

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.

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Kudos, Announcements, and
Poetry Contests

The Voyage



an
evening of
French poetry to
Benefit the St. Louis
Poetry Center
see page 3.

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.

SLPC SUNDAY POETRY WORKSHOPS:

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 workshop@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.

March 15: Hadara Bar-Nadav

Hadara Bar-Nadav's book of poetry, *A Glass of Milk to Kiss Goodnight* (MARGIE Intuit House, 2007) was chosen by Kim Addonizio as the winner of the 2005 MARGIE Book Prize. Recent publications appear or are forthcoming in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Chelsea, Colorado Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *The Journal*, *Prairie Schooner*, *TriQuarterly*, *Verse*, and other journals. Born in New York, she currently is an Assistant Professor of Poetry at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She lives in Kansas City, MO with her husband, the furniture designer Scott George Beattie.

April 19: Adrian Matejka

Adrian Matejka is the author of *The Devil's Garden* (Alice James Books). His second book, *Mixology* was a winner of the 2008 National Poetry Series and will be published by Penguin Books in 2009. He is a Cave Canem fellow and his work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Indiana Review*, and *Pleiades* among other journals and anthologies. He teaches creative writing and English Literature at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

May 17th

50th Annual Poetry Concert
featuring winning poets and celebrating
50 years of poetry concerts
see page 3

News:

2009-2010 SLPC Board Members:

Mary Ann de Grandprè Kelly Marie Chewe-Elliott Loy Ledbetter Lynn Kuss* Robert Lowes*
Mary Ruth Donnelly LaVelle Wilkins-Chinn Dean O. Grubbs Katy Miller*
Jennifer Tappenden Katherine Mitchell Gillian Parrish
Keith Byler, President Nancy Hughes, Executive Director

*Please join us in welcoming these new board members!

SUBMISSIONS: Items for submission to the St. Louis Poetry Center Newsletter should be sent to newsletter@stlouispoeetrycenter.org or 567 North and South #8, 63130-3938

The St. Louis Poetry Center presents
OBSERVABLE READINGS

@ SCHLAFLY BOTTLEWORKS
7260 Southwest at Manchester in Maplewood.
Free, 8 p.m.

March 5th

Jericho Brown

JERICHO BROWN received his Ph.D. in Creative Writing and Literature from the University of Houston. He also holds an M.F.A. from the University of New Orleans and a B.A. from Dillard University. He served as poetry editor at *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts*. His poems have appeared in *Callaloo*, *The Iowa Review*, *jubilat*, *New England Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. The recipient of a Cave Canem Fellowship, two scholarships to the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, and two travel fellowships to the Krakow Poetry Seminar in Poland, Brown is currently an Assistant Professor of English at the University of San Diego where he teaches creative writing. Western Michigan University's *New Issues Poetry & Prose* published his first book, *Please*.

Michael Dumanis

MICHAEL DUMANIS is the author of *My Soviet Union* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), winner of the Juniper Prize for Poetry, and the co-editor of *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century* (Sarabande, 2006). He is a professor at Cleveland State University, where he serves as Director of the Cleveland State University Poetry Center.

April 9th

Mairead Byrne

MAIRÉAD BYRNE's poetry collections include *Talk Poetry*, (Miami University Press 2007), *SOS Poetry*, (ubu Editions 2007), and *Nelson & The Huruburu Bird*, (Wild Honey Press 2003). She hosts *couscous@tazza*, a monthly performance series in Providence; and teaches at Rhode Island School of Design.

Matthea Harvey

MATTHEA HARVEY is the author of three books of poetry: *Modern Life* (Graywolf, 2007), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, *Sad Little Breathing Machine* (Graywolf, 2004) and *Pity the Bath tub Its Forced Embrace of the Human Form* (Alice James Books, 2000).

May 7th

Fishhouse Poets

Fishhouse Poets reading from the forthcoming anthology, *From the Fishhouse*, including Jeffrey Thomson, Gabriella Calveceressi, Kate Northrop, Gabriel Fried and others.

Director's letter:

Following our recent reading at Schlafly Bottleworks a young man, all smiles, came to me asking about membership. He is a student looking for connection and opportunity in the poetry community. After handing over his wrinkled bills and collecting his bundle of Observable anthologies (his perk) he turned to leave pausing to ask, "Can I submit for that Nash contest?" You bet. Welcome aboard.

