

MFA IN WRITING

VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

36 College Street

Montpelier, Vermont 05602

NEWSLETTER

May, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hunger Mountain News: Don't forget the deadline for the **Howard Frank Mosher Short Fiction Prize** is June 15th (extended). The judge this year is Katherine Vaz. See www.hungermtn.org for details. And, the **Hunger Mountain Creative Nonfiction Prize** is Sept. 1. Please help us promote the prizes, through blogs, websites, chatrooms, etc. and, perhaps, provide a link to *Hunger Mountain's* website. Our **Spring 2008 issue** is just out which includes the winner of the Ruth Stone Prize in Poetry as well as.

The recent Hunger Mountain manuscript critique auction just raised just over \$7,000 for the journal; we're thrilled with the results and deeply appreciate the donations by authors as well as the purchases by a number of our students/alumni – thank you so much! **And, please do subscribe to Hunger Mountain if you don't already – we truly need your support. And give a gift subscription to a friend if you can. You can subscribe online at our website: www.hungermnt.org.**

Austin gathering – May 31 – Please come! Everyone in Texas should have received an invitation to a Hunger Mountain reading/VC gathering we are hosting in Austin on May 31st at the home of MFAW alumna Janis Williams. But, if anyone might be visiting in the area and would like to attend just send an email to louise.crowley@tui.edu for more

information. And, if you might be interested in hosting a gathering and/or reading in your area for students and alumni please be in touch!

Postgraduate Writers' Conference Update:

There are still a few spots in Poetry, Novel, Short Story, Short Short Story, and Creative Nonfiction. If you haven't read Carolyn Wright's Poets & Writers article on the conference, you can find it, faculty bios, etc., on our website: <http://www.tui.edu/pgwc/>. Contact Louise (louise.crowley@tui.edu) or Melissa (melissa.fisher@tui.edu) if you have questions or want to register.

A new magazine looking for literary submissions is Dossier Journal, an independent arts and culture journal bringing together writing, photography, fashion and art in one publication. A bi-annual publication with a circulation of around 5,000 copies with worldwide distribution, the format is a bit different than traditional literary magazines as they are incorporating other varied disciplines, but hope that inclusion allows creative writing to reach a wider audience than normal. They are currently putting together the second issue and are looking for submissions of creative writing, poetry, essays, etc. Submissions should be pasted in the email and sent to: submissions@dossierjournal.com

Alumni **Michael Carrino** (7/84) is co-editor/poetry editor of Saranac Review and says they are accepting work in September. See website: <http://research.plattsburgh.edu/saranacreview/>

Alumni **Bruce Spang** writes in that he is looking for writers to do reviews: "As the new Reviews Editor for the Café Review, I am looking for writers—they need not be poets—who can and want to review books of poetry. One good way to be published as a young writer is to have your name in a reputable journal. But it does not need to be your poem. It can be a review. You could be a nonfiction or fiction writer who likes to write personal essays. Since you developed or are developing, as an MFA student, the ability in your packets of reviewing books, you already have mastered the techniques of reviewing. Why not put it to good use professionally? I am looking for someone who can incisively analyze the poems, looking not just at what is said—and its larger implications for us as individuals and a society—but how they are rendered and address that ultimate question any review needs to confront: why read this book? Look at our site for the style and format of your reviews. Any interested alumni, faculty or students can send an e-mail to my home (bps@maine.rr.com) or send it snail mail to the Café Review address on our web-site, which is The Café Review, c/o Yes Books, 589 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Please include a copy/copies of reviews as well as a letter of introduction with your e-mail so that I can contact you.

A good blog we have been informed of by an alumni is found at: www.fictioncontests.blogspot.com.

For Rent in Montpelier by MFAW alumna Maureen McGuinness: Fully furnished downstairs apartment. One bedroom (queen-size), one bath, living-room, dining-room, kitchen, sunny porch, private yard, off-street parking, charming Victorian near State House, walking distance to downtown. \$175 a week. Available in the fall; contact Maureen at 802-279-7432 (or) mcguinness.maureen@gmail.com

MFAWC&YA Jan. 2008 scholarships: We mistakenly omitted the announcement that Ginger Johnson was awarded the Marion Dane Bauer Faculty Scholarship at the Jan. residency.

MFAWC&YA Alumni Gift Award Fund: This charitable fund was established to grant scholarships twice a year (July and January) to deserving students. To date the fund has granted \$2,050 in scholarship money and will be awarding another \$500 at the July residency. If you haven't yet made a contribution, it is not too late. Won't you please add your name to the list of generous donors? If we raise more money, we can not only increase the amount of the award, but also have it go on forever! Checks can be made out to T. Rowe Price Charitable Trust Account 1658 and sent to Katie. Thank you!

The following is a list of founding contributors to the MFAWC&YA Alumni Gift Award Fund.

