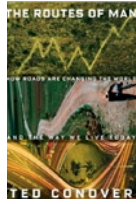


Bios of 2010 Steinbeck Festival Speakers and Performers



Ted Conover is the author of the just-released *The Routes of Man: How Roads are Changing the World and the Way We Live Today*; *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing*



(winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize); *Whiteout: Lost in Aspen*; *Coyotes: A Journey Across Borders with America's Mexican Migrants*; and *Rolling Nowhere: Riding the Rails with America's Hoboes*. He is a distinguished writer-in-residence at the Carter Journalism Institute of New York University.



John Biewen is audio program director at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. His reporting and documentary work has taken him across the United States and to Europe, Japan and India. He covered the Rocky Mountain West for NPR News, then spent eight years as a correspondent with the public radio documentary unit, American RadioWorks. His work has won many honors. He is the editor of the book, *Reality Radio: Telling True Stories in Sound*.



Susan Shillinglaw is professor of English at San Jose State University and scholar in residence at the National Steinbeck Center. Dr. Shillinglaw is co-editor of *America and Americans and Selected Nonfiction*; *Steinbeck and the Environment*; *Beyond Boundaries: Rereading John Steinbeck*; and *John Steinbeck: The Contemporary Reviews*. Her most recent book is *Journey into Steinbeck's California*, and she has completed a biography of Carol Steinbeck.



Herb & Robbie Behrens. Herb Behrens is the National Steinbeck Center's volunteer archivist who answers your email and Facebook questions. Herb works with the three collections in the archive at the National Steinbeck Center. Robbie is a digital media specialist who is working to preserve the oral history collection in the archive. For 15 years they have given tours of the Ricketts' Lab for the National Steinbeck Center, the Cannery Row Foundation and the City of Monterey.

The Festival Welcomes the Return of Japanese Steinbeck Scholars!



Professor Yuji Kami is Executive Director of the John Steinbeck Society of Japan and professor of American Literature at Soka University in Tokyo. He is a co-translator of *Travels with Charley in Search of America*. His articles on Steinbeck have appeared in *John Steinbeck and His Contemporaries* and other scholarly books and journals.



Kiyoshi Yamauchi is professor of English at Niimi College in Okayama, Japan. He has served as one of the board members of the John Steinbeck Center of Japan. His articles on Steinbeck have appeared in Japan's *Steinbeck Studies* and other academic journals.

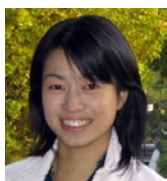


Kyoko Arika is a professor in the English Department of Shujitsu University in Japan. She earned a PhD in 2000 for her thesis entitled "The Main Thematic Current in John Steinbeck's Works." She served as editor-in-chief of *Steinbeck Studies*, issued from the Steinbeck Society of Japan. She published numerous books and articles on Steinbeck as well as fiction books.



Hisako Osuga is a part-time lecturer at Meiji University and Toyo University in Tokyo, Japan. She acquired her MA at Meiji University. Her articles on Steinbeck have appeared in *John Steinbeck: Global Frameworks* and other publications. She is currently analyzing female characters in Steinbeck's works. Based on her interest in feminism, Osuga plans to focus her dissertation on Steinbeck's female characters.

Kotaro Nakagaki is an Associate Professor at Daito Bunka University in Japan. His areas of emphasis include American culture and comparative culture. He has published articles on Mark Twain, John Steinbeck and American literature and culture including, "Searching for the Idealized Girl: Mark Twain and the Lost America" and "In Search of America: Representations of the Other and Multi-Cultural Future."



Michiko Nakashima is associate professor at Yonago National College of Technology, Japan. She is a member of the John Steinbeck Society of Japan.

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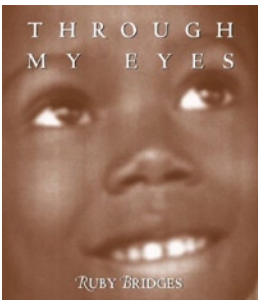
Pete Barraza is a graduate of UCLA who currently teaches California Literature and Advanced Placement English at Santa Monica High School and sits on the Academic Committee of the Western Region of The College Board.



