

Spotlight: *We're Pleased to Present...*

A Celebration of St. Louis Writing

Featuring Some of St. Louis's Most Acclaimed Authors

Join Us!

September 15, 2005

Keynote Speaker: Charles Guenther

**Poet, Essayist, Critic
SLWG Member Since 1957
SLWG President 1959, 1976, 1977**

CHARLES GUENTHER is a native St. Louisan, having grown up in Kirkwood, Missouri.



Poet, critic, and one of the most prolific translators of European and Latin American poetry, Charles Guenther has earned numerous awards and honors, and his work has appeared in more than 350 publications worldwide, including *American Poetry Review*, *Edge* (Melbourne), *Kenyon Review*, and *Partisan Review*.

He has authored twelve books of poetry and translations, of which *The Hippopotamus: Selected Translations* and *Moving the Seasons: Selected Poems* earned him the Walter Williams Award for a major work (in 1987 and 1994, respectively). His book *Phrase/Paraphrase* won many awards and honors, including a Shell Companies Foundation grant and a Pulitzer Prize for Letters nomination in 1970, and the book made the American Library Association's Notable Books List in 1971. In 1973 he was decorated with an Order of Merit by the Italian government, in the rank of Commander — its highest decoration — for his work translating Italian romance poets.

Additional commendations include the James Joyce Award of the Poetry Society of America (in

1974) and the Missouri Library Association's literary award in the same year, for his poem "Missouri Woods." Guenther was also the recipient of the Witter Bynner Poetry Translation Grant (in 1979) by the Poetry Society of America for his work on Jean Cocteau.

An avid supporter of writers, Guenther has taught writing and also maintained memberships in many regional writing organizations, serving many of them as president and in other positions at various times. In addition to his longstanding membership in the St. Louis Writers Guild, he served as its president three times (in 1959, 1976, and 1977). He was also president of the Missouri Writers Guild, the Greater St. Louis Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, and the St. Louis Poetry Center, where he was a founding member. Additionally, he served as Midwest Regional vice president of the Poetry Society of America.

Guenther graduated from Harris Teachers College and went on to Webster College where he received his baccalaureate and a Master of Arts in English. He worked for over thirty years at the Air Force Aeronautical Chart and Information Center while writing poetry, fiction, and criticism reviews for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspapers. After his retirement from the government, he became an educator and taught at various colleges and universities. He lives in St. Louis with his wife. They have three children.

His new book, *Three Faces Of Autumn: A Retrospective Of Poetry, Prose And Translations*, is available now..

Poetry by Charles Guenther:

- Four poems (pdf file)

Find out more about Charles Guenther:

- "L'Ange Heurtebise" (by Jean Cocteau, translated, from the French, by Charles Guenther) [Click here: APR Jan/Feb 2004 Vol. 33/No. 1 | Jean Cocteau](#)
- Guenther's reviews of other poets (in STLToday). [Click here: STLtoday - Entertainment - Books](#)
- From the Missouri Center for the Book site, Missouri Author [Click here: Charles Guenther \(<http://authors.missouri.org/e-h/guenther-c.html>\)](#)

Charles Guenther's new book:

- [Three Faces of Autumn: Poetry, Prose, Translations](#)

Keynote Speaker: Dakin Williams

(WALTER) DAKIN WILLIAMS, brother and only surviving bloodline relative of St. Louis's most celebrated author, Tennessee Williams. Dakin Williams was born in St. Louis shortly after his family moved there from Mississippi. He calls himself the "professional brother," having devoted much of his life to the legacy of his famous sibling. He graduated from Washington University and practiced law. In his career, he ran for the offices of senator, governor, and U.S. President, and became an author in his own right, having written many books, including *His Brother's Keeper: the Life and Murder of Tennessee Williams*, *Remember Me to Tom*, *Tennessee Williams: An Intimate Biography*, *Nails of Protest*, *The Bar Bizarre*, and others. Williams lives in Collinsville, Illinois, just east of St. Louis.

Featured Author: Richard Burgin



RICHARD BURGIN is the author of eleven books, including the novel *Ghost Quartet* and four other collections of stories, the most recent of which are *The Spirit Returns* and *Fear of Blue Skies*. Four of the stories in the present volume have won Pushcart Prizes, while the title story is included in *Best American Mystery Stories 2005*. A composer of five CDs and over one hundred songs and pieces, whose music has been praised by Ned Rorem, Burgin is a professor of Communications and English at Saint Louis University, where he edits the award-winning literary journal *Boulevard*.

Richard's new book, *The Identity Club: New and Selected Stories and Songs* will be released October 5, 2005 and available wherever books are sold.

