

April 1, 2009

Hudson Valley Writers Guild Newsletter

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Guild announcements

"Write HERE"

Write HERE, a panel discussion, resource fair and networking event, will take place on Saturday, April 4, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Arts Center of the Capital Region. Tickets are \$5.

Do you write here? Do you know the local resources? Join us for a panel discussion and resource fair that will highlight the extensive writing resources available in the Capital District. This is a great chance to network with writers and small publishers. This event is sponsored by The Hudson Valley Writers Guild and The Arts Center of the Capital Region.

For more information, contact HVWG at (518) 449-8069 or hvwginfo@gmail.com. The Arts Center of the Capital Region is located at 265 River Street in Downtown Troy, (518) 273-0552.

Hudson Valley Writers Guild 2009 Poetry Contest

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

Caffé Lena Poetry Festival

Caffé Lena and the Hudson Valley Writers Guild announce co-sponsorship of the Caffé Lena Poetry Festival on Saturday, April 11. The festival celebrates the arrival of spring and National Poetry Month. It begins at noon and runs into the evening. Caffé Lena is located at 47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs.

It features workshops, readings and a potluck dinner. The program will include 20-minute readings throughout the afternoon by 11 stylistically varied, widely-read poets from NYC, Rhode Island, Maine, the Capital District and the Adirondacks. (A full schedule of readings and workshops is available at the Caffé Lena website: caffelena.org.)

The base cost of the festival is \$10, payable at the door the day of the festival. Admission to workshops and readings is additional; the potluck dinner is free to anyone who brings a dish large enough to serve 10 people (or for a \$10 fee eat from the buffet without having to cook). Dinner will be from 6-7:15 p.m. and reservations are required. Please RSVP at (518) 583-0022 or sarah@caffelena.org.

Caffé Lena Poetry Festival Volunteer Update

As a co-sponsor of the Caffé Lena Poetry Festival, the Hudson Valley Writers Guild is assisting in recruitment of volunteers and assemblage of food items for the potluck dinner. Many thanks to individuals who have committed to various shifts. At present, we need to assess the level of interest in the potluck dinner and begin assembling a list of anticipated contributions, specifically appetizers and main courses. (No dessert items, please.) Since the ovens will be jammed, festival organizers prefer dishes that come in crock pots or do not need to be heated and may sit out at room temperature.

Please email Carol Graser (cgraser@nycap.rr.com) if you plan on bringing a dish (let her know what you plan to bring).

Member announcements

Hollis Seamon's short story, "SUTHY Syndrome," is in the spring 2009 issue of *Bellevue Literary Review*. (Go to blreview.org for more information. Hollis's story "The Plagiarist" is included in *The Best of the Bellevue Literary Review*.)

Local poets **Therese Broderick**, MFA, and **Marion Menna** announce a free writing workshop -- "The Surprise of Poetry" -- on Saturday April 18, from 1-4 p.m. at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar. The workshop will offer fun tips for starting, revising and publishing poems. Beginners welcome. Sponsored by the Delmar Writers Group. To register, call Marion Menna (518) 439-3991.

Area announcements

East Line Books Memoir Mania

Come prepared to laugh and cry as six local essayists reflect on their own pivotal moments in life from birth to death and everything in between. Robyn Ringler, moderator. Tonight, April 1, 7-8:30 p.m. at East Line Books, 1714 Route 9, Clifton Park. For further information, call East Line Books at 371-4151 or visit eastlinebooks.vpweb.com. Free and open to the public.

Roarke Center Seeks Writers

The Roarke Center is looking for guest writers to teach writing workshops for their population of adults with chronic mental health issues, persons with disabilities and persons leaving incarceration.

They generally meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 and offer a small stipend. These programs often run two weeks at a time. The writing program addresses development of imagination, ideas and how to expand the ability to express those ideas. A team is formed by the presenter and volunteer scribes, who are used for members who have low reading ability and poor writing skills.

The Roarke Center is located at 107 4th Street in Troy. If you are interested in teaching, please contact Sr. Loretta at 518-273-8351.

Every Other Thursday Night Poets and Friends

The public is invited to enjoy the Every Other Thursday Night Poets and Friends at the Voorheesville Public Library 3rd annual pot luck poetry brunch on Saturday, April 25, 2008 at 11 a.m. in the Voorheesville Public Library community room. Bring food to share. Open Mic Poetry begins at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to read or listen.

2009 WomanWords Writing/Expressive Arts Retreat

Directions - Mapping a Woman's Life with **Marilyn Zembo Day, Mimi Moriarty & Judith Prest** will host "Directions - Mapping a Woman's Life" retreat from 7 p.m. April 24 (Friday evening) through 4:30 p.m. April 26 (Sunday afternoon) at Still Point Interfaith Retreat Center (stillpointretreatcenter.com), which is located near Saratoga Lake in Mechanicville.

Men don't ask for directions (or so popular opinion would have us believe)—they don't seem to be hard-wired that way. Women, for the most part, like to know where they're headed. But how can we know where we're going without remembering where we've been? How can we envision a future without first assessing the impact of our past? The stories of our lives can be compasses for the continuing journey-- for our personal journey and for those with whom we choose to share our words and art. We will write, create, laugh, cry, *remember*... No previous writing or art experience required. Bring a writing instrument (pen, pencil, laptop, etc.). Paper/journals provided.

During the retreat, **Marilyn Zembo Day** will facilitate bonding/trust-building through a writing exercise focused on paths taken during our life journeys. Sometimes we feel a little lost in this world—physically, mentally, spiritually, creatively. Where have we been? Where are we going? Maps aren't absolute—they're guides. We will ground ourselves, then seek direction. What's our destination this weekend? What's our ultimate creative destination? How do we get there?

