

March 15, 2009

## **Hudson Valley Writers Guild Newsletter**

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## **Guild announcements**

**write**

**HERE**

**Saturday, April 4 | 9:30 am – 12:00 pm | \$5  
Tickets Arts Center of the Capital Region  
Panel Discussion | Resource Fair | Networking**

Do you write here? Do you know the local resources? Join us for a Panel Discussion and Resource fair that will highlight the extensive writing resources available in the Capital District. This is a great chance to network with writers and small publishers. This event is sponsored by The Hudson Valley Writers Guild and The Arts Center of the Capital Region.

**For more information, contact HVWG at  
(518) 449.8069 or hvwginfo@gmail.com.  
265 River Street | Downtown Troy | (518) 273.0552**

## **Caffé Lena Poetry Festival**

Caffé Lena and the Hudson Valley Writers Guild announce co-sponsorship of the Caffé Lena Poetry Festival on Saturday, April 11. The festival celebrates the arrival of spring and National Poetry Month. It begins at noon and runs into the evening. It features workshops, readings and a potluck dinner. The program will feature twenty-minute readings throughout the afternoon by eleven stylistically varied, widely read poets from NYC, Rhode Island, Maine, the Capital District and the Adirondacks. Included will be Bernadette Mayer, Joseph Bruchac, Sam White, Michael Brown, Lyn Lifshin, Alan Catlin, Steven Huff, Miriam Axel-Lute, Barbara Unger, Nancy White, M. Miriam Herrera, and Jordan Smith. Finishing the day will be a potluck dinner followed by a full-length reading by legendary counter-culture hero Ed Sanders.

The base cost of the festival is \$10, payable at the door the day of the festival. Admission to workshops and readings is additional; potluck dinner is free to anyone who brings a dish large enough to serve 10 people or for a \$10 fee eat from the buffet without having to cook. Dinner will be from 6-7:15 p.m. and reservations are required. Please RSVP at 583-0022 or [sarah@caffelena.org](mailto:sarah@caffelena.org). Caffé Lena is located at 47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs. For more information, visit the venue's website: [caffelena.org](http://caffelena.org).

## **Caffé Lena Poetry Festival Call For Volunteers**

As a co-sponsor of the Caffé Lena Poetry Festival, the Hudson Valley Writers Guild is assisting in recruitment of volunteers and assemblage of food items for the potluck dinner. We need people to sign up for 2-hour shifts, taking money at the door and selling books for authors. Volunteers receive free admission for the day. There are three shifts: Noon-2 p.m., 2-4 p.m. and 4-6 p.m. In addition, we also need people to contribute appetizers and main courses for the potluck dinner. (No dessert items, please.) Since the ovens will be jammed, festival organizers prefer dishes that come in crock pots or do not need to be heated and may sit out at room temperature. This is a terrific opportunity to work in community with writers from around the region. Please email Carol Graser at [cgraser@nycap.rr.com](mailto:cgraser@nycap.rr.com) with your availability for filling various volunteer posts and/or with your commitment to bring a dish (let her know what you plan to bring).

## **Grants Ceremony at the Arts Center**

On Tuesday, March 10, 2009, Mimi Moriarty represented the HVWG at a Grants Ceremony at the Arts Center of the Capital District in Troy. More than 40 organizations received grants from the Arts Center this year, and 36 individual artists also received special SOS grants. Rep. Jack McEneny handed out the certificates. The grant money this year will go toward funding the Community of Writers Programs, held at local libraries, and Poets in the Park, held in Washington Park in July. A special thank you to those responsible for writing the grant, Megha Godambe and Pat Hughes, and to the

facilitators and participants of these programs, including Dan Wilcox, Mary McCarthy, Bill Poppino, Alan Catlin and Catherine Norr.

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## Member announcements

**M. Miriam Herrera** will be the featured reader at the next Third Thursday Poetry Night open mic on Thursday, March 19, at the Social Justice Center, 33 Central Avenue, Albany. She will be reading from her new chapbook, *Kaddish for Columbus*. The reading starts at 7:30 p.m. Dan Wilcox is the host.

**Mimi Moriarty** announces that there's going to be a poetry column appearing monthly in the Spotlight, a local newspaper covering Albany, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties. Mimi, a member of the Guild and former Secretary of the Guild, will be editing it. She is looking for sponsorship for the poetry column within these geographic areas. Sponsorship is \$200. With this sponsorship goes mention of the organization you represent (let's say you own a bookstore or work at a library or coffeehouse, and any upcoming events you'd like to highlight. This is not an on-going commitment, just a one-time shot at sponsorship. (Of course, Mimi will not turn away anyone who wants to sponsor the column more than once annually. Please contact Mimi at [winterview@earthlink.net](mailto:winterview@earthlink.net) if you have a connection to an organization or business that she can contact.

**Alan Catlin** announces that he has a new mini-chapbook out from Propaganda Press, *Short Shots*, (available at [alt-current.com](http://alt-current.com) for \$3 plus \$2 shipping.) Alan also has a chapbook forthcoming from SharkArt, *Insomniac's Dream*, with collages by artist Michael Shores. Also, two poems from Alan's collection *The Effects of Sunlight in the Fog* have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize.

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## Area announcements

### Fence Magazine Event

Fence is a biannual journal that publishes interesting and innovative poetry, fiction, and other. We're currently housed at UAlbany, but most of Fence's existence took place in New York. This spring, we'll be publishing an anthology entitled *A Best of Fence: The First Nine Years*, and will be holding readings and parties throughout the country to celebrate. One of these events will take place in Troy on Thursday, March 19th, at The Sanctuary for Independent Media. The event will be free, and we'll provide refreshments.

