

# Lite

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to residents of  
Baltimore City,  
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metropolitan area.

**FEBRUARY/MARCH 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!

This issue was made possible with grants provided by the Maryland State Arts Council, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Arts and Culture, The Abell Foundation, NationsBank, and charitable contributions from Lite Circle members, including:

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## Names in Lite

**Robin Bayne** (*The Club and the Clock*) 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.

**John Goodspeed** (*Book Review*) lives in Easton, MD. He was a book and jazz critic for the *Baltimore Sunpapers* and from 1950-67 authored the five-days-a-week *Evening Sun* column "Mr. Peep's Diary." From 1974-86 he reviewed books weekly on Maryland Public TV's *Critic's Place*. His reviews have appeared in the *Easton Star-Democrat*, *Potomac Review*, *Baltimore's City Paper*, *Air & Space Magazine*, *Maryland Magazine*, *Denver's Bloomsbury Review*, and other publications.

**R.V. Gorski** (*The Pearls*) is a film maker, poet, and playwright. He was raised in Chicago where he learned about life. He has served in the U.S. Army and has worked by turns for a steel mill, a bank, and the federal government. He is married and has two daughters.

**Jacqueline Kaczynski** (*All the Poets*) unfortunately passed away in January, 1998. A Baltimore poet, she worked as a waitress and events coordinator at Adrian's Book Cafe in Fells Point.

**B.Z. Niditch** (*Diana*) is the artistic director of The Original Theatre. His work has appeared in *Columbia: A Magazine of Poetry and Art*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Hawaii Review*, *Le Guepard* (France) and *Jejune* (Czech Republic). *Crucifixion Times*, a new collection of poetry, was published by Aegina Press in 1998. A former Baltimorean, he now resides in Brookline, MA.

**Jennifer Shea** (*The Tinker's Daughter*) writes from Cockeysville, MD. She won first prize for poetry in *Lite's* 1997 Poetry Contest.

**Pearl Mary Wilshaw** (*Eternal Triangle*) is a widely-published poet from Center Moriches, NY.

# Lite

Baltimore's Literary Newspaper  
P.O. Box 26162  
Baltimore, Maryland 21210  
<http://LiteCircle.dragonfire.net>

*Editor and Publisher:* David W. Kriebel; *Managing Editor:* Patti Kinlock; *Director of Public Relations:* Dina Feinberg; *Advertising Manager:* Dina Feinberg; *Assistant Editors:* Dan Cuddy, Dina Feinberg; *Circulation Manager:* Rose Armentrout; *Art Director:* Vonnie Crist; *News Editor/Calendar Editor:* Dan Cuddy; *Book Review Editor:* Wendy Stevens; *Illustrators:* Diana Botteon, Vonnie Crist; *Literary Discussion Group Coordinator:* Donna Eason; *Literary and Distribution Staff:* Sam Beard, Dan Cuddy, Donna Eason, John Schweitzer; *Webmistress:* Patti Kinlock; *Photography:* Moira Lachen.

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# Literary February/March

A Bi-Monthly Potpourri of Literary Events

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

Monday, February 1, 8, 15, 22

**11:00 a.m.** Barnes & Noble-Towson Circle. Betty Walter leads a weekly meeting in writing memoir essays. Designed for those 50 and over, the group will spend time both writing and discussing their work.

Monday, February 8, 22

**7:00 p.m.** The Lite Circle Roundtable Critiquing Group meets at Pinocchio's Restaurant, 801 Frederick Rd., Catonsville (next to the Coffee Junction). All writers welcome. For more info, call (410) 242-5507.

Tuesday, February 2, 9, 16, 23

**5:00 p.m.** "Modern Masters" reading series presents novelist Lorrie Moore reading from her latest work. Loyola College, McManus Theatre, 4501 N. Charles St. For more info, call (410) 617-5024

**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, February 3

**7:00 p.m.** Bibelot-Canton. Frederick Reuss discusses and signs his comic first novel *Horace Afoot*, which examines the life of an articulate outsider as he walks the quiet streets of a small Midwestern town, making himself up from fragments of Latin poems, shards of ancient thought and a few scattered appearances before the county clerk.

Borders-Columbia. The Literature Book Group discusses Rebecca Wells' *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*.

**7:30 p.m.** "Function at the Junction" poetry series, the Coffee Junction, 803 Frederick Rd. Reading will be the staff of and contributors to the winter issue of the *Baltimore Review*. Open mike follows. Admission \$2. For more info, call (410) 719-7717. (Snow date: Feb. 10.)

Saturday, February 6

**12:00 p.m.** The Enoch Pratt Free Library Poetry Group meets in the Poe Room, Central Branch. This month's topic is the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks.

**8:00 p.m.** The Coffeehouse at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County (Rt. 22, across from Campus Hills Shopping Center) will feature an open reading of poetry and fiction, and an invitation for musicians to perform. For more info, call (410) 939-9522.

Sunday, February 7

**1:00-3:00 p.m.** Gimme Shelter "Month of Sundays" features poet Richard Lane. Open reading follows. Xando Coffee and Bar, 3003 N. Charles St. For more info, call (410) 889-7076.

Monday, February 8

**1:00 p.m.** Borders-Columbia. Local romance and mystery author Ellen Rawlings talks about the process of writing: putting the story together, dealing with writer's block, persevering, and getting your work published.

**7:00 p.m.** Borders-Columbia. "Open Mike Poetry." A creative writing exercise—a word or phrase will be posted. Participants will have 30 minutes to develop it. Then the creations will be presented to the group. \$25 gift certificate goes to the favorite presentation.

Tuesday, February 9

**6:30 p.m.** "The Windows On The Writing Life Reading Circles" will meet at the Central Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library to discuss *Passionate Sage* by Cynthia Ozick.

**7:30 p.m.** Bibelot-Woodlawn. Chris Bohjalian, author of the novel *Midwives*, an Oprah Book Club Selection, discusses and signs his new novel *The Law of Similars*.

Barnes & Noble-Towson Circle. "A Novel Idea," the modern and classic literature book club, discusses J. D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*.

