

Eat My Words

If your diary is filled with encounters in the kitchen then this may be an event for you. On October 3, 2009, six regional authors, in the genres of food memoir and fiction, will gather at Portland's Gracie's restaurant in the Hotel deLuxe to share their stories – from the process of spinning a hit blog into a best-selling novel, to conjuring a romanticized cooking school tale. "Eat My Words: Literary Writing That's Good Enough to Eat" is a symposium and luncheon put on by the Portland Culinary Alliance and organized by the group's executive director, Ashley Gartland, and yours truly.

The guest authors, who have turned their passion for food into written word, include: Molly Wizenberg, author of *A Homemade Life: Stories and Recipes from My Kitchen Table*; Matthew Amster-Burton, author of *Hungry Monkey*; Diana Abu-Jaber, author of *Crescent* and *The Language of Baklava*; Shauna James Ahren, author of *Gluten Free Girl: How I Found the Food That Loves Me Back...And How You Can Too*; Jennie Shortridge, author of *Eating Heaven* and *Love and Biology at the Center of the Universe*; and Erica Bauermeister, author of *The School of Essential Ingredients*.

Following the authors' morning readings and panel discussions, chefs from five of the top new Portland restaurants will join veteran chef Mark Hosack in the kitchen at Gracie's. Each will present a dish inspired by the authors' books. Guest chefs for the luncheon are Chef Benjamin Bettinger of Beaker and Flask, Chef Gregory Denton of MetroVino, Chef Jeremy Frice of Departure Restaurant, and Chef Lee Posey of Nel Centro.

Before the symposium begins, chefs Adam and Jackie Sappington of Country Cat Dinnerhouse will serve morning pastries inspired by the writings of homespun author Molly Wizenberg.

Tickets for the event are \$65. To purchase tickets or request more information, visit www.pdxca.org, or email Ashley Gartland and Andrea Slonecker at info@pdxca.org.