

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

Friday, October 6, 2006

Editor: Janet Carlson

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"All the news we can beg, steal or borrow."

Recent Publications & Other Achievements

We heard it through the grapevine that **Grace Bauer's** poem "Oldies But Goodies" was the featured track on Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac* on PBS Oct. 4. The poem is among those in Grace's recently-released book *Beholding Eye*. You can listen in at <http://writersalmanac.publicradio.org>.

Joy Ritchie has a new book, *Teaching Rhetorica: Theory, Pedagogy, Practice*, co-edited with **Kate Ronald** and published by Boynton/Cook (it's a featured book at <http://www.boyntoncook.com/>).

From the publisher: In *Teaching Rhetorica* Kate Ronald and Joy Ritchie "ask well-known scholars in the discipline of composition studies to consider the next important question that this new body of women's rhetoric poses: How does the study of gender inform writing instruction in the post-secondary classroom? In *Teaching Rhetorica* important scholar/teachers such as Andrea Lunsford, Lisa Ede, Krista Ratcliffe, Wendy Hesford, Eileen Schell, Kathryn Flannery, and Nancy Welch reexamine theories, practices, and pedagogies in light of expanded understandings of rhetoric, gender, race, and transnational perspectives."

The new edition of **Maureen Honey's** *Shadowed Dreams: Women's Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance* has just been published by Rutgers University Press. The first edition, published in 1989, has never gone out of print; it remains the only anthology exclusively devoted to women's poetry from this important literary and artistic movement. The revised 2006 edition includes 18 new writers for a total of 36 poets and doubles the number of poems in the first edition. It also includes new biographical sections on each of the poets as well as nine new period illustrations. *Shadowed Dreams* was the first anthology to include lesbian poetry from the New Negro Movement and the first to reprint many of these early writers. The critical introduction is joined by a new preface to the revised edition, along with a bibliography on books of poetry by and including African American women from this era.

Ken Price reports that the Walt Whitman Archive has received a grant of \$14,000 from the Cooper Foundation.

Ken notes that the money will go to the UNL libraries to develop an open-source (freely available, non-commercial) search engine that will benefit not only the Whitman Archive but a wide range of projects at the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities.

Hilda Raz's "Elegy for Susan and Reetika" is in the current issue of *New Millennium Writings*, 2006-2007.

Fran Kaye presented "We've Got a Situation Here!! Cartoons in the Context of Oka, 1990" at the conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, in Anchorage Sept. 28. Different versions of an earlier ACSUS paper, "Nebraskatchewan: Tommy Douglas and George Norris" were published in a CD volume of proceedings and in a special issue of *American Review of Canadian Studies*.

Chris Gallagher co-wrote and performed in "A STARS Symphony (in D Major)," a reader's theater-style performance, at the 2006 Leadership for Classroom Assessment Conference in Omaha. Information about the conference and the presentations will soon be available on the Nebraska Department of Education website: www.nde.state.ne.us.

Eric Turley's essay "Textural Perceptions of School Time and Assessment," originally published in *Phi Delta Kappan*, was reprinted in vol. 34 of McGraw Hill's *Annual Editions: Education 06/07*, ed. Fred Schultz.

For anyone interested in poetry, pop culture, and skinny super models, **Christine Stewart-Nunez's** new chapbook, *Unbound & Branded*, is on sale from Finishing Line Press and will be shipped next month. See Christine or visit <http://www.finishinglinepress.com> for details. "If you don't run into me much in the halls," she writes, "it is because I received a Presidential Fellowship from Grad Studies, so email me so I can feel still in the loop."

Ben Vogt's poem "De-incarnation of a Back Page Story" appears in *Fugue* (#31, Summer/Fall 2006), and his poem "Minnesota Twins Will Win It All" in *Bases Loaded* (Oct. 2006).

Congratulations to **Heather Camp** and husband on the birth of their son, Trevor, on Sept. 19. He weighed in at 8

lbs. 1 oz. and 20.75 inches in length, and in his photos he looks like he's ready for kindergarten.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 6-8, 7:30 p.m. – *Romeo & Juliet*, at the Swan Theatre at Wyuka Cemetery and Park, 3600 O St.

Steve Buhler is the dramaturg for this Flatwater Shakespeare Company production. Go to www.flatwatershakespeare.org or call 484-7640.

