

# Summer Festival Days

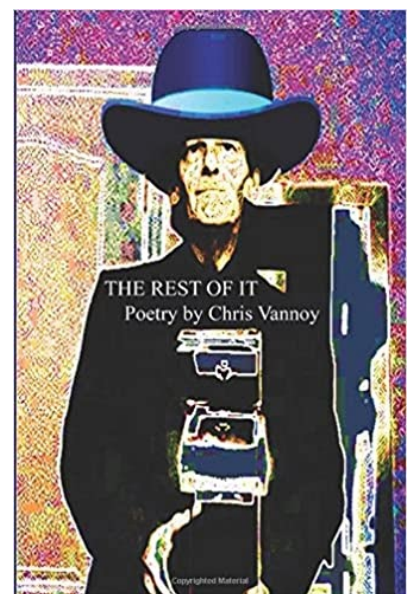
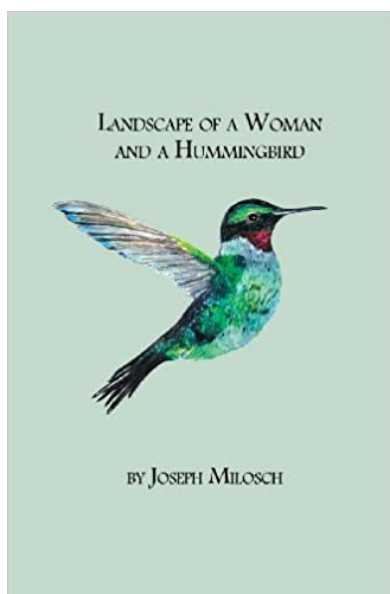
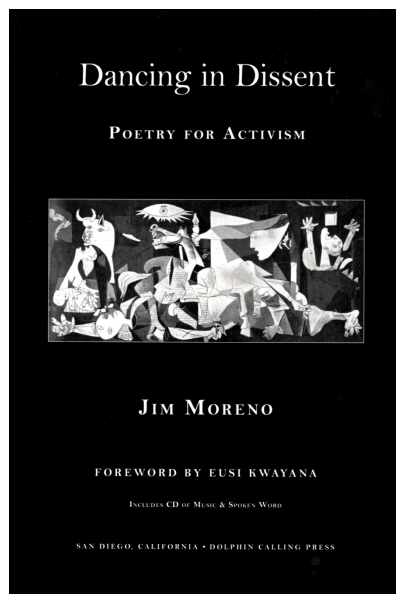
## August 8: Publishing and Platform Building

10:00 a.m. - 10:25 a.m. PST

### WELCOME AND SPOKEN WORD

The dynamic, raw, and compelling spoken word artist, Gill Sotu, will open our Festival on June 27. The San Diego Writers Festival is honored to have Gill open each event because of the heart, spirit, and wisdom Gill brings to the stage and each listener. Join us in being forever changed by his words.

**Thank you to our generous sponsors  
Jim Moreno, Joe Milosch, and Chris Vannoy**



## GILL SOTU



Gill Sotu is a navy veteran, a multi-faceted poet, playwright, musician, DJ, and performing artist. He is a two-time Grand Slam Poetry Champion, two-time Raw Performing artist of the year, and a three-time TEDx San Diego presenter. Currently, he is a teaching artist and a commissioned playwright with The Old Globe Theatre, a program director and teaching artist with Intrepid Theatre, the musical director for TEDx San Diego, and the Artist in Residence at Makers Church. He has been commissioned to produce original pieces for leading arts and community organizations, including The San Diego Symphony, The United Way of San Diego County, Feeding America, SD Fringe Fest, and the San Diego Opera.

## MARNI FREEDMAN



Marni Freedman (BFA, LMFT) is a produced, published, and award-winning writer. After graduating from USC Film School, Marni began her career bringing her play, *Two Goldsteins on Acid* to the stage, after which it was made into the film, *Playing Mona Lisa*,” produced by Disney. She has written for Tony Award-Winning Harvey Fierstein, Academy Award-nominee Elliot Gould. She co-authored the play, *A Jewish Joke*, about a 1950s comedy writer facing the Hollywood Blacklist, which won the NY Solo Show for best drama, critics’ choice for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, received critical acclaim across the US, and was recently produced Off Broadway.

Marni leads the Memoir Certificate Program for San Diego Writers, Ink, produces the San Diego Memoir Writers Association’s theatrical Memoir Showcase, and is an editor of the award-winning anthology series, *Shaking the Tree: short. brazen. memoir*. She is also a writing coach and a therapist for artists and writers. Her first book, *7 Essential Writing Tools: That Will Absolutely Make Your Writing Better (And Enliven the Soul)* is an Amazon Bestseller. Her second award-winning book is *Permission to Roar: For Female Thought Leaders Ready to Write*. Last, but certainly not least, in 2019, Marni launched the first-annual San Diego Writers Festival in

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conjunction with her partner in crime, Jeniffer Thompson. You can find Marni at [www.marnifreedman.com](http://www.marnifreedman.com), a writing hub to help writers find their authentic voice.

## JENIFFER THOMPSON



Jeniffer Thompson is a personal branding expert, digital marketing strategist and host of The Premise podcast. She is an award-winning author and speaker who delivers strategy-rich content and actionable tools that educate and empower authors. With a BA in Journalism from SDSU, Jeniffer is an ardent believer in the power of storytelling—she is always looking for, or telling, a story. She believes that story has the power to develop a greater sense of empathy, transform us, and build community.

Jeniffer is passionate about helping authors establish highly visible brands. She and her husband, Chad, co-founded Monkey C Media in 2004 and have been creating award-winning book cover designs and author websites ever since. They specialize in author services that integrate digital marketing strategies and engage readers all over the world.

She is a co-founder of the San Diego Writers Festival, serves on the board of the San Diego Memoir Writers Association, and is currently writing her own coming of age memoir.

Jeniffer is a rock climber and thrill seeker. She and Chad live in San Diego with their persnickety Manx cat, Mishka, and three fluffy chickens who love to follow her around and give her delicious eggs almost everyday.

For author services, visit [MonkeyCMedia.com](http://MonkeyCMedia.com); for actionable brand strategy techniques and digital marketing strategies, subscribe to her blog at [JenifferThompson.com](http://JenifferThompson.com). Listen to her podcast at [ThePremisePod.com](http://ThePremisePod.com).