

MFA IN WRITING

VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
Union Institute & University

NEWSLETTER

August, 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to our summer graduates in both MFA in Writing and MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults; we had two wonderful residencies and graduation ceremonies. We would like to thank the MFA in Writing graduates for their very generous gift of a minority scholarship fund in memory of Lynda Hull; it is much-needed and deeply appreciated! Anyone who would like to give to this fund may send a check made out to MFA in Writing, VT College to Louise Crowley, Vermont College, 36 College St., Montpelier, VT (and please put Lynda Hull Fund in the note section). Or, contact Louise if you would like to donate by credit card. And many thanks to the MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults for their gift of wireless microphones; it is much appreciated.

MFA in Writing Faculty **CHRISTOPHER NOEL** and **ELLEN LESSER** are doing manuscript consulting work. If interested, please visit their web site www.greenmountainprose.org: [Lesser's Sample Feedback](#); [Noel's Sample Feedback](#); [Our Books & Bios](#); [Client Testimonials](#); [Practical Details](#); [Contact Us](#) - **Green Mountain Prose**: Writing is a solitary craft, yet authors don't create most effectively in a vacuum. Traditionally, they have turned to teachers, editors, fellow writers and other trusted readers for insight and inspiration. In our own lives as working writers and long-time teacher-editors, we have seen the power of skillful, constructive mentoring to move a writer toward her/his goals. Green Mountain Prose provides such professional feedback and guidance to aspiring and accomplished writers at all stages of their development. The aim of our editorial services is to help bring each original manuscript to its fullest realization, while supporting the artistic

growth and literary ambitions of the individual writer. Our work with manuscripts begins with a close, respectful reading, during which we annotate the pages to provide careful line-editing, as well as to highlight broader issues—thematic, structural, technical, stylistic, and character-related. We then compose a detailed response to the author, brainstorming about the work and its possibilities, offering observations, reflections and concrete suggestions for revision. We encourage clients to fulfill the potential of a given project through thoughtful rewriting, and invite submissions of revised manuscripts for follow-up consultation. We also offer feedback on successive projects for clients who desire an ongoing editorial relationship.

*** A Note of Thanks ***

I'd like to thank Rick Jackson for organizing the VC trip to Slovenia in 2002. What a fabulous experience that was. We studied hard, work-shopped hard, met Slovene poets, and toured Slovenia. What a beautiful country! I had such a fabulous time that my new husband Keith and I went back for a two week honeymoon. We've just returned. We visited many of the same places and some others. It was just as gorgeous as I remembered. If it weren't for Rick and the Vermont College Slovene residency, we wouldn't have had that trip. Thank you, Rick. And thank you Clare Rossini and Pam Painter, the drivers: Steve Longfellow and Wendy Carlisle, all the other great students who were there, and Louise for helping to facilitate EVERYTHING at VC. Mary Stebbins Taitt.



CONTESTS

Hunger Mountain is accepting submissions to the first **HUNGER MOUNTAIN CREATIVE NONFICTION PRIZE** until **Sept. 10th**; please visit the website for guidelines: www.hungermtn.org. This year's judge is Sue William Silverman and there is a \$1,000 prize winner and two \$100 honorable mentions. The winning entry will appear in the Spring '08 issue.

THE BELLWETHER PRIZE FOR FICTION

2007-2008 Prize Cycle - Only one manuscript will receive the Bellwether Prize in a given year. Author of the winning manuscript will receive \$25,000, and will enter into a publishing contract with a publishing company in agreement with the Bellwether Board of Directors in a given prize year, and named on the application form. The author of the winning manuscript is expected to work with a publishing editor on final manuscript preparation prior to publication. Deadline for submissions is **Oct. 5, '07**. Applicants for the Bellwether Prize must be U.S. citizens who have some previous publication record but who have not previously published a book that sold more than 10,000 copies. Manuscript must be an original, previously unpublished novel at least 80,000 words in length. All submissions must be accompanied by an application form and \$25 processing fee. For guidelines and a downloadable application, go to www.bellwetherprize.org

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

The alumni of the Writing for Children & Young Adults program are pleased to announce the formation of an alumni association. Plans for a website, all class retreats, regional events, and other activities are in the works. For more information log on to the MFA Writing for Children & Young Adults forum at www.mfastudentforum.com or email Tami Lewis Brown at tamilewisbrown@yahoo.com.

