

MFA IN WRITING

DECEMBER 2008

VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcing the annual December Hunger Mountain Manuscript Critique Auction – December 6-13; bid for yourself or a friend; it makes a great gift! Lots of critiques – from authors such as Steve Almond, David Wojahn, David Jauss, Kathi Appelt, Norma Fox Mazer, Carolyn Coman, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Sascha Feinstein and many more. See www.hungermtn.org for more details and please help to support Hunger Mountain.

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, for particulars.

For the last forty years, the **Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center** has run the largest and longest residency Fellowship in the U.S. for emerging writers. Writers from any country who have not yet published a book with significant distribution are welcome to apply. Fellows receive a 7-month stay at the Center and a monthly stipend of \$650. Fellows do not pay or work in exchange for their fellowships in any way. Fellows are chosen based on the strength and promise of their application manuscripts. Former Fellows have won every major national award in writing and include Denis Johnson, Louise Glück, Jhumpa Lahiri, Yusef Komunyakaa, and 800 others. For details, please visit www.fawc.org/winter/index.shtml. The postmark deadline for next year's Fellowships is Monday, December 1, 2008.

MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

MARTIN BALGACH'S review of *The Golden Boat, The Selected Poems of Srečko Kosovel* will appear in *Rain Taxi*. His review of Tomaz Šalamun's *Woods and Chalices* will appear in *Many Mountains Moving*. Martin was recently a featured New Voices reader at the Colorado Poet's Association's Cannon Mine series in Lafayette, CO.

CHRISTY CLOTHIERS' essay "The Controller," which will be published by Kore Press in an anthology titled *Powder: Writing by Women in the Ranks, from Vietnam to Iraq*. The book is available November 11, 2008 (Veteran's Day).

ADAM TAVEL was promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor of English at Wor-Wic Community College this fall. He also has two poems forthcoming in *Night Train*.

PETER ZINN'S essay, "Jazz For Beginners" will be in the *Oxford American's* upcoming music issue.

TEACHING POSITION

Cornell University is seeking a poet with an MFA degree and at least one full-length book of poetry published by a reputable press. The position is full-time, tenure-track assistant professorship, beginning July 2009. You may send as letter of application, c.v., dossier of recommendation letters, and a book of poems to the Creative Writing Search Committee, Cornell University, Goldwin Smith Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-3201.



MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

ELINOR BENEDICT (7/83) won Honorable Mention in this year's Poet Hunt of The MacGuffin with her poem, "Grandfather in November." Another two HMs were in an anthology called *Inspirit*—"For All the Saints" and "The Fellowship of Fire." More poems, "To a Friend Bound for Malta with Her Husband in Search of a Job" will be in Silk Road and "The Dunes" in the latest issue of Comstock Review. Her short story, "Mr. Malloy's Miracle," appeared in a new magazine called Relief: A Quarterly Christian Expression.

SHAINDEL BEERS (1/05) has written her first full-length collection, *A Brief History of Time*, which will be released at AWP in Feb. by Salt Publishing in London, and is currently working on her second collection, tentatively titled, *The Children's War*.

VANESSA BLAKESLEE'S (7/08) short story, "The Lung" is forthcoming in the Cimarron Review. In January '09, she will be launching Orlando Writers' Workshops in Central Florida, and in May & June '09, Costa Rica Writers' Retreats in exotic Jaco Beach, Costa Rica. Visit www.orlandowriters.com and www.costaricawriters.com for more details.

RANDALL BROWN (7/06) has work forthcoming or appearing in Night Train, The Laurel Review, Pacific Coast Journal, Gargoyle, Compass Rose, Quick Fiction, Qwerty, 34th Parallel, Cream City Review, Concho River Review, Soundings, Epicenter, Eclipse, and elsewhere. He recently received a 2008 Pushcart nomination. Information on his award-winning collection of (very) short fiction, *Mad To Live*, can be found here: www.csuchico.edu/engl/flumepress/chapbook_23.html. A reading of stories from *Mad To Live* can be found here: www.apostrophecast.com/blog/?p=140. He is currently the Lead Editor at the flash journal SmokeLong Quarterly. His story "Theo and Annie" will be appearing in the anthology *Dogs: Wet and Dry—A Collection of Canine Flash Fiction* (forward by Rick Bass).

