

COMMUNITY OF WRITERS



OMNIUM GATHERUM & NEWSLETTER

2007-2008 ISSUE 12

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Community of Writers at Squaw Valley

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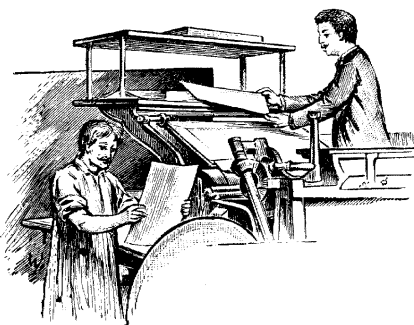
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A Note from the Editor

Welcome to the Omnium Gatherum & Newsletter!

This is our second annual issue since we switched to an online format. This time we've added color! And we are pleased to say that the first issue was met with many enthusiastic comments from our readers. We love hearing from you, so please do let us know. Having the *Omnium* be online allows us to make the text and ads interactive. We hope you enjoy exploring some of the many sites of your fellow writers.

For those who still love to hold something in their hands while reading, or who want a copy of this to keep, you can print out this newsletter on 8.5 x 11 paper. Just be sure you've selected landscape/horizontal orientation in your page setup dialogue box.

The Omnium exists to help foster a sense of community among our writers. We try to keep you up-to-date on the news from your colleagues and bring you information we hope will be valuable in your writing life—in this issue: online writing communities, scholarships for writers, and publications that encourage submissions by Squaw Valley alums. In addition to profiles of some past participants, this issue brings you some noteworthy projects: Joan Baranow's documentary *Healing Words* on using poetry in a medical setting and Michael Penwarden's online adventure *Chasing Glaciers*. Julia Flynn Siler talks about how Squaw Valley helped to birth her best-selling non-fiction book, and poet Molly Fisk discusses theoretical immortality in the poetry workshops. We also bring you two new excerpts from *Writers*

Workshop in a Book: The Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Fiction, published by Chronicle Books in 2007. We celebrate the successes of two of our poetry staff and mourn the loss of a valued board member. And of course, there's Lisa Alvarez's ever-popular showcase of the fabulous music heard around the office last summer.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Let us know! info@squawvalleywriters.org or brett@squawvalleywriters.org



PAST-PARTICIPANT OR STAFF?

Do you have news you would like us to include in the newsletter? We print publishing credits, awards and similar new writing-related achievements, and also include births. **News should be from the past year only.** Please compose it in third person, using complete sentences. Include titles, periodicals, publisher, and publication dates, as needed. **It helps us enormously if your news is sent in the correct format.** See examples in this issue. **Deadline: September 15, 2008 for next issue.**

COMMUNITY OF WRITERS



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Application Deadlines in
May (See each program)

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2008

POETRY WORKSHOPS: July 19 - 26

Lucille Clifton · Robert Hass · Sharon Olds
C.D. Wright · Dean Young

WRITERS WORKSHOPS: August 2 - 9

Greg Bills · Max Byrd · Michael Carlisle
Mark Childress · John Daniel · Gill Dennis
Cai Emmons · Janet Fitch · Lynn Freed
Molly Giles · Sands Hall · Louis B. Jones
Michelle Latiolais · Jake Morrissey
Janis Cooke Newman · Cecile Pineda
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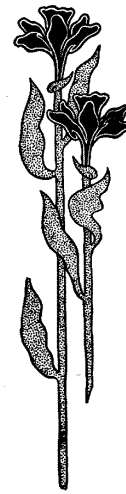
Selden Edwards · Leslie Daniels · Oakley Hall
Diane Johnson · Anne Lamott · Amy Tan

SCREENWRITING: August 2 - 9

*Production commitments will determine the
availability of staff members and guests.*

Eugene Corr · Jeffrey Friedman · Pamela Gray
Michael Lehmann · Toney Merritt
Christopher Monger · Judith Rascoe
Tom Rickman · Lisa Rosenberg
Camille Thomasson · Tom Schlesinger · Michael Urban

Congratulations to Our Illustrious Staff



Lucille Clifton was the winner of the 2007 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, presented by the Poetry Foundation. The award is one of the most prestigious and largest prizes (\$100,000) given to American poets. The judges were poets Linda Bierds, W.S. Di Piero and Christian Wiman. In announcing the award, Wiman said, "Lucille Clifton is a powerful presence and voice in American poetry. Her poems are at once outraged and tender, small and explosive, sassy and devout. She sounds like no one else, and her achievement looks larger with each passing year." The judges also commented: "One always feels the looming



humaneness around Lucille Clifton's poems—it is a moral quality that some poets have and some don't. Her poems are local and funny, and have their own particular idiom; they speak big things in quiet ways, and she's voracious in the subject matter she takes on, spanning city and country, speaking for the unspoken, the sacred, and the invisible. Clifton has added enormously to the representation of the African-American experience in poetry and has been a kind of historical consciousness for her people and a public consciousness for us all."

A regular and beloved presence on our poetry staff at Squaw Valley, Lucille Clifton was poet laureate of Maryland from 1974 until 1985. She won the National Book Award in 2000 for *Blessing the Boats: New and Selected Poems, 1988-2000* (BOA, 2000), and has been granted numerous other honors. Her most recent collection of poetry is *Mercy* (BOA, 2004).

Robert Hass, director of the Poetry Workshop, was honored with a National Book Award this year for his newest collection, *Time and Materials*. The National Book Foundation web site declares, "These poems are grounded in the beauty and energy of the physical world, and in the bafflement of the present moment in American culture." In *The San*

Francisco Chronicle, Barbara Berman wrote that Hass' recent poems "display compassion wedded to skill. He makes melody out of many kinds of sorrow, even as he admits, in verse, how hard it is to do." Poet laureate Charles Simic chaired the five-member poetry jury. Robert Hass served as poet laureate of the United States from 1995 to 1997; he is currently a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. He has won numerous awards, including two National Book Critics Circle Awards.





Jimmy Santiago Baca: His collection *Spring Poems Along the Rio Grande* was published in 2007 by New Directions. A bilingual edition of his *Selected Poems* will be published by New Directions in April of 2009. His novel *Buffalo Nickel Man* will be published by Grove/Atlantic in 2008, and they will also release a book of his poetry in 2008 entitled *Rita Falling From The Sky*.

Lucille Clifton: She was awarded the 2007 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, presented annually by the Poetry Foundation, honoring lifetime achievement.

Cornelius Eady: *Hardheaded Weather, New and Selected Poems 1999-2007*, will be published in April 2008 from Marian Wood/G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Robert Hass: His recent books include *Now & Then*, a collection of his *Washington Post* articles (Shoemaker & Hoard, April 2007) and a collection of poems entitled *Time and Materials* (Ecco/HarperCollins, Fall 2007), which was awarded the National Book Award.

Brenda Hillman: Her collection *Pieces of Air in the Epic* is newly available in paperback from Wesleyan University Press.

Marie Howe: Her book of poems *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time* will be published in January 2008 by WW Norton.

Galway Kinnell: His collection *Strong is Your Hold* was published by Houghton Mifflin, November 2006.

Dorianne Laux: Her first collection of poetry, *Awake*, which debuted in 1990 and has been out of print for several years, has been reprinted (Eastern Washington University Press).

Li Young Lee: His new collection, *Behind My Eyes: Poems* (with audio CD), will be published by WW Norton in January 2008.

Harryette Mullen: Her collection *Recyclopedia* won a PEN Beyond Margins Award. She also traveled to Mexico City for an international poetry festival, *Poesia en voz alta*, and celebrated the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop at the poet's alma mater, Vassar College.

Claudia Rankine: She edited the anthology *American Poets in the 21st Century: The New Poetics by Wesleyan Poetry*, July 2007.

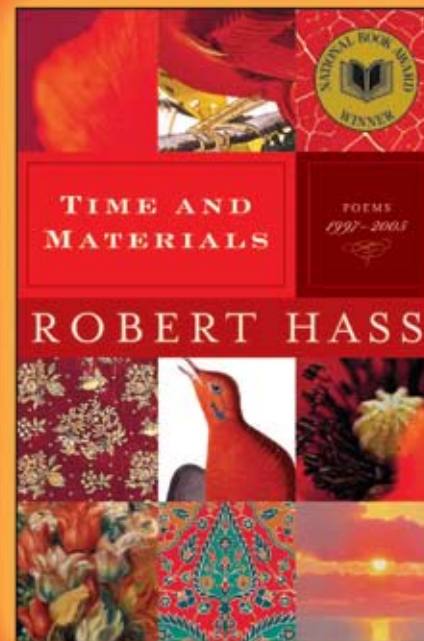
Gerald Stern: *The Preacher: A Poem* was published by Sarabande Books in September 2007.

C.D. Wright: Her most recent book, *Rising, Falling, Hovering*, will be published by Copper Canyon Press in 2008.

Dean Young: His new collection, *Embryoyo*, was published by McSweeney's in 2007.

Kevin Young: Knopf published his new book, *For the Confederate Dead*, in January 2007.

Congratulations
ROBERT HASS
 Winner of the
 2007 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD
 for Poetry



"Hass proves that his music is alive and well."

—San Francisco Chronicle

"Magnificent...Hass's work of the past twenty years, culminating in *Time and Materials*, is his best."

—The New Yorker

"No practicing poet has more talent than Robert Hass."

—Atlantic Monthly



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Healing Words: Poetry Enters the Hospital



Joan Baranow has attended the Poetry Workshop at Squaw Valley eight times since 1990, most recently in 2006. She teaches English and Creative Writing at Dominican University of California in San Rafael. With her husband, poet and doctor David Watts, whom she met at Squaw Valley, (and James Cavanaugh and Victoria Chaban), she has co-produced and co-directed *Healing Words: Poetry & Medicine*, a one-hour television documentary exploring the poetry of illness and recovery and the role of poetry in healing. Eric Henderson wrote in *City Pages*, "...this documentary invites comparison to last year's *Born Into Brothels*. Both films salute the utilitarian integrity of artmaking as a means of transcendence." The documentary features poetry therapist John Fox, author of *Poetic Medicine*, and the Shands Arts-in-Medicine Program, where patients are encouraged to write poems about their experiences with illness and healing. Exploring the power of language, the series asks such questions as: "Does art help people recover their humanity and awaken soulfulness? How can the arts assist in the practice of health care? What is a healing environment?"

In describing the mission of the documentary, the producers state, "Poetry serves to remind us of the spiritual mission of medicine. We believe that healing is an art, not merely a skill, and thus the practice of medicine should be founded upon an ethos that embraces the whole range of human emotion....Poetry will tell the stories of our bodies and our hearts during the stress of illness, birth, and uncertain recovery. This program is about participation in our own health. We believe

Healing Words can introduce a new way of caring for self and others." PBS Plus will be airing *Healing Words* in July.

Joan Baranow earned a Ph.D. in English from Rutgers University. She has published a book of poems, *Living Apart* (Plain View Press), two chapbooks, and a poetry and jazz CD collaboration with her husband David Watts, called *Powerful Seeds*. Her poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The Antioch Review*, *The Western Journal of Medicine*, *Feminist Studies*, and elsewhere.

David Watts attended the Poetry Workshop at Squaw Valley each year from 1990-93, and again in '97, '99, '02, and '04. He also founded and ran Writing the Medical Experience program at Squaw in 2003. Trained first as a musician then as a medical doctor, he has been a television host for PBS, Lifetime Network and a radio host on KQED-FM. His commentaries on the practice of medicine can be heard on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. He practices and teaches medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. In 1992 he earned a Masters in English/Poetry from San Francisco State University and now teaches poetry at the Fromm Institute. His books of poetry include *Taking The History*, *Making*, and *Slow Waking at Jenner-by-the-Sea*. His book *Making* was awarded the Talent House Prize in 1999.

For more information about the documentary *Healing Words*, visit www.poetryandmedicine.com
For more about Joan and David, visit www.poetry-and-jazz.com



The Sounds of Summer 2007 Music Heard in the Office

—Lisa Alvarez

Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man



The soundtrack to the film: a Leonard Cohen songbook with contributions by **Rufus Wainwright, Nick Cave, Perla Batalla and others.**

The McGarrigle Hour



Canadian chanteuses **Kate and Anna McGarrigle** team up with family (Rufus and Martha Wainwright, ex-hubby Loudon and others) to create something very special.

The first cut, "Schooldays" is our favorite.

We'll Never Turn Back



Mavis Staples sings the Civil Rights movement. Liner notes by Congressman John Lewis. Produced by Ry Cooder. What more could you want?

My Name is Buddy



Ry Cooder rewrites *The Grapes of Wrath* from the point of view of a cat. Meow. Guest musicians include Pete Seeger, Mike Seeger, Flaco Jimenez and Van Dyke Parks.

End of the Holiday

Chava Albertstein creates a moody, soulful atmosphere in this collection of songs.



Wonder Wheel

The Klezmatics do their part and more to continue the Woody Guthrie legacy in this collection full of wonder, love and the usual outrage.



Petra Haden and Bill Frisell

The two unite in this CD that wears their names and finds them covering Glenn Miller, Henry Mancini, George & Ira Gershwin and the Ramones. We like their spirit.



The Modern Sounds of the Knitters

The Knitters reunite to show us you're never too old to enjoy what we like to call "cow punk."



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POETWATCH POETRY PARTICIPANTS

Anthony Abbott ('91,'02): His new novel, *The Three Great Secret Things*, a sequel to his 2003 novel, *Leaving Maggie Hope*, was published in December by Main Street Rag Publishing Co.

Meghan Adler ('03): Her poem “Hospital With My Sister Visiting” was just included in the anthology *Illuminations*, published by Ten Speed Press. Two poems were recently awarded Honorable Mention and Editor’s Choice, respectively, in the 2006 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards, sponsored by the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College. They appeared in the *Paterson Literary Review* in the Fall of 2007. A poem that appeared in *Gastronomica* in the summer of 2007 was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Kazim Ali ('98): His second book of poems, *The Fortieth Day*, will be published by BOA Editions in 2008. He also has a regular column in the *American Poetry Review*. He has a poem forthcoming in *jubilat*.

Maureen Alsop ('07): Her first full collection, *Apparition Wren*, was published by Main Street Rag Press in December 2007. www.apparitionwren.com She was the winner of *Harpur Palate's* 2007 Milton Kessler Memorial Award and *Bitter Oleander's* 2007 Frances Locke Memorial Award. Additional poems are published or forthcoming in *Typo Magazine*, *Cortland Review*, *Texas Review*, and *Cafe Review*.

Colette Anderson Gill ('02): Her chapbook *Silk and Sting* will be published by Finishing Line Press in 2008.

Charles Atkinson ('88): He has had two poetry volumes published in the last year or so. His collection *Because We Are Men* won the Sow’s Ear Press chapbook competition in 2006-07. A full length volume, *Fossil Honey*, was published by Hummingbird Press in 2007.

Bob Austin ('79,'80,'83): His play *Burnt Sugar* received a full cast reading at the Quincy Community Theatre in May.

Joan Baranow ('90-'93,'97,'01,'03,'06): She has finished her documentary *Healing Words: Poetry and the Art of Medicine* (with fellow producers David Watts, James Cavanaugh and Victoria Chaban). In the documentary Dr. John Graham-Pole and poet John Fox enter hospital rooms and help patients write poems as part of their healing process.

Elaine Bartlett ('02): She has fiction forthcoming in the *New Orleans Review*, *South Dakota Review* and *Beloit Fiction Journal*.

Kaveh Bassiri ('03): With Mary Austin Speaker, whom he met at Squaw Valley in 2003, he has been curating The Reading Between A & B (www.readab.com) since 2006. The reading series pairs emerging and established writers and has recently been host to Fanny Howe, Philip Levine,

Carl Phillips, Sarah Gambito, Dante Micheaux and Orlando White, among others. Readers for the Fall 2007 season included Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, Kathleen Peirce and Alice Fulton.

Jill Battson ('94,'06): She wrote the libretti for two short operas, *Netsuke* and *Asblike on the Cradle of the Wind*, produced by Tapestry New Opera Works; collaborated in verse with dancers: *Hard Candy*; appeared on a reality TV show: *The 3 day Novel Writing Contest*; and collaborated with composer Andrew Staniland on an electro-acoustic performance piece: *LinguaElastic*. In the spring she moved to Santa Fe where she produces the poetry series Vox Performa for the Center for Contemporary Arts (www.ccasantafe.org).

Dan Bellm ('90,'92,'95,'97,'03): He was awarded a July 2007 residency at Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, NY. His third book of poems, *Practice*, will come out from Sixteen Rivers Press, San Francisco, in April 2008.

Michelle Bitting ('05): Her chapbook *Blue Laws* is due out from Finishing Line Press in December 2007. She was a finalist this year for the Washington Square Review prize, the dA Center for the Arts and Florence Poets Society Awards. Her poems have appeared recently or are forthcoming in *Crab Orchard Review* and *Passages North*.

Bruce Bond ('97): His sixth book, *Blind Rain*, is forthcoming from LSU Press. His poems have been recently published in *Yale Review*, *Georgia Review*, *New Republic*, *Virginia Quarterly*, *Poetry Northwest*, and other journals. www.brucebond.com

Annie Boutelle ('03): A poem of hers appeared in the Fall issue of *Green Mountains Review*.

Rebecca Bowler ('05) and Tim Underwood ('05): They celebrated the birth of their daughter, Grace Catherine Underwood Bowler, born February 2007.

Jill Breckenridge ('01): She has had two poems published in two anthologies, *Where One Voice Ends Another Begins: 150 Years of Minnesota Poetry* and *To Sing Along the Way: Minnesota Women Poets from Pre-Territorial Days to the Present*.

Andrea Carter Brown ('89): Her collection *The Disheveled Bed* was published by CavanKerry Press in 2006. Her double sonnet crown, "September 12," won the River Styx Poetry Prize; her poem "The Old Neighborhood" was included in *I Speak of the City: Poems of New York* (2007). Her interview with Sharon Olds will appear in the Summer 2008 issue of *Five Points*.

Melisa (Misha) Cahnmann-Taylor ('00,'03): She co-edited *Arts-Based Research in Education: Foundations for Practice*, which will be published this fall by Taylor & Francis. Her poems have been recently published in *Anthropology & Humanism*, and *White Ink*, and are forthcoming in *Bellevue Literary Review Anthology* and *English in Education*. She judges an annual Ethnographic Poetry contest. Her son Oren Ben Cahnmann-Taylor was born May 25, 2007.

Elizabeth Biller Chapman ('00, '04,'07): *Bellevue Literary Review*, published her poem "The Old Man Washes his Boat, Ballycotton" in the Fall, '07 issue. (The poem was written in Squaw Valley, 2004.)

