

SPECIAL SCIENCE FICTION ISSUE!

Lite

FREE!

to residents of
Baltimore City,
Annapolis, Bel Air,
Columbia, Glen Burnie,
Laurel, Towson, and
the entire Baltimore
metropolitan area.

APRIL/MAY 1999

Baltimore's Literary Newspaper



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NOTICE

Lite: Baltimore's Literary Newspaper is
now published bimonthly. A Supplement is
published on the off-months containing the
literary events calendar and other items of
interest to the literary community.

THANK YOU!

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Names in Lite

Robin Bayne (*SpotLite: Literary News*) writes from Lutherville, MD. Her work has appeared in small press publications including *Artisan*, *Dogwood Tales*, *Taproot*, *Tucumcari Lit. Review*, *New England Writer's Review*, *Black Moon* and many others. She won Honorable Mention in *Lite's* 1997 Fiction Contest.

A. C. Crispin (*Excuse Me, How Much Did It Cost You?*) has authored several *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* novels, as well as her original *StarBridge* series. She wrote the novelization of the sf TV mini-series *V*, and in collaboration with Kathleen O'Malley, wrote the novelization for the movie *Alien Resurrection*. She collaborated with Andre Norton to produce *Gryphon's Eyrie* and *Songsmith*. Upcoming works include a fantasy trilogy for Avon Books, *Exiles of Boq'urain*. She currently serves as vice president of the Science-Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

Vonnie Winslow Crist (*Andromedes*; cover and inside art) is a poet, writer, and illustrator from Fallston, MD. She is the author of *Essential Fables*, *Leprechaun Cake and Other Stories*, and co-editor of the soon-to-be-published anthology *Lower Than the Angels* (Lite Circle Books). She edits the literary magazines *Late Knocking* and *Harford Poet*.

John M. Hebert (*Close Encounters of the Dragonish Kind*) writes from New Baltimore, MI.

David Hufford (*Fog*) is a professor of folklore at the University of Pennsylvania and a professor of behavioral science at Penn State University.

Susan J. Quinn (*SpotLite: Literary News*) is a publicist for Towson University focusing specifically on promoting the achievements and activities of the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Education. She has been active in volunteer work for various reading and writing programs for children, as well as local cultural events. She is a graduate of St. Mary's College of Maryland with a dual degree in English literature and Latin American studies.

W. H. Stevens (*Book Review*) is the book review editor for *Lite*. She is president of the Carroll Branch, National League of American PenWomen. She has been widely published in regional literary magazines, including the *Maryland Poetry Review* and the *Baltimore Review*, and was nominated several times for *ArtScape*.

Leslie Stewart (*Hear the Wolves*) writes from Napa, CA.

Lite

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Literary April/May

A Bi-Monthly Potpourri of Literary Events

(Watch for more May events in *Lite's* May 1999 Supplement)

Regular Reading Series

Monday, April 5, 12, 19, 26

11:00 a.m. Barnes & Noble-Towson Circle. Betty Walter leads a weekly meeting in writing memoir essays. Designed for those 50 and over.

Tuesday, April 6, 13, 20, 27

9:00 p.m. Open Reading at Funk's Democratic Coffee Spot, 1818 Eastern Ave., Fells Point. For more info, call (410) 276-FUNK.

Wednesday, April 7, 21

8:00-10:30 p.m. "Open Mic Poetry and Music," sponsored by the Baltimore Alliance for Justice in the Americas. Bring poetry and/or an instrument. Sign up starts at 7 p.m. Adrian's Bookstore, 714 S. Broadway. For more info, call (410) 732-1048.

Thursday, April 8, 15, 22, 29

8:00 p.m.-close. Jazz session and open mic poetry, Xando Coffee and Bar, 3003 N. Charles St., Charles Village. For more info, call (410) 889-7076.

8:30 p.m. "Tell the World," open mic poetry and spoken word reading at the One World Cafe, 904 S. Charles St., Federal Hill. Hosted by Tom Swiss. For more info, email tms@infamous.net or call (410) 455-5325.

Thursday, April 8

6:00 p.m. The All Blues Jazz/Poetry Ensemble performs in the main hall of the Central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Poet Lori Tsang is the artistic director of the ensemble which includes poet Sydney March, vocalist Luci Murphy, drummer Leland Nakamura, bassist James King, and saxophonist Antonio Parker.

Friday, April 2-Sunday, April 4

"Balticon 33," science fiction convention hosted by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society at the Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel. Guest of Honor: David Weber; Art GOH: Jennifer E. Weyland; Filk GOH: Echoe's Children; 1998 Compton Crook Award Winner: Katie Waitman. Programming includes writers' workshop, poetry track (hosted by the Lite Circle), art show, dealers room, science panels, gaming, video, anime, costume masquerade, a dance, childrens' programming, and much more. At the door memberships available. For more info: phone (410) 563-2737; email bsfs@balticon.org; website: www.balticon.org.

Friday, April 2

7:00 p.m. Curio Coast Productions hosts a film premiere/fundraiser, "Trust Your Story." Features live music and performance poetry, ensemble performances, a screening of the short film *Totems of a Road-Colored Goat*, and clips from a poetry video by Dana Bloomfield, *Grazing on Bergamot*. Entry fee is \$3-10, sliding scale. Heathcote Conference Center, Freeland, MD. For directions/info, call (410) 343-3478, voice mailbox #5.

7:30 p.m. The Lite Circle and Barnes & Noble-Annapolis host an open poetry reading/discussion group ("Annapolis Lites"). Facilitated by Sam Beard.

Saturday, April 3

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Dana Bloomfield facilitates a workshop on connecting with nature through poetry, "The Choreography of Cursive," at Heathcote Conference Center (see Friday, April 2). Sliding scale \$25-\$50. Includes poetic lunch. For those attending "Trust Your Story" (see Friday, April 2), overnight lodging is available (very rustic). Call to pre-register.

Monday, April 5

7:00 p.m. Borders-Towson. "Meter's Running Poetry Series" presents another Open Mic Night. Participants are invited to read their original works for up to ten minutes. Limit 10 participants. Register at 1st floor information desk.

Tuesday, April 6

7:00 p.m. Borders-Columbia. Chester Wickwire reads and signs his book of poetry *Longs Peak*.