Ann Angel	Karmen Kooyers
Anonymous – 1 donor	Barbara Krasner
Kathi Appelt	Sarah Lamstein
Elizabeth Bluemle	Catherine Linka
Kelly Bingham	Reneé Critcher Lyons
Beverly Chapman	Gretchen Mayo
Debbie Dunn	Sara Miller
Merzy & Russ Eisenberg	Ann Parr
Cindy Faughnan	Joyce Ray
Sundee Frazier	John O'Rourke
Liz Gallagher	Barbara Santucci
Jennifer Gennari	Leda Schubert
Laura Greene	Teresa Smith
Donna W. Guthrie	Nancy Stevenson
Jennifer Wolf Kam	Sarah G. Sullivan
Helen Kampion	Betsy Wernert
Teresa E. Harris	Vicki O. Wittenstein
Helen and Neil Hemphill	Christy H. Zatkin
Karyn and Ralph Henley	

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS STUDENT NEWS

MICOL OSTOW has signed a three-book deal for a new YA series to be released by Simon and Schuster seasonally. The series, tentatively titled *The Bradford Blogs*, will launch in spring '09.

CAROL LYNCH WILLIAMS sold her creative thesis, tentatively entitled *Sixth Bride* (along with a second novel called *Lost in Peace*) to St. Martin's Press. Pub date to be announced.

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS ALUMNI NEWS

ANN ANGEL (1/99) writes that *Such a Pretty Face: Short Stories About Beauty*, which was edited by Ann, was nominated for the Best Books for YA 2008 list. Writers for the collection include Anita Riggio, Mary Ann Rodman, Ron Koertge, Norma Fox Mazer, Louise Hawes, Chris Lynch, Jacqueline Woodson, Ellen Wittlinger, Lauren Myracle, J. James Keels, and Jamie Pittel. Also, Ann's biography *Amy Tan, Weaver of Asian American Tales* will be published by Enslow in May '08.

KATHI BARON (7/04) recently sold her first novel, *In Search of the Violin Goddess*, to Evelyn Fazio at WestSide Books. Kathi worked on it with Louise Hawes, Sharon Darrow, and as her creative thesis with Tim Wynne-Jones. She spent one semester writing poetry with Kathi Appelt, which later helped her develop a poetic point of view in her violinist-protagonist.

ELIZABETH BLUEMLE's (7/04) picture book, *My Father the Dog* (Candlewick Press, '06), was released in paperback on Apr. 22. Also, Elizabeth will be at BEA in May in Los Angeles and would love to see any VC folks who are also attending.

DEBBY EDWARDSON (7/05) is very happy to report that her first novel, *Blessing's Bead*, is due out from Farrar, Straus, and Giroux in the fall of 2009. *Blessing's Bead* is a middle-grade historical novel set in Alaska and spanning four generations of Inupiaq women. This novel was workshopped several times at Vermont and was awarded a WIP in progress grant by SCBWI.

NANCY BO FLOOD (1/07) would like to share this good news: *The Navajo Year; Walk Through Many Seasons* (Salina Bookshelf) was awarded the Children's Choice and the Arizona Book Award. A new picture book, *This is the Hogan that Great-grandfather Built*, a story about contemporary Navajo life, is scheduled for publication this spring. Also for Salina Bookshelf Publishers: her proposal for a series of biography collections of contemporary Native Americans was accepted; she will write for the series and serve as compiling editor. And finally, Nancy received a "first novel" contract with Boyds Mill Press for *Warriors*, a historical novel about two boys

and their families on the Pacific island of Saipan during the American invasion of World War II.

SUNDEE FRAZIER (7/04) is excited to report that *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It* will be released as an audio book by Random House's Listening Library in Fall 2008. It was also included in the Bank Street College of Education's Best Books 2008 edition with a star for outstanding merit. She looks forward to receiving the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award at the summer ALA convention in Anaheim, CA, July 1.

FRANCES LEE HALL (1/08) has received a Northern California Emmy Award nomination for a feature segment entitled, "Shuji Ikeda: Ceramics." The 10-minute piece features a ceramic artist who makes amazing hand-woven clay baskets. Frances wrote and produced the piece for KQED's SPARK, a TV program about artists in the San Francisco Bay area. Winners will be announced May 10th.

KARIN HUXMAN (7/01), writing as K.D. Huxman, won an EPIE award for best Children's/YA ebook for her picture book, *Grizzelda Gorilla*.

KIM JUSTESEN (7/03) has been hired by the Institute of Children's Literature as an instructor beginning in May of this year. On May 17, she'll be serving on a panel, and signing books at the Provo Children's Book Festival. And, on June 30, she'll be conducting a workshop and signing books at the grand opening of the new Utah Valley Univ. Library.

SARAH LAMSTEIN's (1/03) book *Chanukah Tale, Letter on the Wind* received a 2008 Sydney Taylor Honor Award for Younger Readers from the Association of Jewish Libraries. (The full title of the award was not given in the Feb. 2008 newsletter.)