She started a writing-consulting business, Deathless Prose.
www.deathlessprose.com

Robin Chapman ('92,'93): Her manuscript *Abundance* was a finalist for the Cider Press Review 2006 book contest. New poetry collections include *The Dreamer Who Counted the Dead* (WordTech Editions, 2007), *Smoke and Strong Whiskey* (WordTech Editions, forthcoming in 2008) and an edited anthology, *On Retirement: 75 Poems* (University of Iowa Press, 2007; with J. Strasser). A poem of hers appeared in the Fall issue of *Green Mountains Review*.

Sharon Charde ('00,'03,'07): She won first prize and two honorable mentions in the Dallas Poets Community 2007 contest. She has poems forthcoming in *Caduceus* and *Illya's Honey*. Backwaters Press will publish her full-length collection *Branch In His Hand* in the fall of 2008.

Casey Charles ('04): He won second prize in the Muriel Craft Bailey Memorial Award Annual Poetry Contest in 2007 for "Stay" and received a Special Merit for "The M." His chapbook *Controlled Burn* was published by Pudding House Press in 2007.

Nancy Cherry ('91,'04): Her recent poems are published or forthcoming in *Nimrod*, *Runes*, *Main Street Rag*, *Poetry Depth Quarterly*, *Green Hills Literary Lantern* (now online), *Mad Poets*, *Pinyon Review*, *Tule Review* and *The Kerf*.

Tess Christiano ('99): Recent poems can be found in *Cortland Review*, *Los Angeles Review*, and *The Main Street Rag*. She is pursuing a doctorate degree in Arts and Letters at Drew University in New Jersey.

Jeanette Clough ('95): Her collection of poems *Island* was published in 2007 by Red Hen Press.

Kevin Conder ('05): Poems of his are published or forthcoming in *Aethlon*, *Red River Review* and *2River View*. His poem "Hands" received an award in the Oregon State Poetry Association Spring 2007 Contest.

Patricia Corbus ('90,'94,'97): Her poem is included in *Conversation Pieces: Poems that Talk to Other Poems*, selected by Kurt Brown and Harold Schechter (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets, Alfred A. Knopf). Her poems were also recently published in *Cincinnati Review*, *Nimrod*, and *Notre Dame Review*.

Christopher Cunningham ('06): His poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *Slate*, *Smartish Pace*, *River Styx*, *Meridian*, *Poetry International*, *Best New Poets 2006*, *West Branch*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Pearl*, and elsewhere. In 2006, he also received a Pushcart nomination.

Diane Dawber ('06): She has been stirring up the poetry scene in Kingston, Ontario, with the publication of 'Scapes: Poetry & Company, A Kingston Community Anthology' (Hidden Brook Press, July 2007).

Lisa Espenmiller ('95): She is editor of the new online literary journal *Singing with the Whale: A Journal Devoted to Poetry & Beauty*. Poems published or forthcoming in *DMQ Review* and the anthology *Sisters Singing: Incantations, Blessings, Chant, Prayer, Art, Songs, and Sacred Stories by Women*.

Sharon Fain ('04): She was nominated for a 2007 Pushcart Prize and was a writer-in-residence at Byrdcliffe Arts Colony. Her work appeared in the *Atlanta Review* and is forthcoming in *Isotope* and *Crab Orchard Review*.

Chanda Feldman ('06): Her poems recently appear or are forthcoming in *Crab Orchard Review*, *The Journal*, *Northwest*

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Review, Poetry Northwest, and Prairie Schooner.

Marlon L. Fick ('96,'05): His most recent book, *Reading Palms in the Morgue*, in Russian Translation by Tatiana Puchnacheva of Moscow, was published by Moscow University Press.

Ann Fisher-Wirth ('92,'00): She has poems or prose poems published or forthcoming in *How2* (special issue on experimental ecopoetics), *Runes, Poetry International, The Prairie Schooner, Sentence, Many Mountains Moving, Blackbird, Diode*, and several anthologies. During the past year she received Honorable Mention in the Missouri Review Poetry Awards Competition, was a Finalist in the Center for Book Arts chapbook competition, and received a Pushcart Special Mention.

Molly Fisk ('92,'95,'98,'04): She won the Dogwood Prize in 2007 and has poems forthcoming in *Margie* and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. She was twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize. www.mollyfisk.com

Gretchen Fletcher ('05): She was the first prize winner in San Francisco's Artists Embassy International Dancing Poetry Contest, and received an Honorable Mention in the Dallas Poets Community's Open Poetry Competition. Her poem, "Braiding," was included in a coffee table book of poetry and photographs, introduced at the Capital BookFest in which she participated. Her chapbook, *That Severed Cord*, is being published by Finishing Line Press.


Stewart Florsheim ('91,'92): He recently won first prize in the Blue Light Poetry Competition. Blue Light published his book, *The Short Fall from Grace*, in May 2007. www.stewartflorsheim.com

CB 'Lyn Follett ('91,'93,'95,'00,'04): In February, she published two books: *Hold and Release*, a poetry collection from Time Being Books Press and a chapbook, *Runaway Girl*, a prize winner in the Pudding House Press chapbook contest. She received second place in the Ann Stanford Poetry Prize. She is the editor of *RUNES*. The seventh anthology of *RUNES: A Review of Poetry* (2007) was recently published. The theme was Connection (Robert Hass and Brenda Hillman, judges).

Serena Fox ('92,'93,'94,'96,'99): Her manuscript *Night Shift* has been accepted for publication in 2008 by WordTech Press (Turning Point).


Marcene Gandolfo ('03): Her poems have appeared recently or are forthcoming in *The Café Review, Van Gogh's Ear*,

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Gail Ghai ('03): She recently published "Painted Words," a color thesaurus poster: www.artpoetica.com. Recent

poems have appeared in *Kalliope, Florida English, Pittsburgh Post Gazette* and *The Comstock Review*. Forthcoming, her poem "Lunch along the Monongahela" will appear in the anthology *Along these Rivers*, a collection of Pittsburgh writings to celebrate Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary.

Audrey Gonzalez ('06): She was awarded one of the 2007 National Jefferson Awards for Public Service for her work as a volunteer probation officer in Memphis, Tennessee.

Judy Halebsky ('06): Finishing Line Press is publishing a chapbook of her poems. Two of these poems were also published this Fall in the Hip Pocket Press anthology, *Yuba Flows*.

Al Haley ('07): His poem "Barcelona" won the 2007 *Rattle* Poetry Prize and is forthcoming in issue no. 28. He also received second place for "What Binds the World" in *Ruminate Magazine's* poetry contest (July 2007), and "The Hedge" was a finalist in the Virginia Brendemuehl Poetry Contest sponsored by *Rock & Sling: A Journal of Art, Literature and Faith*.

Quinton Hallett ('91): She has poems in *Jefferson Monthly* and *bipfish* and forthcoming in *Tiger's Eye*. She coordinates two Oregon State Poetry Association programs: a biannual reading series at the Springfield, Oregon Public Library and poet visits to a rural high school.

Forrest Hamer ('92,'97,'02): His new book of poems, *Rift*, was published by Four Way Books in March 2007.

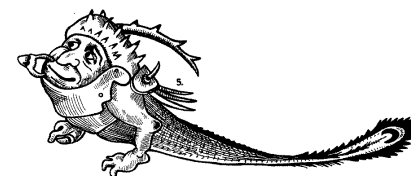
John Harvey ('95): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

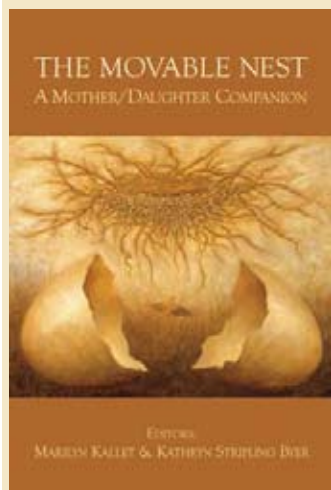
Donna Henderson ('89,'90,'92,'05): Her poems and/or essays have appeared this year in *American Letters and Commentary, The Dunes Review*, and several anthologies, including *Stories of Illness and Healing: Women Write Their Bodies*, just out from Kent State University Press.

M. Miriam Herrera ('99,'02,'05): She has recently published poems in *New Millennium Writings* and *Artlife*, and has poems forthcoming in *Albatross* and *Rainmakers Prayers Anthology*. She was the featured poet at the 2007 annual conference of the Society for Crypto Judaic Studies in Albuquerque, NM. miriamherrera.poems.googlepages.com

Clara Hsu ('01): Her first collection of poems, *Mystique*, was published in the spring of 2007 by Beatitude Press. Her work has appeared in *Cheers to Muses: Contemporary Works by Asian American Women*, published by the Asian American Women Artists Association, and is forthcoming in *North Coast Literary Review*. www.clarahsu.com

Christina Hutchins ('03,'06): Poems are recently published or forthcoming in *Alehouse Review, Denver Quarterly, The New Republic, Prairie Schooner, Spoon River Review* and *Witness*. In 2007 her manuscript, was a finalist for the Colorado Prize, *Crab Orchard*, Utah State's May





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Swenson, *Tupelo*, and Fordham's Poets Out Loud contests.

Marc Jampole ('05): Bellday Books published his book of poetry *Music from Words* in 2007.

Bryan Tso Jones ('06): His poetry manuscript *Raking the Hollow Bones* was accepted as the winner of the 2007 Rhea and Seymour Gorsline Poetry Prize, and will be published through Bedbug Press (www.bedbugpress.com) some time next year.

Patricia Spears Jones ('99,'94,'92): Her *Femme du Monde* (Tia Chucha Press, 2006) was placed in Bob Holman and Margery Snyder's Top Ten Poetry Collections of 2006 on www.about.com; Belladonna Books published *repuestas!* in 2007. "Halloween Suite" from *The Weather That Kills* (Coffee House, 1994) was anthologized in *Broken Land* (NYU

Press, 2007), and "The Brooklyn Song" from *Song for New York: What Women Do When Men Sit Knitting*, a musical theater work from Mabou Mines that premiered in August 2007 is published in *The Brooklyn Rail*. Poems have appeared or will be in *Mosaic*, *Court Green*, *Fifth Wednesday*, *Not Enough Night*, and *PMS*. www.psiones.com.

Maxima Kahn ('06): Her poems have recently been published or are forthcoming in *Hardpan*, *Westview*, *The Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, *Eclipse*, *Borderlands*, *Poem*, *Slant*, and *Eureka*.

Marilyn Kallet ('96,'98,'05): *Jack the Healing Cat*, a children's book, published by Tellico Books in 2007, is being promoted by the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Arts & Sciences as part of their Human and

Animal Contact programs. Her anthology, *The Movable Nest: A Mother/Daughter Companion*, co-edited by Kathryn Stripling Byer, was published in 2007 by Helicon Nine Editions. The anthology includes poetry by Brenda Hillman and Lucille Clifton. Her poetry is featured in *Potomac Review* (Fall 2007) and in *New Letters*. Four of her poems are included in *Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust* (Charles Fishman, ed. Time Being Books). She was a poet in residence at Auvillar, France, this summer, as part of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts "Deep France" experience.

Rita Brady Kiefer ('92): "My Name Is Not Eve," her play about battered women was performed April 5,6,7 at Mesa College in Grand Junction.

Sojourner Kincaid Rolle ('94,'97): In 2007 she released her spoken word CD *Black Street*, featuring a response poem to Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*, and "Millenium Poem," a retrospective on the last century. Rolle's poetry column, Serendipity, appears on-line at www.inkbyte.com and her work can also be found at The AfriGeneas Poet (www.afrigeneas.com).

Ted Lardner ('98,'02,'06): His poems have recently been in *Arsenic Lobster*, *Sam* and *Rhino*. *Tornado*, a chapbook, is due out from Kent State University Press by January 2008; at least three of the poems in *Tornado* were first drafts at Squaw Valley.

Shara Lessley ('02): Her poems are published or forthcoming in *The Kenyon Review*, *Fence*, *AGNI*, and *Mid-American Review*. Shara's 2007 awards include the Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellowship from the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing and the Moondancer Fellowship for Nature and Outdoor Writing from The Writers' Colony.

Julia Levine ('04): Her third collection of poetry, *Ditch-tender*, has just been released from University of Tampa Press. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize this year, as well as having poems and an essay on the craft of writing published or forthcoming in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Grist*, and *The Pinch*.

Nina Lindsay ('97): Her first collection of poems, *Today's Special Dish*, was published by Sixteen Rivers Press. New work appeared in *Fence*, *Shenandoah*, and *Northwest Review*.

Nadine Lockhart ('05): Lockhart (formerly Kachur) received the International Writing Residency Fellowship to Casa Brava in Oaxaca, Mexico, from the Piper Center at Arizona State University.

Glenna Luschei ('99): She published two books in 2007, *Libido Dreams* (Artamo Press) and *Total Immersion* (Presa Press).

Sarah Maclay ('97,'06): *The Best American Erotic Poets: 1800 to the Present* (Scribner, February 2008) will include a poem from her first book. *The White Bride*, her second full-length collection, is due out from the University of Tampa Press in early 2008. She received a Special Mention in *Pushcart Prize XXXI*. An excerpt from her forthcoming book was first runner-up in the 2007 Poets & Writers California Poets Exchange Contest. Three poems written at Squaw in 2006—"Hinge," "Black Lake" and "Stand of Cut-off Trees"—appeared in the Spring 2007 volume of *FIELD*. Other poems have recently been published or will appear soon in *Pool*, *The Laurel Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *LUNA*, *Poetry International*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Parthenon West Review*, *mid/rib* and *Poemeleon*.

Sandra Cohen Margulius ('01): Her poem "Aunt Betty" appears in the newly released anthology *Blood to Remember*.

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The landscape of Holaday Mason's poems is most often a haunted, nocturnal

landscape, a landscape of broken dreaming and falling blossoms, of shadows that shift with the wind, an erotic and dangerous and beautiful place. —Cecilia Woloch, author of *Late*

Reading Holaday Mason's *Towards the Forest*, one feels in the hands of someone driven, someone who knows her way around the interior life of the mind and the imagination, one who takes risks and is brave. . . . "Wow! This is poetry." —Alice Friman, author of *The Book of the Rotten Daughter*

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American Poets on the Holocaust, edited by Charles Fishman. Her poem "My Mother Ironed" is included in *CapitolBookFest's* publication of November 2007. She also has two poems forthcoming in *New Works Review*, an online magazine edited by Tim Healy: "In Praise of Being Bahgahn" and "Repeating."

Holaday Mason ('00,'06): A collection of poems, *Towards the Forest*, was published in the Fall 2007 by New Rivers Press.

Beverly Matherne ('94): She has three poems in the anthology *French Connections: A Gathering of Franco-American Poets*, 2007. She has two poems in *Seventh Quarry*, a poetry review published at the Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea, Wales, 2007; a short prose piece in the anthology *Louisiana in Words*, 2007; and a blues poem in *Interdisciplinary Humanities: Blues and Jazz*, 2006. With Nicole J.M. Kennedy she did the French translations in a portfolio edition of poetry by Stanley Kunitz, entitled *The Artist/l'Artiste*. This publication is dated 2005, in honor of the poet's 100th birthday, but was not released until June 2006.

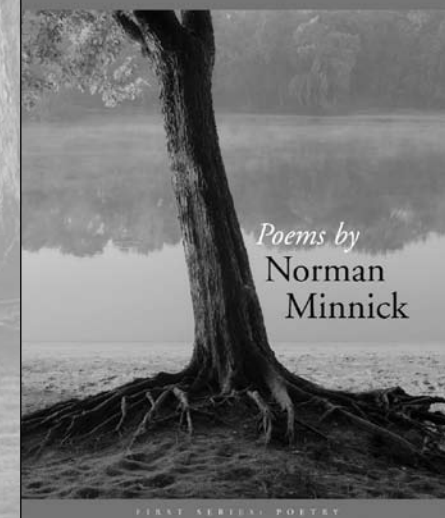
Karyna McGlynn ('06): She has a chapbook, *Scorpionica*, forthcoming this fall from New Michigan Press. Poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *LIT*, *Fence*, *Quarterly West*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *CutBank*, *Spinning Jenny*, *Ninth Letter*, *Willow Springs*, *Subtropics* and *Gulf Coast*. She is currently a Zell post-MFA fellow at the University of Michigan.

Dawn McGuire ('99,'01,'04): She is one of 12 finalists for A *Smartish Pace's* Erskine J. Prize (winner not yet announced) for "I Sleep in my Clothes." She has a poem in the new anthology *Stories of Illness and*

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Healing: Women Write the Body published by Kent State University Press. She has a poem forthcoming in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

Patricia McMillen ('06): She spent two weeks in residence at Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL.

Joseph Millar ('94): His second book of poems, *Fortune*, was published in hardcover by Eastern Washington University Press in January 2007 and is nearly sold out. A quality paperback version is now available.

Norman Minnick ('06): His book of poems *To Taste the Water* was published by Mid-List in early summer 2007.

Berwyn Moore ('90,'92): She won the *Bellevue Literary Review's* 2007 Magliocco Prize for Poetry for her poem "After the Light." Rafael Campo was the judge. Her

poem was published in the Spring 2007 issue of the *BLR*.

Sawnie Morris ('90,'92,'07): Her chapbook of poems *Matapolvo Rain* was published in the volume *The Sound a Raven Makes* (Tres Chicas Books).

Kathleen O'Toole's ('01,'03,'05): Her poetry has appeared this year in *Beltway: An Online Poetry Journal* and is forthcoming in *The Texas Review* and *The Delaware Review*. Two of her poems were featured in *Inspired Results*, an exhibition of original poetry and art in Takoma Park MD, and her poem "Statio" received an honorable mention in the poetry contest sponsored by *Presence*, a national magazine for spiritual directors.

Sharon Olson ('97): Her first full-length collection of poems, *The Long Night of Flying*, was published by Sixteen

Rivers Press in 2006. She can be heard reading several poems from this work in the archives of KQED Writers' Block at www.kqed.org/arts/writersblock.

Coco Owen ('05): She has poems coming out in the new *1913: A Journal of Forms*.

Natalie Peeterse ('06): She was awarded a month-long poetry residency at the Caldera Institute in Sisters, Oregon. She will also be included in the forthcoming anthology *Cadence of Hooves: A Celebration of Horses*, published in December 2007 by Yarroway Mountain Press.

Mary Petrosky ('07): This year her poems have appeared in *Calyx*, *Tattoo Highway*, *The Sand Hill Review* and (translated into Russian) *Metronome of Aptekarsky Ostrov* (St. Petersburg, Russia). Her essay on writing as community appeared in the *Waverley Writers 25th Anniversary*

Anthology, and her poem "The Want of a Shoe" was a finalist for the 2007 Rita Dove Poetry Award.

