

# MFA IN WRITING

VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

NEWSLETTER

August, 2008

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FIRST AND FOREMOST, IF YOU DON'T KNOW ALREADY, WE ARE OFFICIALLY THE VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS, at long last! And, to celebrate our new identity with you all, you should have been receiving information about a weekend of celebration Oct. 4-5. We hope you can join us; should you plan to come and not want to stay in a dorm you should call for hotels reservations right away as it's fall foliage time and very busy around here. Let us know asap if you want to attend a reserve a dorm room. More come and we hope to see you then; it should be a fun weekend of both social, alumni, and academic activity.**

**Congratulations to our summer graduates in both MFA in Writing and MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults;** we had two wonderful residencies and graduation ceremonies. We would like to thank the MFA in Writing graduates for their very generous gift of an LCD projector and speakers. It is, as you know, much-needed and deeply appreciated!

**Green Mountain Prose**, Ellen Lesser and Christopher Noel's manuscript consulting and private mentorship service, continues to offer its services. Both Ellen and Chris are available to schedule work with writers for fall. Check their website, [www.greenmountainprose.org](http://www.greenmountainprose.org), for particulars.

## WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

**NOW GET PUBLISHED! Sept. 27, 2008**  
[www.thewritingsalon.net/assets/salon\\_tarcher.html](http://www.thewritingsalon.net/assets/salon_tarcher.html)

9:30-6:00 p.m. at The Sacred Center, 330 West 38th St., New York, NY. Join New York publishing insider JOEL FOTINOS, Publisher, Tarcher/Penguin and Director of Religious Publishing, Penguin Group (USA) Inc, and publisher of *The Artist's Way*; LAURA BREMAN, best-selling author of *Now What? 90 Days to a New Life Directions*, featured on Oprah, The CBS Early Show, NBC's Weekend Today, MSNBC, CNBC, CNN and many others, and JAMES NAVE', acclaimed poet and co-founder of The Imaginative Storm Writing Salon for a hands-on, intensive one-day workshop that will provide the tools you need to get published now!

**DON'T MISS THIS UNIQUE CHANCE TO GET INSIDER INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON:**

1. The #1 secret to landing a great book deal
2. The top 10 mistakes authors make
3. Promotional platforms that attract major publishers
4. Proven techniques to keep you creative and motivated
5. Sure-fire ways to connect with your audience
6. How to create powerful marketing materials and web copy
7. The final word-when to let go
8. When you need an agent
9. The pros and cons of self-publishing
10. How to build strong relationships with publishers and professionals who can help you succeed

The workshop is limited to 50 participants. It will fill up fast, so make sure you sign up today: **EARLY BIRD TUITION:** If paid by Sept. 12 \$129 USD; after Sept. 12 \$149 USD. [nave@thewritingsalon.net](mailto:nave@thewritingsalon.net) 1-877-994-8267; outside US: +1-919-949-2113

## **Writing and Meditation: Finding Your True Voice Within**

Friday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m. - Sunday, Oct. 26, 2 p.m. Held at the Sky Meadow Retreat Center, Northeast Kingdom, VT. Course fee: \$295 if registered by Oct. 10. After that, \$325. Come share a weekend of writing and meditation away from the distractions of daily life. This weekend is an opportunity to get away from the noise of the world and nourish yourself and your creativity. You'll have a chance to see how the practices of writing and meditation can work together to deepen and complement each other and create transformations. There will be brief introductions to both practices and alternating experiences in sitting and walking meditation, and timed writings. No experience necessary. Limited to 14. Led by Michelle Demers and Miles Sherts. To register for the workshop and for more information, call (802) 878-6675 or email Michelle Demers at [michelle.demers@verizon.net](mailto:michelle.demers@verizon.net). The course is limited to 14, first come, first served. Deadline for workshop registration is Oct. 22.

## **Orcas Island Writers Festival**

Sept. 4-7, 2008, Moran State Park, Orcas Island, WA. Faculty will be Peggy Shumaker (Poetry), Ellen Lesser (Fiction), Diane Lefer (Fiction & CNF), Matthew Goodman (CNF) and Paul Owen Lewis (Children's Books (Saturday only)), and Special Presenters will be Karen Fisher and Sam Green (2008 WA State Poet Laureate).

Please visit [www.orcasislandwritersfestival.com](http://www.orcasislandwritersfestival.com) for conference details, including faculty bios, descriptions of workshops, and registration. Additional information can be obtained by writing us at [festivalgurus@orcasislandwritersfestival.com](mailto:festivalgurus@orcasislandwritersfestival.com), calling Francie Greth-Peto at 360-472-0254, or writing the Orcas Island Writers Festival at P.O. Box 1726, Eastsound, WA 98245.