JOANN EARLY MACKEN's (7/00) new nonfiction picture book *Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move* was published by Holiday House this spring. She just wrote two more beginning readers for Capstone Press, *Building a Bridge* and *Building a House*. Her third *Children's Writer's and Illustrator's Market* article, "Put Some Life in Your Work: Writing Fiction Inspired by Reality," will appear in the 2009 edition. JoAnn helped organize and spoke at a one-day Essentials for Writers and Illustrators program for SCBWI-Wisconsin in Mar. She teaches part time at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and is looking

forward to a graduate-level advanced poetry workshop this summer.

CAROLYN MARSDEN (7/00) was in India during Apr. doing school visits at the American Embassy School. She went to northern Thailand afterward to do research for a book with a Hmong protagonist. *The Buddha's Diamonds*, a chapter book with Candlewick, was released in Feb.

CHELI MENNELLA (1/01) writes, "I just completed Volume Three of my Masterworks: Bodhi Luke Fortunato was born at home on Apr. 13th. Sister Ivy and brother Cedar are thrilled to have a new baby in the house and regularly rate his smooch factor on a scale of 1 to 10."

JOYCE RAY (7/01): The Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT, has awarded Joyce a partial fellowship for Nov. '08. She's working on a middle-grade novel and a collection of children's poetry.

MARY ANN RODMAN's (7/00) new middle-grade WWII novel from Farrar Straux Giroux, *Jimmy's Stars*, came out Apr. 29, and it got two starred reviews (Booklist and Kirkus) pre-publication. Mary Ann writes, "I am also teaching writing workshops for both adults and kids at the Margaret Mitchell House in downtown Atlanta. Talk about a house with great writing vibes! By the time this newsletter comes out, I will also have presented a program on picture books for IRA, which is meeting in Atlanta in early May."

APRIL PULLEY SAYRE (7/00) was a featured author speaking at IRA in Atlanta and she'll be at ALA in Anaheim to accept the Theodore Seuss Geisel honor for *Vulture View*. To celebrate her new book, *Trout Are Made of Trees*, Charlesbridge is running a nationwide contest for classrooms K-3 to do earth-friendly activities. The prize is a school visit from Apr.

SHERRY SHAHAN's (7/07) collection of eerie short stories for middle-grade readers, *Wait Until Dark: Seven Scary Sleep Over Stories* (originally with Random House), has a new life with Mondo Publishing: *Spine-Chilling Tales That Will Creep You Out* ('09). Her poem "Brainy Object of Knowledge (a.k.a. BOOK)" appeared in The California Reader and her adult short story "Jesus Rides Shotgun" was published in Rogue Voice. Her article and photos

featuring the Jr. Iditarod Trail Dog Race appeared in Christian Science Monitor. Sherry recently visited schools as a featured author during the week-long Kern County Young Authors Fair.

MERIBETH SHANK (1/00) was recently honored for her work at Family Magazine with a Gold Editorial Award by the Parenting Publications of America, who recognized the July and Oct. '07 issues. Her monthly reviews of children's books, young adult books, and everything in between are a regular feature. The editor from Family Magazine reports: "For the second year in a row our very own wordsmith, Meribeth Shank (Meribeth's Book Reviews), brought in an award. This time it was Shiny Editorial Gold. The PPA Judges described Meribeth's Gold winning writing style in this way: 'A round-up of books about Stories For The Stormy Season in a Florida market makes great sense. The round-up of books about When Mom Can't Help handles a sensitive topic (bullying) with aplomb.'"

SARAH SULLIVAN (1/05) sold a poem to Cricket magazine.

ZU VINCENT's (1/06) novel *The Lucky Place* is now available from Front Street Press. And her essay "Mind the Gap" appears in the anthology *Through the Wardrobe: Your Favorite Authors on C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia*, edited by Herbie Brennan.

GRETCHEN WOELFLE's (7/00) middle-grade biography *Jeannette Rankin: Political Pioneer* (Boyd's Mills/Calkins Creek '07) has been selected for the 2008 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People and the 2008 Amelia Bloomer Project (compiled by the ALA Feminist Task Force).

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

MARION DANE BAUER just sold a Christmas picture book titled *Have You Heard? A Baby!* to Simon & Schuster.

DAVID GIFALDI's new middle-grade novel, *Listening for Crickets*, came out May 1 from Holt. David will be teaching and lecturing at the Oregon

Coast Children's Book Writers Workshop, July 14–18, 2008, in Oceanside, Oregon.

JULIE LARIOS was recently awarded a Washington State Arts Commission/Artist Trust Fellowship for a selection of her poetry for adults. Three of her poems were published in the Spring 2008 issue of Prairie Schooner, and a poem is forthcoming in Margie in the fall. She will be joining ten other children's book poets for the ALA's Poetry Blast! reading at the national ALA Conference in Anaheim in June.

