

Fourth Annual Literary Festival May 21-24

"Anguilla Lit Fest: A Literary Jollification" takes place at Paradise Cove in Anguilla May 21-24. The three-day event brings together celebrity authors and speakers as well as local authors to honour the literary heritage of Anguilla and to celebrate and explore the creative process.

Overseas authors

Featured speakers for this year's event include authors, poets and publishers from a variety of fields, including celebrity novelist, Zane; award-winning author and former Editor-in-Chief of *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, Kate White; best-selling author, lecturer and philanthropist, Elizabeth Nunez; world-renowned author Benilde Little; Grammy-award-winning performance poet, author and motivational speaker, J. Ivy; debut Antiguan author, Joanne Hillhouse; award-winning author and associate publisher of *The Sun* magazine, Krista Bremer; as well as celebrated author, professor of Creative Writing, and co-founder of the Calabash International Literary Festival in Jamaica, Colin Channer.

Publishers

The publishing panel features Books Editor of *Oprah Magazine*, Leigh Haber; Editor-in-Chief of *Writers' Digest*, Jessica Strawser; Senior Publicity Manager of Atria Books/Simon & Shuster, Yona Deshommes; and critically-acclaimed author, educator and publisher, Dr. Rhoda Arrindell of House of Nehesi Publishers in St. Martin.

Local participation

There will be a number of Anguilla's authors and poets including the author of *Fortunate Member of a Caribbean Diaspora*, Phillip Arnell; author of *Positive Living*, Marilyn Hodge; poet Lena Gumbs and performance poet Timmie Webster. In addition, the Lit Fest will celebrate the 2015 Malliouhana Poetry Winners under the theme "Jollification in the 21st Century." This year, it is held in memory of the late Linda Lake. There will be presentations by poets featured in the Anguillian anthology of poetry "Where I See the Sun - Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla" which features more than 90 poems

from 42 seasoned and up and coming writers from Anguilla.

Jollification

The name of the Festival speaks to an important facet of Anguilla's heritage - the Jollification. The concept of this is a getting together of people to help their neighbours. It was done through the ploughing of fields and planting, as well as through construction of homes and other buildings. Men worked together while the women provided food and drink, the labour was free and fun, and everyone benefitted.

Tourism Director Candis Niles says that the Lit Fest would not be possible without Jollification. "The spirit of community upon which Jollification is founded is an integral part of our psyche as Anguillians. It is this spirit of community that defines the interaction with our authors, speakers and presenters. For the short time we are together, we form a literary community that is vibrant, dynamic and engaging. Like the Jollification itself, the Lit Fest inspires you to look deep within yourself and discover and give expression to the creative force that lies within each one of us, for in so doing, we enrich and enlarge the experiences of all of us."

International press

Several travel writers and journalists have been invited to Anguilla's Lit Fest. These include Lisa Sonne, award winning travel writer and photographer; Lauren Williams, feature editor at *Essence Magazine*; David Duran, freelance journalist and writer who contributes to 11 national and international print and online sites; Sue Campbell, award winning freelance travel and lifestyle writer; and Amy Bailey online writer for *My Scoop* that specializes in travel stories.

Anguilla school children participation

Some primary school students will have the opportunity to meet with selected authors for a discussion and presentation at the library on Thursday. On Friday, students from Campus A and B of Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School will attend some of the feature sessions at Paradise Cove.

Programme of events

On Thursday, May 21, the authors, delegates and

patrons will arrive and check in at Paradise Cove Resort for registration. In the evening, Governor Christina Scott will host "A Celebration of the Anguilla Arts" in conjunction with the Department of Youth and Culture.

On Friday, May 22, at 8:45 there will be the Rise and Shine Breakfast presentation with J Ivy, award winning performance poet, author and motivational speaker. This will be followed by a Master Class with Zane presenting "Infinite Words - Infinite Wisdom." The luncheon presentation will be by Elizabeth Nunez followed by a panel discussion led by Rita Celestine-Carty with the topic "Voices from the Page." In the evening, there will be a reception at Paradise Cove for all delegates and invited guests featuring Boss and Friends.

On Saturday, the Rise and Shine topic is "Revelations" and the featured speakers are Alexis Ryan, Phillip Arnell, Timmie Webster and Lena Gumbs. The panel discussion topic is "Traditional vs Self: the Wonderful World of Hybrid Printing" with Stephanie Stokes Oliver as the moderator. The lunch time presentation is by Kate White and the panel discussion is "From Memories to Memoir: Writing Your Story." Afterwards, the panel discussion is "Inspiring Young Writers" with Candis Niles as the moderator. The evening is with Zane "From Script to Screen" with host Yona Deshommes.

Sunday is designated for participants to enjoy Anguilla by going to a spa, playing golf, tennis or having an island tour. Lunch is either at Johnno's or at Sandy Island and the evening is for leisure and relaxation of choice.

Registration and booking

The registration fee is US\$150 and includes a welcome cocktail party, breakfast and lunch presentations, special sessions with the authors and fun-filled evening soirees. The programme also includes a day of leisure on Sunday to ensure that participants will have the opportunity to experience the island's beaches, restaurants and other offerings. Special vacation packages are being offered by the host hotel, Paradise Cove, and sponsor hotel, CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa, as well as Little Butterfly villa, Bird of Paradise villa, Anguilla Great House and Nathan's Cove.



Kate White



Joanne Hillhouse



Colin Channer



Elizabeth Nunez



Jessica Strawser



Zane

