



The Poetics of Aging

Toward a New Understanding of the Many Verses in Life

NOVEMBER 16TH-19TH, 2011 | SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Please join AgeSong at the grassroots Poetics of Aging Conference to explore the beauty and depth of life at any stage and age. Visit www.poeticsofaging.org for more information.

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Leading Contemporary Poets Create a “Speakeasy” Platform at the Poetics of Aging Conference

(PoeticsofAging.org November 1, 2011. San Francisco). West Coast Poets and Storytellers speak up at the inaugural Poetics of Aging Conference. The mission of the conference is to counter the belief that aging is decline and/or disease, but rather to “create a climate where people share their awareness and creative expressions, while providing room for self-study and discovery.”

Harnessing and sharing perspectives that can only be earned by having lived for a long span of years, renowned poets and storytellers present on stage in the beautiful 1800s Sanctuary of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, First Unitarian Universalist Church, San Francisco. An open mike sign-up format follows the scheduled speakers, with opportunities for spontaneous sharing for anyone so inspired to “come listen, come speak, come tell.” The Speakeasy runs every afternoon, starting at 2:30 pm November 16, 17, and 18, with an additional hour from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm November 16.

The SpeakEasy is one of the many offerings of The Poetics of Aging Conference, which also features theater, music, workshops, keynote presentations, roundtables, design exhibits and a creativity lab. The conference is targeting healthcare professionals (continuing education units available), professionals in aging, academics, and is uniquely open as well to the general public interested in aging issues. Register online for discounted rates at <http://poeticsofaging.org> For more information, please contact Dr. Sally Gelardin, sally@poeticsofaging.org

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011. *Katherine Hastings*, founder of the WordTemple Poetry Series, is host of WordTemple on KRCB, and publisher of the Small Change Series of WordTemple Press. Her own books include *Updraft* (Finishing Line Press, 2010); and *Sidhe* (dpress, 2006). Her chapbook *Fog and Light* is included in *Ahadada Reader 3* (Ahadada Press, 2011). Her poems have been published in many journals and anthologies including the *Comstock Review*; *Rattle*; *Parthenon West Review*; *California Quarterly*; *Calyx* and others. *Janine Canan*, author of *Ardor: Poems of Life*, the award-winning anthologies *Messages from Amma* and *She Rises like the Sun*, the illustrated storybooks *Walk Now in Beauty* and *Journeys with Justine*, and her essays *Goddesses Goddesses*, will read from *Ardor: Poems of Life*. *Barbara Booker*, novelist, painter, and performer, reads selected poems. She is the founder of Age March, and recently gave a one-woman show on aging at the California

Commonwealth Club. Her *Viagra Diaries*, about a seventy year old woman who wants it all, is scheduled for HBO TV. Goldie Hawn will play the lead character in the novel.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011. **Poet and improviser David Metzger** began his career during the beat generation. He is a singer-songwriter with several albums to his credit; author of many books of poetry, fiction and essays; and the editor of several anthologies. His newest book is *When I Was A Poet*, #60 of City Lights' Pocket Poets series.. **Julie Rogers** entered the San Francisco poetry scene in the 1970s. She has published chapbooks, been anthologized in poetry collections, and performed her poetry on public radio and television and at many venues in California and Oregon. **Naomi Ruth Lowinsky reads poems** about the body and soul of aging: poems about "old love," aches and pains, being a grandmother, having a grandmother, watching a mother lose her orientation, tasting the fruits of a long life's harvest. Lowinsky is an analyst member of the San Francisco C.G. Jung Institute, and a self-described pushy muse, who thinks it's her turn now that the children are raised. She is author of *The Motherline: Every Woman's Journey to Find her Female Roots* and three books of poetry. **Storyteller Bob Kanegis** tells "*The Laziest Man in the History of the World*" and other tales of Grey Heroes. Kanegis is the founder of Tales & Trails Storytelling and Stories Worth Telling which encourages the telling and preservation of Life Legacy Stories.

Mary Mackey reads poems from "Sugar Zone" that deal with aging from many perspectives, as well as a short prose piece from her novel "The Horses At The Gate," in which a 90-year-old priestess from Africa initiates a young priestess into the mysteries of the Dark Goddess. She is Professor Emeritus of English at California State University Sacramento and co-founder of the Feminist Writers Guild, as well as CSUS Women's Studies and Writing programs. **Judy Grahn, an internationally known poet, writer, and social theorist**, reads from her work, which has won an NEA Grant, an American Book Review award, an American Book Award, an American Library Award, and a Lifetime Achievement Award (in Lesbian Letters).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011. **Poet Marc Elihu Hofstadter** reads poems about how, facing mortality, the aged find a special joy in being alive. Hofstadter is the author of *Healing the Split*, a collection of essays, and several books of poetry. Born in New York City, he earned his Ph.D. from UC Santa Cruz, where he taught American literature. He also taught at the universities of Orleans and Tel Aviv. **Songwriter Gaea Yudron** leads a discussion of the elements of creative, conscious aging and the healing power of life review, followed by two songs, Baba Yaga's Raga and Hip Hop Elder's Rant. She then reads passages from her memoir, *Songs of the Inner Life*.

Open mike and spontaneous telling throughout the three days give attendees a opportunity to be heard in the sharing circle.