Wednesday, April 7

7:30 p.m. Bibelot-Timonium. Journalist Sara Wheeler discusses two of her travel books, *Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica* and *Travels in a Thin Country: A Journey Through Chile*. Discussion, slide show and signing.

"Function at the Junction" poetry series, the Coffee Junction, 803 Frederick Rd. Joe Harrison, Dorothy Dodge Miner and Brennen Lukas read their work. Open mike follows. Admission \$2. For more info, call (410) 719-7717.

Bibelot-Woodholme. Norrie Epstein discusses and signs her book *The Friendly Dickens*, which demystifies Dickens and his works, removing him from the classroom and presenting his works as full of shrouded sex and ostentatious death. This is an in-depth and lively discussion of Dickens' life, times and major works.

Thursday, April 8

3:00-5:00 p.m. Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library. The Poetry Bug, a Volkswagen Beetle covered in Magnetic Poetry, arrives at the Library's Cathedral St. entrance. Bring the family for an afternoon of playful poetry.

7:00 p.m. Borders-Columbia. John Priest discusses and signs his book *Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*.

Bibelot-Canton. Ben Neihart reads and signs his latest thriller *Burning Girl*.

7:30 p.m. Bibelot-Woodholme. Martha Cooley will read from and discuss her best-selling novel *The Archivist*, a story that draws richly upon the poems of T.S. Eliot and the intellectual and social climate of postwar New York City.

Saturday, April 10

2:00 p.m. Howard Schechter reads from and discusses his Gothic thriller *Nevermore*. Poe Room, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Canton. *Pasta Poetics* combines a book of local poetry with a cookbook. Editor Matt Hohner will be joined by several of the contributing poets for a reading. Proceeds from *Pasta Poetics* are donated to Beans & Bread soup kitchen in Fells Point.

Monday, April 12

1:00 p.m. Borders-Columbia. "Poetry Matinee," a program held the 2nd Monday of each month designed especially for seniors. Betsy Fisher and Roz Alme read their work. Open mike follows.

7:00 p.m. Borders-Towson. The Creative Writing class and the Writing Workshop class of Mercy High School will read works of original poetry.

Borders-Columbia. Open mike reading.

Tuesday, April 13

6:30 p.m. Leo Bretholz and Michael Olesker discuss their book *Leap Into Darkness: Seven Years on the Run in Wartime Europe*. Poe Room, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

7:30 p.m. Baltimore Writers' Alliance Meeting at the Pickersgill Auditorium, 615 Chestnut Ave., Towson. Guest speaker: Bruce Jacobs, author of *Race Manners* and *Speaking Through My Skin*. For more info, call (410) 377-5265

Wednesday, April 14

Time TBA. "Women of the Caribbean Diaspora," a colloquium on women authors and artists of the Caribbean featuring Magdalena Campos-Pons, Myriam J.A. Chancy, Maryse Conde, and Rosario Ferre. Maryland Hall, 4th floor, Loyola College, 4501 N. Charles St. For more info, call (410) 617-2513.

6:30 p.m. Sam Lacy and Moses J. Newson discuss their book *Fighting for Fairness: The Life Story of Hall of Fame Sportswriter Sam Lacy*. Central branch, Poe Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Timonium. Celebrate National Poetry Month. Local poets Jean Cushman, Tiana Diaz, Candace Gardner and Kamila Aisha Moon read from their work.

7:30 p.m. Bibelot-Woodholme. Peter Matthiessen reads from and signs *Bone by Bone*, the final book in the trilogy that began with *Killing Mr. Watson* and continued with *Lost Man's River*.

Thursday, April 15

7:00 p.m. Borders-Towson. Contributors to and

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The Big Literary "Spot" Lites

Barnes & Noble-Annapolis, 5216 Solomon's Island Rd., Annapolis Harbour Shopping Center. Phone: (410) 573-1115.

Barnes & Noble-Ellicott City, 4300 Montgomery Rd., Long Gate Shopping Center. Phone: (410) 203-7006.

Bibelot-Canton, 2400 Boston St. Phone: (410) 276-9700.

Bibelot-Timonium Crossing, 2080 York Rd. Phone: (410) 308-1888.

Bibelot-Woodholme, 1819 Reisterstown Rd., Pikesville. Phone: (410) 653-6933.

Borders-Columbia, 9051 Snowden Square Dr. Phone: (410) 290-0062.

Borders-Towson, 415 York Rd. Phone: (410) 296-0791.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central branch, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore. Phone: (410) 396-5494.

WordHouse Salon at Minas, 733-35 S. Ann St., Fells Point. Phone: (410) 732-4258.

Close Encounters of the Dragonish Kind

by
John M. Hebert

Illustration by Vonnie Crist

"Father, there is a human outside who wants to fight you," Glimring rasped while peering around the tunnel's corner into the library.

Foofnar carefully placed the scroll he was reading down on the oaken table, took off his glasses and frowned. "A human, you say? Wants to fight me?" His chest scales gleamed an eerie blue with a long-forgotten sensation.

"Yes, Father. He says that he is Sir Stampsalot, from the castle of Runnynose."

Foofnar snorted. "Stampsalot, you say? Heard of him. He's nothing but a squire!" His yellow eyes shimmered.

"Forsooth, he says he went to knight school." Glimring had by now entered the den totally and was perched on a massive chair. His young, undeveloped wings hung uselessly from his back.

"That makes him an overpaid, over-dressed squire," growled his father. "I suppose I'll have to at least talk to the fool."

Glimring led the way through the dripping tunnels, then across a chasm. He yawned.

"Where is this addlepatented fool?" Foofnar demanded while looking intently out the cave's entrance.

"Halloo!" A voice floated up from the valley floor. "Mister Dragon! Halloo!"

Foofnar glanced downward. An armored vision met his gaze. Sir Stampsalot gleamed from every joint, every angle, every corner of his new equipment. "Halberk and breastplate and shield, oh my!" Foofnar licked his lips in old-fashioned dragonish anticipation.

"Halloo!"

Foofnar cleared his throat. "What do you want, Stamps...hmmm...Sir Stampsalot?"

"To do battle and acquire your hoard!" Foofnar snorted huffily. "Do you mind?"

I'm a happily married dragon!"

"No, no," floated the reply. "Hoard! With a D!"

"Oh." Foofnar glanced at his son to see if his offspring had caught the exchange's meaning. Glimring, however, was gazing happily downward, obviously entranced by the reflections. "Why not wander off to a crusade or something? Do the Christian thing—kill a few hundred Saracens."

