

MFA IN WRITING

MAY 2009

VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS NEWSLETTER

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Postgraduate Writers' Conference Still Accepting Participants! In a year when many summer conferences are closing their doors (see latest *Poets & Writers*), our own Postgraduate Writers' Conference is open for business, and ready for an exciting 14th annual session, Aug. 11-17. While some of our small-group workshops have filled, we do have openings with exceptional faculty in all genres, including for our special Poetry Manuscript sections. We also still have scholarship funding available for writers who need some assistance to attend. Both the workshop spaces and those funds will go quickly, so don't wait to contact Ellen Lesser at pgconference@vermontcollege.edu or (802) 828-8835 if you're interested. The Postgrad Conference continues to be a great way to come back to campus at a beautiful time of year and further your craft among a community of passionate fellow practitioners.

Glimpse.org, a non-profit website supported in part by the National Geographic Society, seeks to identify the best young writers and photographers with an interest in global affairs, who will be going abroad in the fall of 2009. Glimpse.org selects 10 correspondents each semester and provides them with a professional editor, career training in writing and photography, small grants to share their stories from abroad, and guaranteed publication on Glimpse.org. More information can be found at <http://glimpse.org/correspondents>.

The MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults Program is excited to be hosting the **VCFA Symposium on Good & Evil** on July 18, 2009. Guest speakers **Deborah Noyes** (MFAW 7/93), Nancy Werlin, and Stephen Roxburgh will present lectures, panel discussions, and readings on the topic of good and evil in books for young people. Other events will include a writing challenge, breakout groups, book signings, and a reception. All are welcome to join faculty, students, and alumni for this day-long conference. For more information or to register, contact Susannah Noel, Assistant Director, MFAWC, at Susannah.noel@vermontcollege.edu, 866-934-VCFA, ext. 8637.

CONTESTS

Hunger Mountain is pleased to announce the 2009 Howard Frank Mosher Short Fiction Prize. The sixth annual competition awards one \$1000 prize and publication, and two honorable mentions each receive \$100. **Please postmark entries by June 30, 2009.** This year's judge will be Andre Dubus, III, author of the collection *The Cage Keeper and Other Stories* and three novels, including *House of Sand and Fog*. Please check out our website at www.hungermtn.org for further details.

Hunger Mountain announces a new writing contest for writers of young adult (YA) and children's literature: the Katherine Paterson Prize. The contest, which is open to all writers, awards \$1,000 and publication in *Hunger Mountain's* new online arts journal, due to launch

NEA NEWS

We are pleased to announce that three alumni of the MFA in Writing Program are recipients of recent National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowships; congratulations go out to **Nickole Brown** (1/03), **Bob Hicok** (7/04) and **Maggie Jaffe** (1/01)!

this summer.

"We created the Katherine Paterson Prize because we wanted to support the work of young adult and children's writers," says *Hunger Mountain* managing editor Miciah Bay Gault. "We wanted a new way to honor the writers in this exciting field." The Katherine Paterson Prize is open to writers of young adult fiction, middle grade fiction, and picture books. Entries must be unpublished, and no more than 5,000 words. There is a \$20.00 entry fee. Deadline for entries is June 30, '09 (postmark date). The prize will be judged by Vermont native Katherine Paterson, critically acclaimed author of numerous children's books, including *Bridge to Terabithia*, *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, *Jacob Have I Loved*, and, most recently, *Bread and Roses, Too*. Katherine Paterson has won the Newbery Medal, the National Book Award, and scores of other awards and honors.

Esquire has a new short-story contest: \$2,500 prize and publication in Esquire. Deadline is Aug. 1; see <http://www.esquire.com/fiction/fiction-contest> for details.

SUBMISSIONS

Fogged Clarity is an online arts review releasing new issues every month at www.foggedclarity.com. This Sept. they will release the first print edition, which will be a compendium of the finest short fiction and poetry displayed online over the next five months. The current issue features an interview with author TC Boyle and past contributors include: Bruce Smith, Amy King, Michael Tyrell, Marcos Soriano, Ashok Niyogi, Mary Kasimor, Kristen O'Toole, Braden Wiley, Larry Sawyer, Ryan McCarl, Ikhida R. Ikheloa, Richard Cassone, and Dmitri Gheorgheni among others. Because they release each month they have a rolling submissions policy. All work should be sent to submissions@foggedclarity.com, and should be accompanied by a bio and complete contact information.

ANN ANGEL (1/99) calls for submissions to a collection of literary essays directed at birth parents in the adoption triad. Essays can be submitted electronically at aangel@aol.com until Aug. 1, '09. Catalyst Book Press. For more information, go to the publisher's web site at www.catalystbookpress.com.

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS STUDENT NEWS

KATE HOSFORD received a two-book contract for *Big Bouffant* and its sequel *Big Birthday* from Carolrhoda Books, an imprint of Lerner publishing. *Big Bouffant* will be the lead title on the list for spring '11.

VARIAN JOHNSON's *My Life as a Rhombus* (Flux / Llewellyn) was recently selected for the Texas Library Association's Tayshas High School Reading List and the New York Public Library's "Stuff for the Teen Age" List. In addition, the novel was named a finalist for the 2009 Texas Institute of Letters Award for Best Young Adult Book. His next novel, *Saving Maddie*, which serves as his creative thesis, will be published in Mar. '10 by Delacorte Press / Random House.

MIKKI KNUDSEN's first novel was just released on Apr. 14—*The Dragon of Trelia*, a middle-grade fantasy, published by Candlewick Press. She had a wonderful launch party at Books of Wonder in NYC, with several VCFAers in attendance. *The Dragon of Trelia* has been selected to appear on the Summer 2009 Kid's Indie Next List—Inspired Recommendations for Kids from Indie Booksellers.

LINDA OATMAN HIGH's comedy play *Uncle Chick's Last Wish* will be produced by the Rainbow Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, PA, in Aug.–Oct., 2009.