Claudia Rankine ('93): See Poetry Staff News.

Marilyn Ringer ('05,'07): Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Drumvoices Revue*, *Eclipse*, *Left Curve*, *Porcupine*, *Cairn*, *ellipsis*, *The Hurricane Review*, *Limestone*, *Phantasmagoria*, *Poet Lore*, *Reed Magazine*, *River Oak Review*, *Westview*, *Willard & Maple*, *Willow Review*, *The Binnacle*, *Slant*, *Studio One*, *Sulphur River Literary Review*, *Iodine Poetry Journal*, *Sierra Nevada College Review*, and *Tar Wolf Review*.

Julie Ritter ('99,'02): Her poem "26" won the 2007 *Meridian* Editor's Prize. In September, she and her husband welcomed a baby boy.

Suzanne Roberts ('04): She has published two collections of poetry, *Shameless* (Cherry Grove Collections, 2007) and *Nothing to You* (forthcoming from Pecan Grove Press, 2008).

Kim Rosen ('98,'01): Her new CD, *Only Breath* (Out Front Music, 2007), includes spoken poetry by her as well as poems by Neruda, Rumi, Rilke, Kunitz, Tsvetaeva and Walcott and music by Jami Sieber. www.kimrosen.net

Elizabeth Rosner ('99): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Larry Ruth ('01,'02,'04,'06): He has poems published in *The Berkeley Poetry Review* and *The Daily Californian*. In 2007, one of his poems was a finalist and winning entry in the California Poetry Contest at the University of California, Berkeley.

Marjorie Saiser ('00): She is the recipient of the Leo Love Award for Poetry from the Taos Summer Writers Conference.

Sky Sanchez ('05): She gave birth to Ella Ryan Sanchez-Fischer on June 28, 2007—a graceful 6 lbs., 12 oz., 18 1/2 inches long.

June Sylvester Saraceno ('05): Her first full length collection of poetry, *Altars of Ordinary Light*, was published by Plain View Press. Her poems also appeared in *California Quarterly*, *Ginosko* and *Silk Road*.

David Scronce ('03,'05): His review of Gerald Stern's "Everything is Burning" was published in *Review Revue*.

Elaine Sexton ('98): Her second book of poems, *Causeway*, will be published by New Issues Press (Western Michigan University) in 2008. Her new poems are forthcoming in *American Poetry Review*,

Bellevue Literary Journal, *Global City Review*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *New Letters* and *Upstreet*. She will be teaching a workshop on the chapbook at the Sarah Lawrence College Writing Institute in spring 2008.

Kent Shaw ('04):

His book *Calenture* won the 2007 Tampa Review Poetry Prize and will be available from University of Tampa Press in early 2008. His work has been published or is forthcoming in *Third Coast*, *The Literary Review*, *Agni*, and other journals.

Thandiwe Shiphrah ('00): Her solo theater project, *...and then God created woman*, began touring nationally. www.southernartistry.com/Thandiwe_Shiphrah

Scot Siegel ('07): He has new poems in *New Verse News*, *Inks Lake Ink*, and *The Friends of William Stafford Newsletter*.

N. Colwell Snell ('02): He won the 2007 Pearle M. Olsen book award for his manuscript, *Hand Me My Shadow*, which was published by the Utah State Poetry Society. In addition, his poem "Killdeer, etc." was First Runner-up in the 2006 William Faulkner/William Wisdom poetry competition.

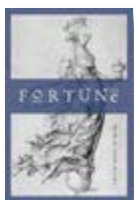
Jo Solfrian ('06): She has poems currently or forthcoming in *Pleiades*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, the Fall issue of *Margie*, and on www.bigcitylit.com. She and her husband are expecting their first child in December 2007.

Michelle Sorgen ('05): A daughter, Jasmine Ella Sorgen, was born March 12.



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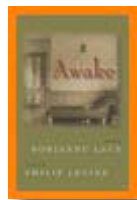
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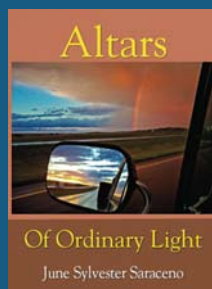


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Minton Sparks ('06): She recently released her first book, *Desperate Ransom*, a collection of her flash fiction and spoken-word poetry; the book comes with a live performance DVD of Sparks. Her DVD *Open Casket* was recently released in the US and the UK. Her CD *Sin Sick* was awarded the New York Book Festival's spoken word 1st prize. In 2006 she was featured on NPR's All Things Considered and the BBC's Bob Harris Show.
www.mintonsparks.com

Mary Austin Speaker ('03): With Kaveh Bassiri, whom she met at Squaw Valley in 2003, she has been curating The Reading Between A & B (www.readab.com) since 2006. The reading series pairs emerging and established writers and has recently been host to Fanny Howe, Philip Levine, Carl Phillips, Sarah Gambito, Dante Micheaux and Orlando White, among others. Readers for the Fall 2007 season included Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, Kathleen Peirce and Alice Fulton.

Donna Spector ('88): Her poems are published or forthcoming in *Notre Dame Review*, *Marlboro Review* and *Rattle*. Her play *Hanging Women* was produced in 2006 at Where Eagles Dare, NYC. Her latest play, *Burying Mother*, was a semi-finalist for the 2006 Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference, and her play *Life Lines* was a finalist in Reverie Productions' 2006 The Next Generation Contest, NYC. She and other facilitators are presently leading writing workshops for veterans in Orange County, NY.

Melissa Stein ('99): Poems published or forthcoming in *Southern Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Northwest Review*, *The Journal*, *Nimrod*, *Poet Lore*, and *Talking River*.

Jeanine Stevens ('07): She has had poems published or forthcoming in *South Dakota Review*, *Poetry Depth Quarterly*,

Ekphrasis, *Poet Lore*, *Quercus Review*, and *Red Hawk Review*. Her latest chapbook, *The Meaning of Monoliths*, was published in 2006 by Poet's Corner Press. She received the Stockton Arts Commission poetry award in 2007.

George Stratton ('04): To celebrate his 80th birthday, he has a yet untitled chapbook coming out from March Street Press.

Elizabeth Sullivan ('02,'05): She is delighted to welcome her new baby boy, Orion Gabriel, born on February 22, 2007.

Maria Garcia Tabor ('01): She is now editor in chief of *Ping Pong* literary journal out of the Henry Miller Library in Big Sur.
www.henrymiller.org

Susan Terris ('04): Her new book *Contrariwise* (Time Being Books) will come out in January 2008. She had two new chapbooks published in 2007, both prize winners—*Block Party* (Pudding House Publications) and *Marriage License* (Pavement Saw Press). Also in 2007 she collaborated on an artist's book with Tania Baban, *Sonia: The Doll Wife* (Conflux Press). Recent poems in *The Journal*, *Denver Quarterly*, and *Beloit Poetry Journal*. She won a Pushcart Award for a poem published in *FIELD*.

Lynne Thompson ('97,'02): Her first full-length collection of poems, *Beg No Pardon*, won the 2007 Perugia Press First Book Award and was published in September 2007. Poems are forthcoming in *RUNES* and *Poem, Memoir, Story (PMS)*.

Ann Tweedy ('97,'00,'04): She won *KNOCK Journal's* 2007 Environmental Poetry Contest and has had work published this year in *Sea Stories*, *KNOCK Journal*, *Gertrude*, *Harrington Lesbian Literary Quarterly*, and *Queer Collection: Prose and Poetry* 2007.

Tim Underwood ('05) and Rebecca Bowler ('05): They celebrated the birth of their daughter, Grace Catherine Underwood Bowler, born February 2nd, 2007.

Sally Van Doren ('01,'03,'06): She received the 2007 Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets for her poetry collection *Sex at Noon Taxes*, which will be published in the spring of 2008 by Louisiana State University Press.

Nicola Waldron ('01,'04): She was pregnant at the 2004 conference and now has Brook, born December 25th, 2004, and Beatrice, who followed on February 18th, 2007.

Lucinda Watson ('98,'02,'04): She has poems published in *Inkwell*, *The Louisville Review*, *Phantasmagoria*, *13th Moon*, *The Griffin* and *The Macguffin*.

David Watts ('90-'93,'97,'99,'02,'04): His book *Healing Words* came out in paperback (Three River Press) in 2006.

Mary Jane White ('06): Her chapbook *New Year's*, a translation of Marina Tsvetaeva's elegy for Rilke, was published in the fall of 2007 from Adastra Press, Easthampton, Massachusetts. A short elegy for James Wright is available on the Daily Pallate feature of the University of Iowa website. Other new poems are forthcoming in 2008 from *The Iowa Review*. Her translations of Tsvetaeva's "Poem of the Hill" is forthcoming in *The New England Review*. Selections from her translation of Tsvetaeva's lyric sequence "Womanfriend" are forthcoming in *Epicenter*. Her manuscript was honorably mentioned in the 2006 Stevens Manuscript Competition, judged by Patricia Fargnoli.

Ian Randall Wilson ('04): His fiction chapbook *Out of the Arcadian Ghetto* was published by Cervenabarva Press in January. www.thelostbookshelf.com/cervenabooks.html

Ernie Wormwood ('98,'00,'02): She has poems in *The Broadkill Review*, *Upstage Magazine*, *Main Channel Voices*, *Perpetuum Mobile*, *The Long-Islander*, *Creation Journal*, *Innisfree Poetry Journal*, *Poetrybay*, *Hotmetal Press* and in an anthology honoring Walt Whitman from Allbooks, *Primal Sanities*. She was featured on the Library of Congress Thirtieth Anniversary Webcast for Grace Cavalieri's "The Poet and the Poem" which can be heard at www.loc.gov/poetry/poetpoem.html. She also has several book reviews published at www.themontserrareview.com.

Toni Wynn ('95): Her newest collection of poems, *Ground*, is forthcoming from Shakespeare Press Museum. This limited edition letterpress book is hand-sewn, with Toni's illustrations individually

Sex at Noon Taxes

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Sally Van Doren

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—August Kleinzahler, from his judge's citation

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watercolored. A broadside of Toni's sestina "Juxtapose," in collaboration with Bay Area visual artist Barry Ebner, will be available Spring 2008.

Bill Yake ('89): His poems have appeared in *Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts, Entelechy: Mind and Culture, Windfall*, and *Red Rock Review*; they are forthcoming in *Fine Madness, Tundra, Cascade, Snow Monkey*, and *Moving Mountain*. Several of his poems "speak for the trees" appear in Nalini Nadkarni's soon-to-be-released book *Trees and Humans: Intimate Connections with the Arboreal World*. His work has also been published in the anthologies *Landscaped* (Bear Deluxe Magazine) and *Tattoos on Cedar* (Washington Poets Association).

Harry Youtt ('03): In May of this year, Harry presented a paper entitled "Frosting the Words: Consciousness Dynamics of Plain-Speech Resonance Poetry" at the Second International Conference on Consciousness, Theatre, Literature and the Arts in the United Kingdom. (The paper will be published in a collection of academic papers in the United Kingdom in December.) He also presented a reading of new poems from his collection *Outbound for Elsewhere*. (2007) in Dublin and at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He was also appointed to the Editorial Board of *Journal of Consciousness, Literature and the Arts*. Poems and short stories of his appear or are forthcoming in issues of *Raving Dove, Sea Stories*, and *Fickle Muses*.

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My Sierra Molly Fisk

Originally published in *Tahoe Quarterly*,
Autumn 2007

When I was first learning to be a poet, I lived on the California coast. I'd grown up there but been gone for 20 years, so every new scent and sound was an unexpectedly delirious reunion. I'd forgotten sour grass and the way nasturtiums grow like weeds, the irregular constancy of waves crashing. As I reacquainted myself with these long-lost awarenesses, I naturally began incorporating them into my poems. I might have become a poet of place anyway, since I'm tied so strongly to the birds and plants and natural contours of wherever I live, but I think this process of discovering what I had forgotten cemented things. I'm not a religious person—I'm in the camp of Frank Lloyd Wright, who said he believed in God but spelled His name N-A-T-U-R-E. Sitting with my notebook on a cliff above the beach and watching pelicans dive opened my spirit in a way it hadn't been opened before.

Two years into my life as a poet, I came up to the mountains, to Squaw Valley, to take a workshop at the Community of Writers there. This is not an ordinary, show-off-your-greatest-hits kind of workshop, it's for generating new work, one poem each day for a week. Writing a poem every day is both fun and hard—notably, one tends to run out of material mid-week and panic. Which is why 80 poets suddenly widened their eyes and began writing about everything around them: Penstemon and rein orchids, mules' ears and granite were all plucked out of a Sierra summer and slipped wholesale into our poems.

We wrote about how thin the air was, how blue the sky, and used the local place names: Shirley Lake and Granite Chief, the Fanny Bridge, the Truckee River winding through willows out of Lake Tahoe on its way north. On a daily 6 a.m. nature walk, many of us learned about the strange history of aspens, the way they are all essentially one organism, cloned. Because their

common DNA seems likely to continue forever, the scientific term for this is "theoretical immortality," a poetic idea if there ever was one - you should have seen the flurry of notebooks opening to write that name down!

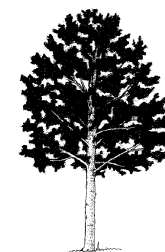
After seven poems each, lots of hiking and late night talks, the week ended and we dispersed, back to our own landscapes—urban and rural, coastal, Midwestern, the humid South. That was that, I thought, and took up my Great Blue Herons and minus tides again.

But I was wrong. Some of us kept in touch and would write from time to time about poems we'd had accepted in literary magazines, in between hundreds of rejections. Some of our teachers from that week at high altitude published their work in places like *The New Yorker* and the *Atlantic*—we could tell where they'd been writing whenever a Clark's Nutcracker or Jeffrey Pine appeared.

Writing is a solitary pursuit most of the time. Being in the company of many poets writing together carries with it a kind of comfort as well as a heady excitement, the dizziness of stimulation along with the brief solace of commonality that you remember years later. I can look at an aspen, spring green or autumn gold, and be right back in that valley, my head stuffed with new ideas, my hand sore from writing, and my eyes sleepily tracing the shadows of flickering leaves.

It turned out that our week as poets together was part of an on-going, 35-year-old diaspora. Every year, you can read small litmags from Georgia to British Columbia, from U.C. San Diego to the University of Maine and find, here and there, penstemon and marmots, groves of white-trunked aspens. Our poems turn up in anthologies and high school textbooks, they win prizes small and large.

You really can't call us clones of each other, everyone's work is too idiosyncratic for that. But it's a form of theoretical immortality, the way the landscape and solace of one Sierra valley has quietly made its way into the lexicon of contemporary American verse.



Summer 2007 Special Thanks (and photo gallery!)



There are many people who work to make the conference happen each summer; some have a formal relationship with the Community of Writers, and some are friends and family.

First of all, we thank our magnificent staff that makes the conference what it is, and our many donors who make it possible. Many thanks to **Lisa Alvarez, Diana Fuller, Andrew Tonkovich, Louis B. Jones**, who despite their roles as directors and/or teaching staff are to be seen in the days before the conference moving tables and chairs; to **Kaitlin Klaussen**, who



Stacey Knapp &
Kaitlin Klaussen

coordinated housing for us with Audrey Rose on her hip; to **Stacey Knapp** for running the bookshop with warmth and style. We'd also like to thank **Debbie Lane of The Bookshelf** who helped us tremendously with the bookstore. Thanks also to **Ariane Simard** for running our intern program and coordinating our snack bar, and **Jennifer Dietz, Tracy Hall, Sasha Federoff, and Joan Klaussen** for filling in the gaps wherever needed.



Ariane Simard &
Andrew Tonkovich

Many thanks to members of the Board and Squaw Valley locals who have been tremendously generous with their time over the years: **Eddy & Osvaldo Ancinas, Amy Tan & Lou Demattei; Barbara & Oakley Hall; Maria VonderAhe; Mimi & Burnett Miller; Don & Geri Thayer; and Max Byrd.**



Mimi & Burnett Miller

Thanks also to our friends **Emma Bailey, Justin Bailey, Amber Glynn, Tad Hall, Adam Haight, Amanda Holsopple, Hunter Jones, Margot Miller, Tom Taylor**, and especially to **Steve Susoyev** for omniscience and omnipotence. Thanks to **Chelsea Snell** for childcare. And thanks to **Sands Hall** for the inimitable Follies. Thanks also to **Maxima Kahn** for editing and designing the *Omnium Gatherum & Newsletter*.



BJ Robbins, Rhoda Huffey, Sue Miller,
Sands Hall, Joy Johannessen

We send our great appreciation to **Justin Casey** and **Tom O'Neill** of the **Olympic Plaza Food and Beverage** for their lovely venues; and **Ena Arbueza** for her remarkable dinners.



Ena Arbueza



Chad Lange, Ajay Ravi & Jessica
Siebert

Thanks to our interns **Ajay Ravi** and **Jessica Siebert**. Thanks to our work-waivers in Poetry: **Ching-In Chen, Kythe Heller, Shefali Karamchandani, Haley Lasché, and Juan Carlos Valadez**. And thanks to our work-waivers in Writers Workshops: **Richard Ferguson, Reginald Hui, Edan Lepucki, Swan Li, Dale Guy Madison, and Anna Mills**. Thanks also to the Screenwriting helpers: **Rebecca Rufer, Jason Wolos, Jason Boyce, and Chris Upham**.

2007 saw the publication of our anthology, **Writers Workshop in a Book**. Great thanks to our pro-bono Attorney, **David Riegels**, and our Literary Agent **Michael Carlisle** who helped negotiate the rocks and shoals of book publication. Thanks also to Chronicle Books editor, **Jay Schaefer** and publisher **Nion McEvoy** for their faith in the project. And great thanks to the book's co-editors, **Lisa Alvarez** and **Alan Cheuse**, and to all the authors who donated their essays to the project.



Alan Cheuse & Lisa Alvarez



Edan Lepucki, Chad Lange, Kaitlin Klaussen,
Jenn Dietz, Ariane Simard, Ajay Ravi

The Board and Staff of the Community of Writers would especially like to thank **Nancy Wendt**, President of the Squaw Valley Ski Corp. who has continued to create an environment where a conference such as ours is possible; and to their wonderful staff: **Ernst Hager, Tom Kelly, Christine Horvath, Cynthia Braga, Linda Law** and the **Security Team** (who are superb ambassadors).