"Old stuff. Saracens are out, dragons are in."

"Bother," Foofnar muttered. "First some crazed wizard named Merlin whatszname, and now him."

Glimring reluctantly tore his gaze away from the pretty gleamings and looked at his father. "What are you going to do?"

"If I can't talk him out of it, I must do battle." He snorted. "Honor system, bah! You stay here, Glimring. I'll be back shortly." Foofnar spread his wings, then coughed in a way Glimring had never heard. Thick black smoke followed by yellow and red fire shot from his maw.

"Gadzooks! How doest thou that, Father?"

Foofnar smiled grimly. "Ancient Chinese secret. I'll tell you later."

With a massive beating of wings, Foofnar descended on Sir Stampsalot.

Glimring could see them talking animatedly, then the knight drew his sword. "Watch out, Fath..." he began to shout, then stopped when the smoke and flame once again shot from his elder's mouth. "Gadzooks!"

"They just won't listen," Foofnar said while munching on their late lunch.

"Do you despise the knights, Father?"

"No, not really." He held up a gleaming morsel. "In fact, I rather fancy them cooked in the shell."



Calendar, continued from p. 2
other select Maryland poets will read from the anthology *In Our Own Words—Generation X Poetry*.

7:30 p.m. Bibelot-Woodholme. National Poetry Month Event: Dean Smith, Marguerite Striar, Elisavietta Ritchie and Bruce Curley read some of the contributions to the anthology, *Beyond Lament: Poets of the World Bearing Witness to the Holocaust*.

Saturday, April 17

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Maryland Writers' Association 11th Annual Conference: "Creating Worlds from Words." Meet agents, editors and publishers. Location is five minutes from BWI Airport and Amtrak station. Registration is free. For more info, call Scott Morrow at (410) 319-9487 or email scottdmorrow@hotmail.com.

1:00 p.m. The Harford Poetry Society meets at the Harford County Library in Bel Air, Pennsylvania and Hickory Aves. Carol Bindel discusses the book *The Sound Of Poetry* by Robert Pinsky. For more info, call (410) 803-1075.

1:00-5:00 p.m. Maryland Poetry Fair, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library. Poets and representatives from small presses and literary magazines will be on hand to talk about poetry writing and display their works at exhibit tables in the Main Hall and 2nd floor corridors.

3:00 p.m. Poet Marilyn Hacker reads from her work. Wheeler Auditorium, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Sunday, April 18

1:00-5:00 p.m. Maryland Poetry Fair, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library (see April 17 above).

1:00-3:00 p.m. Open Mics. Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library. A sampling from Baltimore's open mic scene.

1:30 p.m.

"Put the Slam in Your Poetry." Poe Room, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library. Gayle Danley shows how to get words to jump off the page and into the audience's heart. An interactive workshop by a slam. cha.m.pion. Bring a poem to share.

2:00 p.m. Bibelot-Woodholme. E. Lynn Harris discusses and signs his new book *Abide With Me*.

3:00 p.m.

"Four Women on Fire." Poe Room, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library. Gayle Danley and three of Maryland's most popular women poets—Lenett Nefertiti Allen, Linda Joy Burke and Barbara DeCesare—light up the afternoon with a spirited reading.

Bibelot-Timonium. Celebrate National Poetry Month. Students from Ridgley Middle School will read their original poetry.

4:00-6:00 p.m. WordHouse at Minas. Poet Edgar Silex and a poet TBA will read from their work. \$3 donation requested.

Monday, April 19

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Canton. James Prosek discusses and signs his book *The Compleat Angler: A Connecticut Yankee Follows in the Footsteps of Walton*.

Tuesday, April 20

6:30 p.m. Reading by poet Bruce Jacobs, author of *Speaking Through My Skin*, at the Poe Room, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Wednesday, April 21

6:30 p.m. David Guterson, author of *Snow Falling on Cedars*, reads from his new book *East of the Mountains*. Wheeler Auditorium, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library.

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Canton. Carole Nelson Douglas discusses and signs her mystery *Cat in an Indigo Mood*.

Thursday, April 22

6:30 p.m. "Open Mic Night for Teens." Hamilton Branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library, 5910 Harford Rd. For more info, call (410) 396-6088

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Canton. "An Evening With the Maryland Poetry Review" features poets Rawley Grau, Jody Ellen Nusholtz and Sam. Schmidt. Open reading follows.

Borders-Towson. Chester Wickwire reads from his book of poetry *Longs Peak*.

Friday, April 23

8:00 p.m. "Lite Verse" at Bibelot-Timonium. Celebrate National Poetry Month. The Lite Circle hosts a reading of the "Earth Journey" issue of *Late Knocking* literary magazine. Readers will include Dave Kriebel, Vonnie Crist, Rosemary Klein, Dan Cuddy, Chris George, Alan Reese, Patti Kinlock, Elizabeth Stevens and others.

Saturday, April 24

1:00 p.m. "Poetry Cafe: Open Mic for Teens." Pennsylvania Ave. Branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1531 W. North Ave. For more info, call (410) 396-0399.

7:00 p.m. The Harford Poetry Society presents a poetry reading at the Fine Grind Espresso Bar, 100 S. Main St., Bel Air. For more info, call (410) 877-1625.

Sunday, April 25

11:00 a.m. Bibelot-Woodholme. National Poetry Month Event. The staff will read some poetry that the little ones can enjoy and participate in—including *One Fish Two Fish* by Dr Seuss and selections from *Noisy Poems* by Jill Bennett.

1:30 p.m. "Two Men on a Mission." Poe Room, Central branch, Enoch Pratt Free Library. Meet poets Kenny Carroll and DJ Renegade, who take their poetry to schools and jails as part of the DC WritersCorps. They're hip, humorous, right on. Following their reading, they'll host a Poetry Slam competition. Performances begin at 3:00 p.m.; registration starts at 2:30 p.m. .

4:00-6:00 p.m. WordHouse at Minas. Stacy Tuthill of Scop Publications hosts a reading by poets Carolyn Foronda and a poet TBA. \$3 donation requested.

Monday, April 26

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Timonium. "Philosophy Book Discussion." A discussion of Sophocles's classic tragedy, *Antigone*. Facilitated by Ted Hendricks and Lisa O'Shea.