TIM WYNNE-JONES writes: "*Rex Zero, King of Nothing*, published this spring by Farrar Straus Giroux, has received starred reviews in The Horn Book, Booklist, and School Library Journal. It has also been shortlisted for the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award. This is a Canadian prize juried by children. The competition is stiff: Ken Oppel, Christopher Paul Curtis, Kit Pearson, and Jean Little. So no big expectations, but pleasing to be in such good company."

MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

GINNY CONNORS' poems "Legacy" and "Whale Watch" appeared in the Caduceus, a publication associated with the Yale Medical Group Art Place. ("Legacy" originally appearing in her book *Barbarians in the Kitchen*.) "Her Turn in the Desert" won fourth prize in a contest and was published in Jane's Stories. "Living Room" will come out this spring in Connecticut Review and "Stones in her Pocket" will be in the May issue of English Teacher. "Unleashed" will appear in the anthology *Dog Blessings*, edited by June Cotner, which should be in print within a few months. She also appeared as the featured reader at poetry readings in two different area libraries within the past couple of months.

BETTY COTTER has had her book, *Roberta's Wood*, published recently by Five Star. Betty has been giving readings and doing book signings for it recently in RI and CT. Betty was named the fiction fellow for 2006 by the RI Council on the Arts.

RUTH WEBBER EVANS' poem "When People Ask About Wildlife On Our Property" has been

accepted by Beloit Poetry Journal for Aug. publication.

MYLES GORDON recently got word that he is an honorable mention for the AWP Intro Award with his poem "Katrina." Also, the book *Awake! A Reader for the Sleepless* was recently published from Soft Skull Press (New York) edited by Steven Lee Beeber, and includes his poem "Three A.M." The book also includes work by Franz Wright, Margaret Atwood, among others.

DREW HOOD's photo essay "Footloose" will be published in the spring issue of Hunger Mountain.

SHEILA KAVENY's poem, "Data Manager's Lament," has been published in the spring edition of Reverie.

MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

SUSAN AIZENBERG (1/92) received a 2008 Pushcart nomination for poems published in 2007. Recent poems and essays appear or are forthcoming in Prairie Schooner, *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry*, Blackbird, and the upcoming issue of Hunger Mountain.

SHARI ALVANAS (1/00) announces the availability of her chapbook, *Fade In*, from Finishing Line Press. It can be ordered for \$14 on www.finishinglinepress.com under "New Releases" or at the following address: Finishing Line Press, PO Box 1626, Georgetown, KY 40324. Ordering before May 7th guarantees free shipping! Shari lives in Rhode Island and currently teaches at the Univ. of Massachusetts and the Univ. of Rhode Island.

MAUREEN ALSOP's (7/06) first full collection, *Apparition Wren*, was recently released by Main Street Rag Press, www.apparitionwren.com. Her poem "Looking at John Rabbone's Painting 'Notes from the Blue Terrace'" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Nov. '07 by Typo Magazine. New poems have recently appeared or are soon pending in: Harpur's Palate, New Delta Review, Tampa Review, Many Mountains Moving and AGNI.

ELINOR BENEDICT (7/83) has an article "Carolyn Wright as Gypsy Scholar" in the current issue of The Iowa Review, which deals with Wright's

collection, *A Change of Maps*. Elinor also had a review of *Velocity* by Nancy Krygowski, winner of the 2006 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize, in the Mid American Review. Two of Elinor's own poems appeared in the Green Mountains Review double issue on American Apocalypse. *The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review* chose her poem, "Helicopters," for its new anthology. Southeast Review picked her poem, "Teacher," as a finalist in its 2007 contest issue. Upcoming in The Pisgah Review is "Other."

DICK BENTLEY's (1/92) second book *A General Theory of Desire* appeared in Jan., featuring previously published poems from 33 magazines. He's moved his teaching from Western New England College to Holyoke Community College, experimenting with writing techniques adapted from the Actors' Studio and "Method" acting.

RANDALL BROWN (7/06) has won the chapbook contest conducted by Flume Press, a small press affiliated with the literary editing and creative writing programs at California State Univ., Chico. His short-short story collection, *Mad to Live*, will become the latest book in the Flume Chapbook Series, and will be released in Aug. or Sept. of this year.

LAURA BURKHART (1/00) is the first writer-in-residence at Waimea Community Education on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

MALCOLM CAMPBELL's (1/08) short story, "The Whales Moved On," was selected by Tim Gautreaux as the 2008 Doris Betts Fiction Prize winner. The story will be published in the 2009 North Carolina Literary Review. Meanwhile, Malcolm continues work on his novel and reports that, "Despite my best intentions, I can't figure out how to keep my poetry from rhyming."

MICHAEL CARRINO (7/84) has a new chapbook out, *Autumn's Return to the Maple Pavilion* (Conestoga Zen Press). Copies are available from him at 32 Edgewater Ests., Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Michael has a photo show in Plattsburgh coming up in May.