Our membership is slowly growing, word of our programs is spreading. New faces are everywhere. Our monthly workshop critics, serving both member and non-member poets, tell us of the growth of quality in the work they receive. This is good news in hard times. But as our workshops and programs grow our membership and donor gifts will need to grow as well. Your membership (and additional gift) is what makes things happen. If you didn't renew in 2008, please renew now....(our fiscal year closes in June). Keep us working the words for this community.

THIS WILL BE BIG! Mark your calendar for the benefit event "Invitation to the Voyage" on Wednesday, March 25 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. The evening will be a celebration of French poetry with guests Mary Jo Bang, English faculty of Washington University; William Gass, writer and David Robertson, Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. Special thanks go to Lorin Cuoco for her excellent connections on our behalf. The event will include a champagne reception with sweet and savory treats, all for \$50 a ticket. White Flag Projects will graciously host the event. More details in this newsletter. Mark your Calendar!

Observable Readings, the reading series we acquired at the end of last season from Aaron Belz, is now preparing for its 2009-2010 series with newly appointed Jeff Hamilton and Robert Lowes as co-curators. We are thrilled to have Hamilton on board, a former editor of Delmar and English instructor at Washington University. Board member and poet, Bob Lowes will complete the team. Remember to mark the first Thursday on your calendar and join us on March 5 for poets Jericho Brown and Michael Dumanis.

We are pleased to announce our newsletter has a new editor/designer, Elizabeth Durdel. We are grateful to Karen Mondale for her years of dedication. This position, along with many others is a volunteer job so please extend your thanks to Sally Van Doren as our Sunday Workshop curator, to Julie Dill as our webmaster, and board member Dean Grubbs as curator for the Poetry at the Point series. Our board is a "working board" handling many of our programs: outreach and workshops, contests, membership to name a few. We welcome new board member Katy Miller who will function as board secretary and assist with the website.

I could go on, but I would rather do that face to face. Let's talk after the next reading.

For the words,
Nancy Hughes
Executive Director

POETRY AT THE POINT

is held at

THE FOCAL POINT, 2720 Sutton Blvd.

at 7:30 p.m.

on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

March 24

Joseph Sulier... was born and raised in the fields and creeks of Fenton, Missouri. Since then he's hung his hat in St. Louis, St. Paul, Los Angeles, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia. Sulier has been published in *Get Born* (Sulier is also the founder and organizer of *GB Magazine* and reading series) and *52nd City Magazines*. He's also appeared on KDHX's *Literature For The Halibut* and had his brain picked for St. Louis Magazine.

Brock Walker... is a native Saint Louisan residing currently in historic North Saint Louis city with Holden (the cat, not Caulfield) and is currently unpublished as far as he knows. He has been rumored to read with *Get Born* and looks back on his slam days with one squinty eye, but not without fondness.

April 28

Norman Zalmanov... is a native son who started writing rhyming poems twelve years ago, focusing on his life experiences and observations. Some are serious and some not so serious. Too shy to recite in school, it's never too late to find your audience.

Steven D. Schroeder... his first full-length book of poems, *Torched Verse Ends*, was published this year by BlazeVOX [books]. His writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Verse*, *Pleiades*, *Margie*, *Natural Bridge*, and *Verse Daily*. He edits the online poetry journal *Anti-*, works as a Certified Professional Resume Writer, and lives chained to a radiator in the basement.

May 26

Pam Garvey... her chapbook *Fear*, (Finishing Line Press, 2008) was a finalist for the New Women's Voices Competition. She has published poetry and short stories in many literary journals including *Cimarron Review*, *RATTLE*, *The North American Review*, *Sonora Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Pleiades* and many others. She is an Assistant Professor of English at St. Louis Community College-Meramec and co-founder of the Words on Purpose benefit reading series.

Tim Leach... during 30-plus years as a journalist, *Globe-Democrat*, *National Enquirer*, Australia's *People Magazine* with contributions to *St. Louis Magazine*, *Ladue News*, plus hard time as a writer in public relations and advertising, has honed his skills as a poet. His work has appeared in *Southern Poetry Review*, *Natural Bridge*, *Sou'wester*, *Literati Internationale*, *Kaleidoscope*, *Epicenter*, *Pegasus*, and *New Millennium* after honorable mention in its annual poetry competition. Soon his work will appear in the Spring 2009 issue of the British journal, *The New Writer*. He is currently in the University of Missouri, St. Louis MFA program and has a Master's degree from Webster University in communications.