7:30 p.m. Bibelot-Woodholme. Hallie Lerman discusses and signs *Crying For Imma: Battling for the Soul on the Golan Heights*, which recounts the invasion and defense of Tel Saki, where the Yom Kippur began.

Tuesday, April 27

7:00 p.m. Borders-Columbia. "Poetry Contest Finalists: Kids 10 to 14 Read." Several months back, the Friends of Howard County Library invited area young people aged 10 to 14 to enter a regional poetry contest. Tonight the public gets to hear the winners.

7:30 p.m. Bibelot-Timonium. Christopher Tilghman, author of *Mason's Retreat*, will discuss his new collection of short stories *The Way We Run*.

Wednesday, April 28

7:30 p.m. Bibelot-Woodholme. National Poetry Month Event. Roland Flint, appointed Poet Laureate of Maryland in 1995, will read from his new collection of poems *Easy*.

Thursday, April 29

7:00 p.m. Borders-Columbia. Poet Blair Ewing, the recent winner of the 1999 Randall Jarrell Prize, *Continued on p. 7*

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The Baltimore Science Fiction Society

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***Poetry track hosted by the Lite Circle*

Are you a Pagan?

Do you practice Magick?

If so, I would love to hear from you. I am an anthropology graduate student studying contemporary Paganism and I am attempting to circulate a survey in the Pagan community in order to collect data. All replies totally confidential. Information will be used for academic purposes only...no ulterior motives. If you are interested, please send a SASE to: **Survey**, P.O. Box 5607, Baltimore, MD 21210. Web: www.bcpl.net/~pkinlock/survey.htm.

"Excuse Me, How Much Did It Cost You?"

by A. C. Crispin

Vice President, SFWA (Science-Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America)

Some time ago I did a book signing in a mall, and the strangest thing happened. I was sitting there with books heaped around me, and a man approached me and stood there looking diffident. I smiled at him and said, "Hi." This person was in his early 40's, perhaps, well-dressed, well-spoken, with his young son in tow. The kid grabbed a copy of *Rebel Dawn*, my newest Star Wars novel, and said, "Look Dad, Star Wars! Can I have it?" After the book was signed to the boy, the man cleared his throat. "I'm really interested in writing, too." After hundreds of book signings over the past 14 years, this is hardly a new comment. I smiled and nodded. "I...well, I have a couple of publishers who are very interested in publishing my book," the man continued. "So, I, uh...well, I wondered. Would you mind if I ask you how much it cost you to have these books published?"

If I hadn't been spending the last few months helping out Literariscams, I would have been surprised and horrified by his question. Instead, I handed him a copy of *Rebel Dawn*. "How much do you think it cost me to publish that book?" I asked. He hefted the book, riffled the pages. "Well, it's pretty long," he said. "Longer than mine. Uh...eight thousand dollars?" I gestured at the books in front of me. "What would you say if I told you that this publisher—Bantam—paid me to write these books? About twenty thousand dollars apiece. And I'll most likely earn royalties above and beyond that." The man could not have appeared more thunderstruck if I'd leaped up on my chair and done my Roseanne Barr imitation. "They paid you?"

"Yes, they did," I said. I waved at the books surrounding us in the bookstore. "All these authors got paid to write these books. Did you really think they all paid to get published?" He blinked. "Well, I knew they probably paid Stephen King and Grisham," he muttered. "But the rest...the new writers..." "Sir," I said, "money is supposed to come from the publisher to the author. Not the other way around. Not ever, unless you're wanting to publish something extremely specialized, like your family history, or a volume of your poetry or something. Writers are supposed to get paid for writing commercial books." Minutes later, I sent the gentleman on his way, armed with the Literariscams URL, and

an earnest entreaty to look up the page. I also cautioned him not to send his work to any publisher whose books he couldn't find in the average general-purpose bookstore.

This incident brought home to me how much harm the scam agents and publishers are doing to the once proud tradition of publishing. I realize that most of you who are reading this have done your research and know the pitfalls. But for those who are new to writing, I offer the following guidelines. Feel free to copy them and pass them along. If you follow them, you are unlikely to be rooked:

1. If an agent charges a fee, they are highly suspect. I don't care what they call it: reading fee, processing fee, contract fee, whatever...any kind of fee is bad. If an agent charges more than \$50.00, I suggest you run away. Agents who charge fees in the hundreds of dollars make their money off charging writers, not by selling their manuscripts to publishers. It's very likely that after you pay the large fee, the agent will never even submit your manuscript to a real publisher.

2. If an agent refers you to a "book doctor" be very wary. Any agent that says your ms. needs editing should provide you with a list of a number of independent editors, and then allow you to pick the one you want to use. There should be NO financial connection whatsoever between the agent and the independent editor.

3. If an agent refers you to a co-op or subsidy press, run away. No reputable agent will do that.

4. If an agent you've never heard of solicits your work, that's not a good sign. Real literary agents have to fight off clients, not go out looking for them. If an agent advertises via direct mail, the internet, or in writers' magazines, back off!

5. If an agent has an office in some out-of-the-way place like Bumpass, West Virginia, be very suspicious. Most real agents operate out of New York or California. There are exceptions, particularly on the east coast; but if Agent X from Bent Fork, North Dakota writes to you and begs to see your ms., chances are excellent he's a crook. Be smart!

6. Any reputable agent should be willing to provide you with a list of sales and clients. Go to a bookstore and verify that these books and authors exist. Check references. If an agent claims to be an AAR

(Association of Authors Representatives) member, go to the AAR site and look him/her up. Fake agents have lied about this before.

7. If an agent tells you you're brilliant, and your book is sure to be a bestseller, be wary. Real agents don't make statements like that—at least not to unknown authors.

8. Never pay a vanity press or subsidy publisher to publish your book. If you must get your book published and have exhausted all professional, commercial avenues, check into self-publishing with a reputable printing company. Many poets, for example, self-publish their books. Your money will go a lot further that way. Go to your local bookstore and get a book on self-publishing. Check a printer's references before you sign any contracts. You will not receive the distribution and other services normally expected of a publisher, but you will get the books—after they are printed they will be shipped to you. Be aware that most bookstores will not stock self-published books.

9. Having a poor agent is frequently worse than having no agent at all. If you can't find a reputable agent to submit your manuscript, go ahead and submit it yourself. Most sf and fantasy publishers will still read unagented manuscripts these days. Check out the market reports in the SFWA Bulletin or Speculations. Even the ones who say they won't may still read manuscripts from writers who impress them with a well-crafted, dynamic query letter.

So, to all you prospective writers out there...Never forget. If you're paying anyone to agent, publish, or edit your work, the money's going in the wrong direction, and, quite likely, you've fallen for a scam. You will end up losing money and gaining nothing. You deserve to be paid for your work! Becoming a writer is difficult, and requires a great deal of perseverance. As James Gunn once said, "Anyone who can be discouraged from becoming a writer should be discouraged." In other words, hang in there and don't expect a bed of roses. But people do "break in" every day, and that's the good news!

Here are some web sites that may prove helpful:

- literariscams.webjump.com
- SFWA (check [Writer Beware](http://www.sfwaweb.org) and [Predators and Editors](http://www.sfwaweb.org)): www.sfwaweb.org/

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LITE BYTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• We receive a calendar of events for children for the 27 branches of the **Enoch Pratt Free Library**. Here are a few examples of events in April. We urge parents to contact their local library for a schedule of events.

Canton Branch, 1030 S. Ellwood Ave., (410) 396-8548. Thursday, April 8, 10:30 a.m. "Preschool Storytime." Ages 3 to 5.

Govans Branch, 5714 Bellona Ave., (410) 396-6098. Wednesday, April 7 & 21, 10:30 a.m. "Preschool Storytime." Ages 2 to 5. Saturday, April 17, 2:00 p.m. "Celebrate Spring! Films & Crafts." Ages 5 to 12.

Hamilton Branch, 5910 Harford Rd., (410) 396-6088. Thursdays in April. 11:00 a.m. "Laptime Storytime." For two-year-olds and a caregiver. In April during regular library hours. Ages 5 to 12. Enter your favorite joke in a weekly drawing to become "Joker of the Week."

Herring Run Branch, 3801 Erdman Ave., (410) 396-0996. Monday, April 5 & 19. 10:30 a.m. "Preschool Stories & Crafts." Ages 3 to 5. Call to register. Saturday, April 24, 2:00 p.m. "Art Workshop" with John Neal. Ages 4 to 12. Call to register.

• **Marta Knobloch**, noted Baltimore poet and past *Artscape* award winner, now living on the Eastern Shore, writes that she had an essay and translations of Italian poetry published in the current issue of *Delos*. She was one of the visiting Maryland writers, along with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Henry Taylor, who visited Gunston School for its "Celebration of Books" on February 23. She will be reading with other area poets at Barnes & Noble in Towson on April 11 for the anthology *Beyond Lament: Poets of the World Bearing Witness to the Holocaust*, Northwest University Press, 1998, edited by Marguerite Striar. She is editing a soon-to-be-published anthology featuring Kent County writers titled *The Chester River Writers*.

• **Elisabeth Stevens** has her artwork on display in a New York exhibit which opened on February 5 and runs to May 30, 1999. The exhibit, entitled "Doubly Gifted: the Author as Visual Artist," which refers to an anthology of sixty-nine authors originally published in 1986, is at the Atelier A/E, 323 West 22nd St. There will be readings in New York and other East Coast cities by the poets who are in the show (Star Black, Edward Boccia, Albert Depas, Katherine Jackson, E. Stoepel Peckham and Ms. Stevens). To receive a list of reading times and dates or for information on the book, please call the Atelier at (212) 620-8103.

• There is a new cafe in town. It is located across from the Senator Theater at 5857 York Rd. **The Empire Cafe** is a cafe in the truest sense. It offers gourmet coffee and gourmet teas and pastries, along with appetizers, soups, salads and sandwiches. It also has unique dishes such as Vietnamese Beef Noodle Soup. To the artistic palate it is offering monthly art exhibits and film discussions. It hopes to schedule live music and poetry readings. The Empire Cafe is spacious, clean and comfortable. It is open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m.-midnight and on Sunday 10 a.m.-midnight. It has already become a favorite of some of the *Lite* staff.

• At a meeting on February 20 new officers were elected to the **Harford Poetry Society** Executive Staff for the 1999-2000 term: Donna Bolling, President; Carol Bindel, Vice-President; Betsy Wollaston, Secretary-Treasurer. Tom Chambers, the outgoing President, writes that he wishes to thank all who participated in the programs and events the past four years. He especially wants to thank Vonnie Crist for her tireless efforts for so many years and W. H. Stevens for her help and support as Vice President the past four years.

• "**Dear Old Patapsco**," an original, historical, musical drama written and directed by Debi Wynn, produced by Deborah Ing, premieres April 24 at 5:00 p.m. Staged within the dramatic stabilized ruins of the Patapsco Female Institute, 3691 Sarah's Lane, in historic Ellicott City, the drama features the early years of this once famous young ladies school. Set in the 1840s and 1850s, the dialogue reflects the political, social and educational challenges they faced. Subsequent performances are on Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. (May 1, 8, 15, 22; June 5, 12, 19) and on Fridays at 11:00 a.m. on May 7 and 14. Tickets are \$10 and \$8 for Seniors and Students. For more info, call (410) 465-8500. (Note—Group rates are available.)

• **The Columbia Festival of the Arts** will take place June 18-27. The box office opens May 3rd (410-715-3055). Some of the ticketed events are performances by Branford Marsalis, Christopher Parkening, Dayton Contemporary Dance, Doug Varone and Dancers, Michael Moschen, Roadside and Pregones Theatres. Free concerts, children's art activities and street performers are scheduled for June 18-20. Check the festival website: columbiainfestival.com.

• From March 6-June 6 the **Contemporary Museum** is presenting an exhibition of videos. The works will be screened continuously, 24 hours/7 days at Holliday Street Window Galleries, Baltimore Street Garage, 300 N. Holliday Street, downtown Baltimore. For more information about the Contemporary Museum and its exhibits, call (410) 333-8600.

• **The Baltimore Museum of Art** features three new opening exhibits. "Photographs, Drawings, and Collages by Frederick Sommer" (March 31-June 20, 1999); "Surrealist Art from the BMA's Collection" (March 31-June 20); and "Nouveau to Deco: Textiles of the Early Twentieth Century" (March 17-August 1, 1999). Also, the "10th Annual Baltimore Contemporary Print Fair" will be held 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 18. Admission \$10 (\$5 BMA members; \$8 seniors & students). For more info, call (410) 396-6345. For tickets, call (410) 235-0100.