Baltimore Writers Alliance General Meeting, Pickersgill Auditorium, Towson, 615 Chestnut Ave. Program: "In Love With Story" presented by Vonnie Winslow Crist. Public invited. For more info, call (410) 377-5265.

Wednesday, February 10

**7:00 p.m.** Borders-Columbia. Diana Loski reads, discusses and signs her book *The Chamberlains of Brewer*, the story of the 20th Maine's heroic bayonet charge on Little Round Top and Joshua Chamberlain at the Battle of Gettysburg.

**7:30 p.m.** Bibelot-Timonium Crossing. Former U.S. Congressman Robert Mrazek discusses and signs his debut novel *Stonewall's Gold*, a meticulously researched Civil War story embellished with romance, adventure and heroism in the tradition of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Thursday, February 11

**7:00 p.m.** Bibelot-Canton. "Black History Month Series." Editor C.P. Weaver discusses and signs *Thank God My Regiment an African One: The Civil War Diary of Colonel Nathan W. Daniels*.

Friday, February 12

**9:00 p.m.** Fells Point Creative Alliance. Lodge Night. "Chain Reaction." An evening of performance to benefit the journal *Link*, hosted by Cindy Rehm. An anti-Valentine's Day evening looking at the darker side of love. Margaret's Cafe serves \$6 dinners beginning at 7:00 p.m.. The Lodge, 244 S. Highland Ave. Donation \$4 (\$2 CA members). For more info, call (410) 276-1651.

Saturday, February 13

**1:00-3:00 p.m.** Bibelot-Timonium Crossing. Writing Workshop, sponsored by *Late Knocking* literary magazine. Poet and fiction writer Barbara Diehl will lead "Facets of Feeling—Creative Ways

to Write About Love." Please bring pen, paper and imagination. For more info, call (410) 308-1888 ext. 7.

**2:00 p.m.** Bibelot-Canton. "Black History Month Series." Howard Ball discusses and signs his biography *A Defiant Life: Thurgood Marshall and the Persistence of Racism in America*.

Sunday, February 14

**1:00-3:00 p.m.** Gimme Shelter "Month of Sundays" features poets Alan Barysh and Carmen Reddin in "Love and Revolution". Open Mike follows. Xando Coffee and Bar, 3003 N. Charles St. For more info, call (410) 889-7076.

**3:00 p.m.** "The Last St. Valentine's Day Marathon Poetry Reading of the Century" at the Maryland Institute, Mt. Royal Station Building. For more info, call (410) 225-2350.

Tuesday, February 16

**7:30 p.m.** Barnes & Noble-Towson Circle. Award-winning poet and freelance writer Bruce A. Jacobs will lead a frank discussion of his new book *Race Manners: Navigating the Minefield Between Black and White Americans*.

Bibelot-Woodholme. "Black History Month Series." In his autobiography *Into the Tiger's Jaw: America's First Black Marine Aviator*, Frank Peterson discusses his unique place in history.

Bibelot-Timonium Crossing. "Memoir Book Discussion." *New York Press* columnist Jim Knipfel discusses and signs *Slackjaw*, his darkly comic memoir about a life overrun with a slew of troubles including a rare genetic disease that leads to blindness.

Wednesday, February 17

**7:30 p.m.** Barnes & Noble-Towson Circle. Dr. Linda Rabben, an anthropologist whose work in Brazil introduced her to the indigenous people of the Amazon and their struggles, will speak about her book *Unnatural Selection: The Yanomani, the Kayapo, and the Onslaught of Civilization*.

Barnes & Noble-Towson Circle. "The Write Stuff," the reading and writing book club, discusses *The House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende.

Thursday, February 18

**7:30 p.m.** Bibelot-Woodholme. Instructors from Johns Hopkins University's Odyssey Writing  
*Continued on p. 5*

## 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.

# The Club and the Clock

by  
Robin Bayne

Illustration by Vonnice Crist

"I'm not a tease."

"Tees. Golf tees, golf balls. Need to find a glove, too." The joke had grown stale, as if they had puffed it out one too many times and the residue hung clung in the air like tar. He didn't seem to notice, though, as his attention was directed to the assortment of equipment at his feet. She loved his size ten feet in their brown and white saddle shoes; loved the smell of the leather polish he used.

Diane saw she'd lost him, at least for the moment. Typical for any Sunday morning, as predictable as the automatic timer on her coffee maker. Typical as the clucking cuckoo noise from that darned clock, scratching the noon announcement instead of singing. Who had bought that thing, anyway? Otherwise, her traditional living room remained silent, day and night.

Predictably, he asked her to come with him. What would he do if she agreed to go one Sunday?

She gave her usual response. "No, thanks. I'll wait for Tim." She sipped her coffee, strong but comforting, steaming in a green ceramic mug.

He nodded, head bobbing like a golf ball settling onto the head of a tee. Just as if it were waiting to be smacked, almost shivering with anticipation. With one hand he smoothed thick velour headcovers onto each club. "Thanks, hon. I appreciate it, as always. Love ya'—" His lips barely brushed her forehead before he was gone.

Watching his backside, she tried to picture him in a Scottish kilt, like one of the original golf players would have worn. It was still a very attractive bottom, but instead she conjured up Mel Gibson as he looked in *Braveheart*. Now that man was unpredictable.

"Mom," Tim said, "thanks for waiting around. I brought Carla." He paused, then reached into the refrigerator for a Pepsi cola.

"Where is she? I've been dying to meet her," she said, smiling at her stepson. He had grown even taller, she was sure, since his last trip home.

"In the car. Just wanted to make sure you were home." He grabbed another bottle and closed the avocado paneled door. "Dad playing golf?"

"How'd you guess?" She knew her answer sounded flip, but the irritation racing inside her veins felt better for it.

Tim grinned, and went to get his friend. His twill pants crisped at the pleats. He looked impressive for a college student, clean cut with short hair that stayed clean and soft. She followed him through the back door, stepping barefoot onto grey patio flagstones. Tim helped a blonde pixie from his white '65 Mustang.

