

June 1, 2009

## **Hudson Valley Writers Guild Newsletter**

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## **Guild announcements**

### **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](http://hvwg.org).

### **Barbeque at Thatcher Park**

Save the date of Sunday, August 2 as the Hudson Valley Writers Guild is planning a barbeque at Thatcher Park that day for members and potential new members. More details will be forthcoming.

### **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](http://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.

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## Member announcements

**Carol Graser** announces that Bill Wunder will be the featured poet at the Caffe Lena Poetry Open Mic on Wednesday June 3. The readings start at 7:30 at the café which is located at 47 Phila Street in Saratoga Springs. Bill Wunder is from Bucks County Pennsylvania and is the poetry editor of *The Schuylkill Valley Journal*.

**Julie Lomoe** announces that on June 6 from 1 - 3 p.m. Sisters in Crime of Upstate New York (a.k.a. Mavens of Mayhem) will host a mystery-writing panel at East Greenbush Community Library, Community Way, East Greenbush. Classic film clips will introduce topics for discussion regarding creating detectives and villains, choosing victims, use of setting and the overall writing process. Panelists are M.E. Kemp, Bob Knightly, Julie Lomoe, Julia Pomeroy, Marie Corcoran (a.k.a. Fay Rownell), moderator.

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## Area announcements

### **East Line Books Announces Fundraiser**

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 (dinner), 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. East Line Books is at 1714 Rt. 9, in Clifton Park. For information, contact Robyn Ringler, owner, at (518) 371-4151 or visit the website: [eastlinebooks.vpweb.com](http://eastlinebooks.vpweb.com)

### **Guild members among readers at June 1 Memoir Project Reading**

The next installment of Bookmarks: The Memoir Project Reading Series will take place on Monday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at The Arts Center of the Capital Region. The evening's theme is "selfhood," as curated by Robyn Ringler. Join us for a reading of poems and essays by local authors including Peter M. Pryor, Kathe Kokolias, Carolee Sherwood, Susan E. Oringel, Deborah A. Sabin, Paul Ehmann, Dawn Elizabeth Marar, Will Nixon and Julie Lomoe. The Arts Center is located at 265 River Street in Troy. For more information, visit [artscenteronline.org](http://artscenteronline.org) or call (518) 273-0552.

### **Poetry Reading at Smith's Tavern in Voorheesville, June 1**

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 Avenue in Voorheesville starting at 8 p.m. 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. 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 artists, 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.

### **Memoir and Poetry: The Lyric of Memory**

On Tuesdays, June 9-30, from 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 and \$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](http://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 10 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](http://artscenteronline.org) for more information.

### **Deconstructing Memoir**

On Thursdays, August 13 through September 3, from 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](http://artscenteronline.org) for more information.

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**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.**