• **The People's Poetry Gathering** is taking place in New York City April 9-11. Call 1-800-333-5982 x5 for information; and/or visit the website: www.peoplespoetry.org.

• **The Aran Islands International Poetry & Prose Festival** is August 14-21. Questions regarding this can be answered at (401) 874-7442. (Note—the area code is "401.") Visit the website: www.aranfestival.com.

• **School 33 Art Center** (Baltimore) and the Arlington Arts Center (VA) are pleased to announce a **collaborative exhibit** scheduled for Fall 1999. The deadline for entries is April 17. The competition is open to all visual artists in the Mid-Atlantic region. All media considered. Artists should submit slides which represent work created in the past three years. Entries must be postmarked or hand-delivered by April 17. For more info, call (410) 396-4641.

• The Midtown Academy is sponsoring a "**Night of Comedy**" as a fundraiser to benefit the school on Saturday, April 17. Showtimes are 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. The program features **Sheila "Strawberry" Gaskins**, a local comedienne who is quickly rising to fame in the Baltimore area. The shows will be held at the Maryland Institute in the Mt. Royal Station building located at 1400 Cathedral Street, across from the Lyric Opera House. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. For more info, call (410) 225-3257 or (410) 339-0659.

Also note that **Sheila "Strawberry" Gaskins** will be appearing at the Comedy Factory at Burkes Restaurant on Light and Lombard Sts. for four shows: Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10 at 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Join The Lite Circle

The Lite Circle, Inc. is a non-profit literary organization based in Baltimore. We rely on individual contributions to continue our literary activities, including Lite Circle Books (a small-press publishing house), our various poetry reading series, and the publication you are reading right now. If you care about the literary arts in Central Maryland, join us. All you have to do is fill out the form below and send it to The Lite Circle, Inc., P.O. Box 26162, Baltimore, MD 21210.

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The Andromedes

A solitary woman reclines on a hillside, studies the celestial fireworks display. The strange phenomenon halts her breath. She observes the mythical aerobatics of firedragons, their flares dripping like liquid light down the charcoal sky. As falling stars streak the heavens, air crackles with possibilities. Her soul throbs—What debris hurls earthward? Perhaps small particles of a shattered planet, or satellite leftovers on a freefall through the atmosphere, or superior sentient creatures sending mute advice, or, maybe, they're fragments of paradise.

Vonnie Winslow Crist

Hear the Wolves

The people came to hear the wolves.
They drove at night in a long caravan of cars
on a road cut for this purpose
deep into the Canadian forest,
escorted by rangers.
A camera crew went too.

When the people had parked
and lined up silent,
two rangers cupped their hands
and howled and howled.
Then all waited.

In the silence,
the people's faces ere intent.
I watched them through camera eye,
wondering as I waited:
why had they come?
To hear wolves...yes, of course.
But really, why had they come?

The the silence was broken by
wolf rejoinder.
One...then, more than one...then many.
Voices, wolf voices,
howling, piercing, clorious wolf voices.
Ringing in the night.
Echoing in the deep Canadian night.

It was then I could see
why the people had come.
I saw it in their faces,
in the joy on their faces.
They had come to hear singing.
Come to hear God singing.

Leslie Stewart

Fog

Sunlight through morning fog
softens like memory,
Rounding sharp edges,
details of the present wrapped
as a gift from my history.

Clarity moistened, outlines become watery,
drops coalesce, light scatters and bends,
Mystery mends the certainty of futures once grasped
and written in stone, now dissolving.

Morning fog inhaled like smoke,
mingles with inner waters, waiting for cold nights,
When unseen breath becomes beautiful again.

David Hufford

LITERARY NEWS

Reception & Reading for the 1997 Lite Circle Literary Contest

A reception and reading for winners of the 1997 Lite Circle Literary Contest was held Saturday, February 27 at the Northwood Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library on Coldspring Lane and Loch Raven Blvd. Four of the six winners attended. Unfortunately, Vonnie Crist and Marvia Keyser couldn't make it. *Lite* thought it would be nice to give a profile of the winners. (Note: the stories and poems were published in the June/July 1998 issue of *Lite*.)

Lalita Noronha-Blob, who is not a stranger to Maryland literary circles, won first place for fiction in 1997 for her story "Lady in White." It was a big year for her as she had won the *Artscape '97* award for fiction. She has had fiction and/or poetry published in the *Catholic Digest*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Crab Orchard Review*, the *Baltimore Sun*, and *Fodderwing*. Her poetry appears in an anthology called *A Thousand Worlds*. She teaches biology at the St. Paul School for Girls. She was born in Bombay, India; came to the U.S. in 1970; received a doctorate in microbiology at the St. Louis School for Medicine; worked at the National Institute of Health. She has two children. But what is most surprising about this attractive, winsome lady is that she only started writing in 1994.

Jim Lucas, the 2nd prize winner for fiction, lives in Roland Park; is retired; is married with three children and three grandchildren. In his working life he worked at Texas Instruments and Arthur Anderson in the accounting dept. He lived in California, Marin County, which begins on the north side of the Golden Gate Bridge across from San Francisco, a beautiful area of the country. But Jim Lucas says he loves Baltimore both for itself and because of its proximity to New York and Washington, D.C. No, not for the storms of politics but for the culture, especially the Smithsonian. His story "Streets," which he had entered into the contest, was his first published work.

Jennifer Shea won first prize for her poem "The Balcony." She received a Masters in speech pathology in May, 1998 from Loyola College. She currently works as a speech-language pathologist for Bowman Educational Services. She is very dedicated to her work. She lives in Mount Washington. Her winning poem was her first published work. She had a poem more recently in the February/March 1999 issue of *Lite*. Jennifer credits her teacher at Loyola College, Karen Fish, for her inspiration and craft. Ms. Fish, of course, is a nationally noted poet.

John O'Dell, the 2nd place winner for poetry for his poem "They Always Wore Hats," lives in Annapolis. He is married and has two children. He teaches English and French in Prince Georges County. In 1992 he had a book of poems, *Painting at Night*, published by Little Cove Press. His poetry has appeared in the *George Mason Review*, the *Baltimore Review*, the *Snake Nation Review* and at the Washington Writers Publishing House. John's other interests are jazz and hiking. He taught for seven years in Australia (1970-1977). His mother's side of the family was born in Australia. You may see the name "John O'Dell" in a journal or anthology in Australia, as he has had fiction published there.