DAN BUTTERFASS' (1/08) poem "Lust in the Heart for Rose the Dog and Jimmy Carter", published in the Spring 2008 issue of the literary journal, *Cavewall*, received a nomination for the *Best New Poets 2008* anthology. New work will appear in the fall 2008 issue of The Cafe Review.

ELLEN CASSEDY'S (1/95) play, "Beautiful Hills of Brooklyn," about an elderly woman confronting the changes in her life and her beloved Brooklyn neighborhood, has been adapted for the screen. Sam Waterston calls Joanna Merlin's performance "an exquisite piece of acting." Ragnar Freidank is the director; Bob Balaban is the executive producer. The film premiered at the Big Apple Film Festival in New York in November and will be shown at the Beverly Hills Hi-Def Film Festival, December 26-January 4. Check www.beautifulhillsofbrooklyn.com for more screenings.

WENDY CARLISLE (7/03) wrote a full length book, *Discount Fireworks*, published by Jacaranda Press, 2008 and a chapter book, *The Storage of Angels*, published by Slow Water Press.

JEWEL BETH DAVIS (1/09) has had her CNF piece "It's Free" accepted for publication by Midway Journal.

CONTESTS AND CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Don't forget the deadline - December 10, for the Ruth Stone Prize in Poetry: \$1,000 prize and publication. See www.hungermtn.org for guidelines.

Graduate Writing Student Magazine: Otis College of Art and Design is announcing a new student-run journal: AXL(e), published by our Graduate Writing Program. We invite current graduate students to submit up to five pages of previously unpublished poetry, or up to ten pages of previously unpublished fiction or creative nonfiction, including translations. Submissions should be sent to: Graduate Writing Program, Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045 or via e-mail to: axle@otis.edu. The deadline for submission is Dec. 31, '08. Accepted submissions will appear on or around April 15, '09. For additional information, e-mail the above address. Simultaneous submissions are accepted, but please let us know immediately if the work we are considering is accepted elsewhere. The Otis website is: www.otis.edu/academics/mfa_writing/axle_studentmagazine.html.

CHRISTY FERRATO (7/08) gave a poetry performance at the Front Lines Music Festival in Chaco Rio, NM on August 3rd. She will be giving a reading at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, CO, on September 25th at 5:30 pm at the Center for Southwest Studies.

AUDREY FRIEDMAN's (1/05) poem "Reaching for Hypnos" appears in the inaugural issue of Use these Words, which can be viewed at <http://freewebs.com/usethesewords/pdf/usethesewords1.pdf>. Her haibun, "It's Dark in Here," will appear in the December edition of Contemporary Haibun Online at www.contemporary-haibunonline.com.

NORBERT HIRSCHHORN (7/94) has a new website: www.bertzpoet.com.

JUDITH INFANTE's (7/93) book *Love: A Suspect Form*, the story of Heloise and Abelard told in a series of lyric poems, was published by Shearsman Books in the U.K. and is available in the U.S. An opera using the poems as libretto is being composed by Jan Gilbert who previewed four of the poems/songs in June at the American Composer's Alliance Festival in New York. Judith will be a reader in January at the San Miguel Poetry Week in San Miguel Allende, Mexico.

WORKSHOPS/ CONFERENCES

Next summer's 14th annual **Postgraduate Writers' Conference**—Aug. 11-17—is now open for registration. New for 2009, we've added **Writing for Young Adults** to our roster of advanced, small-group workshops in poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction. Come reconnect and recharge at this unique gathering of writers with MFAs or equivalent experience. Go to the conference link, www.vermontcollege.edu for a listing of 2009 faculty and other details (update in progress). For inquiries, contact pgconference@vermontcollege.edu or 802-828-8835.