FROM TOD OLSON: Tod Olson is writing a four-book series of illustrated historical fiction for National Geographic conceived and packaged with sometime faculty member Marc Aronson. He also works as a nonfiction editor for Scholastic and from time to time needs good nonfiction writers with

experience in the school/library or trade markets. Contact him at todolson@aol.com.



MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS STUDENT NEWS

GWENDA BOND: The Endicott Studio's Journal of Mythic Arts included my short story "Cassie Says" in its special 2007 summer issue focusing on mythic fiction for young adults. The issue can be found online at: <http://www.endicott-studio.com/jMA07Summer/index.html>

I also have two tongue-in-cheek advice columns, under the guise of "Dear Aunt Gwenda," in *The Best of Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*, an anthology from Del Ray that will be out in late Aug. The book collects work from the "tiny but celebrated" LCRW Zine's 10-year history.



MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS ALUMNI NEWS

PENNY BLUBAUGH (1/99) writes: I just sold my book, *Serendipity Market*, to Laura Geringer Books! It's a series of retellings of fairy tales set in the framework of a gathering that's organized whenever the world goes out of true and needs shared experiences to set things right. Editor is Jill Santopolo (who's in her third semester in the MFAWC&YA program). Agent is Erin Murphy. It should be out in winter 08/09.

LYNN CASSELLA-KAPUSINSKI's latest book, *Now What Do I Do? A Guide to Help Teenagers with Their Parents' Separation or Divorce*, recently received a 2nd place book award from the Catholic Press Association.

MARA MILLER ('99) came back and had a wonderful and inspiring time as a graduate assistant for the MFA program this summer. She found the program healthy and exciting. Mara has two nonfiction books out with Enslow Publishers, one on terrorism and the other on Hurricane Katrina. Her third book will be released in Dec. and is about the Little Rock Crisis of 1957. She is currently writing about 9/11. She is not quite sure how she became

a master of disaster, but she is looking forward to writing fiction again

SHENAAZ NANJI's (1/04) *Indian Tales*, an anthology of tales from different regions of India, will be released in U.S.A and England this fall. The book takes you on a journey across India and includes tales of romance, mystery, and magic. The stories are illustrated in vibrant Rajasthani colors by the award-winning artist Christopher Corr, who has illustrated several children's books including a Royal Mail millennium stamp about the UN Peace-keeping Force in Bosnia. His paintings have also appeared on posters and book jackets (editions of George Orwell's novels for Penguin and the cover for Vikram Seth's, *A Suitable Boy*)

KATHY NUZUM'S (7/03) novel, *A Small White Scar*, has been selected for the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Master List.

EMILY SMITH PEARCE (7/99) shares this news: "My first novel, *Isabel and the Miracle Baby*, is due in Sept. from Front Street Books. My husband Todd, daughter Mira, and I are also expecting the arrival of a baby boy in Aug."

APRIL PULLEY SAYRE (1/00) writes with news about her new book, *Unfold Your Brain*: "It is a very practical book for people in the business of writing, art, or music. It's also a workbook/playbook for those just beginning to explore their artistic side. It explores crossover creativity—spurring your own art by dabbling in other forms. You can purchase the book, or preview the table of contents and a few chapters on this site:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/531527>.

With the help of skilled editors and professional designers, I created this book. I hope you'll take a look and purchase one. Share the book with reading groups, friends, family—anyone who might benefit. I hope that people will give it as a loving gift. That, to me, would be the greatest compliment. In that way, the book might find a life of its own."

SHERI SINYKIN (1/03) announces the publication of her middle-grade novel, *Giving Up the Ghost*, from Peachtree in Oct., '07. Its book jacket confirms that Peachtree will also publish her first picture book, *Zayde Comes to Live*, but an illustrator and a publication date have not yet been decided upon. Sheri worked on her novel in workshops and

during two of her four semesters of the program. It is her first published book in nine years, and comes on the heels of the birth of her first grandchild, Brayden Raine Sinykin, in Arizona.



MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

JULIE LARIOS has had a poem chosen for the second year in a row for *The Best American Poetry* anthology. The poem, titled "What Bee Did," was originally published in The Cortland Review, and was chosen by this year's BAP editor, Heather McHugh. Three other poems are in the current online edition of SWINK.



MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

NICK BENSON just heard that he has received a translation fellowship from NEA to work on his Palazzeschi translation.

JEWEL B. DAVIS' "The Visiting Tsatsky" was just accepted into Lilith Magazine. Published since 1976, Lilith Magazine charts Jewish women's lives with exuberance, rigor, affection, subversion and style. The magazine features award-winning investigative reports, new rituals and celebrations, first-person accounts both contemporary and historical, entertainment reviews, fiction and poetry, art and photography. Jewel had another story accepted for publication in Bent Pin Quarterly in the first week in July. It's entitled, "Not From the Horse's Mouth."



MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

SUSAN AIZENBERG (1/92) has been appointed to a three-year term as director of the creative writing program at Creighton Univ. Earlier this year she was nominated by Maura Stanton for a Pushcart Prize.

MAUREEN ALSOP's (7/06) first full collection of poetry, *Apparition Wren*, is forthcoming from Main Street Rag in Nov. '07. She will be reading for The Burning Chair Reading Series, Jimmy's No.43 Stage 43 East 7th Street between 2nd & 3rd Avenues

NYC... Nov. 30th at 8pm. She will also read at the Coffee Cartel in Redondo Beach, CA. New poems are forthcoming in Cafe Review, Typo and Rougarou. *Apparition Wren* advanced discount sales available at...

www.mainstreetrag.com/store/ComingSoon.php

Her poem "Sky Hour Lumiere, Circa 1936" won the 2007 Frances Locke Memorial Poetry Award.

NIN ANDREWS's (7/95) new book, *Sleeping with Houdini* is due out in Oct.! It will be published by BOA.

ELINOR BENEDICT (7/83) has two poems coming out in the "Apocalypse" issue of the Green Mountains Review this fall. Also she will have work in coming issues of Southeast Review and Comstock Review. She has work in the recent anthologies *Flowers by Day, Leaves by Night, On Retirement* and *Manthology*. Her review of David Young's poetry collection, *Black Lab*, appears in the current issue of Ohioana. The manuscript of her new collection, *Late News from the Wilderness*, is "going the rounds."

CAROLE BORGES (7/86) writes: "I'm happy to report that my non-fiction writing career is resulting in a lot of assignments. I've sold several feature articles and essays to local newspapers, and I also have a boating article coming out this summer in Pacific Yachting. A poem and short essay I wrote will also appear in the same magazine. This summer I will be teaching a 3 day workshop called "Writing Your Family Memories" at Pellissippi Technical College here in Knoxville".

ROCHELLE BRENER (1/89) writes: "Haven't spoken to you guys in years - moved from Albany, NY to Sedona AZ back in '02...let's look at '04 - my book, *Snap Shots: Photo Op Poems from an Everyday Life* won first place in the Writer's Digest International Competition in the self-published poetry book category. It got rave comments and I was happy to have done it all - much of the work had been done at VC...same year, same digest, I won honorable mention in a rhymed poetry competition for my sonnet "Poetry." Self-published *The Magnitude of Red*. I had such fantastic experience publishing that I set myself up as a small-press poetry publisher (CrystalWings Publishing, Inc.), specializing in the work of young and emerging poets. I had the honor of publishing the work of Kira Bonner, a (then) 13-year-old poet, David Ward then 18), and Karen

Squire, 35. In '05, I won third place in the Arizona state poetry society competition for a short poem, "eyes only" and publication in the journal Sand Cutters. Same year, I self-published the book *Calling the Night Away*. '05 publication of the poem "Artifacts" in The Healing Muse, '06 brought first place for best 3-line poem "Young Poet Rising" and honorable mention in the poet's choice category for "Love, Briefly" - both in the Million Dollar Muse contest. This year I was awarded an "emerging artist materials grant" from the Sedona Arts Commission... and I just got married - June 30 - to a fine artist/political activist/poet that I've been with for the past 17 years".

