

MFA AT EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2017



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Program Cheers and Celebrations (page 2)
- Letter from the Editor (page 2)
- February's Event Bulletin: What's going on with our friends at Aunties (page 3)
- Dear Second Year: An advice column (page 3)
- Opportunities: A list compiled by Natalie Kusz (pages 4-5)

SARAH SHUN-LIEN BYNUM

FEB. 24TH 7:30 P.M. @ AUNTIE'S BOOKSTORE



As part of GetLit's Visiting Writers Series fiction writer Sarah Shun-lien Bynum will be reading at Auntie's at 7:30 p.m. on Friday February the 24th.

Be sure to mark your calendars, you won't want to miss this!

Sarah Shun-lien Bynum is the author of two novels, "Ms. Hempel Chronicles," a finalist for the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Award, and "Madeleine Is Sleeping," a finalist for the 2004 National Book Award and winner of the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize. Her fiction has appeared in many magazines and anthologies, including the New Yorker, Ploughshares, Tin House, the Georgia Review, and the Best American Short Stories 2004 and 2009. The recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award and an NEA Fellowship, she was named one of "20 Under 40" fiction writers by the New Yorker. She lives in Los Angeles with her family.



VOICEOVER

SATURDAY FEB. 25TH @ 6 P.M.

nYne Bar and Bistro
232 W Sprague Ave, Spokane

February's VoiceOver readers are: Katie Bell, Lisa Laughlin, Justin Eisenstadt, Lisa Spears, Lauren Hohle, Taylor Kensel, alum Michael Schmidtke, and fantastic faculty reader Nance van Winckel



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

I hope this finds you well. First off, I'd like to tell everyone travelling to AWP to be safe and enjoy themselves. Secondly, I'd like to remind alum to notify me (or the soon to be newsletter editor) when they have good publishing news they'd like shared.

First year students please remember to send in Dear Second Year questions. There have been very few coming in and the advice column is for your benefit.

Also first years, I will soon be passing the editing reins onto one of you. Please let me know if you're interested in becoming newsletter editor. Ideally, I would start working with the new editor on the March newsletter. I would be doing most of the work on that one with the new editor at my side, while the April newsletter will be mostly that of the new editor. I will be available to answer any questions throughout the rest of this academic year and next if need be. Once there is a new editor any emails sent to me will be forwarded on.

Thank you and write on!

-Mary Christensen

PROGRAM CHEERS & CELEBRATIONS



CHRIS MACCINI

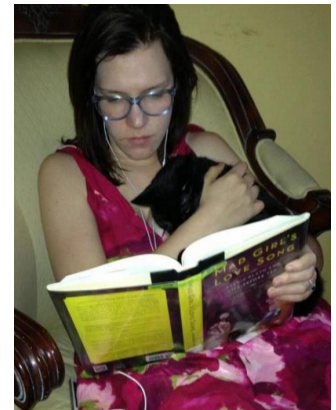
SHORT STORY PUBLISHED

First year fiction student Chris Maccini's short story Afloat is forthcoming in Fugue Literary Journal. Way to go, Chris!

MEGAN LOUISE ROWE

FICTION PUBLISHED

Talented fiction second year Meagan Louise Rowe's story Communion has been accepted by The Forge Literary Magazine!



CODY SMITH

POETRY PUBLISHED

Second year poet Cody Smith's poems Hurricane Party and The Faith Healer Come For Summer Revival have been accepted for publication by McNeese Review. Congrats, Cody!

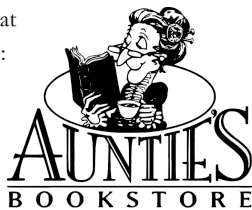
DEREK ANNIS

POETRY PUBLISHED

Alum Derek Annis's poem Home Made of Fire has been picked up for publication by The Gettysburg Review. Excellent news, Derek! Be sure to congratulate him!



From our
friends at
Aunties:



**Fri., Feb. 10 –
7:00 p.m.**

Join Eric Scott Fischl as he reads
from his new novel Dr. Potter's
Medicine Show

**Thurs., Feb. 16 –
7:00 p.m.**

Writer Barbara Parson will read

**Fri., Feb. 17 –
7:00 p.m.**

Leyna Krow will read from her
soon to be released book I'm Fine
But You Appear To Be Sinking.
She will be joined by program
alum Aileen Keown Vaux

**Sat., Feb. 18 –
1:30 p.m.**

Local writer Fred Hale will be
signing copies of his book
Through A Passage In Time

**Fri., Feb. 24 –
7:30 p.m.**

As part of GetLit's Visiting
Writers Series fiction writer Sarah
Shun-lien Bynum will be reading
from selected works

**Sat., Feb. 25th –
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Non-fiction writer Sarah Conover
will be reading from her newly
published essay as well as
facilitating a mini workshop on
memoir

DEAR SECOND YEAR

A MONTHLY ADVICE COLUMN

DEAR SECOND YEAR

Dear Second Year,

How do you write in the face of so much political adversity?

Yours,
toomuchfacebook

Dear toomuchfacebook,

All I can say is that now is the time when we must write. Crushing political tension can put anyone at a loss for words, but we *need* the power of the written word. We need the carefully crafted art of observant writers. If a loss of hope or sanity is inevitable, don't lose your words, too.

