

BOOK FEST

Seventh annual **Get Lit at the Beach: A Gathering for Readers** takes place May 18–20 in Cannon Beach

By **MARIANNE MONSON**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Literary giant Ursula K. LeGuin once called Get Lit at the Beach “the best party I ever went to” — high praise from one of Oregon’s finest.

If LeGuin’s statement intrigues you, there’s a strong likelihood you are a reader. Our rain-drenched region seems to breed bibliophiles as easily as it encourages moss growth, so it’s easy to see why the popular event organized by the Tolovana Arts Colony is entering its seventh season.

Unlike most literary festivals that focus on the craft of writing, “Get Lit” is one of only a handful in the country that exist solely to celebrate the pleasure

and importance of reading. Drawing both authors and their readers together for discussion, the result is an intimate gathering that celebrates the power of the written word.

This year, Get Lit takes place Friday, May 18, through Sunday, May 20, in Cannon Beach. The 2018 lineup includes bestselling fantasy writers Terry Brooks and R.A. Salvatore; Amy Stewart, who writes both nonfiction, as well as a popular historical fiction novel series; and Gina Ochsner, a short story writer and novelist whose work was honored with a 2005 Oregon Book Award.

Schedule of events

New for 2018, the Friday evening reception will

be held at Cannon Beach Community Hall along with a raffle of prizes donated from local businesses.

On Saturday in the Surfsand Ballroom, the five bestselling authors will present their work and autograph books.

On Saturday evening, attendees will enjoy a prime rib dinner while listening to the keynote speaker, Craig Lesley, a memoirist and novelist who has been nominated for two Pulitzer Prizes.

On Sunday morning, the weekend concludes with a Q-and-A session at 10 a.m. at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse. Jupiter’s Books is providing complimentary coffee and pastries for this final session, which is free and open to the public.

The festival originated with Val Ryan, who owned

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Get Lit at the
Beach poster art

