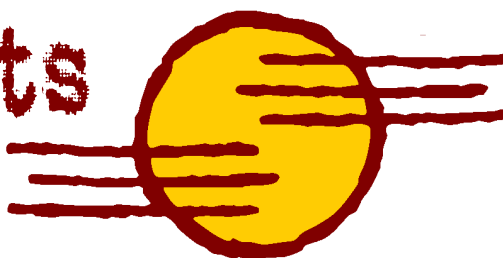


John D. Lamb, Director
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(248) 589-3913 info@springfed.org www.springfed.org



Newsletter

Words – poetry, prose and song. Works – spoken and sung.

Springfed Arts 2013 Writing Contest Finalists

Poetry Winners

- 1st place *Florida* by **Terry Blackhawk**
 - 2nd place *Once in a Blue Moon* by **Elizabeth Mitchell**
 - 3rd place *Prayer for Poojah* by **Nadia Ibrashi**
 - Honorable Mention *Monarchs* by **Kevin Griffin**
 - Honorable Mention *If It Wasn't for Snow* by **Liza Young**
- Poems judged by Denise Duhamel



Terry Blackhawk



Nadia Ibrashi

Prose finalists

- 1st place *The Fetishist* by **Nadia Ibrashi**
 - 2nd place *Excerpt from River Rouge* by **John Jeffire**
 - 3rd place *Bones in a Box* by **Alexander Morgan**
 - Honorable Mention *The Right Thing* by **Linda Sienkiewicz**
 - Honorable Mention *The John Holland Story* by **Jon Zech**
- Prose judged by Robert Olmstead



John Jeffire



Alexander Morgan

There were 75 total contest entrants (48 poets and 27 prose writers).

Winners will read their winning entries at a Springfed Writers & Music Series, Monday, August 12, 7pm, Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 (just north of Lone Pine Road). Wine, coffee, tea and cookie kiosk. Free and open to the public.

Springfed Arts Backyard Bash

A Salute to Lux & bugs — Save the Date!

Saturday, May 18, 6 pm



Honored guests will be **Thomas Lux**, internationally acclaimed poet and teacher, and **bugs Beddow**, bandleader/trombonist/ flutist/music teacher, appearing with his award winning R&B band. We will serve food from the

BACKYARD BASH continued on page 2

Springfed Writers & Music Series

Thursday, May 30, 7pm

Hosted by **John D. Lamb** and featuring Saginaw author of *American Poet* (Michigan Notable Book Award) **Jeff Vande Zande**, Grand Rapids first poet laureate **Linda Nemece Foster**, Bay City's rare poetry book dealer **Jett Whitehead** and songwriter **Jon Cass**.

Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 (just north of Lone Pine Road). Wine, coffee, tea and cookie kiosk. Free and open to the public.

Jeff Vande Zande teaches English at Delta College and writes poetry, fiction, and screenplays. His books of fiction include *Emergency Stopping and Other Stories* (Bottom Dog Press), the novel *Into the Desperate Country* (March Street Press), the novel *Landscape with Fragmented Figures* (Bottom Dog Press) and *Threatened Species and Other Stories* (Whistling Shade Press). His poetry has also been collected into a book, and one of his poems was selected by Ted

Kooser to appear in Kooser's syndicated newspaper column, *American Life in Poetry*. His most recent book is a novel entitled *American Poet*, which won the Stuart and Vernice Gross Award for Excellence in Writing by a Michigan Author and a Michigan Notable Book Award from the Library of Michigan. He maintains a website at www.jeffvandezande.com.



SPRINGFED WRITERS & MUSIC SERIES continued on page 2

From the director:

The results of our poetry and prose contest is an amazing means of gauging the artistry in our community of writers. Among the winners we see those who have won in the past. **Terry Blackhawk** has placed in our poetry category before and we award her for this year's first place poem. **John Jeffire** and **Alexander Morgan** have been recognized in previous years for their prose. They having taken firsts, seconds and thirds. **Nadia Ibrashi**, who is currently taking two writing classes through Springfed, wins two awards; first place for prose and third place for poetry. What do we learn from these results? I venture to guess that good writers write often and surround themselves with other writers who often write. They put in the time.



John D Lamb

In the poetry category we read through 144 entries and sent 15 poems to Denise Duhamel so that she could choose our top five. Among those semi-finalists we also recognize these poems and their authors; *Fig Tree* by **Maria Costantini**, *A Scented Contrapuntal* by **Mindy LePere**, *Leaving the Cezanne Exhibit on Tram 18* by **Olga Klekner**, *An American Tale* by **Tracey Morris**, *The Idea of Bees* by **Vicki Wilke**, *Sand Castle* by **Sophia Rivkin**, *Naked in Detroit* by **Anne Knight Weber**, *More Than Air* by **Denise Sedman**, *Harald Hardrada Writes His First Poem About Yelysaveta* by **Ksenia Rychtycka** and, (there he is again) *Barcelona* by **John Jeffire**.