DAN CUDDY

Where's the Paper?

"E-publishing? What's that?"

No, it's not publishing for the (E!) Entertainment Channel.

It is electronic publishing, the way future generations will read a large portion of their books—straight from the computer screen or hard copied from their printer. Both non-fiction and fiction are already available by download or disk—saving time, trees and space in the process. So why have so few people heard about e-publishing?

Because it's relatively new. Because it's rela-

tively intimidating, especially to those not yet fully comfortable on the computer. I still have to ask a lot of questions as I learn technology. My mother would never read an e-book (except mine, of course.) But my son will. He already spends most evenings in front of his computer; kids today spend hours in the classroom in front of these flickering screens. Consumers are already growing more comfortable ordering from the Internet, and by the time my son is an adult, it will be commonplace. E-publishing puts another product in front of all this potential purchasing power.

The established, reputable e-publishers, such as New Concepts and Hard Shell Word Factory, contract with an author to offer their book on disk or download form. The books are sold through the publisher's website as well as booksellers, including Amazon.com. Authors can create their own web pages and sell their books as well, or just link to a bookseller's site.

The book is edited, cover art is made, and the book is offered electronically. Authors have input concerning the cover art and blurbs, a privilege almost unheard of in print publishing. Many romance magazines, including *Romantic Times* and *Affaire de Coeur*, review e-books right alongside print books. And these books are capturing high ratings right along with their competitors. They're not just for romance. Mysteries, science fiction, fantasy and non-fiction books are currently for sale as electronic books.

Some skeptics believe that e-books are New York publishing rejects, and ask e-authors when they will write a 'real book.' The only validation to that belief is that e-publishers can publish stories that do not fit into a category or mold, so a rejected book, if well written, could find a home at an e-publisher. If the premise is unusual, I would encourage authors to try an e-publisher, because they have no predetermined slot to fit their books into. They can be unique. If an author can not sell her regency vampire time-travel set in World War II, an e-publisher may take a chance on the book. If they think it will sell. Also, many published authors have books being published electronically, including Diana Gabaldon and Becky Lee Weyrich. So, no, e-books are not merely rejects from the big houses. Bestsellers are already being made into e-books to take advantage of this growing market.

No one wants to see paper books go the way of the dinosaur, and I personally don't think that will ever happen. I sold my first book to New Concepts, but I still love the smell and feel of a new paper book. I do realize, however, that there's just not enough natural resources to make all the books that deserve printing. Much like audio books, electronic books offer another medium. It's comforting to know that if I want to read a certain type of book, and it's not being offered by a major house, I can find that type of story in a different format. An electronic one. And one that won't be retired from the shelves in a month.

As to be expected, there are companies out there who will take advantage of new authors, just like in paper publishing. Be ware of any e-publisher who asks for money from you—they should be paying you! Granted, most e-publishers do not offer

Continued on page 7

Need an event covered? Call News Editor
Dan Cuddy at (410) 882-4138.

SpotLite, continued from page 6
advances, but they will pay generous royalties, usually around 25% of each sale. A legitimate e-publisher will not ask you to pay set up charges, etc.

One more point on quality in e-publishing: Mary Wolf, publisher at Hard Shell Word Factory, recently announced the following figures on acceptances: Since Jan. '98, she has received over 1211 submissions. She considered 894 of these, and accepted only 64 for publication. This means of all submissions, only 7% will be published. So getting an e-contract is no 'slam-dunk.' She did acknowledge that among her submissions, the romance novels were generally of higher quality than those from other genres. Go RWA!

Below is a brief list of legitimate e-publishers and their addresses. Mary Wolfe's e-publisher page offers links to many royalty paying publishers. Visit these sites, and order a disk or two. You'll find a new variation on a favorite way to spend your money.

•New Concepts Publishing: www.newconceptspublishing.com

•HardShell Word Factory: www.hardshell.com
•Dreams Unlimited: www.dreams-unlimited.com

•Indigo Publishing: www.booktrain.com/indigo (offers elec. & paper publ.)

•Petals of Life: [/members.tripod.com/~PetalsOfLife/authors.html](http://members.tripod.com/~PetalsOfLife/authors.html)

•Neighborhood Press: [/members.aol.com/nppubs/index.html](http://members.aol.com/nppubs/index.html) (offers elec. & paper publ.)

•MountainView Publishing: www.whidbey.com/MountainView (Christian).

•For more royalty-paying e-publishers, check out Mary Wolf's page at: www.coredcs.com/~mermaid/epub.html

•PC World Today Magazine has a great article called: "E-Books: The End of the Gutenberg Era?" Check out: www.pcworld.com

•For an informative article listing the advantages and disadvantages of e-publishing, check out: "Why Sell Your Book to an Electronic Publisher?" by Karen Wiesner: www.eclectics.com/articles/ebooks2.htm

•To check out EPIC, the chapter of electronically published authors: www.eclectics.com/epic/members.html

You don't have to sit at your computer screen anymore to read your e-book! For info on handheld e-book readers: (Note—like other new technology, prices should decrease as the quality improves. At this time, most of the units are pricey and may read only certain formats.)

•The Rocket Book: www.nuvomedia.com

•The Millenium Reader: www.librius.com

•The Everybook: www.everybk.com

•The Softbook: www.softbooks.com

•Levenger's Catalog: www.levenger.com

And don't forget Amazon.com: www.amazon.com (try doing a "Book Search" by publisher, and enter New Concepts Publishing).

ROBIN BAYNE

Towson University Awards Literature Prize

The 1998 Towson University Prize for Literature was awarded to Ned Balbo for *Galileo's Banquet* and to Charles Marsh for *God's Long Summer* on February 11, 1999. Established in 1979 by Alice and Franklin Cooley, the Towson University Prize for Literature is awarded annually for a single book or book-length manuscript of fiction, poetry, drama or imaginative non-fiction by a Maryland writer under 40 years old. The gift of \$1500 was designed to enhance the knowledge and appreciation of contemporary literature. The prize is granted on the basis of literary and aesthetic excellence as determined by a panel of distinguished judges appointed by the university. The first award, made in the fall of 1980, went to the then up-and-coming novelist Anne Tyler.

