

California State University, Monterey Bay

and

The National Steinbeck Center

Invite You to The Second Edition of



*A Novel Evening Of
Individually Hosted Dinners, Each Featuring A Distinguished Writer*

Monday, November 3, 2003
Six o'clock in the evening

To make your reservations, [click here](#).

1 In Defense of Suspense

Jeffrey Deaver is an award-winning poet, journalist and suspense novelist, but who knew that the author of *The Bone Collector* and *A Maiden's Grave*, which also became films, has been a practicing attorney, written and performed his own songs around the country and appeared on a day-time soap opera. Another mystery: his sister, **Julie Deaver**, is also a writer. Is good storytelling a Deaver family trait? Figure it out during dinner amidst the floribunda of your hosts' delightful – and grand – Carmel cottage.



18 guests

Hosts: Lori Silver and Syd Shaber

Attire: Cocktail

Carmel

2 A Kingdom Worth Saving

Twenty-eight years after it was published, **Michael Murphy's** novel *Golf in the Kingdom* is still a best seller and spawned the formation of the Shivas Irons Society. Co-founder of the Esalen Institute, Murphy has written/co-written four novels, most recently *God and the Evolving Universe*. Both he and his work have been profiled in *The New Yorker* and featured in many magazines and journals worldwide. Combined with dinner in your hosts' lovely early California hilltop home overlooking Salinas Valley, this evening is a guaranteed hole-in-one.



18 guests

Hosts: Joanne and Jim Johnson

Attire: Cocktail

Corral de Tierra

3 Prized Lives

When it comes to digging deep into history, novelist-essayist-biographer **Francine du Plessix Gray** is a master, sifting through the rumors, ferreting the truths of people's lives. Her biography, *At Home With the Marquis de Sade: A Life*, was short-listed for the Pulitzer Prize. Her most recent book is a biography of the French philosopher Simone Weil.

4

Gray's broad-based career has covered a wealth of fascinating subjects – from war and politics to feminism and family memoirs – with award-winning work in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *New York Times Magazine* and *Rolling Stone*. Anticipate an evening by the fire in a classic California-style estate where the conversation is as brilliant as the dinner.



12 guests

Hosts: Erika and Jay De Serpa

Attire: Business

Markham Ranch, Corral de Tierra

5 All the World's A Stage

Expect a stimulating evening when you pair poet-novelist-biographer-memoirist-playwright **Aram Saroyan** with **Kathleen Kuzmick Hansell**, opera scholar and a leading expert on Giuseppe Verdi. Saroyan is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts awards, one for his controversial one-word poem "lightght". His subjects have ranged from a true crime novel set in Rancho Mirage to the beat generation to the death of his father, the playwright and short story writer William Saroyan. For her part, Hansell is music editor for the University of Chicago Press and is the force behind the reappearance of Verdi's "lost" opera, "Stiffelio," so controversial when it was written that it was censored by the powers of the time. With us, the woman who discovered the original version, then interpreted it for its premiere by Placido Domingo. You'll toast the arts at glorious Zenwood, home of master chef **Wendy Brodie** and husband **Bob Bussinger**, popular veterans of the Peninsula's hospitality community. An extra bonus: the chef is matching her menu with wines specially selected and donated by Morgan Winery.



18 guests

Hosts: Wendy Brodie and Bob Bussinger

Attire: Casual Elegance

Lydia and Don Criley

Carmel Highlands

6 The Artful Eye

Susan Vreeland's love and sensitivity for visual art are reflected in her novels, *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, *The Passion of Artemisia* and her upcoming book, *Cedar Spirit: A Novel*, based on the life of pioneering painter Emily Carr. Hers is a style that provokes looking at art in a new way – the times that inspired the painting, how it affected its many owners, even the motivation of the artists themselves. It makes you realize, of course, how many ways there are to be visually enticed. For this evening, for instance, the enchantment might be in the views of ocean and garden beautifully framed by the glass and wood design of your hosts' striking contemporary home.



12 guests

Hosts: Missy and J.D. Jensen

Attire: Coat and Tie

Carmel

7 A Sensory Feast

The distinctive sights, scents and flavors of each season and the ever changing bounty of the land – that's the gospel of Maria Helm Sinskey, the award winning California chef and culinary director of Robert Sinskey Vineyards in Napa Valley. Her just-released *The Vineyard Kitchen* not only offers recipes to savor, but is a distinctive, beautifully written cookbook with sumptuous photographs by her husband, vintner Robert Sinskey. Anticipate an evening of food and wine talk as delectable as the menu itself in a classically Carmel setting of panoramic views and enchanting gardens.