ELLIE BRYANT (7/00) just sold a CNF manuscript to Cooper Dillon Books in NY...due out May '08!

MAGGIE BUCHOLT (1/05) has an essay in *Desire: Women Write About Wanting*, edited by Lisa Solod Warren, to be published by Seal Press, Avalon Publishing Group, in Nov.

WALTER BUTTS (1/95) has a poem forthcoming in Birmingham Poetry Review, and a chapbook, *What to Say if the Birds Ask*, has just been accepted by Pudding House Publications

ANN HAGMAN CARDINAL (7/07) was a recipient of the 2007 Anson Kittredge Foundation grant. She also had a creative non-fiction piece accepted for the winter issue of American Scholar Magazine. In addition, her first novel *Sister Chicas*—co-authored with two other Latina writers—won second place in the Latino Book Awards' Mariposa Awards for Best First Book in English at the recent BookExpo in NYC.

ALEXANDRA CHASIN's (1/02) short story "Two Alphabets" is in the latest issue of Denver Quarterly.

SOLANA D'LAMANT (1/90) will present an academic paper to the South Central Modern Language Association in Oct., '07 in Memphis. Her topic is "Absent Voices of Women: The Poetry of Lina Zeron." This paper is a continuation of the previous SCMLA paper, "The Three Voices of Lina Zeron." She also presented a paper to the Rocky Mountain History Association entitled, "First a Gate, Then a Wall: Illegal Immigration in T.C. Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain*." In Nov., '07, Solana will present a program entitled *The Music of Language*," which

partners dance and translated poetry at the American Literary Translator's Association 30th anniversary conference in Dallas. She was nominated in 2007 by The Raintown Review for the Pushcart Prize for her poem, "The Soul as Dill Pickle."

DEBORAH DENICOLA (1/83) would like to announce to friends and acquaintances that her new chapbook poetry collection from Finishing Line Press, *Inside Light*, is coming out this Sept. The press run is determined by the advance sales and it works out best for me if you intend to order, that you order soon. Please note that if you place your order during the pre-publishing period (before Aug. 8th), shipping is FREE. After that, please add \$2.00 shipping. Books will be shipped after Sept. 7th. or, you can find the book online and order it directly from the New Release page at www.finishinglinepress.com

ANNE DE MARCKEN (7/05) recently received an Artist Trust GAP (Grant for Artist Projects) award to put toward costs associated with completing the collection of short stories she is currently working on. This grant will help make it possible for her to take the necessary time off from her regular work schedule in order to write. In addition, Artist Trust awarded Anne a stipend and month-long Hafer Residency on Camano Island, Washington, this Nov. What a gift! Time and money!

VIVIAN DORSEL (7/06) reports that upstreet number three is now available for sale in bookstores and online at www.amazon.com or www.upstreet-mag.org. This issue, featuring a 16-page interview with VCMFA alumnus Wally Lamb, contains work by seven other Program graduates: Patricia Crane, Nannette Crane, Joyce A. Griffin, Karen Michelle Otero, Shawne Steiger, Karen D. Taylor, and Frank Tempone. Submissions are currently being taken for Upstreet number four. The Fiction Editor is Robin Oliveira, the CNF Editor is Harrison Candelaria Fletcher, and the Editor/Publisher is Vivian Dorsel, all VCMFA graduates.

LES EDGERTON (1/97) writes that he was interviewed on NCB for a show on Little League baseball. He will also be one of the breakout presenters at the upcoming Book Expo America at the Javits Center in NYC. His presentation is on "Story Beginnings" and it will follow Jodi Picoult's keynote address. Les is also finishing up a scholarly/historical book on the world's largest

baseball scouting organization, Perfect Game USA, for McFarland Publishing. In a lucky happenstance, three weeks ago, ESPN signed a partnership agreement with Perfect Game, naming them "their experts on youth baseball," which should help sales considerably when *An Imperfect Game: How Showcase Giant Perfect Game is Creating the Real Field of Dreams* is out.

