

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PULITZER PRIZEWINNING AUTHOR JANE SMILEY TO SPEAK IN SLO

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April 27, 2015

San Luis Obispo, CA - Jane Smiley, who won the Pulitzer Prize for her classic novel *A Thousand Acres*, will speak at the Spanos Theatre on Wednesday, May 27 at 7 pm. Smiley is the third featured speaker in the SLO Library Foundation's new *Book and Author Series* launched last year as a fundraiser for the Foundation, which supports the San Luis Obispo County public libraries. Smiley's topic will be "The Education of a Writer: how every book is different, and never what you expected, no matter how knowledgeable you thought you were."

*Early Warning*, the second book in Smiley's *The Last Hundred Years* trilogy was released in April 2015. The first book in the series, *Some Luck*, was released in 2014 to enormous praise. Smiley will be signing books after her talk, which will be available for sale in the Spanos lobby.

The recipient of an MFA and a Ph.D., Jane Smiley is the author of twelve novels, as well as many essays for such magazines as *Vogue*, the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, *Practical Horseman*, and others. She has also written nonfiction, including a critically-acclaimed biography of Charles Dickens. Smiley has been a Fulbright Scholar and was a professor of English for 15 years at Iowa State University, where she taught creative writing workshops at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2001, and in 2006 she was awarded the PEN USA Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature.

"We are delighted to bring an author of Jane Smiley's caliber to the Central Coast," said SLO Library Foundation Board Member Stacey Hunt. "It will be a rare chance for fans and up-and-coming authors to have a chance to visit with, and ask questions of a truly premier writer.

Tickets to the talk are on sale now at the Performing Arts Center ticket office or online at <http://www.pacslo.org>. Students \$10, adults \$25. VIP tickets are available for \$35 which include the talk plus a reception with Jane Smiley, with light appetizers and drinks provided.

The Foundation for San Luis Obispo County Public Libraries is a non-profit public interest corporation which conducts advocacy, fundraising and program activities to support and strengthen the County's public libraries. For more information on the Foundation, or to make a donation to one of its programs, go to [www.slolibraryfoundation.org](http://www.slolibraryfoundation.org).

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