Jenna Gasparino teaches California Literature, 10th-grade English and yoga at Santa Monica High School. She received her degree in English from Oklahoma State University and her MA from the University of Oklahoma.



Kelley Calvert is a writer and an assistant professor of English for Academic and Professional Purposes at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. With a *Travels with Charley* fervor, she drove around the United States on biodiesel during the summer of 2009, in search of hope and change. Among many other things, she learned that hope is not something you have—it's something you do.



Ruby Bridges was born in Mississippi in 1954, the same year the United States Supreme Court handed down its landmark decision ordering the integration of public schools. Her parents moved New Orleans because they heard there were better opportunities in the city. In 1960, after taking a test,

Ruby was selected to go to William Frantz Public School. Greeted by an angry mob and escorted by federal marshals, Ruby crossed the threshold of this school and single-handedly initiated the desegregation of New Orleans' public schools. Her first-grade teacher was Barbara Henry and Ruby was her only student, as white families withdrew their children from the school. Ruby Bridges' story has been depicted in Norman Rockwell's picture for *Look* magazine, "The Problem We All Live With," and in Robert Coles' *The Story of Ruby Bridges*. Most recently, she published her own version of her story, *Through My Eyes*. John Steinbeck was present on the day Ruby took those courageous steps 50 year ago, and recounted the incident in *Travels With Charley*. **The Ruby Bridges Foundation promotes the values of tolerance, respect and appreciation for other cultures. In doing so, it is the Foundation's hope to move first our children and then our society as a whole toward the elimination of racism and prejudice.**



Charlie Faye, singer-songwriter extraordinaire, lands in Salinas midway through "Travels With Charlie," her ambitious 10-city tour. The artist spends a month in each city, takes a job and aims to "teach something and learn something" in each community. In each city she forms a new band and records a song before leaving for the next stop. The tour supports Charlie Faye's recent album, *Wilson St.*



Jerome Burg, a 38-year veteran high school English teacher, is an Apple Distinguished Educator and a Google Certified Teacher. The [Google Lit Trips](#) project, founded in 2007, is a philanthropic gift to the teaching profession. In 2009, the Asia Society selected the Google Lit Trips project as a co-recipient of the Goldman Sachs Foundation Prize for Excellence in International Education in Media and Technology.

A Journey Through Literary America.



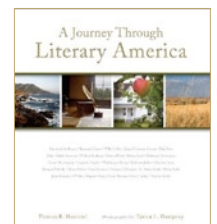
Thomas R. Hummel's parents, passing along their own lifelong passion, often spoke of—and quoted—literature to him and his three siblings. After a New England upbringing and a degree from Middlebury College, he came west. He lives in Santa Monica, California with his wife and son, and works for Toppan Printing Company.



Tamra L. Dempsey received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Brooks Institute. Her passion for travel and documentary photography has taken her to 16 countries, spanning six continents, including Antarctica. For the past 12 years she has worked for Serbin Communications, a leading publisher of creative resources for photography and illustration. Tamra lives in Santa Barbara.

A Journey Through Literary America.

Rags to riches. Forbidden loves. Supernatural experiences. Narrow escapes. Some of the greatest stories of American literature are the stories of the authors themselves and the places that sparked their imaginations. In 2008, writer Thomas Hummel and photographer Tamra Dempsey set out in search of the sources of inspiration for 26 of this country's greatest authors. Twenty thousand miles later, the result is a literary pilgrimage in photography and prose.



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Ron Clavier runs a private practice in clinical psychology, based on his background as a neuroscientist. His book, *Teen Brain, Teen Mind*, helps families cope with the difficulties of adolescent life. His passion to educate young people about science through the medium of art is expressed in his project, "Awe and Humility and Joy," which focuses on social responsibility via literature, music and visual art, inspired by John Steinbeck.



Petr Kopeký is an assistant professor at the Department of English & American Studies, University of Ostrava, Czech Republic. In 2003-2004 he was based at San Jose State University as a Fulbright research scholar. His research resulted in the publication of his first book, titled *The California Crucible: Literary Harbingers of Deep Ecology* (2007). He also translated George Orwell's novel, *Coming up for Air* into Czech.