COSTA RICA WRITERS' RETREATS

May-June 2009 at Docelunas Resort in Jaco Beach, Costa Rica. Expand your creativity, enhance productivity, build confidence, maximize skills while sharpening your craft at our luxurious 4-star location. Daily writing sessions, craft talks, learn to publish your work. Intimate, hands-on groups with comprehensive techniques for all genres and all levels of experience led by award-winning VT College faculty Robin Hemley, Xu Xi, Sue Silverman, plus Amherst Writers & Artists' Affiliate and MFA in Writing graduate Vanessa Blakeslee. Enrollment is limited; reserve your space early as spots will fill quickly. Contact info@costaricawriters.com or call 321-274-4329 for details, and please visit our website for faculty bios, descriptions of workshops, registration and more: www.costaricawriters.com.

Currently living in Paris, **JAY KAUFFMANN (7/07)** will be the 2009 Writer-in-Residence at Randolph College. Two of his essays are coming out in The Writer's Chronicle: "Egoless Versus Vainglorious Prose: The Styles of Paul Bowles and James Salter," and "Understated Prose: The Beauty of Conveying More with Less." And "Sumo," an excerpt from his novel/memoir-in-progress *Mannequin*, will appear in The Mid-American Review.

MARGARITE (HOWE) LANDRY (7/05) is the winner of the 2008 James Jones First Novel Fellowship with her manuscript *Blue Moon*. The award is intended to honor the spirit of unblinking honest, determination and insight into modern culture exemplified by the late James Jones, author of *From Here to Eternity* and other prose narratives of distinction. The award of \$10,000 is given by the James Jones Literary Society. An excerpt from *Blue Moon* will appear in Provincetown Arts (July 2010).

STACIE LEATHERMAN's (7/07) work is forthcoming in Caketrain, Diagram, Barrow Street, and The Adirondack Review, and has recently appeared in Crazyhorse, BlazeVOX, and The Florida Review. Her manuscript, *Stranger Air*, was recently a finalist for the St. Lawrence Book Award.

ANNIE LIGHTHART's (7/06) poem "There Were Horses" won Crab Creek Review's 2008 Poetry Contest, and will be published in their Fall/Winter issue. Her poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in The Greensboro Review, Quiddity, and Windfall.

MOIRA LINEHAN's (7/92) debut collection *If No Moon*, which won the 2006 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry open competition, has been named an Honors Book in Poetry for the 8th Annual Massachusetts Book Awards. The MassBooks are a program of the Massachusetts



Center for the Book, the state-center affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. The Award in Poetry in this year's contest went to Henri Cole's "Blackbird and Wolf". The other Honors Book in Poetry was Robert Pinsky's *Gulf Music*.

RICHARD LUTMAN (1/90) has had his story "The Ten Million Dollar Day" nominated for the Pushcart Prize by the editorial staff of the Pettigru Review.

HELEN MALLON's (7/05) story "Biology" won the Editor's Choice Award in Relief: A Christian Quarterly; an essay, "My Charlie Manson," won the First Person Essay contest this fall sponsored by Philadelphia Stories.

LOU MATHEW's (7/87) short story, "The Garlic Eater", published in Failbetter was honored with a Special Mention in the 2008 Pushcart Prize. Failbetter, an online magazine that gets 70,000 hits per issue, is the first online magazine to be featured in the Pushcart Prize. The story can be accessed in the Failbetter archive, issue 19 at www.failbetter.com/19/MathewsGarlicEater.php. Also, the short film, "Crazy Life", based on Lou's Pushcart Prize winning story of the same name, by San Antonio filmmaker Dora Pena, has received distribution from Vanguard Cinema in the short film anthology *Contra Todo* which can be bought at better esoteric dvd outlets or borrowed from *Netflix*.

JO-AN MAPSON's (1/92) "The Owl & Moon Café" (novel), published in 2006 by Simon & Schuster, has been translated into German and published by Knauer/Droemer with the title *Das Mondschein Café*. Jo-Ann is core fiction faculty of the new low residency MFA Program in Writing at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She now lives full time in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

DAWN McDUFFIE (1/03) won the National Poet Hunt, Schoolcraft College, for "Have You Ever Noticed How Many Bugs..." The contest was judged by Vivian Shipley.

PATRICIA MILLER (1/08) would love to meet with Vermont College alumni in the San Francisco Bay Area for an occasional cup of tea or for regular meetings, to share writing ideas or manuscripts or support (any genre). Contact her at dovepat@oro.net.