Oct. 6 & 7 – "Beyond Borders: Nebraska & the World," the 15th Nebraska Book Festival. Go to <http://www.nebraskabookfestival.org/> for more information. All events except the Saturday lunch are free, and all are open to the public. Activities start both days at 9 a.m. at Nebraska Wesleyan University, 50th & St. Paul.

Highlights include the keynote speech by **Meghan Daum** at 11 a.m. Saturday; the awards luncheon that follows at 12:15 p.m., with **Terese Svoboda** as featured speaker (introduced by Nebraska State Poet **William Kloefkorn**); and, of course, the reception Saturday night in honor of *Prairie Schooner's 80th Anniversary*.

Here are the activities featuring our department colleagues:

Friday, Oct. 6,

7-7:45 p.m. – "New Nebraska Poets." Among the readers are **Anthony Hawley**, **Mathias Svalina**, and **Zach Schomburg**. At UNL's Van Brunt Visitors Center, 13th & Q Streets.

Saturday, Oct. 7

9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. – "Perpetual Reading Series," Rm. 221, Smith-Curtis Bldg. on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus.

Among the readers: **Denise Banker** (Ph.D. '05), **Grace Bauer**, **Greg Kosmicki** (Ph.D. '75), **Kristin Naca**, **Gerald Shapiro**, **Karen Gettert Shoemaker** (Ph.D. '97), **Judith Slater**, and **Mary K. Stillwell**.

9-9:45 a.m. – "The Art of the Anthology," panel including **Denis Banker**, **Greg Kosmicki**, and **Ladette Randolph** (Ph.D. '99). Rm. 222, Smith-Curtis Bldg.

10-10:45 a.m. – "Literary Journals/Small Presses," panel including staff from *Prairie Schooner*, *Octopus*, *Backwaters Press*, and the **University of Nebraska Press**. Rm. 220, Smith-Curtis Bldg., NWU campus.

10-10:45 a.m. – "Beyond the 100th Meridian: Poets from the High Plains," panel including **R.F. McEwen** (Ph.D. '85).

3-3:45 p.m. – "Multicultural Literature in Nebraska," with a reading by **Amelia Maria de la Luz Montes**, Smith-Curtis Bldg., Rm. 220.

3-3:45 p.m. – "Literary Societies" panel with representatives from the Cather, Neihardt, Sandoz, and Aldrich societies, moderated by Ph.D. student **Erika Hamilton**. (Erika is also a Nebraska Humanities Council program officer). Smith-Curtis, Rm. 222.

4-4:45 p.m. – "Writers from the Edge: Fictional Mysteries & Crime Novels." **Sean Doolittle** (Ph.D. '94) is on the panel. Olin Building, Lecture Hall B.

5-5:45 p.m. – "Writers from the Edge: The 'Real' Nebraska. **Timothy Schaffert** is on the panel. Olin Building, Lecture Hall B.

7:30 p.m. – Reception: *Prairie Schooner 80th Anniversary*, at the Great Plains Art Museum, 12th & Q Streets.

Steve Hilliard is the master of ceremonies. Special guests include **Grace Bauer**, **Kelly Grey Carlisle**, Emeritus Professor of English **Dorothy Zimmerman**, **Joy Ritchie**, and **Hilda Raz**.

Oct. 9, 3:30 p.m. – "Painted Interiors: Portraiture & 20th-Century American Poetry"

Lecture by job candidate **Frances Dickey**. Bailey Library.

Oct. 10, 3:30 p.m. – NO Faculty meeting (See Oct. 11.)

Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. – "If you think it's a level playing field, you probably have box seats: Creating and Maintaining Safe College Campuses for Underserved Populations." Nebraska Union Auditorium

Speech by **Dr. Susan Rankin**, senior diversity planning analyst and research associate in the Center for the Study of Higher Education, and assistant professor of education in the College of Student Affairs at The Pennsylvania State University.

"Please consider attending and asking your students to attend," says **Barbara DiBernard**. For more information, contact Barbara at bdibernard2@unl.edu.

Oct. 11, 3:30 p.m. – Faculty meeting in Andrews 102.

Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. – "The S/L-Word: Love between Women in Medieval French and Arabic Literatures." Bailey Library

Talk by **Sahar Amer**, associate professor of Asian and international studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Sahar Amer received her Ph.D. in French from Yale University in 1994. She was a National Humanities Center Fellow in 2005-06 and a Fulbright Fellow at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad in spring 2005. She published her revised dissertation on Marie de France's *Fables* in 1999 and edited a special issue of *Yale French Studies on Re-Reading Allegory*. Her book *Border Crossings: Love Between Women in Medieval French and Arabic Literatures* is forthcoming from Johns Hopkins University Press.

Amer will be introduced by **Robert Clark**, associate professor of French at Kansas State University. Clark is a specialist in medieval French literature.

The talk is part of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Lecture Series, 2006-2007 and is co-sponsored by the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Oct. 13, 4 p.m. – No-Name Reading featuring **John Chavez** and **Dana Kinzy**. At Sur Tango Bar *et* Café, 1228 P St. See <http://www.unl.edu/noname> for more information.

Oct. 16 & 17 – Fall break

Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. – "Face of a Naked Lady: An Omaha Family Mystery" reading by **Michael Rips** from his memoir (published in 2005 by Houghton-Mifflin). Bailey Library

While cleaning out his parents' basement after the death of his father, an optometrist, Rips uncovers a portfolio of paintings signed by Nic Rips. All are nude studies of a woman whom no one in the family claims to recognize. Rips is determined to find out who the woman is. Rips's quest leads him on an elliptical journey deep into the factories, slaughterhouses, brothels, and middle-class suburbs of postwar Omaha.

"An amazing, beautiful book — a study of a certain family in a certain place at a certain time that gives us, in stunning shorthand, the reality of America." — Joan Didion

Rips is a fifth-generation Nebraska native and a graduate of Oxford University. He is the author of *Pasquale's Nose: Idle Days in an Italian Town* (Little, Brown).

Oct. 25, 3:30 p.m. – Faculty meeting, Bailey Library.

Oct. 26, 3:30 p.m. – "Pink Icing & Island Blues." Reading by **Pam Mordecai**. Bailey Library

Mordecai is a Jamaican-born poet and scholar. She has published 16 textbooks, four collections of poetry, and five books for children. In 2001, Greenwood Press published her *Culture and Customs of Jamaica*, a reference work on Jamaica written with her husband, Martin. *Certifiable: Poems*, was published in 2001 by Goose Lane Editions. *The True Blue of Islands* is her most recent work.

The reading is part of the Women's & Gender Studies Fall Colloquium Series 2006.

Oct. 27, 4 p.m. – No-Name Reading featuring **Michael Busk** and **Mathias Svalina**. At Sur Tango Bar *et* Café, 1228 P St.

~~**Oct. 27, 4:30 p.m. – "A Jew's Daughter."** Reading by **James Shapiro**. Bailey Library~~

~~Professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University, Shapiro is also the author of *Rival Playwrights: Marlowe, Jonson, Shakespeare* (1991); *Shakespeare and the Jews* (1996); and *Oberammergau: The Troubling Story of the World's Most Famous Passion Play* (2000), which *The New York Times Book Review*~~

selected as one of the "notable books" of 2000. His newest work is *1599: A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare*.

American Life in Poetry: Column 080 By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

One of poetry's traditional public services is the presentation of elegies in honor of the dead. Here James McKean remembers a colorful friend and neighbor.

Elegy for an Old Boxer

From my window
I watch the roots of a willow
push your house crooked,
women rummage through boxes,
your sons cart away the TV, its cord
trailing like your useless arms.
Only weeks ago we watched the heavyweights,
and between rounds you pummeled the air,
drank whiskey, admonished "Know your competition!"
You did, Kansas, the '20s
when you measured the town champ
as he danced the same dance over and over:
left foot, right lead, head down,
the move you'd dreamt about for days.
Then right on cue your hay-bale uppercut
compressed his spine. You know. That was that.
Now your mail piles up, RESIDENT circled
"not here." Your lawn goes to seed. Dandelions
burst in the wind. From my window
I see you flat on your back on some canvas,
above you a wrinkled face, its clippy bow tie
bobbing toward ten. There's someone behind you,
resting easy against the ropes,
a last minute substitute on the card you knew
so well, vaguely familiar, taken for granted,
with a sucker punch you don't remember
ever having seen.

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