

Get Lit at the Beach

Literary festival draws authors and fans together April 10 to 12 in Cannon Beach

Nancy Pearl is the only librarian in the world with her own plastic action figurine.

She, along with four other authors, will present at Get Lit at the Beach, a festival taking place April 10 to 12 in Cannon Beach that hopes to offer fans more than just a moment to mingle with their favorite writers.

“At a book signing, you go through the line and you’re lucky if there’s time enough for the author to speak to you for two or three minutes,” says Terry Brooks, a fantasy writer with 23 New York Times bestsellers to his name.

Get Lit is a more literary opportunity. Its scattering of informal events and quaint size — in the neighborhood of 100 attendees — offers participants better odds of connecting with authors.

“You can walk up to these people all weekend, anytime, and just carry on a conversation with them,” says Brooks, who helps organize the event. “That’s the whole idea. It’s supposed to be loose.”

Which is not to suggest Get Lit is a free-for-all.

“We do have speaking presentations,” Brooks says. “But that’s not the draw so much as the opportunity to have a one-on-one, or multiple opportunities to hear what

Student scholarships

The Tolovana Arts Colony is offering 10 scholarships to students from local area high schools — including Seaside, Astoria and Neahkahnie — interested in attending Get Lit at the Beach. A scholarship covers the cost of entry for the entire weekend of events as well as transportation, if necessary. For more information, contact Tracy Abel at tracyabel@earthlink.net or 206-914-1255.

writers have to say about their work.”

Besides Brooks, who acts more as host and moderator, four authors will headline. Gail Tsukiyama, Karen Joy Fowler, Jim Lynch and Pearl will all host singular sessions. Each are scheduled to attend a Friday night reception, Saturday evening’s dinner and keynote speech by Pearl, and a group panel discussion Sunday.

Get Lit is not intended as a writers’ workshop, but it figures to be heady, likely attuned to process while straying from the easily package-ables of commercial fiction. Besides artful, literary sensibility,



Submitted photo by Brett Hall Jones

Karen Joy Fowler is the author of “The Jane Austen Book Club” and “We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves.”

there is little thematically linking the headliners.

Gail Tsukiyama, from San Francisco, explores the Asian and American experience. The New York Times says Tsukiyama’s “The Street of a Thousand Blossoms” is “written in the reassuringly small-scale style of a folk tale, characterized by short anecdotes and a heavy dose of morals.”

Karen Joy Fowler, also from the Bay Area, is more fantastical. “We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves,” which won the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, defies not only categorization but summation. Her works touch on science fiction and beyond. “Karen doesn’t do the same thing twice, which is rare,” says Brooks. “And what she does is all very good.”

Jim Lynch hails from the Seattle area,

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AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

A librarian action figure based on actual Seattle librarian Nancy Pearl demonstrates her “amazing push-button shushing action!” The librarian joined the McPhee lineup of other action figures in 2003, including Sigmund Freud and Jesus Christ.

Get Lit at the Beach

Full pass \$85

www.getlitatthebeach2015.eventbrite.com

Authors’ Reception

5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 10

Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce

Individual ticket \$30

Authors’ Presentations

Saturday, April 11

10 a.m. Gail Tsukiyama

11:30 a.m. Jim Lynch

2:30 p.m. Karen Joy Fowler

Surfsand Resort Ballroom

Included in full pass only

Dinner & Keynote Address

6 p.m. Saturday, April 11

Surfsand Resort Ballroom

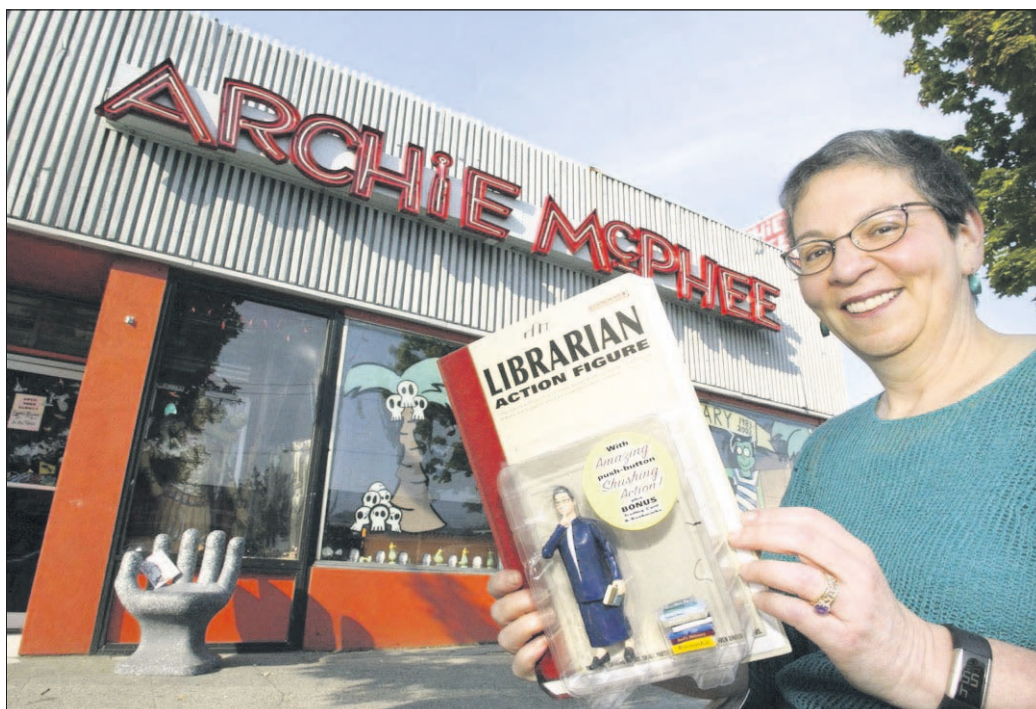
Individual ticket \$65

Q&A Author Panel

10 a.m. Sunday, April 12

Coaster Theatre

Included in full pass only



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Seattle librarian Nancy Pearl holds the librarian action figure she inspired in September 2003 outside Archie McPhee & Co.’s Seattle store.

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