Les adds: "Just finished up my third (and final) year as the writer-in-residence at the Univ. of Toledo and am looking for a teaching gig. Any VC folks know of anything, please let me know!"

HARRISON CANDELARIA FLETCHER's (7/06) craft article, "Writing a Shadowbox: Joseph Cornell and the Lyric Essay," has been accepted for publication by The Writer's Chronicle. Another essay, "One Prayer," recently received an honorable mention in the 2006 New Millennium Writings Award, and is scheduled to appear in a forthcoming issue of Pilgrimage.

MARY JO FIRTH GILLET (7/96) will have her first full-length poetry collection, *Soluble Fish* out in Oct. '07. The book was the winner of the Crab Orchard/Southern Illinois Univ. Press First Book Award.

BETTYE GIVENS (8/83) having just returned from France, reported the 2007 Writing Workshop at the Paris American Academy the best yet. Included were three poetry readings at Shakespeare & Company and Club Universal. She agreed that this most successful summer. Bettye Givens Founder of the summer in France Writing Workshop since 1984 was honored for her imitative and creativity

KATHERINE HASTINGS (1/02), founder and host of the WordTemple Poetry Series in Santa Rosa, CA, has a new radio show, also called WordTemple, on PBS-affiliate KRCB FM. The show kicked off in Apr. '07 with beat poet Michael McClure and Jack Foley reading from his new book *All: A James Broughton Reader*. The May '07 show featured Kay Ryan. Future interviews include Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Brenda Hillman, Carolyn Kizer, Robert Hass, Nikki Giovanni and others. For more information, contact Katherine at khastings@wordtemple.com You can also visit her web site at www.wordtemple.com. Katherine is also this year's poetry organizer for the Sonoma County Book Festival that will take place in Santa Rosa on

Saturday, Sept. 15, '07. Some of the poets scheduled to read include California State Poet Laureate Al Young, Kay Ryan, Sharon Doubiago, Francisco X. Alaracón, Francisco Aragón, Jack and Adelle Foley, Molly Fisk, Jane Mead, Neeli Cherkovski, and Vermont College alum Jennifer K. Sweeney.

LOUISE HAWES (1/93) is currently on the Fiction faculty at Spalding Univ.'s MFA in Writing Program in Louisville, KY. This summer, she also mentored the Fiction workshop at Meredith College's 2007 June writers' retreat, "Focusing on Form," as well as the "Mainely Writers" retreat held the same month on Penobscot Bay, near Belfast, ME. In Sept., her historical novel, *The Vanishing Point*, will be issued as a paperback by Houghton Mifflin, and she will do readings from the book in the Raleigh area. From Oct.18-20, she will be a featured author at the 2007 Eudora Welty Symposium in Columbia, MS (<http://www.muw.edu/welty/>), where she will read from her 2007 collection, *Anteaters Don't Dream* (Univ. Press of Mississippi). Also in Oct., Louise will spend a week at the Mississippi Univ. for Women as a Writer in Residence. Her novel, *Waiting for Christopher* has been selected as the Univ.'s Freshman Book in Common, purchased for each first-year student in all four of the university's colleges. In Nov., she'll lead a class on the Short Story at the annual fall conference of the North Carolina Writers Network in Winston-Salem.

ALLISON ADELLE HEDGE COKE (7/95) American Book Award winning author of three poetry volumes, a memoir, a chapbook and editor of five anthologies has been appointed as the Distinguished Endowed Paul and Clarice Reynolds Chair in English (Poetry and Writing) at the Univ. of Nebraska, Kearney. Published work includes: *Dog Road Woman*, Coffee House Press, American Book Award, '98, *Rock, Ghost, Willow, Deer*, Univ. of NE Press, AIROS Book of the Month, '04 *Off-Season City Pipe*, Coffee House Press, Wordcraft Prize, '05, *The Year of the Rat*, Grimes Press, '05, *Blood Run*, Salt Publications (UK), '06.