Mike Lauterborn is the author of *Chasing Charley*, a soon-to-be-published re-creation of John Steinbeck's 1960 *Travels with Charley* road trip. In fall 2003, Mike followed Steinbeck's path around the U.S., over 66 days, through 35 states and along 16,000 miles of American road.



Michael McLaughlin. A three-time California Arts Council grant recipient, Michael McLaughlin has worked for 20 years as an Artist-in-Residence at Atascadero State Hospital, a maximum-security forensic facility, as a contract artist with the California Department of Corrections; with California Youth Authority (with incarcerated adults & youth); and as San Luis Obispo County Area Coordinator for California Poets in the Schools. A graduate of the University of Southern California's Master of Professional Writing program, McLaughlin has published three poetry chapbooks, *Ped Xing*, *The Upholstery of Heaven* and *Countless Cinemas*, and has written one unpublished novel, *Western People Show Their Faces*. He is completing his second novel, *Gang of One*. McLaughlin was Poet Laureate of San Luis Obispo, California in 2003.



Gregory Zeigler is a retired educator who served as an English and drama teacher and headmaster at several schools. A passion for communication both written and spoken has inspired Zeigler to pursue a lifelong interest in acting and writing. Publications include his environmental mystery, *The Straw*

That Broke, and his book about recreating the famous Steinbeck route, *Travels with Steinbeck: In Search of America Fifty Years Later*.

David Lee is an historian by training and a translator by profession. Born in Boston and raised in New York, he now lives and works in Amsterdam, and will be participating in the Festival from there. In addition to his historical work on Steinbeck he is also writing a series of short stories based upon the wartime translations of *The Moon Is Down*.



Taelen Thomas is a unique entertainer, orator, actor, poet and teacher who brings stories and people to life with a resonant delivery and powerful stage presence. He has been performing his one-man shows throughout America in theatres, halls, hotels, schools, outdoor gatherings and private homes since 1970.



Jackson Benson taught twentieth century American literature at San Diego State University from 1966 to 1997. Twice a fellow of the National Endowment of the Humanities, he has written or edited fourteen books on modern American literature. Among them is the authorized biography, *The True Adventures of John Steinbeck, Writer* (1984), which won the PEN-WEST USA award for non-fiction and the authorized biography, *Wallace Stegner: His Life and Work* (1996), which won the David Woolley and Beatrice Cannon Evans Biography Award. He co-edited the collection marking the centennial of John Steinbeck's birth, *America and Americans and Selected Nonfiction* and published his most recent book, *Under the Big Sky: A Biography of A.B. Guthrie, Jr.* Guthrie is the author of *The Big Sky*, *The Way West*, and the screenplay for *Shane*. A third generation Californian, Benson divides his time between a home in La Mesa, California and a cabin in the northern Sierra Nevada.



Scott Harris has built one of the most significant collections of *Travels With Charley* memorabilia West of the Badlands. Harris founded and has run Mustang Marketing for 25 years, taught a variety of classes at Moorpark Community College and is a lifelong lover of books, most especially those by John Steinbeck. Born and raised in California, married for 31 years with two great children and always looking for an excuse for a road trip.

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Photo by Jay Yamada



California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes) and Word for Word Performing Arts Company staged the world premiere of their new play of Steinbeck's Pastures

of Heaven in the Bay Area in June, and at the 2010 Steinbeck Festival they bring the play home to Salinas. The play is adapted by Octavio Solis, one of our country's most talented and prolific playwrights. This richly theatrical play—commissioned especially for Cal Shakes—celebrates the art of storytelling as it depicts comic and heartbreaking characters in search of happiness in the seemingly idyllic landscape of Steinbeck's own Salinas Valley, known around the world as the "Pastures of Heaven." www.calshakes.org

Photo by Andrea Wells



Randy Wells has spent twenty-five years behind the camera. At last count, he logged more than half a million miles on the road photographing America full-time. Randy has been commissioned in all but three states, his photographs have won awards from American Photo, AR100, Communication Arts, How and Graphis, and his prints are held in multiple private and public collections, including the Smithsonian and the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas.