

May 15, 2009

Hudson Valley Writers Guild Newsletter

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Guild announcements

Walt Whitman Birthday Reading

Celebrate the Birthday of Walt Whitman at the Robert Burns Statue in Washington Park, Albany, NY.

Participate in or just come and listen to a reading of "Song of Myself" by local poets & other citizens (sign-up at the reading) on Sunday, May 31 at 6:00 PM. This event will take place rain or shine and is a free event presented by the Poetry Motel Foundation & the Hudson Valley Writers Guild (for information

call 518-482-0262.)

Thanks to Caffe Lena Volunteers

The Guild Board wishes to thank its members who volunteered to help out at the Caffe Lena Poetry Festival held on April 11. Carol Graser announced that the management of the café was pleased with the event and plan to welcome it back again next year. Guild volunteers who helped make the Guild's cosponsoring role for this event a success included Alan Catlin, Julie Lomoe, Therese Broderick, and Bob Sharkey.

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 alternate annually 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. Submissions are now being accepted. For the complete submission guidelines, visit the Guild's website: hvwg.org.

Your Story Matters Project

For the past several years, Guild members have participated as judges in the NYS Recovery Arts Festival. This year, the Guild is also joining the State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) in encouraging individuals in recovery from alcohol, drug or gambling addictions to tell their stories at a special website: iamrecovery.com. OASAS hopes to gather 365 stories of strength and dedication to breaking the cycle of addiction in order to inspire hope in the lives of those still suffering from the disease. Submissions can be anonymous with a first name and last initial. To tell your story or read the stories of others visit the website: iamrecovery.com.

Member announcements

Dan Wilcox announces the next installment of the Third Thursday Poetry Night at the Social Justice Center on May 21. The featured poet will be Rebecca Schumejda. There will also be an open mic with sign up starting at 7 p.m. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m. The Social Justice Center is next to Shalimar at 33 Central Avenue, Albany.

Julie Lomoe announces three events:

Saturday, May 16 at 12:30pm: Sisters in Crime of Upstate NY Monthly Meeting: Orchard Tavern, 68 North Manning Blvd., Albany
Speaker: Eileen Williams of the Guilderland Public Library will talk about a librarian's perspective on books. All welcome for pub food, drinks and discussion.

May 21, 6 - 8 p.m. Red Fox Books, 28 Ridge Street #1, Glens Falls. Come learn from the Sisters in Crime of Upstate New York, aka Mavens of Mayhem, the who, what, when, where, why and how of mystery writing. Panelists are Julie Lomoe, Anne White, Nancy Means Wright, Marie Corcoran (aka Fay Rownell), moderator. Free to the public.

June 6, 1 - 3 p.m. East Greenbush Community Library, Community Way, East Greenbush. Classic film clips will introduce topics for discussion with the Sisters in Crime of Upstate New York, aka Mavens of Mayhem, regarding creating detectives and villains, choosing victims, use of setting and the overall writing process. Panelists are ME Kemp, Bob Knightly, Julie Lomoe, Julia Pomeroy, Marie Corcoran (aka Fay Rownell), moderator.

Area announcements

5th Annual Hudson Valley Literary Festival

A daylong festival Saturday, May 23, produced by the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses with the Hudson Opera House, Fence Books and Hudson Wine Merchants celebrating literature and literary publishing. All events free and open to the public:

11 AM – 4 PM: Bargains! Bargains! Bargains!

Literary Magazine & Small Press Book Fair

Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren Street

Hundreds of books and lit magazines published by regional and national independent publishers on sale with dozens of editors and publishers to meet and greet.

Most lit magazines \$2—most books \$4.

5 PM: Reading & Reception at Hudson Wine Merchants

Hudson Wine Merchants, 341&1/2 Warren Street

Three hot young fiction writers:

Joshua Ferris (*Then We Came to the End*, National Book Award Finalist)

Nelly Reifler (*See Through*)

Ira Sher (*Singer, Gentlemen of Space*)

Wine and cheese reception to follow.

