The great themes in the narrative of humankind's experience on this planet have not changed in thousands of years—love, peace, war, faith—how to live with honor and compassion in the face of apparently impossible choices. One of those ever-present verities is the seemingly tidal pattern of peace and war in our shared history.

The 32nd Annual Old Dominion University Literary Festival will use the light of literature to examine the theme of war and peace. Perhaps Einstein was right when he said that "as long as there are sovereign nations possessing great power, war is inevitable." But Buckminster Fuller may also have been right when he remarked that "either man is obsolete or war is." In literature we look not for answers but for ways of experiencing the world and opening our minds to new patterns of seeing. In this way, literature legisitates to the individual heart, potentially changing the world one soul at a time.

The writers, visual artists and photographers who share their stories with you this year will attempt to map out the complex landscape from World War II through the present. Our community in Hampton Roads—as deeply as any community in the United States—feels the effects and after-effects of conflict around the world. Our hope is that the four days between October 6-9 will be a time where our voices rise up, writers and readers, speakers and listeners alike, to create a new way of looking at who we are and where we might be heading.

Literature is a conversation. We invite you to share in it.

Michael Pearson and Janet Peery,
2009 Festival Directors

FOLLOW LIVE BLOG AT ALTDAILY.COM
Steve Almond

is the author of two story collections, My Life in Heavy Metal and The Evil B.B. Chow; the novel, Which Brings Me to You (with Julianna Baggott); and the non-fiction book, Candyfreak. His new book is a collection of essays, (Not That You Asked). He lives outside Boston with his wife, two children and mounting debt. His online home is www.stevenalmond.com.

Al Arater

has been playing guitar in clubs and bars mainly in the New York City area for as long as he can remember (of course, just how long that is, he conveniently forgets). He grew up in the Bronx when the Beatles and peace marches were a vital part of the landscape. In the spirit of the troubadour, he comes to Hampton Roads with some songs of peace and war.

Norton Girault

served on cruisers and destroyers in World War II and the Korean War. After retiring from the Navy as a captain, he taught English at Norfolk State University for 15 years. His stories, poems and essays have been published in Crescent Review, MSS, Snake Nation Review, Timbuktu, Long Story, and other magazines. He’s been a scholar at Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference and a guest at Yaddo Writers’ Colony. A vital member of the Hampton Roads literary community, he has participated in Old Dominion University writing courses for many years.
Joyce Hoffmann

is an award-winning journalist whose most recent book, *On Their Own, Women Journalists and the American Experience in Vietnam*, celebrates the long overlooked coverage of America’s 20-year involvement in Southeast Asia. She coordinates the journalism program in the English department at Old Dominion University. In 2008, she served as public editor of the Virginian-Pilot.

Lesléa Newman

is the author of 55 books for adults and children, including the short story collection, *A Letter To Harvey Milk*; the poetry collection, *Nobody’s Mother*; and the children’s classic, *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Her literary awards include creative writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation, the James Baldwin Award for Cultural Achievement, and a Parents’ Choice Silver Medal. She is the Poet Laureate of Northampton, Mass.


Farah Nosh

is an award-winning photographer who has worked in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria, the West Bank, Gaza and Egypt. Her work has appeared in leading international publications, including the *New York Times, Time, and Newsweek*. Her Iraq work has been exhibited in the United States, London and Dubai. In September 2002, she was based in Iraq, one of the few freelance photographers working in Baghdad under the Saddam Hussein regime. She has returned to Iraq repeatedly, covering both the civilian side and embedding with American military forces. She focuses her work on the war’s civilian impact, and considers her work to be humanitarian awareness. In 2006, she covertly moved around Baghdad to produce her award-winning work on severely wounded Iraqis and civilian daily life. Canadian-born Nosh is a guest lecturer at the Western Academy of Photography and Emily Carr University of Art and Design in British Columbia.

Jane Mayer

joined *The New Yorker* as a staff writer in 1995. She writes about politics for the magazine and has been covering the war on terror. Recent subjects include Alberto Mora and the Pentagon’s secret torture policy, how the United States outsources torture, the prison at Guantanamo Bay, and the legality of CIA interrogations. She has also written about George W. Bush, the bin Laden family and Sarah Palin. Mayer was the 2008 winner of the John Chancellor Award for Journalistic Excellence. She was also a 2009 finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Mayer is the author of the best-selling 2008 book *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals*, which was chosen as one of the 10 best books of the year by *The New York Times, The Economist, Salon, Slate and Bloomberg*. 
Jon Pineda

is the author of The Translator’s Diary, winner of the Green Rose Prize for Poetry, and Birthmark, winner of the Crab Orchard Award Series in Poetry Open Competition. His memoir, Sleep In Me, is forthcoming in 2010 from the University of Nebraska Press. He teaches in the low-residency MFA program at Queens University of Charlotte, N.C.