## **CONTESTS AND CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS**

*Hunger Mountain* is accepting submissions to the first **HUNGER MOUNTAIN CREATIVE NONFICTION PRIZE** until **Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**; please visit the website for guidelines: [www.hungermtn.org](http://www.hungermtn.org). This year's judge is Nick Flynn and there is a \$1,000 prize winner and two \$100 honorable mentions. The winning entry will appear in the Spring '09 issue.

And, please help spread the news about it via any blogs, etc. that you may participate in.

Adriana Dominguez, managing editor at **HarperCollins Children's Books' Latino imprint, Rayo**, is looking for submissions... "Our imprint publishes books in English, Spanish, and bilingually for ages 0-18. I am actively seeking middle grade and young adult novels written in English by Latino authors. The theme is not as important as the author's talents and cultural background, as I consider it my mission here at Harper to further Latino writing, and Rayo, the perfect avenue for up and coming Latino authors. Some of the authors we've published include Pat Mora, Alma Flor Ada, and Lulu Delacre, to name a few. I want to open HarperCollins' doors to new Latino talent." Manuscripts and proposals should be sent by snail mail only, to Adriana's attention, address below; include a SASE if you would like the material returned.

**Catalyst Book Press** is seeking literary essays telling personal stories of adoption, open adoption, birth parent connections, the adoption triad, and unification with children after closed adoption for an anthology for and about birth parents. Authors of accepted essays will receive \$50 for their stories and one copy of the publication. Submissions can be sent by Aug. 15 to co-editors Ann and Amanda Angel, 15255 Turnberry Dr., Brookfield, WI 53005. For more information, email Ann and Amanda at [alangel78@gmail.com](mailto:alangel78@gmail.com). If you wish your manuscript returned, include an SASE. The editors of this anthology will be selecting submissions that reflect the following: 1. A literary or creative nonfiction style that allows the reader an empathic experience. 2. Stories that reflect a variety of experiences and outcomes within the adoption triad. 3. Stories should be typed, double-spaced in 12 point Times Roman or Courier font, using traditional manuscript format. 4. While there is no length requirement for individual stories, writers are requested to keep in mind that the anthology will run about 220 pages and will include a minimum of 12 stories. 5. At this time, we cannot accept poetry submissions.

Teresa Harris (MFAWC 1/07) is working in children's editorial at **HarperCollins Publishers**. She is currently looking for new fiction, including—but not limited to—contemporary middle-grade, especially stories that delve into other cultures; humorous picture books; and light, fun YA with a

good dose of humor. Potential series are also welcome. Please e-mail

[Teresa.Harris@harpercollins.com](mailto:Teresa.Harris@harpercollins.com).



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS**

Thanks to everyone who came back for the first Alumni Mini-Residency on July 11–13, 2008. We had a fabulous time, with over 50 alumni returning for the three-day retreat. Highlights included a master class taught by M. T. Anderson, the Picture Book Special Event Day, and an auction that raised over \$9,000 for the program scholarship fund. (See our Web site,

[www.vermontcollege.edu/mfawc/alumni.asp](http://www.vermontcollege.edu/mfawc/alumni.asp), for more about the event and to read “Back for That Vermont College Magic,” a fun and informative article by alumna Kellye Carter Crocker, 7/06.) The weekend was such a hit, we’re getting ready to do it again next summer! The second Alumni Retreat will be held July 17–19, 2009. Stay tuned for more information as plans unfold.

MFWC&YA July 2008 scholarship winners:  
Alumni Gift Award – Varian Johnson  
In A Nutshell Short Story Award – Nina Kidd (winner); Marianna Baer (runner-up)  
Critical Thesis Prize – Galen Longstreth  
Harcourt Post-Grad Scholarship – Kelly Bingham

The MFWC&YA program would also like to pass along a special thank you to the July 2008 graduating class for their generous donation to the Alumni Gift Award of \$580 and their community donation of books to the Vermont's Dept. for Children and Families. We will miss you!

### **VCFA Online Critique Group Formed**

A good critique group is really, really hard to find. So, a handful of Cliff Hangers have banded together to form their own online critique group. The simple format is modeled after the residency workshop experience. Here’s how they did it: Six to eight VCFA grads committed to an on-going critique process. One writer submits their 10-20 pages online on Sunday of a given week. The work is reviewed and commented upon by the other members in a Google group forum later that week. Like in the

residency workshop, the author must remain silent, or stay off line, until all members have had the opportunity to comment on the piece. The following Sunday, the cycle is repeated featuring another writer from the group. Once all members have cycled through, the submission process begins again. All genres are welcome. In the spirit of VCFA, the Cliff Hanger members desire to challenge, support, and learn from each other through honest, constructive praise and criticism of each other’s fine work. At long last, an excellent critique group has been found! If you are interested in forming a group like this one feel free to contact Debbie Gonzales or Carol Brendler with any questions.



