymond Chandler and the real-life Philip Marlowe sleuthing a murderous cult of angel worshippers.

Michael Datcher is the author of the New York Times Bestseller “Raising Fences” and the forthcoming novel “Americus” (October 2014). He is the co- host of the weekly public affairs show Beautiful Struggle on 90.7 FM KPFK and the editor of “The Truth About the Fact: International Journal of Literary Nonfiction.” He teaches English literature at Loyola Marymount University.

Nicelle Davis is a California poet who walks the desert with her son, J.J., in search of owl pellets and rattlesnake skins. The author of two books of poetry, her most recent book, “Becoming Judas” is available from Red Hen Press. Her first book, “Circe,” is available from Lowbrow Press. “In the Circus of You” is forthcoming from Rose Metal Press in Spring 2015 and “The Walled Wife” is forthcoming from Red Hen Press in 2016. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in The Beloit Poetry Journal, The New York Quarterly, PANK, SLAB Magazine, and others. She is editor at large of The Los Angeles Review.

Kim Dower’s first collection, “Air Kissing on Mars,” (Red Hen Press, 2010) was on the Poetry Foundation’s Contemporary Best Sellers list, and was described by the Los Angeles Times as, “sensual and evocative . . . seamlessly combining humor and heartache.” “Slice of Moon,” her second collection, (Red Hen Press, 2013), was called, “unexpected and sublime,” by “O” magazine. A Pushcart nominee, Kim’s work has appeared in Garrison Keillor's, "The Writer's Almanac," and Ted Kooser's, "American Life in Poetry," as well as in Ploughshares, Barrow Street, Rattle and Eclipse. Her third collection will be published in the Spring of 2016. Kim teaches a workshop, Poetry and Dreaming, in the B.A. Program of Antioch University. Kim lives in West Hollywood, California. www.kimdowerpoetry.com

Christa Faust is the author of several award winning hardboiled crime novels including “Mondy Shot,” “Choke Hold” and the humorous and sexy lesbian private eye series “Butch Fatale: Dyke Dick.” She was born and raised in New York City but currently lives and writes in Los Angeles.

Mark Fertig is chair of the Department of Art and Art History and Associate Professor of Graphic Design at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. His new book is “Film Noir 101: The 101 Best Film Noir Posters from the 1940s-1950s” from Fantagraphics Books. His design work has been published in Print, How, Graphis, Logo Lounge, and numerous other industry annuals. He writes about movies for a variety of websites, and is a regular contributor to Noir City, the quarterly publication of the Film Noir Foundation.

Janet Fitch is the author of the novels “Paint It Black” and “White Oleander.” Her short stories and essays have appeared in anthologies and journals such as Black Clock, Room of One's Own, and Los Angeles Noir. She is currently finishing a novel set during the Russian Revolution, and regularly blogs at www.janetfitchwrites.wordpress.com.

Katherine V. Forrest, a recipient of the Lambda Literary Foundation’s Pioneer Award, is the internationally recognized author of 16 works of fiction including “Curious Wine,” “Daughters of a Coral Dawn,” and the Kate Delafield mystery series—which has won four Lambda Literary Awards. She has edited numerous anthologies, and her stories, articles and reviews have appeared in publications worldwide. Senior editor at the storied Naiad Press for a decade, she is supervising editor at Spinsters Ink and editor at large at Bella Books. She lives with her partner in the Southern California desert.

Judith Freeman is the author of a collection of short stories as well as four novels and the non-fiction book, “The Long Embrace Raymond Chandler and the Woman He Loved,” chosen by Newsweek as one of the ten best books of 2007. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship in fiction as well as the Western Heritage Award and her books have been widely reviewed. She lives in the MacArthur Park area of Los Angeles, very near where Raymond Chandler first started out in the city. She is currently working on a memoir, to be published by Pantheon next year.