Invitation to the Voyage

an evening of French poetry in translation

Mary Jo Bang, Poet

William Gass, Writer

David Robertson, Music Director

Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra

Reading and Champagne Reception to Benefit the St. Louis Poetry Center
at White Flag Projects

4658 Manchester Avenue

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

5:30-7:30pm

The program takes its title from the poem "Invitation to the Voyage" included in the larger work, "Flowers of Evil" by Charles Baudelaire. The writer William Gass will read this poem along with others by Baudelaire. Mary Jo Bang will read from the work of Martinican poet Aimé Césaire as well as from Arthur Rimbaud. David Robertson, Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony since 2005, will read Stéphane Mallarmé's eclogue "Afternoon of a Faun," the inspiration for Claude Debussy's orchestral work "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun". Tickets \$50 in advance through paypal on website, or mail your check to St. Louis Poetry Center. Complimentary valet parking.



St Louis Poetry Center will host its 50th Poetry Concert to honor the winners of SLPC's 2009 contests on May 17.

We are exploring ways to commemorate this noteworthy milestone. Recognition of previous winners and judges who attend, a memorabilia display, and an expanded Poetry Concert Program booklet that could include information on the supporters of the contests, previous winners and judges, and something of the history of the Concert could enhance this year's celebration. If you are a past winner or know of other past winners, let us know where you are and what you have been doing with your poetry. If you are a past judge and have memories about the experience or the poems you read,

let us know. And if you are willing to serve on a small committee to find ways to enhance this year's Concert, please contact us. Send memories, ideas, your notice of attendance – or your willingness to volunteer – to maryruthdnilly@aol.com or call her

at 314 436 1505

SLPC OUTREACH POETRY WORKSHOPS:

Midtown Catholic Charities Community Center on South Boyle:

After school poetry workshops serving students from 20 city schools, ages 5 to 18, from October to May, now in our fourth year. Thanks to a grant from Target we are now working with early readers at Midtown as well.

Interchange:

As a partner is this program bringing the arts to our city schools we have two poet educators teaching in multiple classrooms during the school day. The goal is to use the arts to enhance learning in core curriculum areas like history, language arts, science and math.

County and city after-school programs:

"Friends with a Better Plan" contracts yearly for 5 city high schools with three consecutive workshops at each.

Hazelwood East Middle School: afterschool workshops, our second year here.

Other sites pending funding:

Alton High School Creative Writing Classes: visiting poets

Dupo Middle School: Poetry Month celebration

St. John the Baptist Elementary School: After-school workshops

Spoede Elementary School: "Lunch Bunches" poetry workshops

Soulard Charter School: Poetry Month activities

St. Louis County Jail: poetry workshop sessions with inmates

2008 NBCC Award Finalists in Poetry

Juan Felipe Herrera, *Half the World in Light*, University of Arizona Press

DEVIN JOHNSTON, *Sources*, Turtle Point Press

August Kleinzahler, *Sleeping It Off in Rapid City*, FSG

Pierre Martory, trans. by John Ashbery, *The Landscapist*, Sheep Meadow Press

Brenda Shaughnessy, *Human Dark with Sugar*, Copper Canyon Press

REBECCA ELLIS is having forthcoming poems published in *Quiddity*, *RHINO*, *sweetlit.com*, *Natural Bridge*, and *So To Speak*. She has a poetry review published on the RATTLE website.

ROBERT NAZARENE has work appearing in *Connecticut Review*, *Frank* (Paris, France), *Georgetown Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Natural Bridge*, *Sunstone* & elsewhere.

MARY RUTH DONNELLY's new chapbook, *Weaving the Light*, is now available as the latest release in the *Midwest Women Poets Series* from Cherry Pie Press. *Weaving the Light* is available from Left Bank Books (314-367-6731) (cherry Pie Press@yahoo.com).

GAYE GAMBELL-PETERSON has other work forthcoming: three poems to be in the *St. Louis Anthology* (Walrus Press, Matt Freeman, editor), and a book of art and poetry, *MYnd mAp* (Agog Press).

MARGIT VINCENZ was published in *Lucidity Poetry Journal 2008*, and was a prize winner in the National Poetry Contest of *Grandmother Earth and Life Press* Christian Writers Awards (2008). One of her poems was presented at Friendship Village South and 35 others recorded for future readings.