## **MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS STUDENT NEWS**

**LYNDA GRAHAM BARBER**'s latest children's book, *The Animals' Winter Sleep*, a nonfiction picture book, will be released in Aug. '08.

**MICHELLE KNUDSEN** just sold her second picture book to Candlewick Press. No illustrator news or publication date yet. The working title is *Argus*.

**LINDA OATMAN HIGH** is a featured author in Volume 188 of *Something About the Author*, a reference series published by Gale, Cengage Learning. Linda's newest books are the picture book *Tenth Avenue Cowboy* (July '08) and the upcoming YA *Planet Pregnancy* (Sept. '08).

**MICOL OSTOW**'s YA novel, *Popular Vote*, releases from Scholastic Point in Aug. '08.

**ALLYSON SCHRIER**'s picture book, *The Binky Tree*, was a finalist for the SCBWI Barbara Carlin Grant competition.



## **MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS ALUMNI NEWS**

**KELLY BENNETT** (7/07) sold three picture books: *Dance Y'all*, a rhyming story about Saturday nights at the dance hall, will be published by Bright Sky Press; and *Your Mommy Was Just Like You* and

its companion *Your Daddy Was Just Like You* (which was part of Kelly's creative thesis) will be published by G.P. Putnam.

**ANNA MARIE BLACK** (1/99) co-presented the second annual Adventures in Poetry for Grades 4–5 at Chester County Library, Exton, PA, during National Poetry Month in Apr. Anna Marie and library colleague Elizabeth Hanley (a poet) offered students a six-week series of workshops with poem analysis and opportunity to write and share their work. Students worked with sensory detail, shape poems, lures, and writing inspired by famous paintings. The students presented a reading of their best work for family and friends and had work published in a book that becomes part of the library's collection. Anna Marie also attended the Pocono Mountains Retreat, South Sterling, PA, sponsored by SCBWI Eastern Region, in Apr. Finally, Anna Marie served her fourteenth year as Children's Program Director for St. Tikhon's Summer Youth Camp, a week-long program for children ages 7–13. Each year, she has created and implemented themes and written skits and lesson guides, as well as presented talks to campers based on the themes. Inspiration for this year's theme, Best Friends, came from her thesis, "Best Friends in Children's Literature."

**CAROLYN CRIMI's** (7/00) eighth picture book, *Where's My Mummy?*, came out in Aug. with Candlewick. She also sold two more picture book manuscripts this year—*Pugs in a Bug* (Dial) and *Principal Fred Won't Go to Bed* (Marshall Cavendish). Her book *Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies* (Candlewick) has sold over 140,000 copies and is on fourteen state award lists. The sequel, *Henry and the Crazy Chicken Pirates*, will be out in 2009.

**SARAH HAMBURG** (7/02) was the recipient of the 2008–2009 Children's Writer-in-Residence fellowship at the Boston Public Library.

**TERESA HARRIS** (7/07) is thrilled to announce the sale of her middle-grade novel, *Treasured*, to Clarion Books. She wrote this novel while a student in the program, and won the Houghton Mifflin/Clarion scholarship for it. *Treasured* will be on sale in 2010.

**LYNN HAZEN** (7/04) had two books out in 2008: a young chapter book, *Cinder Rabbit* (Henry Holt) and

a YA novel, *Shifty* (Tricycle Press). In spring '09 she'll have another young chapter book, *The Amazing Trail of Seymour Snail* (Henry Holt). Lynn has an article in the '09 CWIM (Children's Writers & Illustrators Market) and will be on faculty at Writing for Children's & Young Adults classes, workshops, and conferences at UC Berkeley Extension, The Big Sur Conference, and Stanford Continuing Studies. She also started a blog which includes interviews of some of VCFA's faculty (Kathi Appelt, M. T. Anderson, Cynthia Leitich Smith so far) at: Lynn's Blog:

[www.LynnHazenImaginaryBlog.blogspot.com](http://www.LynnHazenImaginaryBlog.blogspot.com).

Lynn's book launch party for *Shifty* is coming up in San Francisco and she hopes VCFA folks can stop by. Wed. Sept 10, 7:00 pm at Books Inc (NYMBC—Not Your Mothers Book Club) in Laurel Village/San Francisco. Visit [www.ShiftyTheBook.com](http://www.ShiftyTheBook.com).

**CARRIE JONES's** (1/07) debut novel, *Tips on Having a Gay (ex) Boyfriend*, won the Maine Literary Award and the Independent Book Publishers Award. It was shortlisted for the Cybils Award and the Gayle Wilson Award for Excellence. Her third novel, *Girl, Hero*, debuted in Aug. She wrote it her first year at Vermont College. Other than that she's running for office, so if anyone wants to move to Maine and vote for her, she can promise them free cupcakes . . . and buttons! Lots and lots of buttons.

