

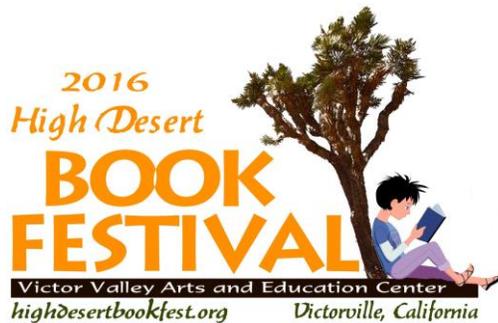
VICTOR VALLEY ARTS AND EDUCATION CENTER (VVAEC)

15555 Main Street, Ste. D4-569, Hesperia, CA 92345

www.victorvalleyarts.org * info@victorvalleyarts.org * (760) 900-6822

BOOK FESTIVAL: highdesertbookfest.org * hdbookfest@gmail.com

CONTACT: Davida S. James, Executive Director (760) 900-6822



VICTOR VALLEY ARTS AND EDUCATION CENTER presents the first HIGH DESERT Book Festival, Saturday, October 1, 2016

What do a self-published writer from Lucerne Valley, a British international bestselling author with 27 million books in print, a writer from Clovis who started out in an Irish orphanage, and a group of veterans from a Cal State San Bernardino Writing Program all have in common?

They will all be presenters or exhibitors at the first High Desert Book Festival, produced by Victor Valley Arts and Education Center on Saturday, October 1, 2016 at the Fifteenth Annual Victorville Fall Festival.

This book festival, which the nonprofit hopes will become an annual event, will feature free ticketed presentations by bestselling authors and Hollywood screenwriters, exhibitors that will include our local High Desert writers with their books for sale, a Children’s Pavilion with nonstop storytelling, exhibitors from other cities, and festival merchandise. Barnes & Noble will be setting up a mini bookstore with a wide variety of books available for sale.

“We are honored that the City of Victorville became our first sponsor in this historic cultural event,” said Davida James, Victor Valley Arts executive director. “They immediately shared our excitement and vision of this becoming an important addition to their Fall Festival.”

“Victor Valley Arts conducts a free adult literacy program at our city library,” said Glenn Salas, recreation services manager whose office produces the annual Victorville Fall Festival. The annual street fair attracts over 15,000 people annually. “Their Executive Director Davida James approached us about creating a High Desert Book Festival within our Fall Festival. We considered it a wonderful new feature that adds even more value for the thousands of visitors we welcome each year to the Fall Festival.”

International bestselling murder mystery writer Anne Perry, who has over 27 million books in print, is the keynote presenter at 3:00. Perry’s first series of Victorian crime novels, featuring Thomas and

Charlotte Pitt, began with “The Cater Street Hangman.” The latest of these is “Murder on the Serpentine.” Perry has recently responded to requests for workshops and teaching by producing two “How to Write” DVDs.

The famous crime novelist will share the stage with acclaimed author and anthology editor Victoria Zackheim who penned the novel *The Bone Weaver*. Zackheim’s play *Entangled*, adapted from a memoir, is in development, as is her screenplay, MAIDSTONE (with director Peter Werner).

“We are truly fortunate that Perry and Zackheim were so excited about presenting at our High Desert Book Festival,” James said. “These two esteemed literary figures actually adjusted their schedules so they could close out our festival with the 3:00 session. It is gratifying to see the positive response so far.”

All the authors who will be exhibitors at the festival will have their books for sale and will be available for autographs. These include local residents like horror writers Michael Raff and Roberta Smith, Ron Lazenby of Lucerne Valley, and Marilyn Ramirez of Apple Valley who writes historical romance novels.

Several authors from the small boutique Clovis firm HBE Publishing will be in attendance. One woman, Anne Biggs has a fascinating novel reminiscent of the 2013 movie “Philomena” starring Dame Judi Dench. Biggs’ novel “The Swan Garden” is a fictional account of events she uncovered about the mother-baby homes in Ireland. Biggs was born in one such home before being adopted by an American family. She has recently been added as a panelist.

A group of authors from “Written by Veterans” will be exhibitors. This is a writing program at Cal State San Bernardino that nurtures the talent of these veterans and has culminated in several published works that will be available at the book festival.

The panel sessions are all free, but will be ticketed starting September 1. The day’s presentations are scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. with “The Young Screenwriters Panel.” Three Los Angeles screenwriters will discuss the collaborative screenwriting writing process and producing their first feature film this summer

One of the local writers who will be signing at the festival is Lorelei Kay, who recently published her memoir, “From Mormon to Mermaid.” Kay had a successful book signing at the Victorville Barnes & Noble in June and a feature article in the Daily Press.

James said that her inspiration for the book festival came from her regular attendance at the L.A. Times Festival of Books, now in its twenty-first year and currently held at USC.

“There is something truly magical about being around thousands of people who are all at a book festival because of their love of the written word,” James said. “Our nonprofit wants to add to the cultural life of our community. We hope to create a book festival that will become a destination event. The success of this first festival, and whether it becomes an annual event, is dependent on our ability to attract more sponsors, volunteers, community attendance and support of our exhibitors at the festival.”

The High Desert Book Festival Saturday, October 1, 2016: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	highdesertbookfest.org * hdbookfest@gmail.com
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Located at the Victorville Fall Festival
14343 Civic Drive, Victorville CA 92392

MORE INFO: For ongoing updates about the book festival, log onto **highdesertbookfest.org**. You can email **hdbookfest@gmail.com** for volunteer opportunities, to become a sponsor or to find out about advertising in the printed book festival supplement that will be published the week before the festival. Victor Valley Arts and Education Center is a 501c3 Nonprofit. Scheduled artists are subject to change.