—Brett Hall Jones, Executive Director

SCREENWRITING STAFF NEWS

Gene Corr: He is co-writing *Butte, America*, with Ed Dobb for Pam Roberts and his documentary of Cuba, *From Richmond to Regla*, is scheduled to begin shooting in April 2007.

Pamela Gray: She is currently writing a comedy feature for Paramount and will be making her directorial debut with an original project she's developing for Fox Searchlight.

Camille Thomasson: Her most recent television credits include, *The Magic of Ordinary Days* (2005), and *The Valley of Light* (2007). She is currently adapting Regina Louise's memoir, *Somebody's Someone*, for Lifetime.

Michael Lehmann: He directed the new Diane Keaton movie, *Because I Said So*, which will be released by Universal in February. Currently he is completing an episode of *Big Love* for HBO.

Christopher Monger: He is marketing his award winning documentary, *Special Thanks to Roy Landon*, which premiered at Tribeca Festival in 2006. It can be ordered through www.specialthankstoroylondon.com.



Judy Rascoe: She was the story consultant on Roger Spottiswood's film, *Shake Hands With the Devil*, which is in post production and is currently the story consultant for the *Bang Bang Club*, a feature about young conflict photographers in South Africa.

Tom Rickman: He has completed a 12 hour mini-series for Universal-NBC on the story of Motown, and is currently involved in a miniseries about Hurricane Katrina to be aired on NBC.

Thomas Schlessinger: He has collaborated with Doris Dorrie on *The Fisherman and his Wife* which will be released in Spring 2007, and is currently producing the feature film, *Playground*, written and directed by Caroline Link.

Erika Szanto: Her new documentary, *For the Good of the Nation*, premiered in Budapest this year and her original screenplay, *Dog Story*, was optioned by a Hungarian film company.

Christopher Upham: He is in post production on his feature documentary, *The War Within*, and has received two grants in support of the project, from Pacific Pioneer and Fleishhacker. It is produced by Teri Lang (Screenwriting Guest '06). His short story, "Nothing To Crow About," has been anthologized by Koa Books in *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace* (second printing!) which was edited by Maxine Hong Kingston.

SCREENWRITING PARTICIPANT NEWS



Patty Dann: Her memoir *The Goldfish Went on Vacation* was published by Trumpeter Books (Shambhala Publications) in 2007.

John Dilley ('05): His award winning first short, *Little Failures* ('04), was featured in a program of work by emerging filmmakers at the Cinematheque Francaise in Paris in 2006. He has recently completed his second film, *How To Be Popular*, based on a *New York Times Magazine* article, which was scheduled for a Festival premier at the end of 2007.

Bill Flanagan ('04): He won three REMI's for *Johnson's Pages* and *The Clear Horizon* at the Worldfest, Houston. *The Good Samaritan* also won a Monterey Film Commission, The Writers Network, and was a runner up in Scriptshark where *The Clear Horizon* won the competition.

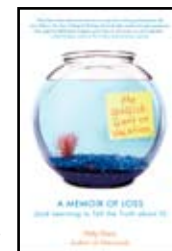
William Farley ('05): *5:10 to Coopers-town*, workshopped at Squaw, is attaching a Canadian producer with Farley as director. Additionally, he has written and directed *Darryl Henriques Is In Show Business* (screened at the Mill Valley Film Festival), *The Stories*, and *Arianna's Journey*. Recently he has been commissioned to

make a 30 minute film on the unique 82-year-old artist Elaine Badgley-Arnoux and a film of John O'Keefe's solo performance of Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*.

THE GOLDFISH WENT ON VACATION

A Memoir of Loss
(and Learning to Tell the Truth about It)
By Patty Dann

"Bittersweet and painfully honest, Dann's memoir of how she had to leave one life and begin another is remarkable."
—*Publishers Weekly*

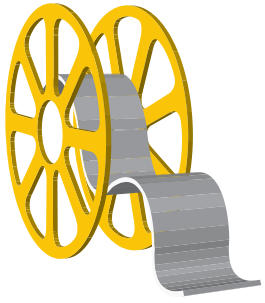


From the author of *Mermaids*, an insightful memoir about a mother facing the death of her husband with her young son.

\$11.95 paperback
ISBN: 978-1-59030-564-5
Trumpeter Books, an imprint of
Shambhala Publications
www.shambhala.com



Every effort was made to make the websites & email addresses mentioned in the text, and also the ads, interactive. Roll your pointer over the link slowly and click to go to the book or site mentioned.



James Kohlberg ('04): *Trumbo*, a documentary of Dalton Trumbo's life and letters, starring Liam Neeson, is currently in post production.

Regina Louise ('02): See Writers Workshop Participant News.

Moses Ma ('06): His film adaptation of *The Ethical Slut* is scheduled for production in October 2007 and will be his directorial debut. He is completing the rewrite of *The Feynman Lectures*, workshopped at Squaw.

Aparna Malladi ('06): *Hanglider* was scheduled to go into pre-production in December 2007. Arati Misro is attached as producer, and there is a distributor willing to serve as co-executive. She has found a distributor who will provide finishing funds for her feature length film *Mitsein*.

Robert McEwen ('04): His script *Son of A Gunne* has been optioned to Dan Riley of Port Magee Pictures, waiting star attachment. He is currently adapting for screen his newest award-winning play, *Cholo*, which he workshopped at Squaw, 2007.

Michael Penwarden ('04): With Lew Wells (former executive director of *The West Wing*) and their respective companies, Matter Network and GreenFit, he has embarked on an epic adventure: www.chasingglaciers.com. They will track,

by daily video and blog updates, Allison Gannett and Zoe Hart as they attempt the first ski descent of 21,000 foot Koser Gunge in Pakistan, to bring awareness to the effects of climate change on the massive glaciers of the Himalaya watershed. (See article this issue.)

Kimberly Reed ('06): She was named by *Filmmaker Magazine* as one of the 25 New Faces to watch in 2007. She plans to shoot her narrative feature, *Please Check One*, late in 2008.

Lisa Swenson ('05): She is still working on the autobiographical script that she brought to Squaw but has completed the Festival Award winning film, *The Mission*, followed by Lynn Hershman Leeson's film, *Strange Culture*. She is working again with Richard Schimpf on a "ground-breaking" short, *Mr. Gary on the Feedback Show*, targeted for December 2007 completion.

Richard Schimpf ('06): Fresh off the team that filmed Lynn Hershman Leeson's award winning film, *Strange Culture*, he is again involved with alum Lise Swenson, on a short, *Mr. Gary on the Feedback Show*, which is now in post-production. Funds are being raised for completion.

Myrton Running Wolf ('05): He has been working for PBS in the research department on a five-part series on the history of the American Indian, *We Shall Remain*, due to be broadcast in the spring 2008.

Jason Wolos ('04): He is the principal at Fine Dining Productions, which has produced various projects, from marketing to instructional videos. As of summer 2007, his feature *Trattoria*, an original script, was planned for production at the end of 2007; he was seeking an Executive Producer.

Chasing Glaciers: Michael Penwarden

Screenwriting participant Michael Penwarden ('04) was the award-winning editor of *Macworld Magazine* and a founder and executive editor of *Computer Life Magazine* before moving to Truckee, California and starting his own publishing company. Now he is the publisher of Matter

the path of Fanny Bullock Workman, the first woman explorer to climb these mountains 100 years ago. In the process, Gannett, a world champion free skier, and Hart, a professional mountain guide, were the first women (and the second team ever) to complete a ski descent of harrowing Mt. Workman. But the

main purpose of the adventure was not skiing, but to document the effects of climate change on these great glaciers of the Himalaya watershed. In addition to the magnificent beauty of the glaciers and the vast home for wildlife they provide, 750,000,000 people rely upon the water for their survival, and, as Alison poignantly says in one video, "these glaciers could be gone in our lifetime."



Photo by: Bill Stevenson

Network (www.matternetwork.com), which brings together and reports on developments in sustainability from a broad range of perspectives, including green building, alternative energies, eco-travel, responsible investing and more. Matter Network is on the verge of launching MatterTV, which will be a new way for filmmakers with environmental and socially responsible content to distribute their work online.

This year he produced *Chasing Glaciers* with Lew Wells, former Executive Producer of *The West Wing*, as director. For three weeks, they documented the adventures of two American women, Alison Gannett and Zoe Hart, as they trekked deep into Pakistan's Karakoram Mountains, following

The format of *Chasing Glaciers* is "an interactive internet adventure," as the creators describe it, a website featuring daily video blogs of the travails and triumphs of the explorers, along with a wealth of materials, including videos and articles about the region and other initiatives surrounding climate change and saving our snow and water resources, photos and blogs from Pakistan and from the team in the U.S. The content was uploaded via satellite every night (the expedition carried lightweight solar panels for power), then edited and scored with original music the next day in the US so it could be posted to the Web within 24 hours, a technical and creative feat.

www.chasingglaciers.com

michael@matternetwork.com

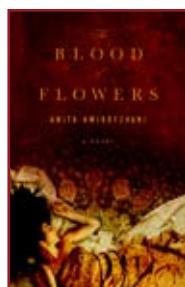
Published Alumni Reading Series

Often referred to as the “this could be you” reading, the Community of Writers has welcomed some remarkable writers back to Squaw Valley for the Published Alumni Reading Series. Each summer, recently published alumni are invited to return to Squaw Valley to read from their books and talk about their journey from unpublished writers to published authors. The Community of Writers is delighted to celebrate the success of these writers and to present them to the participants, staff, and the public.

OUR 2007 PUBLISHED ALUMNI:



ANITA AMIRREZVANI attended the Writers Workshop in 2001. She read from her recent novel *The Blood of Flowers* (Little, Brown & Co.).



ALEX ESPINOZA attended the Writers Workshop in 2002 and 2004 with scholarships from the UC Irvine MFA Program in Creative Writing. He read from his recent novel *Still Water Saints* (Random House).



ROBIN ROMM attended the Writers Workshop in 2003. She read from her recent collection of stories *The Mother Garden* (Scribner). Stories in the book have appeared in *Tin House*, *One Story*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Cimarron Review*, and *Quarterly West*.



JULIA FLYNN SILER attended the Writers Workshop in 2004 and 2005. She read from her recent book *The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty* (Penguin's Gotham Books). A former foreign correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* and *Business Week* magazine, Ms. Flynn Siler also wrote for *The New York Times*. She now writes front-page stories for *The Wall Street Journal* from its San Francisco bureau.



Funding to Attend Writers Workshops



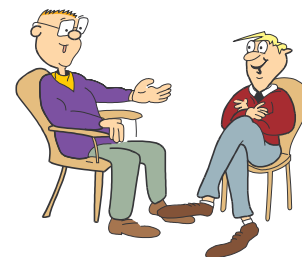
Writers' Conferences & Centers is conducting its annual competition to provide scholarships for emerging writers who wish to attend a writers' conference. In 2007 Ching-In Chen received a scholarship to attend Squaw Valley's Poetry Workshop. The contest is open to all writers who would like to attend a member conference of WC&C. (You can view a directory of WC&C Members on the website. Squaw Valley is a member.) Two scholarships of \$500 will be awarded. Submissions in fiction and poetry will be considered. Separate submissions in each genre are permitted. **Submissions must be postmarked between December 1st and March 30th of each year.**

Click here or go to <http://writersconf.org:16080/scholarship/> for details.

Don't Be Lonely Anymore: An Online Community for Writers

We all know writing can be a lonely art. We do our work in solitude, but it can be hard to keep it going in isolation. Sharing our work-in-progress, our triumphs and travails, our doubts, hopes, questions with other writers can be a huge help on the path. It is out of this idea that the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley was born, and in the 28 years of its existence we have seen again and again just how helpful community is to writers.

Now Squaw Valley staff member Adair Lara (author, teacher, and former columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*) has created an online community for writers. Matchwriters.com is, according to her description, “a community where writers meet, online or in person, to exchange work and tips, and to find writing partners and groups. It's also a place to whine, weep, cheer one another on, display work, enter contests, and research markets.” On the site writers can post a profile of themselves as a writer along with a writing sample, browse the profiles of other writers to find similar interests and abilities, form online or in-person writing groups or partnerships, and also read and add to postings at Writers Talking, and create your own blog at “My Page.” In addition, the site features a tip of the day and a daily writing topic, guidelines for “Being a Good Writing Partner” (how to give and receive critique and how to form a partnership), as well as Adair Lara's own blog.



Matchwriters.Com has been endorsed by authors: Anne Lamott, Amy Tan, Jacqueline Winspear, Dorothy Allison, and Isabel Allende. So don't be lonely anymore. www.matchwriters.com

ON THE SUBJECT OF LETTERS AND LITERARY

by *Sands Hall*

It still astonishes me what these simple black marks on a white page can accomplish. Squiggles, really, that we've imbued with significance, which, depending on the language, march up and down or across a page, creating words, which create sentences, which create pages full of paragraphs, which allow us to see a field of daffodils, understand a concept, hear and smell a carnival; they make us laugh aloud or put a book down, drop our head back against a sofa, and sob.

What is that miracle?

Words.

Words that are made up of letters.

The letters of our English alphabet are for the most part abstract, but I like to consider how the curves of our S, and its sound, descend from the shape and sound of snake. I like to imagine that our W, when its curves are rounded and elongated, might have once been a sign for wave, or water, and that even its sound, in some stretch of the imagination, might be one that water makes: wh. And how precisely the mouth sounds and shapes an O. But mostly, letters are signs, signals to our minds to put them together with other letters to make words that contain significance, connected to other words to create further significance. . . .

The root of the word LETTER comes from ANIMAL SKIN, HIDE. I imagine a muscle rippling along a forearm as a hand holding a piece of bone, or a piece of metal, scratches marks onto a piece of tanned bearskin, and hands this to a runner, who sprints across a distance to deliver it to someone able to decipher those marks:

WE ARRIVE IN 3 MOONS.

BRING 7 COWS.

I ΣΔμϖ[] YOU.

Letters. A letter.

Letters are the symbols we etch onto hide and parchment and vellum and paper and computer screens. A letter is also a document, written to another, composed of a hundred, a thousand of those smaller letters. A letter gets written to share an experience, an emotion; at its heart lies a desire to communicate something to another; and a story might be seen as a letter, to a reader, telling them something they did not know before. Telling them something they knew but that perhaps they didn't trust someone else did too; that's always a comfort.

As we express ourselves ever more clearly, insightfully, vividly, truly, we get more literary, a word that descends from letter. We explore vocabulary, employ verb tenses, and wield punctuation—a word that shares its root with piquant (a way to spice up our letters). We exercise grammar, a word that descends from glamour. (Imagine syntax being so popular that to employ it well was deemed glamorous.) We use nouns that name. Verbs that move. Adjectives that describe. And we exert other literary devices: Tone and diction. Sound and form. Rhythm and alliteration and allusion and allegory. We invent other voices to write our letters. We get more literary. We get more grammarous. We ply symbol and simile and metaphor, manipulating images that ask our reader to conjoin two unlike things so as to convey deeper and more complex understandings.

And that—conjoining images to convey more complex understandings—is what I want to talk about next.

Re-printed from **Tools of the Writers Craft** (Moving Finger Press)

Order from your local bookstore! Also available by clicking here: www.amazon.com



Mighty Squirrels and more. . .

This summer, novelist and short-story writer Gregory Spatz joined us on staff, and brought along his wife Caridwen Irvine Spatz. Greg's most recent book is the novel *Fiddler's Dream*.

Besides their workshop manuscripts, what Caridwen and Greg brought to Squaw Valley this summer were their fiddles, a rather large mandolin, and Caridwen's remarkably clear and haunting voice. Caridwen and Greg make up two members of the Washington State-based acoustic quartet The Mighty Squirrels, which performs music ranging from French Canadian and Celtic songs, to Appalachian old-time, classic country and Yiddish swing. The other two members of the band are David Keenan and Ivan Rosenberg. Greg's newest solo CD, like his novel, is titled *Fiddler's Dream*.

*Caridwen and
Greg performed
at The Follies
on Friday night.
Mark Childress,
James D. Houston,
Louis B. Jones and
Sands Hall had
the pleasure of
joining them on
stage.*



writers workshop in a book

The Squaw Valley Community of
Writers on the Art of Fiction

EDITED BY ALAN CHEUSE
AND LISA ALVAREZ

INTRODUCTION BY
RICHARD FORD

Writers Workshop in a Book

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MAX BYRD
MICHAEL CHABON
ALAN CHEUSE
MARK CHILDRESS
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ANNE LAMOTT
JOANNE MESCHERY
SANDRA SCOFIELD
ROBERT STONE
AMY TAN
AL YOUNG

Distilled from seminars and lectures
by the staff of the Community of
Writers, this volume gives the reader a
jolt of inspiration, sharp insight
into matters of technique, and a
feeling of camaraderie with a
writing community.



Paperback. Published in May, 2007.

ISBN 0811858219

ISBN13 9780811858212

www.chroniclebooks.com

A NOTE TO AN UNPUBLISHED WRITER

by Louis B. Jones

from Writers Workshop in a Book:

The Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Fiction

Of course, publication is supposed to be the goal; and of course, at all times, you have to believe or pretend publication is important; but years later the solid books on the shelf will turn out to be really only an accumulated by-product and a necessary accident of a more important, mysterious process, a process going on outside the writer's skin as well as inside. There are writers out here everywhere, published and unpublished, generating heaps of paper, and we're all making big mistakes, of course—mistakenness being our *metier*; infinite mistakes being the atoms we build from. But one or two will be polishing their personal mistake until it shines like a blade. In the darkness you must work in, beware of what looks like success looming up shining its searchlamp; and in the case that publication does come along, if you're lucky you'll get away fast from that strobe-photographed picture of your work, because you'll have fresh work and will already be far ahead in obscurity. Which is where you are now.

By "mistake" I suppose I mean the artistic risk that looks merely erroneous before it becomes acknowledged (in the marketplace) as having been necessary. Any of the wonderful books you might think of are composed of their inevitable defects. Look at the ennui of *Moby Dick* or the difficulty of Emily Dickinson, or James's clotted prose style, Twain's tiresome clowning and cutting for the gag, Austen's restriction to parlors and marriages, Updike's addiction to language, Proust's insistence on examining every last thing. We forgive the work its weaknesses because the weaknesses themselves mount steeply up toward the one great page we're there reading for. Look how mistaken still is Thoreau's *Walden* or Dickens's *Bleak House* or Joyce's *Ulysses*. Certain books, in order to get at something else, risked a boredom or a vulgarity or a peculiarity which today we overlook. Or which we consider its exact triumph.

