

# The Hopwood Newsletter

Vol. LXV, 2



<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/hopwood/>

June, 2004

We were delighted when Arthur Miller visited the campus in the spring. He spoke at a sold-out symposium on April 1 "about his experiences at the University and the challenges and rewards of being a playwright, in a discussion facilitated by Mark Lamos, visiting adjunct professor in theater, and Enoch Brater, professor of English" (University of Michigan News Service). He visited campus "in conjunction with 'An Arthur Miller Celebration,' a production of well-known and rarely performed Miller works produced by the U-M Department of Theatre and Drama of the School of Music. Conceived by Lamos, the production highlighted the depth of work Miller has contributed to the American and world stage." "An Arthur Miller Celebration" played April 2-3 and April 8-10 in the Trueblood Theater. Mr. Miller was the recipient of Hopwood Drama Awards in 1936 and 1937. In September, the Goodman Theater in Chicago will premiere a new play by Mr. Miller, *Finishing the Picture*, which is described as a "fable of the perversion of the American Dream." The play will be directed by Robert Falls, who is a Tony Award winner.



**arthur  
miller**

world-renowned playwright, Hopwood Award recipient, and recent visitor to campus.

Michael Byers returned to campus for a reading from his new novel, *Long for this World*, on February 5. His visit was sponsored by the Department of English and Office of the Provost. After receiving his MFA here, Michael was a Stegner Fellow at Stanford and he now teaches at the University of Pittsburgh. His story collection, *The Coast of Good Intentions* (one of my favorite titles), won the Sue Kaufman Prize for first fiction from the Academy of American Arts and Letters. He also won a Whiting Foundation Award and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Prize. His stories have been selected for both *The Best American Short Stories* and the *O. Henry Awards*.

In April, we had a special Hopwood Program event: Hopwood winner Matthew Rohrer (author of the 1994 National Book Series *A Hummock in the Malookas*, *Satellite*, and Poetry Editor of *Fence*),

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Editor Andrea Beauchamp  
Publication Anthony Cece

Joshua Beckman (co-author with Matt of *Nice Hat. Thanks*), and Matthew Zapruder, author of *American Linden* and publisher of Verse Press, talked with the writing students and answered questions about collaborative poetry, writing, and the world of publication. They also spoke at the Residential College and gave a reading at Shaman Drum Bookshop on April 14.

The **Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony** was held on January 27. Prof. Nicholas Delbanco, Director of the Hopwood Program, presented the awards and Hopwood winner Nancy Willard gave a wonderful reading. The judges were Angela Bommarito (Hopwood winner), Joseph Heininger, John Lofy, Brenda Marshall, and Margaret Price (Hopwood winner). And the winners were:

**Hopwood Underclassmen Contest**

Essay: Ramya Raghaven, \$700; Margaret LeDuc, \$800; Michael Pifer, \$1250  
Fiction: Jeffrey Cravens, \$500; Carlin Danz, \$700; Miriam Tova Levine, \$800; Uyen Bui, \$1000  
Poetry: Caroline Martin, \$500; Rachael Hudak, \$700; Sarah K. Eisenberg, \$800; Erin A. Morris, \$800

**The Academy of American Poets Prize for Undergraduates:** Sarah Rubin, \$100

**The Academy of American Poets for Graduate Students:** Donovan Hohn, \$100

**The Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize:** Michelle M. Regalado Deatrck, \$200; Rachel Richardson, \$200

**The Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry:** Esther M. Neff, \$250; Suzanne Hancock, \$350

**The Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry:** Ramya Raghaven, \$400; Esther M. Neff, \$500

**The Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship:** Donovan Hohn, \$1250; Hannah Holtzman, \$1250; Jeremiah Chamberlin, \$1500; Steven Dabrowski, \$1500; Robyn Anspach, \$1750; Irene Hahn, \$1750

The 73<sup>rd</sup> annual **Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Awards Ceremony** was held on April 20, with the awards again presented by Nicholas Delbanco. Mary Gordon delivered the Hopwood Lecture, "Flannery's Kiss," following the announcement of the awards. The text of the lecture will be printed in a forthcoming issue of *Michigan Quarterly Review*. The local judges were Gorman Beauchamp, Frank Beaver, Ian Fulcher, Sofia Galianakis, Joseph Heininger, Raymond McDaniel, Sean Norton, Oyamo, Karla Taylor and Robert Whitman and Hopwood winners Peggy Adler, Geoffrey Bankowski, Michael Barrett, Margaret Dean, Christopher Hebert, Elizabeth Hutton, Laura Kasischke, Aric Knuth, Valerie Laken, Deanne Lundin, Sharon Pomerantz, and Alexander Ralph. The national judges were:

Drama: Karen Hartman and Ron Milner

Screenplay: Ali Rushfield and Nicholas Stoller

Novel: Elizabeth Benedict and Neil Gordon (Hopwood winner)

Essay: David Haward Bain and Joel Lovell

Short Fiction: Jonis Agee and Amy Hempel

Poetry: Alice Fulton and Mark Halliday

And the winners were:

**Hopwood Drama:** Nat Topping, \$2500; Brian Lobel, \$4000; Daniel Rivas, \$6000

**Hopwood Screenplay:** Jordan Bohy, \$5500; Carolyn Tournier Schilling, \$6500

**Hopwood Novel:** Daniel Rivas, \$2000; Travis Holland, \$3500; Karen E. Outen, \$4000; Irene J. Hahn, \$5000

**Hopwood Undergraduate Essay:** Esohe Osai, \$3500; Elesia K. Bennett, \$5000; David Stanley Plastrik, \$5000

**Hopwood Graduate Essay:** Elizabeth Kostova, \$2000; Daniel Rivas, \$2000; Donovan Hohn, \$7000

**Hopwood Undergraduate Short Fiction:** Steven A. Dabrowski, \$4000; Will Dunlap, \$5000; Madeline Kotowicz, \$5000

**Hopwood Graduate Short Fiction:** Michelle M. Regalado Deatrck, \$2500; Ben Stoud, \$2500; Jeremiah Chamberlin, \$6500

**Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry:** Gabrielle Lensch, \$3000; Mariama J. Lockington, \$3000; David Stanley Plastrik, \$4000; Adina Schoem, \$4000

**Hopwood Graduate Poetry:** Robyn Anspach, \$3000; Michelle M. Regalado Deatrck, \$3000; Matthew Hittinger, \$3000; Courtney Mandryk, \$3000

**The Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize for the Long Poem or Poetic Sequence:** Rachel Losh, \$5000

**The Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund:** Jillian Dembowski, \$2000

**The Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting:** Newcombe B. Clarke, \$2400; Elizabeth Hoyt, \$2400

**The Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing:** Michael Hinken, \$2500

**The Helen S. and John Wagner Prize:** Matthew Hittinger, \$675

**The Andrea Beauchamp Prize** (donated by Prof. Wagner): Jeremiah Chamberlin, \$675

**The John Wagner Prize:** Donovan Hohn, \$675

**The Robert F. Haugh Prize:** Madeline Kotowicz, \$1750

**The Meader Family Award:** Charlotte Boulay, \$2000; Rachel Losh, \$2000

**The Naomi Saferstein Literary Award:** Carolyn Tournier Schilling, \$1000

**The Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prizes: In Dramatic Writing:** Andrew Genser, \$1000; **In Fiction:** Vanessa Mae-Chern Heng, \$1000

**The Paul and Sonia Handleman Poetry Award:** David Stanley Plastrik, \$2200

**The Geoffrey James Gosling Prize:** Irene J. Hahn, \$700

## Publications by Hopwood Winners\*

### Books and Chapbooks

- Erik Barmack** *The Virgin*, a novel, St. Martin's Press, forthcoming in December/January 2004-05.
- Brett Ellen Block** *The Grave of God's Daughter*, a novel, Morrow, 2004.
- Steve Coffman** *Peace Meal*, FootHills Publishing, Kanona, NY, 2004. Steve writes: "These Bush years have reminded my heart and gut and brain of Vietnam. Seeing my country once again being led to war in manufactured ignorance and fear, I've tried to conjure all the love and logic and satiric barbs in me to dissuade us from embarking down an equally unwise and immoral road. I marched, I protested, I wrote."
- Francesca Delbanco** *Ask Me Anything*, a novel, W.W. Norton & Co., 2004.
- Steve Hamilton** *Ice Run: An Alex McKnight Mystery* (this is the 6<sup>th</sup> in the series), St. Martin's Minotaur/Dunne, 2004. Steve has won Edgar, Anthony, and Shamus awards for his work.
- James Hynes** *Kings of Infinite Space*, a novel, St. Martin's, 2004.

\* Assume date unknown if no date is indicated.

- Eric Jager** *The Last Duel: A True Story of Crime, Scandal, and Trial by Combat in Medieval France*, forthcoming from Broadway Books in June, 2004.
- Kimberly Kafka** *Miranda's Vines*, a novel, Dutton, 2004.
- Rattawut Lapcharoensap** *Sightseeing*, short stories, to be published by Grove/Atlantic Press in Jan./Feb. 2005 (*Publisher's Lunch Daily* described A's debut collection as "wild, humorous, and hopeful stories that capture a Thailand far removed from the exoticized place it's known for"); they will also be publishing his novel *The End of Siam*, now in progress, and will distribute a chapbook of his stories at the BEA bookfair.
- Jack LaZebnik** *Golden Medina*, a novel, Academy Chicago Publishers, 2003. Mr. LaZebnik published this first novel at the age of 80. The book is based on stories about his mother that were originally written in Yiddish.
- Jardine Libaire** *Here Kitty Kitty*, a novel, Little, Brown, 2004.
- Susan B. Miller** *Disgust: The Gatekeeper Emotion*, non-fiction, The Analytic Press, Hillsdale, NJ, 2004; *Indigo Rose*, fiction, Bantam/Dell, forthcoming in December 2004.
- Lyle Emerson Nelson** a three-volume *American Presidents Year by Year*, M.E. Sharpe, Armonk, NY, 2003. *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* notes: "Using chronological order, the author weaves together the personal life, policy initiatives, and political activities of each current, former, and future president for every year in order, from the birth of George Washington (1772) through the 'election' of George W. Bush (2000)." The set was selected by *Library Journal* as a best reference of 2003. Mr. Nelson writes: "I must have set a Hopwood record for fertilization, idea to birth. It was 47 years in the making."
- Frank O'Hara** *The Houses at Falling Hanging*, a play, *The Yale Review*, XCII, 1, January 2004.
- Julia Older** with Steve Sherman, *Grand Monadnock: Exploring the Most Popular Mountain in America*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition with new photos, Appledore Books, 2003.
- Paula W. Peterson** *Women in the Grove*, short stories, Beacon Press 2004.
- Bart Plantenga** *Spermatagonia: The Isle of Man*, his new Autonomedia grafik-novella about a man who plots his own disappearance, 2004.
- Davy Rothbart** *FOUND: The Best Lost, Tossed and Forgotten Items from Around the World*, Simon & Schuster/Fireside, 2004.
- Joe Salerno** *Only Here*, poems, with a foreword by Hopwood winner **David Tucker**.
- Matthew Thorburn** *Subject to Change*, his first book of poems, was selected by Brenda Hillman as the 2002 New Issues Poetry Prize winner and will be published by New Issues this fall.
- David Tucker** *Days When Nothing Happens*, poetry, Slapering Hol Press, 2003.
- Jan Wahl** *Candy Shop*, illus. by Nicole Wong, Charlesbridge, 2004.
- Richard Widerkehr** *Sedimental Journey*, a novel about a geologist, Tarragon Books, (available through Partners West and Baker & Taylor), 2004.
- Nancy Willard** *In the Salt Marsh*, her tenth volume of verse, Knopf, 2004.
- Howard R. Wolf** *Looking for America: Towards a Global Education*, a collection of 30 essays on education, literature, culture, and writing, Academic Foundation (New Delhi, India), 2004; *Broadway Serenade*, a novel, forthcoming in 2005.

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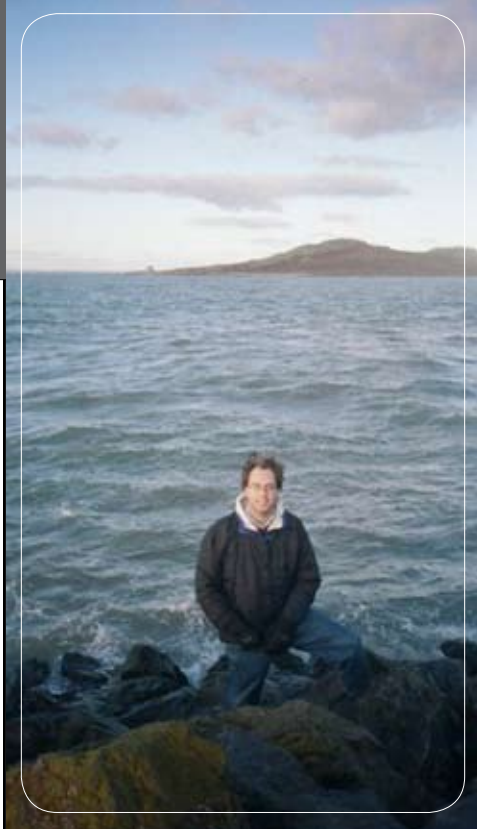
## Articles and Essays

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- Donald Beagle** "Ryan, Beauregard, and Bragg: New Research from the Fr. Abram J. Ryan Archive," *Catholic Library World*, LXXIV, 3, March 2004.
- Sven Birkerts** "Rereading: Flaubert's Anatomy," *The American Scholar*, LXXIII, 1, Winter 2004; "Editor's Note: Submission Guidelines," *Agni* #59, 2004.
- Erica Block** "A reversal of Intimacies: Vietnam savors the hybrid flavors of French rule, ancient Chinese tradition, and Western Kitsch," in "Foreign Affairs: 9 essays by American Theatre artists on taking work abroad, from Havana to Siberia," *American Theatre*, May/June 2004.
- Richard Goodman** "Paris, When It Drizzles," *Best Traveler's Tales 2004*; an essay on hawks in Central Park is forthcoming on the Op-Ed Page of the *New York Times*.
- Neil Gordon** an article on Hopwood Winner **Harvey Swados's** *Nights in the Gardens of Brooklyn* in *Bookforum*.
- Martin A. Lee** "Not a Prayer: Then as now, American schemes to change Islam have been dangerous folly," in "Briefings: At Issue in the 2004 Election," *Harper's Magazine*, June 2004.
- David Masello** "Living in a Concerto for Memorabilia and Strings," *New York Times*, November 13, 2003; "My Friend Lodovico," *New York Times*, February 8, 2004; "Stairway to Memories," *Art & Antiques*, March 2004.
- Julia Older** "Poetry and Politics and Pound," *Entelechy International*, ed. Sylvia Boyadjian-Haddad, New England College, Fall 2003; "Malcolm Cowley at Yaddo," *Animus* #11, November 2003; "Warmth, Food, and Friendship: Remembering M.F.K. Fisher," *Tastes of New England*, Winter/Spring 2004.

Fulbright Fellow Nicholas Harp  
by the North Sea in Ireland

nicholas  
harp



**Marge Piercy** "Shallow Electorate's Deep Flaws: When will we seek out leaders, not photogenic 'pals' who appear no smarter than we are?" an Op-Ed piece in the *Los Angeles Times*, March 24; "An Interview with Marge Piercy" by Charlotte Templin, *The Writer's Chronicle*, May/Summer 2004.

**Matthew Rohrer** "Away, with Words: Conferences, Residencies, and Other Working-Writer Retreats," *Poets & Writers Magazine*, March/April 2004.

**Edmund White** "My First European," *Granta: Over There, How America Sees the World*, No. 84, 2004; "An Interview with Edmund White," conducted by J. L. Dehrer-Lesaint, *Meridian*, Issue 12, Fall/Winter 2003; "My Father," *Ontario Review*, No. 60, Spring/Summer 2004.

**Howard R. Wolf** "The New South Africa: Journey towards Dignity" (Textures/ISJ), in *Out of Line*, an annual journal on issues of peace and justice, Spring 2004; "Personal Teaching," *JAEPTL: Journal for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*, forthcoming.

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## Reviews

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**Neil Gordon** a review of Gil Courtemanche's *A Sunday by the Pool in Kigali* in the *Washington Post*; a review of *She Plays with the Darkness* and *The Madonna of Excelsior* by Zakes Mda, *The New York Times Book Review*.

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## Fiction

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**Valerie Laken** "Before Long," orig. published in *Ploughshares*, received a Pushcart Prize and was published in *The 2004 Pushcart Anthology*; "Family Planning," which received the \$2000 *Missouri Review* Editor's Prize, Spring/Summer/May 2004; "Remedies," *Meridian*, Spring/Summer 2004.

**Karen Outen** "What's Left Behind," *Mother Knows: 24 Tales of Motherhood*, ed. Susan Burmeister-Brown, 2004.

**Melanie Rae Thon** "Heavenly Creatures," *The Paris Review*, #169, 2004.

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## Poetry

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**Donald Beagle** "Home Movies," "The Nuclear Plant," *Agora*, 2004.

**E. G. Burrows** "Exposed by Thaw," *Stringtown* #6, 2003; "Fly-By," *Square Lake* #4, Fall 2003; "Part Song," "Parliament of Birds," *Poetry East* #51, Fall 2003; "At the Saturday Fair," *The Hurricane Review*, I, 1, 2003; "Fly-By," *Square Lake* #4, Fall 2003; "Metamorphosis," *Fugue*, Winter 2003/04; "Lament for the Master," *Palo Alto*, XII, 2, 2003/04; "Vikings," *Words of Wisdom* #4, 2003; "Procession," *Tar Wolf Review* #1, Winter 2003/04; "Thirst," *Cold Mountain*, VI, 2, Spring 2004; "Prodigals," *Freefall*, Spring 2004; "The Stump," "For Luck," *Spindrift*, Spring 2004; "Homestead," *Slant*, Summer 2004; "How We Stand Revealed," *Plainsongs*, XXIV, 3, Spring 2004; "The Crease," *Ellipsis* #40, Spring 2004; "Foresight," *Borderlands* #22, Spring/Summer 2004.

**Victoria Chang** "Seven Changs," *Michigan Quarterly Review*, Spring 2004; "The Goal," forthcoming in *North American Review*; "Man in the White Truck," forthcoming in *Pleides*.

**Larry O. Dean** "Explore Various Hot Russian Brides," "Trigger," *I Love Your Poetry Anthology*, Palabra, February 2004; "Red Garland, Black Wax," *The Poetry of Music Anthology*, Palabra, April 2004; poems forthcoming in *Tens Anthology*.

- Ryan Flaherty** "You Lyric," *Sonora Review* No. 45, Early 2004.
- Ruth Herschberger** "After a Panic Attack in a Wisconsin Field, 1975," "The Date," *New Letters: A Magazine of Writing and Art*, LXX, 2, 2004.
- Matthew Hittinger** "How to Write, How Not to Write About Pears," forthcoming in *Fine Madness*, Fall 2004; "He Who Lies on the Promenade," "Phallic Magic," "What Part of Don't Ask, Don't Tell Don't You Understand?" *Mantis: A Journal of Poetry, Criticism & Translation*, IV, Spring 2004.
- Donovan Hohn** "Autobiography," "Ars Poetica," *Michigan Quarterly Review*, XLIII, 1, Winter 2004.
- Patricia Hooper** "The Clothespin Bag," *The Hudson Review*, LVI, 4, Winter 2004.
- Tung-Hui Hu** "Potter's Fields," *Ploughshares*, Spring 2004.
- Lynne Knight** "Elegy for the Parents," *Poetry*, May 2004.
- Laurence Lieberman** "Four Satans," *TriQuarterly* #117, 2004; "A Hemiplegic's Romance," *The Hudson Review*, LVI, 4, Winter 2004; "Breath from the Mouths of Gloves," "Fable of Sky-Borne Bananas," *The American Poetry Review*, March/April 2004..
- Ralph Luttermoser** "Woman Seen in Einstein's Waiting Room," *Main Street Rag*, VIII, 4, Winter 2004.
- David Masello** "Alchemy," *Permafrost*, Fall 2003.
- Michael Murray** "Aphasia," "The First Black Bear," "Three Haiku from The Stonefish Petting Tank," *Hawaii Review* #60, 2004.
- Julia Older** "Adopted," "Book Burning," from her sequence *Tahirih Unveiled* (in progress), *Entelechy International*, ed by Sylva Boyadjian-Hadda, New England College, Winter 2003 (premiere issue); "Valiant Soldiers," in *Hungering For Enough: Living Spiritually in a Consumer Society*, Pudding House Publications, Ohio, Winter/Spring 2004.
- Marge Piercy** "The fading betrayal," *Prairie Schooner*, Spring 2004; "Finally," "How it was with us, dear grandchildren," *Connecticut Review*, XXV, 1, Spring 2003; "The cup of Eliyahu," *Midstream*, XLIX, 3, April 2003; "Choices," *Monthly Review*, April 2003; "My grandmother's song," *Lilith*, Summer 2003; "Money is one of those things," "Carry me off to old Virginie or maybe Mars," *Chiron Review* #71, Summer 2003; "The garden of almost," "How to make pesto," "More than enough," "Tracks," *Paterson Literary Review* #32, 2003; "Wild storm off the ocean," *Cape Cod Voice*, Summer 2003; "The birthday of the world," *Tikkun*, XVIII, 3, September/October 2003; "What the reeds whisper," The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Edition of the Lunar Calendar, 2004; "The bone pit," "In late afternoon," *Square Lake* #4, Fall 2003; "At the core of loving, fear," "The cut," "Intense," *Kalliope*, XXV, 2, 2003; "In praise of java," "The usual resolutions," *Tapestries*, Vol. ?, 3, 2003; "The special one," *Runes*, Winter Solstice 2003; "Sneak and peek," *Monthly Review*, LV, 7, 2003; "Aftermath (2)," "Portrait of the poet as a young nerd," "Mississippi of dreams," *Caprice*, Spring 2004; "Insomnia burns," "Swear it," *Urban Spaghetti* #5, 2004; "What's missing," "Muttering," *Earth's Daughters*, #64, 2003; "Warm blooded," "What wings brush me," "The orphan," *Connecticut Review*, XXVI, 1, Spring 2004; "Attack," "Fatigue," "The unimmaculate," *Caprice*, Summer 2004.
- Peter Serchuk** "Change of Plans," *New Letters: A Magazine of Writing and Art*, LXX, 70, 1, 2003-04.
- Laurence W. Thomas** "Old Slippers," forthcoming in *Blue Unicorn*; "By the Shore," forthcoming in *The Huron River Review* (the same issue will reproduce his oil monoprint, "Study in Blue Green"); "It's Raining," *Blue Unicorn*, XXVII, 2,

**Matthew Thorburn** "Camp Interlochen," *Fourteen Hills*, 2004; "Honeymoon Snapshot," "Hot Like Mustard," *Columbia Poetry Review*, May 2004; "Sunday Morning," "Little Waltz," *Margie*, Fall 2004; "For Friends Who Are Married and Expecting More Babies," *Rhino*, Spring 2004.

**David Tucker** "Blackbird Leaving," *The Literary Review*, LXVII, 3, Spring 2004; "No Flights Until Morning," "Kingdom of Slow Days," forthcoming in *Slate*; "All This Time," winner of the Solo Prize, *Solo Magazine*, #6, 2003.

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## Film

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**Kurt Sayenga** Over the past decade, Kurt Sayenga has written, directed and produced a string of critically acclaimed and commercially successful documentaries. His films have aired on dozens of networks in more than 188 countries and his awards include a National Emmy and four New York Film Festival medals. He's interviewed closed to 1,000 people and has filmed in the U.S., Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Egypt, Israel, Kuwait, Iraq, Russia, the U.K., France, Germany, and Belgium. His articles, short stories, artwork and photography have appeared in several magazines, including *Metropolis*. Here are his documentary credits: Executive Producer/Creative Director/Senior Writer for *Animal Nightmares* (13-part series for National Geographic International), which shadowed phobics as they attempted to overcome their fear of animals. He was Director, Writer and Co-Producer of the following documentaries for the Discovery Channel: *Inside the Kill Box* (a two-hour special marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gulf War). He was the Director, Writer and Co-Producer of *High Speed Impacts* and *Explosive Situations*; he led the first civilian crews to film at Lawrence Livermore's High Explosives Applications Facility and the Nevada Test Site's Big Explosive Experimental Facility; *Skyscrapers: Going Up*, *Bridges: Reaching Out*, *Tunnels: Digging In*; *Robots Rising*, on robotics; *Spies Above* (a profile of the CIA's top-secret satellite reconnaissance program) and *Secret Satellite*, about the early days of America's secret space program. He was the Executive Producer and Principal Director/Writer/Producer for *Fields of Armor*, a 12-part television epic for Discovery which traces the impact of mechanization on warfare through the words and memories of soldiers. He was Supervising Producer of State of the Natural World on the critical threats facing the earth's ecosystem; Director/Writer/Producer for both *Nighthawk: Secrets of the Stealth*, on the F-117 Stealth Fighter, and *Wings Over the Gulf*, on the Gulf War air campaign. Lastly, he was writer and associate producer for *War Stories*, a 12-part series on WWII.

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## Video and Audio Recordings

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**Matthew John (Schmitt)**

wrote to tell us his MP3's are now available at <http://matthewjohnmusic.com>. Featured full-length songs are "She Stands Alone" and "Jesus Is a Skater" and there are a number of 30-45 second clips.

**Marge Piercy**

has a new CD of political poems: *Louder: We Can't Hear You (Yet!)* It's available from Leapfrog Press Audiobooks, [www.leapfrogpress.com](http://www.leapfrogpress.com).

**Bert Stratton**

writes: "Yiddishe Cup is recording an album this year. Yiddishe Cup has invented a new genre: neo Borscht klezmer comedy. This recording will be an ethnic-humor album for people who aren't ethnic anymore!" The release date is July 1.

## News & Notes

- Mary Beth Barber** is working for California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as part of the Advance team that organizes his public appearances.
- Mary Gaitskill** will be a participant in the New York State Summer Writers Institute, held at Skidmore College June 28-July 23.
- Mel Gordon** The UC-Berkeley Department of Theater, Dance & Performance Studies notes that "Mel Gordon is the author of *Stanislavsky Technique: Russia*; *Lazzi: The Comic Routines of the Commedia Dell'Arte*; *The Grand Guignol*; *Expressionist Texts*; and *Dada Performance* as well as over sixty articles on American, French, German, Italian, and Yiddish theater. Director of over twenty productions in Frankfurt, Houston, New York, Paris, and Zurich."
- Lemuel Johnson** Lemuel Johnson's life and works were honored at a symposium, "Highlife for Lemuel," sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Rackham, LS&A, The Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, and the Department of English of the U of M. It was held March 12 and 14, 2004.
- Josie Kearns and Deanne Lundin** will be participants in the Ludington (Michigan) Poetry Festival, held May 20-22.
- Aric Knuth** had a short piece on "This American Life" on National Public Radio, March 26-28. The theme for the show was marriage and the story is about "a former student who came to the U.S. when he was 14 with his mom, who was what most people would think of as a mail-order bride, from the Ukraine."
- Pamela Nash** received a Master of Laws at American University/Washington College of Law from the Program on Law and Government, where she concentrated on issues of Domestic and International Criminal Law. She is working at the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in Washington, DC.
- Marge Piercy** reports that her Leapfrog Press is publishing three books this year: *Midnight in the Guest Room*, poetry, by Jan Bailey (March 2004); *Junebug*, a novel by Maureen McCoy (July 2004) and *The German Money*, a novel by Lev Raphael (September 2004). They will also be putting out a CD of Martin Espada's poetry called "Now the Dead Will Dance the Mambo."
- Margaret Price** spoke on "'You Want Someone to Help You, But You Don't': Critical Thinking and Disability in the Writing Classroom" at the U of M's Sweetland Writing Center on January 28.
- William Craig Rice** A publicity release reports that "The Board of Trustees of Shimer College [Waukegan, IL] has selected William Craig Rice, Director of Education and Assessment at the American Academy for Liberal Education in Washington, D.C., to be its 12<sup>th</sup> President. ....He will be formally installed at Fall Convocation on October 16, 2004. Rice is the author of *Public Discourse & Academic Inquiry*, a study of the sociology of knowledge with emphasis on rhetoric, stylistics, and audiences. He is a published poet and fiction writer, and he has written numerous scholarly articles and essays examining subjects ranging from teaching poetic forms in the classroom, the role of the arts in society, collaborative learning, and charter schools. He has also edited and reviewed many books and articles, and has made a number of TV and radio appearances."



**Kurt Sayenga** wrote from the West Coast that he has married and has a daughter, Lilly, born in September, 2002. "In the '80s and early '90s I wrote a lot of articles and a few short stories for 'underground' publications (punk fanzines, music magazines, art project magazines). Since then my writing has been confined to scripts, treatments and corrosive diatribes directed at network executives. In my off hours, I draw or paint or take photographs. Lately, though, I have grown unhappy with the increasing restrictions of writing for a mass audience, so I've started working on some fiction and non-fiction projects intended for no one in particular. I'm also putting together a website devoted to driving; it will be heavy on dry-humored accounts of eventful motor trips and terrible cars that people have owned."

**Harry Thomas** wrote that Handsel Bools, an imprint of Other Press ([www.otherpress.com](http://www.otherpress.com)), has the following new books out: *Argument & Song: Sources & Silences in Poetry* by Stanley Plumly; *Elected Friends: Robert Frost and Edward Thomas to One Another*, ed. and with an introduction by Matthew Spencer; *The Poems of Edward Thomas*; *Stories from the City of God: Sketches and Chronicles of Rome 1950-1966* by Pier Paolo Pasolini, ed. Walter Siti; *Hafiz of Shiraz: Thirty Poems, an Introduction to the Sufi Master*, tr. and introduced by Peter Avery and John Heath-Stubbs.

**Laurence Thomas** gave a lecture "Making Choices" (on free verse) for the Poetry Society of Michigan, April 17, a lecture in Saginaw for the Poetry Society of Michigan, and two lectures for the Ozark Poetry Retreat in Eureka Springs, Arkansas the following week called "Poetry That Works." He also conducts a poetry critiquing program at the Ann Arbor Barnes & Noble every third Wednesday evening (this is his 6<sup>th</sup> year).

**Blake Walmsley** writes: "I'm editor of a brand new literary magazine in Washington, DC. *The Potomac* is a quarterly web-based magazine featuring poetry and political commentary. Our first issue can be viewed at: [http://webdelsol.com/The\\_Potomac/](http://webdelsol.com/The_Potomac/). We are currently seeking submissions for issue #2."

**Howard R. Wolf** is preparing a collection of travel pieces, "Far-away Places," and will travel to the Czech Republic and Egypt to investigate some WWII and holocaust history. The book will contain international essays on Turkey, Malaysia, India, Hong Kong, South Africa, Finland, Israel, and domestic pieces on New York City, South Florida, and Buffalo. "Dr. Wolf is planning a short lecture tour in Israel this March under the auspices of the embassy of the United States."

## Drama, Readings & Performances

**Joseph Matuzak**  
**Josie Kearns**  
**Deanne Lundin**

Joseph Matuzak, Josie Kearns, and Deanne Lundin (all Hopwood winners) are directing a new series sponsored by the Crazy Wisdom Bookstore in Ann Arbor. It was held at the bookstore every Wednesday through April and featured work by student writers and other writers in the community. On Jan. 21, **Kelly Allen** gave a poetry reading; on Feb. 4, Joseph Matuzak led a workshop "How to Write Love Poems"; on March 17, Josie Kearns and Deanne Lundin conducted a workshop "Irish Women Poets and Techniques."

**Lyn Coffin** wrote from Seattle in February: "I gave my first local reading at the Magnolia Bookstore last week, and was invited to be a featured reader in the Distinguished Writers' Series in Tacoma in the Fall. Also, I'm launching Hugo House's Writers and Work series in April, and just found out I'll be invited to read at Bumpershoot, which is a big literary and artistic festival out here on Labor Day weekend."

**Larry O. Dean** has had recent gigs in Chicago at MoJoe's Café Lounge, the Lincoln Lodge, Nevin's Live in Evanston ("Folk You!"), Wabash Tap, Kristoffer's Café, above Ann Sather on W. Belmont for "SPEC/Gapers Block 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Block Party), at Gunther Murphy's with International Pop Overthrow, The Café, the Pulaski Park Fieldhouse, the School of Art Institute Ballroom ("Hands on Stanzas Group Performance"), the Chopin Theater (the Guild Complex and ChicagoPoetry.com teamed up to help kick off National Poetry Month with "Chicago Poetry Uncensored"), and on WZRD ; in Bloomington, Indiana at Gallery West Espresso for "Matrix Poetry Slam"; and on Higher Ground Public Radio in Madison, WI. He will appear in Ann Arbor on September 25 for a show at Crazy Wisdom. For a complete list of Larry's activities, please see [www.larryodean.com](http://www.larryodean.com).

**Francesca Delbanco** read from her novel *Ask Me Anything* on February 12 at Shaman Drum Bookshop in Ann Arbor. She also read in numerous other cities as part of her reading tour.

**Richard Goodman** will give a reading, along with other contributors to *Best Traveler's Tales 2004*, at Barnes & Noble Lincoln Center in New York City on July 14.

**James Hynes** read from his novel *Kings of Infinite Space* at Shaman Drum Bookshop in Ann Arbor on May. 20.

**Pat Kaufman** was a participant in "April Showers: a new stART Nuptial Celebrating Marriage, Union and Divorce in an Uncivil Society with visual art, dance, music, theatre, spoken word, video and ceremony" on April 15, with additional gallery hours April 16-18, held at the Judson Memorial Church in NYC. Her show "Paintings on Canvas and Paper 2004" opened April 23 and ran April 19-23 at the Manhattan TheatreSource in NYC. Her short play "Brontosaurus," directed by Albert Cremin with Yvonne Delet was performed at the Guild Hall in NYC on April 29.

**X. J. Kennedy** read for San Miguel Poetry Week in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico on January 5.

**Jack LaZebnik** wrote an adaptation of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, which was produced by the Stephens College Playhouse Company, Columbia, Missouri, in February. The play was directed by Beth Leonard. Mr. LaZebnik had a book-signing for his novel *Golden Medina* at a local bookstore on January 21 and a reading at the Lenoir Community Health Building on January 7.

**Julia Older** read on Earth Day at the National Estuarine Reserve, Laudholm Farm Wells, Maine. She was a participant in the ALT Collegium of New England's Student Poetry Reading and Evening Symposium, "Art & the Community," April 29; she signed *Nature Walks Along the Seacoast* (AMCBooks, 2003) with co-author Steve Sherman, May-September 2004; and she will sign and read with Lorraine Anderson, ed. of *Sisters of the Earth: Women Writing Prose and Poetry About Nature*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Vintage, 2003 at Toadstools in Keene/Peterborough (NH) at the end of June and beginning of July.

**Karen Outen** There was a reception for Karen Outen at Shaman Drum Bookshop in Ann Arbor on May 4 to celebrate the publication of her story "What's Left Behind" in the anthology *Mother Knows: 24 Tales of Motherhood*, ed. Susan Burmeister-Brown.

**Marge Piercy** went on tour in November and December to promote *The Third Child*. She gave readings at The Center for New Words in Cambridge, The Brookline Booksmith, the Providence Jewish Community Center and Jabberwocky Books. In January she read at the Concord Bookshop and in NYC at Bluestockings and the Barnes and Noble on the Upper West Side. In Feb. she gave the keynote speech and a reading at the North Coast Education Summit at Humboldt University. She also gave a reading and workshop at the Jewish Community Center in San Francisco and a reading at the Stanford Hillel. In March, she gave a reading, lecture and workshop at the University of Dayton LitFest and a reading

and workshop at Marietta (OH) College. In April, she gave a workshop and reading at the U. of Illinois-Springfield and then a fiction workshop (with Ira Wood) at the Rowe (MA) Conference Center April 16-18; on April 22, she read at the U. of Connecticut as part of a conference given by The Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, "Ariel's Wake: Poetry, Diasporas." In the summer, she'll teach the following workshops: Castle Hill Truro Center for the Arts, July 13-16; a poetry workshop at Hassayampa Institute for Creative Writing, July 26-30; a personal narrative workshop (with Ira Wood) at Omega Institute in Rhinebeck, NY, Aug. 6-8.

**Bart Plantenga**

wrote from overseas: "My book on yodeling *Yodel-Ay-Ee-Oo: The Secret History of Yodeling Around the World* (Routledge) has sent me on a surprising whirlwind trip of media attention and praise. *The Washington Post* called it a 'surprise hit.' I launched the book in NY with a reading at KGB and had a gala book launch event at the Bowery Poetry Club, with 5 yodelers including traditional yodelers and avant garde vocalists known for their yodeling abilities. Then in April I was back in the US for a modest mini-tour through Amish country in PA." He read at the Alpenhof, an Alpine restaurant in Reading, PA; at Millersville College; at the Barnes & Noble in Lancaster; and the tour culminated at the Library of Congress.

**Davy Rothbart**

has had an absolutely fabulous year. First FOUND magazine was noted in *The New Yorker*. The hand-decorated issue #3 came out with customized covers. Then he appeared on "The David Letterman Show" on April 27<sup>th</sup> to share some favorite finds. The Found 7" record is now available: "4 great bands with songs based on Found stuff: Jon Langford, TRS-80, Claudine Coule, and the Victrolas." And the FOUND book was published on May 4. He's organized the *FOUND Slapdance Across America Tour, 2004*, with celebratory parties in all 50 states, an 8 month tour that hits 126 cities. Check out the Events page at [www.foundmagazine.com](http://www.foundmagazine.com).

**Nancy Shaw**

wrote in April: "The Ann Arbor Book Festival is hopping with Hopwooders. Besides all the writers who will be at various programs, several are in *Ann Arbor (W)rites: A Community Memoir*, edited by Nicholas Delbanco. **Davy Rothbart**, **Al Sjoerdsma**, Carolyn Rose Stone, and **Nancy Willard** are included. I have a set of five verses, 'Stacks' in it. I will be one of eight writers on the festival's Kick-Off Panel April 22, 'Michigan Reflected Through the Written Word,' and will be autographing Saturday."

**Bert Stratton**

Bert Stratton's Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band performed at Park Synagogue, Cleveland Heights, March 6; the band will perform at Parade the Circle in Cleveland June 12; at Cain Park in Cleveland Heights July 1; the Cityfolk Festival in Dayton, Ohio July 3-4; Little Mountain Folk Festival, Kirtland, Ohio, July 25; Jewish Federation Euclid Avenue Centennial Street Fair in Cleveland on Aug. 8; Wiley Middle School in University Heights, OH Aug. 19; and Hoover Auditorium in Lakeside, OH on August 23; Fairmount Temple, Beachwood, OH Oct. 5; Park Synagogue, Cleveland Hts. Oct. 7 and the University of Dayton Oct. 23. For a list of performances please go to [www.yiddishecup.com](http://www.yiddishecup.com).

**Matthew Thorburn**

read at the Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey (in Madison) on Jan. 23. It was part of a three-night series of readings by the 2003 New Jersey Council on the Arts poetry fellows. Two of Matt's poems were listed on the website: [www.ptnj.org/FramePps/PRODUCTIONS.htm](http://www.ptnj.org/FramePps/PRODUCTIONS.htm).

**Richard Widerkehr**

gave a reading from his new novel, *Sedimental Journey*, at Village Books in Bellingham, WA on Jan. 13, took part in a panel discussion on small presses at Barnes & Noble (where he read on April 17) on March 13, and had an autographing session at the Pacific Northwest Book Association's spring show.

## Awards & Honors

- Stephen Bluestone** was awarded the \$500 First Prize in the Thomas Merton Poetry of the Sacred Contest. The prize was for his poem "The Rug Maker" and it will appear in *The Merton Seasonal*, a publication of the International Thomas Merton Society. The winning poems for the contest may be viewed online at [www.mertonfoundation.org](http://www.mertonfoundation.org).
- Victoria Chang** Victoria Chang's manuscript "Circle" won the Crab Orchard Review Award Series in Poetry and will be published by the Southern Illinois University Press in April 2005.
- David Gewanter** David Gewanter's book, *Robert Lowell: Collected Poems*, was chosen Book of the Year, 2003 by *Contemporary Poetry Review* ([cprw.com](http://cprw.com)). He was also nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry for 2003.
- Neil Gordon** Neil Gordon's novel *The Company You Keep* has been nominated for an *L.A. Times* Prize. It's been optioned by Fox Searchlight for Robert Redford and the screenplay is being written by Lem Dobbs.
- Travis Holland** was awarded the U of M's Department of English's Meijer Award for 2004. The judge was Don Lee.
- Sara Houghteling** received a French Fulbright grant to work on her novel on Nazi art theft in Paris during the academic year of 2004-05. She was also awarded the David and Linda Moscow Prize for Excellence in Teaching Composition by the U of M English Department.
- Nate Jones** is the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.
- X.J. Kennedy** On May 20, X.J. Kennedy received the 2004 Poets' Prize for his book *The Lords of Misrule* (Johns Hopkins University Press). He read at the presentation at the Nicholas Roerich Museum in New York City.

# sarah houghteling

shown here receiving the David and Linda Moscow Prize for Excellence in Teaching Composition by the U of M English Department. Sarah has also received a French Fulbright grant for the academic year of 2004-05.



**Julia Older** received a Pushcart Nomination by Joseph Hurka for "Poetry and Politics and Pound," Ezra Pound's first reading (in exile) at the Italian Spoleto Festival (1966), *Entelechy International*, ed. Sylva Boyadjian-Haddad, from a memoir-in progress, January 2004. The Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program awarded Older and fabric artist Rachel Lehr a grant. They were selected from 60 teams for their exhibit of art/poetry in public places in September 2004.

**Marge Piercy** received an honorary degree for her contribution to Jewish culture at Hebrew Union College on June 3 at their graduation ceremony. This is actually her third honorary degree.

**Rachel Richardson** was awarded a Stegner Poetry Fellowship at Stanford University beginning in Fall 2004.

**Nancy Shaw** Her delightful *Raccoon Tune* was named to "A Baker's Dozen: The Best Children's Books for Family Literacy from 2003" by the Pennsylvania Center for the Book.

**David Tucker** won the Slapering Hol national chapbook contest and was runner-up for several other derbies: *Anhinga*, *Black Zinnias* and the Brittingham Prize, among others. He also won the 2003 Solo prize for best poem. He writes: "I also won the Aldrich Prize, judged by Robert Pinsky, but had to withdraw because I had just committed the MS to SH."

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## Deaths

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The Associated Press reported that poet and editor Cid Corman died in Kyoto following a heart attack on March 12, 2004. Mr. Corman had lived in Japan for nearly 40 years and was 79 when he died. He was the recipient of a Major Poetry Award in 1947. "Corman...started his prolific literary life in his teens and published some 400 books of poetry, essays, and translation. His final work included a fifth and final volume of his 750-poem series 'OF,' which will soon be published. In 1951, Corman started the literary journal *Origin*, providing an outlet for foreign poems and helping emerging talents get established. Among the poets he introduced in the magazine were Charles Olson, Robert Creeley, Denise Levertov and Theodore Enslin. Corman translated legendary Japanese haiku poet Basho Matsuo's 'Back Roads to Far Towns: Basho's Oku-No-Hosomichi' and 'One Man Moon.' His recent works include 'Sun Rock Man,' 'The Despairs,' 'Nothing Doing' and 'And the Word.'"

Alumni Records listed the deaths of the following people:

Edwin Gage III recipient of a Major Fiction-Short Story Award in 1969, died in October, 1980. He was a resident of Naples, Florida.

Gabriel Machynia, winner of a Minor Fiction Award in 1973, died February 17, 1996 in Detroit.

Dorothy Sedlmayr Ohlhaver, recipient of a Minor Fiction Award in 1954, died May 29, 2003 in England.

Barbara Paton Smith, winner of a Minor Poetry Award in 1932, died February 26, 1991 in Silver Spring, MD.

Augusta Walker, winner of a Major Fiction Award in 1944 died on November 5, 2000. She was the author of the novels *A Midwest Story* (Dial Press, 1959), *The Eating Valley* (Dial, 1956), and *Around a Rusty God* (Dial, 1954) and the memoir *A Back-Fence Story: the adventures of a family of city cats* (Knopf, 1967).

Josephine Stern Wiener, winner of a Minor Fiction Award in 1931 (the first year of the

Hopwood Contest), died on October 10, 2000 in Farmington Hills, MI.

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## Special Announcements

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We had a computer crash in April and I *think* I was able to retrieve all or most of the newsletter material, but if one of your citations is missing, please accept my apologies and send it again.

**An Invitation to Washington, DC Area Alumni:** Please join the UM Alumni Club of DC for a performance of *Oh, the Innocents*, written and directed by Hopwood winner and former U of M Playwriting Professor **Ari Roth** at Theater J, a Dupont Circle theater where he serves as Artistic Director. The date will be July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and tickets cost \$25. After the performance there will be a talk by Ari Roth followed by a reception with the cast. For more information, contact Pamela Nash at PMNEsq@aol.com.

Our thanks to all of you who have so generously donated copies of your books to the Hopwood Library. The special display of recent books by Hopwood winners always attracts a lot of attention. We appreciate your thoughtfulness very much and enjoy showing off your work to visitors.

Please help us to keep the Newsletter as accurate and up-to-date as possible by sending news of your publications and activities. Your friends would like to hear about you! You could write, fax (using the English Dept.'s number, 734-763-3128) or e-mail me: abeauch@umich.edu. The Hopwood Room's phone number is 734-764-6296. We're happy to list the titles of works published electronically. The cutoff date for listings was May 28. If your information arrived after that, it will be included in our next newsletter, which will come out in January.

The Hopwood Program has a Web page address: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/hopwood/hopwood.htm>. Visit the English Department's MFA Program site: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/grad/graduate.htm>.

I wish you a wonderful summer. If you're in Ann Arbor, do stop by the Hopwood Room to say hello. Our usual hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30. It's always a pleasure to meet you or to see old friends.

**Andrea Beauchamp**



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