PATRICIA SPEARS JONES's (1/92) collection, *Femme du Monde*, was reviewed in the Mar./Apr. Black Issues Book Review. *Repuestas*, a booklet from Belladonna Books came out in Feb. She has new poems in Hanging Loose #90. "The Halloween Suite" is anthologized in *The Broken Land* (NYU Press), and "Christmas Season, 2004" will be in The

PIP Gertrude Stein Awards for Innovative Poetry in English 2005-2006 from Green Integer. Patricia's "Cosmopolitan in Brooklyn" column in Calabar Magazine is garnering fans. *Song for New York: What Women Do When Men Sit Knitting*, a musical theater work commissioned by Mabou Mines is scheduled to premiere in Sept. '07. Patricia did the "Brooklyn Song." The composer is Lisa Gutkin who is a member of the Grammy winning group, the Klezmatics.

KATIE KINGSTON (1/93) was awarded the fourth annual Ruth Stone Prize in Poetry for her poem "What Does Lorca Own?" Her collection of poems, *Habitat*, was selected as a finalist for the May Swenson Poetry Award 2007 competition. Recent publications can be found in Hunger Mountain, Isotope, Nimrod, Many Mountains Moving, Runes, White Ink, and Words and Images. She has been awarded a grant from Fundación Valparaíso for a writing residency in Mojácar, Spain for the month of Sept. '07. www.katiekingston.com

PATRICIA LEE LEWIS (1/99) In Feb., Patricia will be leading her popular writing and yoga retreat in Guatemala. On serene Lake Atitlan, writers say the one week retreat (Feb.16-23), is perfect for recharging their creative selves. Then, in July, she heads to Isle of Cumbrae, off Scotland's wild coast, for another week long writing and yoga retreat (July 12-19). Details at: www.writingretreats.org.

LISA LENARD-COOK (7/93) has a few things to announce. There are only two openings left for her weekend intensive Sept. 21- 23 at Narrative Art Center's mountain retreat in Carson, NM. For more information or to enroll for her workshop (or one of the others being offered), please visit www.narrativeartcenter.com. In Dallas, she will be part of the fall line-up at Writer's Garret. She will be giving a reading at Paperbacks Plus Oct. 6th at 7:30 pm, and teaching an all-day workshop the next day from 10 am - 4 pm. More information on this, as well as Writer's Garret's other events, can be found at www.writersgarret.org.

SARAH MACLAY (7/02) writes the following: "Wild good news: one of my poems from *Whore* has been selected for inclusion in *The Best American Erotic Poems: 1800 to the Present*, due out in both paper and cloth from Scribner's on Valentine's day. And my next book, *The White Bride*, will be out

in early '08 (also from U of Tampa Press), though we don't have an exact date yet. Maybe by AWP? Will let you know."

KEVIN MCLELLAN (7/99) is an assistant poetry editor for the online journal 42opus; and he recent or forthcoming work in the following journals: barrow street, three candles and eucalyptus.

SANDRA NOVACK-GOTTSHALL (1/03) reports that the draft of her novel is nearly complete. She expects to make her Sept. delivery date to Random House.

DEB NOYES' (7/93) adult historical novel, *Angel and Apostle*, was a Book Sense pick. Her creative nonfiction book, *One Kingdom: Our Lives with Animals*, won an ASPCA Henry Bergh Award and was an ALA Best Book for Young Adults and a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age. New and forthcoming books include *When I Met the Wolf Girls*, illustrated by August Hall (Houghton, May '07), *The Restless Dead: Ten Stories of the Supernatural* (editor and contributor: Candlewick, Aug. '07), *Red Butterfly*, illustrated by Sophie Blackall (Candlewick, Nov. '07), *Prudence and Moxie*, illustrated by Anna Laura Cantone (Houghton, Spring '08), *Encyclopedia of the End: Mysterious Death in Fact, Fancy, Folklore, and More* (Houghton, Fall '08), *The Ghosts of Kerfol* (linked short stories for young adults, Candlewick, Sept. '08), and, as photo-illustrator, *African Acrostics*, acrostic poems by Avis Harley (Candlewick, Spring '09): www.deborahnoyes.com.