ERIC PINDER's first picture book, *Cat in the Clouds*, published by The History Press, will be available on May 12, '09.

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ALUMNI NEWS

ANN ANGEL (1/99) was recognized by Marquette Univ. for scholarly achievement for her biographies: *Amy Tan, Weaver of Asian-American Tales* (Enslow '09) and *Robert Cormier, Writer of The Chocolate War* (Enslow '08) and for her editorial work on *Such A Pretty Face, Short Stories about Beauty* (Enslow '08).

BRIDGET BIRDSALL's (7/05) recently completed YA novel *Ordinary Angels* won first place in the Univ. of Wisconsin Madison's Writer's Institute—First Page Contest. Her YA novel *August Atlas* also received an honorable mention. In addition, Bridget's grant application for A Room of Her Own (AROH) was also selected as one of the top six finishers for the 2008 Gift of Freedom Award (\$50,000). She would like to thank her fellow writers from Vermont, especially the MVPs, who supported her in these efforts, and who encouraged her to dust off the previous application, make a few minor adjustments, and send it in again.

ANNA MARIE BLACK (1/99) co-presented "Adventures in Poetry" along with library colleague and poet Elizabeth Jones Hanley at Chester County Library, Exton, PA. The six-week workshop, now an annual event, was held for students in grades 4, 5, and 6 during National Poetry Month in April. Students wrote epitaphs, ghost poems, apology poems, and verse influenced by fairy tale characters and photographs of persons at work around the world. During one of the sessions, Anna Marie read aloud Sharon Darrow's "First Saturday Morning. Beaumont, Texas" that appears in *Home to Me: Poems Across America*.

BRUCE BLACK's (1/99) blog, Wordswimmer, was named one of the Top 100 Creative Writing Blogs by Online Education News at BestCollegesOnline.com: <http://www.bestcollegesonline.com/blog/2009/02/05/top-100-creative-writing-blogs/>.

NEW BLOG

Jeanne Marie Grunwell Ford, JoAnn Early Macken, Carmela Martino, and Mary Ann Rodman (all graduates from the MFAWC program 7/00) have joined with two other children's book authors to launch a new blog: www.TeachingAuthors.com. The Teaching Authors are all published book authors who happen to also be writing teachers. The blog will be a forum for discussing both writing and teaching. The Teaching Authors invite VC alumni to stop by the blog to submit topic suggestions and to participate in the discussions. Also, if you are a published children's book author who teaches writing classes or workshops and you would like to be a guest blogger, please contact Carmela Martino: carmelamartino@sbcglobal.net.

ELIZABETH BLUEMLE (7/04) is now co-blogging with Josie Leavitt for *Publishers Weekly* as the resident children's bookselling ShelfTalker bloggers. The blog can be found at www.publishersweekly.com/shelftalker, and there's a new post every day or so by one of us.

ED BRIANT's (7/06) picture book *Don't Look Now* is being published by Roaring Brook on May 12 (the pub date was pushed back to this year). Another picture book, *If You Lived Here You'd Be Home by Now*, is being published by Roaring Brook in Sept. of this year. A YA novel, *Choppy Socky Blues*, is being published by Flux in spring '09.

MARY ANN DAMES's (1/09) packet 5 manuscript *Whale-Poop Sniffing Dogs and Other Amazing Helpers* received first place honors for nonfiction at Writer's Day—SCBWI-Los Angeles, Apr. '09.

MURIEL L. DUBOIS (7/01) announces publication of the second book in Apprentice Shop Books' series on America's Notable Women. *Women of the Bay State: 25 Massachusetts Women You Should Know* has been added to her company's list. The book features familiar women, such as Abigail Adams, Louisa May Alcott, and Edith Wharton. It also introduces young readers to other accomplished but lesser known women such as Harlem Renaissance writer Marita Bonner and paralympic gold medalist Laurie Stephens.

DEBBY DAHL EDWARDSON (7/05) has an essay appearing in the May issue of *Horn Book* entitled "One Swallow Does Not a Summer Make: Implications of Worldview." Her novel, *Blessing's Bead*, is due out from Farrar, Straus and Giroux in Nov. Her picture book, *Whale Snow*, was named to the Alaskan Battle of the Books list.

NANCY BO FLOOD (1/07) writes: "I sandstone, I am always changing...." Thus speaks the theme of *Sand to Stone and Back Again*, a nonfiction picture book released this May and published by Fulcrum."

In the spring issue of *Cricket* magazine, Nancy's two-voice poem, "Whooooa, Goes the Spring Wind," sings out, literally and figuratively. The magazine now has an audio link and the reader can click and hear the two-voice poem song. Also, Nancy led a "Beyond Bows and Arrows" panel presentation at the International Reading Association conference 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 spoke 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.

JENNIFER GENNARI's (1/06) short story "Over Her Head" was accepted by sniplits.com and will be available for download in May. Jennifer was excited to see another Vermont College writer there, too: Mindy Hardwick. Find our stories at www.sniplits.com.

LYNN E. HAZEN's (7/04) YA novel, *Shifty* (started her second semester at VCFA, a winner of the Houghton Mifflin/Clarion scholarship and Lynn's creative thesis), was published in Sept. '08. Since publication, *Shifty* was chosen as VOYA's Top Shelf Fiction, a CCBC Choice, and a Smithsonian Notable. Her young chapter book, *The Amazing Trail of Seymour Snail*, will be published by Henry Holt in just a few weeks. Lynn invites anyone in the San Francisco area to the book launch party Sat. May 16th 10–noon at Cover to Cover Booksellers in San Francisco. Lynn was recently interviewed in *ForeWord Magazine*, <http://www.forewordmagazine.com/authors/home/index.asp?w=pages&r=25&pid=167>. Finally, Lynn will be teaching her 3rd class in Writing for Children & Young Adults at Stanford Continuing Studies. In fact, her class slated for summer '09, "MG & YA Novel Revision Boot Camp," will be co-taught by Lynn E. Hazen and fellow 7/04 grad, **ELLEN YEOMANS**.

