

Vegas Valley Book Festival
Nov. 6 - 8, 2008
Schedule of Events

*All sessions, readings and workshops are free and open to the public
(excluding the Spoken Word events at First Friday)*

Thursday, Nov. 6 – Historic Fifth Street School (401 S. Fourth Street)

Author Sessions (auditorium) - all book signings in adjacent gallery

- 1 – 2:30 p.m. session I –co-sponsor UNLV School of Architecture
Downtown Design Center and KLAI JUBA Lecture Series

“Overlooking the Landscape of America; *Seeing a thing is not seeing everything else*”

Matthew Coolidge, Director, The Center for Land Use Interpretation and author of *Overlook, exploring the internal fringes of America* looks at the landscape of America as a reflection of our culture; with an illustrated tour across, over and under the terrestrial veneer, showing all kinds of places, from bombing ranges to golf courses, talking about the curious ways people interact with the ground on which we live. Along the way, Coolidge will draw us into some of the isolated landmark spaces of Nevada.

- 2:45 – 5 p.m. session II –co-sponsor UNLV School of Architecture
Downtown Design Center

“Looking for Las Vegas in Los Angeles”

John Chase, Urban Designer, city of West Hollywood whose published works include *Glitter Stucco & Dumpster Diving* and *LA 2000+* will look at Los Angeles and Las Vegas as generators of pop culture, entertainment and car oriented development, where architecture is a vehicle for entertainment, grand story telling and unbridled spectacle. Here, the author pieces together an alternative Las Vegas in LA, exhibiting a spirit of fictionalized reality, razzle dazzle and super scale urban design.

“Going Global: Big Projects & Grand Plans”

Greg Hise, Professor of History at UNLV and author of a range of works on the built environment including *Magnetic Los Angeles: Planning the twentieth Century Metropolis*, will look at how places

like Dubai, London, Shanghai and Las Vegas compete as new centers of design, investment and culture; and how public distrust can question the value of such big plans, given the legacy of large scale urban systems that often failed to deliver. Yet history suggests the utility of grand plans for big projects, with the author illuminating the issue with compelling examples from around the world.

“Bringing it home to Vegas” – a roundtable discussion

Robert Dorgan, Director of the UNLV Downtown Design Center, facilitates a roundtable discussion that includes these two authors and local planners/architects--bringing the conversation home to Las Vegas.

Thursday, Nov. 6, 7 p.m. - Clark County Library Theater

- **Opening keynote – An Evening with Neil Gaiman**

Sponsored by the city of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs, Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

Described by *Forbes* magazine as "the best-selling author you've never heard of," Neil Gaiman is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *American Gods*, *Anansi Boys*, and *Coraline*, and has been among the top comic authors for more than two decades. He is a prolific creator of works of prose, poetry, film, journalism, song lyrics and drama whose celebrated *Sandman* series of graphic novels is widely considered a groundbreaker in introducing comic books to a literary audience. In this opening keynote for the Vegas Valley Book Festival, Gaiman will discuss his work and influences.

Seating available on a first come, first serve basis. Due to the anticipated audience attendance, directed seating will occur.

Friday, Nov. 7 – Historic Fifth Street School

Author sessions (auditorium) - all book signings in adjacent gallery

- 10 - 11:00 a.m. session I

“A Field Guide to Cool Neighborhoods” –co-sponsor UNLV School of Architecture Downtown Design Center and KLAI JUBA Lecture Series

Chris Wilson, J.B. Jackson Chair, School of Architecture and Planning, University of New Mexico, looks at how architects, city planners, real estate developers and cultural leaders across the country have found inspiration in historic buildings and diverse neighborhoods—from Main Street to the courtyard apartment --in their efforts to revitalize inner city neighborhoods. Learn to read this historic vocabulary and the ways in which it might relate to Las Vegas.

- 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. session II

Vegas Confidential:

Norm Clarke, *Las Vegas Review-Journal* columnist and author of *Vegas Confidential: Sensational Celebrity Tales*, talks about hobnobbing with stars and gathering gossip on the Strip in an interview with **Mike Weatherford**, *Las Vegas Review-Journal* entertainment writer and author of *Cult Vegas: The Weirdest! The Wildest! The Swinging'est Town on Earth*

- 1– 2 p.m. session III

The Other Service Industry: A Conversation with a Former Brothel Madam

Nevada is home to two dozen legal brothels, where customers pay big bucks to have their fantasies come true. **Laraine Russo Harper** saw it all in her six years of managing a Southern Nevada brothel and relates her experiences in *Legal Tender: True Tales of a Brothel Madam*. She talks frankly about the legal sex trade in conversation with journalist **Geoff Schumacher**.

