



www.stlouispoetrycenter.org

Dec, Jan, Feb Newsletter



Winter 2009-2010

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:

Director's thoughts, p. 5
Poetry @ the Point, p. 2
Observable Readings, p. 2
SLPC Outreach programs, p. 3
Contests, p. 5 and 6
Kudos, Announcements, p.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.

We are GOING GREEN!

The Poetry Center would like to email your newsletter rather than mail it. (it is up to you!) This could save us enough to do an outreach workshop or provide travel accommodations for a guest poet. Send an email to green@stlouispoetrycenter.org with your full name included. If you do nothing you will still receive it in your "snailbox". Help us better apply those \$\$!

Newsletter submissions:
Email to Elizabeth Durdal at newsletter@stlouispoetrycenter.org
Questions? email to info@stlouispoetrycenter.org
Or call 314-973-0616.

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 5 pm the Saturday before the workshop (new!)**. 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 an attachment in Microsoft to workshop@stlouispoetrycenter.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. Visitors are welcome to observe the critiques but must refrain from the discussion.

December: No workshop, enjoy your holidays! Take note of new submission deadline.

January 17: Allison Joseph

Allison Joseph lives, writes and teaches in Carbondale, Illinois, where she directs the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She also serves as editor and poetry editor of Crab Orchard Review, a national journal of literary works, and director of the Young Writers Workshop, a coed residential creative writing summer workshop for high-school aged writers. She also serves as moderator of the Creative Writers Opportunities List, an online list-serve that distributes calls for submissions and literary contest information to over 3000 writers free of charge. She is the author of five books of poems: *What Keeps Us Here* (1992, winner of the Ampersand Press Women Poets Series Prize and the John C. Zacharis Prize from Ploughshares and Emerson College), *Soul Train* (1997, Carnegie Mellon University Press), *In Every Seam* (1997, University of Pittsburgh Press), *Imitation of Life* (2003, Carnegie Mellon UP), and *Worldly Pleasures* (2004, winner of the Word Press Poetry Prize). She is also the author of a chapbook, *Voice: Poems*, published in 2009 by Mayapple Press. Her next full-length poetry collection, *My Father's Kites*, will be published in 2010 by Steel Toe Books. She has received fellowships and awards from the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, the Sewanee Writers Conference and the Illinois Arts Council.

February 21: Stacey Lynn Brown

Stacey Lynn Brown was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and studied at Emory University, Oxford University, and The University of Oregon, where she received her MFA. A poet, playwright and essayist, her work has appeared in various literary journals and anthologies, including *Crab Orchard Review*, *Poetry Daily*, *The Cortland Review*, *Natural Bridge*, *Sou'wester*, and *The Southern Quarterly*. Her book-length poem in sections, *Cradle Song*, was published by C&R Press in 2009. Poems from *Cradle Song* have won awards from The Poetry Center of Chicago, have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and have been featured on the National Book Critics Circle blog. She is an assistant professor of creative writing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

The Observable Tastes Event Who thought food poetry could be such fun? (we did!) And there was sticky toffee pudding for all! See photos page 2 and website.

2009-2010 SLPC Board Members:

Mary Ann de Grandpré Kelly Marie Chewe-Elliott Loy Ledbetter Lynn Kuss Robert Lowes
Keith Byler Dean O. Grubbs Katherine Mitchell Katy Miller
Mary Ruth Donnelly, Interim President Nancy Hughes, Executive Director

POETRY @ THE POINT at THE FOCAL POINT

2720 Sutton Blvd, 63143, at 7:30 p.m.
on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

**December: No reading, so read to your friends
and family.**

January 26, 2010

Lynn Levin is the author of three collections of poems, *Fair Creatures of an Hour* (2009), *Imaginarium* (2005), and *A Few Questions about Paradise* (2000). *Imaginarium* was a finalist for ForeWord Magazine's 2005 Book of the Year Award. Her poems have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Boulevard*, *5 AM*, *Cimarron Review*, on Garrison Keillor's show, *The Writer's Almanac*, *Verse Daily*, and many other places. In addition to being a poet, Lynn Levin is a literary translator. She teaches at the University of Pennsylvania and at Drexel University, where she is also the executive producer of the TV show "The Drexel InterView." Lynn Levin was born in St. Louis.

Gregory J. Ott is a poet by way of sound, and he spends time listening to bebop and birdsong, both of which can stir him to write. You can find his poems online at The Cultural Society.