Judith Prest will inspire us to write at her Saturday sessions of *Mapping Our Lives from the Inside Out*, a series of expressive arts experiences to deepen our connections to our bodies and our lives, followed by writing. Participants opt to map their bodies and/or their lives in this workshop. After each art opportunity, there will be a short freewrite, followed by longer writing time and sharing. A variety of materials will be available for the art-making segments of the session.

Mimi Moriarty, in her Sunday workshop, *Disoriented: Mapping Our Way Home*, will use a series of exercises to reorient ourselves. Bring several snapshots from home: family snapshots, portraits, pictures of ancestors – these are prompts for exercises, so only bring photographs you are comfortable showing others. She will also address the nagging question: what do I do with the work I've started at Still Point? Bring questions about the craft of writing, motivation, rituals around writing and finishing what you start!

Retreat costs are \$325 for the weekend to stay on-site (limited space; includes Friday and Saturday nights) or \$175 for commuters. Some scholarships are available. Commuters should bring a lunch. Please contact Marilyn to register by April 16: 518-869-1706 or email wmnwords@nycap.rr.com.

Rensselaerville Celebrates National Poetry Month

For the fourth year, historic Conkling Hall and the Rensselaerville Library are sponsoring a celebration of National Poetry Month in April. Events include:

April 4 – 7:30 p.m. - “Spoken & Sung” - a recital of music and poetry by Sarah Nelson Weiss, soprano and Jan Bishop, soprano. This event will also include a reading by poet Howard Nelson, author of *Creatures*, *Bone Music* and *Gorilla Blessing*. Mr. Nelson has a new book of poetry (*The Nap by the Waterfall*) coming out this spring. Recital and reading will take place at Conkling Hall (Methodist Hill Road, Rensselaerville).

April 18 – 2 p.m. - The Favorite Poem Project. All are invited to bring their “favorite poems” (from childhood, from school, from anywhere!) to read and share with friends and neighbors. Last year almost 50 participants of all ages contributed poems, everything from the silly to the sublime. Of course, those who prefer to listen are welcome as well. Refreshments will be available. This event will take place at Conkling Hall.

April 19 – 2 p.m. - Poetry Reading at the Rensselaerville Library by poet Gunilla Kester. A native of Sweden, Gunilla Theander Kester is the author of one chapbook *Time of Sand and Teeth* forthcoming from Finishing Line Press as part of its New Women's Voices Series. She was recently a finalist for the May Swenson Poetry Award 2009 and was

nominated for a 2010 Pushcart Prize from *NJA*. Her full-length poetry manuscript *The Mountain; Grieving for Harmony* was a finalist in the Colorado Prize for Poetry 2005.

Anyone interested in reading his/her own poetry during our April celebration should contact Rensselaerville Library Trustee Linda Miller at (518) 797-9802. For more information about any events, please call the library at 797-3949.

SLCA Announces Next Writing Workshop

Spring may seem like a distant dream, but April will be here before we know it, so mark your calendars for Sunday, April 19, 1-4 p.m., for our next free writing workshop at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts.

As we did in our very successful January 4 workshop, we will be exploring poetry, thereby joining in the annual celebration of National Poetry Month observed each April. We will work through some word play exercises to stimulate our imaginations, and then we will write and share a poem. If you prefer, you may bring a poem you have already written to share. We will spend some time discussing how and where to publish poems, including online resources and groups, but you need not seek publication in order to participate.

This is a workshop designed for writers 18 or older. Bring a writing instrument (laptops welcome), a notebook and your creativity. We expect a good response, so register early by contacting Event Coordinator Ellen Brady at (518) 674-0625 or via e-mail at: beepone@sbcglobal.net. If you need special arrangements, please contact Ellen before the workshop date.

Ellen is also seeking members for the established Sand Lake Peer Writers Group that meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts. We cover all genres and offer feedback and encouragement along with open discussions on writing resources and sharing tips on keeping our writing fresh. Please use the contact information above to contact Ellen if you are interested.

One more thing: Ellen is seeking to form an online Poetry Circle particularly for those poets who do not get out much and who need interaction with other area poets. Please let her know if you are interested. You may become a member of the Sand Lake Peer Writers Group along with being interested in the online Poetry Circle.

Joan Murray and the Pushcart Book of Poetry

On Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at The Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River Street, Troy, celebrated poet Joan Murray will read from her new anthology, *The Pushcart Book of Poetry: the Best Poems from 30 Years of the Pushcart Prize*. She will give a brief history of poetry in our lifetime. Free admission. For more information, visit artscenteronline.org or call (518) 273-0552.

A weekend with author Rebecca Flowers

On Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m., at the Voorheesville Public Library, Rebecca Flowers, the

author of the critically acclaimed novel *Nice to Come Home To*, will read from her work, and on Saturday, May 9, from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. she will lead a writing workshop for novice or experienced writers looking to hone their skills. She will approach the writing process using prompts such as music, art and literature. Participants will mine their own experiences for topics. Coffee and light refreshments will be available.

Both the reading and workshop are free. Registration is limited and required for the workshop. Adults only. Call to register: (518) 765-2791 or e-mail at voorefq@uhls.lib.ny.us. For additional information, go to voorheesvillelibrary.com or rebeccaflowers.com.

The Hudson Valley Writers Guild offers space in its newsletter for submission and program opportunities but does not endorse any programs or publications that are not offered through the Guild.

A note from the newsletter editors: We are always curious to know if the formatting "works" (appears neat and tidy) in your email or if it causes issues (is difficult to read). Send feedback and suggestions regarding any formatting issues to hvwginfo@gmail.com. News items should go to Bob Sharkey at riverrun@nycap.rr.com. *Thank you!*

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M. Miriam Herrera
Webmaster

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