"Balbo and Marsh provide excellent examples of the fine writing that Maryland's literary community is producing," said Clarinda Harris, one of the judges for the 1998 Prize and Professor of English at Towson University. "They are two authors whose writings will continue to influence readers for decades to come."

Ned Balbo grew up in Long Island, New York and holds degrees from Vassar College, the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. He teaches

at Loyola College in Baltimore and works as an academic dean for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. *Galileo's Banquet* is a poetical reflection on his own secret adoption and the revelations that followed.

Charles Marsh, Associate Professor of Theology and the Director of the Project on Theology and Community at Loyola College in Baltimore, was born in Alabama and spent his childhood in Mississippi. He is also the author of *Reclaiming Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Promise of His Theology*. *God's Long Summer* focuses on the civil rights battles during the summer of 1964 in Mississippi. Specifically, it addresses five activists with various positions on the civil rights issues and the reconciliation of their actions through their religious convictions.

SUSAN QUINN,
Towson University

Suzanne Vega: "In the Eye" at Bibelot-Canton

Take this language
Shake it well, subdue it
Hold it, keep it still.
Stop its wiggling.
Club it. Then
Gouge it, smooth it.
Shape, hollow it out.
Point it and make it sharp
Hollow, smooth, and round.

—Suzanne Vega, from *The Passionate Eye: The Collected Writing of Suzanne Vega*

On Thursday, March 11, singer/songwriter Suzanne Vega visited Bibelot-Canton as part of a tour for her new book *The Passionate Eye: The Collected Writing of Suzanne Vega*. At least 150 fans showed up to hear Ms. Vega read and perform, and they weren't disappointed. This fan arrived by 5:30 p.m. in order to get a good seat, and by the time Ms. Vega arrived, shortly after 7, there was standing room only. Ms. Vega's style, which some have attempted to classify as "minimalist" or "folk," does not fit into any particular box. *The Passionate Eye* is multi-layered, loosely thematic, without page numbers (so the reader can "just dip in," according to Ms. Vega), containing lyrics, poetry, stories, essays (and the occasional interview) on multiple topics seen from multiple perspectives—from the small world to the large world. Her words make the reader/listener see the familiar in an unfamiliar way, delighting and enlightening.

Ms. Vega alternated between reading and singing, accompanying herself on a guitar piped through an amplifier. Her voice has the same clear, lilting quality live as on her albums; unlike some singers, she does not need electronic enhancement to carry a tune. Reading selections included "On Masculinity" and "My Friend Millie," interspersed with signature songs such as "The Queen and the Soldier," "Tom's Diner," "Gypsy," "Marlene on the Wall" and "Neighborhood Girls." Many of her lyrics can be found in her book, along with related poems and thoughts, some dating from childhood. Following the reading, she signed copies of her book (and several albums) for a long but surprisingly fast-moving line of fans.

Suzanne Vega was born in Santa Monica, California but grew up in a variety of New York City neighborhoods. Street life is reflected in much of her work. She attended the New York School for the Performing Arts and later Barnard College, Columbia University, where she started out studying English literature but found herself drawn to music. Her self-titled album, *Suzanne Vega*, debuted in 1985. Her 1996 album, *Nine Objects of Desire*, highlights nine "objects of desire": "for Ruby [her daughter], MF [her husband], Lolita, the figure of Death, 3 men, 1 woman and a plum." Her latest album is *The Best of Suzanne Vega: Tried and True*.

For information on Suzanne, her current book tour, or ordering *The Passionate Eye* and other merchandise, visit the "Suzanne Vega WWWebsite" at: www.vega.net. Check out her discography, interviews, and some nifty photos, as well.

PATTI KINLOCK

Calendar, continued from p. 3

reads from work that will appear in his first book of poems *Fortune and Other Poems*, to be published later this year.

8:00 p.m. Join Dave Kriebel and the Lite Circle for a special edition of "Lite Verse" at Bibelot-Timonium, featuring Chester Wickwire reading from his new book of poetry *Longs Peak*.

Friday, April 30

7:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble Towson Circle. "Bare Print Open Mic." Open reading for prose, poetry, essays or memoirs. Registration begins at 7:00 pm.

9:00 p.m. "Shattered Wig Night." Music by The Assembly. Poetry readings by Blaster AI, Kate Margolis and Michelle Kearney. Maryland Art Place, 14Karat Cabaret. Donation \$5. For more info, call (410) 243-6888.

MAY

Sunday, May 2

4:00-6:00 p.m. Special reading at Minas, 733-35 S. Ann St. Poets Eleanor Cunningham and Jenny Keith will read their work. Vocalist Linda Richardson will sing. Free. For more info, call (410) 732-4258.

Wednesday, May 5

7:30 p.m. Benefit reading for *Function at the Junction #4*. Celebration and sale of book. Poets Batworth, David Beaudouin, Katherine Beem, Kim Carlin, John Mello, Bob Smith, Richard Sober, and Rupert Wondolowski read their work. Coffee Junction, 803 Frederick Rd. \$2 admission. For more info, call (410) 719-7717.

To Have Your Event Listed

please send information to:
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Baltimore, MD 21234
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Information received after the 15th of the preceding month may not be printed. We reserve the right to edit all material to fit space requirements.

Lite Reading: BOOK REVIEW

The Baltimore Review, Winter 1999. Barbara Diehl, Editor. Published by the Baltimore Writers' Alliance. Softcover, 118 pp., \$7.95.

A well-rounded collection of poetry and prose written by a mix of local writers and those from all over the U.S., *The Baltimore Review* continues to promote literary excellence.

Points of interest in this winter's issue include Katherine Beem's poem "Yard Sale," which paints an exquisite, succinct word picture of a mother as she haggles over the prices of her possessions and *Artscape '98* winner Laura Lynds' poem, "Running Away," in which a woman reflects on her life leaving the reader with a knowledge of her sadness and frustration.

Intelligently written prose also abounds in this edition, such as Brendon Short's story about a family in crisis going through therapy as told from the point of view of the little brother, and Sharon Goldner's "Norman's Great Beyond," a story of a boy who believes he is an alien with an amusing, surprising twist.

Other excellent pieces include local writers John Hayes, Barbara Lefcowitz, Lyn Lifshin, James O'Connell, Kwasi Ramsey, J. Mae Barizo and Marvin Solomon.

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