BRAD DAVIS (1/95) has been demoted to Writer-in-Residence at Pomfret School (CT) where he no longer teaches or coaches or lives in a dormitory or earns a full salary. To scratch his classroom itch, he taught a section of intro to writing poetry this year at

the College of the Holy Cross (MA). *No Vile Thing*, the third in his four-book poetic sequence (in conversation with the 150 biblical psalms) was published by Antrim House in Feb. '08. He continues to direct, from Pomfret School, all things Broken Bridge (journal, contest, summer workshops), so if you know of any high school writers or artists looking for a late June, ten-day immersion experience in their art of choice (poetry, fiction, acting, drawing, or 3D assemblage), refer him or her to the Broken Bridge website: www.brokenbridge.us. Finally, for all who still can't seem to get his graduation lecture ("The Poetry of Conversion") out of their minds, it was revised, presented as a conference paper, and published recently in Surprised By Faith (2007: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, UK).

JEWEL DAVIS' (1/08) creative nonfiction story, "It's Free," will be published in Midway Journal this summer.

DELLANA DIOVISALVO (1/03) has poems that have appeared or are forthcoming in Soundings East, Pearl, Folio, River Oak Review, Euphony, Hayden's Ferry Review, Healing Muse, Sierra Nevada Review, Schuykill Valley Journal of the Arts, and Zone3. She also won the second place prize for the Rainmaker Award for Poetry.

EVAN FALLENBERG (1/01) will be reading from his recently published novel, *Light Fell*, in Chicago (May 22) and San Francisco (May 25) and would be thrilled to meet friends old and new there. For details: <http://www.evanfallenberg.com/events.html>. Reviews of *Light Fell* can be found at <http://www.evanfallenberg.com/home.html>. Evan's translation of *A Pigeon and a Boy* by Meir Shalev is a finalist for the PEN/Book-of-the-Month Translation Prize, which will be awarded at Lincoln Center on May 19.

KATE FETHERSTON (7/04) has poems coming out in Cave Wall and Nimrod. She's been named to the editorial board of InterPoezia, an international magazine presenting poetry and short prose in Russian and English. Kate was recently awarded a residency at the Vermont Studio Center for Vermont Artists Week.

HARRISON FLETCHER's (7/06) essay, "Beautiful City of Tirzah," (yes, that old chestnut) was recently named as a finalist in the 2007 Santa Fe

Writers Project Literary Awards judged by Robert Own Butler. He also has a lyric essay, "Hardwood," due out in Cimarron Review this spring.

JENNIFER FOERSTER (7/07) received the Stegner Fellowship in Poetry starting next fall at Stanford. You can read about it at: www.stanford.edu/group/creativewriting/fellows.html. She says she is "looking forward to the opportunity to study poetry further with a group of writers, and I'm grateful to Vermont College for having inspired and supported me!"

MARY LEE COE FOWLER's (7/90) memoir *Full Fathom Five: A Daughter's Search* (ISBN 978-0-8173-1611-2) came out at the end of Apr. from The Univ. of Alabama Press. It uncovers the fate and character of her submarine-commander father, lost at sea in WWII before she was born. Fowler's search through naval archives, interviews with veterans who served with her father, and annals of submarine warfare reveals the dangers of submarine service, the sacrifices demanded of the WWII generation, and the long-term damage experienced by families of those who don't come home from war. More info, with schedule of upcoming book-talks at maryleecoefowler.com

DIANNA HENNING, (1/89) has just been awarded a California Council for the Humanities Grant and will be working at Lassen Community College with Native Americans—Maidu, Pitt River and Paiute—telling their stories. She also read through Poets & Writers for National Poetry Month, and spearheaded a creative writing festival for National Poetry Month also funded through Poets & Writers. She read earlier in the year through the arts council. Henning was selected by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission's Poet Laureate Committee for "All Poets on Deck"—a project to pay homage to first-wave area poets and to encourage literary awareness—the selected poets will be hand drawn on one side of a card and there will be poem on the other side. Henning recently published in: Seattle Review, Poetry International, South Dakota Review, Ginosko (on-line); Poetry Now; Blue Fifth Review (on-line) and in Hawai'i Pacific Review's "Best of the Decade 1992-2007. Dianna has work forthcoming in Red Rock Review and in Poetry Now. She also had a story published in Red Rock Review. Henning is seeking a publisher for her new manuscript entitled

"Scratch." She continues as facilitator for the Thompson Peak Writers' Workshop.

BERT HIRSCHHORN's (7/94) new books just out include a chapbook, *The Terrible Crystal*, published by Hearing Eye (London), and a full collection, *Mourning in the Presence of a Corpse*, published by Dar Al Jadeed (Beirut). Anyone interested in purchasing may contact him directly, bertzpoet@yahoo.com.