February 23, 2010

Nancy Powers Pritchard's poems have appeared in *Mankato Poetry Review*, *PMS PoemMemoir-Story* *Small Spiral Notebook*, *Melic Review*, *Main Channel Voices*, *Poetry Southeast*, *Fugue*, *(Re)verb* and *Natural Bridge*. She received her MFA at University of Missouri-St. Louis and was runner-up in the 2005 graduate poetry contest. She won the 2005 and 2006 Wednesday Club Poetry Contests. Powers is Communications Manager for Moneta Group in Clayton. She teaches poetry to middle school students in the St. Louis Public Schools for Springboard.

Julia Gordon-Bramer, both a poet and prose-writer, has won local, regional, and national awards for her work. Her poems most recently appeared or will soon appear in *The Arkansas Review: Journal of Delta Studies*; *Four Branches Press*; *The St. Louis Anthology of Poets*; *MARGIE: The American Journal of Poetry*, *Volume VII*; *Literal Chaos*; and more. In 2007, Julia won both first and second prize in the 2007 St. Louis Writers Guild Poetry Contest, second place in their Fiction Contest, and second place in the national Raymond Carver short story contest. In 2008, her poem, "Daddy II" was nominated for the Stanley Hanks Prize. She teaches English at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, as well as creative writing workshops for OASIS.

March 23 Catherine Rankovic and Ed Boccia.

OBSERVABLE TASTES: THE BENEFIT

celebrating food and drink with poetry read by food writers, editors, caterers and brewers.... And of course some poets, Sally Van Doren, Jane Ellen Ibur, Ann Haubrich, Bob Lowes and Jeff Hamilton. *If you meant to join us* and got washed back home by the torrential rain, you can still make a donation through the website's "tickets" page. Any amount is a step in the right direction!!



Poet Sally Van Doren, food writer Ligaya Figueras, and Peg Ledbetter as she wins the raffle basket of Schlafly Market produce. Check the website.

Observable Readings 2009-2010

**First Thursdays (generally), 8 pm, free.
Schlafly Bottleworks, 7260 Southwest, 63143**

January 14: (note: 2nd Thursday)

Stacey Lynn Brown is an assistant professor of creative writing at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. Her book-length poem *Cradle Song* was published by C&R Press in January 2009. Poems from *Cradle Song* have won awards from The Poetry Center of Chicago and have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Chuck Sweetman is a lecturer in English literature and associate director of English writing courses at Washington University. His chapbook *Incorporated* won the Dream Horse Press Chapbook Prize. His poetry and fiction have appeared in such journals as *River Styx*, *GSU Review*, and *Poet Lore*.

Allison Benis White is the author of *Self-Portrait with Crayon*, winner of the 2008 Cleveland State University Poetry Center First Book Competition. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *The American Poetry Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *Pleiades*, among other journals.

February 4:

Thomas Meyer, who lives in Scaly Mountain, NC, is executive director of the Jargon Society. His most recent book of poetry, titled *Kintsugi*, was published this year by Punch Press. He also is the author of a book-length poem titled *Coromandel* and *At Dusk Iridescent: A Gathering of Poems 1972-1997*. His translation of the *Daode Jing* was a finalist for the Pen Award for Poetry in Translation.

Peter O'Leary has published three collections of poetry—*Depth Theology*, *Watchfulness*, and *A Mystical Theology of the Limbic Fissure*. He is also the author of a book of criticism titled *Gnostic Contagion: Robert Duncan & the Poetry of Illness*. He is an adjunct associate professor in the liberal arts department in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Shane Seely won the 2008 Philip Levine Prize for Poetry for his first book of verse, *The Snowbound House*, published by Anhinga Press in November 2009. Shane is a senior lecturer in the English department at Washington University, where he teaches composition and creative writing and acts as assistant director of the university's freshman writing program.

O
BS
ERV
ABLE

Kudos!

ROBERT NAZARENE has new work appearing in *American Indian Culture & Research Journal* (UCLA), *The Asheville Poetry Review*, *The Hollins Critic*, *The Literary Review*, *North American Review*, *Notre Dame Review* & the firepit in his backyard.

Richard Newman, Editor of *River Styx* for the last fifteen years, released his newest poetry collection, *Domestic Fugues*, (Steel Toe Books, 2009) in October this year. He is the author of the full-length poetry collection: *Borrowed Towns* (Word Press, 2005). The first poem from *Domestic Fugues*, "Old Bird," won New Letters Readers Award.

