

February 1, 2009

## **Hudson Valley Writers Guild Newsletter**

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## **Guild announcements**

### **The Guild on Facebook**

The Guild now has a presence on Facebook ([facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com))! To date, 45 individuals have joined our Facebook group. Visit us to share your news in real time on our discussion forum and post videos or photos you've taken at Guild or regional writers events. (Find us by doing a search for the group "Hudson Valley Writers Guild.") If you're not a member of Facebook yet, now is the time to join. There are lots of resources for poets and writers and opportunities for networking! Thank you for helping the Guild establish a bigger web presence.

### **Newsletter Submissions**

New board member Bob Sharkey compiles information for Guild newsletters. You can send your announcements to his attention by email to [riverrun@nycap.rr.com](mailto:riverrun@nycap.rr.com). We will be posting area events that are announced in between regular Guild Newsletters on our Facebook site.

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## **Member announcements**

### **Member's Studio to Offer Free Peer Groups Wednesday Evenings**

**Carolee Sherwood** is organizing two free peer groups for adults -- one in poetry and one in art -- on Wednesday evenings from 7-9:15 p.m. at her art studio in Castleton. The "Poets Studio" will meet every other Wednesday, beginning February 11, and "Art for Life Support" will meet on the opposite Wednesdays, beginning March 4. In the Poets

Studio, a small group (four or five) of beginning and established poets will write together and share each other's work with optional peer critique. Art for Life Support is a free art-making group for women (artists and non-artists welcome). This small group will make art together using an expressive arts model; the purpose of the gatherings, which will focus on painting, collage and some writing, will be to establish consistent use of creativity as a resource for knowledge, strength and renewal.

Although the groups are free, registration/application is required; and limited space is available. See the studio website ([thepolkadotstudio.com](http://thepolkadotstudio.com)) for details. Contact Carolee at [caroleesherwood@gmail.com](mailto:caroleesherwood@gmail.com) or (518) 598-9607 with questions. It is not necessary to attend the first meeting of either group to join; however, participants should be willing to commit to reasonably regular attendance in order to achieve group continuity.

**Jan Tramontano** will be the featured reader at the next Live From The Living Room open mic and reading for poetry on Wednesday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. This monthly event takes place at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 332 Hudson Ave in Albany's Center Square. Don Levy is the host.

**BJ Rosenfeld** read an essay about regifting on WAMC (90.3FM) during The Round Table show on Thursday January 22. This reading has been posted to the WAMC website. Go on [wamc.org](http://wamc.org) and look for Roundtable Archives which are arranged by date of the on air appearance.

**The Sand Lake Center for the Arts (SLCA) and Event Coordinator Ellen Brady** wish to thank all HVWG members who participated in the Poetry Workshop held at the SLCA on Sunday, January 4. Most of the members who attended traveled from out-of-town, so your support is appreciated. A special "thank you" goes to Rod Aldrich for his help to quickly move the venue to a larger space and for his presentation covering online resources for poets. Another special "thank you" goes to Carolee Sherwood for offering advice on what steps to take to publish poetry. Lastly, Ellen thanks HVWG members Bill and Kathy Poppino for presenting to the group the benefits of being a Guild member. The SLCA Poetry Workshop was very successful. It was evident that the room was filled with seventeen very talented writers. HVWG members can look forward to more writing workshops and other writing activities to be held at the SLCA. Look for announcements in future newsletters and area newspapers and periodicals.

**Ellen Brady** is asking any HVWG members who would be interested in semi-regular open mike nights at the SLCA to contact her. She is also seeking to form an online Poetry Circle, perhaps including some meetings at the Center. If you are interested, please contact her via phone at (518) 674-0625 or using her e-mail address: [beepone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beepone@sbcglobal.net).

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## Area announcements

### **Writers Institute Offers Free Community Writing Workshops**

Each semester the New York State Writers Institute sponsors residencies of varying lengths by authors who have distinguished themselves both for their writing and their teaching. In tandem with these residencies, free writing workshops are offered on a competitive basis to members of the community. The Institute will sponsor three creative writing workshops during the spring 2009 semester. Applications are still being taken for the two workshops listed below.

Fiction and nonfiction writer, poet and screenwriter **James Lasdun** will conduct a six-week workshop "The Self and Other Nonfiction Workshop." This workshop will focus on the craft of the personal essay.

Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker **Sheila Curran Bernard** will conduct an eight-week workshop on "Intermediate/Advanced Dramatic Screenwriting."

All these workshops will be held on the University at Albany uptown campus and are offered free of charge for non-credit. Admission to the workshops is based on the submission of writing samples. For complete information on the workshops and submission guidelines, go to [albany.edu/writers-inst](http://albany.edu/writers-inst). For further information, call (518) 442-5620.

### **Writers Institute Announces Spring Readings and Films**

The State Writers Institute also has a long list of readings and films planned to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Some early February events include readings by Fiction writer Sue Miller on February 2, by poet and novelist Bernadine Evaristo on February 5, and by Irish fiction and nonfiction writer Frank Delaney on February 11. A full schedule of events with exact times and locations can be viewed at the Institute web site: [albany.edu/writers-inst](http://albany.edu/writers-inst).

### **Writers Institute Announces Summer Young Writers Program**

The New York State Writers Institute is pleased to announce the 2009 New York State Summer Young Writers Institute for high school students, which will take place July 19-25, 2009 at Skidmore University in Saratoga Springs, New York. The Summer Young Writers Institute is a not-for-profit, New York State-funded summer program for gifted writers entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade in September, 2009. The program, which offers workshops in poetry, prose and screenwriting, is open to students who reside anywhere in New York State. Student writers interact with published writers, practice craft and meet other young writers from around the state. Students enjoy daily sessions with the program's regular faculty as well as classes with "celebrity" authors affiliated with the parallel program for adults, the New York State Summer Writers Institute.

The Writers Institute website ([Albany.edu/writers-inst](http://Albany.edu/writers-inst).) features an [application](#), a [brochure](#), and a [financial aid](#) application.

The cost, including room, board and materials is \$665. HOWEVER, FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE BASED ON NEED, INCLUDING TRAVEL STIPENDS. Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2009.

Writers accepted into the Summer Young Writers Institute will be notified by email after May 15, 2009. Questions may be addressed by calling Chris Merrill in Skidmore's Office of the Dean of Special Programs at 518-580-5593, or by emailing William Patrick at [williampatrick8@gmail.com](mailto:williampatrick8@gmail.com).

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**The Hudson Valley Writers Guild offers space in its newsletter for submission and program opportunities but does not endorse any programs or publications that are not offered through the Guild.**

*A note from the newsletter editors:* A fresh crew of volunteers is on board for the Guild newsletter. We are always curious to know if the formatting "works" (appears neat and tidy) in your email or if it causes issues (is difficult to read). Send feedback and suggestions regarding any formatting issues to [hvwginfo@gmail.com](mailto:hvwginfo@gmail.com). News items should go to Bob Sharkey as stated above. *Thank you!*

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M. Miriam Herrera  
Webmaster

Bob Sharkey and Carolee Sherwood  
Newsletter Editors

Hudson Valley Writers Guild ([hvwg.org](http://hvwg.org))