WENDY MNOOKIN's (1/91) fourth book of poems, *The Moon Makes Its Own Plea*, was published in October by BOA Editions. Wendy is teaching poetry workshops at Emerson College and at Grub Street, a non-profit writing center. She's eager for reading opportunities, so if you would like her to read at your school/ library/ bookstore, get in touch with her at wmnookin@post.harvard.edu.

Six of **MICAELA MYERS' (1/03)** short stories will be performed as part of the "New Short Fiction Series" at the Beverly Hills Library January 9 (www.newshortfictionseries.com). In addition, her travel article based on her trip to Norway this past summer will appear in the spring issue of Laguna Beach Magazine.

WARREN PERKINS' (7/06) novel, *Putrefaction Live*, will be published by University of New Mexico Press in the fall of 2009. He worked on this novel while in the MFA program. Also, *The Threepenny Review* will publish his short story, "Boy in a Cage" in 2009, probably in the summer.

RACHEL RESNICK (1/95) has just published *Love Junkie*, a memoir. For more information including reading/event dates check www.rachelresnick.com.

SUZANNE RHODENBAUGH (7/87) will have her second poetry book, *The Whole Shebang*, published by Word Press in 2010.

EVE RIFKAH (7/02) has two books coming out: "*Dear Suzanne* (Word Tech Communication), the life and times of artist/model Suzanne Valadon, 1865-1938. This book includes references to the prominent artists and composers of the period & letter to Suzanne from me at various times in my life which parallel her own. *Outcasts* (Little Pear Press), a telling for the Penikese Island Leper Hospital 1905-1921 in the voices of the patients and their saintly Doctor and his wife. The island off the coast of Massachusetts is a barren outcropping barely one-half mile by one-quarter mile in size. Both books are based on historical fact and each took over three years to research."



ADA JILL SCHNEIDER (7/01) has four poems, "Splicing Porno Films," "Reel Time," "Romance," and "Waiting for You," in the new anthology *Love After 70* published by Wising Up Press. She also has two poems, "Festival of the Lotus Moon" and "Turning It On," in *The Umbrella Journal*, Summer '08.

KASSY SCRIVNER's (7/07) poems: "Apartment," "Naked in the Kitchen," "Because the tea steamed in front of me," and "Night Song" are currently in the Fall '08 issue of the literary magazine: *Ken*Again*. The issue is viewable at <http://kenagain.freesevers.com>. Her poem "4am Words for a Friend" has also been selected for the September issue of *Word Riot* press. It is available to view at www.wordriot.org/template_2.php?ID=1649.

INGRID ALANA SILVERSTEIN's (1/08) short, short story, "Just This" will be coming out on www.boston-literarymagazine.com in mid-December. The editor, Robin Stratton, is a dedicated editor involved in the Boston writing scene. For anyone seeking publication (no prize money, as yet), go to bostonliterarymagazine.com and check it out for yourself. She had another piece, "Rush Hour" published recently by villagewit.org. It's available to read on their front page for a time; after that it will be kept in the "stories" section.

Currently living in London, **MARCUS SMITH (7/07)** received commendations this year from the Ledbury Poetry Festival, Thomas Hardy Society and Virginia Warbley Prize with a reading in Winchester and poems and reviews in *Stride, The Journal and Envoi*.

ROGER ALAN SKIPPER's (7/04) second novel, *The Baptism of Billy Bean*, will be released by Counterpoint Press on February 1. It's available now for pre-purchase on Amazon, and when released will be in stores everywhere.

JOHN THEIN (1/95) writes that in "July I won the 2008 *Bomb* magazine poetry competition with poems to appear in the Spring '09 issue, published under the name J.R. Thelin. Kimiko Hahn was the judge; the three prose poems are taken from a chapbook ms. entitled *Those Last Few Moments of Light: Poems of the Dead Boy*. (Four other *Dead Boy* poems were published this spring in *Poems & Plays from Middle TN University*; the chapbook was runner-up in their annual c-book competition.) This morning I received an e-mail from Sol Books, which listed my manuscript, *Breath Into Bone*, as one of thirteen finalists in its Poetry Series competition. The press chose another ms., not mine; but it was still a nice surprise (gentle jolt) to see my name (as J.R. Thelin) and submission in that company."