The wonderful thing literature can do is license peculiarity itself: it can actually make our real world brighter, and warmer, by naming something we'd always half-known but never felt fully entitled to. It announces, very quietly and intimately, the censored thought, the eccentric conviction. In that way it makes our lives more familiar to us, more useful to us. (Lives that ought to have been utterly familiar and useful already, since they are *ours*.) The printed page brings two remote strangers, reader and writer, in contact. No event in civilization is more important, or more intimate, than this contact—this contact right here now—between a writer and a reader, who at all other waking hours of the rational day appear to be two separate people.

To order this book: www.amazon.com

A father and daughter struggle to salvage their bond after decades apart in this unforgettable story of love, loss, and most of all, longing.

“Mr. Allison’s novel is plainspoken and eloquent in the way that *So Long, See You Tomorrow* is plainspoken and eloquent. It’s worked up right out of the American grain and speaks to me, direct and true.”

—RICHARD FORD

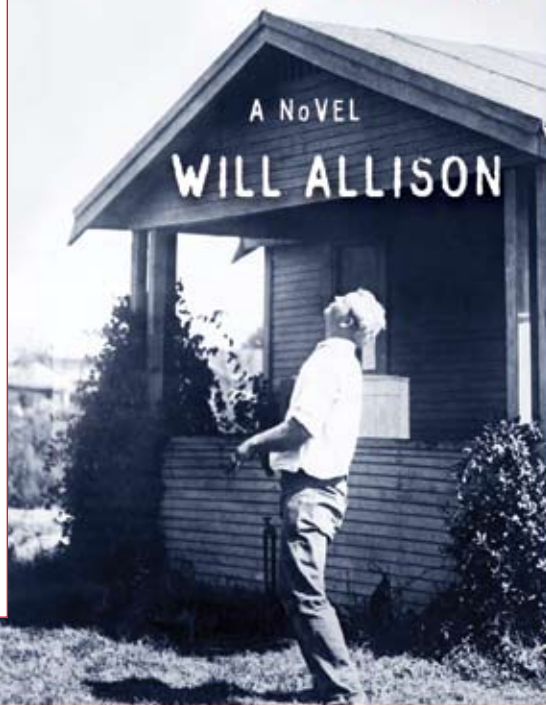
“One of the year’s best fiction debuts.”

—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Allison’s quiet prose gets at a mother’s raw nerve, a father’s desperate evasions, the daredevil rage of an abandoned daughter, and the anxiety of a husband curbing his own destructive impulses as he gauges the risks of love.”

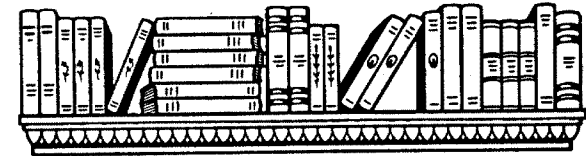
—O, *The Oprah Magazine*

What You
Have Left



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- A BookSense pick
- A Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection
- A Borders Original Voices selection



WRITERS WORKSHOP STAFF NEWS

Will Allison: His first novel, *What You Have Left* (Free Press, 2007), is due out in paperback in June 2008. In addition to being featured in *Entertainment Weekly*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, and elsewhere, the novel was a Book Sense Pick and was selected for Barnes & Noble’s Discover Great New Writers and Borders’ Original Voices.
www.willallison.com

James Brown: His piece “Missing the Dead” will appear in *Ploughshares*. His essay on coaching freestyle wrestling, “Dirty Moves,” originally published in *The Los Angeles Times Magazine*, was anthologized in *Best American Sports Writing 2006* (Houghton Mifflin). Currently he is helping develop an M.F.A. Program at CSU San Bernardino.

Michael Chabon: HarperCollins published his new novel, *The Yiddish Policemen’s Union*, in 2007. It became a *New York Times* bestseller immediately. In November 2007, his short swashbuckling adventure novel, *Gentlemen of the Road*, serialized in fifteen chapters in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, was published by Del Rey. www.michaelchabon.com

Alan Cheuse: He has two new stories coming out this autumn, “A Merry Little” in *Another Chicago Magazine* and “Ben in Amboy” in *Witness*. His essay “My Touchstones” is forthcoming in the AWP journal.

Mark Childress: His latest novel, *One Mississippi*, was reprinted in paperback edition by Back Bay Books in September 2007. www.markchildress.com

Jane Ciabattari: She has published her short stories “Aftershocks” in *KGB Bar Lit*, and “MamaGodot” in *VerbSap.com*; her story “How I Left Onandaga County” was a Pushcart Prize honorable mention. She is on the National Book Critics Circle board, and blogs regularly for the NBCC board blog, Critical Mass, as well occasional blogs for *Huffington Post* and *The Guardian*. She had a fellowship to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in November 2007.

Janet Fitch: The paperback edition of her novel *Paint it Black* was published by Back Bay Books in October 2007.
literati.net/Fitch

Richard Ford: Vintage Contemporaries published the paperback edition of his novel *Lay of the Land* in June 2007.

Every effort was made to make the websites & email addresses mentioned in the text, and also the ads, interactive. Roll your pointer over the link slowly and click to go to the book or site mentioned.

Karen Joy Fowler: The film adaptation of her novel *The Jane Austen Book Club*, directed by Robin Swicord, was released in October 2007.

Lynn Freed: She just completed a novel, *The Servants' Quarters*, to be published by Harcourt in 2008. She spent the summer in Umbria on a fellowship at the Civitella Ranieri Foundation.

Blair Fuller: *The American Scholar Magazine* will publish his memoir-article "The Feel," about George Plimpton's 1959 bout with Archie Moore, in early 2008.

Dagoberto Gilb: His new novel, *The Flowers*, was published by Grove Press in January 2008.

Molly Giles: She has new stories forthcoming in *Cimarron Review*, *Copper Nickel*, and *Pinch*, and an essay on grandmotherhood in the forthcoming anthology *Eye of the Heart*. She is one of three judges reading for the PEN/Faulkner Fiction Award.

Glen David Gold: His new novel, *Sunnyside*, is forthcoming from Hyperion in 2009. He also contributed a story to *The Spirit #13*, with art by Eduardo Risso (DC comics). www.glendavidgold.com

Oakley Hall: His most recent novel, *Love and War in California*, was published by William Dunne Books in April 2007.

John Harvey: He was honored this year with the CWA Cartier Diamond Dagger, which is awarded by the Crime Writers' Association for a lifetime's achievement in crime writing. This past February, his novel *Gone to Ground* was published in the UK. Five Leaves Press commissioned a new story for their Crime Express series of single stories, which will be issued in editions of around 1,000 copies. His story "Minor Key" will appear in *Paris Noir*, edited by

Maxim Jakubowski. The collection, which features French writers alongside English and American, will be published in the UK by Serpent's Tail and in France by Rivages. www.mellotone.co.uk

Gerald Haslam: In December of 2006 he was presented with a Josephine Miles National Literary Award from PEN Oakland (for *Haslam's Valley*). One of his stories and three of his essays have been anthologized this year: "Condor Dreams" in *Califauna: A Literary Field Guide*, edited by Terry Beers and Emily Elrod (Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2007); "People and Geography" in *Our Valley, Our Choice*, edited by the staff of The Great Valley Center (Modesto, CA: The Great Valley Center, 2007); "What Horton Hatched" in *Open to All: What the Library Means to Me*, edited by Molly Fisk, Steve Fjeldsted & Steve Sanfield (Grass Valley, CA: Comstock Bonanza Press, 2007); "Other Californians" in *People and Promise of California*, edited by Mona Field & Brian Kennedy (New York: Longman, 2007).

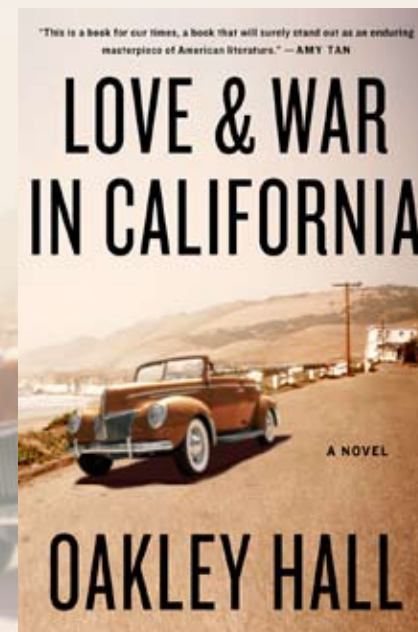
Mary-Rose Hayes: Her new novel, *Blind Trust*, a political thriller co-authored with Barbara Boxer, will be published by Chronicle Books in 2009.

DeWitt Henry: With the recent departure of editor Don Lee at *Ploughshares*, founding editor DeWitt Henry will serve as interim editor for 2007-08. He was previously director from 1971 to 1995. His latest book, *Safe Suicide*, will be published in January by Red Hen Press.

James D. Houston: A trade paperback edition of Jim Houston's widely acclaimed *Bird of Another Heaven* will be released in April 2008 by Anchor Books. Also due next spring, from Heyday Books, is his prose collection *Where Light Takes its Color from the Sea: A California Notebook*. The foreword is by Alan Cheuse.

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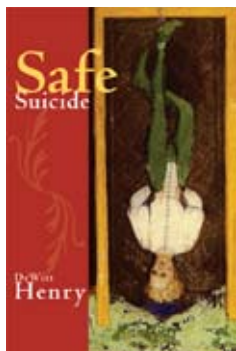
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Henry is an insightful observer who is also a prose stylist of the first rank.

—Richard Hoffman, author of *Half The House*

As with any flat-out wonderful book, a few words of praise cannot begin to do it justice. But here goes: *Safe Suicide* is elegantly written, edgy, touching, inventive, surprising in its shifts of style and form, and completely spellbinding from start to finish. Partly memoir, partly a sequence of interlocked essays, this is a book that works its way under your skin and down into your vital organs. It is really, really good.

—Tim O'Brien

Safe Suicide offers an enthralling portrait of the life of the artist as a husband, a father, an editor, a teacher, a runner and a dog owner. DeWitt Henry writes with fearless beauty and honesty about his many, often irreconcilable, passions. Here is a life lived over time and the result is thought-provoking, absorbing, and deeply moving.

—Margot Livesey, author of *Banishing Verxona: A Novel*

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Rhoda Huffey: Her short story "Fever" appears in the Fall issue of *Green Mountains Review*.

Louis B. Jones: His story "The Epicurean" was published in the Winter 2007 issue of *The Threepenny Review*.
www.louisbjones.com

Jim Krusoe: Tin House Books will publish his book *Girl Factory* in April 2008.

Anne Lamott: Her book *Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith* was published by Riverhead Books in 2007.

Adair Lara: In 2007, she published *The Bigger the Sign, the Worse the Garage Sale* and *You Know You're a Writer When*, both from Chronicle Books. In April 2008 *The Granny Diaries* will be released from Chronicle Books.

Michelle Latiolais: *A Proper Knowledge* will be published by Bellevue Literary Press spring 2008.

Kem Nunn: He has collaborated with HBO Producer David Milch on the HBO series *John from Cincinnati*, a surfing series set in Imperial Beach, California which premiered on June 10, 2007.

Varley O'Connor: She has joined the faculty at Kent State University, where she teaches in the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts Program. *The Sun* magazine published her personal essay "Suki" in October. *The Sun* will also publish her short story "The Empathic" next year.
www.varleyoconnor.com

Elizabeth Rosner: Her second novel, *Blue Nude* (Ballantine), was named by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as one of the best books of 2006. She has recently published essays in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Elle*, *The Forward*, and the Norton

Anthology *Bad Girls: Twenty Six Writers Misbehave*.
www.elizabethrosner.com

Sandra Scofield: *The Scene Book: A Primer for the Fiction Writer* was published by Penguin in March 2007.

Alice Sebold: The film adaptation of her novel *The Lovely Bones*, directed by Peter Jackson will be released in 2008. Her new novel, *The Almost Moon*, was published by Little, Brown & Company, October 2007.
www.alicesebold.com

Martin J. Smith: After eight years he is leaving the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* (formerly and briefly *West Magazine*) to become editor in chief of *Orange Coast Magazine* in Orange County.

Rob Spillman: He edited the anthology, *The World Within: Writers Talk Ambition, Angst, Aesthetics, Bones, Books, Beautiful Bodies, Censorship, Cheats, Comics, Darkness, Democracy, Death, Exile, ... Men, Old Boys' Network, Oprah, Outcasts...*, published by Tin House Books in 2007.

Robert Stone: *Prime Green: Remembering the Sixties* was published by Ecco Press in January 2007. The Harper Perennial paperback edition is due out in January 2008.

Anthony Swofford: His novel, *Exit A*, was published by Scribner in January 2007.

Amy Tan: She has written an essay for *National Geographic*. Her latest novel, *Saving Fish from Drowning*, was selected for the One Book One Marin reading series. She wrote the libretto for an opera based on her novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. The opera will have its world premiere by the San Francisco Opera in Fall 2008.
www.amytan.net

Andrew Tonkovich: He is the editor of the *Santa Monica Review* and will now host a weekly book culture program on Pacifica Radio affiliate KPFK 90.7 FM in Los Angeles beginning in January. "Bibliocracy" will focus on literary fiction and nonfiction and air Mondays at noon. The half-hour program will feature readings, interviews with writers, and a Southern California literary arts community calendar.

Ayelet Waldman: The paperback edition of her novel *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* was published by Anchor Books.

Al Young: *Something About the Blues: An Unlikely Collection of Poetry* was just published by Sourcebooks; an audio CD, featuring the author reading more than twenty poems, accompanies the book. *Coastal Nights and Inland Afternoons: Poems 2001-2006: The Poetry of Al Young* was published by Angel City Press in December 2006. He is currently California Poet Laureate.



The Squaw Valley Community of Writers played midwife to my book, *The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty*, which was published by Penguin's Gotham Books in June 2007.

I first came to Squaw in 2003 as a *Wall Street Journal* writer who knew a lot about news but not much about scenes, dialogue, or description. Michael Carlisle's workshop on narrative nonfiction was a series of revelations and helped me rekindle a friendship with Frances Dinkelspiel, whom I had first met as a 16-year-old growing up in the Bay Area.

The following year, I joined Michael's workshop after having written a page-one story for the *Journal* entitled, "Grapes of Wrath: Inside a Napa Valley Empire." A publisher named Bill Shinker asked me if I'd be interested in writing a book based on the story and, if so, if I had an agent. My first call was to Michael, who skillfully and patiently guided me through the contract process.

That year, in 2004, the workshop jump-started my effort to transform a newspaper story into a book. Moira Johnston, a longtime Squaw teacher and the author of seven nonfiction books, took me under her wing. Not only did she read and line edit many drafts, but she gently urged me to think more like a novelist: constructing scenes, choosing the most telling detail.

Moira became a mentor who also helped deepen my understanding of the history and

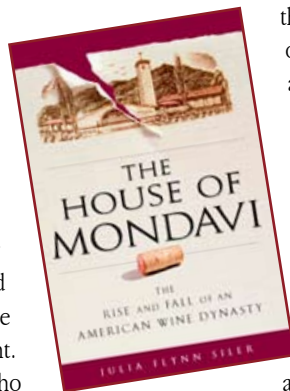
unique texture of Napa Valley, a place where she has lived for decades; she has won enormous respect as a community activist, fighting to restore the Napa River. So not only did Moira lend me her ear and editing skills, but also vouched for me in a valley often closed to outsiders.

At the same time, Frances Dinkelspiel invited me to join the San Francisco-based writing salon that she had helped co-found several years earlier, North 24th. With the help of Frances and other members of the group, which includes Squaw alumna Dr. Katherine Neilan ('04), I was able to turn in a 450-page work of narrative nonfiction that reads like a novel rather than a dry business text.

Without the community at Squaw, I truly doubt whether I could have completed what was an ambitious, highly complex first book, involving more than 250 interviews and tens of thousands of pages of documents. Aleta George, another Squaw alum ('04), was one of three researchers that I hired during the course of the project. The psychiatrist and writer Dora Wang ('03,'04) was always willing to lend a sympathetic ear, as was Beatrice Motamedi ('02,'05).

Without the support of Michael, Moira, Frances, Aleta, Dora, Beatrice, and many others, I'm not sure I could have done it. In every sense, Squaw has given me a home as a writer.

www.houseofmondavi.com



IN MEMORIAM: DON THAYER

We are sad to report that long-time Board Member Don Thayer died in his home in Tiburon on January 4. He served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers, and as a valued consultant on the finance committee. During his stewardship the Community's finances were in good hands, and the wisdom and good sense he brought to the investments have put SVCW in a strong position to weather the future. We will miss him. He was a good friend to the Community; he and his wife Geri were always happy to volunteer when help was needed, and for the past 5 years hosted the Spring Board Meeting in their home. In his plane or on the ground, he was always on his way to something, as even these last few years he was active and living fully. Don's wisdom and generosity, his strong connection with his friends and family, his integrity and vitality, make us miss the man and regret his loss tremendously. He was an all-round good person. We send our love and good wishes to his wife Geri and to his family.

OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Community of Writers awards full and partial tuition waivers to talented writers and poets. These scholarships increase the cultural diversity of the workshops and allow talented writers to participate who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Please join our friends, former participants and staff in donating what you can.

You may direct your tax-deductible contribution to the program of your choice. Log on to <http://www.justgive.org> to donate online with a credit card, or send a check to:

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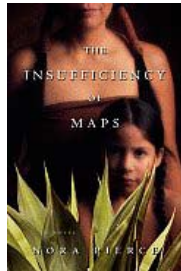




Participant Profile: Nora Pierce



Nora Pierce attended the Community of Writers in 2003. In April 2007, Atria Books (Simon & Schuster) published her novel, *The Insufficiency of Maps*, about a young Native American girl whose life is challenged by poverty, alcoholism, and the mental illness of her mother, but defined by a sense of ancestry and tradition. All that is disrupted when she is put into foster care with a white family in the suburbs. She struggles to make sense of the world and herself and to bridge the two very different cultures. The Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers editors wrote: "Pierce's language is pure poetry. A haunting novel of a young girl coping with a troubled history—both hers and her people's—*The Insufficiency of Maps* is a lyrical ghost dance of words."



Pierce grew up in Baltimore, the daughter of a Native American father, who left the family when she was young, and a Lebanese mother. She says of her childhood, "I grew up in the inner city, and it wasn't until I came west that I saw I had a lot in common with the kids on the rez—environments with alcoholism and poverty... I gave Alice a lot of my own emotional journey. My memories of my father and his family, and the feeling that it never happened, that my past was a ghostlike presence." But writing came slowly to her. "If I had mentioned to my family and friends when I was younger that I planned to spend my adult life writing, it would have been akin to my saying that I planned to build a rocket in the alley—so farfetched and preposterous was the notion. I didn't know any writers, I had no books of my own. But I was a passionate reader, and I always wanted to be

that kind of alchemist—to capture something elusive and vital and pin it to the page. I did lots of things to make a living, though I always wrote. I stuffed my desk drawers with all that writing, and it helped me to make sense of the world. I didn't do an MFA, but I read with the intention of deciphering, of sorting out how various writers had managed it, and I turned that enthusiasm, that deep love for books, into a kind of sustenance."