Marilyn Probe published two poems in the August issue of cyclamensandswords.com and with Niki Nymark read at Rosewood nursing home this Fall with plans to read at the Cedars at the JCA as well.

John Han has five poems published in *Facets of Love: 2009 Poetry and Prose Anthology* (De Soto, MO: Fountain City Publishing). His collection of eleven English-language haiku also appears in the May 2009 issue of *Wilderness*, a Korean-language literary journal published in Seoul. He gave a poetry reading at the 11th annual convention of the Missouri State Poetry Society, Kansas City, MO, September 25-26. He also served as a judge of a haiku contest at the Indian Trails branch of the St. Louis County Public Library on May 9.

Walter Bargan, Missouri's first Poet Laureate released *Days Like This Are Necessary: New and Selected Poems* (BkMk Press) on September 30, 2009.

Rebecca Ellis and **gaye gambell-peterson** will read recent work, showcase books and art at LEFT BANK BOOKS, 399 N. Euclid Ave., on Wednesday, December 2nd, 7 p.m. The reading is in celebration of women poets and women-run independent presses. The event is free and open to the public; books for signing may be purchased from Left Bank Books.

gaye gambell-peterson will exhibit the original collages for her two poetry chapbooks, *pale leaf floating* and *MYnd mAp*, during the entire month of January 2010 at the Gallery of the University City Public Library. Check www.gayegambellpeterson.com for details of an Opening Reception.

SLPC Outreach Programs/Sites: Continuing for 2009-2010 - MIDTOWN Catholic Charities Community Services Center; serving after-school youth from 20 city schools. Contracted programs: FRIENDS WITH A BETTER PLAN, serving after-school high school youth from 4 city schools; Hazelwood East Middle School; Alton High School Creative Writing Classes; and *new* this year: IMPACT enrichment programs for high school youth in city after-school programs, and Grace and Peace Women's Winter Shelter poetry workshops. The St. Louis County Jail workshops are pending funding. We are excited to announce that **Alton High School visiting poets are provided through a generous grant from alumnus Janet Grace Riehl and her father, Erwin A. Thompson**. Our poets also continue to collaborate with teachers in city schools through Interchange Cultural Partners, voted Best Arts Organization 2009 by RFT readers. Check out www.interchangestlouis.org.

COMMUNITY READINGS:

University of MO-St. Louis: Jason Sommer and Allison Funk will read their poetry and discuss writing. **December 1, Tues, 7 pm, Gallery 210**, *The Tumbling Box* is the title of **Allison Funk's** newest book of poetry. Funk is also the author of three earlier collections of poetry: *The Knot Garden*, *Living at the Epicenter*, and *Forms of Conversion*. She is Professor of English at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. **Jason Sommer** is author of three poetry collections: *Lifting the Stone*, from Forest Books, London; and from the University of Chicago Press, *Other People's Troubles*, and *The Man Who Sleeps in My Office*. Sommer teaches literature and writing at Fontbonne University, where he also directs the Honors Program. Free and open to the public—no registration required. Parking in MSC North Garage, across from Gallery 210. Call 314-516-5699 for more information. Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and the MFA Program at UMSL.

Join the Chesterfield Writers Guild for **River Valley Readings**, the second Wednesday of every month in the gallery at Chesterfield Arts, 444 Chesterfield Center at Chesterfield's Westfield Mall, across from Wapango Restaurant. **December 9: featuring the Winners of the Chesterfield Arts High School Writing Contest: My Life Awakened.**

RIVER STYX AT DUFF'S, Mondays, 7:30 pm, Duff's Restaurant
392 N. Euclid, \$5, \$4 members, students and seniors

January 18: Benjamin Percy and Mitchell L. H. Douglas
February 15: Major Jackson and Brett Eugene Ralph

St. Louis Writers Guild: OPEN MIC NIGHT AT WIRED COFFEE,
7-9 pm on the Second Tuesday of every month. A family-friendly event offering readings of poetry and prose; 3860 S. Lindbergh, 63127

LOUD MOUTH OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE MACK, Third Tuesday
monthly from 8-10 pm. This event is for adults: edgy writers, humor writers, and push the envelope writers; 4615 Macklind, 63109; www.stlwritersguild.com

LEFT BANK BOOKS, 399 N. Euclid, 63108
December 2, 2009: **Rebecca Ellis and gaye gambell-peterson...** see Kudos section.