BRIAN YANSKY's (7/02) lecture at Vermont was published in a collection of writing about writing titled *The New Writer's Handbook, Volume 2*. His short story, "The Hostage", will be published in *The Palo Alto Review*. His YA novel, *Alien Invasion and Other Inconveniences*, has been accepted for publication by Candlewick Press.

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS STUDENT NEWS

SIMON FILL recently had a MG short story accepted at *Beyond Centauri*, a science fiction and fantasy magazine for young readers and his MG story will appear in their 7th anniversary issue, in July, 2009.

MICOL OSTOW is pleased to report that she has sold her novel, *Does This Dogsled Make My Butt Look Big?*, to Penguin for a summer 2010 release. She began this book with Kathi Appelt during her first semester at VCFA.

DANA WALRATH is one of the feature artists in the current show at the Firehouse Gallery. Exposure: Studio Show II will feature surprising new work from selected ceramicists, printmakers, and photographers in the second exhibition of art created in connection with the Burlington City Arts Member Studios. Exposure draws attention to the current intermingling of art, craft, and design and reveals an interest in the material and process potential of all three mediums. This new sampling features unlikely pairings of imagery with traditionally decorative objects, a fresh spin on technique, and a sense of timely social and environmental awareness that speaks to a contemporary treatment both in content and method. The show runs from November 7-December 13, 2008. Gallery Hours: MON-FRI 9-5pm, SAT 12-5, SUN closed. The Firehouse Gallery is located at 135 Church Street in Burlington, VT.

MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

LAURIE ALBERTS' essay currently titled "Dog Fights" has been accepted by the [Seattle Review](#).

PHYLLIS BARBER'S short story, "Mormon Levis," has been anthologized in *Literary Nevada: Writings from the Silver State*, Cheryll Glotfelty, editor, University of Nevada Press, Reno, '08, which is the first comprehensive anthology of writings from and about Nevada.

ABBY FRUCHT was a finalist in Narrative Magazine's First-Person Story Contest and will be on the faculty at the Chautauqua Writers Festival in June. She was in Resident Fellow at Edenfred in July.

RICHARD JACKSON has poems appearing in [Crab Orchard Review](#), [Prairie Schooner](#), [Asheville Poetry Review](#), [Georgia Review](#), [Ecotone](#), [Cave Wall](#), [Afterwords](#) (anthology), *A Remembered State: Poems from Prague Summer Program*, *Breathe 101: Contemporary Odes* (anthology), [Salt Hill](#) (Syracuse U), [Superstition Review](#), [Poems and Plays](#), [Images](#). He gave a reading at Fort Lewis College, CO; a reading and paper at the Bridgewater (VA) College Conference on International Poetry; a reading, chaired a panel and sat on another panel at the Slovene Poetry Weekend in New York City. His co-translated book of poems by Giovanni Pascoli will appear from Red Hen in '10, and his own book of poems, *Resonance*, from Ashland Poetry Press at the same time. He directed the Meacham Writers' Conference in October, and will do so again in late March (four days, no fees, includes: readings, workshops, individual conferences) featuring Marvin Bell and Sebastian Matthews. He will be directing a group of students and writers for three weeks in Tuscany in May. His essay on Mark Strand will be available in the online [Literary Encyclopedia](#) (UK) in November. He has been nominated for the AWP George

Garrett award, and is writing the introduction for a new anthology of Slovene Poetry to be published by Northwestern University (edited by VCFA former student Kelly Lenox).

SUE WILLIAM SILVERMAN'S new book on craft, *Fearless Confessions: A Writer's Guide to Memoir*, will be published June 1, '09, with the University of Georgia Press. For more information, please visit www.suewilliamsilverman.com.

NANCE VAN WINCKLE won the Stadler Poet in Residence at Bucknell University for the spring semester of '09.