Although she didn't go to an MFA program, Nora has been both a Rosenthal Fellow in the PEN Center Emerging Voices program and a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford. While in the PEN program she met Squaw Valley Staff writer Jervey Tervalon, who encouraged her to apply to the Community of Writers. Nora says: "My time at Squaw Valley was definitely instrumental in helping me to become a novelist. When I arrived at Squaw Valley, I had already received word that I'd been awarded a Stegner fellowship at Stanford, and I had a draft of my novel, but I still lacked a certain courage. My friend and mentor, Jervey Tervalon insisted that I find a way to get to the conference, so confident was he in the transformative benefits of the community. But mostly—and Jervey was right about this—the conference was a time for me to finally acknowledge that I was a writer. It took me a very long time to find that confidence—and spending a week doing absolutely nothing but writing and reading the work of other writers and talking to novelists and editors whose work I had long admired, that was a boon."

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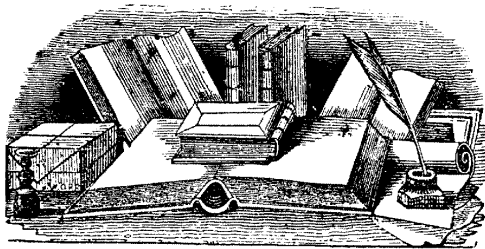
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WRITERS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT NEWS

Eve Abrams ('05): Her work has appeared in *Fourth Genre*, *Post Road Magazine* and on This American Life.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie ('02): Her second novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (Knopf, 2006), was awarded the 2007 Orange Prize for Fiction and the PEN Beyond Margins Award 2007. Her short story "Cell One" was published in the January 2007 issue of *The New Yorker*. www.halfofayellowsun.com

Judy Alexander ('95): Kregel Publications published her novel *Desert Medicine* in November 2007. www.judyalexander.com

Kevin Allardice ('06): His short story "Go Like This" appears in the Fall issue *Green Mountains Review*.

Anita Amirrezvani ('01): Her novel *The Blood of Flowers* was published by Little, Brown & Co. in June 2007 and has also been sold to publishers in 24 other countries. www.bloodofflowers.com

Stephanie Anagnoson ('04,'05): Her article "Finding Meaning in the Workplace" was published in the September/October *Science & Spirit*. She also writes about spirituality and the workplace at www.survivingtheworkday.com.

Frederick R. Andresen ('00,'01,'02,'03): His non-fiction book *Walking on Ice: An American Businessman in Russia* was published by Outskirts Press in September 2007.

Lea Aschkenas ('98,'02): Her travel memoir *Es Cuba: Life and Love on an Illegal Island* (Seal Press, 2006) was published in Poland by Videograf II in October of 2007. Also in October of 2007, her story "La Coca-Cola del Olvido" was published in the book *Havana Noir* (Akashic Press). www.leaaschkenas.com

Thérèse Bachand ('92,'93): She has two poetry collections forthcoming in 2008: *luce a cavallo* from Green Integer Books, and *Daughter Of The Ephemeral Word* from i.e. press.

David Bajo ('87,'88): His first novel, *The 351 Books of Irma Arcuri*, is forthcoming from Viking in June 2008. It will also be translated into 10 languages.

Krista Benjamin: ('03): She received a 2008 Jackpot Grant from the Nevada Arts Council to support the completion of the second draft of her novel. New poems are forthcoming in *Margie* and *Red Rock Review*. As recipient of a 2007 Nevada Arts Council Fellowship, she is on the Tumblewords roster and available as a writer-in-residence.

Rebecca Black ('07): She and Francis Kelly got engaged at the top of High Camp's Emigrant Peak in Squaw Valley on August 11, following the nonfiction conference.

Elise Blackwell ('89,'90): She published two novels in 2007: *The Unnatural History of Cypress Parish* and *Grub* (a satire of the writing life, which opens at a writing conference). Her short story "Closed Word" appeared in *Coal City Review*.

Carroll Parrott Blue ('99): Along with Sharon Johnston, she has been chosen to do the public art for six transit stations for Houston's METRO Solutions Public Art Program.

Ellen Bravo ('00,'01): Her non-fiction book *Taking on the Big Boys, or Why Feminism is Good for Families, Business and the Nation* was published in April 2007 by Feminist Press. www.ellenbravo.com

James Brown ('88,'89): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Jamie Cat Callan ('90): Her box of writing games, *The Writers Toolbox*, was released by Chronicle Books in April 2007. Sourcebooks published her relationship book, *Hooking Up or Holding Out*, in 2006. An essay, "The Semicolon was our Blinking Caution Light," appeared in the *New York Times* Modern Love column in 2006. www.jamiecatcallan.com

Aneesa Capur ('05): "In a State of Partition," an excerpt of her first novel, *Stealing Karma*, was published in the August 2007 issue of *Wild River Review* in time for the 60th anniversary of India's and Pakistan's independence. Excerpts have also won awards in two *Glimmer Train* Press fiction competitions and a *Writer's Digest* short story competition.

Michael Chabon ('86,'87): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Liz Chamberlin ('06): Her first novel-in-stories, *These People, They Crawl All*

Over the Place, won the Maurice Prize in fiction for an unpublished novel. She also welcomed a baby boy, Teague Kailas, in June.

Julie Chibbaro ('99,'01): Her second book, a historical novel about the hunt for Typhoid Mary in 1906, will be published by Simon & Schuster in Spring 2009. www.juliechibbaro.com

Michelle Chihara ('06): Her short story "Counting" was published in the Fall issue of *Green Mountains Review*.

Jane Ciabattari ('77): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Meg Waite Clayton ('00): Her second novel, *The Wednesday Sisters*, will be published by Ballantine Books in the summer of '08. www.megwaiteclayton.com

Amanda Coggin ('05): She is now a staff writer for the online women's magazine, *DivineCaroline.com*. Her blog can be found at www.AmandaCoggin.com.

Mark Coggins ('01): His fourth novel, *Runoff*, was published by Bleak House Books in November 2007. www.markcoggins.com

Andrea King Collier ('02): Wellness Central published her second non-fiction book, *The Black Woman's Guide to Black Men's Health*, which won honors from the Congressional Black Caucus. One of her essays, "Well Seasoned Memories," was selected to appear in *The Best Food Writing 2007*. www.andreacollier.com

Myfanwy Collins ('04,'05): She has work published in *Jabberwock Review*, *Caketrain*, *Storyglossia*, *Monkeybicycle*, *Quay* and others. She is working as an assistant editor at *Narrative Magazine/StoryQuarterly*. In June, she gave birth to

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—Lalita Tademy, author of *Red River* and *Cane River*

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I gave my heart to Meg Clayton's vivid characters . . .

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—Amanda Eyre Ward, author of *How to Be Lost*

"Heartbreaking, funny, and undeniably smart . . .

This is the kind of book you don't just want to pass on
to all your friends. You have to."

—Caroline Leavitt, author of *Girls in Trouble* and *Coming Back to Me*



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MEG WAITE CLAYTON's *The Language of Light* was a finalist for the Bellwether Prize. A graduate of The University of Michigan Law School and a Tennessee Williams Scholar at the Sewanee Writers' Conference, her work has appeared in *Runner's World*, *Writers' Digest*, and numerous literary magazines.

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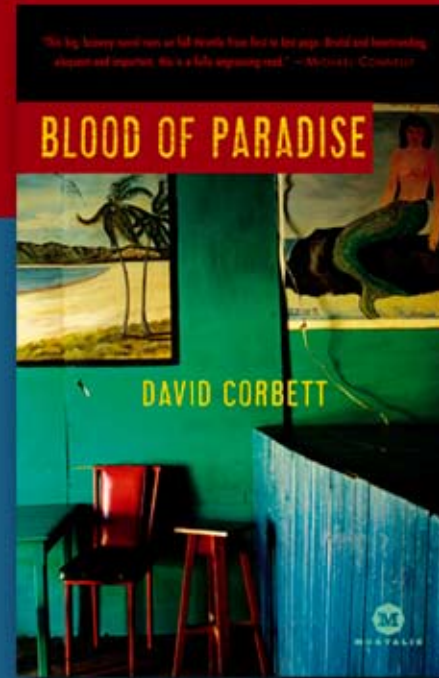
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—George Pelecanos

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**For more information visit
www.davidcorbett.com**

her son Henry. www.myfanwycollins.com

David Corbett ('88,'89,'91,'99): His third novel, *Blood of Paradise*, was published in March 2007 and was recently named a Notable Book of 2007 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The book earned him an invitation to be the inaugural speaker at the U.S. Southern Command Author Series. He also contributed a chapter to *The Chopin Manuscript*, the first ever, serial audio thriller (other contributors include Jeffrey Deaver, Lee Child, Lisa Scottoline, and Joseph Finder). www.davidcorbett.com

Lindsey Crittenden ('98): Her memoir, *The Water Will Hold You: A Skeptic Learns to Pray*, was published in March 2007. She published a personal essay in *The New York Times* in June 2007, and had a short story appear in *Bellingham Review* (Spring/Fall 2007). Another story won 2nd place in *Glimmer Train's* Very Short Fiction Award

and will appear in 2009. She is the co-editor with Jacqueline Kolosov of the anthology *The Sincerest Form of Flattery: Women Writers on Resemblance and Rebellion in Fiction* which will be published by Lewis-Clark Press, Winter 2008. In 2006, Kirsten and her husband also became the happy parents of Finn Leo Lunstrum, their first child. www.lindseycrittenden.com

Michael Croft ('87,'89,'94,'99): He is now an assistant editor at *Narrative Magazine*, where he has a story, "Lester Leaps In," forthcoming.

Eileen Cronin ('96,'97): Her novel *Lead Soul* is a finalist in the 2007 Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society's novels-in-progress competition. She has joined the editorial staffs of *Narrative Magazine* and *Story Quarterly*. Her short story "Martin's Tart" will be published in the Fall issue of the *GW Review*.

Jasmin Darznik ('06): Her memoir of Iran will be published next year in the U.S. by Grand Central and in the U.K. by Random House. In 2007 she won honors and awards from *The Iowa Review*, *Zoetrope*, The San Francisco Foundation, and the Marin Arts Council. Her short stories and essays most recently appeared in the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, the *Washington Post Magazine*, *Alimentum*, and the *Women's Review of Books*.

Tracy DeBrincat ('96): Her poem "Rhetoric of Flight" was recently published in *Nimrod*, April 2007. Another poem, "Paper Covers Rock," will appear in *Zyzzyva's* Winter 2007 issue. A short story "Troglodyte" will appear in the Fall/Winter 2007 issue of *New South* (formerly *GSU Review*). Her short story collection *Moon Is Cotton & She Laugh All Night* was selected as a finalist in the 2007 Elixir Press Chapbook Awards. Her short story "Glossolalia" appeared in *Whiskey Island* #47. Another, "Call It A Hat," will be published in *The Pinch* in Spring 2007.

Terry DeHart ('96): In 2007 his short stories appeared in *Cranky*, *Defenestration*, *Opium* and *Smokelong Quarterly*.

Barbara DeMarco-Barrett ('92): Her radio show, "Writers on Writing," KUCI-FM, is now podcast on iTunes and at writersonwriting.blogspot.com. Shows with Michael Chabon, Janet Fitch, Ron Carlson, and other Squaw staff and participants, as well as a couple hundred other authors, agents and editors are available at no charge. www.barbarademarcobarrett.com

Olivia Diamond ('96,'97): RockWay Press will publish *Conquistadora*, the second novel in a trilogy, in 2008. www.mountainofdreams.com/olivia.html

Frances Dinkelspiel ('03,'04): Her non-fiction book *Towers of Gold: Isaias Hellman and the Creation of California* will be published by St. Martin's Press in

March 2008.

www.francesdinkelspiel.blogspot.com

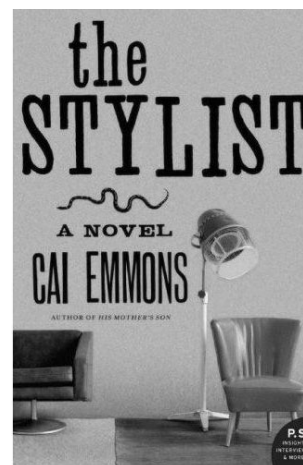
Bill Donahoe ('06): His essay "Unexpected Prayers" from *Music of the Open Heart*, his memoir-in-progress, appeared as the end paper in *The San Francisco Chronicle Magazine* in March 2007.

Selden Edwards ('69,'70,'71): His debut novel, *The Little Book*, will be published by Dutton in August. He is a retired private school headmaster and was a charter student in Squaw Valley in '69.

Jennifer Egan ('89): The paperback edition of her novel *The Keep* was published by Anchor in July 2007. www.jenniferegan.com

Cai Emmons ('93,'94,'98): Her second novel, *The Stylist*, was published in Fall 2007 by Perennial, an imprint of Harper Collins. www.caiemmons.com

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What do you do if you're a Harvard dropout turned hair stylist and the new "girl" who just started at the Hoboken hair salon where you work may actually be a guy (or a woman becoming a man?), and you run into your estranged sister in downtown post-9/11 Manhattan who says that your famous writer father, who put you through intellectual boot camp as a kid and you haven't seen for six years since your mother died of mysterious causes, has injured himself in the jungles of Costa Rica and needs your help to ... ???

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Alex Espinoza ('04,'05): His novel, *Still Water Saints* (Random House), will be released in paperback in February of 2008.

Maria Espinosa ('93): Wings Press will publish her fourth novel, *Dying Unfinished*, in 2008. www.mariaespinosa.com

Jack Estes ('98): He won the 2006 Filmmakers annual Screenwriting contest out of over 1200 entries for his script "A Soldier's Son."

Marie Estorge ('01): In May, *Diablo Magazine* published an essay of hers entitled "Taking a Leap." She also had a story published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in December 2006.

Herta B. Feely ('03): Her novel, *The Trials of Serra Blue*, received the James Jones First Novel Fellowship in 2006. In 2006 she published her short stories and essays in *The Hurricane Review* (Fall 2006), *Potomac Review* (Fall 2006) and an anthology of DC women's fiction, *Enhanced Gravity*. An excerpt from her novel was included in the July 2007 issue of *Provincetown Arts Magazine*, and another short story appeared in the Fall 2007 issue of *The Griffin*.

Joshua Ferris ('03): His first novel, *Then We Came to the End*, was a finalist for the National Book Award. It was published in March by Little, Brown. www.thenwecametothend.com

Barbara Fischkin ('95): She published *How to Survive Autism: A been-there-done-that guide for parents* on iparenting.com. She writes "An Autism Mother Rages," columns for the *Huffington Post* and is host of "Maverick Mama," on Autismone.org Internet radio. www.barbarafischkin.com

Janet Fitch ('93): See Writers Workshop Staff News.



Jamie Ford ('06): His debut novel, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, will be published by Ballantine in Spring/Summer 2009. The novel is based on his short story "I Am Chinese" which was a finalist in *Glimmer Train's* 2006 Short-Story Award for New Writers. www.jamieford.com

Richard Ford ('70): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

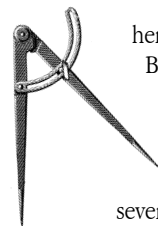
Vicki Forman ('94): She writes an online column that reaches over 6000 unique readers a month: www.literarymama.com/columns/. Her essay "Coming to Samsara" appears in the anthology *Love You to Pieces: Creative Writers on Raising a Child with Special Needs* (Beacon, Spring 2008) which also features work from Jayne Anne Phillips and Brett Lott.

Amy Franklin-Willis ('05,'06): Earlier this year she received a grant from the Elizabeth George Foundation to complete her novel *The Lost Saints of Tennessee*. This fall the book won first place in the novel category at the Central Coast Writers Conference.

Alison Gee ('02): Her literary memoir, *The Peacock Cries for Rain*, will be published by St. Martins Press in winter 2008. *Serena & Lily's Nursery Style* is due out from Chronicle Books in winter 2008.

Aleta George ('05): She is a frequent contributor to *Bay Nature* magazine and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and has upcoming pieces in *California Coast & Ocean* and *Smithsonian*. She's at work on a historical narrative about Ina Coolbrith, California's first poet laureate. An essay about Coolbrith's experience in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake can be found at www.coolpoetry.org/inacoolbrithslostcity.html.

Sandra Giedeman ('93,'95): An evening of



her short stories, "Norco Blues," was presented in Beverly Hills at the New Short Fiction Series. Three poems have appeared and several are forthcoming in

Clapboard House. She has two poems forthcoming in *Two Hawks Quarterly*, Antioch's new literary journal.

Alicia Gifford ('04): Her short story "At the Bar" was published in the Fall/Winter 2007 issue of *Alaska Quarterly Review*. The New Short Fiction Series will be producing a spoken word performance of four of her short stories on May 9, 2007 at the Beverly Hills Library. Her short story "Toggling the Switch," originally published by *Narrative Magazine*, has been included in an ESL Textbook, *Open Road Skills*, 2nd Edition, published by Pearson-Longman in Canada, 2007. Her short story "Surviving Darwin" (originally published by *The Barcelona Review*) will be included in the 15th anniversary (and final) edition of *The Best of Best of American Erotica 2008*. She is currently fiction editor for the literary journal *Night Train*.

Glen David Gold ('96,'97): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Melody Graves ('06): Her gothic short story "The Looking Glass" appears in the 2007 issue of *Coach's Midnight Diner*, now available from Amazon.com. www.melodygraves.com

Suzanne Greenberg ('99): She has co-authored, with fiction writer Lisa Glatt, a children's novel, *Abigail Iris: One of Many*. The book will be published by Walker Books/Bloomsbury USA in April 2009. Her most recent short story, "Ojai," also a collaboration with Lisa Glatt, appears in the literary magazine *Swink*.

Megan Griswold ('06): She wrote and starred in the one-woman play *Fix It*, which was premiered in NYC at Stage Left

Studio as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival in July.

Lev Grossman ('95): His third novel, with the working title *The Magicians*, will be published by Viking. www.levgrossman.com

Lise Haines ('99): The paperback edition of her second novel, *Small Acts of Sex and Electricity*, was published by Unbridled Books in 2007, and was a BookSense Pick in 2006. Last year she was Visiting Briggs-Copeland Lecturer at Harvard and this year she is Writer-In-Residence at Emerson College.