JAMIE PARSLEY's (7/99) seventh book of poems, *Just Once*, was published by Loonfeather Press. He has also had poems in recently in Arabesques Review, Conceit Magazine, Dispatch, Hot Metal Press, Right Hand Pointing, Sea Stories, The Solitary Plover and The Wilderness House Literary Review.

LAURA PRAH (1/07) reports that her story "Office Supplies," which she worked on while at VC, was accepted by The Massachusetts Review.

MEG RAINS (7/05) has a handful of poems forthcoming in Sou'wester, Karamu, REAL, and Caketrain.

SUZANNE RANCOURT (1/99) has two poems and photos in the newly released, *Letters to Fathers from*

Daughters: Letter for Healing Wyatt-MacKenzie Publishing, Inc. July '07. She will also be conducting two 6-week expressive writing sessions Aug. - Oct. One of them is in Troy, NY, the other in Amsterdam, NY. Attached below is a flyer:



WOMEN's writing
POSTER.doc

LAUREN RUSK, (1/05), served as Poet in Residence for Stanford Univ.'s overseas program in Berlin this spring, and gave readings in Oxford and at Warwick University in the UK. In addition, she's delighted that her Writer's Chronicle article on ekphrasis (Mar./Apr. '07) has been included in creative writing syllabi at several universities.

ADA JILL SCHNEIDER (7/01) has had her poetry manuscript, *Behind the Pictures I Hang*, accepted by Spinner Publications. It will be released this Nov.

CURT SMITH'S (7/96) new book, *The Species Crown*, is out from Press 53. It can be ordered from the press directly (www.press53.com) or through Amazon.

MARCUS SMITH's (7/07) poem "Famadihana (The Turning Of The Father)" is appearing in Southern Poetry Review as a finalist for the Guy Owen Prize. Poems "CE" and "Fires Here" also appearing in The Shop (Ireland) and Poetry Salzburg Review and a book review in Rattle.

SHAWNE STEIGER (1/06) just had a story accepted by the Trillium Literary Journal for their first issue. It's an on-line journal and is coming out in July.

VIRGINIA CHASE SUTTON (1/94) won the Samuel French Morse Poetry Prize for 2007. As a result, her book, *What Brings You To Delano*, will be published by the Univ. Press of New England in Oct. '07.

BILL WALSH (7/91) has been named Author of the Year in Poetry by the Georgia Writers for the anthology, *Under the Rock Umbrella: Contemporary American Poets from 1951-1977*.

BRIAN YANSKY's (7/02) young adult novel, *Wonders of the World*, will be released by Flux (Llewelyn) this June.



MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

We are pleased to announce that **RALPH ANGEL's** most recent collection, *Exceptions and Melancholies: Poems 1986-2006*, has just received the 2007 PEN USA Award for Poetry. In their commendation the judges write: "In his collection of selected poems, *Exceptions and Melancholies*, Ralph Angel has written poems of a sublime abstract lyricism. His work is striking for its provocative inventiveness, and it reflects a highly speculative poetic intelligence, one that's both philosophically elegant and lyrically charged. Meditative and mysterious, Angel's poetry tracks the subtle oscillations of consciousness against the backdrop of a culturally shifting and spiritually depleted world. While many of the nominated collections in this year's competition were strong, Angel's book shows ongoing artistic growth and cohesiveness that spans twenty years. His work continually surprises the reader with the aesthetic risks it takes. Yet, it is still possible to see the development of this poet's complex consciousness and deep humanity from his most recent poems back through the earliest work in this collection."

Ralph will receive a cash award, and will be honored at the 2007 PEN USA Literary Awards Ceremony and Dinner, Nov. 6, at the Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA. For information, contact Mann Productions, 323-314-7000. *Exceptions and Melancholies: Poems 1986-2006* is available from Sarabande Books (www.sarabandebooks.org), or from any online or retail bookseller.

PHYLLIS BARBER will be presenting a paper at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Calgary, Canada, on Oct. 4, 5, 6.