**RENÉ COLATO LAÍNEZ** (7/05) is happy to announce that his picture books published in 2005 are still getting awards and recognition. *Playing Lotería/El juego de la lotería* was a finalist at the Tejas Star Book Award and won the New Mexico Book Award for best picture book. His picture book *I Am René, the Boy* is on the list for the 2009 Tejas Star Book Award. René is signing on to publish with Rayo/Harpercollins bilingual books, which will be great for boys. Tricycle Press will publish his picture book about the Tooth Fairy and El Ratón. René worked on this story during his fourth semester with Kathi Appelt. He still remembers the peals of laughter at his reading at Vermont College when he read El Ratón.

**CAROLYN MARSDEN** (7/00) went to New Delhi in Apr. for school visits at the American Embassy School, then went on to Thailand for research on a couple of books. She's just finished up one set in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and has a first draft done of a novel set in post-war Naples. Both of these will

be Candlewick books. Her newest project is set in Baghdad—so she is all over the globe!

**KATHY NUZUM** (7/03) has an article in the Borders Exclusive anthology, *A New Dawn*. Her novel *The Leanin' Dog* will be released on Sept. 30. Scholastic Book Fairs made a large pre-release purchase of the book, and the German language rights were acquired by Carlsen Verlag in a pre-emptive bid.

**EMILY SMITH PEARCE** (7/99) has just signed a contract for an easy reader entitled *Slow Poke*. It will be published by Front Street Books/ Boyds Mills Press, probably in Spring '10.

**TERESA SMITH's** (7/07) articles about writers' critique groups are published online in the SCBWI-IL newsletter, Prairie Wind ([www.intelligentlight.com/PrairieWind](http://www.intelligentlight.com/PrairieWind)). Her fourth and last article will be published in the fall edition.

**CONNIE VAN HOVEN** (7/04) is pleased to announce that her first picture book, *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Minnesota* (illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka), will be published in fall 2009 by Sterling. Connie is spending half of her time in Minnesota perfecting lutefisk recipes for the launch party and the other half in Montana reading to her new granddaughter, who appreciates the taste of a good book!

**ZU VINCENT's** (1/06) essay "The Tiny Key: Unlocking the Father/Child Relationship in Young Adult Fiction," and based on the subject of her Vermont College critical thesis and her novel *The Lucky Place*, appears in the Summer '08 [ALAN Review](#).

**GRETCHEN WOELFLE's** (7/00) middle-grade biography, *Jeannette Rankin: Political Pioneer*, has won the Once Upon a World Award from the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, for books reflecting tolerance, diversity, human understanding, and social justice. The award includes video-conferences with two schools—one local, one at a distance. The biography also won the 2008 Children's Literature Council of Southern California Award for Inspiring Nonfiction.



## MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

**ALAN CUMYN's** third and final novel in his popular Owen Skye series for middle-grade readers, *Dear Sylvia*, was published in May by Groundwood books, Toronto. Initial reviews in Canada have been stellar.

**UMA KRISHNASWAMI's** picture book, *Chachaji's Cup* ('03, Children's Book Press), is to be adapted into a children's musical by the independent theater group Making Books Sing. Don't try to make your reservations just yet. The off-Broadway performance won't take place until sometime between Apr. 2009 and June 2010. Also Uma's picture book, *The Happiest Tree* ('05, Lee & Low), will be released in paperback this fall.

**JULIE LARIOS** has had her prose poem, "Woman with the Beak of an Octopus," named runner-up in [Indiana Review's](#) 1/2K Prize, judged by Russell Edson. The piece will appear in IR's summer '09 issue.

**LEDA SCHUBERT** is happy to announce that she's signed a contract for a picture book to be published by Neal Porter/Roaring Brook Press. It's tentatively called *Borscht by Five*, but anything can happen between now and the pub date. And she'll be moderating (if that's the right word) a discussion between Tim Wynne-Jones and Tobin Anderson at the Brattleboro Literary Festival in Oct. Come and heckle. [www.brattleboroliteraryfestival.org](http://www.brattleboroliteraryfestival.org).

**CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH's** *Tantalize* (Candlewick, '08) is now available in paperback. Her latest short story, "Haunted Love," appears in the anthology *Immortal: Love Stories with Bite* (BenBella, '08), and she has sold a third Gothic fantasy, *Blessed*, to Candlewick Press. Cynthia also spoke at Oakland Univ. in Rochester, MI, in Jul. '08.



## MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

**MARTIN BALGACH's** poem "Objects Objecting to Objectivity" is forthcoming in [The Bitter Oleander](#). His poem "The Echoes of Eyelashes" will be included in [IMPROV: An Anthology of Colorado Poets](#). He was also a featured poet on Fort Collins,

Colorado Public Radio's "The Poetry Show" earlier this year.