Award-winning illustrator/author **JAN SPIVEY GILCHRIST** (7/01) has a new picture book: *Obama: The Day the World Danced* from Pegasus Books for Children.

The Adventurous Deeds of Deadwood Jones by **HELEN HEMPHILL** (1/04) was named to the Kansas State Reading Circle 2009 Recommended Reading List. The novel also is the recipient of the 2008 Virginia M. Law Award for the most distinguished book for young adults on Texas history, sponsored by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, and will be recognized at Daughters of the Republic of Texas Convention's Historical Dinner on May 15.

CARRIE JONES (1/07) has sold a nonfiction picture book about Sara Emma Edmonds (cool lady spy in the Civil War) to

WORKSHOPS/ CONFERENCES

YA Writers' Alert! Kathi Appelt's workshop at the Aug. 11-17 **Postgraduate Conference** is full. There are still a few spaces left in the group to be led by award-winning novelist and MFA program alumna An Na. Don't miss out on the opportunity to participate in this intensive, small-group YA workshop and join our postgrad writers' community for 5½ days of readings, classes, and energizing connection on the VCFA campus. To reserve your place and for more information, contact Ellen Lesser, Conference Director, at pgconference@vermontcollege.edu or (802) 828-8835. These openings won't last long so act quickly!

JAMES RIVER WRITERS CONFERENCE, October 9–10, 2009. The Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA. Two days of panel discussions, lectures, and one-on-one meetings with literary agents, all in an intimate setting where aspiring writers are encouraged to rub elbows with publishing industry professionals. 2009 guests include editor Karen Lotz (Candlewick Press), poet Thomas Lux, bestseller Katherine Neville, literary novelist Michael Knight, editor Lee Boudreaux, essayist Phyllis Theroux, agent Molly Friedrich, graphic novelist Dash Shaw and more. Information at JamesRiverWriters.org, 804-230-4575.

Carolrhoda. It should be out next year. The sequel to *Need* (Dec./Jan.) should be out in Jan. '10. *Need* has sold to France, Germany, and Vietnam and will be an audio book this summer. It was on VOYA's best horror/science fiction and fantasy of 2008 and also is on the TAYSHA list and Indie Bound list. It's in its sixth or seventh printing. Finally, a film producer has taken out an option on *Girl, Hero*, which Carrie wrote at VC "with a lot of help from Tim, Sharon, Kathi, Louise, and Ellen."

JOSH KEELS (7/02) was selected for the 2009 Susan P. Bloom Discovery Award for his novel *starving hysterical naked*. This award is offered by PEN New England to celebrate new and emerging writers.

The Highlights Foundation has asked **BARBARA KRASNER** (1/06) to coordinate and lead its first Jewish Children's Writers Workshop at Boyds Mills, PA, in spring 2010. This will be a three-day event limited to about 12 writers for children. The workshop will feature hands-on critiques by guest editors and agents. Beginning in Nov. 2009, Barbara will be coordinating the annual Jewish Children's Writers and Illustrators Conference at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. She has been a co-coordinator for several years and has been asked to take the lead, replacing agent Anna Olswanger of Liza Dawson Associates. Barbara also reports that she's had two articles accepted by children's magazines: "Waiting for Miss Liberty" by Highlights for Children, and "The Mayflower Sails Again," by Cobblestone, appearing in the Oct. '09 issue on the pilgrims.

JOANN EARLY MACKEN's (7/00) nonfiction picture book *Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move* received an Honorable Mention in the Tofte/Wright Children's Literature category of the 2008 Annual Awards Competition of The Council for Wisconsin Writers, Inc. JoAnn presented a workshop entitled "Write a Poem, Step by Step: A Simple, Logical, Effective Way to Write Poetry with Your Students" at the International Reading Association Convention in Minneapolis on May 5.

CARMELA MARTINO's (7/00) article, "What's in a Name: Maybe More Than You Think," will be published in the 2010 *Children's Writer's & Illustrator's Market*, due out in Aug. '09.

SHENAAZ NANJI's (1/04) novel *Child of Dandelions* was chosen by International Reading Association as Notable Book for a Global Society (NBGS) for 2009. Also, *Indian Tales*, published by Barefoot Books, has been shortlisted for the 2009 R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature.

KATHY NUZUM's (7/03) *The Leanin' Dog* has won the IRA award for Children's and Young Adult Fiction for 2009. Scholastic has purchased rights to produce their own paperback edition of *The Leanin' Dog* for fall '09.

ALICIA POTTER's (1/05) first picture book, *Fritz Danced The Fandango*, illustrated by Ethan Long, debuts this month from Scholastic.

KELLEY POWELL (BARCELONA) (7/01) has a soon-to-be-released middle grade novel titled *The Hive* from Pegasus Books for Children.

JOYCE RAY's (7/01) poem "Idyllwater" will appear in Goldfish Press's anthology *The World According to Goldfish*. The two-volume anthology is a fund-raiser for Heifer Project International and will appear in '09. Joyce is working on Apprentice Shop Book's America's Notable Women Series. She is co-author of *Women of the Golden State: Twenty-five California Women You Should Know*, coming in fall '09. Joyce was also a contestant in the New Hampshire Writer's Project Writer's Day event, NH Literary Idol. She read her picture book manuscript *Blue Ribbon Surprise* in three minutes to make sure children's writers were represented.

APRIL PULLEY SAYRE's (7/00) newest book, *Honk, Honk, Goose: Canada Geese Start a Family* (Holt), was released in Apr. and received starred reviews in Booklist and School Library Journal. She and other nonfiction authors will be speaking July 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the Nonfiction Bookblast at ALA.