St. Patrick's Day at The Royale March 17

3132 S Kingshighway Blvd

Celebrate your favorite Irish holiday with music and poetry at your favorite locale.

St. Louis Poetry Center announces the 2008 Beverly Hopkins Memorial Poetry Contest for High School Students

First prize, \$50. Second prize, \$35. First, second, and third prize and honorable mention winners will be invited to perform their poems at the annual poetry concert in late May, 2009. Winning poems will be published in a chapbook available at the concert.

There is no entry fee. Eligible poets must be high school students living within 100 miles of St. Louis.

Guidelines: Submit up to 3 unpublished poems, any form and length, signed with pen name only. Enclose a 3 X 5 index card with pen name, author's real name, address, phone, email (if available), high school, teacher's name (if s/he encouraged submission or poetry writing) and the titles of poems submitted. Mail entries to: St. Louis Poetry Center, High School Contest, 567 North & South Road, #8, St. Louis, MO 63130. ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY March 1, 2009.

St. Louis Poetry Center announces the 2008 James H. Nash Members-Only Poetry Contest

ATTENTION ST. LOUIS POETRY CENTER MEMBERS. THIS CONTEST IS JUST FOR YOU.

First place Martha Herbert prize, \$100. Second place prize, \$50. First, second, third prize and honorable mention winners will be invited to perform their poems at the annual poetry concert in late May, 2009. Winning poems will be published in a chapbook available at the concert.

There is no entry fee. Open only to current members of the St. Louis Poetry Center. If joining or renewing your membership, include the membership form in this newsletter with your poetry submission.

Guidelines: Submit up to 5 typed poems, which have not been published and nor previously won awards, any form and length, signed with pen name only. Enclose a 3 X 5 index card with pen name, author's real name, address, phone, email (if available), and the titles of poems submitted. (No electronic submissions, please.) Mail entries to: St. Louis Poetry Center, James H. Nash Contest, 567 North & South Road, #8, St. Louis, MO 63130. ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2009.

RIVER STYX EVENTS

(riverstyx.org)

March 2nd

River Styx celebrates its third annual Schlafly Beer MicroFiction contest with literature, music, and beer! The festivities will feature readings by local fiction writers such as Chuck Sweetman and Amina Gautier, a Nano-Fiction contest for all attendees, and music by local band The Otto Modest. This one-of-a-kind event takes place at 7 pm on Monday, March 2nd, at the Schlafly Tap Room at 2100 Locust Street in downtown St. Louis. Admission is \$3.

River Styx's annual Schlafly MicroFiction MicroBrew contest publishes the very best micro fiction story—a story 500 words or less—and gives the winner \$1500 and two cases of his or her choice of Schlafly beer. Winners and finalists of the Micro-Fiction contest will read from their work. The winner of this contest will receive a six-pack of Schlafly Beer. The second prize will receive a jar of pickled okra. Both winners, as well as other finalists, will read their Nano-Fiction works. Attendees are encouraged, at the door, to write their own Nano-Fiction story—a short story of 25 words or less!

April 20th

River Styx's popular reading series continues its 34th exciting season of lively and thought-provoking literature with its first reading of 2009, featuring two new voices in poetry: Stacey Lynn Brown and Brian Turner. This event takes place at Duff's Restaurant in the Central West End on April 20th, 7:30 pm. Admission is \$5.

May 4th

River Styx, announces the River Styx's annual Art and Literary Feast at Duff's Restaurant at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 4th. For \$45 per plate, attendees will feast on fine Duff's cuisine and readings by award-winning writer Pinckney Benedict and renowned poet Mary Jo Bang. Duff's Restaurant is located at 392 N. Euclid Ave. in the Central West End.

OTHER EVENTS

Donnelly Book Launch

March 3 @ Soulard Coffee Garden, 910 Geyer Avenue, 63104

6:30pm

The launch of Mary Ruth Donnelly's new chapbook, *Weaving the Light* from Cherry Pie Press, will be celebrated with a reading and signing at Soulard Coffee Garden's Upstairs Room, Tuesday, March 3, at 6:30. A glass of wine, a loaf of bread, some goat cheese, and poetry. Please join us.

Pablo Neruda Translated

March 4th @ Regional Arts Commission, 6128 Delmar, 63130

6:30pm

Dr. Carlos Papalardo and three friends will read Pablo Neruda in Spanish, Italian, French and English, on March 4th at 6:30 pm at the Regional Arts Commission, parking on Delmar and behind the Pageant Theatre.

