

## **Brentwood Literary Stroll 2023 Participating Authors**

This year's Brentwood Literary Stroll is scheduled for Sunday, May 7 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in downtown Brentwood. Tickets are \$5 and will go on sale in March. We are very excited about this year's lineup of authors who are listed below.

**Gail Tsukiyama** – Fiction, Historic Fiction [www.gailtsukiyama.com](http://www.gailtsukiyama.com)

**Award winning and best selling author Gail Tsukiyama** was born in San Francisco, California to a Chinese mother from Hong Kong and a Japanese father from Hawaii. She attended San Francisco State University where she received both her Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Arts Degree in English with the emphasis in Creative Writing. Most of her college work was focused on poetry. **She was the recipient of the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award for Literary Excellence and was the first author to receive the Asia Pacific Leadership Award from the Center of the Pacific Rim and the Ricci Institute.** A resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, she has taught at San Francisco State University, University of California, Berkeley and Mills College. She has also been a freelance book reviewer for the San Francisco Chronicle and Ms Magazine.

In September of 2001, she was one of fifty authors chosen by the Library of Congress to participate in the first National Book Festival in Washington D.C. and has been guest speaker at the Hong Kong International Literary Festival, the Sydney Writers Festival, The International Festival of Writers in Toronto and the Vancouver International Writers Festival.

She is the author of seven novels published by St. Martin's Press, including Women of the Silk, The Samurai's Garden, Night of Many Dreams, The Language of Threads, Dreaming Water, The Street of a Thousand Blossoms, and A Hundred Flowers. Her latest novel, The Brightest Star, will be out by HarperVia in June 2023. This magnificent historical novel is based on the life of the luminous, groundbreaking actress Anna May Wong--the first and only Asian American woman to gain movie stardom in the early days of Hollywood.

Gail is also currently the Executive Director of WaterBridge Outreach: Books + Water, a nonprofit organization that provides books and access to water in developing countries.

**Michael Barrington** – Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Short Stories

Michael Barrington was born in Manchester, England and spent his teen age years at a boarding school in the Lake District. After living in France, he joined a French Order of

Missionary priests, and spent ten years in West Africa, several of them during a civil war when he was stood up to be shot. On his return to the UK, he spent a year living as a hermit in Northern Ireland. After teaching in Madrid, Spain for a year he taught for four years in Puerto Rico and directed an international student program in Latin America. Emigrating to the United States, he now lives near San Francisco.

As a member of Rotary International he flies all over the world monitoring and evaluating humanitarian projects and has worked in more than 30 countries. He is completely fluent in several languages, is an avid golfer and academically he has three Masters' Degrees and a Ph.D. On his bucket list is to pilot a helicopter, become fluent in Arabic and spend a week's retreat at Tamanrasset in the Sahara Desert.

He has always been a writer, mainly of spiritual, inspirational essays some of which he is currently preparing for publication. His first work "The Bishop Wears No Drawers" (2016) is a memoir of ten years spent in Africa, some of it during a civil war. His book "Let the Peacock Sing" (2020) is an historical novel set against the backdrop of the French Resistance during World War II. "Becoming Anya," is a coming of age and romance story (2021) and his most recent novel "The Ethiopian Affair" is an international thriller (May 2022).

Michael writes articles of both fiction and non-fiction for several magazines and is a feature writer for the Diablo Gazette, a local newspaper.

**Dallas Woodburn** – Fiction, new Non-fiction book [www.dallaswoodburn.com](http://www.dallaswoodburn.com)

Dallas Woodburn is an **award-winning writer of fiction, nonfiction, and plays**; an in-demand book coach; and host of the [Thriving Authors Podcast](#). She has helped dozens of women around the world write and publish the books inside their hearts to grow their businesses, grow their impact, and grow their legacies.

**Dallas's debut YA novel, *The Best Week That Never Happened*, was a #1 New Release on Amazon, a Featured Bestseller on Apple Books, and the Grand Prize Winner of the Dante Rossetti Book Award for Young Adult Fiction.** She is also the author of the YA novel *Thanks, Carissa, For Ruining My Life* and the short story collections *Woman, Running Late, in a Dress* and *How to Make Paper When the World is Ending*. Her novel *Before & After You & Me* and nonfiction book *1,001 Ways to be Kind* are both forthcoming in 2023.

**A former John Steinbeck Fellow in Creative Writing, Dallas has received the Cypress & Pine Short Fiction Award, the international Glass Woman Prize, and four Pushcart Prize nominations.** Her short stories have appeared in ZYZZYVA, The Nashville Review, Louisiana Literature, North Dakota Quarterly, and many other journals, and her nonfiction has been published in Family Circle, Writer's Digest, The

Writer, The Los Angeles Times, Modern Loss, and more than two dozen *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series books. Her plays have been produced in New York City, Los Angeles, South Lake Tahoe, and Maryland. Dallas lives with her family in the San Francisco Bay Area in a comfortably messy house with overflowing bookshelves.

**Dana Mentink** – Fiction, Mysteries, Romance [Dana Mentink - Award Winning Author](#)

Dana Mentink lives in California where the weather is golden and the cheese is divine. Her family includes two teen girls (affectionately nicknamed Yogi and Boo Boo.) Papa Bear is retired from the fire department and he met Dana doing a dinner theater production of *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Ironically, their parts were husband and wife.