MARNI JAMESON's (7/87) new book, *The House Always Wins: America's Most Trusted Home Columnist's Guide to Creating Your (Almost) Perfect Dream Home* is now available. *The House Always Wins* offers a compulsively readable, humorous, yet practical guide to a headache-free home makeover for anyone decorating a new house or updating an old one. To learn more about the book and its author visit: marnijameson.com

MAGGIE KAST's (7/01) "Shared Labyrinth," a sort of parable about liberal religion, is out in the Apr. issue of Rosebud. "Joyful Noise," a story that first appeared in The Sun, will be anthologized in *Loving You to Pieces*, a collection about raising special needs children, due out in June from Beacon.

THOMAS KENNEDY (1/85) receives our congratulations for winning the 2008 ELLIE, the most prestigious essay award in America. The Best Essays category recognizes excellence in essay writing on topics ranging from the personal to the political. Tom was the winner for "I Am Joe's Prostate," from New Letters (Vol. 73, No. 4, Summer '07). He was honored at the 43rd Annual National Magazine Awards on May 1, 2008 at the Lincoln Center in New York. Kennedy's essay was one of the six finalists that included work from The Atlantic, ELLE, Entertainment Weekly, Harper's Magazine, and The New Yorker. Among the other authors were Stephen King and Walter Kern.

ANN KILLOUGH's (7/02) book, *Beloved Idea* (Alice James, 2007), has recently won the PEN New England L.L. Winship Award.

RON KLASSNIK (1/06) will be giving a reading from his new book, *Holy Land*, on May 30, at 7 p.m. at Stain Bar, 766 Grand St, Brooklyn, NY.

CONNIE LEISURE (7/07) had her essay "The Anatomy of Symbol" accepted by The Writer's Chronicle for an upcoming issue.

LISA LENARD-COOK's (7/93) book about writing fiction, *The Mind of Your Story*, is just out from Writer's Digest Books & will be their book club's main selection in June. Links to interviews, reviews, & an updated schedule of events can be found at Lisa's website, www.lisalenardcook.com. Here's the current list:

- May 6th . Bookworks . Albuquerque NM
- May 13th . Maria's . Durango CO
- May 28th . Writer's Digest/Book Expo Writers' Conference . Los Angeles CA
- June 7th . SouthWest Writers . Albuquerque NM
- June 15th . Borders West . Coors Bypass . Albuquerque NM
- June 21st-26th . Santa Barbara Writers Conference . Santa Barbara CA
- June 28th . The Works . Pacific Grove CA
- June 29th . Keplers . Menlo Park CA
- July 2nd . Book Passage . Corte Madera CA
- July 12th . Cortez Library . Cortez CO

Please come by if you're in any of these neighborhoods. Lisa would love to catch up with old friends & meet some new ones.

ANNIE LIGHTHART (7/06) is a winner of the 2007-2008 Artsmith Literary Award in Poetry judged by Marvin Bell. Annie and two other prize-winners will attend a private workshop with Bell on Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands, and read alongside him in a live performance of *A River & Sound Review* at the Orcas Performing Arts Center on May 31, 2008. Her manuscript, *Iron String*, was a finalist for the 2007 Levis Poetry Prize from Four Way Books.

RICHARD LUTMAN (1/90) has stories appearing in The Green Silk Journal and Verdad. He was a semi-finalist in the 2007 Writers for a New Millennium short short competition.

REBECCA MARTIN (1/08) has a short story, "The Island of Touches," appearing in the spring issue of The Dos Passos Review. The first of her "Dispatches from Moscow," where she is currently teaching, has been posted on McSweeney's Internet Tendency (<http://www.mcsweeneys.net>).

MARIE MCGRATH (1/08) writes in: "I just want to let you know that issue # 2 of our online journal, iddie, is now live at www.iddie.net. I hope you enjoy it!"

MARIE OSTARELLO's (1/01) personal essay, "A History with Trees," has been published in the current (spring '08) edition of Fourth Genre. It's a story about her relationship with her father.

LYNN PEDERSEN (7/07) writes that her poem "How to Speak Nineteenth Century" appears in the current issue of the New England Review, and "How to Move Away" is forthcoming in Cider Press Review.

SARA RATH (7/89), for the third year, will be teaching a class at The Clearing in Ellison Bay, WI. "Writing Personal Fiction" is scheduled for June 22-27. Check out their website, www.theclearing.org for more information. The Clearing is a Danish folk school in a beautiful setting on the water. She will also be teaching a one-day workshop there on Oct. 3rd. Sara's second novel, *Night Sisters*, will be published by the Univ. of Wisconsin Press this Oct. but early copies may be available for a book launch at the Wonewoc Spiritualist Camp. *Night Sisters* is the story of a woman who plays around with mediumship and gets involved with a devious spirit who reveals a lot of dark shadows. Her first novel, *Star Lake Saloon and Housekeeping Cottages*, was a midwest bestseller and she is still doing readings and booksignings for it. Wisconsin Public Radio featured *Star Lake Saloon and Housekeeping Cottages* on their program "Chapter a Day," so it got tremendous exposure in the midwest. UW-Press is carrying her poetry collection, *Dancing With A Cowboy*, in its latest catalog. And, she will have a short story, "Naked Ladies," in a special edition of The Chautauqua Literary Journal.

