

May 1, 2009

Hudson Valley Writers Guild Newsletter

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Guild announcements

Hudson Valley Writers Guild Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held Monday, May 4 at 6pm at the Panera on Wolf Road (next to old Borders Bookstore next to Colonie Mall). They will rope off a section of their backroom. All Guild members are invited to attend. There is no purchase required by Panera.

Colonie Panera - Wolf Road
65 Wolf Road
Colonie, New York 12205
(518) 438-4307

Hudson Valley Writers Guild 2009 Poetry Contest

The Hudson Valley Writers Guild is pleased to announce its first annual multi-genre Writing Contest, which will annually alternate among the genres of poetry, fiction and non-fiction. This year's contest is in poetry. Three cash prizes will be awarded, and winners and honorable mentions will be invited to read their poems during the Community of Writers Program in the fall of 2009. Submissions are now being accepted. For the complete submission guidelines, visit the Guild's website: hvwg.org.

Member announcements

Djelloul Marbrook announces that by buying his audiobook CD of *Far From Algiers*, his first book of poems, you can do a good deed. You can help the American poets who have yet to be heard, because all proceeds from sales of this CD go to the Wick Poetry Center at Kent State University. The center's mission is to find and publish new voices in American poetry, just as he was found. The press is now taking pre-orders and it will be available very soon: upress.kent.edu/books/Marbrook_D.htm

Far From Algiers is the 2007 winner of the Stan and Tom Wick Prize in poetry. The audio version was recorded by Julie Last in Woodstock, NY, at Coldbrook Studios. The soprano saxophone music was composed by Julie Last and played by Bruce Williamson of Woodstock. Djelloul is the reader, and each poem is introduced by a remark about its inception. The cover of the CD features an oil painting by Juanita Guccione, "A Hole In Time," as does the book's cover.

Dan Wilcox announces the next installment of the Third Thursday Poetry Night at the Social Justice Center on May 21. The featured poet will be Rebecca Schumejda. There will also be an open mic with sign up starting at 7:00. The reading begins at 7:30. The Social Justice Center is next to the Albany Shalimar at 33 Central Avenue.

Area announcements

A weekend with author Rebecca Flowers

On Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m., at the Voorheesville Public Library, Rebecca Flowers, the author of the critically acclaimed novel *Nice to Come Home To*, will read from her work, and on Saturday, May 9, from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. she 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. For additional information, go to voorheesvillelibrary.com or rebeccaflowers.com.

CHARLES OLSON NEXT STEP

Rootdrinker Institute is sponsoring a seminar for a small group of scholars/fellow students. Enrollment will be limited, with the expectation of serious intent and priority to the extent that joining the seminar should not be a casual impulse. We would meet once a month in person and maintain an e-mail circle exclusive for our discussion and use. The purpose of the seminar is to increase knowledge and understanding of American poet Charles Olson (27 December 1910 – 10 January 1970) and also to increase the sensation of Charles Olson for the benefit of our daily lives. Alan Casline is facilitating the endeavor. He brings thirty-plus years of reading Olson and experiencing the accounts of Olson's students and associates in person and in publication as well walking some of the

same paths that Olson took. He feels he is bringing the desire to be "a student of Olson" to this group more than any overriding expertise.

CONTACT: Alan Casline at acasline@aol.com and Rootdrinker Institute at PO Box 522, Delmar, NY 12054

Deconstructing Memoir

Thursdays, May 7 through May 28, 2009, from 6:00-8:30 pm Thursdays, August 13, 2009 through September 3, 2009, 6:00-8:30 pm at the Arts Center of the Capital Region 265 River Street, Troy (273-0552.)

Members of Arts Center and HVWG - \$117

Non-Members - \$130

Instructor: Donna Miller

Memoirs are perhaps the most commonly read works of non-fiction today. Memoir is often the subject of harrowing or heartbreaking experiences personal to the author's life. Good memoir also contains universal truths or reveals common ground for readers to walk as they examine their own lives and experiences. The class will carefully dissect the memoir genre, working together to discover qualities of voice, characterization and structure that drive good memoir. In addition, we will examine how memoir differs from autobiography and other non-fiction and develop criteria to evaluate the reliability of the narrator. They will complete short reading and writing assignments that will help answer the question, "why write a memoir?"

Remembrance Reading Series

The Arts Center of The Capital District will be hosting a reading series, *Remembrance*, as part of the Memoir Project on Monday, May 11, 2009 at 7:00 pm. This is free and open to the public. Curated by Julie Gutmann and Donna Miller, readers include: Gary McLouth, Anne Pfeiffer, Valerie Ackerman, Alan Casline, Phyllis Hillinger, Mimi Moriarty, Julie Gutmann and Donna Miller. The Arts Center is located at 265 River Street, Troy. artscenteronline.org. 518-273-0552.

Memoir and Poetry: The Lyric of Memory

Tuesdays, June 9 through June 30, 2009 - 6:00-9:00 pm

Instructor: Julie Gutmann

Arts Center of the Capital Region

265 River Street, Troy

273-0552

artscenteronline.org.

Members of Arts Center and HVWG \$139

Non-Members \$155

New themes and readings this summer! Transform moments and events of your own inner landscape into poems of witness, minimalist poems and miniature lyric essays. This workshop will introduce exercises such as free-writing, guided visualization, and writing about photographs and family objects to capture the textures of experience in imagery and sensory language. Discover how writing between poetry and prose brings form and insight into your writing.

Preparing the Poetry Manuscript

Saturday, June 20, 2009, 12:00-5:00

Instructor: Julie Gutmann

Arts Center of the Capital Region

265 River Street, Troy

273-0552

artscenteronline.org.

Members of Arts Center and HVWG \$68

Non-Members \$75

How do I develop my collection of poems into a poetry collection?

Learn how to entice the reader into your manuscript by creating a strong title and a compelling series of connected works. Bring ten poems and/or short prose pieces to work with, and discover the themes and sequences within your own work. Convert a random collection into a dynamic reader's journey.

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.