We kicked off our Springfed Writers and Music Series on March 28. That was the first time we used our new rental facility, the Birmingham Unitarian Church in Bloomfield Hills. This place has a big parking lot with easy access from Woodward Avenue. The social hall is roomy. We served French roast coffee, Lido Gallery tea, Trader Joe wine and cookies. We featured Springfed writing instructors and a songwriter. The show went well and I heard no complaints.

I did receive one complaint for something I wrote on the invitation for our Backyard Benefit on May 18 in Birmingham. Next to word "Attire" I wrote "Birmingham-ish." When I dashed off that vague description of how to dress for the party, it was in good fun. And I look forward to buying a new shirt for the event. I've been thinking it's time I spring for a new white Oxford button down with blue pinstripes.

If anyone wants to reach me during late June or early July, please wait until August. I'm getting married to **Lisa Galperin** and we're going to Italy for a spell.

SPRINGFED WRITERS & MUSIC SERIES continued from page 1



Linda Neme Foster has published nine collections of poetry including *Amber Necklace from Gdansk* (finalist for the Ohio Book Award in Poetry) and *Listen to the Landscape* (short-listed for the Michigan Notable Book Award). *Talking Diamonds*, her latest book, was selected as a finalist for *ForeWord Magazine's* Book of the Year Award in Poetry. Her chapbook, *Contemplating the Heavens*, was the inspiration for jazz pianist Steve Talaga's original composition which was nominated for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Music. Her latest project, *Cry of Freedom*, is a collaboration with Hungarian musician Laszlo Slomovits and was released as a CD in 2013. Foster's work has appeared in over 300 literary journals including *The Georgia Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *New American Writing*, *The North American Review*, *Nimrod*, and *Verse Daily*. Her poetry has also been pub-

lished in anthologies in the United States and Great Britain, translated in Europe, and produced for the stage. She has received nominations for the Pushcart Prize and awards from the Arts Foundation of Michigan, ArtServe Michigan, the National Writer's Voice, and the Academy of American Poets. In 2008, Foster received the International Creative Arts Award in a ceremony at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. She was selected to serve as Grand Rapids' first Poet Laureate from 2003-05. In 1997, Foster founded the Contemporary Writers Series at Aquinas College. Visit her website at www.lindanemecfoster.com Yesterday, May 29, is her birthday.

Jett Whitehead grew up in Saginaw, Michigan. He earned his undergraduate degree in Business Administration at Northern Michigan University and a master's degree in creative writing and poetry at Central Michigan University. After teaching creative writing at a local college, Jett began to devote much of his time to his own writing and to poetry. It was while he was in graduate school that he acquired a serious interest in book collecting and he subsequently attended the Antiquarian Book Market Seminar in Denver. He currently operates his own rare book business out of his home in Bay City, Michigan, where he specializes in 20th century American and British poetry. Whitehead buys, sells and builds collections of modern poetry for institutional and private collectors and clients worldwide. His stock includes first edition books, broadsides, chapbooks, letters and manuscript material, with a serious focus on fine collector condition and value. Many items are signed or inscribed by the poets, and include association copies of books with important provenance. Whitehead's services include special collection development, in-depth searches for rare titles, appraisals for tax, insurance, and valuation purposes, and consultations. www.poetryjett.com



When **Jen Cass** released her second CD, *Skies Burning Red*, she received glowing reviews and was nominated for 2 Detroit Music Awards. Songs from that record won awards in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, the USA Songwriting Competition, and many others. When Jen released her next CD, "Accidental Pilgrimage", it was one of the most added CDs of the summer of 2006 for folk and Americana radio and it included her song "Dear Mr. President". In 2007, her CD "Accidental Pilgrimage" won the Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Acoustic/Folk Recording (note: your editor shares that same award in a tie). She has been on the songwriting staff of Lamb's Retreat for Songwriters. Cass is also a trial attorney who lives in Bay City, Michigan.

BACKYARD BASH continued from page 1

new Jeff Valdez' restaurant 275 Bar & Grill, handcrafted beer from Lily's Seafood and much more under the big tent. You can win raffle prizes and bid on silent auction items. The proceeds of the benefit go toward building scholarship funds for Springfed Arts' retreats, writing classes and showcases. It's our only fundraiser of the year and we depend on a portion of the proceeds for help with our operating costs.

The benefit is chaired by **Rebecca Vlastic** and **Lisa Galperin** and will be held at the Vlastic home in Birmingham. Tickets start at \$60.

Tickets available online at www.springfed.org or by phone at 248-589-3913

Let us know if you plan to buy tickets at the gate.