He introduced her as Carla; he was proud, in love, if her memory of that look served correctly.

Nancy extended her hand to the pixie, an adorable girl of nineteen or twenty in a white sundress with little flowers. She even shuffled her tiny feet.

"Would you like to come in?" she asked, watching the young people pull tops off of their sodas.

"Can't stay. Carla has a golf lesson in a little while, and then we have term papers to work on."

Nancy nodded, forcing a smile. "Well, it was nice to see you for a few minutes." God, she hated how she sounded like her own pathetic mother, grateful for any family time at all.

Carla asked to use the bathroom, so Nancy walked her into the house, through the kitchen. She wondered if the pixie thought Tim's home was large, or small. Could the girl reach the uppermost cabinets at her parents' home? She waited for her to return, rubbing the back of a vinyl chair, swiveling it left to right under her fingers.

"Come with us," Carla said, her pert nose leading the bounce into the room. "Come watch my lesson. It will be a riot—it's my first one ever."

Nancy smiled. The girl was sweet. Perhaps, if Tim didn't mind, she would go along, strictly as a silent observer. After all, she didn't understand what pulled her husband to the time-consuming game. Then, maybe she'd stay later and have lunch at the club. They predictably served a mouth watering tuna melt.

"So, what do you think?" Tim asked, passing time while Carla changed into shorts. Nancy had been amused at the girl's excitement over a brand new, Callaway shirt Tim had bought her. To Nancy the shirt was dull, not trendy or sexy or young.

"I like her. She's cute."

Tim nodded, cleaning one of his fancy clubs with a brush. They waited outside the Pro Shop, between carts, caddies and the putting green.

"Thanks for bringing me," she went on, always insecure about the feelings her stepson held for her. There was so little history between them.

His smile was all the answer she needed. "No problem, Mom."

It felt good to hear those words, made her

feel warm in her gut. Had it been for Tim or for her husband she'd gotten married?

With a jerky motion, Tim slammed his driver back into the leather bag, turned and stood in front of her. His face turned white, grim replacing grin. "Let's go wait in the clubhouse," he said, and she could tell he was looking past her. At what?

She whirled before he could stop her, stomach clenched in dread of the revelation she'd always expected. It was him, Tim's father, and her, Tim's mother, sharing the joys of the nineteenth hole, arms wrapped around each other like old time lovers. Which, of course, they were.

"I'm sorry," he said, voice a whisper.

She patted his arm, while he mumbled something about the embrace probably being innocent.

"It's okay, Tim. I've needed to get out on Sundays myself, you know, develop some of my own interests. I've been considering it for a while." She kept watching, unable to drag her attention from the couple. Her breath stuck in her lungs, hard to draw, like the time little Billy next door had swung a golf club across her windpipe. How could she explain that she was stunned, yet not surprised at all?

"I know things might change between you and Dad," Tim said, his gaze also fixed on his natural parents. "But you and I, we'll stay the same, right?"

Nancy sighed a little sob. He had the same fears she harbored, and relief washed through her, making her stomach weak as if someone had squeezed dish soap into her coffee. Thank goodness, she had only lost one man today.

A masculine throat cleared behind her. "Would you like me to arrange a golf lesson for you, Mrs. Williams?" The tanned pro had come up behind them, leading Carla, who looked adorable in her new outfit.

"I think I just had one, thank you."

At midnight the cuckoo scratched at his wooden house, and Nancy recalled it was his first wife that had bought the stupid thing. Although her life had fragmented twelve hours earlier, Nancy was dry-eyed and in control of her emotions. Her windpipe had recovered. She brewed coffee and sipped it, the bitter taste almost appropriate.

Of course, he had an explanation. And it made sense, she could have accepted it and went on with her life. He didn't care enough to lie. Perhaps she would have taken him back. Had someone asked her last month, she would have predicted her own forgiveness. But not now. It was time to step out of character. She had a fleeting image of that cuckoo meeting a seven-iron.

Under her bare feet, a tee poked into her skin. No, she was no tease, but he had teased her with promises of life-long love and a country club life, and not fulfilled either dream. No, that wasn't quite right, he had given her a son, and a new understanding of course etiquette.

Diana

You hothouse  
of frenzy  
drawing in young men  
young as underdone steak.  
They have heard about you  
Diana  
in your large black stole  
outside the movie house  
carrying your clothes  
of innumerable colors  
dressed for going steady  
on a weekend  
available to those  
who have the cash  
to satisfy even the society party  
for four at the Ritz  
taking on each one  
here curtained by perfumes  
all the Karma Sutra love  
you inherited from the goddesses  
lying on a blush pink bed  
by the little set-up of Shiva  
you bring wherever you go  
from Athens to St. Petersburg.

B.Z. Niditch

## Eternal Triangle

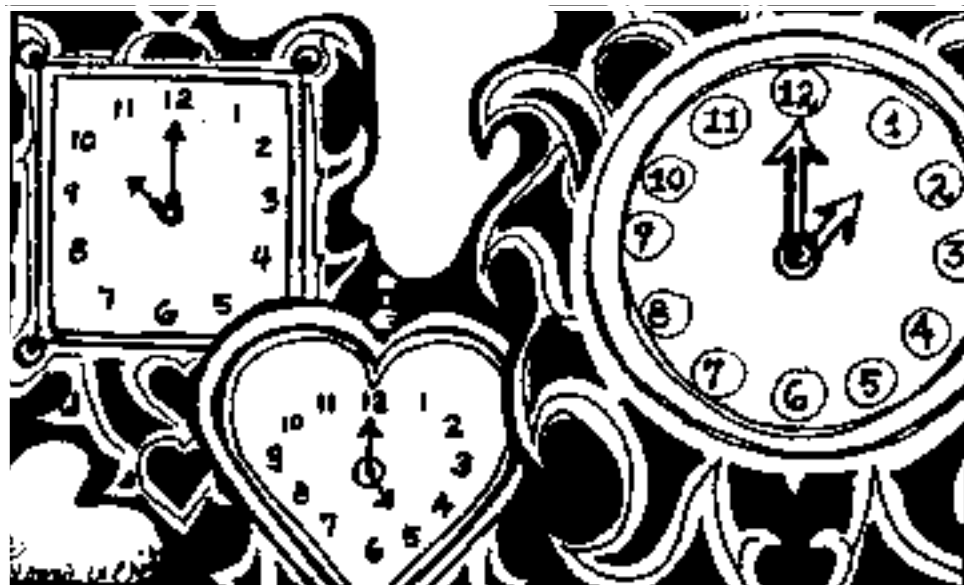
Two triangles  
met in a pawn shop  
positive vibrations evident.  
Equilateral  
former dude ranch dinner bell,  
broad-based, mellow-toned,  
was tarnished steel, while  
Isosceles  
svelte, polished brass  
bell-tingling trinket  
was strictly ornamental.

