

FEBRUARY 2009

MFA IN WRITING

VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MFAWC&YA January 2009 scholarship/prize winners are: Houghton Mifflin/Clarion Prize—Annemarie O'Brien Turner; Candlewick Picture Book Scholarship—Seta Toroyan; Marion Dane Bauer Faculty Scholarship—Clete Smith; Critical Thesis Prize—M. Rachel Wilson; Alumni Gift Award—Danielle Pignataro; Flying Pig Humor Award—Sarah Ziegelmayr and Simon Fill; In a Nutshell Short Story Award—Liz Cook. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all those who submitted!

WORDS OVERFLOWN BY STARS: Just out and edited by David Jauss. It is the most beautiful volume of past and present faculty lectures presented here at VCFA. This volume was made possible by the generous donations from the classes of July 2006 and January 2007. It truly is an amazing collection and we can not thank you enough, graduates, for this gift. You can order it at www.fwbookstore.com/product/2003/161. Proceeds benefit the MFA in Writing Scholarship Fund.

We have lots of faculty and alumni who will be giving presentations, as always, **at AWP**; check out the schedule on the AWP website or stop by our table at the bookfair as we'll have a list of events involving VCFA folks. And, we will be having a gathering on **Friday evening at 5:30-7:00 at Grace O'Malleys pub/restaurant**, a few blocks from the Hilton; again, stop by our table and we'll have a map for its location.

SUBMISSIONS/CONTESTS

DARREN DETH (7/08) is the editor for the anthology *Growing in Vermont*. The anthology is being published by Radiant Hen Publishing, a publishing company that he and three colleagues are forming. They are conducting a contest for fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Details: \$10 ENTRY FEE. They are seeking entries in Poetry, Short Fiction, and Creative NonFiction to be featured in the upcoming anthology! The theme is "Growing in Vermont". This can mean literally growing or raising things, or, more figuratively, growing as a person. Entries must be based on Vermont but may be submitted by anyone within the United States. Deadline April 30, 2009. Short Fiction: maximum 4,000 words; Short Creative Nonfiction: maximum 4,000 words; Poetry: maximum 20 lines. First Prize winners will receive \$100 for each of the three categories, publication in the *Growing in Vermont* anthology and one copy of the anthology. The guidelines for the contest can be found at www.radianthen.com.

AMERICAN FICTION PRIZE Judge: Clint McCown; First Prize: \$1,000, Second Prize: \$500, Third Prize: \$250; Entry fee: \$12. American Fiction will revive this year with its American Fiction Prize contest. Contest winners and finalists will be published by New Rivers Press in Fall 2010 and distributed nationally by The Consortium. Contest Guidelines: We accept all genres of

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the Winter 2009 graduates of both MFA in Writing and MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults. We had two very fine residencies with lots of snow on hand (though about now we're wishing it were melting!). Our profuse thanks to the MFA in Writing graduates for their donation of microphones to Noble.

2009 Kenyon Review Short Fiction Contest, for writers under thirty: **KR** will be electronically accepting submissions February 1-28 on the [Short Fiction Contest page](#) of the KR website. Richard Ford will be the final judge. The winning story will be published in the Winter '10 issue of [The Kenyon Review](#), and the author will receive a scholarship to the 2009 Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, June 20-27, in Gambier, OH. (Scholarship covers tuition, room, and board expenses.) There is no entry fee for submission. The winners of the 2008 contest are currently available on [KR Online](#). Submission Guidelines: writers must 30 years of age or younger at the time of submission; stories must be no more 1200 words in length; submitted work must be previously unpublished; please do not simultaneously submit your contest entry to another magazine or contest; the submissions link will be active February 1-28; all work must be submitted through our electronic system. We cannot accept paper submissions. Winners will be announced in the late spring. You will receive an e-mail notifying you of any decisions regarding your work. For submissions, we accept the following file formats only: PDF (Adobe Acrobat), DOC (Microsoft Word), RTF (Rich Text Format), TXT (Microsoft Wordpad and Notepad, Apple TextEdit).

unpublished literary fiction. Entries must be: unpublished; strictly 7500 words or less; postmarked by March 15, '09; clearly marked "American Fiction Prize" on both the story and the outside of the envelope; accompanied by a \$12 entry fee per story (checks payable to American Fiction). Include a cover page with name, story title, mailing address, and email address. Do not include your name on the pages of the story.

All stories must be typed, double-spaced, and that the title and page number appear on each page. In lieu of an email address, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Multiple entries welcome (\$12/story). For entries outside the U.S.: send entry fee in U.S. currency or money order. While we cannot return manuscripts, we will forward a list of winning stories to entrants who include an SASE; as well, we will e-mail contest updates to anyone who provides an e-mail address. Entrants retain all rights to their stories. Mail to: American Fiction Prize / 5712 Briarwick Court / Hermitage, TN 37076. Please e-mail any questions to americanfictionprize@yahoo.com.