NANCY STEVENSON (1/01) writes: "Thanks to Tobin Anderson's memory that I had researched Frederick Law Olmsted, he referred me to Boston's Landmarks Orchestra that is commissioning a children's musical tribute to Olmsted. The

orchestra commissions works for children every year (*Make Way for Ducklings*, *The Journey of Phillis Wheatley*, *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*). The composition by Thomas Oboe Lee is the important part. My short text will accompany his music. I'm grateful to Tobin for the reference. The first performance will be June 12 with several more throughout the summer."

ZU VINCENT's (1/06) YA novel *The Lucky Place* has been selected for the Kansas State Reading Circle 2009 Recommended Reading List.

CAROL LYNCH WILLIAMS's (7/08) novel *A Glimpse is All I Can Stand* was purchased by Alexandra Penfold at Paula Wiseman Books, an imprint of Simon and Schuster. Also, Carol's novel *The Chosen One* (her creative thesis) has received terrific pre-reviews, including blurbs from Meg Cabot, Gregory Maguire, and VC's own Kathi Appelt. *The Chosen One* comes out May 12, '09.

MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS FACULTY NEWS

SARAH ELLIS was a featured speaker at the eleventh annual *Reading the World* conference at the Univ. of San Francisco in Mar. She gave a workshop entitled "Invading the Past: The Subversive Pleasures of Writing Historical Fiction," and also provided a synthesis at the end of the conference. While in San Francisco she connected with her current student Marsha Morrow and with VC grads Margaret Nevinski, Nancy Reynolds, and Frances Lee Hall. On another note, Sarah and Tim Wynne-Jones both have books nominated for the Red Cedar Book Award, an award juried by school children. Tim is up for *Rex Zero and the End of the World* and Sarah for *Odd Man Out*. They will meet to duke it out at the Red Cedar Gala in Victoria, British Columbia, in early May and hope to fit in a visit with fellow VC faculty member Julie Larios once they've coped with either the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat. And finally, Sarah was recently a juror for the Alberta Literary Awards, in the children's book category.

ALAN CUMYN's latest novel for children, *Dear Sylvia*, has been shortlisted for the Canadian Library Association's Book of the Year for Children, and for the Ontario Library Association's Silver Birch Express Award, which is a children's choice award voted on by Ontario school kids.

DAVID GIFALDI'S middle-grade novel *Listening for Crickets* has been named a 2009 Notable Book for a Global Society and is on the Kansas State children's reading list for 2009.

LOUISE HAWES is part of an exciting new graphic novel project. She is joining Holly Black and three other writers in the collaborative GN, *Fallen Angels*. Lushly, painstakingly illustrated by Rebecca Guay (who did the internal sketches for Louise's *Black Pearls, a Faerie Strand*), the book will be published by Vertigo, DC Comics, and will be out for Christmas 2010. Hobs and fairies and angels, oh my!

UMA KRISHNASWAMI's middle grade novel, *The Road to Sunny Villa*, has been sold to Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH's *Eternal* (Candlewick '09) is one of 25 nominees for YALSA's 2009 Teens' Top Ten. "Nominators are members of teen book groups in fifteen school and public libraries around the country. Nominations are posted in Apr. during National Library Week, and teens across the country vote on their favorite titles each year during Teen Read Week (Oct. 18–Oct. 24). Readers aged 12–18 can vote online that week. The 10 nominations that receive the most votes during Teen Read Week will be named the official Teens' Top Ten."

The LeighYawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, WI, is hosting an exhibit of the original art by Robert Andrew Parker from **LEDA SCHUBERT's** *Ballet of the Elephants*. Activities for children have been planned or held, and Leda hopes a good time is being had by all.

MFA IN WRITING STUDENT NEWS

LAURIE CANNADY has three pieces of flash fiction in the online journal [curlyredstories.com](http://www.curlyredstories.com). <http://www.curlyredstories.com/curlyredstories/Stories/Stories.html> She encourages leaving comments on the page!

DREW HOOD will have a short nonfiction piece published in the upcoming *Oxford American* Best of the South issue this summer.

HEATHER SHARFEDDIN's latest book, *Endless Summer*, will be available from Random House on May 19th. She will be giving readings from the book on May 22, at Powell's Bookstore, Cedar Hills Crossing, 3415 SW Cedar Hills Blvd., Beaverton, OR at 7:00 pm, and on June 4, '09, at Annie Bloom's Books, Multnomah Village, Portland, OR at 7:30 pm.

MELINDA THOMSEN's poem "The Sirens, Part II," was accepted this past March for publication in a forthcoming issue of the *New York Quarterly*. In addition, her poems "Ghost Moth" and "Velvet Ant" are in the current anthology *Gift* by Gatehouse Press, edited by Tom Corbett and Helen Ivory. Finally, she hosted "Modern Sonnet Night" at Cornelia Street Cafe in New York City on Apr. 13th with featured sonneteers Lorna Blake, Kate Light, Marie Ponsot, Laure-Anne Bosselaar, Jason Schneiderman and Rick Jackson, who came up from Tennessee for the event.

SUSAN RYAN has a piece in *Author Online*.

BEN WESTLIE will have four poems in the anthology *Time You Let Me In: 25 Poets Under 25*, set to be published by Harper Collins/Greenwillow Books in Feb. 2010. The editor is Naomi Shihab Nye.

MFA IN WRITING ALUMNI NEWS

SUE ALLISON's (7/99) essay, "Taking a Reading," has been selected by Mary Oliver and Robert Atwan for inclusion in *Best American Essays 2009*.

SUSAN AIZENBERG (1/92) has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize for work published in 2008, by Pushcart Press Board Editor Maura Stanton. On Feb. 24 and 25, Aizenberg met with students and gave a public reading from her poems at the Univ. of Tenn., where her collection *Muse* and the anthology she co-edited, *The Extraordinary Tide: New Poetry by American Women* were assigned as classroom texts. Earlier this year, she opened the Nebraska Arts Council's Wednesday Words Series with a reading of her poems. Three new poems have been accepted for publication in *Prairie Schooner*.