PHILIP GRAHAM continues publishing his series of dispatches from Lisbon, for *McSweeney's*: <http://www.mcsweeney.net/links/philipgraham/index.html>. Recent dispatches include "Those Tricky Subgestures," "Nearly the Same Substance," "Go, Whatchamacallits!" "Chama-Me Ismail," and "Another History Lesson." He has also filmed and edited another "video postcard" from Lisbon for

Ninth Letter, "Bring me the head of Diogo Alves!" <http://ninthletter.blogspot.com/2007/04/bring-me-head-of-diogo-alves.html>.

He has also guest-edited the MP3 Digest for *The Morning News*, featuring ten Portuguese songs: http://www.themorningnews.org/archives/digest/mp3s/18_july_2007.php.

His short story, "8:46," has recently appeared in The Los Angeles Review, and his essay, "Can You Hear Me Now?" will soon appear in *NOW WRITE!: Non-Fiction Writing Exercises from Today's Best Writers and Teachers*, edited by Sherry Ellis (Tarcher/Penguin).

RICHARD JACKSON has 2 poems in Helicon (Israel), 7 in Cantrapunct (Romania), also poems in Georgia Review, Southern Indiana Review, Marlboro Review, Prairie Schooner (2 poems), Atlanta Review, Sonora Review. Two of his poems also appeared in *Pushcart Anthology: The Best form 30 Years*, and three in *Evensong, an Anthology of Religious Poems*. An interview with him will appear this fall in Southern Indiana Review. He recently gave readings at the Ovidius Festival in Romania and also delivered a paper, and participated in the Golden Boat Translation Workshop in Slovenia after the Vermont College residency there where he also gave two readings of his Slovene Translations and his own poems. In May he brought students to conduct workshops at the Leysin American School in Switzerland, and tour Tuscany, and then Slovenia where gave a paper to the international students at Primorska Univ. His interview with Dara Wier and James Tate appeared in a recent Hunger Mountain, and he is poetry co-editor, with Natasha Saje of the upcoming HM issue. He judged the Zone 3 Poetry book contest, writing introductions for the two winners' books, and judged the Marlboro Review poetry contest. He has just completed a special International issue of Poetry Miscellany which can also be found on line at the UT-Chattanooga web site. He is teaching at the VC Post grad workshop this summer. The Meacham Writers' Workshops which he directs will take place Oct. 25, 26, 27: it is free and includes readings, workshops and informal gatherings. He will be reading at Austin Peay Univ. near Nashville Nov.1 and the Univ.of Michigan Oct. 4.

DAVID JAUSS will be giving a fiction reading on Sept. 12 at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. For more

information, please contact
Tracy.Quiqley@trincoll.edu.

DIANE LEFER read fiction and rabble-roused (roused the rabble?) at the West Hollywood Impeachment Rally on July 27 and the following night at a benefit for CodePink. Her interview with Tram Nguyen (author of *We Are All Suspects Now*) about immigrant communities after 9/11 appeared in the July issue of The Sun.

SUE WILLIAM SILVERMAN's essay, "The Pat Boone Fan Club," has been selected to appear in the *"Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction: Work from 1970 to the Present"* (Simon & Schuster), due out Dec. '07.

NANCE VAN WINCKEL's new collection of poems, *No Starling*, is just out from U. of Washington Press. Check it out at:
http://www.amazon.com/No-Starling-Pacific-Northwest-Poetry/dp/0295987367/ref=sr_1_1/104-3902525-0855161?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1185386144&sr=1-1

ROGER WEINGARTEN will be teaching, reading, and lecturing at the 12th Annual Vermont College Postgraduate Writers' Conference, Aug. 8-14. Schedule will be posted on conference website <http://www.tui.edu/pgwc/>. His 4-poem sequence, "Pedicured into the Weingarten of Earthly Delights: a Polyptych," just appeared in the Summer '07 issue of Cave Wall.

DAVID WOJAHN was recently informed by the Folger Shakespeare Library's Poetry program that he was the recipient of the 17th Annual O. B. Hardison, Jr. Poetry Prize. The Hardison Prize is the only major American prize to recognize a poet's teaching as well as his art. Wojahn will receive a \$10,000 cash award — one of the larger American poetry prizes — and a reading and reception at the Folger on Friday, Oct. 26, '07 at 7:30pm.



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