Last year I took a European poetry class, and we studied many authors who had been persecuted for their political writing. One poet in particular, Visar Zhiti, composed over a hundred poems while locked in solitary confinement in an Albanian prison, without pen or paper. He says that he committed his poems to memory to keep his sanity, and to "enliven the terrible lives they were forced to bear."

I guess I bring up Zhiti's circumstances to make this point: don't turn away from it. Don't turn away from the political tension of a divided country, from the news updates or from the neighbor with whom you disagree. Engage, even if that engagement involves simply turning things over in your mind. A lot of this brainwork will eventually lead to composition. If you need to write the angry draft before you can write the artful draft (And, who says these can't be the same thing?), that's okay. You must simply keep pushing. Remember that you can create art that will speak to others.

Best,

- A second year



OPPORTUNITIES: A LIST COMPILED BY NATALIE KUSZ

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

- **Deadline: Not specified.** Minerva Rising Press is now accepting **fiction, nonfiction, poetry**, art and photography for our upcoming Spring/Summer issue, themed Ripples. Whether from the personal or the political, we want to read your reflections, thoughts and reactions to that unexpected stone cast into the pond of life. \$15 submission fee, \$50 for published fiction or nonfiction prose and \$35 for poetry. For more information and submission guidelines visit our website at <http://minervarising.us8.list-manage.com/>
- **Deadline: Not specified.** For a new monthly magazine entitled *True Story*, *Creative Nonfiction* seeks unpublished works of **narrative nonfiction** between 3,500 and 7,000 words long, on any subject and in any style. No deadline. Complete guidelines at www.creativenonfiction.org/submissions.
- **Deadline: March 1.** *Upstreet*: award-winning annual's 13th issue seeks quality submissions of **fiction and creative nonfiction**. Past issues feature interviews with Jim

Shepard, Lydia Davis, Wally Lamb, Michael Martone, Robin Hemley, Sue William Silverman, Dani Shapiro, Douglas Glover, Emily Fragos, Robert Olen Butler, Joan Wickersham, and Marilyn Hacker. Distributors: Ingram, Media Solutions, Disticor (Canada). Chains: Barnes & Noble, Hastings, Books-A-Million. For new submission guidelines, including payment, and to submit: www.upstreet-mag.org.

- **Deadline: March 15** *Steam Ticket*, the nationally circulated literary journal published by the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Department of English, invites submissions of **poetry, short stories, flash fiction, and creative nonfiction** for the 2017 issue, Volume 20. For guidelines: www.steamticket.org.
- **Deadline: March 31.** *Eastern Iowa Review* Issue 4: Our special Ten Debut Authors Only issue. We'd like to publish ten exceptional new authors with less than two publication credits. **Any genre** (no horror or erotica), any writing style. \$100 grand prize. Art & photography needed for this issue. No reading fees. Small honorarium or contributor copies. Family-friendly, smart writing please. www.portyonderpress.com/eastern-iowa-review.html

- **Deadline: March 31** *Comstock Review* enters its 31st year of publishing well-crafted, unique **poetry!** Both on-line and paper submissions accepted. No previously published or simultaneous submissions. Check www.comstockreview.org for submission details, guidelines, and needed SASEs. Poet's Handbook is a free download. Join us on Facebook. Subscribe for only \$20/year. Editors: Betsy Anderson and Michael A. Sickler. Comstock Review, 4956 St. John Dr., Syracuse, NY 13215.

COMPETITIONS

- **Deadline: March 20.** *Creative Nonfiction* magazine is seeking new work for an upcoming issue dedicated to "Dangerous Creations: Real-Life Frankenstein Stories." Send your best work, 4,000 words or fewer. Prizes: \$10,000 for best **essay**; \$2,500/each for two runners-up. Guidelines at www.creativenonfiction.org/submissions.
- **Deadline: March 31** *The Florida Review's* Editors' Awards in **Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, and Poetry**: Winners receive \$1,000 each and publication. All submissions considered for publication. Entry fee, \$20, includes a subscription to *TFR*. For guidelines and online submission link, see



OPPORTUNITIES: A LIST COMPILED BY NATALIE KUSZ

our website:
www.floridareview.cah.ucf.edu.

- **Deadline: March 31.**
The Lascaux Prize in Flash Fiction is presently open for submissions. Stories may be previously published or unpublished, and simultaneous submissions are accepted. Winner receives \$1,000, a bronze medallion, and publication in *The Lascaux Review*. The winner and all finalists will be published in The 2018 *Lascaux Prize Anthology*. Two copies of the anthology will be supplied to every writer appearing in it. Entry fee is

\$10. Writers may enter more than once, and as many as three stories may be submitted per entry. Maximum story length is 1,000 words. All genres and styles are welcome. All contest participants receive free downloads of the Lascaux Prize anthologies to date.

- **Deadline: March 31.**
CutBank Chapbook Contest in Prose and Poetry. We're looking for a fresh, powerful manuscript. Maybe it will overtake us quietly; gracefully defy genres; satisfyingly subvert our expectations.

We're interested in both prose and poetry—particularly work that straddles the lines between genres. Winning author receives a \$1000 honorarium plus 25 copies of the published book. Two runners-up will be chosen for publication as well. The contest will be judged by the CutBank editorial staff. Manuscripts should be 25-40 pages in length of **poetry** (a cohesive poetry manuscript), **fiction** (either a short fiction collection or novella), or **creative nonfiction** (one long essay or a short collection of essays).
www.cutbankonline.org



If you have any information you would like to see in next month's newsletter please email Mary Christensen at mleuna@hotmail.com