



# June, July, August Newsletter

## Summer, 2008



### SLPC SUNDAY POETRY WORKSHOPS

#### Mission Statement

Our passion for poetry guides us to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the infinite possibilities of the written and spoken word. We conduct workshops, contests, outreach programs, and readings to promote poetry in the community.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Sunday Workshops
- Poetry Contests Winners!
- Poetry at the Point
- SLPC Outreach programs
- Community Poetry News
- Kudos, Announcements

**You can help** the St. Louis Poetry Center by bringing used books – novels, poetry, non-fiction – to the Sunday Workshops. The books will be turned in for credit to the SLPC at Left Bank Books.

Put it on your calendar.

**Poetry at the Point**  
is held at

#### THE FOCAL POINT

2720 Sutton Blvd.

at 7:30 p.m.

on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

For more information,  
call Dean Grubbs at  
636-225-5423.

Items for submission to the **St. Louis Poetry Center Newsletter** should be emailed to [wordartworks@aol.com](mailto:wordartworks@aol.com) or posted to Karen Mondale, Editor, 2211 South 11th Street, St. Louis, MO, 63104.

#### PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO SUMMER WORKSHOPS. JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER.

Poetry workshops are held the third Sunday of the month from September through April at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the University City Library, 6702 Delmar, University City, MO. The guest poet/critic will lead the workshop and provide professional critique on a selection of the pre-submitted manuscripts. All poems submitted will receive written comments. You may submit poems via U.S. Mail or email **to be received by the Monday before the workshop.** If submitting by mail, send two copies of the poem to Workshop Submission, St. Louis Poetry Center, 567 North & South, #8, St. Louis, MO 63130. If submitting by email, send as an attachment in Microsoft Word to [info@stlouispoeetrycenter.org](mailto:info@stlouispoeetrycenter.org) and put "Workshop Submission" in the subject line. With either method, submit only one poem, no more than one page in length. Use 12- or 14-point font only. If using a pen name, provide real name and mailing address. Email submissions will be acknowledged by email within 24 hours of receipt. Please resend or call 973-0616 if an email acknowledgment is not received. Poet should plan to attend the workshop.

### Director's Report

After a very busy April (National Poetry Month) with numerous opportunities to hear and enjoy poetry with the Poetry Center's programs...we are taking a deep breath and taking stock. Late March brought us Missouri Poet Laureate Walter Bargaen with *Literary St. Louis* editor and poet Lorin Cuoco, and a reading by Alton High poets at The Portfolio Gallery in Grand Center. The ekphrastic reading at Craft Alliance Gallery with five of our poets responding to the exhibition *TALK to ME: Voices of Kiln-Formed Glass* was followed by our Benefit Event and Reading with Molly Peacock at the Georgian Condos near Lafayette Square. Our Sunday workshop followed the next day with 20 poets "workshop-ing" with Molly.

Molly gave us a wonderful evening of poetry and conversation which seemed more like poetry among friends than an annual benefit event. The setting was the stunning apartments of the Georgian (the old City Hospital turned to condos), with champagne and wonderful food. The turnout was about 50 friends and supporters filling every bit of floor space, despite the cold and rain. Five wonderful raffle items went home for a song, and a wonderful Ed Boccia ink painting found a new home at the close of our silent auction. It has been anything BUT quiet around here.

The April airwaves carried my thoughts on Molly Peacock's poem "Marriage" as KWMU's Steve Potter interviewed Molly (by phone), David Allen of Arts in Transit, and me, about poetry and Molly's upcoming visit to St. Louis. You can download the interview at [kwmu.org](http://kwmu.org) (Cityscape, April 11, 2008). You can also see our poet/educators at work on video at [HECTV.org](http://HECTV.org) (Programs, Behind the Minds, Segment 4).

After a very busy spring our outreach programs are shifting gears to join the "summer festival" venues with workshops at The Green Center and other community centers. Our workforce of poet/educators is growing and a number are looking for additional leadership opportunities over the summer months. If you know of such a venue, please let us know.

Your membership is a significant part of what enables us to bring you poetry readings, workshops, contests, outreach programs and creative collaborations. Please join or renew today using the form in this newsletter.