## **Yes, Reading!**

This series, run by Fence associate editor Colie Collen, has an event scheduled for next Friday, March 20th. The readers are Robert Strong, a poet and teacher coming from Canton, NY, and Raurri Jennings, a local poet and fiction writer. It will take place at 6:30 pm at the Townshend Park Bakery Cafe, at 238 Washington Avenue in Albany.

## **Rensselaerville Celebrates National Poetry Month**

For the fourth year, historic Conkling Hall and the Rensselaerville Library are sponsoring a celebration of National Poetry Month in April. Preparation for the month's events will include two one-hour poetry writing workshops for teens and children. A "Kids' Poetry Workshop" (for children in grades 2-5) will take place on Sat. 3/14 at 11:00 am and a "Fantasy & Poetry" Workshop for Teens will take place on Friday, 3/27 at 5:30 pm (pizza to follow!). Both workshops will take place at the Rensselaerville Library. Pre-registration is required. (Please register at the library or call at 797-3949.) April's poetry events include:

April 4 – 7:30 pm - "Spoken & Sung" - a recital of music and poetry by Sarah Nelson Weiss, soprano and Jan Bishop, soprano. This event will also include a reading by poet Howard Nelson, author of *Creatures, Bone Music and Gorilla Blessing*. Mr. Nelson has a new book of poetry (*The Nap by the Waterfall*) coming out this spring. Recital and reading will take place at Conkling Hall (Methodist Hill Rd., Rensselaerville)

April 19 – 2:00 Poetry Reading at the Rensselaerville Library by poet Gunilla Kester. A native of Sweden, Gunilla Theander Kester is the author of one chapbook *Time of Sand and Teeth* forthcoming from Finishing Line Press as part of its New Women's Voices Series. She was recently a finalist for the May Swenson Poetry Award 2009 and was nominated for a 2010 Pushcart Prize from *NJA*. Her full-length poetry manuscript *The Mountain; Grieving for Harmony* was a Finalist in the Colorado Prize for Poetry 2005.

April 18 – 2:00 The Favorite Poem Project – All are invited to bring their "favorite poems" (from childhood, from school, from anywhere!) to read and share with friends and neighbors. Last year almost 50 participants of all ages contributed poems, everything from the silly to the sublime. Of course, those who prefer to just listen are welcome as well. Refreshments will be available. This event will take place at Conkling Hall. Anyone interested in reading his/her own poetry during our April celebration should contact Rensselaerville Library Trustee Linda Miller (797-9802). For more information about any events, please call the library at 797-3949.

## **SLCA Announces Next Writing Workshop**

Spring may seem like a distant dream, but April will be here before we know it, so mark your calendars for Sunday April 19th, 1pm until 4pm, for our next free writing workshop at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. As we did in our very successful January 4<sup>th</sup>

workshop, we will be exploring poetry, thereby joining in the annual celebration of National Poetry Month observed each April. We will work through some word play exercises to stimulate our imaginations, and then it's on to writing and sharing a poem. If you prefer, you may bring a poem you have already written to share. We will spend some time discussing how and where to publish poems, including online resources and groups, but you need not seek publication in order to participate.

This is a workshop designed for writers 18 or older.

Bring a writing instrument (laptops welcome), a notebook, and your creativity.

We expect a good response, so register early by contacting Event Coordinator Ellen Brady at 674-0625, or via e-mail at: [beepone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beepone@sbcglobal.net).

IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT ELLEN BEFORE THE WORKSHOP DATE.

Ellen is also seeking members for the established Sand Lake Peer Writers Group that meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month from 6:30pm until 8:30pm at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. We cover all genres and offer feedback and encouragement along with open discussions on writing resources and sharing tips on keeping our writing fresh. Please use the contact information above to contact Ellen if you are interested.

One more thing! Ellen is seeking to form an online Poetry Circle particularly for those poets who do not get out much and who need interaction with other area poets. Please let her know if you are interested. You may become a member of the Sand Lake Peer Writers Group along with being interested in the online Poetry Circle.

### **Joan Murray and the Pushcart Book of Poetry**

On Monday, April 27, 7:00 pm at The Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River Street, Troy, celebrated poet Joan Murray will read from her new anthology, *The Pushcart Book of Poetry: the Best Poems from 30 Years of the Pushcart Prize*. She will give a brief history of poetry in our lifetime. Free admission. For more information, visit [artscenteronline.org](http://artscenteronline.org) or call 518-273-0552.

### **At the Voorheesville Library - a weekend with author Rebecca Flowers.**

Friday, May 8 at 7:00 pm. The author of the critically acclaimed novel *Nice to Come Home To* will read from her work.

Saturday, May 9 from 9:30-1:00. Flowers will lead a writing workshop for novice or experienced writers looking to hone their skills. She will approach the writing process using prompts such as music, art and literature. Participants will mine their own experiences for topics. Coffee and light refreshments will be available.

Both the reading and workshop are free. Registration is limited and required for the workshop. Adults only. Call to register: 518-765-2791 or e-mail at [voorefq@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:voorefq@uhls.lib.ny.us). For additional information go to [voorheesvillelibrary.com](http://voorheesvillelibrary.com) or [rebeccaflowers.com](http://rebeccaflowers.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.**