Respective families  
frowned on the relationship, but  
the triangles persisted  
ignored incongruent backgrounds  
searched for features in common,  
sides and angles apparent.  
Love blossomed into an  
Eden-perfect union...until

Scalene  
physically challenged  
happened into the area.  
Naive equilateral  
enamored of unusual leanings  
abandoned his first love,  
begot illegitimate acute offspring.

In a blinding-red rage  
Isosceles  
yet another single parent  
rusty hacksaw in hand  
amid hot, flying filings  
severed Equilateral's base  
at just the right angle  
causing him to be  
donated as a high-pitched  
percussion instrument  
of dubious distinction  
to a traveling circus.

Pearl Mary Wilshaw



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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](http://www.bcpl.net/~pkinlock/survey.htm).

## Lite Reading: BOOK REVIEWS

*Fighting for Fairness: the Life of Hall of Fame Sportswriter Sam Lacy.* Written by Sam Lacy with Moses J. Newson. Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers. Illustrated. Index. 262 pp. \$29.95.

Sam Lacy grew up in Washington, D.C., played semi pro baseball, coached municipal basketball, attended Howard University and performed assorted odd jobs before becoming a professional sportswriter. Sports fans and civil rights activists will agree he made a good decision and will enjoy every syllable of *Fighting for Fairness*, as it includes numerous unknown anecdotes and details of a life that makes for very interesting reading.

Along with Moses J. Newson, who has been a reporter, executive editor of the *Afro-American* and Pulitzer Prize juror, Lacy tells his story in this worthy book.

Lacy, 95, has been "fighting for fairness" for Afro-American athletes for almost 65 years, most of which were spent as sports editor and columnist for the Baltimore *Afro-American* newspaper. As the book reports, Lacy has argued longer, more persistently and more effectively than any contemporary sports journalist, black or white, against racism and segregation that prevailed for decades in U.S. sports, courts and legislatures.

As a result of his efforts, he has received many awards given by sports, journalism and academic establishments, including the Associated Press Editors' Red Smith Award and the United Negro College Fund's Journalism Legends Award. Plus, he was inducted into the "writers' wing" of the Baseball Hall of Fame this last year.

During his career, Lacy has covered the careers of many black athletes including that of Jackie Robinson, who later became his personal friend. Moreover, he has covered numerous sporting events, including six Olympic games.

Much more is covered in this informative and historic biography—a must read for those who are interested in the chronicles of Afro-American sports and in the progression of the civil rights movement.

JOHN GOODSPEED

*Songs of Myself; Episodes from the Edge of Adulthood.* Diane Scharper, Editor. Baltimore, MD: Woodholme House Publishers. Softcover. 270 pp. \$18.95.

Diane Scharper, who is an editor, writer, teacher and poet, has captured the essence of what makes her young students tick in this anthology of memoirs written by her freshmen English students at Towson University.

The book, which is divided into thematic sections such as "High School," "Illness," and "Family," gives the reader a sense of organization and continuity. In addition, it's a fast read because of changing writing styles, diverse stories, and, in Judith Paterson's words in the forward, "intense experiences."

In *Songs of Myself*, the reader is given the opportunity to see life experiences through the eyes of young adults and how these young people have dealt with their joys and

challenges.

Several stories reach out and grab the reader, such as the story of a girl's transformation when she gets plastic surgery; a young man's story about the death of his father; another girl's story of struggle and anguish as she gives up her baby for adoption and a young man's story of a summer gone awry in Ocean City.

A truly enjoyable and beautifully edited volume, the selected memoirs, written by young adults who live here in Baltimore, give the literary world hope that there is a wonderful pool of talent out there just waiting to be published and read.

The college generation has a lot to say and Scharper has successfully drawn it out of them for everyone to enjoy.

W.H. STEVENS

*Pasta Poetics 1998; Recipes and Poetry by Baltimore Poets.* Edited by Matt Hohner. Baltimore, MD: Privately Funded. Spiral bound. Softcover. \$6.

*Pasta Poetics 1998* is a unique project taken on by editor Matt Hohner to both heighten our attention to the plight of Baltimore's homeless and to raise funds for Beans and Bread Soup Kitchen in Baltimore.

At a modest price, the proceeds go to the soup kitchen and the reader gets treated not only to good poetry, but to wonderful recipes to savor which were contributed by the poets. Featured area poets include Katherine Beem, Vonnie Winslow Crist, Dan Cuddy, Steve Cunningham, Judy De Craene, Blair Ewing, Matt Hohner, Rosemary Klein, Felicia Morgenstern, Barbara Simon, Ron K. Williams, and Kim Wilmot-Weidman.

A book worth the read and well worth the price, editor Hohner aptly says it all: "Read some poetry. Have some cake. Help others in need."

W.H. STEVENS

*Three Seasons.* Poetry by Areen Armenian. Paramus, NJ: Vehart Publishing House. Softcover. 114 pages. \$15.

Currently one of Baltimore's most pleasant literary secrets, *Three Seasons* by the late Areen Armenian has already struck a chord in the hearts of poetry lovers both here and abroad.

Due to be translated into Japanese and now in use in classrooms to inspire children to write in Canada, *Three Seasons* has won awards in children's literature and has won praise from many reviewers throughout the U.S.