[Click here: Richard Burgin](#)

To purchase the newest book: [Identity Club: New and Selected Stories](#)

Featured Author: Nanora Sweet

NANORA (NAN) SWEET belongs to the faculty of the University of Missouri – St. Louis, where she is on the faculty of the Department of English, the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, and the MFA program in Creative Writing. For fifteen years she has mentored the UMSL student literary magazine *Litmag*. Also, Nan is a long-time member of the women's poetry workshop Loosely Identified, and she serves on the board of River Styx.

Nan's poetry currently appears in *Mix of Securities* (Snark Publishing, 2004), and she plans a second chapbook *Rotogravure* (Cherry Pie Press, forthcoming). With Rebecca Ellis, she co-edited the women's poetry collection, *Breathing Out: Poems by Loosely Identified* (Cherry Pie, 2004), and in 2006 she will guest edit issue sixteen of the University's literary journal, *Natural Bridge*. Nan's poems have appeared in *River Styx*, *Delmar*, *Ascent*, *Concerning Poetry*, *Confrontation*, and elsewhere. Her poetry has received awards from the Academy of American Poets, the Wednesday Club of St. Louis, and the St. Louis Poetry Center. A scholar of Romantic writing and women's literature, Nan teaches a range of writers from Mary Wollstonecraft and Lord Byron to Louise Bogan and Lucia Perillo. She has co-edited a collection of essays on a major nineteenth-century woman poet, Felicia Hemans: *Reimagining Poetry in the Nineteenth Century*, and aims to write a biography of the poet.



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www.snarkpub.com *Mix of Securities*

Featured Author: Ruth Miriam-Garnett



RUTH MIRIAM-GARNETT is a Harvard educated poet and author. Her books include *Laelia*, a novel, and the poetry collections, *A Move Further South* and *Concerning Violence*. A past recipient of the National Endowment of the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship, she has received numerous other awards. From 1993 to 2000 she published the *Harlem Arts Journal*, a quarterly review, and her poetry has appeared in national magazines, literary journals, and three anthologies. A native of Webster Groves, Missouri, she divides her time between New York City and St. Louis.

[Click here: Laelia by Ruth Miriam-Garnett Detailed Book Review](#)

To purchase *Laelia*: [Laelia](#)

Featured Author: Michael Castro

MICHAEL CASTRO is a native of New York City who has lived in St. Louis for most of his adult life. He is a poet and translator. With Gabor Gyukics he translated the anthology *Swimming in the Ground: Contemporary Hungarian Poetry*. Two other books of translations from the Hungarian, *Gypsy Drill: Poems of Attila Balogh* and *A Transparent Lion: Selected Poems of Attila Jozsef* are due out this fall. He has published six books of his own poetry, most recently *Human Rites* and *The Man Who Looked into Coltrane's Horn*, and authored the literary history, *Interpreting the Indian: Twentieth Century Poets and the Native American*. Castro is the co-founder of River Styx, a community based literary organization that has produced *River Styx Magazine* and readings in St. Louis since 1975. Castro has done many public readings and multi-media poetry performances in St. Louis, around the country, and abroad in London, Edinburgh, Budapest, and New Delhi, and he hosted the radio programs *River Styx Poets* (KDNA, 1969-1972), *Ars Poetica* (KWMU, 1975-1978), and *Poetry Beat* (1989-2004). He currently teaches at Lindenwood University.

Featured Author: Colleen McKee

COLLEEN MCKEE earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She has taught and tutored writing at UM-SL, Webster University, Washington University, Lindenwood College, and the St. Louis Writers Workshop. She is currently editing an anthology of personal narratives entitled *Are We Feeling Better Yet?: Women's Encounters with Health Care in America*. McKee's poems have appeared in journals such as *Delmar*, *Eclipse*, and *Confluence*, and her poems and essays have appeared in literary journals and anthologies, including *Under the Arch: St. Louis Stories* and *Without a Net: The Female Experience of Growing Up Working Class*.

Featured Author: Denise Pattiz Bogard

DENISE PATTIZ BOGARD is founder and coordinator of the St. Louis Writers Workshop. Denise has been writing professionally for twenty-five years and has been published in *Oklahoma Literary Review*, *Lady's Circle*, *St. Louis Magazine*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *P-D Magazine*. She teaches writing in the Clayton School District at Lift for Life Charter Middle School and as an adjunct instructor at Webster University.

Denise also conducts professional development teacher workshops on how to teach writing and serves as a writing coach and editor. She received her MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She has won both writing and professional development awards. Denise is at work on her first novel.



Featured Author: Harry Jackson, Jr.



HARRY JACKSON JR. Harry Jackson, Jr. is a journalist, freelance writer, and an adjunct professor of communications at Lindenwood University where he teaches in the MFA program. He has spent 22 of his more than 35 years of journalism at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and has been published extensively in dozens of regional and national publications. He has won 18 journalism awards for his work. Jackson's essay, "In Remembrance of Terry A. Lawson" was published in the anthology, *Under the Arch: Glimpses of the Gateway City by its Writers* in 2004.