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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2004 ♦ PACIFIC PALISADES, CALIFORNIA

## ***German Author Reads from Her Mother's War Years Diary***

**T**he Villa Aurora Foundation for European-American Relations is hosting a reading and discussion of excerpts from "Bergweg," written by Sylvia Smuda, on Wednesday, August 18, 8 p.m. at the Villa.

Based on fragments from Smuda's mother's diary, "Bergweg" follows a couple's life near Leipzig from 1937 to 1949.

Born 1950 in Bad Kösen, Sylvia Smuda studied English and art history in Ludwigsburg. After teaching until 2000, she began her career as a freelance author. She

has completed a trilogy of novels entitled "Bergweg," "Wilde Wege" and "Souvenir Français."

In 2003, she won first prize at the Böblingen Literary Competition of Short Stories and in 2004 won second prize for the literary competition "Berlin: Ein Leben auf der Schwelle."

For reservations, contact: 454-4231. Shuttle service starts at 7:30 p.m.; please park your car at Los Liones Drive, off Sunset Blvd, two blocks east of PCH. Please do not drive up to the Villa. Suggested donation: \$10.