RACHEL RESNICK's (1/95) *Love Junkie: A Memoir* is forthcoming from Bloomsbury this fall. Resnick also has an essay in the new anthology *The Time Of Our Life: Writers On The Heartbreak, Hormones, And Debauchery Of The Prom*, (Flying Dolphin Press, May '08).

DANA ROZIER's (1/07) "The Wave Function" got accepted by Isotope: A Journal of Literary Nature & Science Writing, for future publication.

CHIVAS SANDAGE (1/06) was a recent guest columnist for Northampton's Daily Hampshire Gazette, writes a cross-genre blog (www.csandage.wordpress.com), teaches World Literature & Composition at Westfield State College and is choreographing a duet to perform with the site-specific multimedia installation "Project Intersect" in May.

KASSY SCRIVNER's (7/07) poem "Without" has been accepted for Vol. 1, Issue 1 of Superstition Review, an online journal of literature and the arts, which will launch Apr. 28, 2008. Her poem "4am, Words for a Friend" has been selected for a forthcoming issue of the online journal Word Riot.

MYRA SHAPIRO (1/93) and **ALISON TOWNSEND** (7/92) are in the latest issue of River Styx together; she was one of the winners of the River Styx International Poetry Contest, and Myra has a poem there as well. Myra comments that "years go by before many of us who shared MFA time in Vermont (and Destin!) see each other, but we meet each other's work in periodicals, and that's such a satisfying, family feeling."

SHELAGH SHAPIRO (1/03) is hosting a radio show called Write the Book, on low-power radio station in Burlington, WOMM 105.9 FM. on Saturday mornings at 9:30. Also, all shows will be podcast and available at writethebook.podbean.com. They're also up on iTunes now, and people can subscribe there. First guests are/will be: David Huddle, Douglas Stewart (literary agent), Elizabeth Bluemle (VC MFA - Children's), Annie Downey (VC MFA - Fiction), Laura Williams McCaffrey, Amy Huntington (Illustrator), Chris Bohjalian, David Budbill, Caroline Mercurio (in her role as Hunger Mountain editor), and Gary Clark (writing program director of the Vermont Studio Center).

HEIDI SHAYLA (1/00) won a Pushcart Award for her story, "Himmelen," first published in Georgia Review, now in this year's Pushcart anthology.

INGRID SILVERSTEIN (1/08) writes in that a writer (Linda Sands) has started a new ezine. She runs a monthly short story competition---the prize is \$150 and the story gets published for the month it won, as well as being published in their annual anthology. Ingrid was just informed by the editors of the competition that she won for the month

of Feb. with her short story, "Hysterecovery". For any readers of our newsletter who want to send in submissions for this contest, the way to get more info and to enter, is by going to: www.scratchcontest.net.

MARCUS SMITH (7/07) has poems in and forthcoming in Stand, Poetry Scotland, Orbis, Texas Review and Classical Outlook; reviews in The Georgia Review, Pleiades, Green Mountains Review and Rattle.

CHRISTOPHER SODEN's (1/05) "Queer Anarchy," which he wrote and produced, won The Dallas Voice Reader's Choice Award for Best Stage Production.

BRUCE SPANG (7/01) has a new book of poems coming out this month from Moon Pie Press, titled *To the Promised Land Grocery*. People can find out about it at www.moonpiepress.com. As Reviews Editor for the Café Review, Bruce is finding writers who want to do reviews of poetry. He is looking for writers, not necessarily poets, who have a flare for analyzing as well as exciting readers in reading new books. You can e-mail him at bps@maine.rr.com with examples of your literary reviews. Please go to www.thecafereview.com to see examples of the reviews that they have done.

JANAKA STUCKY (7/03) as founder and managing editor of Black Ocean, writes: "One of our books, *The Man Suit*, was just chosen by the NY Public Library as one of the "25 Books to Remember" from 2007. Although the book itself isn't written by a VC alum, all our editors are VC alum (me, Carrie Adams, Susan McCarty, Allison Titus and Paige Ackerson-Kiely). It's a pretty big deal for us, since the list customarily includes big presses like Random House, Knopf, and Harper Collins--and the books are often NY Times Bestsellers or National Book Award Winners. Not to mention the only other 2 poetry books to make the list this year were by Robert Hass and Margaret Atwood. You can see the full list here: <http://www.nypl.org/branch/books/index2.cfm?LISTID=370>. We also have just published Rauan Klassnik's first collection, "*Holy Land*," endorsed by Gary Young, David Rivard and Michael Martone. Rauan is touring behind the book between May and Sept., with appearances from San Francisco to Boston."