Alicia Gaspar de Alba, a native of the El Paso El Paso/Juárez border, is a Chicana writer/scholar/activist who uses prose, poetry, and theory for social change. With a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of New Mexico, Alicia is a Professor of Chicana/o Studies, English, and Gender Studies at UCLA, where she has taught since 1994, and is currently the Chair of the LGBT Studies Program. She has published 11 books, among them, the award-winning historical novel, “Sor Juana’s Second Dream” and the border noir, “Desert Blood: The Juárez Murders,” winner of the Lambda Literary Foundation Award for Best Lesbian Mystery of 2005. She lives in Los Angeles with her wife, the visual artist, Alma Lopez, and their foster (soon to be adopted) son, Tristan, and their two feline guardians, Ruby and Luna. For more about Alicia's work, see her website at www.aliciagaspardealba.net.

Rachel Howzell Hall was born and raised in Los Angeles. An avid reader and lover of books, she received her B.A. in English and American Literature from University of California at Santa Cruz. She is the author of “Land of Shadows” (Forge, 2014), “A Quiet Storm,” “The View from Here” and “No One Knows You're Here.” She lives in Los Angeles.

Denise Hamilton’s crime novels have been finalists for the Edgar, Anthony, Macavity and Willa Cather awards. She also edited the Edgar-winning “Los Angeles Noir” anthology and “Los Angeles Noir 2: The Classics.” Denise’s debut “The Jasmine Trade” was a finalist for the prestigious Creasey Dagger Award given by the UK Crime Writers Assn. Her books have been BookSense 76 picks, USA Today Summer Picks and “Best Books of the Year” by various newspapers. Prior to writing novels, Hamilton was a Los Angeles Times staff writer. She covered the collapse of Communism and was a Fulbright Scholar in Yugoslavia during the Bosnian War. When not writing crime fiction, Denise muses about perfume for the Los Angeles Times.

Gar Anthony Haywood is the Shamus and Anthony award-winning author of twelve crime novels and numerous short stories. He has written for both The New York Times and Los Angeles Times, and for long-form television. His short fiction has been included in the “Best American Mystery Stories” anthologies and Booklist has called him “a writer who has always belonged in the upper echelon of American crime fiction.”

Suzanne Lummis’ manuscript “Open 24 Hours” won the Blue Lynx Poetry Award and her book will be coming out from Lynx House Press in 2014. Her poems are forthcoming in the anthology of noir poems and detective fiction, “Noir Riot,” from Gutter Books. Through the UCLA Extension Writers' Program she occasionally teaches a unique class she developed, "Poetry Goes to the Movies: The Poem Noir."

Michael Nava, a third-generation Californian of Mexican descent, is the author of an acclaimed series of crime novels featuring Henry Rios, a gay Latino criminal defense lawyer. Published between 1986 and 2000, each new novel was greeted with greater critical acclaim until, about the last novel, “Rag and Bone,” the New York Times reviewer wrote simply: “Nava is one of our best.” The series won six Lambda Literary Awards. In 2001, Nava received the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement in gay and lesbian literature. His latest novel, “The City of Palaces,” was published in April and hailed in the Lambda Literary Review as “a masterwork.”

Tom Nolan is the author of “Ross Macdonald: A Biography” and editor of the Macdonald short-story collection “The Archer Files.” Since 1990, he’s been crime-fiction reviewer for the Wall Street Journal. His most recent book is “Artie Shaw, King of the Clarinet: His Life and Times.”

Daniel A. Olivás is the author of seven books including the award-winning novel, “The Book of Want” (University of Arizona Press), and “Things We Do Not Talk About: Exploring Latino/a Literature through Essays and Interviews” (San Diego State University Press). He is the editor of “Latinos in Lotusland: An Anthology of Contemporary Southern California Literature” (Bilingual Press), and has been widely anthologized including in “Sudden Fiction Latino” (W. W. Norton), and “You Don’t Have a Clue: Latino Mystery Stories for Teens” (Arte Público Press). Olivás has written for many publications including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Review of Books, High Country News, and California Lawyer.