Scrabble Mania!

March 6 @ Gallery at Chesterfield Arts

7pm

Are you a Scrabble-maniac? Invite your friends and experience everyone's favorite word game in a whole new way! Come prepared to name your team, use your high-scoring word skills, and challenge your friend's wacky words. The evening will include a cash bar, a variety of prizes, player awards, and even quick, word-inspired games of skill and chance. Space is limited and reservations are required. \$15 individual; \$40 for a table (4 players). All proceeds benefit the Chesterfield Writers Guild. 636-519-1955.

A reading by poet Kevin Prufer

Thursday, March 5th @ Gallery 210, UMSL, 44 E. Drive, One University Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63121

7pm

This event is free and open to the public. Contact: 314-516-5590.

-KEVIN PRUFER's newest books are *National Anthem* (Four Way Books, 2008)

and *Fallen from a Chariot* (Carnegie Mellon, 2005). He is the recipient of three Pushcart prizes, several awards from the Poetry Society of America, and a 2007 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in poetry writing. His next book, *Little Paper Sacrifice*, is forthcoming.

River Valley Readings

March 11, April 1 @ Gallery at Chesterfield Arts

7pm

Join the Chesterfield Writers Guild for River Valley Readings, March 11, and April 1 to hear St. Louis authors reading their works aloud. Each reading begins at 7pm, includes an intermission and refreshments, and takes place in the Gallery at Chesterfield Arts (444 Chesterfield Center, Chesterfield 63017). March will feature poet Eamonn Wall and author Mary Troy; April will feature poet Maurice L. Hirsch, Jr. and memoirist Kathleen Finneran. For more information contact Janessa 636-519-1955,

St. Charles Community College hosts the SCC Coffeehouse

Friday, April 3rd @ Daniel J. Conoyer Social Sciences Auditorium, 4601 Mid Rivers Mall Dr,

7-9 pm

This is an open-mic evening for writers who want to share their poetry, short prose, skits, or original song lyrics. Volume 10 of Mid Rivers Review should be available by late April in the St. Charles Community bookstore or for more information about Volume 10 or the open-mic, call Teddy Norris @ (636) 922-8407.

Dwight Bitkofer and Mary Ann de Grandpre Kelly

Webster Groves Library, 301 East Lockwood

Saturday, April 11, 2009

2pm

The Friends of Webster Groves Library have invited Dwight Bitkofer and Mary Ann de Grandpre Kelly to read their poems. Refreshments will be served. The Webster Groves Library is at 301 East Lockwood, just west of Eden Seminary and Holy Redeemer Church. Parking is available.

Creative Writing Workshop @ Washington University

June 15-26, 2009

Workshop faculty are Kathleen Finneran, creative nonfiction; Kerri Webster, poetry; Saher Alam, literary fiction; Suzann Ledbetter, popular fiction; and Richard Newman, Young Writers Institute. For detailed faculty biographies and more information visit <http://swi.ucollege.wustl.edu> or telephone (314) 935-6720.

SUBMIT YOUR WORK TO RIEHL LIFE: VILLAGE WISDOM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (<http://www.riehlife.com>)

Benefits of publishing online include: more immediate feedback, a wider audience, and an electronic footprint for you and your work on the web that lasts virtually forever. The focus is on creating connections through arts and across cultures and family heritage. Work is accepted throughout the year.

THE ST. LOUIS POETRY CENTER

March, April, and May 2009

567 North and South, #8

St. Louis, MO 63130

www.stlouispoetrycenter.org

314-973-0616



www.stlouispoetrycenter.org

SAVE MARCH 25
for "Invitation to
the Voyage," p.3

Join the St. Louis Poetry Center

The St. Louis Poetry Center offers, free of charge, to members and non-members admission to our Sunday Workshops, various readings, the Annual Concert, and The SLPC Newsletter. Joining the SLPC helps fund our various readings, workshops and out-reach 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 I.D. card)
- _____ **Sponsor \$50** All the Member benefits plus a copy of *Margie- Journal of American Poetry, Vol. VII*
- _____ **Patron \$100** All the Member benefits plus a copy of *Can Poetry Matter* (Essays) by Dana Gioia
- _____ **Laureate \$150 and over** All the Member benefits plus a copy of *New European Poets* edited by Wayne Miller & Kevin Prufer

_____ 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:

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Address _____ City, State and Zip _____