Hurst Lounge Readings, Duncker Hall, Washington University, 8 pm
February 4: Jane Miller
March 25: Frank Bidart
April 22: Kevin Prufer

OPEN MIC at SCC COFFEEHOUSE SCC Social Sciences Auditorium
Sponsored by the St. Charles Community College, the Coffeehouse offers a place where writers can share their original poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, skits or song lyrics with an appreciative audience. Microphone time limited to 7 minutes. Free. Complimentary refreshments served. For information: www.stchas.edu/divisions/ah.shtml.

Stone Spiral Coffee & Curios: Open Mic every Wednesday--usually poetry heavy, musicians also attend. Begins around 7:30 pm and sometimes goes to 10pm. Beer and wine are also served. 314-335-7388
2500 Sutton Avenue, north of Manchester, Maplewood, MO 63143

Chance Poetry Workshop

Wednesday, December 2

12-2 pm, Kemper Art Museum

This workshop, led by Eileen G'Sell, instructor in the English department at Washington University and publications assistant at the Museum, focuses on the ways in which poets have historically integrated chance into their artistic practice, and offers insights and ideas about how contemporary poets can draw inspiration from these processes. No prior creative writing experience is necessary. To register please visit kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu/Dec2Workshop and submit the online form. Space is limited and a box lunch will be provided. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, November 30. FREE

RELATED EVENT

Chance Poetry Reading

Friday, December 4

6-8 pm, Kemper Art Museum

Poets and lovers of poetry alike are invited to join us for an informal poetry reading. Read your own work inspired by chance, bring your favorite Surrealist poem to share, or simply come to listen and enjoy. Light refreshments available.

MILDRED KEMPER LANE ART MUSEUM in conjunction with the Chance Aesthetics Exhibition, through Jan. 4, 2010
Washington University in St. Louis, kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu

Don't forget to check Poets & Writers contest deadlines at <http://www.pw.org/toolsforwriters>

METRO ARTS IN TRANSIT AND THE POETRY SOCIETY OF AMERICA 2010 POETRY IN MOTION® CONTEST

Metro Arts in Transit and the Poetry Society of America are sponsoring the fourth annual regional Poetry in Motion® contest open to all residents living within a 50-mile radius of the city of St. Louis. Metro Arts in Transit has sponsored various poetry and literary contests for the past decade. Starting with MetroLines, Arts in Transit's programming evolved into Literary St. Louis, and now Poetry in Motion®.

For 2010, fifteen (15) poems will be selected for publication and reproduction on posters that will include visual imagery relating to the subject of the poem. The visual design will be created by Metro Arts in Transit at its discretion and will be displayed on MetroLink trains and Metro buses for up to one year. The winners will receive a \$50 award and will be invited to read their poem at the Reading Ceremony on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at the Regional Arts Commission.

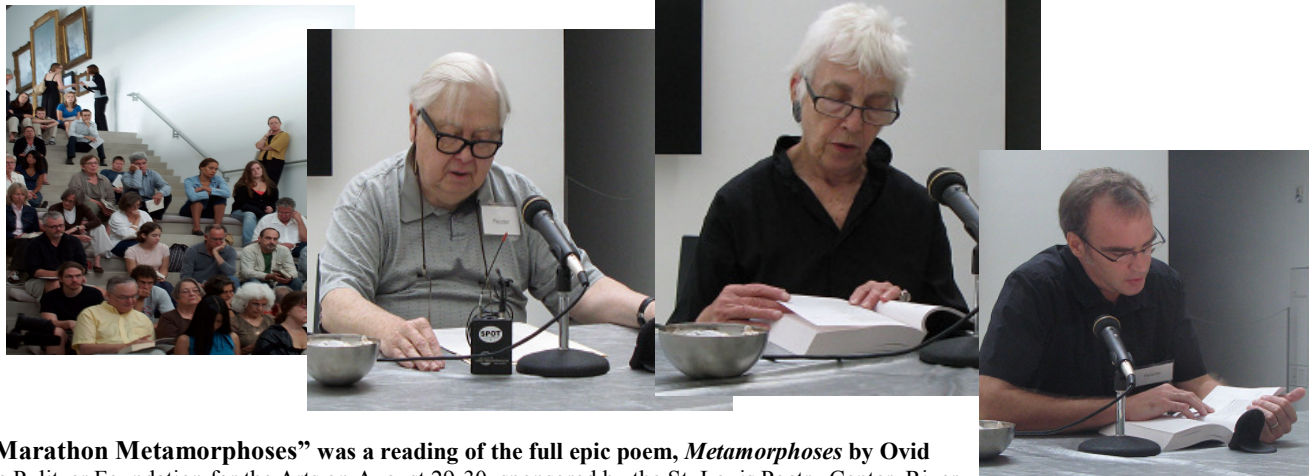
Submittals will be judged by Byron Lee, freelance writer, Limelight Magazine and River City Examiner; Debra Rudder Lohe, program director, Teaching Enhancement, St. Louis University; Denita Elaine Robinson, poet and former elementary teacher, St. Louis Public Schools; Sreeja Smith, performance poet and author VividlyFading.com; Jason Sommers, author and professor, Literature and Writing, Fontbonne University. Poet and member Sally Van Doren will serve as guest of honor at the Reading and Reception on May 20th.