WORKSHOPS/ CONFERENCES/ RETREATS

VCFA will host the **14th annual Postgraduate Writers' Conference**, Aug. 11-17. Come reconnect and recharge at this unique gathering of experienced writers. Check out the Conference link at www.vermontcollege.edu for a full list of faculty, including some exciting newcomers. **Also new for 2009 are workshops in Writing for Young Adults**, which join our regular offerings in poetry, poetry manuscript, novel, short story and creative nonfiction. Small-group workshops are limited to 5-7 participants and fill quickly. Act soon to secure your first choice. MFA program alums get \$100 off tuition for registration by March 15. Contact Ellen Lesser, Conference Director, at pgconference@vermontcollege.edu or (802) 828-8835.

SLOVENIA RESIDENCY

We will be conducting our 8th annual summer trip to **Slovenia (June 28-July 7)** and if any alumni are interested in attending (either as the beginning of a post-graduate semester or just as a trip) please be in touch with Louise or Melissa as soon as possible. Faculty are Laurie Alberts, Mark Cox and Domenic Stansberry. Also, if anyone is interested in giving a donation to a scholarship fund to help students attend this residency alternative there are some who would greatly appreciate the assistance in making it possible. We know that many of you who have attended in past years found this trip a "once in a lifetime" experience and we hope that as many students as possible will continue to be able to take advantage of this opportunity. Any such donations can be sent to the MFA office with checks made out to VT College of Fine Arts (with Slovenia in the note section).

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 faculty, including authors Robin Hemley, Xu Xi, Sue Silverman, Amherst Writers & Artists' Affiliate and MFA in Writing graduate Vanessa Blakeslee.

Enrollment is limited; reserve your space early as spots fill quickly. Contact info@costaricawriters.com or call 321-274-4329 for details, and please visit our website: www.costaricawriters.com. Costa Rica Writers' Retreats is also sponsoring The First Annual Writers' Holiday in the Tropics Contest for Students and Alumni of Graduate Degree Programs. Enter online to win a one-week Costa Rica Writers' Retreat in 2009. No entry fee. See website for details.

The summer of 2009 will mark the inauguration of the **Norman Mailer Writers Colony at Provincetown, MA**. The vision of the Colony is to honor Norman Mailer's contribution to American literature and culture and to nurture future generations of writers. The Colony offers Fellowships for July of this summer that cover travel, room, and board in Provincetown for prose writers of fiction and nonfiction. The Fellowship program is administered by the Harry Ransom Center and the Michener Center for Writers at The University of Texas at Austin. For more information and an application, please visit our website at www.nmwcolony.org.

MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

LYSSA TALL ANOLIK (1/03) had two of mini-poems, "Fractured," and "Whatever January Designs," selected for publication in the Dec./January issue of Four and Twenty, an online short form poetry journal. To view the issue, please visit the following website: <http://4and20poetry.com/currentissue>. Also, her poem, "Dear Traveler," was published in this year's edition of *VoiceCatcher*, an anthology of Portland women writers. To learn more about *VoiceCatcher*, and where to find the anthology in the Portland area, please visit www.voicecatcher.org. The book can also be mail ordered at www.powells.com.

SYBIL BAKER (7/05) will be reading with fellow alum Jeannie Chung and Michael Martone on Thurs. 12 February 2009, 6:30 p.m for upstreet at AWP 2009, The Book Cellar, 4736 North Lincoln Av., Chicago, IL. Her novel *The Life Plan* will be released by Casperian Books in early March '09. You can learn more about her novel, other recent publications, and her blog on writing, teaching, and traveling on her website at www.sybilbaker.com.

MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

FLAVIAN MARK LUPINETTI's short story, "My Gun is Smart," will appear in the next issue of Barrelhouse, and his "How 'Bout Them Dawgs" will appear in the upcoming New Fables. His story "Opposite of Con" was awarded Second Place in the 2008 Rick DeMarinis Short Fiction Competition and will appear in the Feb. edition of Cutthroat, A Journal of the Arts.

SUSAN RYAN's humor piece "A Procrastinator's Guide to Writing" was selected for Author Magazine's Nov. issue and published under her pen name Lindsey Barrett. See the website www.authormagazine.org/articles/barrett_2008_11_14.htm.

HOLLY SIMONSEN has three poems in the current issue of Copper Nickel.

VANESSA BLAKESLEE's (7/08) short story, "Ask Jesus" will appear in the Spring '09 issue of The Madison Review; her poem "The Killdeer" will appear in Spring '09 issue of The New York Quarterly. In January '09, she launched Orlando Writers' Workshops in Central Florida, and in May & June '09, will launch 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 Timber Creek Review, RE:AL, Folio, Interim Magazine, Quiddity International Literary Journal and Public Radio Program, Isotope, Coal City Review, Feile-Festa, Upstairs at Duroc, Argestes, wigleaf, Euphony Journal, Barbaric Yawp, Sou'wester, Keyhole Magazine, NANO Fiction, and elsewhere. "What I Saw" will be published by Mud Luscious Press Chapbooks. His short

story collection *Losing in General* and short-short collection *Future Perfect Tense* ended up being finalists in 2008 book/chapbook contests. And he recently presented at a number of conferences, including one in Dallas with Billy Collins.