- 2:15 - 3:30 p.m. session IV

The Mystery/Thriller in the Digital Age

What is the future of the written word on paper? More independent bookstores are closing and newspapers are dropping book review sections. Are audio books, i-phone downloads and scrolling through a story digitally the new rush-rush Age of Texting Literacy? Three best selling authors will discuss the current marketplace for books, how they write to capture readers, and how they strive to stand

above the crowd. Author **Jay MacLarty** with his thriller 'Courier' series; marketing guru **Brian Rouff**, author of *Dice Angel* and *Money Shot*, and **Stephen Grogan** with his debut mystery, *Vegas Die*.

- 3:45 – 5 p.m. session V
Vegas Noir

Vegas Noir gathers top mystery/crime writers and editors from Sin City and beyond to chat about the Art of Neon Fiction. Join authors **Tod Goldberg** (*Fake Liar Cheat*), **Steve Grogan** (*Vegas Die*), **Lori Kozlowski** and editors **Jarret Keene** and **Todd James Pierce** as they discuss what it means to be a scribe obsessed with the sinister underbelly of the Last American Boomtown. Topics will include (but are not limited to) Vegas as a genre, why so many out-of-town authors get it wrong/right, and when the Great American Las Vegas Novel will finally be written — and who will write it.

- **Writer’s Workshops** in the Gallery- concurrent sessions
 - 10 - 11:15 a.m. – Henderson Writers Group
“Overcoming the Six Pitfalls of Bad Writing”
 - 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. – Henderson Writers Group
“Point of View: Its Dynamic Impact on Your Writing”
 - 1 - 2 p.m. - Red Rock Review

Friday, Nov. 7 – Arts District Downtown

The Vegas Valley Book Festival Celebrates the Spoken Word

- 6 - 10 p.m.

Operation Desert Word Storm!

Join local author **Jarret Keene** (*The Underground Guide to Las Vegas*) and his cadre of literary friends as they transform Downtown Las Vegas’ First Friday event into a shocking and awesome showcase of poetry and music as part of this year’s **Vegas Valley Book Festival**. Special appearances by two-time National Individual Poetry Slam Winner **Anis Mojgani**, Alaskan fiddling poet **Ken Waldman**, traditional Hawaiian musician and surf bard **Gary Haleamau**, African-influenced storytelling group **Modern Griot**, India-born poetess **Mani Rao**, hyper-literate indie-rock act **Big Friendly Corporation**, urban street poet/warrior and Metro Detective **Harry**

Fagel, The Killers saxophonist, fiction writer **Tommy Marth** and Zeitgeist Press publisher and poet **Bruce Isaacson**.

Saturday, Nov. 8 – Historic Fifth Street School, Centennial Plaza / Lewis Avenue

Target Children’s Book Festival - FREE

- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The community’s largest literacy event for children takes place in Centennial Plaza with twenty two children’s authors, a variety of staged readings, food vendors, book signings, performances, arts and crafts, face painters and the participation of twenty local literacy groups.

Vegas Valley Book Festival Sessions (auditorium) - all book signings in adjacent gallery

- 10 – 11 a.m. Session I

Environment and Identity: The Shores of Selfhood

Writers from three cultures and climates discuss the crises and delights of becoming an artist in challenging environments--Cuba, India and the San Francisco of the Summer of Love. In this panel, poet memoirist **Aaron Shurin**, novelist and translator **Pablo Medina**, and poet **Mani Rao** will share their artist coming of age experiences, and read from their work.

Moderator **Claudia Keelan** will introduce the panel and field questions from the audience.

- 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Session II

Young Writers and the Modern West

Three of the most talented, up-and-coming young Nevada writers on the national scene take on the issue of a new lit-arts culture originating in the American West, especially from Las Vegas and Reno. Las Vegas writer **Doug Unger** moderates and asks best-selling and acclaimed local authors **Charles Bock**, **Tod Goldberg** and **Chris Coake** about such topics as: does regionalism still count in post-modern literary arts? Are the sprawling urban mega-scapes in the West providing new creative sources? Is our language fundamentally different? Can we start calling this a new “school” in the same way

the L.A. art scene of the '80s and '90s is now viewed (Ed Ruscha, Eric Fischl, Peter Alexander, Richard Serra) as they re-energized American art?

- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Session III

The Poet as Editor/The Editor as Poet – a symposium for writers
Donald Revell, Angela Ball, Rusty Morrison, April Ossmann

More and more, American poetry has had to answer the summons of Ralph Waldo Emerson to "self-reliance;" and so today, the presentation and production of new poems is very much in the hands of poets themselves. Our panel will discuss the singular advantages, and certain disadvantages, of this situation. Too, they will address those ways in which the work of editing has affected and energized their own writing. A question and answer session follows.

- 1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

Poetry in the Courtyard

Donald Revell, Angela Ball, Rusty Morrison, April Ossmann

Authors read from their own works in the courtyard of the Historic Fifth Street School.

- 1:45 – 2:45 p.m. Session IV

Damn the Rejections, Full Speed Ahead: The Bumpy Road to Getting Published

How does an aspiring author get published? What are publishers looking for? Is self-publishing a viable option? How do you attract the attention of an agent? The mysterious process of getting from ideas in one's mind to the books on the bookstore shelves is explained with both wit and practical tips. Join twelve-time-published author **Maralys Wills** and Stephens Press publisher **Carolyn Hayes Uber** in a free-ranging discussion of "getting published". Wills' newest book, *DAMN THE REJECTIONS, FULL SPEED AHEAD* was published in Fall 2008 by Stephens Press, the book division of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

- 3 – 4 p.m. Session V

Westward Ho!: John C. Fremont, Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West

John C. Fremont and Kit Carson were larger-than-life figures

of the 19th century. But what were these legendary men really like, and which of their dramatic exploits are actually true? **Sally Denton**, author of *Passion and Principle: John and Jessie Fremont, the Couple Whose Power, Politics, and Love Shaped Nineteenth-Century America*, and **Hampton Sides**, author of *Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West*, discuss these fascinating American heroes and their legacies in this region. Moderated by historian **Michael Green**.

Local Authors Expo – Gallery at the Historic Fifth Street School

- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Eighty local authors will sign, sell and display their published works.

Saturday, Nov. 8 – Clark County Library -1401 E. Flamingo Road
Vegas Valley Book Festival Comics Expo

With speakers, artists, vendors, films, book signings and workshops
P a n e l S e s s i o n s

- 11 a.m. – Large Conference Room
30 Minute Download – Breaking Into Comics, the Do's & Don'ts
Dwayne McDuffie, Steven Grant and Steve Niles
- Noon – Large Conference Room
Drawing for Comics, More Than Still Life
Deryl Skelton and Gilbert Hernandez
- Noon – Jewel Box Theater
Top Shelf, Fantagraphics and the World of Indie Publishing
Chris Staros and Gary Groth
- 1 p.m. – Large Conference Room
Comic Books — It's Not Just for Superheroes Anymore
Steve Niles, Deryl Skelton and Chris Staros
- 1 p.m. – Jewel Box Theater
In the Aether: the Future of On Line Comics
Steven Grant, Charles Holbert and Drew Edwards
- 2 p.m. – Large Conference Room
Sex & Race in Comics

Dwayne McDuffie and Gilbert Hernandez

- 2 p.m. – Jewel Box Theater
The 10 Cent Plague – The Great Comic Book Scare and How it Changed America
Author David Hajdu interviewed by journalist Jarret Keene;
book signing to follow the session
- **Films in the Theater**
11:30 a.m. – **Batman Gotham Knight**
1:00 p.m. – **Ironman**
- **Book Signing Schedule** – theater courtyard
11 a.m. – Deryl Skelton
Noon – Dwayne McDuffie, Steven Grant
1 p.m. – Gilbert Hernandez & Natalia Hernandez
2 p.m. – Steve Niles, Gary Groth
- Comic book vendors in the theater courtyard 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Publishers and informational booths in the theater lobby 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 6 p.m. – Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Road

Closing Keynote – Michael Chabon

Sponsored by the city of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs, UNLV Black Mountain Institute and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

Michael Chabon has become one of the preeminent literary authors of his generation, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 2001 for his novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. His other books include *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, *Wonder Boys*, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, and *Gentlemen of the Road*. His work has appeared in *GQ*, *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, *Harper's*, *Vogue*, and in a number of anthologies, among them *Prize Stories 1999: The O. Henry Awards*. *Wonder Boys* was adapted for film and released by Paramount

Studios, and film versions of several of Chabon's books are in the planning stages.

Seating available on a first come, first serve basis. Due to the anticipated audience attendance, directed seating will occur.

Closing festival reception –time and site to be announced.