Dann Halem ('02,'03): He is managing editor of *Walkabout Jones*, a new literary travel magazine. www.walkaboutjones.com

Masha Hamilton ('00): Her third novel, *The Camel Bookmobile*, was published by HarperCollins in April 2007. www.mashahamilton.com

Mary-Rose Hayes ('80): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Dorothy Hearst ('04): Her novel, *Promise of the Wolves*, will be published by Simon & Schuster in June 2008.

Raelynn Hillhouse ('97): Her new novel, *Outsourced*, was published by Forge Books in June 2007. www.RaelynnHillhouse.com

Rhoda Huffey ('90,'98): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Gina Hyams ('01): *Searching for Mary Poppins: Women Write About the Intense Relationship Between Mothers and Nannies*, an anthology that she co-edited with Susan Davis, was published by Hudson Street Press/Penguin USA in October 2006. www.ginahyams.com

Ben Jahn ('02,'06): His work has appeared recently in *McSweeney's Quarterly* and *ZYZZYVA*.

Cindy Jones ('07): Her novel-in-progress, *Hunting Mr. Darcy*, won the Writers'

League of Texas 2007 Manuscript Contest, Mainstream Fiction Category.

Louis B. Jones ('89): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Judith Jordan ('05): Her short stories, interviews, and poetry have appeared in *The Odyssey* anthology from PocketMyths Press, *Digital Artifact*, *SoMArts Literary Review*, and the anthology *Learning to Love You More*, published by Prestel.

Kathryn Jordan ('97): Her novel, *Hot Water* (Berkley / Penguin '06) was republished in Spain as *Agua Caliente* in January 2007 by Via Magna. A pocket edition of *Agua Caliente* followed in August. www.kathrynjordan.com

Elizabeth Kadetsky: ('97,'04): Her short story "Men More Than Mortal" was featured in *Best New American Voices 2008*, and an essay is forthcoming in an anthology from Anchor-Vintage, *Going Hungry*. In 2007 she was writer in residence at the St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity in Malta and was awarded residencies at Djerassi Foundation, Ragdale Foundation and Santa Fe Art Institute. In 2007 she served as the judge in the features category for the New York Press Club Association awards, and has taken on duties as senior editor at *Yoga + Joyful Living* magazine. www.elizabethkadetsky.typepad.com

Maxima Kahn ('07): See Poet Watch.

Darla Kashian ('05): With Samantha Grosby, she welcomed their tiny but mighty daughter, Noa Michal Grosby (4 lbs. 1 oz) to the world on February 7, 2007.

Kristin Kearns ('00,'05): She had a story accepted for publication in *Flyway*, and in September she assumed the position of managing editor at ZYZZYVA.

Nancy Kelly ('06): A story from *When We Were Cowgirls*, the manuscript she worked on at Squaw last year, was published in the inaugural edition of the *West Marin*

Review. PBS re-broadcast her documentary *Smitten* on November, 25, 2007. www.kelly-yamamoto.com

David Kerns ('05): His novel *Standard of Care* was published by Sentient in 2007. www.davidkerns.com

Ruth Kirschner ('01): In June, three of her plays (*Backlight*, *Spotlight*, and *Wabi Sabi*) were selected for development at The Last Frontier Theatre Conference, in Valdez, Alaska.

Dylan Landis ('01): Her story "Fly or Die" appears in the Spring 2007 edition of the *Santa Monica Review*.

Jackson Lassiter ('06): His published short stories include "Birds of a Feather" in *Harrington Gay Men's Literary Quarterly*, "A Critter in the Henhouse" in *The Heartland Review*, and "Near Miss" in *Best Gay Love Stories 2006*. Nonfiction credits include "A Fallow Season" in *Bylines* Writer's Calendar and "Swimming Upstream, June Cleaver on My Mind" in the baby boomer anthology *Silver Boomers*. His prose poem "While Waiting for My Beloved's Arrival at Sacramento Int'l Airport" was published in *Apocalypse Literary Arts Magazine* and his linked haiku poems "Dog Walk Haikus" will appear in the anthology *Dog Blessings*. He has also had five pieces published online and he received a 2006 Devil's Tower Writer's Residency Award.

Michelle Latiolais ('89): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Michael Leone ('06,'07): He has had stories published in *The North Atlantic Review*, *The Tusculum Review*, *The Ledge*, and forthcoming in *The Jabberwock Review*. He also reviews books regularly for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Plain Dealer*, *The Kansas City Star*, and *American Book Review*.

Joan Steinau Lester ('03): Her non-fiction article "Naps" was published in the

Autumn 2007 issue of the literary journal *Persimmon Tree*. "Naps" is an excerpt from a memoir-in-progress.

Dixon Long ('94,'97,'00,'01-'03): His non-fiction book *Markets of Paris*, co-written with Ruthanne Long, was published by the Little Bookroom in March 2007.

Regina Louise: ('02): Her one-woman show based on her 2002 memoir, *Somebody's Someone*, was premiered in May 2007 with the Sacramento Theatre Company. Camille Thomasson wrote the screenplay for the Lifetime Television adaptation. www.reginalouise.com

Li Miao Lovett ('06): Her novel manuscript *In the Lap of the Gods* is a top four finalist in the James Jones First Novel Fellowship out of 630 entries. *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *Earth Island Journal*, and *China Rights Forum* have recently published her work.

Leza Lowitz ('99): She is the new fiction editor of *Kyoto Journal* (www.kyotojournal.org), and she and her husband Shogo Oketani have a translation coming out this winter from Kaya Press, *America and Other Poems (1947-1986)* by Ayukawa Nobuo, for which they won the 2003 U.S.-Japan Friendship Commission Award for the Translation of Japanese Literature from Columbia University.

Karon Luddy ('00): Her new young adult novel, *Spelldown*, was published by Simon & Schuster in January 2007. The novel received starred reviews from *Publisher's Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews*. Clemson University Press published a book of her poems, *Wolf Heart*, in March 2007. www.karonluddy.com

Giselle Lumas ('04): Booksurge will publish her novel *Tug of Love* in 2007. www.gisellelumas.com



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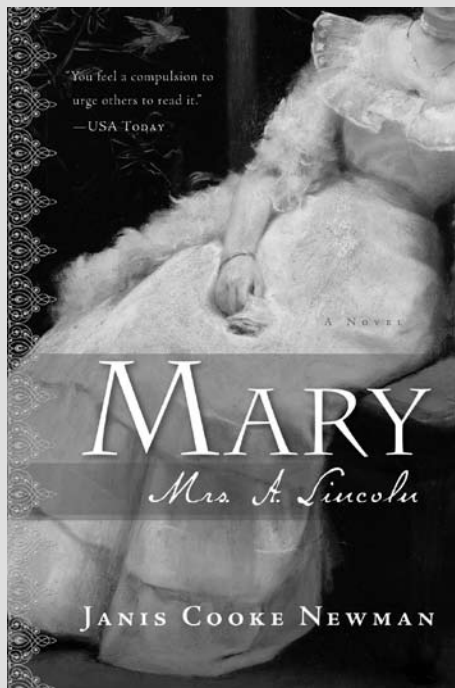


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Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum ('02): Her second collection of short fiction, *Swimming With Strangers*, will be published by Chronicle Books in 2008. A story from this collection entitled "The Nursery" was published in the Fall 2007 issue of *The American Scholar*. In 2006, Kirsten and her husband also became the happy parents of Finn Leo Lunstrum, their first child. www.kirstenlunstrum.net

David Marshall ('06): *What I Love About You*, co-written with his wife Kate, was published in January 2007 by Broadway Books and is about to go into its second printing. It is the #1 weddings-shower book on Amazon.com. www.marshallbooks.net

Beverly Matherne ('94): See PoetWatch.

Gretchen McCullough ('06): She had a short story "Taken Hostage by the Ugly Duck" published in the July issue of *Storyglossia* (www.storyglossia.com/21/gm_duck.html). "A Little Honey and a Little Sunlight," a short story, and "The Best of Bad Luck," an essay, are in the Fall issue of *Storysouth*. www.storysouth.com

Christina Meldrum ('05): Her first novel, *Madapple*, will be published by Knopf in Summer 2008. www.christinameldrum.com

Maile Meloy ('00): The paperback edition of her novel *A Family Daughter* was published by Scribner in 2007. www.mailemeloy.com

Anna Mills ('06): She has essays forthcoming this year in *The Redwood Coast Review*, *The Palo Alto Weekly*, and *Isotope: A Journal of Literary Nature and Science Writing*. Her regular reviews of nature writing can be found at onnaturewriting.blogspot.com.

Mary E. Mitchell ('99,'00): Mitchell's first novel of a two-book deal with St. Martin's Press, *Starting Out Sideways*, was published in May 2007, with the second to follow in May 2009. *The Charlotte Observer*

listed *Starting Out Sideways* on its "Best Books for Summer" 2007. www.maryemitchell.com

Lee Montgomery ('98): Her collection of stories *Whose World is This?* received the 2007 John Simmons Iowa Short Fiction Award and was published in September by the University of Iowa Press, (judge, Amy Hempel). Her memoir, *The Things Between Us*, published by the Free Press in 2006, is a finalist for the 2007 Oregon Book Awards. Her nonfiction appeared in the anthology *The Honeymoon is Over* (January 2007, Warner Books). www.leemontgomerywriter.com

Karen Moulding ('07): Her story "Theories" was published on Nerve.com in March 2007, and her story "Glitter" was published on sliptongue.com in May 2007. Both are excerpts from her novel *The Naked Shopper*. Her new novel, *The Untrainable Heart*, was a finalist in the 2007 Parthenon Prize for Fiction contest.

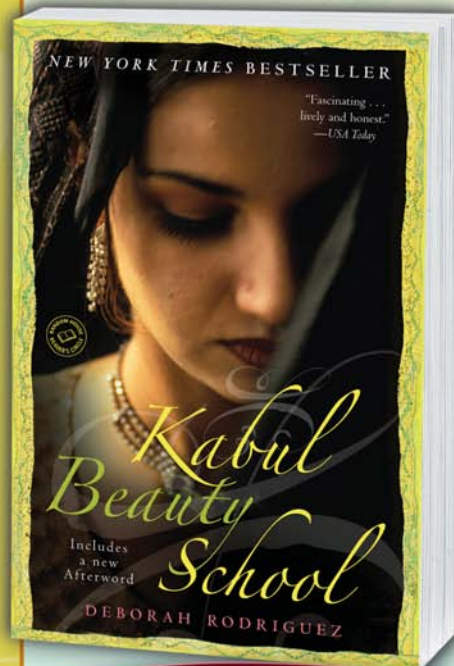
Nami Mun ('02): Her story collection, *Miles from Nowhere*, is forthcoming in 2009 from Penguin/Riverhead. A story from that collection, "Shelter," received a Pushcart Prize in 2007. namimun@sbcglobal.net

Janis Cooke Newman ('97,'98,'01): Her historical novel *Mary*, published in hardcover by MacAdam/Cage and in paperback by Harcourt, was a Bay Area Bestseller. It was a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize Finalist, chosen as *USA Today's* Best Historical Fiction of the Year and a *Booksense* Year-End Highlight. www.janiscookene Newman.com

Katia Noyes ('99,'00): Her fiction was anthologized in *Best Lesbian Love Stories: New York City*, edited by Simone Thorne (Alyson Books), and in *A Body For All Seasons: Women Write about Accepting Life's Challenges*, edited by Victoria Zackheim (Seal Press, Fall 2007). www.crashingamerica.com

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www.kabulbeautyschoolbook.com

Kem Nunn ('79): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Rebecca K. O'Connor ('06): Her falconry memoir *Lift* will be published by Red Hen Press in 2009. Her essays were published or are forthcoming in *South Dakota Review*, *Iron Horse Review* and *divide*.

Varley O'Connor ('88,'89): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Kristin Ohlson ('88,'92): She co-wrote, with Deborah Rodriguez, *Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil* (Random House, 2007), which was #10 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The film rights were optioned by Sandra Bullock. www.kristinohlson.com

Mary Otis ('00,'01): Her short story collection *Yes Yes, Cherries* was published this past May by Tin House Books. She has a story appearing in the forthcoming anthology *Do Me: Tales Of Love and Sex*, published by Tin House, and an essay in the Viking anthology *Whoof: Writers on Dogs*. She was a 2007 Walter Dakin Fellow. www.maryotis.com

David Page ('02): His essay about squirrels appeared in the *Los Angeles Times Weekend Magazine*. He is the author of the guidebook *The Yosemite and Southern Sierra Book*, to be published in 2008 by Countryman Press.

Victoria Patterson ('06): Houghton Mifflin will publish a collection of her short stories as a Mariner Trade Original in Spring 2009.

Nora Pierce ('03): She is a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. Atria Books/Simon & Schuster published her novel *The Insufficiency of Maps* in April 2007. www.norapierce.com

Cecile Pineda ('79): Her 9th century novel *Frieze* has been re-issued by Wings Press as part of a uniform edition of Pineda's work, which includes *Face*, her

debut award-winning novel.

Angie Powers ('05): She is pleased to announce the birth of her son, Lorenzo George Stark Powers born April 21, 2007.

Ismet Prsic ('07): His two-part short story “Porcus Omnivorus” is being published in the new issue of *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern* in February 2008. Another piece entitled “Cheese” is running in the upcoming installment of *Topic Magazine*. Both pieces are excerpts from his novel-in-progress called *Shards*.

Paula Priamos-Brown ('97): She has personal essays in or forthcoming in the *Washington Post Magazine*, *New York Times Magazine*, and *Los Angeles Times Magazine*.

Mark Pritchard ('05): His novel *How They Scored* will be published by Cleis Press in 2008. www.toobeautiful.org

Jenny Pritchett ('04): In 2007 Jenny Pritchett was published in *Michelle Richmond's Fiction Attic* and in *Salt Hill* magazine. She was a finalist for the Summer Literary Seminars fiction contest and in January 2008 will be a writer-in-residence at the Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Julie Rappaport ('05): Lisa is happy to announce the birth of her daughter, Chloe Minakshi Rappaport Crowther, born on February 6th 2007 in Berkeley, California.

Sue Repko ('06): Her flash fiction appeared at *flashquake*, and an essay on Willa Cather appeared at *LiteraryTraveler.com*. Poetry is forthcoming in *RUNES*. www.suerepko.com

Meredith Resnick ('99,'01): She was a recent contributor to *Newsweek's* My Turn column with her essay “We Didn't Need The Past—Or So I Thought” and a contributor to *The Complete Book of Aunts*, published by Twelve, 2007.

Janet Pelzmann Rhodes ('88,'90): Several of her articles have been published by *Bay Area BusinessWoman*, including "Women Tap the Power of Collective Wisdom," "The Five Percent Enigma," and "Film Festival Kaleidoscopes Love, Life, and Social Justice."

Andrew Roe ('97,'03): His fiction has recently appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Salt Flats Annual*, *Avery Anthology*, and *Failbetter*.

Robin Romm ('03): Her first collection of stories, *The Mother Garden*, was published by Scribner in July 2007. www.robinromm.com

Lisa Rosenbaum ('01): Her novel *A Day of Small Beginnings* was published by Little, Brown and Co. in November 2006. www.lisapearlorosenbaum.com

Elizabeth Rosner ('82,'83,'87): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Joy Ross ('07): Her newest story, "The Trouble with Guidebooks," is forthcoming in an anthology on work from Vanderbilt University Press. She has also become a contributing editor for Popular Ink Press, which publishes short story collections, and its electronic journal, *The Indelible Kitchen*, a high-traffic, interactive, populist art and writing journal, which will soon be branching out to accept music, film, and design. Squaw alums are encouraged to submit, mentioning in their submissions their participation at the conference. Visit popularink.com for guidelines.

Mina Samuels ('03): The paperback edition of her first novel, *The Queen of Cups*, was published by Unlimited Publishing in December 2006. www.thequeenofcups.com

Julia Scheeres ('03): Her memoir *Jesus Land* (Counterpoint) made the *New York Times* and *London Times* bestseller lists and has been optioned for a film. Scheeres

is a frequent contributor to the *Times Book Review*. www.juliascheeres.com

Eliot Schreier ('07): His second novel, *The New Kid*, was published by Simon & Schuster in September 2007. His first novel, *Glamorous Disasters*, was released in paperback in February (Simon & Schuster). A Russian edition was released in Winter 2006. Scholastic will publish a young adult novel, *The School for Dangerous Girls*, in 2008. "Two Little Dogs," a short story, appeared in the Spring issue of *The Cincinnati Review*. "Boston -> Osaka," another short story, appeared in a recent online issue of *Swink Magazine*. www.eliotsschreier.com

Alice Sebold ('96,'97): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Julia Flynn Siler ('03,'04): Her book *The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty* was published by Penguin's Gotham Books in June 2007 and became a *New York Times* bestseller. *BusinessWeek* named it one of the top ten business books of 2007. www.juliaflynnsiler.com

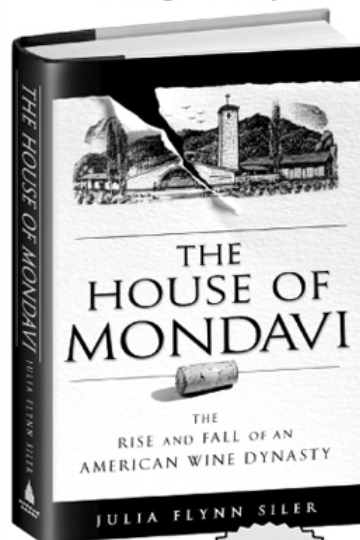
Dashka Slater ('05): Her third children's book, *The Sea Serpent and Me*, will be released by Houghton Mifflin in May 2008. Her 2006 book *Baby Shoes* was named one of the best children's books of the year by both *Booklist* and *Nick Jr. Magazine*, and was named to the Texas Library Council's 2x2 List of twenty recommended books for children age 2 to grade 2. www.dashkaslater.com

C. Kevin Smith ('01,'02): He has published several pieces in the *Redwood Coast Review*, including a short story ("Free Cats," Winter '07) and a translation of a poem by Victor Hugo ("The Child," Summer '07). www.ckevinssmith.com

Martin J. Smith ('92): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

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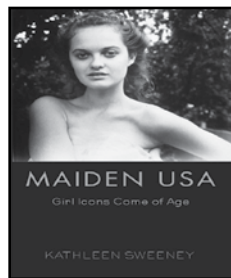


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Elizabeth Stark ('04): She is pleased to announce the birth of her son Charles Bartlett Stark Powers born August 2007.

Janyce Stefan-Cole ('04): A short story "Conversation With a Tree" (Ecolit co-prize winner) was published in *KNOCK* #6, October 2006.