HEATHER BRYANT (7/06) won a full fellowship to the Vermont Studio Center and a fellowship to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

CHRISTINA COOK (1/07) had poems appear this fall in the online journals Inertia Magazine and Front Porch Journal. She has poems forthcoming in Sojourn: A Journal of the Arts, The Other Journal, and Presence: A Journal of Spiritual Direction. She also has translations forthcoming in Prairie Schooner, Hayden's Ferry Review, and Poetry Salzburg Review.

BARBARA DANIELS' (1/99) book of poetry, *Rose Fever*, is available from WordTech Press (www.cherrygrove.com/daniels.html).

JEWEL BETH DAVIS' CNF piece, "Uncle Abe's Dirge," has been accepted for publication in January in Bent Pin Literary Journal.

CAROLYN DILLE (1/09) has poems in Alimentum, Issue 7, Winter 2008/09. She is again offering her retreats for writers and artists: San Francisco Bay area, April 4 and July 31-Aug. 2. Contact her, carolyn@carolyndille.com, for information.

EVAN FALLENBERG'S (1/01) novel *Light Fell* has won the American Library Association's Barbara Gittings Stonewall Book Award, was shortlisted for the National Jewish Book Award in fiction, and named a Great Debut of 2008 (more info at www.evanfallenberg.com). The paperback edition was issued by Soho Press in January. At present, Evan is collaborating on a stage play version of *Light Fell*.

MICHAEL HEMERY (7/08) has essays forthcoming in The Tusculum Review, The Portland Review, Post Road Magazine, and sub-TERRAIN Magazine.

SAM HOWIE'S (7/02) first short story collection, *Rapture Practice*, will be published by Main Street Rag Press. This book is an extension of the creative thesis he completed while in the program. Also, he has a story forthcoming in an anthology edited by C. Michael Curtis and published by Hub City Writers Project.

MARNELL JAMESON (7/87) is still writing a weekly syndicated humorous (she hopes) and helpful home design column, which is in about 30 papers throughout the U.S. and Canada, allegedly reaching 7 million readers a week, but given newspaper circ these days,

LES EDGERTON'S (1/97) ninth book, *Perfect Game USA and the Future of Baseball: How the Remaking of Youth Scouting Affects the National Pastime* was released in Dec. from McFarland Publishing. McFarland has asked him for two additional books. He was asked for a story from Flatmancrooked Magazine for their second issue and they accepted "Santa Claus" for their Spring Issue coming out in Feb. They are a new magazine with great promise. The first issue contained stories by Ha Jin, James Bartels, Emma Staub and new translations of stories by Jorge Luis Borges and Adolfo Casares. Les will be a workshop presenter for both sessions of the Writers Retreat Workshop in Kentucky (May 29- June 7 and Aug. 21-30), delivering workshops on Voice, Story Beginnings and a Writer's Workshop at the Bijou. Co-founded in 1987 by the late Gary Provost and his wife Gail, Writers Retreat Workshop is an intensive learning experience for small groups of serious-minded writers who are committed to improving and completing their novels for submission.

They are still accepting applicants - tuition is \$1750 and includes all meals, private room, classes, consultations, and classroom materials; everything but transportation costs. To participate in the Writers Retreat Workshop, send I payment of \$1750, or your deposit of \$750 (second deposit of \$500, and the final payment of \$500) along with your name, address, e-mail, phone numbers (daytime, evening, fax), and a one-page summary of your novel-in-progress. Their address is: Writers Retreat Workshop, PO Box 4236, Louisville KY 40204, and their website is <http://www.writersretreat-workshop.com/>. Les will be conducting workshops at the Univ. of Wisconsin (Madison)'s summer Writer's Institute, on Mar. 27-29 on both of his writing texts (*Finding Your Voice and Hooked: Write Fiction That Grabs Readers at Page One and Never Lets Them Go*) and also on his forthcoming text, *A Fiction Writer's Workshop at the Bijou*. There are still openings at the Institute. Those interested in information on the Writer's Institute, go to <http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/lisa/writing/awi/index.html> or contact Christine DeSmet, Director, 608-262-3447, e-mail cdesmet@dcs.wisc.edu. He is still working on the possibility of my appearing at the Santa Barbara Writer's Conference along with several other conferences/workshops as well as working with writers from the entertainment world from Malibu, but am also taking on a few new clients for coaching with their novels.

who knows, she says. Her book, *The House Always Wins*, (Da Capo/Perseus) came out last March in hard cover, and will be out in soft cover in six weeks, on shelves by March 9. Perseus will publish her next book, too, due out in January '10.