KRISTEN TRACY's (7/98) first teen novel, *Lost It*, was published last year by Simon & Schuster. Her second teen novel, *Crimes of the Sarahs*, was also published by Simon & Schuster and came out this spring. Her first middle-grade novel, *Camille McPhee Fell Under the Bus*, will be published next year by Random House with a second novel to follow in 2010. Her poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in Threepenny Review, Prairie Schooner, TriQuarterly, New York Quarterly, Puerto del Sol, and AGNI. She recently found out that Ted Kooser has selected her poem "Rain at the Zoo" to be reprinted in *American Life in Poetry*. She lives and writes in San Francisco, where she is very very happy.

VALERIE WOHLFELD WELLS (1/83) has poems in, or forthcoming in, Prairie Schooner, The Yale Review, Northwest Review, Pinyon, and Ellipsis.

JOSH WILKER (1/99) appeared on Wisconsin Public Radio on March 31st reading a short essay from his baseball card blog. The show should be in the WPR archives.

PAULA YUP (7/83) has had two poems, "A Day in China" and "A Year Later," published in the Spring '08 issue of Wavelength as well as "Taken Again" published in the Jan. '08 issue of Off The Coast.

MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

ABBY FRUCHT has been awarded the Kay S. Levin Short Nonfiction Award from the Council for Wisconsin Writers. She has a new personal essay forthcoming in Real Simple magazine, and is very happy to report that in response to an essay she published last year in the anthology, *For Keeps*, she has been invited to help out at the wonderful aid organization, American Friends of le Kinkeliba, which in addition to undertaking many ongoing social, humanitarian, and medical projects, is in the process of constructing an entire community in Senegal designed to treat, house, and heal women and girls who have suffered obstetrical fistulas.

PHILIP GRAHAM recently published "Bird With Stone," a chapter from his novel-in-progress *Invisible Country*, in F Magazine #7. He also reviewed J.M.

Coetzee's novel, *Diary of a Bad Year*, in The New Leader, Nov./Dec. '07: (<http://www.thenewleader.com/>). His most recent dispatches from Lisbon, published in McSweeney's Internet Tendency, are "We Capture the Castle," Dec. 14, '07, and "Salvage," Mar. 28, '08 (<http://www.mcsweeney.net/links/philipgraham/index.html>). An article about his dispatches, "*Um Americano em Lisboa*" (including excerpts of his work in Portuguese translation), appeared in Notícias Magazine, Lisbon, Portugal, Jan. 20, '08. In Feb. '08 he gave a reading and ran workshops on literary travel writing at the 6th Geneva Writers' Conference, Geneva, Switzerland; also in Feb. he gave a reading, with Alma Gottlieb, from their co-authored memoir of *Africa, Braided Worlds* (forthcoming, Univ. of Chicago Press, '09) at the Univ. of North Carolina, Asheville.

ROBIN HEMLEY is the recipient of a 2008 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship.

RICHARD JACKSON will be conducting workshops at The American School in Leysin, Switzerland and the Univ. of Primorska in Slovenia in May, and also giving readings at both places. In June he will be doing a week long workshop at the Univ. of Iowa and in July at the Prague Summer Program. His poems will be appearing or have appeared in Georgia Review, Poems and Plays, Fourth River, Ecotone, Prairie Schooner, Rattle and Atlanta Review. He led a panel at AWP in New York and participated on another.

DIANE LEFER will read with other contributors to the new multicultural anthology *A Stranger Among Us* at Book Soup, 8818 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, CA on June 25 at 7:00 PM. She will speak on the subject of art and activism at a panel sponsored by PEN USA West on July 13. Time and place to be determined.

NATASHA SAJE's manuscript-in-progress was awarded the Alice Fay di Castagnola award from the Poetry Society of America, judged by Dean Young.

SUE SILVERMAN's Lifetime television original movie of memoir, *Love Sick*, will be re-broadcast on Monday, May 26. Check local listings for times in your area.

DOMENIC STANSBERRY's new novel, *The Ancient Rain*, received starred reviews in Kirkus and Booklist, and was also named one of the top Ten Crime Novels of 2007-08 by Booklist.

LESLIE ULLMAN will be teaching in the Taos Writing Salon July 20-25, along with Gladys Swan and James Nave. Nave is the director, and this will be their fifth year. She will also be teaching in the Post-Graduate Writer's conference at Vermont College of Fine Arts Aug. 8 – 14.

NANCE VAN WINCKEL's fifth book of poems, *No Starling*, is recently out with Univ. of Washington Press. She will be the Stadler Poet in Residence at Bucknell in spring '09.

ROGER WEINGARTEN has been named Co-editor of Interpoezia, a Russian/American online journal that will be moving to two issues a year, and begin publishing books this summer. *Stranger at Home: American Poetry with an Accent*, co-edited with Andrey Gritsman, MFA grad., will be published by Interpoezia Press in late summer. He will be teaching at the 2nd session of The Prague Writing Seminars, Jul. 14-25, and at The Postgraduate Writers' Conference, Aug. 8-14.
<http://www.tui.edu/pgwc/>.

Newsletter Editors: Louise Crowley, Melissa Fisher,
Katie Gustafson, Susannah Noel.