**JON CONE** has had work published recently in Hayden's Ferry Review, Thorn, Eratio and Elimae. A review of Jean Valentine's *Little Boat* was published in Galatea Resurrected. Poems are forthcoming in The Café Review and Elimae; and a review essay will be published in The Poetry Miscellany.

**REBECCA COOK** has published poems, in 2007, in Diode and Poet Lore and has published prose in Octopus Beak, Northwest Review, and New England Quarterly.

**BETTY J. COTTER** will appear on Friday, Oct. 10, at Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main St., Brattleboro, VT, to discuss and sign copies of her new novel, *Roberta's Woods*. The event begins at 7 p.m. A nationwide energy crisis serves as the backdrop for this novel about the Wilcox family and its struggle to maintain a rural way of life in a Rhode Island village.

**FLAVIAN MARK LUPINETTI** is pleased to announce that his short story "The Eichmann Interview" will appear in the fall issue of ZYZZYVA. His short story "Furrier" appeared in the April edition of Kaleidotrope and he is astonished to announce that his short story "One Extra" will appear in the July issue of Quality Women's Fiction.

**PETER ZINN's** essay titled "My Secret Garden" will be in the Oxford American Magazine in their upcoming New Orleans-Gulf Coast Issue.

### MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

**MAUREEN ALSOP's** (7/06) poems are appearing in Mipoesia, 42opus, New Delta Review and AGNI. Her second full collection of poetry, *The Diction of Moths*, will be released in 2009 by Ghost Road Press.

**NATASHA BAUMAN's** (1/06) historical novel, *The Disorder of Longing*, which she worked on in the program, was released by Putnam in June.

**DEANNA BENJAMIN's** (7/08) "Appetizer" will appear in the September 2008 online issue of The Houston Literary Review at <http://thehoustonliteraryreview.com>.

**DIANN BLAKELY's** (1/90) newly published third book, *Cities of Flesh and the Dead*, won the Alice Fay di Castagnola Award for a manuscript in progress from the Poetry Society of America and the seventh annual Elixir Publication Prize. Work from the collection appeared in journals and anthologies such as BOMB, Parnassus, Pushcart, Tri-quarterly, and the Yale Review, among more than a dozen others. *Cities of Flesh and the Dead* and Diann will be featured in late Aug. or early Sept. on the National Book Critic Circle's website in their *Small Press Spotlight*. She also appeared in *Best American Poetry 2003* and is the co-editor of *Each Fugitive Moment*, a manuscript of responses to the poetry of the late Lynda Hull. Having served as a poetry editor of Antioch Review for a dozen years, she continues to write arts reviews for the Village Voice Media Group and other venues. Currently living south of Savannah with her husband, the writer Stanley Booth, she's engaged in a book-length series of poetic "duets" with the bluesman Robert Johnson.

**NANCY BOWDEN** (7/90) has legally changed her name to NANCY JENSEN, the name under which she has published for several years. Two new essays appear in the spring issues of The Louisville Review and Northwest Review. Nancy has recently received an Artist Enrichment Grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women and the Al Smith Fellowship from the Kentucky Arts Council. Both awards were made for chapters of her novel in progress. Her book, *Window: Stories and Essays* will be published by Fleur-de-Lis Press in Jan.

**RANDALL BROWN** (7/06) has work appearing or forthcoming in Cream City Review, upstreet, Eclipse: A Literary Journal, Evansville Review, Laurel Review, Stand Magazine, Concho River Review, Soundings, 3:AM Magazine, Literary Mama, Quiddity, The Listening Eye, Phantasmagoria, and others. His collection *Mad to Live* will be available this fall (Flume Press, '08), and he will have an essay on (very) short fiction in the forthcoming anthology *The Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field* (Rose Metal Press, '09). This summer, he presented at the 60th annual Philadelphia Writers Conference and completed a series of interviews with "The Writing Show."

**LOUELLA BRYANT** (7/00) has a new nonfiction book titled *While In Darkness There Is Light*:

*Idealism And Tragedy On An Australian Commune*, published by Black Lawrence Press, an imprint of Dzanc Books. The story follows a group of American ex-patriots who established a farm commune in Australia during the Vietnam War. One of the boys, Charlie Dean, left the farm to travel in Southeast Asia where he was taken prisoner by the Pathet Lao along the Mekong River and ultimately executed. Charlie's brother, DNC Chairman Howard Dean, has written the foreword to the book documenting his attempts to recover his brother's remains. Check Ellie's website for appearances and more info on the book:

[www.louellabryant.com](http://www.louellabryant.com). Dzanc's site has ordering information:

<http://www.dzancbooks.org/BLP/whileindarkness.html>.