Areen, a native of Armenia who came to live in Baltimore in 1986, began writing at age nine until her death at 15 from complications of leukemia. A former student at Ridgely Middle School, her beautiful work has a diary-like quality offering readers words of hope, innocence and compassion. Such lines as "each season sings its own sweet song," ("Seasons"); "the wind dances to its own whistle," ("Autumn Has Come"); and "be brave, be strong and always have an opinion," ("Peer Pressure") reveal Areen's strength and her love of life. It is ironic that in this young girl's own words she tells us, "do not mourn forever," and that her work will continue to inspire such joy in the years following her premature death.

*Three Seasons* is available at Bibelot, Minas Cafe and Adrian's Books and has a website at [www.imec.com/threeseasons](http://www.imec.com/threeseasons).

W.H. STEVENS

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## Lite: Baltimore's Literary Newspaper Guidelines for Writers

1. *Lite* is a bi-monthly publication featuring art, literature, and book reviews. Formerly a quarterly magazine, we are now a free tabloid publication carrying one story and several poems per issue. We seek to give emerging writers and artists the opportunity to reach a broad, literate audience, and to keep our readers informed of literary events in Central Maryland. *Lite* is distributed in the Baltimore area and Central Maryland, with a press run of 10,000 copies. We also publish book-length manuscripts in cooperation with authors under the imprints "Lite Circle Books" and "Sunrise Press."

2. *Lite* holds one-time publication rights to all material accepted for publication. All other rights remain the property of the author. Terms of payment: 5 copies of issue in which submission appears.

3. All material submitted to *Lite* must be on plain 8-1/2" x 11" paper, double spaced, type-written or computer printed, with no handwritten editing or other marks anywhere on the document. Notes concerning the copy may be made in legible handwriting on accompanying separate sheets. Copy must include the author's name, address and telephone number on the first or last page; for multiple simultaneous submissions, each work must be a separate document, each with the author's name, address and telephone. Please include short bio. We will also accept documents on disk created in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word. Copy submitted in formats not listed here will not be reviewed.

4. Word limits—Poetry: generally no more than 30 lines, but up to 50 lines may be accepted for poems in stanza, section, or any divided format; Fiction: 1,000 to 4,000 words (longer pieces may be used in serialized form); Humor: 300-1,000 words. Reviews: 300 words. Due to the enormous amount of material we receive, response time averages 6-12 months.

5. *Lite* reserves the right to do all editing appropriate to maintain grammar, stylistic consistency, and standard punctuation without advance notification to the author. We suggest that deliberate deviations from standard grammar and spelling be noted on a separate sheet to avoid editing problems. *Lite* will do everything possible to advise writers in advance of publication of any proposed changes which may affect the author's meaning or stylistic integrity; writers may withdraw their manuscripts from consideration should they conclude that proposed changes are unacceptable, provided notification is made within three days of notice of proposed changes.

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7. If material is rejected, submissions will not be returned unless a SASE of suitable size with sufficient postage is provided.

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SWM, 30's ISO SWF, late 20's-early 30's, n/s, nm with warmth, beauty, intelligence, integrity, and creativity for possible LTR. I'm 5' 10", br/br and I've been told I'm good looking. I enjoy poetry, reading, exercise, scintillating conversation, shared intimacies. Please write and show me the kind of woman you are. Photo appreciated. Code 002.

Calendar, continued from p. 3

Program read their original work: novelist and filmmaker Fabienne Marsh and poet Jane Satterfield.

Friday, February 19

7:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble-Towson Circle. Writers whose work appears in the winter edition of *The Baltimore Review* will read their poetry and fiction. An Open Mic follows.

8:00 p.m. "Lite Verse at Bibelot: Romance and Love." Bring your special Valentine to hear poetry by Dina Feinberg, R.V. Gorski, Patti Kinlock, and David Kriebel. Open reading follows. For more info, call (410) 719-7792. Bibelot-Timonium.

Saturday, February 20

1:00-3:00 p.m. The Lite Circle hosts "Poetry in the Shade," open reading series at Something Special Coffee Shop, 504 Main St., Laurel. All are invited to read or just listen. For more info, call (410) 719-7792 or (410) 889-1574.

2:00 p.m. Reading and book signing with Paula Woods, author of *Inner City Blues*, at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Dundalk Ave. Branch, 912 Dundalk Ave. For more info, call (410) 396-8547.

Sunday, February 21

1:00-3:00 p.m. Gimme Shelter "Month of Sundays" features poet Marc Colasurdo. open mike follows. Xando Coffee and Bar, 3003 N Charles St. For more info, call (410) 889-7076.

2:00 p.m. Reading and book signing with Dr. Richard I. McKinney, author of *Mordecai—The Man and His Message; The Story of Mordecai Wyatt Johnson*. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Branch, Poe Room.

4:00 p.m. Chester Wickwire reads, discusses and signs his collection of poetry *Longs Peak*. Johns Hopkins University, 3300 N. Charles St., at the Glass Pavilion. For more info, call (410) 825-8949.

Monday, February 22

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Timonium Crossing. "Philosophy Book Discussion." Discussion of Dostoyevsky's *Notes From Underground* facilitated by Ted Hendricks and Lisa O'Shea.

7:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble-Towson Circle. Chaplain Emeritus of Johns Hopkins University and acclaimed civil rights activist Chester Wickwire will read from his newly published and highly praised collection of poetry *Longs Peak*.

Tuesday, February 23

7:00 p.m. Borders-Columbia. Robert Hemphill discusses and signs his book *Platoon: Bravo Company*.

7:30 p.m. Bibelot-Woodholme. Mark Hertsgaard made a round-the-world odyssey in 1991-1997. In *Earth Odyssey* he aims to show that Earth's ecological crisis is real and deepening. Slide presentation and book signing.

Wednesday, February 24

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Canton. Martha McPhee, author of *Bright Angel Time*, kicks off the "Bibelot-Book Club Series" with a discussion of her novel about dislocation in the 1970s.

Thursday, February 25

6:30 p.m. Lecture by Harriette Cole, author of *How to Be: Contemporary Etiquette for African Americans*, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Branch, Wheeler Auditorium. Reception and book signing follows in the Poe Room.