Jim Sheeler

won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Final Salute. The story, published in the Rocky Mountain News, chronicled the Iraq war through the eyes of a Marine casualty notification officer and the families he touched. An expanded version of the story was published by Penguin Press in 2008, and was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2008. He previously authored Obit, based on his narrative obituaries of everyday people. He teaches journalism at the University of Colorado and lives with his wife and son in Boulder.

David Poyer

grew up in Pennsylvania and attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Capt. Poyer’s Navy service included duty in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Arctic, Caribbean, Persian Gulf and Pacific. His works include The Dead of Winter, Winter in the Heart, As The Wolf Loves Winter, and Thunder on the Mountain, contemporary literature set in Pennsylvania; The Med, The Gulf, The Circle, The Passage, Tomahawk, China Sea, Black Storm, The Command, The Threat, and Korea Strait, best-selling novels of the modern Navy and Marine Corps; and Fire on the Waters, A Country of Our Own, and That Anvil of Our Souls, historical novels about the Civil War at sea. His fiction is required reading in the U.S. Naval Academy’s Literature of the Sea course. He was a founding editor of the New Virginia Review and a fellow of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Poyer currently teaches in the creative writing MA/MFA program at Wilkes University and is on the board of the Library of Virginia. He lives on Virginia’s Eastern Shore with his wife, novelist Lenore Hart, and their daughter.

Dalia Sofer

author of the award-winning novel Septembers Of Shiraz, was born in Iran and fled at the age of 10 to the United States with her family. She is the recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award and has been a resident at Yaddo. A graduate of the MFA program at Sarah Lawrence College, she lives in New York City.
Brian Turner
is a soldier-poet whose debut book of poems, Here, Bullet, won the 2005 Beatrice Hawley Award, the New York Times Editor's Choice selection, the 2006 Pen Center USA Best in the West award, and the 2007 Poets Prize, among others. Turner served seven years in the U.S. Army, including one year as an infantry team leader in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Prior to that, he was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999-2000 with the 10th Mountain Division.

Nick Turse

Jacob Weisberg
Mark Bowden

an Atlantic Monthly national correspondent, is an author, journalist, screenwriter and teacher. His book Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War—an international best-seller that spent more than a year on the New York Times best-seller list—was a finalist for the National Book Award. Bowden also worked on the screenplay for "Black Hawk Down," a film adaptation of the book, directed by Ridley Scott. In addition, he is the author of the international best-seller Killing Pablo: The Hunt for the World's Greatest Outlaw (2001), which tells the story of the hunt for Colombian cocaine billionaire Pablo Escobar. Killing Pablo won the Overseas Press Club's Cornelius Ryan Award as the best book in 2001 and is currently being adapted for film, with Bowden again writing the screenplay. He is also the author of Doctor Dealer (1987), Bringing the Heat (1994), Our Finest Day (2002) and Finders Keepers (2002). His most recent books are Guests of the Ayatollah, an account of the 1979-81 Iran hostage crisis, and The Best Game Ever, about the 1958 NFL championship game. He is a columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer, a contributing editor to Vanity Fair, and a national correspondent for The Atlantic. He teaches journalism and creative writing at his alma mater, Loyola College of Maryland.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

11 a.m. Norton Girault
University Village Bookstore
45th Street and Monarch Way
2 p.m. Writers in Community
Veterans' Stories
University Village Bookstore
4 p.m. Dalia Sofer
University Village Bookstore
7:00 p.m. Reception
Diehn Atrium
Sponsored by the University Village Bookstore
7:30 p.m. Jane Mayer
Chandler Recital Hall
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts
49th Street and Elkhorn Avenue

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

12:30 p.m. Lesléa Newman
Virginia Beach
Higher Education Center
Lecture Hall 244
1881 University Drive
Virginia Beach, Virginia
2 p.m. David Poyer
University Village Bookstore
7:00 p.m. Reception
Diehn Atrium
Sponsored by the University Village Bookstore
7:30 p.m. Mark Bowden
North Cafeteria
Webb University Center

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

11 a.m. Panel: Torture in the Age of Terrorism
Joyce Hoffmann-moderator
Brian Turner
Nick Turse
Jacob Weisberg
University Village Bookstore
2 p.m. Jim Sheeler
University Village Bookstore
4 p.m. Brian Turner
University Village Bookstore
7:00 p.m. Reception
Diehn Atrium
Sponsored by the University Village Bookstore
7:30 p.m. Farah Nosh
Chandler Recital Hall

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

11 a.m. Jon Pineda
University Village Bookstore
2 p.m. Luisa Igloria
University Village Bookstore
4 p.m. Lesléa Newman
University Village Bookstore
7:00 p.m. Reception
Diehn Atrium
Sponsored by the University Village Bookstore
7:30 p.m. Steve Almond
Chandler Recital Hall

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