JAY KAUFFMANN (7/07) has two new short stories coming out: "Sane," which will appear in *Lumina* (vol. 8); and "In the German Garden," which will appear in *upstreet* (# 5). He is currently Writer-in-Residence at Randolph College (in Lynchburg, VA), where he'll be until the end of March

TOM KENNEDY (1/85) writes in with an acquisition announcement: Anton Mueller of Bloomsbury USA announces the acquisition of *In the Company of Angels*, one of four books comprising Kennedy's Copenhagen Quartet. *In the Company of Angels* was a 2007 winner of the Eric Hoffer Award for books from independent publishers. *The Copenhagen Quartet* comprises four independent novels, set in different seasons in the Danish capital city. *In the Company of Angels* is set in summer, focusing on two damaged characters struggling to heal and regain normalcy: *In the Company of Angels* will be published simultaneously by Bloomsbury USA and Bloomsbury UK in Winter '10. A second novel from *The Copenhagen Quartet* will follow in Winter '11.

JOAN LEEGANT'S (7/99) first novel, working title (but likely to be changed) *The Mandrake Lovers*, has been sold to W.W. Norton and will be released in '10. This year she is the Visiting Writer in the English-language Master's program in creative writing at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv, Israel.

ELISE LEVINE'S (7/08) story "All We Did" is forthcoming in *Gargoyle 54*. Levine read last November at Towson University's Literary Reading Series. She will give a Dresher Humanities Forum reading April 15 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where she will also conduct a master class in advanced fiction writing. This spring she will be the final judge for two literary awards: the multi-genre Towson Literary Prize (previous winners include Anne Tyler and NedBalbo) and the Canadian literary journal *Grain's* short fiction contest. She is currently teaching fiction and poetry writing at Towson University, MD.

REBECCA MARTIN (1/08) has published her latest dispatches from Moscow, "The Russian Bride" (Aug. 8, '08), "Let's Bomb Georgia" (October 30, '08), and "We're Alike, Don't You Think?" (Dec. 11, '08) in McSweeney's: www.mcsweeneys.net/links/moscow. Hopefully, by the time of this newsletter, her sixth dispatch, "Waiting for the Third Wave" will also have been posted.

JANET MENDELSON'S (1/06) travel story appeared in the 1/4/09 Boston Globe: www.boston.com/travel/explore/vermont/articles/2009/01/04/between_the_covers_is_where_they_live_to_be/ It's talks about Bear Pond Books in Montpelier.

SANDRA NOVACK (-GOTTSHALL) (1/03) reports that her debut novel *Precious* will be released from Random House on February 17th, to favorable reviews thus far. This is the first of a two-book deal. For more information on the book, please visit her at srandranovack.com.

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS STUDENT NEWS

SIMON FILL'S play "Night Visits" is being produced Mar. 20 as part of a benefit for Longmont Theatre Company.

MAUREEN HOURIHAN'S trilogy of ten-minute plays called "Slow Train Coming" will be staged again on Cape Cod, this time at The Harwich Junior Theater on Mar. 20 through Mar. 22, 2009. The play, about a daughter's journey as her father battles Alzheimer's, will be directed by Mary Arnault. It was first seen at Mike Lee's New Works in Orleans. In a review Mike wrote, "There are few notes on the human scale that Hourihan's sensitive script doesn't touch, including a good dose of humor." It will once again be produced by Beacon Hopsice, Inc. to benefit Alzheimer's Services of the Cape & Islands' Respite Care Grant with a reception to follow each night. For tickets go to www.hjtcapecod.org.

JESS LEADER has sold her middle-grade novel, *Nice and Mean*, to Simon and Schuster's Aladdin MIX, and the editor is VC's own Kate Angelella! *Nice and Mean* shows what happens when a truly nice girl and a truly mean one are forced to work together on the film they hope will change their lives. Please look for it on the shelves in the summer of 2010!

RENEE ROSSI's poem "Movements" was selected for the *2008 Best of the Net Anthology*, the poem "Potato" was selected for the anthology *di-verse'-city* and the Austin International Poetry Festival, the poem "The Green Flash" and an essay were published in *The Journal of Medical Humanities*, and three poems and an interview were published in [how2](#).

MICHAEL SCOFIELD (7/02) writes in that toward the end of *April Making Crazy*, the second novel in his Santa Fe trilogy, will be published by Santa Fe's Sunstone Press. At the same time, Sunstone will publish the first book of poetry, *Caught Heart*, by Michael's wife, Noreen. Both books will appear as quality paperbacks. The back cover text for *Making Crazy* starts out, "Another beautiful Santa Fe spring as four uneasy couples trample each other's lives in the search for love." Sunstone will reissue the first novel, *Acting Badly* ('06), first published as a hardback, later in the year as a quality paperback. The third novel, *Smut Busters*, in the trilogy is due out in 2011.