7:00 p.m. Bibelot-Canton. "An Evening With the Maryland Poetry Review: New Issue, New Voices Series." Poets Bill Jones, Elizabeth Poliner and Martin Galvin will read from their work. Open

reading follows.

Bibelot-Timonium Crossing. Retired U.S. Navy captain Bill Harlow discusses and signs his novel *Circle William*, a tale of tangled political webs, military intrigue and suspense.

Saturday, February 27

10:15 a.m. The "Book Discussion Group" at the Enoch Pratt Central Library will meet in the Poe Room. This month's book is George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. For more info, call (410) 396-5487.

1:30-4:30 p.m. The Lite Circle hosts a reception and reading for winners of the 1997 Lite Circle Literary Contest at the Pratt Library, Northwood Branch, 4420 Loch Raven Blvd. (Loch Raven Blvd. and Coldspring Lane). Fiction: Lalita Noronha, 1st prize; Jim Lucas, 2nd prize; Vonnie Crist, 3rd prize. Poetry: Jennifer Shea, 1st prize; John O'Dell, 2nd prize; Marvia Keyser, 3rd prize. Refreshments. Free. For more info, call (410) 889-1574 or (410) 719-7792.

Sunday, February 28

1:00-3:00 p.m. Gimme Shelter "Month of Sundays" features poet Christine Hohmann. Open mike follows. Xando Coffee and Bar, 3003 N Charles St. For more info, call (410) 889-7076.

2:00 p.m. Bibelot Woodholme. Jeffrey Taylor discusses and signs his travel book *Siberian Dawn*.

Borders-Columbia. "Black Voices." The discussion group considers James Weldon Johnson's *The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man*.

Reading and book signing with Farai Chideya, author of *The Color of Our Future*, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Forest Park Branch, 3023 Garrison Blvd. For more info, call (410) 396-0942.

"The Black Panther Party Reconsidered." Join Dr. Charles E. Jones, author of *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered*, Paul Coates of Black Classic Press, and other panelists for an afternoon of history and discussion. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Branch, Poe Room.

4:00 p.m. WordHouse Salon at Minas. Lenett Nefertiti Allen and other poets TBA will read. \$3 donation requested.

MARCH

Monday, March 1

7:30 p.m. Borders-Towson. "Meter's Running" presents Open Mike Night. Hosted by Chris Wolf. Participants are invited to read for up to 5 minutes. Limit 10. Register (required) at 1st floor information desk.

8:00 p.m. "Mary Gaitskill and Peter Trachtenberg: The Isabel Kellogg Thomas Lectureship in English" presents a fiction and creative nonfiction reading featuring Gaitskill's third book of fiction *Because They Wanted To* and Trachtenberg's memoir *Seven Tattoos*. Critique Room, Meyerhoff Arts Center, Goucher College, 1021 Dulany Valley Rd., Towson. For more info, call 410-337-6333.

Wednesday, March 3

7:30 p.m. "Function at the Junction" poetry series, the Coffee Junction, 803 Frederick Rd. Kathy Magnan, Barbara DeCesare and Kevin Thornton will read their work. Open mike follows. Admission \$2. For more info, call (410) 719-7717. (Snow date: March 10.)

To Have Your Event Listed

please send information to: Dan Cuddy, Calendar Editor 41 Odeon Ct. Baltimore, MD 21234 Tel. (410) 882-4138

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.

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 Tinker's Daughter

With hair as wild as fire and the confidence  
of youth, she climbs the hill—

a rock, wet with sea.

Mist from the violet moors hangs  
above her head like a royal crown.

The daily harvest of peat  
weighs her down like the tangled heather  
at her bare blackened feet.

Buttercups—like microscopes  
examine the rich soil searching for  
teh connection between light and life.

An admirer on the slated roof of the  
local pub steals this sight as he  
hides amongst the mottled coloring of moss—  
his sun thickened skin and weathered clothes,  
the perfect camouflage.

Tired of the bottle, he waited still with awe  
for the beautiful glimpse of the tinker's daughter.

In his solitude, the silent watcher imagines  
joining this enchanted being  
the way the stream runs down the edge  
of the jutting cliff and links—continuously  
to the waves that wipe clean the beach  
with each tide.

Jennifer Shea

## All the Poets

All the poets weren't crazy you see  
they were all divine just like me—  
In all the layers of words they heard  
every love me make me hate me  
they walked down the liquid path  
the world in all its splendor  
the world in all its wrath—

Jacqueline Kaczynski

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# LITERARY NEWS

## Poetry or Fiction or an Essay?

When you get the urge to write, what form comes to mind? Do you scratch off a letter to the editor to criticize Clinton's behavior or the Republicans' witch hunt? Do you think in generalities? Abstract arguments with a concrete illustration here and there to prove your point? Is your world one of linear logic? Or are you more likely to think in images? Do you see Clinton's silver hair and the narrow slits of his eyes as he tries to become sincere? Do you see the little rodent-like Republicans gather behind a microphone? Do you watch them twitch their noses as one pours forth a deluge of sincere outrage into the unlucky microphone of the day? Do you watch with glee as James Carvill imitates a chimpanzee on "Meet the Press?" Or are you more apt to follow the nuance of the plot, the pace of the narrative? You think in terms of events, of cause and effect, of turning points, of climaxes. Do you see the interaction of the characters involved, Monica Lewinsky, Hilary Clinton, Ariana Huffington and Cokie Roberts?

Would you write the story of the face to face confrontation of Monica and Hilary in an oval room, if not the oval office itself? How would you set up the confrontation? Does that interest you? Would you put corners in the room so that someone is cornered?

Do you think you are using the right form for what you have to say? If you love telling stories, is poetry really the way to go? Bob Cooperman, who was an Asst. Editor of the *Maryland Poetry Review* for a number of years, built whole books about a character and a story.