RICHARD BENTLEY (1/92) had a story accepted by the *Social Register*.

ANNIE BREEDING's (1/08) short story, "The Feast of Stephen," appears in the Apr. issue of *Lost Magazine*. The website is www.lostmag.com.

RANDALL BROWN (7/06) has work recently appearing or forthcoming in *Revider*, *FRiGG*, *Quick Fiction*, *Cream City Review*, *RE:AL*, *Sou'wester*, *Interim*, *Folio*, *Qwerty*, *J Journal*, *Coal City Review*, *Upstairs at Duroc*, *Conceit Magazine*, *Compass Rose*, *Broadkill Review*, *Argestes*, *Burst*, *Dogplotz*, *NANO Fiction*, *Timber Creek Review*, *Night Train*, *Minnetonka Review*, *Plain Spoke*, *Rough Beast Anthology*, *Coming-of-Age Anthology from Bannock Street Books*, and *Dogs: Wet and Dry—A Collection of Canine Flash Fiction* (forward by Rick Bass). Recent and upcoming readings include Pittsburgh Univ. with Michael Kimball, Chico State Univ., and Upwords Reading Series. He is available for flash fiction critiques through Dzanc Creative Writing Sessions (<http://www.dzancbooks.org/creative.html>), and all money goes to support the writing programs Dzanc Books run for students in grades 4–12. His essay on flash fiction is available in the textbook *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction: Tips from Editors, Teachers, and Writers in the Field* (<http://www.rosemetalpress.com/Catalog/Field%20Guide%20more.html>). He is currently teaching fiction at Saint Joseph's Univ. and Rosemont College.

WALTER BUTTS (1/95) has been appointed the New Hampshire Poet Laureate, for a five-year term, beginning on March 22, '09.

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

NATASHA D'SCHOMMER (7/96) has a new book, *Biblio*, featuring photographs of the Scheide Library. More information at www.bibliocollection.com.

RICHARD FARRELL's (1/94) memoir, *What's Left of Us*, will be released by Citadel on June 30. Andre Dubus III says, "Farrell's memoir is deeply moving, a rush of blood to the head and heart, the kind only true art can deliver." Go to www.whatsleftofus.com to see what other New York Times Bestselling authors and Hollywood folks are saying about *What's Left of Us*.

DAVID FEELA (7/93) has released his first full-length poetry collection, *The Home Atlas*, which is currently available through WordTech Communications. It can also be found on Amazon.com. A book of his essays will be released next year through Raven's Eye Press.

DORIS FERLEGER (1/08) won the 2009 Montgomery County Poet Laureate Competition.

CHRISTY FERRATO (7/08) took part in an exhibition and gave a reading at the Navajo Studies Conference on Sustainability at the Phil Woods Performing Arts Center in Shiprock, NM, Mar. 13. She also gave a lecture on Performativity at the Obliterate: The Art of Creative Destruction Conference at Truman State Univ., April 3-4, and did do a poetry performance at the Mother Earth/Father Sky Festival in Chaco Rio, NM, April 5.

LAURETTE FOLK (7/03) co-hosts The Thursday Theatre of Words and Music, a venue to celebrate the imagination and provide a stage for creative works. TTWM features emerging writers and artists to read/display/ perform their work at Cornerstone Books in Salem, MA on the fourth Thurs. of every month at 7:30 pm. An open mike is held afterward featuring writers/artists.

COLORADO GATHERING

May 16, 1:00 – Please come!

Everyone in Colorado should have received an invitation to a Vermont College of Fine Arts gathering alumna Marnell Jameson is hosting at her home in Castle Rock. If you would like to attend but have not yet told us, please contact louise.crowley@vermontcollege.edu as soon as possible. And, if you might be interested in hosting a gathering and/or reading in your area for students and alumni please be in touch!

AUDREY FRIEDMAN (1/95) will have a haibun, "Studying His Mother," published in the June issue of [Contemporary Haibun Online](http://www.contemporaryhaibunonline.com) at www.contemporaryhaibunonline.com. Her haibun "It's Dark in Here" appears in [Contemporary Haibun](#), Vol. 10, a print anthology published by Redmoon Press.

GLADYS GOLDBERG (7/99) writes in that in Mar., her poem "Conjunction," appeared in [Delaware Valley Poets Anthology](#); in Apr., "Scavengers" appeared in [U.S. 1 Worksheets](#); and two of her poems will appear in [the new renaissance](#): "With Memory the Soul Need Not Attend" in issue 41, and "In the Depths" later this year.

MATTHEW GOODMAN's (7/90) book of narrative non-fiction, *The Sun and the Moon: The Remarkable True Account of Hoaxers, Showmen, Dueling Journalists, and Lunar Man-Bats in Nineteenth-Century New York*, was published in November by Basic Books. It was chosen by Borders bookstores nationwide for inclusion in their "Original Voices" program, and was named as one of the Best Books of 2008 by [The Economist](#) magazine.

SAM HALPERT (7/90) book *A Real Good War* will be reviewed in [Narrative](#) magazine this spring. His website is www.b17sam.com.

ELENA HARAP's (1/05) essay, "Weeping Cherry," is in the current edition of *Out of Line*, an annual anthology on themes of peace and justice, published in Evansville, Indiana.

MICHAEL HEMERY (7/08) has essays forthcoming in *Lumina* and *Passages North*. *sub-TERRAIN Magazine* is also releasing a study guide and interview for his recently published story, "The End."

DEBRA HUTCHISON's (1/03) poem "Driving Over Walnuts" was published in *Mid-America Review* in the fall of '08, and she will have three poems published in the spring of '09 in "Iowa Writes," a website curated by the staff of *The Iowa Review* at the Univ. of Iowa. "James River Bridge" will be featured on 3/30, "In a City" will be featured on 4/24, and "Dear Dog" will be featured on 5/25. "Dear Dog" will also be published in *The Comstock Review*, Vol. 23, No.1.