JOAN SELIGER SIDNEY (7/89) had a poem published in *Caduceus* at Yale's ArtPlace.

NIYA SISK (7/04) reports that she is accepting short fiction pieces at www.CurlyRedStories.com. There are submission guidelines there and two new writers recently published plus an author interview. See www.curlyredstories.com for more information.

BARBARA SOSMAN (7/01) presented, during 2008, two short stories on a new literary radio program in Massachusetts called Lit103.3, "fiction for the ears." The show is broadcast every Tues. at 1:00 p.m. and hosted by Alan Vogel whose reading of selected stories alternates with great music. The show is also streaming on the web at www.valleyfreeradio.org. Podcasts and written versions of the stories are archived at the site. Alan is soliciting serious short fiction at the website and Barbara urges VC'ers to check it out and submit their work. See <http://lit1033.com/2008/02.aspx>. Barbara is also teaching Rhetoric and Composition at Husson University in Bangor, Maine, and has been teaching at Eastern Maine Community College.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Kinship Writers Association will be holding its **New Works Literary Festival** on March 21, 2009 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm at the First Parish UU Church in Arlington, MA. It will feature readings from new authors as well as readings from seasoned authors who have new books coming out. There will be book sales and booths of literary merit! Please drop by.

The event is free of charge and open to the public. If you have a new book coming out and would like to take part in the festivities, please email Erin E. Moulton (**MFAWC&YA 7/07**) at kinshipwriterse@gmail.com.

ROGER SKIPPER's (7/04) second novel, *The Baptism of Billy Bean*, has finally hit the shelves. It's available from online sellers now, and will soon be in bookstores everywhere.

CHRISTINE STARR's (7/08) poem, "Nature Will Out," has been accepted by *Spoon River Poetry Review*. It will appear in the upcoming issue.

CHERI L. R. TAYLOR (1/05), a poet from Canton, MI has been awarded a residency at the Ragdale Foundation in the winter/spring season of 2009. Ragdale is a nonprofit, internationally acclaimed artists' community located thirty miles north of Chicago in Lake Forest, Illinois. This honor is bestowed upon Cheri L. R. Taylor "in recognition of outstanding work."

ALISON TOWNSEND's (7/92) second book of poetry, *Persephone in America*, won the Crab Orchard 2008 Open Poetry Competition and is coming out in time for AWP from Southern Illinois University Press.

AMY WEINGARTNER (1/07) just started a Visiting Professor post at Westfield State College teaching World Literature.

MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

LAURIE ALBERTS' craft book, *Showing and Telling: Writing Vibrant Scenes and Essential Summaries*, will be published by Writers Digest Books in 2010.

PHYLLIS BARBER will be participating on a panel at AWP in Chicago titled "Alive and Coarse and Strong and Cunning..." discussing city as character in creative nonfiction. Other panelists will be Michael Downs, Jane Varley, Patricia McNair and Phillip Lopate. The panel will be at 1:30 p.m., Thurs., February 12th, in the International Ballroom South at the Chicago Hilton. She also has an essay, "Sweetgrass," forthcoming in *upstreet*, number 5, and another essay, "At the Cannery," appearing in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* in the Summer, '09, issue. These are part of a collection of essays based on her "search for the Divine."

ABBY FRUCHT has an essay in the current issue of *Lost Magazine* (where loss is found!); you can see it at www.lostmag.com.

DOUGLAS GLOVER'S essay, "The Drama of Grammar," (originally a lecture given at Vermont College) won the 2008 New Quarterly Edna Staebler Award for Nonfiction.

PHILIP GRAHAM will read from his Lisbon dispatches as part of the University of Illinois nonfiction reading, Thurs., February 12th, 3:00-4:15, Waldorf Room, 3rd floor, Hilton Chicago, AWP conference. He will also be participating on a panel featuring five McSweeney's dispatch writers, "Writing the Dispatch: Inspiration on the Installment Plan," Sat., February 14, 9:00-10:15, room Williford A, 3rd floor, Hilton Chicago, AWP conference.

DIANE LEFER will teach a guest class at the Writers Studio-UCLA Extension on February 7 at the invitation of our distinguished alum Daniel Jaffe.

MARY RUEFLE will read on Thurs., February 19 at Arizona State in Tempe; on Fri., March 6 at New Mexico State, Las Cruces, Wed. March 25 at Bridgewater State, Bridgewater, MA, and Sat., April 25 at Sarah Lawrence, Bronxville, NY.

NATASHA SAJE will be reading (with others) to celebrate the publication of the Autumn House Anthology of American Women's Poetry on Fri., March 13, 7-9 p.m; Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista Blvd. Corte Madera, CA 94925 (415) 927-0960.

BETSY SHOLL will be giving a talk and reading at York County Community College (York, ME) on Tues., March 3, 4:30. She will have a poem in *Best American Poetry, 2009*.