Gary Phillips is the editor and contributor to the bestselling anthology “Orange County Noir” and “Black Pulp.” His novel “Warlord of Willow Ridge” was about a career criminal hiding out in suburbia and “Big Water” is his graphic novel about a community’s fight against water privatization.

Charles Phoenix is a performer, humorist, chef and author. In his live shows, videos, media appearances and books, the self-proclaimed “retro daddy” explores America’s classic and kitschy pop cultural past and present, and predicts retro-inspired future trends. Fans enjoy his unique spin and genuine reverence for all things Americana, trust his guide to attractions from coast to coast. Charles has shared his vintage images and culinary creations on TV with Conan and Martha Stewart and is often heard on National Public Radio. Los Angeles Times says “Call him the King of Retro,” and LA WEEKLY anointed him “Kodachrome King.” Charles is the author of several collectible coffee table books celebrating mid-century Southern California, Las Vegas, Hawaii, road trips and his native Pomona Valley. “Americana the Beautiful: Mid-Century Culture in Kodachrome” is his latest book.

Nina Revoyr is the author of four novels, including “Southland,” which was a BookSense 76 pick and a Los Angeles Times “Best Book” of 2003; the “The Age of Dreaming,” which was a finalist for the 2008 Los Angeles Times Book Prize; and “Wingshooters,” which won an Indie Booksellers’ Choice Award, was one of O: Oprah Magazine’s “Books to Watch For,” and was one of Booklist’s Books of the Year for 2011. Her new novel, “Lost Canyon,” will be published in 2015. Revoyr is also co-editor of the textbook “Literature for Life: A Thematic Introduction to Reading and Writing”. She has taught at Cornell, Antioch, Occidental, and Pitzer, and is executive vice president of a non-profit children’s service organization in Los Angeles.

Julie M. Rivett is a granddaughter of Dashiell Hammett, a Hammett scholar and lecturer, and an editor of four books by or about her famous grandfather. The most recent is “The Hunter and Other Stories”, an illuminating collection of Hammett’s unpublished and uncollected stories and screen treatments.

Lienna Silver was born and raised in Soviet Russia. After working in film in New York and Los Angeles, she co-wrote and translated screenplays, developed a project for British Screen International, and later transitioned into writing fiction. Lienna is currently finishing a novel about mothers and sons.

Brian Sonia-Wallace is a poet and a big picture person with a focus on social justice and on art internationally. He works directly with communities in creating art as a public discourse, and with funders and thought-leaders to make programs a reality. Brian created an artist collective in Los Angeles, theater companies in Scotland and Ecuador, public art projects in Los Angeles and New York, and funding streams for healthy food, affordable housing, and wealth building in Boyle Heights. He also founded a pop-up poetry store on the streets of LA and publish reviews, poetry, and, once, an academic philosophy article.

Charles Harper Webb's latest book, “What Things Are Made Of,” was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in 2013. “Brain Camp,” his next book, will be published by Pitt in 2015. Recipient of grants from the Whiting and Guggenheim foundations, Webb teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing at California State University, Long Beach.

Paula L. Woods has written four mysteries in the Charlotte Justice series, including the Los Angeles Times bestsellers “Inner City Blues” and “Stormy Weather.” Her anthology “Spooks, Spies and Private Eyes: Black Mystery, Crime and Suspense Fiction of the 20th Century,” was groundbreaking and won an Anthony Award for one of its contributors. She also co-authored, with Felix Liddell, the seminal book of days “I, Too, Sing America” and co-edited two anthologies on love and Christmas and Kwanzaa. Paula is a member of the National Book Critics Circle and reviews regularly for the Los Angeles Times.

Désirée Zamorano delights in the exploration of contemporary issues of injustice and inequity, via her mystery series featuring private investigator, Inez Leon, published by Lucky Bat Books. “Human Cargo” was Latinidad’s mystery pick of the year.