If you use poetry rather than prose, why? Poetry implies concision, precision, a rhythmic language, a display of pyrotechnic imagery. Poetry, in the modern sense, not the Shakespearean, concentrates on language. A short story is more geared to character, plot, action. A writer can be more natural in a story, can develop the situation and the characters to a far greater extent than in a poem, unless of course, like Bob Cooperman, one writes a series of poems that act as a room of mirrors showing the characters and action from many angles.

The great problem for any writer with imagination is the problem of overwriting. A kitchen or a garden is described down to the six-legged walk of the smallest ant. A murder may be taking place but the reader is lost in the petals of the gladioli, or perhaps the catsup on the meatloaf in the refrigerator is congealing to a cool paste as the sound of the scream is muffled by the closed refrigerator door, and the words to describe the unwashed inside of the refrigerator door. We are not writing Robbe-Grillet novels are we? Overwriting is a curse. How many times have you picked up a poem and had the rhyme knock the air out of the passion the poet felt? Intellectually you appreciate the poet's experience but the poem is written in a god-awful villanelle. The recurring lines bludgeon you over the head with the artificiality of the poem. If there was something that the poet felt in his or her heart, felt intensely, shouldn't the language attempt to sound out the intensity? If the poem is only an exercise, okay! But readers usually want genuine experience rather than exercises. A reader can do his or her own exercise if inclined.

Perhaps the poem shouldn't be a poem at all but a story or an essay.

What determines the form? The experience that the writer wants to put into words! Admittedly this is a vague pronouncement. An experience can be written up in any of the genres but the form will change the experience. A poem might emphasize a symbolic object or a swirl of syllables that somehow approximate the intangible emotion of the poem. A prose story emphasizes the events and characters and fleshes out the scenario where a poem may only hint, may only release a wisp of imagery which suggests but does not delineate the inside of a character's head. An essay can be like a story in that it can contain anecdotes but the ideas are dominant. All of us have experienced these forms of writing as readers but have we experienced them as writers? I suggest that we take that poem which dissatisfies us and write it as a story or as an essay. We should ask ourselves, how does the change of form affect what we want to say?

DAN CUDDY

## An Interface With Poetry: The Baltimore Choral Arts Society Pre- sents "An All American Afternoon"

Despite the classroom approach—read and discuss to "find the meaning"—poetry is first and foremost designed to be heard. Thus the current wave of performance poetry and poetry readings take the medium back to its roots—the tradition of scop and balladeer.

What we ignore, however, is that much of the poetry locked into the anemic anthologies we study in high school and college "survey" courses can come alive if we listen to it. The November 8 performance by the Baltimore Choral Arts Society of works by Walt Whitman, Edna St. Vincent Millay and Robert Frost was both an eye and ear opener. Preceded by a discussion, "Lift Every Voice: Reflections on Setting Poetry to Music," the performance in Goucher's Kraushaar Auditorium brought the poets' works to life in a way that I, a slightly tin-eared poet, had not anticipated.

Amy Bernstein, a member of the Choral Arts Society, was responsible for bringing together five Baltimore-area poets to offer insight into the effect of music on a poem. Moderated by Laurie Smith Kaplan, the pre-concert discussion featured performance poets Linda Joy Burke and Ron Williams, Frost scholar Ted Hendricks, and Michael Fallon and Barbara Simon, editors of *Maryland*

*Continued on page 7*

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

SpotLite, continued from page 6

Poetry Review. All of us had attended a rehearsal of the works in question and all of us had been surprised at how much the music not only complemented the poetry but at how well it deepened the seeming intent of each poem. William Schuman's elegiac treatment intensified Whitman's "Carols of Death," while Alice Parker's lighter arrangement highlighted Millay's rather arch poems from "Songstream." Surprisingly, Robert Frost had attended and approved of Randall Thompson's 1959 musical treatment, "Frostiana."

What I enjoyed most as both an observer and a participant was the enthusiasm of performers and audience. Our discussion beforehand not only raised questions of interpretation, for example was the Millay series really a cynical commentary on a love affair, but on the value of music to poetry, encouraging Mike Fallon to discuss the lyrical nature of contemporary Irish poetry.

The performance which followed was anything but anti-climatic. Rousing might be the ideal term. Tom Hall conducted with both expertise and panache, his commentary erudite and sophisticated. Susan Hess's reading of each of the performed poems prepared the audience for the subtleties of the works while pianist Eric Conway and baritone Robert Cantrell were stars in their own right.

If before November 8, I was an uninformed listener to the choral arts, after "An All-American Afternoon," I am an appreciative supporter, one who can hardly wait for the February 27 performance at the Meyerhoff of "Bach, Brubeck and BCAS."

BARBARA M. SIMON

## The Pearls

I kissed her gently upon the lips  
As I brushed her silken curls,  
And as I moved my careless hand  
I broke her milky string of pearls.

They flew apart and scattered  
Like marbles in a game  
And her lovely face became  
Imbued with a scarlet flame.

So I wondered to myself  
As blood rushed into her face,  
Were my ardent lips too bold  
To touch perhaps a tender place?

As I stooped to fetch her treasures,  
I was foolish and did not know  
It was pearls and not my kisses  
Which gave her face that crimson glow.

I recovered all but two,  
Of which there was no trace,  
And never would I ever guess  
Where they found a hiding place.

When again we were composed  
And I turned to take my leave,  
For a moment I perceived  
Her rounded bosom gently heave.

I looked into her roguish eyes—  
A smile stole upon my face.  
How sweet it was, I thought,  
To hide two pearls in such a place.

R. V. Gorski

# 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 February. We urge parents to contact their local library for a schedule of events.

**Hamilton Branch**, 5910 Harford Rd, (410) 396-6088. Wednesday, February 3, at 3:30 p.m.: "Valentine's Day Story & Craft Time"—ages 6 to 11. Attendance is limited to 20 children. Thursdays, February 4, 18, & 25, at 11 a.m.: "Laptime Storytime" for two-year-olds and caregiver.