**Dana is USA TODAY and Publishers Weekly bestselling author as well as a two time ACFW Carol Award winner. Her suspense novel, Betrayal in the Badlands, earned a Romantic Times Reviewer's Choice Award.** She is honored to write for Harlequin's Love Inspired, Harlequin Heartwarming, and Harvest House Publishers. Besides writing, she busies herself teaching third grade. Mostly, she loves to be home with Papa Bear, Yogi, Boo Boo, a dog with social anxiety problems, a chubby box turtle and a feisty parakeet.

Her list of many books includes romance, mysteries, inspirational and lighthearted contemporary, and even a series for dog lovers.

**Dan Hanel** – Fiction, Mysteries based in local area <https://danhanel.com>

Dan Hanel has been an educator for over 35 years - as an award winning science teacher when he received the Eukel Teacher Trust award for outstanding teachers of Contra Costa County and was named the Distinguished High School Science Teacher for the State of California, and as an award winning school administrator serving at the high school, district, and county office levels. He grew up in Richmond, CA and received a degree in Biology from U.C., Berkeley and a Masters in Education from Cal State University, Hayward. Dan's IN THE SHADOW OF DIABLO series was named a winner in the best series category of the Next generation Indie Book Awards. Dan Hanel is the author of the historical mystery series, IN THE SHADOW OF DIABLO including Mystery of the Great Stone House, Death at the Healing Waters, Ghosts of Black Diamond, and newest release . . .Beneath the Tangled Vines.

**Carol Jansen** – Non-fiction, local History

Carol has been fascinated with local history since the early 1960s. A native of eastern Contra Costa County, Carol is a history graduate of UC Santa Barbara. She delights in discovering cultural ephemera and documenting the cultural history of the area in which people lived, visited, or worked in California. The fruits of the historical search can be found at the East Contra Costa County Historical Society, Brentwood, CA. She has

many books about the history of the local area.

**Jim Hamilton** – Non-fiction, memoir and relationship self help [jimhamiltonauthor.com](http://jimhamiltonauthor.com)  
Jim Hamilton is a business consultant and author with over 40 years of experience in the hi-tech business. More importantly he is the father of three, grandfather of five and husband to a remarkable woman. Author of the autobiography *Waves of Life, It's All About Her: A Man-to-Mans' Guide to Marital Bliss*, the parable *In Pursuit of Love* and *The Happy Couple Playbook*, he is known for his insightful and entertaining writing style. Through his writing, national interviews and blogging, he is on a mission to help people enhance their lives by improving the way connect, communicate and care for one another.

**Josephine Mele** – Fiction, travel mysteries and Non-fiction, memoir  
Jo's sense of humor, travel experience, and love of food make her books an enjoyable read. She is a world traveler, tour guide, magazine editor, and life-long mystery reader. Her first book *The Odd Grandmothers*, is a memoir of three generations of her immigrant family. You will travel with her family from Sicily to Brooklyn, from Brooklyn to Long Island, From Long Island, NY to San Francisco CA. The similarities, struggles and family stories will make you feel like you know these three Italian women.

Two Travel Mysteries: *Bullets in Bolivia* and *Homicide in Havana* is her latest book. Her protagonist is a travel guide who keeps running into mysteries.

She wrote “ABC’s of Asperger’s Syndrome,” an article for *Parents Magazine* that was co-authored with her grandson Nick Mack; “Ellis Island Story,” *New York Times*; and several essays for *Reminisce Magazine*, *The Lamorinda Press*, and *Cine Cuvee Magazine*.

**TL Bequette** – Fiction, Mystery [Home - TL Bequette](http://Home-TLBequette)

T.L. Bequette is a criminal defense attorney in Oakland, California. Most of his practice involves defending those accused of murder. He holds degrees from The University of the Pacific and Georgetown Law School and serves annually on faculty of the Stanford Law School Trial Advocacy Clinic. ‘*Good Lookin’: A Joe Turner Mystery*’ is his debut novel and it's followed by '*Blood Perfect: A Joe Turner Mystery*’.

His book ***Good Lookin': A Joe Turner Mystery*** has been recognized as a **Crime Fiction winner, the Independent Press Award, a Finalist in the Indie Book Awards, First Place in the Chanticleer International Book Awards, a Finalist in the Legal Thriller category of the National Independent Excellence Award, and a Best Book**

**Designation by the Chanticleer Book Reviews. His book was featured in the 2022 New York Times Book Review.**

**Mark Clifford** – Fiction, Adventure    [News and Updates - Author Mark R. Clifford \(markrclifford.com\)](#)

Mark R. Clifford is a proud fourth-generation San Franciscan. He is the second-born in an Irish Catholic family of seven, making him a self-declared expert in the pseudoscience of birth order characteristics. Mark served in the Marine infantry for ten years and as a Police Officer for over a quarter-century. His debut novel, **TYPHOON COAST**, is about what troubles him.

In the Marines, Mark rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant. He received Special Operations training while attached to the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa and was operating in the Philippines in 1991 during the historic eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

His law enforcement career was equally eclectic. He rose to the sergeant's rank and served in many assignments to include SWAT and undercover narcotics.

Mark still calls the San Francisco Bay Area home. He and his wife have been married for almost thirty years and have raised three beautiful children. He has written for the **San Jose Mercury, Contra Costa Times, Military Experience & The Arts magazine, San Leandro Times, and read his works at the famous Cody's Books in Berkeley.** He is the current Program Chair for the California Writers Club.

Mark is passionate about inspiring leaders to turn their stories into service. In his retirement, Mark mentors veterans transitioning to civilian life at musician **Zac Brown's Camp Southern Ground.**

Mark is also the host of Heroes for Hope Podcast: Thriving Beyond Trauma, where he deep dives into the stories and healthy habits of survivors who turn trauma into superpowers.