Teresa Stores ('05): Her new novel, *Backslide*, is forthcoming from Spinster's Ink in 2008. Short stories adapted from the book have appeared in *Oregon Literary Review*, *Cicada*, *Harrington Lesbian Literary Quarterly*, and *Rock & Sling*. Her story "Fisher" was short-listed for the International Fish Story Prize (U.K.) in 2006, and she chaired the Pedagogy Team for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs in Atlanta.

Nona Stuck ('00,'01,'02,'03): She had an essay in the *Sunday New York Times*, Style section, Daniel Jones' 'Modern Love' column.

Christine Sunderland ('05): Her first novel, *Pilgrimage*, was published by Capstone Fiction in June 2007. www.ChristineSunderland.com

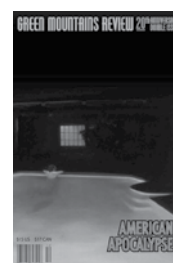
Ellen Sussman ('80,'96): Her anthology *Bad Girls: 26 Writers Misbehave* was published in July by WW Norton. It became a *San Francisco Chronicle* Bestseller and a *New York Times* Editors' Choice. www.badgirlsanthology.com
www.ellensussman.com

Kathleen Sweeney ('99): Her first book of non-fiction, *Maiden USA: Girl Icons Come of Age*, was published in 2007 (Peter Lang Publishing). Two excerpted chapters from the book, "Girls Make Movies" and "Supernatural Girls" have appeared in *Afterimage*. www.video-text.com

Amy Tan ('87): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Janet Tezak ('03): She has just published the second edition of her first book in

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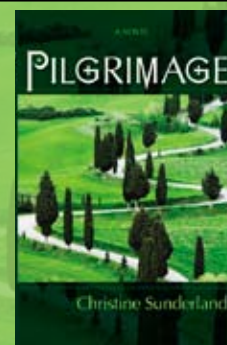
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History professor Madeleine Seymour travels to Italy on a pilgrimage to banish nightmares of grief. But will she find peace?

**PILGRIMAGE
by Christine Sunderland**

**ChristineSunderland.com
Capstonefiction.com**

October 2007 with iUniverse entitled *Do I Dare*.

Steven M. Thomas ('00): He has a two-book contract with Random House. His first novel, *Criminal Paradise*, will be published in early 2008. His second will appear in 2009.

Wendy Nelson Tokunaga ('01,'02): Her novel *Midori By Moonlight* was published by St. Martin's Press in September 2007. www.WendyNelsonTokunaga.com

Andrew Tonkovich ('93,'95): See Writers Workshop Staff News.

Lisa Tucker ('01): Washington Square Press has released her novel *Once Upon a Day* in paperback. Her new novel, *The Cure for Modern Life*, is forthcoming in April 2008 from Atria Books/Simon & Schuster and Brilliance Audio. www.lisatucker.com

Madeleine Van Hecke ('95,'96): Her psychology, self-help book *Blind Spots: Why Smart People Do Dumb Things* was published by Prometheus Books, Inc. in April 2007. www.mvanhecke.com

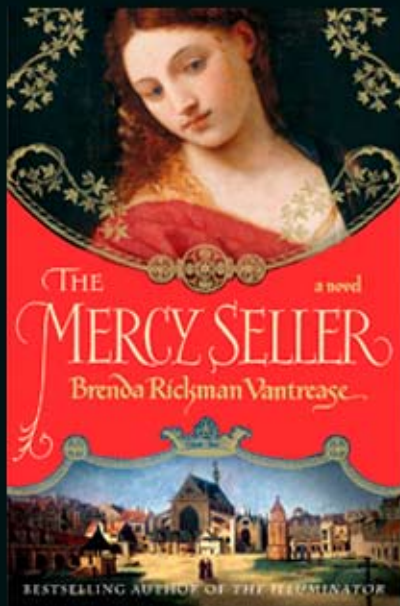
Gretchen Van Lente ('96): She published the short story "A School for Bullies" in *Blood Lotus* in 2007; forthcoming is the story "The People from Juarez" which will be anthologized and illustrated for a book of horror stories entitled *Midnight Lullabies*. Proceeds for the book published by *The Harrow Magazine* will go to Doctors Without Borders.

Brenda Rickman Vantrease ('02): Her second novel, *The Mercy Seller*, was published by St. Martin's in 2007. www.brendarickmanvantrease.com

Amy Wallen ('01): Her book *Moonpies and Movie Stars* came out in January 2007 and was on the *LA Times* Bestseller list at #10. The paperback and a new book are due out early in 2008. www.amywallen.com

THE MERCY SELLER

BRENDA RICKMAN VANTREASE



A spell binding tale about the power of love and the perils of faith from the bestselling author of *The Illuminator*.

"Vantrease tells an engaging story and paints a vivid picture of 15th-century Europe."

—*Publisher's Weekly*

"The Mercy Seller...is bigger, broader and even better than its predecessor."

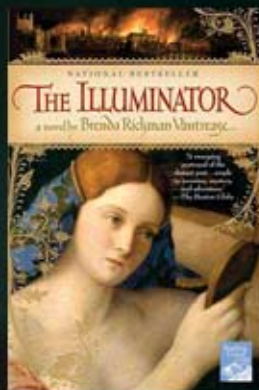
—*Nashville Scene*

Trade paperback edition available from St. Martin's Griffin, April 1, 2008

Also available from St. Martin's Griffin
THE ILLUMINATOR

"A wonderful novel with an absolutely compelling and irresistible heroine. This is historical fiction in the grand epic manner, beautifully felt and written."

—Max Byrd, author of *Shooting the Sun*



www.brendarickmanvantrease.com

Dora Wang ('00,'01,'02,'04,'05): Her memoir, *The Kitchen Shrink: A Physician's Story of Changing Times*, is scheduled for publication by Riverhead Books.

Amanda Eyre Ward ('92): Her third novel, *Forgive Me*, was published by Random House in 2007. www.amandaward.com

Tim Wendel ('86-'89): His novel *Red Rain*, about the Japanese fire balloons, will be published in Spring 2008 by Writers Lair Books. This spring, his coffee-table book about Latino baseball, *Far From Home*, will be released by National Geographic Books. His novella *Habana Libra* was a semifinalist in the *Quarterly West* novella contest.

Naomi Williams ('05): Her short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Southern Review*, *American Short Fiction*, and *The Gettysburg Review*.

Robert Steven Williams ('03,'04,'07): Robert had an article in the March/April 2007 issue of *Poets & Writers*. One of his songs was featured on NPR's Car Talk in April 2007. His blog can be found at: www.rswmusic.com

Ian Randall Wilson ('04): His fiction chapbook *Out of the Arcadian Ghetto* was published by Cervena Barva Press in January. www.thelostbookshelf.com/cervenabooks.html

Nina Wise ('03): She is writing a play in collaboration with chaos theorist Ralph Abraham called *The Kepler Project: When Science Lost the Soul*. The play received a staged reading at the Bay Area Playwrights Festival in August 2007 and another staged reading at the Riverstage Festival in Sacramento in July 2008. The play is continuing to be developed and two future readings are scheduled in 2008, sponsored by the Playwrights Foundation and the Lensic Performing Arts Center in Santa Fe.

Patricia Woeber ('02,'03): In October 2007, she received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Royal Government of Bhutan. Her travel article on Bhutan ran in 2006 in *Marin Magazine*. In April 2007, a travel article on the Brenne area in France and another article on Paris, was syndicated to newspapers by Copley News Service. In October 2007, *Marin Magazine* published her travel article on the Loire Valley's royal chateaux. In 2007, *Latitude Magazine* in Singapore published a travel article on The Hamptons and a profile of Jean-Michel Cousteau.

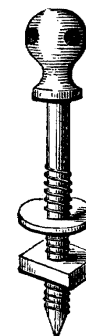
Lyndane Yang ('00,'01,'02): Her short story collection *Distant Shores* was one of five finalists in the 2007 Iowa Short Fiction Awards competition. Her story "Real American Home" was published in issue 30.1 of *Room of One's Own*, (now renamed *Room*). She teaches fiction in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program.

Tiphane Yanique ('05): She was awarded a Pushcart Prize for her story "The Bridge," published last year in *The Sonora Review*. Her story "The Saving Work" was selected as the winner of the Kore Press Short Fiction competition. Kore Press published "The Saving Work" as a chapbook this past summer.

Ming Mei Yip ('98): Her second book, *Peach Blossom Pavilion*, a novel about the last Chinese Geisha, will be published by Kensington Publishing in June 2008.

Katayoon Zandvakili ('02): She had a long poem, "Mary Jane Song," published online at www.ArteEast.org.

Alexi Zentner ('05): His short story, "Touch," was selected for the O. Henry Prize Stories 2008 (published in May 2008, by Anchor Books). www.alexizentner.com





Participant Profile: Joshua Ferris

Joshua Ferris attended the Community of Writers in 2003. This past March his first novel, *Then We Came To The End*, was published by Little, Brown to significant acclaim. Written in the first person plural, the novel tells the story of a group of employees at an advertising agency as the agency is failing and facing layoffs. In the process, Ferris explores the collective experience of work—its pleasures, frustrations and intrigues—and the collective voice. “The greatest advantage of using the first-person plural was the way in which it demonstrated the great unreliability of group narration,” Ferris says. The novel has been called “Brilliant and incredibly funny” (*Newsday*) and “A savagely funny yet kind-hearted tale of office life” (*The Observer*), among other accolades. Nick Hornsby described it as “The Office meets Kafka. It’s Seinfeld re-written by Donald Barthelme.”

Ferris received his BA in English and Philosophy from the University of Iowa in 1996. He went on to complete his MFA at the University of California, Irvine. Having won the Glenn Schaeffer Prize, which allowed him to work on writing without having to worry about income for a while, Ferris started work on the book and spent over a year on it, but wasn’t



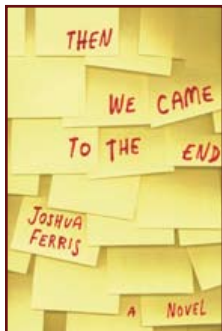
happy with it. He put it aside and started work on something else. “Then about a year later I had a real revelation about why it was that I had failed at it. And I got the first two sentences in my head”: *We were fractious and overpaid. Our mornings lacked promise.* Once he had these sentences, he completed the novel in a feverish 14 weeks, writing 14-16 hours a day. He says of this time, “It was the best and worst experience ever.”

Talking about his choice of the first person plural, Ferris says, “I strongly believe there is a sort of subterranean, elusive voice that burbles up from any group,” and adds, “And the group dynamic versus the individual, the group’s assumptions versus the individual’s assertions was always really important to me as I was thinking about the work dynamic.”

Ferris cites among his favorite authors: Nabokov, Garcia Marquez, Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon, and also the stories of Chekhov and Kafka. His own short stories have been published in *The Iowa Review*, *Best New American Stories*, *Prairie Schooner* and *Phoebe*.

His novel has been optioned by HBO Films and was a finalist for the National Book Award.

www.thenwecametothend.com



FEAR OF FINISHING by Mark Childress



I have a friend I’ll call Charlie, because that is his name. He and I started writing our first novels the same year, 1979. Actually I had a *first* first novel that I wrote when I was in high school and have never showed to anybody because I am embarrassed, because I can’t tell if it is heavingly, hysterically bad or the best thing I ever wrote.

It had to do with these very Carson McCullers-y people, all cripples and mutes and dwarves living in these broken-down old houses in a dusty God-haunted ruined Alabama town. I don’t know if any of the characters had a job, but they all had pellagra or scabies or rickets or something, and I know it was very hot all the time. It was August all the time in that book. There was a lot of intense staring—at the ceiling, at the walls—God, there were a lot of ceiling fans in that book. And old rattly table fans that turned their faces from side to side. There was a great deal of very intense interior adverbly monologue of a fevered and watery adolescent sort. “He looked ruinously across the kudzu-choked field toward the fantastically shabby sharecropper shack and thought about how life is one big shower of pain.” Like that. I hate to think how bad it probably was, but also I hate thinking whoa, then again, that might have been my high-water mark as a writer.

I remember my mute, deformed dwarves lying about on their vine-clotted porches, drinking exotic cocktails I named out of the back of Mom’s Betty Crocker cookbook, the section on entertaining: Grasshoppers, Singapore Slings, Harvey Wallbangers, Fuzzy Navels. At the time I had never tasted alcohol—closest I ever came was the watered-down Welch’s grape juice at Presbyterian communion—but I imagined how a cocktail would taste and I was sure that all sophisticated characters drank them. I thought my novel was just bohemian and weird enough to be published. I was aware that Truman Capote published his first book when he was seventeen, only a year older than I. Time was a-wastin’.

And you know what? For all I know, it may have been. I’ll never know. I never finished it. I got within fifty pages of the end, and stopped.

I believe that was a mercy, but I can’t be sure.

For all I know, it’s the worst book ever written.

For all I know, it’s the best book I’ll ever write.

And the thing is, I’ll never know. Because I’ll never finish that book. And I’ll never show it to anybody.

But oddly enough, I haven’t burned the manuscript. I have had plenty of opportunities. I guess since it’s unfinished, some part of me is still considering the

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possibilities.

In some ways, that book is my favorite of all my books. Because it's not done. Not finishing a book can be so much more satisfying than finishing. Just stop. Before it's done. Let the ending be implied. Let it live in a drawer, forever.

If you never get around to finishing it, see, it's still a great book. It will always be a potentially great book. It has unlimited potential. It might win you the Nobel Prize in literature, all by itself.

If you finish it, and especially if you publish it, chances are you will find out how great it was not.

This is a secret most writers share. We are loath to begin a new book because we know that ONE, we will never be able to write the book we have in mind, and TWO, before we know it the book will be harassing us to finish it. You can be ten pages into the book and you're already wondering, Oh how the hell am I ever going to END this damn thing? You can be writing the first sentence and some voice inside you is already saying, I AM NEVER GOING TO FINISH THIS FREAKING BOOK.

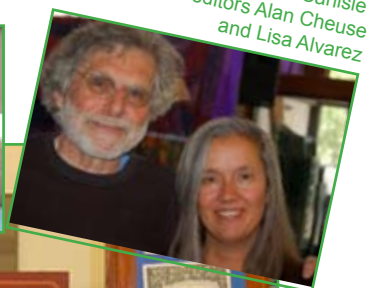
—excerpted from *Writers Workshop in a Book*:

The Squaw Valley Community of Writers on the Art of Fiction (Chronicle Books)

To order this book: www.amazon.com

THE COMMUNITY OF WRITERS HAS A BABY!

This past August, during the Writers Workshops, the Community of Writers celebrated the publication of its first anthology of craft talks, *Writers Workshop in a Book*, with a book-signing and reception. Contributing authors who were present for the book-signing: Max Byrd, Alan Cheuse, Mark Childress, Lynn Freed, Oakley Hall, Sands Hall, James D. Houston, Louis B. Jones, Sandra Scofield, Amy Tan, and Al Young. Co-editors Lisa Alvarez and Alan Cheuse were also joined by Brianna Smith, an editor at Chronicle Books (Jay Schaefer was the Chronicle Books editor of the anthology), and literary agent Michael Carlisle.



Contributors This Issue

LISA ALVAREZ is co-director of the Community of Writers' Writers Workshops and is a professor and chair of the English department at Irvine Valley College. With Alan Cheuse, she is co-editing a collection of essays on writing by Community of Writers staff.

MARK CHILDRESS is the author of the novels *A World Made of Fire*, *V for Victor*, *Tender*, *Crazy in Alabama*, *Gone for Good*, and most recently, *One Mississippi*, published by Little, Brown in 2006. He has also published three books for children. www.markchildress.com

MOLLY FISK is the author of *Listening to Winter*, *Terrain* (with Dan Bellm and Forrest Hamer), the letterpress chapbook *Salt Water Poems* and the CD of radio commentary *Using Your Turn Signal Promotes World Peace*. www.mollyfisk.com

SANDS HALL is the author of the novel, *Catching Heaven*; the comic drama *Fair Use*; a stage adaptation of Alcott's *Little Women*; and *Tools of the Writer's Craft*. She teaches at Squaw and elsewhere. www.sandshall.com

BRETT HALL JONES has been the Executive Director of the Community of Writers for 15 years. Before that, she was director of catalogue photography for the San Francisco Auction House, Butterfield & Butterfield.

MAXIMA KAHN is a poet, fiction writer and essayist. She teaches workshops on writing and on creativity at U.C. Davis Extension and in Nevada County. She attended the Writers Workshop in 2006.

LOUIS B. JONES is the author of the novels *Ordinary Money*, *Particles and Luck*, and *California's Over*, all three *New York Times* Notable Books. He is co-director of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers Fiction Program. www.louisbjones.com

JULIA FLYNN SILER is the author of *The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty*, published by Penguin's Gotham Books in June 2007. Ms. Flynn Siler is a member of Investigative Reporters and Editors and writes for *The Wall Street Journal* out of its San Francisco bureau. www.juliaflynnsiler.com

You Might Want to Consider . . .

These magazines are edited by Squaw Valley Staff or Participants and/or they expressly encourage submissions from The Community of Writers. Be sure to mention your participation at Squaw.

FAULTLINE, UC Irvine's literary journal. www.humanities.uci.edu/faultline

GREEN MOUNTAINS REVIEW, Leslie Daniels (staff), fiction editor. <http://greenmountainsreview.jsc.vsc.edu>

INDELIBLE KITCHEN, an online "populist" literary and art journal. Joy Ross ('07), contributing editor. www.popularink.com/ik/

MANZANITA: Poetry and Prose of the Motherlode and Sierra. Monika Rose, editor. www.manzanitacalifornia.org

NARRATIVE MAGAZINE, Tom Jenks, Carol Edgarian, editors (staff). <http://narrativemagazine.com>

NIGHT TRAIN, Alicia Gifford ('04), fiction editor. [www.nighttrainmagazine.com](http://nighttrainmagazine.com)

ORANGE COAST REVIEW, Davi Loren, editor. www.orangecoastreview.com

PING PONG: an international journal of arts and letters published by the Henry Miller Library. Maria Garcia Tabor ('01), editor in chief. www.henrymiller.org

SANTA MONICA REVIEW, Andrew Tonkovich (staff), editor. www.smc.edu/sm_review

TIN HOUSE, Rob Spillman (staff), editor, Elissa Schappell (staff), editor at large, Lee Montgomery ('98), executive editor. www.tinhouse.com

WATER~STONE REVIEW, Hamline University. www.waterstonereview.com

If you edit a literary journal and have participated in the Community of Writers and would like to be included in future lists of this sort, let us know! brett@squawvalleywriters.org