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS FROM EAST LINE BOOKS

All events take place at East Line Books, 1714 Rt. 9, Clifton Park

Contact: Robyn Ringler, Owner at 371-4151 or RLDSR12@aol.com

Website: eastlinebooks.vpweb.com

Local author Lyn Miller-Lachmann will sign her new novel, *Gringolandia*, on Saturday, May 30 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

On Saturday, May 30 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. author K.A. Laity will sign copies of her new book *Unikirja* (Aino Press 2009), a collection of short stories and a play based on Finnish myths and legends, for which she won the 2005 Eureka Short Story Fellowship and a 2006 Finlandia Foundation grant.

East Line Books will have a Book Sale on Friday May 29 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday May 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. One thousand books will be for sale with hardcovers and trade paperbacks selling for \$1.00 and mass market paperbacks and children's books ranging from 25 to 50 cents. Books are sorted and in excellent condition. Sale is free and open to the public. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

On Wednesday, June 3 from 6 to 8 p.m., East Line Books will host a celebration of local book clubs to raise money for the Avon Foundation Breast Cancer Crusade. Members of local book clubs will have an opportunity to talk about books they have loved and loathed, the pros and cons of membership in a book club, and how they have managed to keep their groups together. Book clubs will be challenged to share their funniest,

happiest and worst moments as a group. Most important, book club members will be honored for promoting reading in the community by setting a good example. Enjoy great food, fun and prizes. Cost: \$20. Though the focus will be on celebrating book clubs and realizing their potential for helping great causes like the fight against breast cancer, the event is open to all members of the public.

POETRY READING MONDAY JUNE 1, 8 pm at SMITH'S TAVERN IN VOORHEESVILLE

The life and work of famous local farmer poet William Weaver Christman (1865-1937) will be celebrated with a round-robin poetry reading to be held in the back room at Smith's Tavern, 112 Maple Ave, Voorheesville, N.Y. starting at 8 pm on Monday, June 1. For poets visiting the area the stories of the regulars bringing poetry and conversation to the tables of the tavern on Thursday's and other evenings are almost legendary and on a visit to Smitty's it is even better for them as they have a chance to share their work with local poets. Perhaps surprising to some, a visit to the Christman Preserve (part of the old family farm) and other natural sites in the Helderhills and along the Normanskill has brought poets from as far away as the Finger Lakes and Allegheny Plateau to our region. The event's sponsor, Rootdrinker Institute, promotes rediscovery of the inspirations and creative visions of earlier artists and writers as well as encouraging artist's, musicians, writers and crafters to use local images, lore, and legends. The event has an open mic so all who want to bring poetry to read are welcome. The public is invited to come by and listen to a fine evening of poetry from near and far.

Deconstructing Memoir

On Thursdays, August 13 through September 3, 6-8:30 p.m. Donna Miller will present a series on writing memoir. Class meetings will take place at the Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River Street, Troy (273-0552). Class fee is \$117 for members of Arts Center and HVWG, \$130 for non-members. The class will carefully dissect the memoir genre, working together to discover qualities of voice, characterization and structure that drive good memoir. In addition, it will examine how memoir differs from autobiography and other non-fiction and develop criteria to evaluate the reliability of the narrator. They will complete short reading and writing assignments that will help answer the question, "Why write a memoir?" Visit the Arts Center website artscenteronline.org for more information.

Memoir and Poetry: The Lyric of Memory

On Tuesdays, June 9 through June 30, 6-9 p.m., Julie Gutmann will present a series on memoir and poetry at the Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River Street, Troy (273-0552). Class fee is \$139 for members of the Arts Center and HVWG, \$155 for non-members. This workshop will introduce exercises such as free-writing, guided visualization, and writing about photographs and family objects to capture the textures of experience in imagery and sensory language. Discover how writing between poetry and prose brings form and insight into your writing. Visit the Arts Center website artscenteronline.org for more information.

Preparing the Poetry Manuscript

On Saturday, June 20, Noon-5 p.m., Julie Gutmann will present "Preparing the Poetry Manuscript" at the Arts Center of the Capital Region, 265 River Street, Troy (273-0552). Class fee is \$68 for members of the Arts Center and HVWG, \$75 for non-members.

Learn how to entice the reader into your manuscript by creating a strong title and a compelling series of connected works. Bring ten poems and/or short prose pieces to work with, and discover the themes and sequences within your own work. Convert a random collection into a dynamic reader's journey. Visit the Arts Center website artscenteronline.org for more information.

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.