**EVENT TITLE:** Invincibles: Women Writers Publishing After 50

**EVENT DESCRIPTION:** Many panels and articles claim to honor older women writers—then define “older” as over 35! The fiction writers on this panel all published their first books after age 50. What are the particular challenges—and opportunities—posed by our age and gender? How do we simultaneously manage the demands of writing, publishing—and menopause? In what ways are we constrained—or free? We share true stories, tips, and encouragement for writers of all ages.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although our panel is likely to be of interest to anyone interested in the concerns of older first-time writers of any genre, please note that we are all women and all fiction writers.

**EVENT CATEGORY:** Artistic & Professional Stewardship

**EVENT ORGANIZER & MODERATOR: Naomi Williams**

Naomi Williams is the author of the novel *Landfalls* and an in-progress book of stories inspired by Japanese ghost stories & folktales. Her short fiction has appeared in many journals and garnered a Pushcart Prize. She lives in Sacramento and teaches at the low-res MFA program at Ashland University.

**EVENT PARTICIPANTS WITH BIOS:**

**Val Brelinski** was raised in Nampa, Idaho, a daughter of evangelical Christians. Her debut novel, *The Girl Who Slept With God*, was published by Viking Press in 2015. She is a former Wallace Stegner Fellow and Jones Lecturer at Stanford University where she currently teaches creative writing.

**Peg Alford Pursell** is the author of *A Girl Goes into the Forest* and of *Show Her a Flower, A Bird, A Shadow*, named 2017 Indie Book of the Year in Literary Fiction. She is the director, founder, and editor in chief of WTAW Press and of Why There Are Words.

**Jimin Han** is the author of the novel, *A Small Revolution*. Her work appears in or is forthcoming in Platypus's digital shorts series, NPR's Weekend America, *Poets & Writers Magazine*, *Catapult*, *Hyphen Magazine*, the *Rumpus*, and others. She teaches at The Writing Institute at Sarah Lawrence College.

**Geeta Kothari** is the nonfiction editor at *The Kenyon Review*. Her writing has appeared in various anthologies and journals, including Best American Essays. Her book, *I Brake For Moose And Other Stories*, was published last year. She teaches at the University of Pittsburgh.

**EVENT OUTLINE**

* Greeting & opening remarks & introduction of panelists (Naomi)
* Brief comments by each panelist reflecting on her experience of publishing after age 50 (~five minutes each)
* Questions from moderator may include the following:
  + How do you think your age has affected your writing or your path toward publication?
  + How has it proved an advantage or strength?
  + Have other factors (e.g., family issues, health, race, economics, etc.) proved more difficult than age per se?
  + What one piece of advice would you give to the writer of a certain age who hasn’t published yet but wants to?
* Q&A with audience