DAVID WOJAHN was selected as the 2008 winner of the \$10,000 Carol Weinstein Poetry Prize, an annual award given to a poet with "strong connections to central Virginia." He was also this fall awarded Virginia Commonwealth University's President's Award for Outstanding Scholarship. He has recent and forthcoming poems and essays in [American Poetry Review](#), [Verse](#), [Kenyon Review](#), [Barrow Street](#), [The Literary Imagination](#), W. W. Norton's anthology *The Making of A Sonnet*, and [Gulf Coast](#), which will also feature an extensive interview with him.



NEWSLETTER EDITORS: LOUISE CROWLEY, MELISSA FISHER, KATIE GUSTAFSON, CHRISTINA LEVERE, SUSANNAH NOEL

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

Vermont College MFA students and alumni, I have a request for all published authors. I visit Maine every summer and one of my favorite little libraries (which carried quite a few Vermont College faculty/alumni books), The Swans Island Library, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. They lost the history of the island and all the wonderful historical photos, as well as their entire collection of books. If any of you are willing and interested in donating copies of your book(s) please send them to: Swan's Island Educational Society, P.O. Box 12, 451 Atlantic Road, Swan's Island, ME 04685. Thanks. And feel free to email me for further questions or information: Beckie Weinheimer, www.beckieWeinheimer.org; beckieweinheimer58@yahoo.com.



MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS ALUMNI NEWS

ANN ANGEL (1/99) has two books coming out with Enslow Publishers in spring 2009, *Amy Tan and Weaver of Asian American Tales* and *A Reader's Guide to Sandra Cisneros' The House on Mango Street*.

MARIANNA BAER (7/08) is pleased to announce the sale of two YA novels, *Immaculate* and *Frost House*, to Balzer & Bray/HarperCollins. *Immaculate* was started during Marianna's final semester at VCFA and will be released in 2010, and *Frost House* was started as her VCFA creative thesis and will be released in 2011.

KELLY (WIGHTMAN) BINGHAM's (1/04) book *Shark Girl* has been nominated for three state book awards: Nebraska, Missouri, and Tennessee. It also made the Oprah's Book List for Kids Reading List.

BRUCE BLACK (1/99) recently published an interview with Michael Rosen, the Children's Laureate of Great Britain, at the Poetry Foundation website. You can view it at the website: www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/feature.html?id=181660. He also founded a new website called The Jewish Writers Project (<http://jewishwritingproject.wordpress.com>) as a way to help writers explore what it means to be Jewish today. Stories, poems, memoirs, interviews—even random thoughts—are welcome. Stop by when you get the chance.

TAMI BROWN (1/06) sold her thesis novel, *One Shiny Silver Key* to Melanie Kroupa at Farrar, Straus and Giroux. It will be published in the fall of 2010.

MURIEL L. DUBOIS (7/01) has turned her attention to publishing. Her small press, Apprentice Shop Books, announces the first in a series of non-fiction middle grade titles. *Women of Granite: 25 New Hampshire Women You Should Know*, was selected by the New Hampshire Center for the Book to represent the state at the National Book Festival in Washington, D. C. this past September. The book, by Janet Buell and the Write Sisters, is a compilation of profiles of outstanding women from the first European settler to present day Olympic athletes. Upcoming titles in the series include *Women of the Bay State*, *Women of the Lone Star State*, and *Women of the Golden State*. Profiles written Muriel's former classmates, **Joyce Ray** and **Patty Schremmer**, will be included in some of the upcoming books. Muriel invites everyone to visit www.apprenticeshopbooks.com to learn about some of the other books in her current list.

CATHY FISHMAN (7/06) is happy to announce that Marshall Cavendish accepted her nonfiction picture book *When Jackie and Hank Met*. The book's publication date will be spring of 2011.

NANCY BO FLOOD (1/07) will lead a panel discussing "Beyond Bows and Arrows: the need for authentic contemporary Native American literature for children", both fiction and nonfiction at both IRA (International Reading Association) annual meetings - in Phoenix in Feb. and Minneapolis in May. With a little bit a luck, three new books she has been working on will be a reality this spring - *Island Warriors*, *Caught in the Crossfire*, with BoydsMillsPress, a historical fiction about the survival of family and friendship during the WWII invasion of the Pacific island of Saipan; *Sand to Stone*, and *Back Again*, a nonfiction picture book about the life cycle of sandstone using the metaphor of the life cycle from child to adult (Fulcrum

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

ALAN CUMYN's novel *Dear Sylvia* has been shortlisted for the Silver Birch Express award, which is a children's choice award run by the Ontario Library Association.