12 guests

Hosts: Norma and Herbert B. Meyers

Attire: Cocktail

Carmel

8 Power, Persuasion & Perspective

A journalist with more than 30 years experience, Robert Scheer has built his reputation on the strength of his social and political writing. He has interviewed every president from Richard Nixon through Bill Clinton, written six books and is currently a contributing editor at both the *Los Angeles Times*

and *The Nation* magazine. With his wife, Narda Zacchino, San Francisco Chronicle assistant executive editor, you can expect lively conversation and just a few opinions to add spark to the pastoral setting of The Ranch Club at the Santa Lucia Preserve.



14 guests

Hosts: Mary Jo and Doug McKenzie

Attire: Casual

Santa Lucia Preserve

9 Economies of Tale

Fascinated by tales of avarice and hubris, especially when it deals with Big Business? Look to Adam Hochschild, co-founder and former editor of *Mother Jones* and author of the international bestseller *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. With five books and countless articles in such publications as *Harpers*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Los Angeles Times* and *New York Times*, Hochschild clearly has stories to tell and where better to hear them than the rustic setting of a historic ranch house overlooking the Carmel River.



10 guests

Hosts: Susan Osborne and Stephen Brown

Attire: Casual & Warm

Carmel Valley

10 A Scintillating Couplet

She is a writer, editor and journalist, and the only American author recognized by the Jane Austen Society of London, an honor bestowed for her three sequels to the works of that 18th century novelist. He has an eclectic writing career ranging from literary essays, poetry, fiction and plays and is the recipient of two Senior Fulbright Awards. You can count on Julia Barrett and Jascha Kessler for bright, literate and fascinating company – especially over dinner in your hosts' dramatic art-filled home overlooking Carmel Valley.



10 guests

Hosts: Rhonda and Myles Williams

Attire: Cocktail Party-ish

Carmel Valley

11 Amer/Asian Fusion/Confusion

The real life relationship between a Chinese Confucian who teaches Western Philosophy and aerobics and her husband, a Caucasian Jeffersonian who practices Tibetan Buddhism and makes art, inspired the tart, feisty, whimsical and penetrating *The Chopsticks-Fork Principle: A Memoir and Manual*. Is it just us, or do **Cathy Bao Bean** and her husband, the nationally acclaimed artist **Bennett Bean** have a slightly quirky view of life? They – and you – will have a lot of fun with this dinner, set in a spectacular Spanish hacienda with equally spectacular Asian art.



14 guests

Hosts: Lillian Chin and William Tillson

Attire: Casual

Carmel

12 A Sweetheart Deal

Here's a chance to talk terms with one of America's leading experts on the art of negotiation. **Ed Brodow** has been a Marine Corps officer, computer salesman, movie actor, construction worker, motivational speaker, elevator operator, author and television personality, all of which led him to write the just-released *Beating the Success Trap*. There will be no need for conflict resolution over a dinner that provokes superlatives in the dream setting of a Tuscan villa amidst a forest. It's a guaranteed win-win!



12 guests

Hosts: Kim and Adam Bryant

Attire: Casual

Aptos

13 A Man for All Seasons

This gathering with **Barnaby Conrad** is not for the shy or retiring! After all, here's a man who's been an amateur matador, owned a San Francisco nightclub, was an American Vice Consul to Spain, knew John Steinbeck, was buddies with Herb Caen, has written 32 books (many about his adventures), countless short stories, a Broadway play and won too many awards to count. He's also just a bit of a raconteur which, combined with your setting – described by the designer as a Tuscan villa with Frank Lloyd Wright in the middle, bordered by vineyards in front and a bocce ball court in back – should give you a few stories of your own to talk about!



14 guests

Hosts: Connie and Nick Ventimiglia

Attire: Business

Markham Ranch, Corral de Tierra

14 Fruits of His Labors

Take an adventure into another world, one where the mind is free of strife and harmony is embraced. It is probably only fitting that a stroll through exquisitely landscaped multi-level Japanese gardens to the Matsui teahouse for a traditional Chado tea ceremony should precede dinner with third generation organic peach and grape farmer, **David Mas Masumoto**, newspaper columnist, museum curator and author of five books, including award-winning *Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm*, and the just released *Four Seasons in Five Senses*. This will be a remarkable evening that will leave you both refreshed and inspired.