**Herring Run Branch**, 3801 Erdman Avenue, (410) 396-0996. Mondays, February 8 & 22 at 10:30 a.m.: "Preschool Stories and Crafts"—ages 3 to 5. Call to register. Wednesdays, February 3 & 17, at 3:30 p.m.: "After School Film Program"—ages 5 to 12. Saturdays, February 6 & 20, at 1 p.m.: "Chess Club for Kids with Leroy Wade"—ages 6 to 12. Call to register. Wednesday, February 3, at 12 noon: "Out of Africa"—all ages.

●It should be noted that the mega-bookstores, **Bibelot, Barnes & Noble, and Borders Books**, have programs for children every month. As one example: "Children's Storytime" is on Mondays & Thursdays at 11 a.m. at Bibelot-Woodholme. Other events, such as making Valentines, are scheduled at these stores. Call the stores for more information.

●**Correction**. Last issue we reported that **Tales From the White Hart**, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Bookstore, had a fire which destroyed much of their stock. In actuality, most of it was undamaged, but the building itself needs major renovations. The owners have decided it is not feasible to reopen at this time, but they hope to put up a website. *Lite* regrets the error and will keep its readers updated.

●**Sandra Evans Falconer**, one of Baltimore's leading poets, has accepted a position with a theater company in Philadelphia. Baltimore will miss her talents.

●**Alan Reese** will be editing a newsletter for the *Maryland Poetry Review*. **Chezia Thompson-Cager**, the 1996 *ArtScape* Poetry Award Winner, has joined *MPR* as a contributing editor.

●**Natasha Saje** is the new faculty advisor at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah. She sends word that the magazine affiliated with the college is seeking submissions of poetry, prose and visual art. The deadline for the spring issue is February 9. Send submissions to: Editor/*Ellipsis*, Westminster College, 1840 South 1300 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105. For a back issue, send \$3 to address above, check payable to Westminster College.

●There was an article in Baltimore's *City Paper* about the closing of **Normals Red Room** on E. 31st Street. A series of experimental music performances and film showings, donations only, was stopped by complaints to Baltimore City's Zoning Board. Letters of support for a resumption of the performances should be sent to Red Room, c/o John Berndt, 2732 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218 or via e-mail to john@berndtgroup.net. Stop in to see Rupert or Blaster Al at Normals Books in Waverly for more details on this matter.


●**The 1999 Annual Juried Exhibition at School 33** runs from January 5 to March 5, 1999. A member of *Lite*'s editorial staff snuck in to catch a preview. It is an interesting show. You will see an army of tanks that only Fort Hood, Texas outnumbers. You will see how figurative art relates to abstraction. You will see faces smoking, eating, orally fixated. And you will see what can be done with those old *Readers' Digest* hardback books. School 33 Art Center, 1427 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230. For more info, call (410) 396-4641.

●**The Potomac Review** is holding its 4th annual Fiction & Poetry Contests. The winner in each category receives \$250 plus publication in the Fall '99 issue. Send entries to: *Potomac Review*, P.O. Box 354, Port Tobacco, MD 20677, with a \$15 check (you get a year's subscription for entering the contests). 3,000 words max for fiction. Three poems of no more than 5 pages. On a cover sheet put only your name and address. Include a brief bio. SASE for results: entries not returned. Deadline March 31, 1999.

●**Chester Wickwire** has recently had published a book of poems, *Longs Peak*. He was featured in a story on January 7, 1999 in the "Today" section of the *Baltimore Sun*. He will be reading from his work at many of the leading venues for the literary arts in Maryland in the months ahead. *Lite* will review his book. He is the chaplain emeritus of Johns Hopkins University. He writes to us:

Although he wrote a few poems in the 60's, only in his later years has he given serious time to poetry. He thinks he didn't slow down enough earlier to write. His wife, Mary Ann, a former high school English teacher has been his most important ant critic and supporter. He credits Michael Fallon, Isaac Rehert, Ann V. Christie, Lia Purpura, and Elizabeth Spires with providing significant guidance to his work. Writing does not come easy for him. He finds it difficult to chair the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, serve on the Governor's Commission for Migratory and Seasonal Farm Labor and Board of the Ecumenical Program in Central America, and also write. His poems have appeared in magazines, journals and newspapers. He and Mary Ann have been married 61 years and live in Towson. They have three sons and four grandchildren.

●There's still time to register for **Balticon 33**, Baltimore's premier science fiction convention, Fri. April 2-Sun. April 4 at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel. Hosted by the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, this year's convention features SF writer David Weber as the Guest of Honor. Art GOH is Jennifer E. Weyland; Filk GOH is Echoe's Children; 1998 Compton Crook Award Winner is Katie Waitman. Programming includes a writers' workshop, poetry track (hosted by the Lite Circle), art show, dealers room, costume masquerade, computer room, science panels, gaming room, L.A.R.P (live action role playing), video, anime, childrens' programming, a dance, and performance of Andrew Bergstrom's new comedy "Fanimal Crackers." For more info, write: Balticon 33, P.O. Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686. Phone: (410) JOE-BSFS [563-2737]; Email: bsfs@balticon.org; Website: [www.balticon.org](http://www.balticon.org).

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<http://LiteCircle.dragonfire.net>

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

**STOP!**

*You are NOT ALLOWED to put down this magazine without reading about  
Lite's 1999*

***Poetry and Short Fiction  
Contest***

*Winners in each category will receive the following prizes:*

**FIRST PRIZE: \$75**

**SECOND PRIZE: \$45**

**THIRD PRIZE: \$15**

All winners will be featured at a special Lite Circle reading  
and will have their work published in  
*Lite: Baltimore's Literary Newspaper*

All entries must be postmarked no later than **December 31, 1999**. Reading fee: \$5.00 per story, \$3.00 per poem, \$10.00 for up to 6 poems. **No limit on submissions.**

Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, with cover sheet containing title (s) of work, along with author's name, address, and telephone number. The manuscript should include the title, but not the author's name. Winners will be notified by March 31, 2000. Maximum story length 6,000 words. Maximum poem length 50 lines. Please mail entries to:

The Lite Circle Literary Contest  
P.O. Box 26162  
Baltimore, MD 21210

For more info, please call (410) 719-7792 or (410) 889-1574.