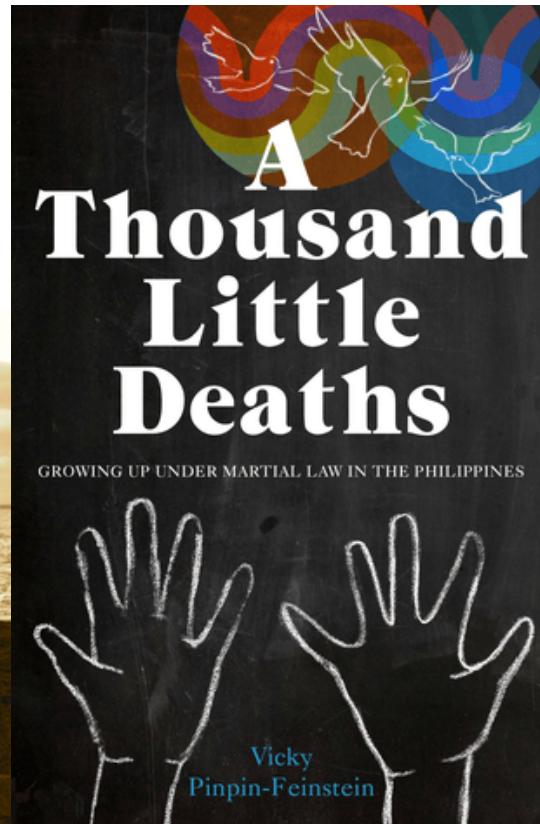


WLV FALL 2023 EVENT

Reclaiming Your Story: A conversation with Vicky Pinpin-Feinstein

Vicky discussed her process of writing, in particular, the circumstances under which she felt compelled to write a memoir of her experience as a political detainee, followed by a narrative nonfiction account of Ethiopians fleeing war, famine, or civil strife. She realizes that what she pursues as a writer is to delve deep into the many facets of “other-ness” and what happens to identity under conditions of trauma, dislocation, and crisis. The talk was followed by a Q&A.

Vicky Pinpin-Feinstein moved to the US from the Philippines after receiving a research fellowship at the East-West Center. With graduate degrees in Communications and Political Science, her career focused on research, policy, and applications of technology and society followed at the Smithsonian Institution, telecommunication companies, World Bank, AusAid, and public television. Her memoir, *A Thousand Little Deaths: Growing Up Under Martial Law in the Philippines*, tells her experiences as a political prisoner during the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship. Her work with refugees in Australia inspired her to write about Ethiopian immigrants in the Washington, DC area with a completed narrative nonfiction manuscript awaiting publication. She has also published her short writing pieces in various literary journals.



WLV 2023 SPRING EVENT

An Intimate Poetry Pairing

Salon and Happy Hour

2023-2025 Poet Laureate Melinda Palacio and First Youth Poet Laureate Madeline Miller
Covarrubias Adobe • Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Melinda Palacio, an internationally-lauded poet, author, and speaker, will serve as Santa Barbara's first Chicana Poet Laureate. She was nominated by several community members, and recommended to Council for appointment by the City Arts Advisory Committee. A long-time resident of Santa Barbara, Palacio noted, "Santa Barbara itself is a poem. Santa Barbara is the city that made me a poet."

Palacio's poetry chapbook, *Folsom Lockdown*, her novel, *Ocotillo Dreams*, full-length poetry collection, *How Fire Is a Story, Waiting*, have received multiple awards. Locally, Palacio received first place in Poetry at the 2003 Santa Barbara Writers Conference.

Madeline Miller is the inaugural Youth Poet Laureate of Santa Barbara County (2022). Their writing has been published in the 2022 California State Anthology, and online through Gunpowder Press, the Santa Barbara Independent, and the Santa Barbara County Arts and Culture Office. They have also competed in a number of poetry slams, including two first place titles at the 2021 San Marcos High School Poetry Slam and the 2021 Santa Barbara County Poetry Slam.

Madeline was born in Mexico City, Mexico and lives in Santa Barbara, California, with their parents, sister, and dog.



WLV 2022 FALL EVENT

Lived Experience with Sojourner Kincaid Rolle

We celebrated Sojourner's recent book, *Free at Last*, a Juneteenth Poem. This stimulating first gathering was moderated by Kya Mangrum, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English at Westmont College.