EVAN FALLENBERG's (1/01) novel *Light Fell* has been shortlisted for the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and a Lambda Literary Award.

HARRISON FLETCHER (7/06) has a number of essays either recently published or forthcoming:

"Inheritance," by *New Ohio Review* (spring '09), "Rings," by *Dos Passos Review* (summer '09), "Wreath," "Brotherhood" and "Ash" by *Water~Stone Review* (fall '09), "Relics," by *Palabra* (fall '09), and "Windows," "Monster" and "Stray," by *Grasslands Review* (summer '09).

MARY LOU COE FOWLER (7/90) will talk about her new book *Full Fathom Five: A Daughter's Search* on the following dates: May 14: author talk and signing, "Authors on Deck" series, 12 noon, United States Navy Memorial, Naval Heritage Center, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004 www.navymemorial.org, Contact: (202)737-2300; May 16: memorial service speech for U.S. Submarine Veterans, Wash. D.C. Chapter, at Navy Memorial, 701 Penn. Ave. NW, Wash., D.C. 20004; 1-2:30pm; Contact: Tom Denton, (301)845-0049; June 24: author talk and signing, 12 noon, First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, U.C.C. Contact: Lillian Pease, P.O. Box 37, Dresden, Me. 04342.

PATRICIA SPEARS JONES (1/92) will be reading at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx on MAY 16 at 3 p.m. w/ Mark Bibbins & Jessica Greenbaum--check www.poetrysociety.org for info; May 29, she will be part a discussion of Black Women's writing at BLACKEXPO Pavillion for BOOKEXPO at Jacob Javits Center 2-4 p.m. w/ Paule Marshall, Farai Chiyeda & Lori Tharps; June 14, she will perform as part of the VISION FESTIVAL w/ Jason Hwang, the terrific jazz violinist at Henry Street Settlement House-Harry Abrons Center; and, June 29, she will be reading w/ Soraya Shalforoosh, et al at the Inspired Reading Series in Queens. See website for more info: www.psjones.com

MAGGIE KAST's (7/01) memoir, *The Crack Between the Worlds*, has been accepted for publication by Wipf and Stock Publishers.

MARSHA KORETZKY's (7/08) story "Small Things" will be appearing in the upcoming issue of *SLAB*; her story "Pachelbel's Canon" will appear in *Center: A Journal of the Literary Arts*; "Attachments" will appear in *Westview*; and "We Once Were Slaves" will appear in the upcoming issue of *Kerem*.

ASHLEY SEITZ KRAMER (7/08) has a poem, "Theory of Everything, Almost," in the winter issue of *Cutbank*.

MARSHA KROLL's (1/07) poems have appeared, or are due to appear, in *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *5 A.M.* and *U.S. 1 Worksheets*. As a former Bucks County Poet Laureate, she will be giving a reading in Jan. at the Princeton Library.

RUSTIN LARSON's (7/86) new book, *The Wine-Dark House*, has been released and is available on Amazon.com.

JODY LISBERGER's (7/99) stories were reviewed in the Jan. /Feb. '09 issue of the *Women's Review of Books*.

RICHARD LUTMAN (1/90) had his chapbook of flash fiction, *Altered Images*, accepted by The Last Automat Press. Publication is due in late spring or early summer.

ELIZABETH MCHALE (7/07) has an essay entitled "Bachelard's Non-I and the Enlarged Self" in the May '09 issue of *The Writer's Chronicle*.

RICHARD MICHELSON (7/81) was the artist of the month in the 20th anniversary issue of *Image* magazine. He also has work in the spring issue of *Harvard Review*. In Jan., his children's book, *As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*, was awarded the prestigious Sydney Taylor Award Gold Medal from the Association of Jewish Libraries. *A is for Abraham* was awarded the Silver Medal. This is the first time in the Award's 41-year history that one author has been honored with their top two awards. The Sydney Taylor Award is the most coveted award for writers of Jewish children's literature. Isaac Bashevis Singer was the first recipient.

WORKSHOPS/ CONFERENCES

Alumna Sarah Van Arsdale will be teaching a class in France in June as part of the Atlantic Writers' Workshop. More information can be found at www.Atlanticatlanticwritersworkshop.org

Alumna Patricia Lee Lewis, of Patchwork Farm Retreats, offers creative writing and yoga workshops and retreats at mountainside Patchwork Farm in western MA and around the world. Upcoming offerings include events in Austin, TX, Wales, and Guatemala. More details can be found at <http://writingretreats.org/>

For the past eight years alumna **KATHRYN KAY** (1/95) has offered writing workshops for women, coaching, and editing service through the Nantucket Writers Studio. "It has been my pleasure to watch fledgling writers find their wings and seasoned writers soar with new inspiration, and I am ever grateful for the beautiful words and thoughts that spring from their trust and courage. This season, in response to the desires of my students, friends, and women everywhere, I have added a new workshop, **Diving Into The Deep**. This workshop provides an opportunity to use writing as a path to self-discovery and to allow personal illumination to deepen your writing. Due to the increasing demand for a workshop that addresses how to bring a piece of writing to completion, I have added a second new workshop, **From Start To Finish**, for anyone interested in crafting the glimmer of an idea into a finished piece. Please visit my web site, www.nantucketwritersstudio.com for the complete calendar of events and a description of each workshop."