ELIGIBILITY: Poetry in Motion® Contest is **open to people of all ages** residing within a 50-mile radius of the city of St. Louis. (Address on the Entry Form must be a valid address within 50 miles of the city of St. Louis). **Entry forms will be available at Poetry Center readings.**

DEADLINE: Submissions may be hand-delivered or mailed. Metro Arts in Transit will not accept submissions via email or fax. Submissions must be **received, not just postmarked**, no later than 5PM on Monday, January 25, 2010. Submissions received after this date/time will be disqualified.

SEND POETRY SUBMISSIONS w/ FORM TO: Metro Arts in Transit, 707 North First St., MS 136, St. Louis, MO 63102 Attn: PIM 2010.

Sponsored by Metro Arts in Transit and the Poetry Society of America with financial support from the Regional Arts Commission



“Marathon Metamorphoses” was a reading of the full epic poem, *Metamorphoses* by Ovid at the Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts on August 29-30, sponsored by the St. Louis Poetry Center, River Styx and the Pulitzer. Among the 70 readers were writer William Gass, foundation chairman Emily Rauh Pulitzer, and poet Richard Newman. Community attendance hit 650 listeners over the two days.

**St. Louis Poetry Center
announces the
2010 Beverly Hopkins Memorial Poetry Contest
for High School Students**

First prize, \$50. Second prize, \$35.
First, second, third prize and honorable mention winners
will be invited to perform their poems at
the annual poetry concert in late May, 2010.
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 and teacher's name
(if s/he encouraged submission or poetry writing),
titles of poems submitted.

Mail entries to:
St. Louis Poetry Center,
High School Contest,
567 North & South Road, #8,
St. Louis, MO 63130.-3938

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY March 1, 2010.

Announcements of the Beverly Hopkins Memorial Contest will be sent to English department heads in the region. If you teach high school or know someone who does who would like an announcement sent directly, please let us know by e-mailing the contest coordinator at

info@stlouispoetrycenter.org

JUDGE to be announced on the website: www.stlouispoetrycenter.org

**St. Louis Poetry Center announces
The 2010 James H. Nash Members-Only
Poetry Contest**

ATTENTION ST. LOUIS POETRY CENTER MEMBERS.
THIS CONTEST IS 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, 2010.
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 and payment with your poetry submission. You may also join
or renew online and include a printout of your email confirmation.

Guidelines: Submit up to 5 typed poems, which have neither been published
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.

Mail entries to: St. Louis Poetry Center, James H. Nash Contest,
567 North & South Road, #8, St. Louis, MO 63130-3938
(No electronic submissions, please.)

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1, 2010.

If you are a member or would like to become one,
now is the time to join (you can do that online),
gather your unpublished poems
and submit them by mail to the James Nash Contest.

JUDGE will be announced on the website:
www.stlouispoetrycenter.org

THE ST. LOUIS POETRY CENTER

December 2009, January and February 2010

567 North and South, #8

St. Louis, MO 63130

www.stlouispoetrycenter.org

314-973-0616



www.stlouispoetrycenter.org

Check out the photos!

Join the St. Louis Poetry Center

The St. Louis Poetry Center offers, free of charge, to Members and non-members admission to our 3rd Sunday Workshops, various readings, the Annual Concert, and The SLPC Newsletter. Joining the SLPC helps fund our various readings, workshops, contests and outreach programs. Help us 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. or go to www.stlouispoetrycenter.org and use credit card or paypal. Thank you.

- _____ **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. (add another \$20 and get *Margie!*)
- _____ **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. VIII*
- _____ **Patron \$100** All the Member benefits plus a copy of *Best New Poets 2009*, edited by Kim Addonizio
- _____ **Laureate \$150 +** All the Member benefits plus a copy of *The Trouble with Poetry* by Billy Collins
- _____ 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, Zip _____