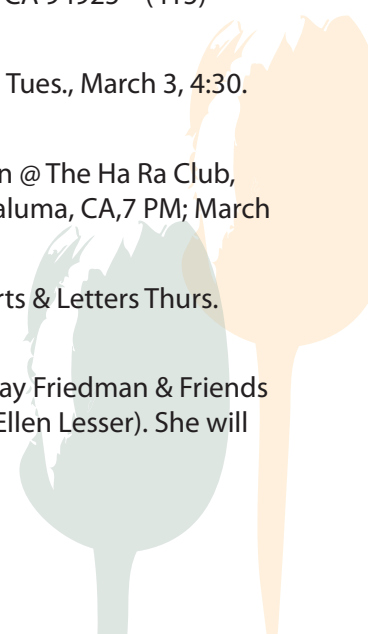
DOMENIC STANSBERRY will be giving readings on February 14, Valentines Day in the Tenderloin @ The Ha Ra Club, 875 Geary Street, San Francisco, 8pm; February 28, Copperfields Books, 140 Kentucky Street, Petaluma, CA, 7 PM; March 3rd, M for Mystery, 86 Third Avenue, San Mateo, CA, 7:00 p.m.

LESLIE ULLMAN will be participating in a reading at AWP to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Arts & Letters Thurs. afternoon at 4:30.

XU XI will be participating in AWP Panels: Thurs. February 12, 4:30 pm, Waldorf 3rd Floor: Bruce Jay Friedman & Friends on the Short Story, Sat. February 14, 10:30 am Waldorf 3rd Floor: Viva Tony Soprano! (chaired by Ellen Lesser). She will be giving a reading on Fri. February 20, 7:30 pm at the University of Iowa Art Museum.

DAVID JAUSS edited *Words Overflowed by Stars: Creative Writing Instruction and Insight from the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA Program*, which was published by Writer's Digest Books in January. The anthology contains essays on the craft of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction by 32 past and present VCFA faculty members. In March his craft essay *A Crack in Everything: How We Know What's Done Is Done* will be published as part of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts Monograph Series.

On February 14, he'll be taking part in a panel on subversive short story endings at the AWP conference along with fellow VCFAers Ellen Lesser, Sue Silverman, Xu Xi, and Jess Row. On May 14, he will be giving a fiction and poetry reading at Dartmouth College.



MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS ALUMNI NEWS

ANDREW AUSEON's (1/04) young adult novel *Jo-Jo and the Fiendish Lot* will be published by HarperTeen in March. He is currently finishing the script for the film adaptation. This fall, Simon and Schuster will publish *Alienated*, a middle grade novel written in collaboration between Andy and filmmaker David O. Russell. The film version is expected in theaters sometime in 2010.

NANCY BO FLOOD (1/07)

will have a two-voice poem in the March issue of *Cricket* magazine.

"Whoaaa, Goes the Spring Wind," will sing out, literally and figuratively. The magazine now has an audio link and the reader can click and hear the two-voice poem song by students from Great Rivers School, Minnesota. If you are feeling a need to warm up, come to the IRA (International Reading Assoc.) conference in Phoenix – February 21-24 – or in Minneapolis – May 3-7.

As the author of award-winning *Navajo Year*, *Walk Through Many Seasons* and a compiling editor for a new series of biographies of contemporary Native Americans, Nancy will speak about the need to include realistic and contemporary rural and urban Native Americans in children's literature as well as Native American literature throughout the school curriculum. If interested, her talk, "Beyond Bows and Arrows," is available on her website.

KELLY BENNETT (7/07) recently sold her picture book *Vampire Baby* to Candlewick Press. The idea for *Vampire Baby* came from a discussion during Cynthia Leitich Smith and Jane Kurtz's workshop when the question was asked: "What are inappropriate subjects for picture books" --go figure.

JULIE BERRY (1/08) announces the publication of her debut novel, *The Amaranth Enchantment*. The YA fairy-tale fantasy, releasing March 3 from Bloomsbury Children's Books, has been named a Junior Library Guild selection.

BRIDGET BIRDSALL (7/05) was asked to publish a portion of her grant application for AROHO and has since received emails from around the globe regarding her poem: "It's Never Too Late." Visit www.aroomofherownfoundation.org/hugs/bridget.php.

PENNY BLUBAUGH's (1/99) first novel, *The Serendipity Market*, is coming out March 3 from HarperCollins. Her editor is Jill Santopolo (a VC grad!). She also has a starred review in the February 1 issue of *Kirkus Reviews!*

ELIZABETH BLUEMLE's second picture book with Candlewick, *Dogs On The Bed*, came out in October, illustrated beautifully by Anne Wilsdorf.