InsideOut's 3rd annual **GET VERSED** multi-arts youth showcase at the Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit Film Theatre, Thursday, May 23, 5:30pm - 6:30 pm. Naomi Long Madgett will present the 13th annual Lotus Press High School Poetry Prize to an InsideOut student.

Maria Costantini wins **Poetry Society of Michigan Travel Trophy** at spring meeting of the PSM in Holt, MI, Sat. April 20, 2013. This is a biannual award to the person who reads the best poem done by a vote of those present at PSM, usually about 20-30 members. Costantini's name will be engraved on the plaque and will be added to those who have won before her.



Mary Jo Firth Gillett won the **Hill-Stead Museum, Sunken Gardens Chapbook Contest**. An award of \$1,000, plus publication of a chapbook by Hill-Stead Museum, 15 free copies and an introductory reading at the Sunken Garden Poetry Festival preceding one of the featured poets during the 2013 season. Gillett's chapbook will be out by early July and she'll be doing a brief reading at their festival in New Jersey on July 10.

Sophia Rivkin won the **Judith Siegel Pearson Poetry Award** at Wayne State University. The award is an annual prize for the best creative or scholarly work on a subject concerning women. Judith Siegel Pearson was born in Detroit, educated at Wayne State University, where she received her B.A. (1966) and M.A. (1968), Phi Beta Kappa. She went on to receive her Ph. D. from Washington University (Missouri) and taught at the University of Missouri, St. Louis. There she became one of the first English instructors to include Women's Studies methods in her classes. She worked at the St. Louis Museum of Art and was on the public relations staff at UMSL when she died suddenly in November, 1979, of leukemia. She is survived by her son, Nathaniel. The Siegel family honors her memory with this award.



The Spring Heat Writer's Retreat

May 16-19th

At the Ralph A. MacMullan Center on Higgins Lake. Study poetry with **Gerry LaFemina** or fiction with **Caitlin Horrocks**. \$500 includes room and board. Seats are limited. Registration deadline is May 1. For more info: <http://gerrylafemina.net/NewSpringHeat.html>



Gerry LaFemina



Caitlin Horrocks

Springfed Arts

Become a Member of our Writing Community

Your support helps us to continue our programs. This includes retreats, classes and showcases for writers, poets and songwriters throughout Michigan.

Basic Membership \$50

Student and Under-employed Membership \$40

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- Free entry in Poetry/Prose Contest.
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- Discount on all workshops offered & more.

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**Membership registration form:
Springfed Arts**

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Phone _____ E-mail _____

Credit Card# _____ Exp. _____ CVC _____

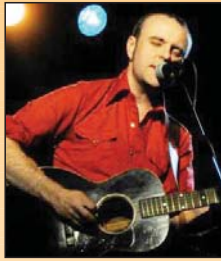
Springfed Arts
19th Annual
Lamb's Retreat for Songwriters

Birchwood Inn, Harbor Springs

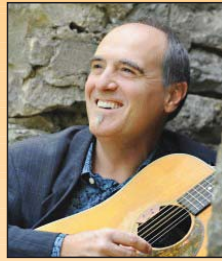
Week #1 – November 7-10, 2013



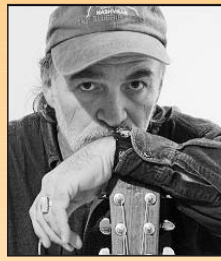
Telisha Williams



Doug Williams



Dana Cooper



Michael Camp



Kate Wallace



Lisa Redfern

Week #2 – November 14-17, 2013



Peter Mulvey



Seth Glier



Danny Schmidt

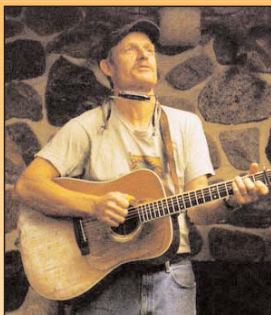


Carrie Elkin



Jim Bizer

Artists in Residence: November 7-17



Kirby



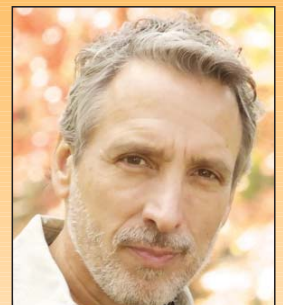
Chuck Brodsky



Floyd King



Dalis Allen



John D. Lamb

Concerts on Saturday, Nov 9, 8pm and Saturday, Nov 16, 8pm **Director**

Birchwood Inn 7077 S. Lakeshore Drive, Harbor Springs, MI, 49740

To register for either or both retreat weekends, call Springfed Headquarters 248-589-3913
or use any credit card online at www.springfed.org