For the words,  
Nancy Hughes



Molly Peacock, Loy Ledbetter



Nancy Hughes and Katherine Mitchell



Robert Nazarene in Molly's audience



Lorin Cuoco and husband John Forman enjoy the buffet

#### 2007-2008 SLPC Board Members:

- |                           |                       |                                  |                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mary Ann deGrandpre Kelly | Marie Chewe-Elliott   | Loy Ledbetter                    | Ruth Miriam Garnett |
| Mary Ruth Donnelly        | LaVelle Wilkins-Chinn | Dean O. Grubbs                   | Carlos Pappalardo   |
| Jennifer Tappenden        | James Kern            | Katherine Mitchell               | Gillian Parrish     |
| Keith Byler, President    |                       | Nancy Hughes, Executive Director |                     |

## POETRY AT THE POINT

is held at **THE FOCAL POINT**,

2720 Sutton Blvd. at 7:30 p.m.

on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

### June 24 Readers:

Niki Nymark

Niki Nymark has been writing and reading in cafes for longer than she cares to say. Her poetry has been described as 'tender,' 'funny,' 'sensual' and sometimes all three at once. She has won a number of poetry prizes, published poetry in several anthologies and has two chapbooks, "Kavannot" published a few years ago, and a brand new one, "A Stranger Here Myself," released June 15 by *Cherry Pie Press*. She also has had a poem accepted for publication in *Lilith*, a Jewish feminist magazine.

Ron Fredman

Ron Fredman is a native, past the mid-century mark. He has been writing poetry consistently for decades; more or less like a cicada he emerges on the 7th or 12th year of a cycle. Trained in the classics of English, Hebrew, and German literature, currently he is just grateful that some of life and beauty are beginning to make some sense. Ron has spent the last ten years working in a family business, traveling throughout the US and China, marrying the woman of his dreams (he was asleep when it happened!), and being involved in making a family in University City. He is active in community affairs through his synagogue, charitable work, and a monthly visit to the county jail. Currently, he is on a Mary Oliver, Stephen Dunn, and Doris Lessing kick, though that will change a bit over the next six months.

### July 22 Readers:

Judith Saul Stix

Judith Saul Stix has recently published "Woman/Years," her collected poems in four volumes, spanning 51 years of creative work. The poems vary greatly in subject matter and length. Exceptionally well designed and edited, this very handsome book includes 1200 poems, two prefaces, a facsimile of drafts illustrating the poet's method, and an index.

Amy S. DeBrecht

Amy S. DeBrecht's work has appeared in *Natural Bridge*, *Sou'wester*, *Poet Lore* and *Flint Hills Review*. She received her MFA from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, but the St. Louis Poetry Center provided a great foundation for her in the study of poetry. She currently works as an Associate Editor at a medical publisher in St. Louis, and is actively involved with the locally-produced literary journal *River Styx*.

### August 26 Readers:

#### Winners of Hopkins High School Students Contest:

Claire Toler, Ben Constantino, Kate Welsh, Josh Sippie, Emily Shoemaker, James Fuller, Nikki Pendleton

#### River Styx at Duff's presents the Hungry Young Poets

on June 16, July 21, and August 18, Mondays, 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.00. **OBSERVABLE** and "Playground of the Ridiculous" at the Contemporary Art Museum, 9 Poets 3 Nights, June 27, July 11 and 24. Free.

## Winners of three contests

were celebrated  
as they read their prize-winning poems  
at the **ATRIUM GALLERY**  
on Sunday, May 18, 2008.

### The Stanley Hanks Memorial Contest 2008

#### for Missouri Poets was judged by David Mura

The Stanley Hanks Memorial Contest recognizes poems published by Missouri poets in Missouri literary magazines. The Stanley Hanks Memorial Contest was judged by David Mura. He is a poet, creative nonfiction writer, critic, playwright, and performance artist. Mura's third and most recent book of poetry is *Angels for the Burning* (2004, BOA Editions). Among his awards are a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award, two NEA Fellowships, and the Discovery/The Nation award. His poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *New England Review* and *Crazy-horse*. Mura was also featured in Bill Moyer's PBS series, "The Language of Life."

Winners:

First Prize "Serenity"

by **Jane Ellen Ibur** appeared in *Margie*

Second Prize: "Landscape with Hospital and Empire"

by **Kevin Prufer** appeared in *Boulevard*

### The James H. Nash Members Only Contest 2008

#### was judged by Adrian Matejka

The James H. Nash Members Only Contest, open to members of the St. Louis Poetry Center, was judged by Adrian Matejka. His first collection of poems, "The Devil's Garden," won the 2002 New York/New England Award from Alice James Books. He is a faculty member of Southern Illinois University's MFA writing program and a graduate of the MFA program at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. His poems have appeared in numerous literary journals.

Winners:

First Prize: "Castabout" (Martha Herbert Prize)

by **Robert Lowes**

Second Prize: "Tools and Dreams" by **Alice Azure**

Third Prize: "In the Waiting Room" by **Robert Nazarene**

Honorable Mention

Winners:

"In the Yard: Senryu" by **John J. Han**

"Joe, 1960" by **Karen Smead Mondale**

"As I Stand and Wait" by **Judith Saul Stix**

### The Beverly Hopkins Memorial

#### High School Contest 2008 was judged by Donna Biffar

The Beverly Hopkins Memorial High School Contest is open to students living within 100 miles of St. Louis. This year it was judged by Donna Biffar. She is the author of three volumes of poetry and several chapbooks. She is coeditor of River King Press's anthology *New Century North American Poets* and the literary journal *River King Poetry Supplement*. She is also the founder and former editor of Southwestern Illinois College's award winning literary publication *Head to Hand*.

Winners:

First Prize: "it is so much" by **Claire Toler**

Second Prize: "Romance" by **Ben Constantino**

Third Prize: "Autumn" by **Kate Welsh**

Honorable Mention Winners:

"The Toaster Verses The Microwave" by **Josh Sippie**

"Paper Fan" by **Emily Shoemaker**

"5 O'Clock Sundown" by **James Fuller**

"Inseparable" by **Nikki Pendleton**

Please remember that schedules and guest poets at all venues are subject to change.

# Kudos!

**Alice Azure's** debut book, *In Mi'kmaq Country: Selected Poems and Stories*, was released by Albatross Press (Chicago) on February 2, 2008, through the Trickster Gallery in Schaumburg, Illinois where a reception and book signing took place.

**Dwight Bitikofor** had two poems accepted for publication in the *Mid Rivers Review* 2008.

**Keith Byler** had two poems accepted by *Untamed Ink*, Lindenwood's new literary journal.

**Linda Chapleau** had two poems accepted for a new free-verse poetry journal from MaryAnka Press called *Poppysseed Kolache*.

**Gail Eisenhart's** work will appear in the *Mid Rivers Review* 2008.

**Matt Freeman's** newest book, "Desolation on Delmar" was published by Ginninderra Press and can be bought at Left Bank Books or through [ginninderrapress.com.au](http://ginninderrapress.com.au).

**gaye gambell-peterson's** work will appear in the *Mid Rivers Review* 2008.

**Jane Ellen Ibur** was honored as Outstanding Arts Educator at the 6th Annual 2008 Grand Center Visionary Awards.

**Robert Nazarene** had poems accepted for publication in *AGNI*, *Connecticut Review*, *5AM*, *Nthposition* (U.K.), *Vallum* (Canada), *Watershed*, *The William & Mary Review*, *Poetry Salzburg* (Austria), and *Seneca Review*.

**Niki Nymark** had a poem accepted in *Lilith*.

Members who read ekphrastic poems at the Craft Alliance Glass Exhibition included **Susan Grigsby, Marilyn Probe, gaye gambell-peterson, Mary Ruth Donnelly, & Robert Lowes.**

Twelve members of the Women's Collective, **Loosely Identified**, read from their poetry on May 19 for the River Styx at Duff's Poetry Series.

Readers included **Mary Ruth Donnelly, Rebecca Ellis, Helen Eisen, Tess Farnham, Martha Ficklen, gaye gambell-peterson, Colleen McKee, Karen Smead Mondale, Niki Nymark, Marilyn Probe, Myra South and Jennifer Tappenden.**

2008 Wednesday Club Poetry Contest  
Winners are:

1. Rewa-Zenati Choueiri
2. Lisa J. Ampleman
3. Colleen McKee

Honorable Mention: Alric Karetski



DeAnna Pope with her mother and her grandmother

**Metro Arts in Transit and Poetry Society of America 2008 Poetry in Motion® Contest**

Fifteen poems from fourteen local poets have been selected by a panel of five judges to be displayed on MetroLink trains and Metro buses for up to one year. **Winners this year:**

**Lauren L. Berkholtz, Keith Byler, Becky Ellis, Katy Gordon, Sean Keck, Philip Knapp, Adrian Matejka, Colleen McKee, Katy Miller, Natalie Newman, Carol Niederlander, DeAnna Pope, Marilyn Probe, and Jane O. Wayne.**

"Reading Poetry More Effectively/Affectingly",  
a workshop in September

The St. Louis Poetry Center in collaboration with Chesterfield Writers Guild will present an introductory workshop for oral poetry readings/presentations with theatre director and poetry lover, **Bill Grivna**. In a relaxed and interactive format, the workshop will introduce beginning and established poets alike to basic acting techniques used to create enhanced use of language, specific presentational reading skills, and greater vocal and physical presence, while remaining true to the poet's self (no "acting" used here), and to the beauty and power of the poetry.