RANDALL BROWN (PB 7/08) has work forthcoming or appearing in *Timber Creek Review*, *RE:AL*, *Folio*, *Interim Magazine*, *Quiddity International Literary Journal and Public Radio Program*, *Isotope*, *Coal City Review*, *Feile-Festa*, *Upstairs at Duroc*, *Argestes*, *wigleaf*, *Euphony Journal*, *Barbaric Yawp*, *Sou'wester*, *Keyhole Magazine*, *NANO Fiction*, and elsewhere. "What I Saw" will be published by Mud Luscious Press Chapbooks. His short story collection *Losing in General* and short-short collection *Future Perfect Tense* ended up being finalists in 2008 book/chapbook contests. And he recently presented at a number of conferences, including one in Dallas with Billy Collins.

TONI DE PALMA (1/03, graduated Toni Palmerio) is excited to announce that she received a 2009 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Her submission was a portion of her 2007 YA novel, *Under the Banyan Tree* - also her creative thesis.

DEBBIE GONZALES (7/08) has sold easy-readers *Plunk Dunk*, *Stormy Skates*, *Raspberry Fizz*, *Kindness*, and *Sleepy Bee* to Giltedge Publishing, an educational press.

LYNDA GRAHAM-BARBER's (1/09) nonfiction picture book *The Animals' Winter Sleep* was selected as Book of the Month for Dec. in the National Wildlife Federation's publication *Your Big Backyard*.

BETHANY HEGEDUS' (1/05) second novel *The One, The Only...Maebelle T. (for No Talent) Earl*, in which 11-year old Maebelle struggling to find her talent stumbles on a family secret that may well land her in the history books has sold to Delacorte Press/Random House. Her first novel, *Between Us Baxters*, releases February 23, 2009.

CAROLYN MARSDEN's (7/00) new middle grade novel, *Sahwira: An African Friendship*, will be released by Candlewick in April. Her novel, *The Buddha's Diamonds*, was on the Book List of Top Ten Religion Novels of 2008 and was one of five finalists for the Southern California Independent Booksellers award. There is an interview with Carolyn in the January issue of Book List.

HATSY MCGRAW's (7/05) poem, "Lucretia Went Walking," has been accepted for publication in the online journal, Word Riot.

BOBBI MILLER (1/01) writes: "As some will remember, I sold four books that came out of my creative thesis when I attended Vermont College. That was in 2001! Now, at long, long, long last, the first book, *One Fine Trade*, is due out on February 26, '09. Will Hillenbrand illustrated the book. The book is certainly worth the wait! How exciting to see it listed on amazon.com! It has been endorsed by the Rutgers University Project on Economics and Children: 'The stimulating

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

MARION DANE BAUER has a picture book and a board book out in Jan., both with Scholastic. One is a counting/colors book, *One Brown Bunny*. The board book is one she read at the last residency, *How Do I Love You?* Additionally, she has just completed two pre-school biographies for Scholastic, one on Christopher Columbus, the other on Martin Luther King. Marion has also sold a new picture book, *In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb*, to Holiday House. Finally, she has finished the novel *The Very Little Princess* for Random House, Stepping Stones.

ELLEN HOWARD's historical novel, *The Crimson Cap*, will be published by Holiday House this fall. The novel is based on the true story of Pierre Talon, a boy who accompanied the explorer, La Salle, on his last expedition to the New World, in what is now Texas.

JULIE LARIOS has had a series of poems for adults titled "All Three Acts of a Sad Play Performed Entirely in Bed" as well as a short poem titled "What Bee Did" (*Best American Poetry 2007*) chosen to be set to music (soprano and chamber ensemble) and performed in New York City in the near future. In addition, her most recent book, *Imaginary Menagerie*, has been shortlisted for the Cybil Award by online children's-lit bloggers. The Cybils will be announced in mid-Feb.

CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH's latest novel, *Eternal* (Candlewick, 2009), goes on sale Feb. 10.

SHELLEY TANAKA's book *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator*, illustrated by David Craig, is this year's Orbis Pictus Award winning title. The Orbis Pictus Award is given for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

TIM WYNNE-JONES's novel *Rex Zero, King of Nothing* has been included on the 2009 USBBY Outstanding International Books List. In addition, the cold war museum in Ottawa, Canada, is going to create a Rex Zero Room after the series of books by Tim Wynne-Jones. This will be a hands-on permanent exhibit looking at the experience of children during the cold war, most specifically the time frame in which the Rex Zero novels take place, roughly the late fifties and early sixties. The exhibition is due to open in time for the launch of the third in the series *Rex Zero, The Great Pretender* next fall. The museum, affectionately called "The Diefenbunker", after Prime Minister Diefenbaker who presided over the building of the bunker in which the museum is housed. This was to be the great underground fortress to which the government and essential services would flee in the event of a nuclear war.

plot and amusing illustrations make this book an ideal selection for teaching children about trade and barter. These concepts are among the first economics lessons introduced to children in elementary school and in their own daily lives. *One Fine Trade* offers a new, refreshing choice for communicating to children the potential benefits of voluntary

