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**FREE SPEECH** – [from left] Lou Diamond Phillips, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Kirk Douglas and Larry Gelbart at the PEN USA/WordTheatre event which took place on May 20 at Aphrodisiac. Douglas was honored for defending the freedom of expression. Phillips and Aghdashloo were among the celebrity participants reading excerpts from banned books. Gelbart was host of the event and presented Douglas with his award. By celebrating the universal right to free expression, PEN USA protects those who create and consume literature in the United States and abroad.

*Photo by Barry King/Wire Image.*