DEB NOYES (7/93) just sold her second adult historical novel, *Captivity*, to Unbridled Books, to be published in Spring '10. Her YA novel-in-stories, *The Ghosts of Kerfol*, was a recent TAYSHAS list title, a Cybils nominee, and an ALA BBYA nominee. New books forthcoming in '09 include *Prudence and Moxie*, a picture book illustrated by AnnaLaura Cantone (Apr.); *African Acrostics*, a picture book of poems by Avis Harley, photo-illustrated by Deb (July), and *Sideshow*, a YA anthology (don't miss the great story by VC's Cynthia Leitich Smith) and companion book to *Gothic!* and *The Restless Dead* (July). *The Restless Dead* and *Hana in the Time of the Tulips*, a picture book illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, also comes out in paperback this year. Deb has a (sort of) new blog that you can find through her website: www.deborahnoyes.com.

ROBIN OLIVEIRA's (1/06) book, *My Name is Mary Sutter*, is coming out in 2010 from Viking. She also has a story in euphonyjournal.com called "Bedtime Story."

PATTY OLIVER-SMITH (7/06) had two poems accepted in Apr. for publication in *Fickle Muses*, an online journal of myth and legend.

MARIE OSTARELLO (1/01) is awaiting news. Her essay "A History with Trees" published in *Fourth Genre's*, Spring '08 issue, has moved up the list from Pushcart Prize nominee to finalist. In addition, her poem "Trapeze Artists" is currently a finalist in the *Southeast Review's* Poetry Contest. The winner and all finalists will appear in SER in early 2010, so look for it. Marie is currently finishing her first novel.

EMILY PARKHURST (7/07) was recently hired as the editor of the Gray New Gloucester edition of the Independent Newspaper (independentpub.com). She was also recently hired as the classical music reviewer for the Southern Maine region for the *Classical Voice of New England*. Her reviews can be found at www.cvneweng.org. She's also teaching English and Journalism at Central Maine Community College in Auburn, ME.

LYNN PEDERSEN (7/07) writes that her chapbook, *Theories of Rain*, is out from Main Street Rag (www.mainstreetrag.com). She has poems forthcoming in *Cider Press Review*, *Comstock Review*, *Sow's Ear*, *Borderlands*, and *Ellipsis*. Her poem "On Reading About the Illness and Death of Darwin's Daughter Annie" won third prize in Ecotone's Evolution Contest, and it appeared in the journal this spring.

MARY PINARD (7/92), associate professor of English at Babson College has been awarded an Honorable Mention from the W. B. Yeats Society of NY for her poem "Near Deadwood: A Day Before the Family Reunion."

CHIVAS SANDAGE (1/06) is Assistant Professor of English at Westfield State College, where she recently read and also gave a presentation on "The Real Sylvia Plath: The Book Her Husband Hid From the World" based on her MFA critical thesis. She teaches Contemporary Cross-Cultural Literature, World Literature Since 1750, and Composition. New work is featured on her blog at www.csandage.wordpress.com.

JOAN SELIGER SIDNEY (7/89), Writer-in-Residence at the Center for Judaic Studies, Univ. of CT, read a new poem at the University's Holocaust Convocation. She also helped edit Yosef Laufer's biography by Haim Tal, *The Fields of Ukraine*, and wrote a back cover blurb along with Nechama Tec (*Defiance*).

MARCUS SMITH (7/07), currently living in London, has poems appearing in [Stand](#), [The Shop](#), [Ambit](#), [Dark Horse](#), [Pennine Platform](#) and [Poetry Scotland](#). His poems also appear in The Ledbury Poetry Festival, Thomas Hardy Society, Virginia Warbley Prize and Barnet Arts Council contest anthologies. He has published book reviews in [Envoi](#), [The Journal](#), [Stride](#) and [Staple](#). In the US he has poems appearing in [Salmagundi](#), [Able Muse](#), [The Classical Outlook](#) and [Nebo](#). He was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

CHRISTOPHER SODEN's (1/05) poem "Kismet" is included in an anthology entitled *Poetic Voices Without Borders 2* just released by Gival Press.

CHRISTINE STARR (7/08) will have two poems, "Berlin Subway" and "What Made Me Knock?" published in [Eclipse](#) in 2010. Also, her poem, "No Way But Through" has been accepted in Spring '09 [Permafrost](#) (Univ. of Alaska- Fairbanks).

S STEPHANIE's (7/97) chapbook, *What the News Seemed to Say*, is due out this spring from Pudding House.

BARBARA STRASKO (7/03) was awarded Teacher of the Year by River of Words, an organization that runs an international environmental art & poetry contest for youth, founded by Robert Hass when he was the US Poet Laureate. She will be honored along with the student winners from all over the country (and world) at the Library of Congress on May 13.

JENNIFER K. SWEENEY (7/01) won the 2009 Perugia Press Prize for *How to Live on Bread and Music*. A prize of \$1000 and publication by Perugia Press is given annually for a first or second unpublished poetry collection by a woman. Jennifer K. Sweeney lives in Kalamazoo, MI. Her first book, *Salt Memory*, was winner of the Main Street Rag Poetry Book Award in '06. The book is due to be released in Sept. '09. She also won the "Elinor Benedict Poetry Prize" from [Passages North](#) for a single poem called "The Returning." It will be posted on their website soon.

ADAM TAVEL (1/09) has new poems forthcoming in [The Apalachee Review](#) and [The South Carolina Review](#), as well as two book reviews forthcoming in [The Café Review](#).

JIM THATCHER (7/98) will be giving a reading from his chapbook, "The Ur-Word," on Sat., May 16 at the Millbrook Book Fair, Millbrook, NY.

B.G. THURSTON's (1/02) chapbook *Saving the Lamb* was Highly Recommended by the Massachusetts Book Award. www.massbook.org/PoetryofYearMBA8.pdf

SARAH VAN ARSDALE (7/88) received four residency awards last year: Hambidge Center for Arts and Sciences, Ragdale Foundation, Jentel Artists' Residency, and coming up in Sept., the Djerassi Foundation. In addition, Sarah's novel, *Grand Isle*, was a finalist in the Univ. of Michigan contest in Nov.