ANGELA MORRISON (7/04) is happy to announce her second novel for Penguin's teen imprint, Razorbill, *Sing Me to Sleep*, will be featured on their Spring '10 list. Her first novel, based on her VC creative thesis, *Taken by Storm*, will be out in hard-cover, March 5, '09. To celebrate its long-awaited launch, Angela will fly home from Singapore, where she currently resides, and visit high schools throughout Washington, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, and Arizona on a three week speaking tour, March 20 – April 11. You can follow the tour on www.angela-morrison.com. Angela is moving home to Arizona in June.

exchange.' My second book, *Davy Crockett Gets Hitched*, illustrated by Megan Lloyd, comes out in Fall, '09. And in fact, my cabin will be featured on the inside flap! My third and fourth book are due out in Spring and Fall '10. I also have joined the techno-age -- well, as much as an old lady who lives in the woods might -- and have a profile on Facebook that features many of these illustrations and other adventures. Anyone from Vermont College, Please feel free to join me as a friend on Facebook."

TOD OLSON (7/05) reports that *How to Get Rich on the Oregon Trail*, the second of four titles in his series of illustrated historical fiction, will be published by National Geographic/Random House in spring '09. As an editor at Scholastic Franklin Watts, he is also seeking writers for an ongoing YA biography series. He would be happy to hear from anyone who has experience writing quality non-fiction on a work-for-hire basis. Send a resume and book list to todolson@wildblue.net.

MICOL OSTOW'S (1/09) new book series, *The Bradford Novels*, launched from Simon Pulse on January 27, 2009. To celebrate, she'll be hosting the Bradford Blog Bash through 2/20 at www.bradford-novels.blogspot.com. Come cyber-party with her!

MICHELE REGENOLD (1/08) won a \$50,000 grant from the Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership to continue publishing *Go! magazine* (www.go-explore-trans.org) and to convey real-world math and science concepts related to transportation.

NANCY THALIA REYNOLDS (1/08) has a new nonfiction book, *Mixed Heritage in Young Adult Literature*, coming out in late February '09 from Scarecrow Press. She researched the book while a student at Vermont College. This work formed the basis for her graduate lecture and for the workshop she will present for the Reading the World Conference in California, at the University of San Francisco on March 28 and 29, '09.

SHERRY SHAHAN'S (7/07) picture book *Fiesta! A Celebration Of Latino Festivals* is hot off the press from August House. Here's a description, "Shahan introduces a Latino festival for each month of the year, including Cinco de Mayo, Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), and Inti Raymi (Festival of the Sun). The cultures of Brazil, Costa Rica, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, and the Quiché and Cuchumatan peoples of Guatemala, are all represented. Each colorful romp features a poetic interpretation for younger readers alongside an explanation of the custom for older readers." *Fiesta!* is a companion title to bilingual titles *Spicy Hot Colors/ Colores Picantes* and *Cool Cats Counting*.

JOAN SELIGER SIDNEY (post-MFA-Picture Book, 7/08) in November gave an expanded version of her panel presentation: Picture Books about the Holocaust, at the University of Connecticut.

PAT SNODGRASS (1/02) has just published, for the Brooklyn Historical Society, the second book in a series of three, called the *Brooklyn Patriots: Suppressors of the Great Slaveholder Rebellion*. As president of the Brooklyn Historical Society, Pat led a group of five individuals who researched and wrote biographies on the soldiers that served in the Civil War, who came from Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Over 200 served, so they still have one more book to complete. In addition, Arcadia Publishing will launch her book, *Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center* this spring in their series called, Images of America. Since the book features historical photographs (over two hundred) and very little text (40 to 120 words per page), her education in the use of succinct writing for children really helped her complete this book according to Arcadia's parameters.

JOEL SINGERMAN (1/03) has a poem, "Father's Day," a sestina, in the 2009 edition of Chautauqua.

BARBARA STEINHAUSER (7/01) wrote, designed and published a leather bound, coffee table book documenting the construction of a local church building which she titled, *Transformation*. This book was commissioned to reward those contributing to the church's building fund and included photos of the building and congregation members as well as poetry published in her newsletter, *The Episcopost*.

SARAH SULLIVAN's (1/05) poem, "Winter Wind" appeared in the February, '09 issue of *Cricket* magazine.

ANN TEPLICK's (1/05) one-act play "Sharkie's Smooch" was showcased in a festival of new works at Acadia University in Halifax, N.S.; and her one-act play "Penny Loves Butchie Hartog" was showcased in another festival of new works at ArtsWest Theatre In Seattle. A poetic monologue, "He Loves Me," was published in 161 *One-Minute Monologues from Literature* (Smith and Kraus). And her poem "Ethnicity Quiz" will be published in the upcoming issue of the literary magazine *Drash: Northwest Mosaic*.

GRETCHEN WOELFLE (7/00) was a finalist for the 2008 WILLA Literary Award (Women Writing the West) for Children's Literature for *Jeannette Rankin: Political Pioneer*.

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Katie Gustafson, Susannah Noel.*

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