**WALTER BUTTS** (1/95) begins teaching in the Goddard College BFA in Creative Writing Program this fall. He has poetry appearing in an upcoming issue of *The Fourth River*, and his chapbook, *What to Say if the Birds Ask* (Pudding House Publications) was *Small Press Review's* Jan. Pick of the Month. You can visit Walter's new website at

<http://www.webutts.com>

**STEPHANIE CASSATLY's** (7/07) piece, "Farewell at Gate Nine" was accepted and will be published in the November in *Cup of Comfort for the Military Family* and one of her essays, "Turbulence," was published in *Living Waters Review*. She also looks forward to her new teaching position at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, FL.

**KYLE CUSHMAN's** (7/07) poem "One Day I Will Have Fewer Teeth" has been included in *Wild Things: Domestic or Otherwise*, a trade paper original published by Outrider Press, Inc. in affiliation with the TallGrass Writers Guild.

**JEWEL DAVIS's** (1/08) CNF piece, "The English Bike," was published in *The Sylvan Echo* in July. Her personal essay, "Channeling Fran," was published in *Poetica Magazine* this summer.

**CHRISTY FERRATO's** (7/08) poems, "A Wrong Turn In The Desert," "Navajo White," and "On The Road To Julius' Sheep Camp," won third place in the "Connections: Earth + Artist = A Tribute Art Show In Resistance To Dooda' Desert Rock," exhibition at The Center For Southwest Studies, at Fort Lewis College, in Durango, CO. Her mixed media

construction, "Ghost Image Series #1," has been accepted into the upcoming exhibition, "Patriotism: The Last Refuge," at the Ft. Collins Museum of Contemporary Art.

**GLADYS GOLDBERG's** (7/99) poems will appear in these publications: "Returning," in *U.S.1 Worksheets*, '08 issue; "That Unfurling," in *Sensations Magazine*; "With Memory the Soul Need Not Attend" and "In The Depths" forthcoming in '09 issue of *the new renaissance*; "Conjunction," in *Delaware Valley Poets Anthology*, '09.

**LORRIE KAZAN's** (7/93) article on "Active Imagination" appeared in *Intuitive-Connections*.

**ZACHARY KOPP** (1/08) writes for the online journal *The Mile Hive* at [www.milehive.com](http://www.milehive.com) and they recently began serializing his novel, *Undamned!*, which was conceived and composed during his time in VC's undergraduate and graduate programs. Here's a link to his profile page, which contains a list of all his articles for the journal so far: [http://milehive.com/index.php?option=com\\_comprofiler&task=userProfile&user=120&Itemid=79](http://milehive.com/index.php?option=com_comprofiler&task=userProfile&user=120&Itemid=79)

He writes: "Mile Hive stands to make a big name for itself via coverage of the upcoming Democratic National Convention in Denver this week, and its advocacy of citizen journalism is an excellent opportunity for VC students and faculty to share their ideas with people worldwide."

**MARSHA KORETZKY's** (7/08) story, "A is for AIDS," will appear in *The Dos Passos Review* in Dec. 2008.

**MARGARITE (HOWE) LANDRY's** (7/05) short story "Touch" is appearing in the *Pisgah Review*, Summer '08. Her short story "Scene with Sea Creatures" will appear in the *Bellingham Review* in Spring '09. It was runner-up for the 2008 Tobias Wolff Award in fiction.

**ELISE LEVINE'S** (7/08) story "All We Did" has recently appeared in *Writers in the Gardens*, a limited-edition chapbook also featuring work by Univ. of Pittsburgh Press poets Lyrae van Clief-Stefanon and Nancy Krygowski and Norton fiction writer Sherrie Flick. Proceeds of the chapbook will benefit City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, a grassroots nonprofit that provides sanctuary -- a house, a living stipend, and medical benefits -- to literary writers

exiled from their countries under threat of persecution.

**RICHARD LUTMAN** (1/90) has a story appearing in Scratch magazine's year end anthology; a story appearing in the Oct. Pettigu Review published by the South Carolina Writer's Workshop, which is a statewide literary arts organization; a poem in the July Cherry Blossom Review; was a quarter finalist in the 2008 Blue Cat Screenplay Competition and a finalist in the 2008 New Millennium Writing contest. In Sept. he will also be teaching two short story writing classes at Coastal Carolina's Lifelong Learning Institute.

**KORY MARTIN-DAMON** (7/08) has been nominated to be an evaluator at Antioch Univ. -- that means that she will become one of their Affiliated Faculty Members.

**JIM MCGARRAH** (7/01) was interviewed for Memory Writers Network and it can be found at <http://memorywritersnetwork.com/blog/>

**MICAELA MYERS** (1/03) 150-word story "Baby Doll" was honored in Binnacle's Ultra-Short Competition and will be published with the other honorees in the Fall '08 issue. In addition, her third equestrian book, the *Knack Book of Leg and Hoof Care*, will be released later this year from Globe Pequot.