RICK WALLEDA (1/04) will have a short biography that he has written published by [White Tops Magazine](#) in an upcoming issue.

CAROL WESTBERG (1/96) will have her first book of poems, *Slipstream*, published by David Robert Books next year.

VALERIE WOHLFELD WELLS (1/83) has poems appearing in or forthcoming in, [The Yale Review](#), [The Hopkins Review](#), [The Endicott Review](#), [Journal of the Medical Association](#), [Sou'wester](#), [The American Literary Review](#), [Denver Quarterly](#), [Against Agamemnon](#) (anthology by Water Wood Press), and [The Healing Muse](#). Her poem "Echo," was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and published in [The Classical Outlook Journal of the American Classical League](#).

PAULA YUP (7/83) had her poems "On Tokyo Trains" and "Subdued Shade of Blue" published by [Mid-American Review](#) in 2008. "Airport" came out in the Winter '09 issue of [Off the Coast](#) and "This Island" won honorable mention in the E.D. Chapbook Contest.

MFA IN WRITING FACULTY NEWS

ABBY FRUCHT has been serving as Guest Fiction Editor for [Lost Magazine](#) (www.lostmag.com) for Mar., Apr., and May. She has a story forthcoming at [New Letters](#) and a novel excerpt at [Narrative](#), which will also be including her "best advice" (which, by the way, has precious little to do with writing) in their new, Best Advice column. She was a featured speaker at the Foot of the Lake Collective in Wisconsin in Mar., and will be teaching and reading at the Chautauqua Writers Festival (<http://writers.ciweb.org/writers-festival/>) in June.

JODY GLADDING writes that in conjunction with the release of her collection *Rooms and Their Airs*, from Milkweed Editions, in Apr. '09, Jody will be reading at Galaxy Books in Hardwick, VT on Tues., May 12 at 7 PM. *Rooms and Their Airs* has also been featured recently on the *Poetry Daily* and Academy of American Poets (www.poets.org) websites.

PHILIP GRAHAM published three dispatches from Lisbon in *McSweeney's*: "Three Churches" (Oct. 27, '08), "Particle and Wave" (Dec. 24, '08), and "Fairly Medieval" (Feb. 11, '09). "Return of the Con Man," his review of Sandor Márai's novel *Esther's Inheritance*, appeared in [The New Leader](#), Winter Books Issue, Columbia Univ., NY. In Jan. he gave a reading of his fiction and led a master class in the writing of fiction at Carlow Univ., Pittsburgh, PA. In Mar. he served as a judge for the Univ. of Michigan's nonfiction Hopwood Awards. This year he has returned as the fiction editor of the literary/arts magazine [Ninth Letter](#).

DIANE LEFER and co-author Hector Aristizabal have a personal/political essay in *Peace Movements Worldwide*, an anthology forthcoming from Greenwood/Praeger.

CHRISTOPHER NOEL's new book is now available from Amazon.com. It's called *Impossible Visits: The Inside Story of Interactions with Sasquatch at Habituation Sites*. It takes a fresh approach to this often-sensationalized and often-ridiculed topic, focusing on the experiences of "habitators," ordinary people who have had repeat visitations from this reclusive primate species and have sought, in the tradition of Goodall and Fossey, to gain their trust (by means of feeding and gift-giving) and to learn their nature and behavior. You can read excerpts from the book at www.impossiblevisits.com

NATASHA SAJE published a personal essay in the Apr. 19 Modern Love section of the [New York Times](#), as well an essay about metonymy in [The American Poetry Review](#). Another is forthcoming in [The Writer's Chronicle](#). She was awarded a Camargo Foundation fellowship for Spring 2010. She'll be reading, along with others, at the Goethe Institute in Washington D.C. on May 19 at 6:30. Address: 812 7th St NW Washington, DC 20001-3718; (202) 289-1200.

SUE WILLIAM SILVERMAN's new book, *Fearless Confessions: A Writer's Guide to Memoir*, will be out in June with the Univ. of Georgia Press. For more information, and to see the Table of Contents, please visit www.suewilliamsilverman.com. Also, the Lifetime TV movie, based on Sue's memoir, *Love Sick: One Woman's Journey through Sexual Addiction*, was nominated for two PRISM Awards by the Entertainment Industries Council, one for best picture, and one for Sally Pressman, in the best performance category.

LARRY SUTIN's novel, *When to Go into the Water*, is coming out on May 1st, from Sarabande Books.

ROBERT VIVIAN's latest novel, *Lamb Bright Saviors*, will be released in '10. It is part II of the *Tall Grass Trilogy*. And, the Univ. of Nebraska Press has accepted his creative nonfiction collection, *The Town That Burns Eternity Into Your Soul*, for publication.

DAVID WOJAHN was named one of the 2009 winners of Virginia's Outstanding College Faculty Awards; the award is sponsored by the State Council for Higher Education and carries a \$5,000 prize. He recently completed a week-long writer-in-residence stint at the College of Santa Fe, and in July (12-17) will be teaching a poetry workshop in Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown's summer arts program: for information see workshops@fawc.org

XU XI will be giving readings as follows: May 22-24: reading at the Calabash Literary Festival, Jakes, Treasure Beach, Jamaica; May 26-28: reading & workshops at Asian Heritage Month, Vancouver, Canada.

IN MEMORIUM

We are deeply saddened to publish the news of the death of **Deborah Digges** on April 10th. As many of you know, Deborah taught for us for a good many years in the early-mid 1990s. We will always remember Deborah for her gentle and kind nature, her thorough dedication and professionalism in her teaching, and for her gorgeous poetry that will long be remembered by a wide and appreciative audience. Below is a link to an article that pays tribute to her and her work. Any donations in her memory may be made either to the ASPCA or to our poetry scholarship fund here at VCFA; contact Louise if you wish to do so.

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/obituaries/articles/2009/04/15/deborah_digges_59_poet_of_luminous_observations/

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