Publ.); *This Is the Hogan Great Grandfather Built*, a picture book showing the comparison of Navajo family life traditional and contemporary (Salina Bookshelf).

SUNDEE T. FRAZIER (7/04) spoke to 250 Sacramento children over two days in November, in conjunction with the traveling Smithsonian exhibit, "Freedom's Sisters," celebrating the lives of 20 African-American women who have brought change and freedom to our country and world. She was the guest of the Sacramento Public Library. Her book, *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It*, was also chosen this month for Seattle Public Library's "Global Reading Challenge" – a trivia bowl competition involving 2,240 children from Seattle schools. They will read her book along with nine other novels then compete in teams, answering questions about the stories. She will speak to 250 of the children at Seattle Public Library's Central branch on January 28.

DONNA GUTHRIE'S (1/06) website *Meet Me At The Corner, Virtual Field Trips for Kids* (located at www.meetmeatthecorner.org) has just celebrated its first year on the web. Check out the story in our Colorado paper, www.gazette.com/sections/business. Future episodes include interviews with Robert Sabuda about his wonderful pop-up books and Michael Buckley who writes the Sister Grimm series. She will be in NYC from end of April to June filming more episodes and is wondering if any of the NYC graduates would like to be interviewed about their past or upcoming books. These four minute episodes can be a good marketing tool for authors who want to do school visits.

HELEN KAMPION'S (7/07) nonfiction article, "Star-Spangled Presidents", can be found on www.ourwhitehouse.org. This web site is a companion to *Our White House Looking In Looking Out*, a book published by Candlewick. The book was created by 108 renowned authors and illustrators, such as Tobin Anderson, Susan Cooper, Richard Peck, Kate DiCamillo, and Brian Selznick.

In March, 2008, **CARMELA MARTINO (7/00)** had the privilege of speaking at the National Convention of the Catholic Library Association, held in Indianapolis. She wrote an article about her presentation, "Turning Life into Fiction," which appeared in the September issue of [Catholic Library World](#). Her most recent book-related news is a poem in the *Chicken Soup for the Soup: Teens Talk High School* anthology released on November 4, '08. It's a poem in two voices called "Questions."

HATSY MCGRAW (7/05) will have two poems, "Letter to an Elder" and "Too Many Sundays," published in the 2009 edition of [Bloodroot Literary Magazine](#).

SHENAAZ NANJI'S (1/04) Young Adult novel, *Child of Dandelions*, has been nominated for 2008 Governor General Award in Children's Literature in Canada. Here is the link: www.canadacouncil.ca/news/releases/2008/ji128689896750577220.htm.

JOYCE RAY (7/01) is enjoying a November residency at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT. She received a grant from the Center and is working on a collection of poems for children. Another of her adult poems will be published in [Entelechy International](#) this fall.

SHERRY SHAHAN (7/07) is currently teaching a course for UCLA: "Writing Picture Books for Children: A Beginning Workshop (online)." She's pleased to announce a contract with [The Writer](#) magazine for an article based on her critical thesis, "Heart and Soul: How the Novel in Verse Delves into the Heart of its Characters." Her political satire "A Plethora of Georges" appears in the current issue of [Rogue Voice](#).

ELLEN YEOMANS (7/04) reports that "After gentle chiding and public shaming, I have a web site. Thanks to the incredulous response from my fellow alumni at the Alumni Technology session this past July, the deed is done. It's been eight years since my first book came out and I suppose it was time to have a web presence. It is a most original address: www.ellenyeomans.com. Come visit. Okay Tobin, tag, you're it."

ZU VINCENT'S (1/06) essay "Mind the Gap" appears in the anthology *Through the Wardrobe: Your Favorite Authors on C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia* (BenBella Books, '08). Her young adult biography of Catherine the Great (Scholastic) is scheduled for a March '09 release. She'll speak about her novel *The Lucky Place* at the California Library Association's annual convention in November.