



## *Exploring the Frontiers of Language*

May 30 - June 2, 2018

Skagway, Alaska

### *A community of writers in a spectacular setting.*

The North Words Writers Symposium offers a unique opportunity for writers to nurture interrelationships with other writers and thinkers in a spectacular place. We build upon a tradition of literature that reflects the spirited language and life of the frontier.

Special symposium events include: a train ride and trail write on the White Pass & Yukon Route, an opening reception at the Westmark Hotel, a keynote banquet, and a barbecue with music on the porch at [\*Alderworks\*](#) in Dyea, a writers and artists retreat.



Published writers from Alaska and the Northwest contribute to panel discussions relating to genre, process, and the business of writing. Gather in 120-year-old gold rush buildings and participate in thoughtful and memorable conversations with fascinating people.

Visit our website for all the details about the keynote, faculty, and [\*schedule\*](#) of events. Space is limited and now is the time to register online.

We sure hope you'll join us,  
Buckwheat, Jeff, Dan, John, and Katrina

---

## Susan Orlean, Keynote

Bestselling author Susan Orlean has been called "a national treasure" by *The Washington Post*. Her deeply moving - and deeply humorous - explorations of American stories have earned her a reputation as one of America's most distinctive journalistic voices. A staff writer for *The New Yorker* for over twenty years and a former contributing editor at *Rolling Stone* and *Vogue*, she has been praised as "an exceptional essayist" by *Publishers Weekly* and as a writer who "approaches her subjects with intense curiosity and fairness" by *Bookmarks Magazine*.

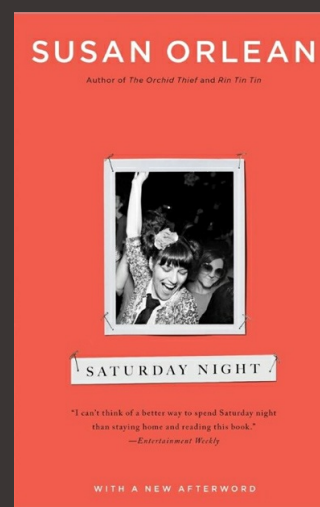
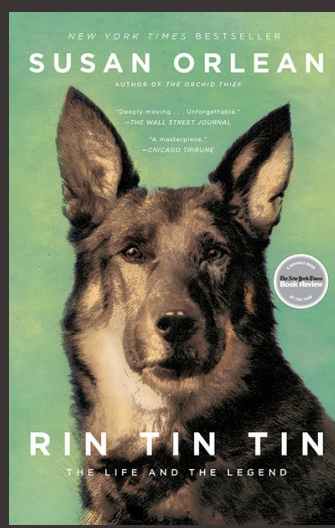
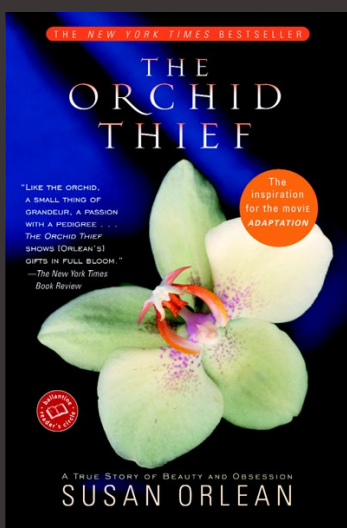


Orlean is fascinated by tales of every stripe. Her profiles and interviews have covered such wide-ranging subjects as Jean-Paul Gaultier's design inspiration, urban chicken farming, the friends and neighbors of Tonya Harding, the contemporary painter responsible for capturing "the art in the Wonder Bread," and the World Taxidermy Championships. From the everyday to the outlandish, she has an eye for the moving, the hilarious, and the surprising.

Orlean's most recent book, [Rin Tin Tin](#), explores the life and legacy of the iconic German shepherd. When she learned that the dog she grew up watching on *The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin* was real, Orlean became fascinated with his extraordinary story. Rescued from a World War I battlefield in 1918 by an American soldier and brought to the States, Rin Tin Tin went on to appear in 27 Hollywood films and was even nominated for the first Academy Award for Best Actor in 1929. Praised by author Rebecca Skloot for weaving together "history, war, show business, wit and grace," Orlean's portrait of the beloved dog tells an "incredible story about America."

In addition to [Rin Tin Tin](#) and [The Orchid Thief](#), she is the author of [Saturday Night](#), a portrait of the varying experience of Saturday night in dozens of communities across the United States, [The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup: My Encounters with Extraordinary People](#) and [My Kind of Place: Travel Stories from a Woman Who's Been Everywhere](#). Her work has also inspired two successful films: *Blue Crush* and *Adaptation (The Orchid Thief)*.

Orlean lives in Los Angeles and upstate New York, where she is a parent, dog owner, gardener, and occasional teacher. Her lectures are marked by the same wit and vivacity that have made her writing such a success. She is currently working on *The Library Book*, an exploration of the history, power, and future of the endangered institutions.



[susanorlean.com](http://susanorlean.com)

## Meet your 2018 Faculty



Ernestine Hayes  
Juneau, Alaska



Willy Vlautin  
Scappoose, Oregon



Emily Wall  
Juneau, Alaska



Frank Soos  
Fairbanks, Alaska



Colleen Mondor  
Anacortes, Washington



Ray Troll  
Ketchikan, Alaska

REGISTER  
NOW!

STAY IN TOUCH