11 guests

Hosts: Andy and Yasuko Matsui

Attire: Business Casual

Pebble Beach

15 Of Petticoats & Power

Robin Maxwell is a parrot tamer-casting director-screenwriter who turned best selling novelist by traveling back in time – and returning with the inside scoop on some 15th and 16th century women who were ahead of their time. Beginning with a series on Elizabethans, her first novel *The Secret Diary of Anne Boleyn* received the decidedly modern response of being made into both a mini-series and a feature film. Then the Irish Rebellion of the 16th century and she is now into *The Roses Trilogy*. To keep you grounded in the 21st century, dinner will be served in the glass-walled octagon dining room of a striking contemporary home filled with abstract work from local artists. Incidentally, your host, who has interest in a Napa boutique winery, suspects that the wine served at his home will be far better than what Anne Boleyn and her crowd enjoyed.



13 Guests

Hosts: Lyn and Kent Evans

Attire: Cocktail

Pebble Beach

16 The Habanera Twist

Her first collection of poetry and short stories, *Chicana Falsa and Other Stories of Death, Identity and Oxnard*, prompted Newsweek Magazine to name **Michele Serros** "one of the top young women to watch for in the new century." After her second book, *How to Be A Chicana Role Model*, shot to the top of the Los Angeles Times bestseller list, she spent the year writing for the ABC sitcom, "The George Lopez Show." A requisite for this dinner is a sense of humor and a readiness for fun. A love of food and wine, of course, is a given!



14 guests

Hosts: *Magna and Lawrence Barcelo*

Attire: *Cocktail*

Pasadera Country Club

17 Bull's Eye: An Evening With Iris Rainer Dart

Iris Rainer Dart's novels are irresistible, much like her company. It's that snappy wit and knack for storytelling, inevitable no doubt, after a long career of writing for television sitcoms. You can spot it in her eight novels, including *Beaches*, which became a box office hit starring Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey. Just out this fall, *Some Kind of Miracle*. This is a party on target with lively conversation and fantastic food, both served up al fresco (but with heaters) on your hosts' expansive deck overlooking the foothills. Like good chocolate or an Iris Ranier Dart novel, how can you resist?



38 guests

Hosts: *Sue and Bob Antle*

Attire: *Casual*

Markham Ranch, Corral de Tierra

Making Your Selection

In its Second Edition, The Author's Table is offering 16 stimulating conversations with a favorite author enjoyed over a lavish dinner in a spectacular setting.

Please make your selection from the following contribution levels.

Platinum Tickets

\$500 per person

First choice of dinner until filled. Includes an invitation to gala opening reception honoring all authors and hosts on Sunday, November 2, 2003 hosted by Pasadera Country Club, Monterey

Gold Tickets

\$300 per person

Guaranteed first, second or third choice of dinner locales.

Silver Tickets

\$150 per person

Offers one of six favorite choices in order of indicated preference.

For more information, please contact event coordinator Tia Gindick:

Phone: (831)625-8190

To make your reservations, [click here](#).

Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

Please print

Other attendees _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please reserve ___ **Platinum tickets** at \$500 per person to attend the November 2 Opening Reception at Pasadera Country Club honoring all of the authors and hosts and to be guaranteed first choice of dinners.

Please reserve ___ **Gold Tickets** at \$300 per person. Indicate three choices of dinners.

Please reserve ___ **Silver tickets** at \$150 per person. Indicate six choices of dinners

I/we regret that we cannot attend, but would like to purchase a ticket(s) to allow a CSUMB student to attend.

I/we regret that we cannot attend, but would like to make a tax deductible contribution for the purpose of promoting educational programs at The National Steinbeck Center, Salinas, and California State University, Monterey Bay.

Please charge to my Visa Master Card American Express Discover

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

Please indicate your dinner choices in order of preference.

Dinner Number & Title

1st Choice: _____

4th Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

5th Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

6th Choice: _____

Note

Dinners are expected to sell out early. Please make your reservation as soon as possible. No refunds will be granted after October 15, 2003

A confirmation letter will inform you of the name and address of your host prior to the event.

Questions, please call Tia Gindick, event coordinator at (831) 625-8190