**NICK PAPANDREOU's** (1/94) *Little Green Godfather* premiered as a film at the closing night gala (on June 29<sup>th</sup>) at the Pacific Design Center in W. Hollywood as part of the LaGreen Film Festival.

**VERBENA PASTOR** (1/97) writes in that the Spanish version of *The Water Thief* (published by Seix Barral as *Conspratio: El Caso del Ladron de agua*, and with the original title by St Martin's in the US) won one of the most prestigious European literary prizes, The Ciudad de Zaragoza for the historical novel. She went to Spain to receive the prize and was especially honored since last year's winner was Doctorow for *The March*. The recognition also consists of a bronze sculpture and a purse of 25,000 Euros. She recently attended the Piacenza Jazz (and Literature) Festival. Also, she was selected as head of the 2008 critical jury for the assignment of the Premio Azzecagarbugli (Best Italian Mystery Novel

Award); 57 well-known and beginning authors are competing.

**LYNN PEDERSEN** (7/07) has poems in upcoming issues of Chattahoochee Review and Comstock Review. Her chapbook exploring grief, *Theories of Rain*, is forthcoming from Main Street Rag. To find out more, visit [www.mainstreetrag.com](http://www.mainstreetrag.com) or email Lynn at [lcowell@bellsouth.net](mailto:lcowell@bellsouth.net).

**KATE REUTHER's** (1/08) story, "The Bombini Huffalump" appeared in the summer '08 issue of Brain, Child Magazine.

**NICOLE ROPP** (7/99) is on the planning committee for an event that which raises funds for local underprivileged kids to receive reduced/free admission to attend their summer educational camp. She reports that our alumni **Holter Graham** will be the guest of honor at the Newport (KY) Aquarium's annual benefit, called "Nauti Nite," for this cause. The event is Oct.18 and "like many other things in 2008, we have a 'green' theme -- and it just so happened that we were trying to find an 'Honorary Captain' who is also a conservationist right around the time that "Wasted" premiered on TLC," of which Holter is a part. Check out the link:

<http://www.wavefoundation.org/events/index.php>  
-- if you scroll down you will see Holter's photo and bio. Nicole is in the process of putting together guest lists, so if anyone in the area (or not in the area) would like to be mailed an invitation, she would be glad to include them; please contact her at [nicoleropp@mac.com](mailto:nicoleropp@mac.com).

**CYNTHIA SAMPLE's** (7/05) story "The Prayer Diary of Doreen Newton" will be published in the anthology *Love After 70*, put out by Wising Up Press in GA.

**MYRA SHAPIRO** (1/93) taught a workshop at the Block Island Poetry Project in Apr., and taught at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs in June for the International Women's Writing Guild. In Nov. she has been asked to teach a Master Class in Poetry at the Geneva Writers Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. On Sept. 24 she will read from her book, *Four Sublets*, at Village Books in Pacific Palisades, CA. The poem "Because of the Ambiguity" which won honorable mention in the River Styx International Poetry Contest was placed online by Poetry Daily.

**NIYA SISK** (7/04) has a Creative Writing blog titled *Niya's Place: Chronicles of Life, Love and Rabbits* ([www.niyasplace.com](http://www.niyasplace.com)). Her big news is her novella, *Max and His Pudgy Soul*, which she worked on as part of her creative thesis, has the interest 5 producers for a film. She is on the third script rework now. Saturn Films (Nic. Cages Co.) is the lead interest as I've cast Cage into the lead role of Max. She has also illustrated the novella and hopes to get a publisher.

**CURTIS SMITH** (7/96) has a new novel, *Sound and Noise*, which will be released by summer's end by Casperian Books. His next book, *The Agnostic's Prayer*, an essay collection from Sunnyside Press, will be out in spring '09. You can visit him at [www.curtisjsmith.com](http://www.curtisjsmith.com).



### MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

**ROBIN BEHN**'s poem "My Hair" appears in the current issue of *Poetry*. This summer she was in residence at The Ragdale Foundation.

**RIGOBERTO GONZALEZ**'s second book of poems, *Other Fugitives and Other Strangers*, just won The Poetry Center Book Award from San Francisco State Univ. His seventh book, a collection of stories, *Men Without Bliss*, will be released in Oct. by the Univ. of Oklahoma Press. He is also included in *Out Magazine's* list of the 100 notable gays and lesbians of 2008. A full spread will appear on the stands later this fall. Finally, he just signed a multi-book deal with Alyson Publications to write a series of young adult novels for GLBT teens. The first, *The Mariposa Club*, will be out next summer.