Bill Grivna is a professional director, actor, and Professor Emeritus in the Theatre/Dance Dept at SIUE. Currently, Bill is an Associate Director for HotCity Theatre in St Louis. He is also a former member of the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, and has acted and directed locally for many theatre companies in St Louis. Bill has a particular interest in oral language skills within performance, having taught "Acting for Shakespeare and the Classics" many times. Recently, Bill assisted member-poet Bud Hirsch in his whimsical yet moving one-man poetry performance at the Centene Center for the Arts in St Louis.

Saturday, September 20, 2008, 10 am – 12 pm, and 1 – 4 pm  
Lunch is on your own at the nearby Chesterfield Mall

Where: Chesterfield Arts, 444 Chesterfield Center  
Chesterfield, MO 63017 (636) 519-1955

The fee: \$50 for non-members and \$35 for members of either organization. (Registration will be available on the Chesterfield Arts website this summer, or mail your check to Chesterfield Arts, 444 Chesterfield Center, Chesterfield, MO 63017.

**Colleen McKee** offers the **Women's Poetry Workshop**

\*An eight-week class\*

~ Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., May 17<sup>th</sup>-July 5<sup>th</sup>

~ Meets at St. Louis Bread Company on Grand near Arsenal.

~ Tuition Cost: \$160. Ten percent off for St. Louis Poetry Center members. Sliding scale available for low-income women.

~ For more information, reach Colleen at 314-898-8289 or [lilyofthegutter@yahoo.com](mailto:lilyofthegutter@yahoo.com).

Washington University's Thirteenth Annual  
Summer Writers Institute June 16-27, 2008.

The Summer Writers Institute consists of two weeks of intensive writing workshops. Choose from Fiction (beginner or advanced), poetry or creative nonfiction. The two weeks include personal conferences, readings, craft talks, open-mic and panel discussions. You may choose to attend on a non credit basis or to earn three college credits.

Poetry Faculty for 2008: **Adrian Matejka**

Be sure to check the website for updates: [Ucollege.wustl.edu/SWI](http://Ucollege.wustl.edu/SWI) or call (314) 935-6759

**SLPC Outreach Programs/Sites, 2007-2008 Season:**

Midtown Catholic Charities Community Services Center,  
serving after-school youth from 20 city schools

Friends with a Better Plan,

serving after school High School youth from 4 city schools

St. Louis County Jail, our annual workshops (6 sessions over six weeks)

The Souldard School

Spoede Elementary School

St. John the Baptist Elementary School

Hazelwood East Middle School

Alton High School Creative Writing Classes

**SLPC Collaborations, 2007-2008 Season:**

Portfolio Gallery and Art Center

Craft Alliance Gallery

The Green Center

Women's Art Women's Vision

St. Louis County Library, Oak Bend Branch

Chesterfield Arts

# THE ST. LOUIS POETRY CENTER

June, July, August, 2008

567 North and South, #8

St. Louis, MO 63130

[www.stlouispoetrycenter.org](http://www.stlouispoetrycenter.org)

314-973-0616



We're on the Web!

[www.stlouispoetrycenter.org](http://www.stlouispoetrycenter.org)

## Join the St. Louis Poetry Center

The St. Louis Poetry Center offers, free of charge to Members and non-members alike admission to our 3rd Sunday Workshops, various readings, the Annual Concert, and The SLPC Newsletter. Joining the SLPC helps fund our various readings, workshops and outreach programs. Help us continue to grow by mailing this form and a check payable to the SLPC to: St. Louis Poetry Center, 567 North and South, #8, St. Louis, MO 63130.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Member \$30** All the above plus priority registration for SLPC special fee workshops and eligibility to enter the annual Members-Only Poetry Contest, with cash prizes.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Special Member rate for students, \$15** Available to any full-time student (please include a photocopy of your student ID card)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sponsor \$50** All the Member benefits plus a copy of *Margie*, Volume VI.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Muse \$75** All the Member benefits plus a copy of *Tom Thomson in Purgatory*, poems by Troy Jollimore.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Patron \$100 and over** All the Member benefits plus a copy of *Poets Choice*, essays by Edward Hirsch.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Laureate \$150 and over** All the Member benefits plus *Saints of Hysteria*, *50 Years of American Poetry*, of which Denise Duhamel, former guest critic, is one of the editors.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to provide additional support to this historic organization. Please receive my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please receive my tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in (memory of / honor of) \_\_\_\_\_

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_