**PHILIP GRAHAM** has published his latest dispatches from Lisbon, "Light for Light" (May 23, 2008) and "Este Espectáculo Cruél!" (Aug. 8, 2008) in McSweeney's: <http://www.mcsweeneys.net/links/philipgraham/index.html>

**RICHARD JACKSON** taught in the Slovene residency, the Summer Prague Program, Iowa Literary festival, and the Postgraduate Writers' Conference. New poems appear in *Georgia Review*, *Asheville Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Atlanta Review* and *Third Coast*. He will be reading in

Durango (CO), Knoxville and Virginia this fall. He is writing an essay on Mark Strand for a literary encyclopedia in East Anglia, England, and an essay on Biblical views in literature for a conference in Virginia.

**DAVID JAUSS**' *Alone With All That Could Happen*, a collection of essays on the craft of fiction, has just been published by Writer's Digest Books. It contains revised and expanded versions of seven of his VCFA lectures (on autobiophobia, point of view, "flow," present tense, epiphanies, structuring story collections, and the role of contradiction in the creative process) and a foreword by Bret Lott. David will be giving a fiction reading and a talk on the craft of fiction at the Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign on Sept. 25. For more information, please see <http://webtools.uiuc.edu/calendar/Calendar?callId=598>

**DIANE LEFER** will be at the Orcas Island Writers Festival ([www.orcasislandwritersfestival.com](http://www.orcasislandwritersfestival.com)) from Sept. 4-7 and the West Hollywood Book Fair ([www.westhollywoodbookfair.org](http://www.westhollywoodbookfair.org)) on Sept. 28.

**ELLEN LESSER**'s short story, "Talk," appears in the current issue of *North American Review*. She will be teaching from Sept. 4-7 at the Orcas Island Writers' Festival.

**CLARE ROSSINI** has readings coming up: Thursday, Aug. 28, 7:00 pm at Left Bank Gallery Essex, 10 Main St., Essex, CT 06426; call for info: 860 766-0449 or get directions from the website: [leftbankgallery.com](http://leftbankgallery.com) or email [leftbankgallery@yahoo.com](mailto:leftbankgallery@yahoo.com); Thursday, Oct. 2, Room TBA, UConn - Avery Point, 1084 Shennecossett Rd., Groton, CT 06340. Updates will be available at [www.longriver.uconn.edu](http://www.longriver.uconn.edu), which is the UConn Creative Writing web site; Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's College, Bruyette Athenaeum, West Hartford, CT. She will be reading with two Conn. poets: Dennis Barone and Maria Sassi

**SUE WILLIAM SILVERMAN** has a new book forthcoming from the Univ. of Georgia Press in Spring, '09: *Fearless Confessions: A Writer's Guide to Memoir*. Also, if you missed the Lifetime TV movie of *Love Sick: One Woman's Journey Through Sexual Addiction*, you can watch it, in its entirety, on the Lifetime TV website. The easiest way to find it is

to go to Sue's website ([www.suewilliamsilverman.com](http://www.suewilliamsilverman.com)), click on "Lifetime TV," and follow the link.

An excerpt from **DOMENIC STANSBERRY**'s forthcoming novel, *The Naked Moon*, will be appearing in the first edition of OR, an old-fashioned tabloid style magazine, publishing a mixing of literary and popular fiction. Also, Domenic will be reading at San Francisco's Literary Festival, LITQUAKE, on Oct. 5, 3:30, at the Koret Auditorium.

**XU XI**'s "The Wang Candidate" appeared in the July issue of the Asia Literary Review, Hong Kong. An excerpt, Chapter 3 of *Habit of a Foreign Sky* (novel), appears in Issue #4 (Aug.) of the London-based International Literary Quarterly (<http://www.interlitq.org/index.php>). "Until the Next Century" has been selected for and will appear in the forthcoming anthology *Another Kind of Paradise*, Cheng & Tsui, Boston. "Jazz Wife" appears in the Summer '08 issue of Brilliant Corners: A Journal of Jazz Poetry & Literature, Williamsport, PA. For anyone who just happens to be passing through Hong Kong, stop by at **POST '97** in Lan Kwai Fong on Sun. Aug. 17 from 4 to 6 pm where she will be reading with British novelist Justin Hill & Welsh poet Viki Holmes in a *Time Out* sponsored literary event. In July, Xu Xi appeared at Bloom Books in Macau for a reading and writing workshop, co-sponsored by the Univ. of Macau English Dept.



### IN MEMORIUM

Sadly, we were recently informed of **Roger Walls** (poetry, Jan. '97) sudden death of a heart attack at Maine Medical Hospital. His wife Monica wanted us to share that Roger's time at VC was one of the best experiences of his life – he loved VC! Monica's address, if people want to send condolences, is Monica Walls, PO Box 98, West Buxton, ME 04093. We will always remember Roger with great fondness.

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Newsletter Editors: Louise Crowley, Melissa Fisher,  
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