

*A Publication of the Seacoast Writers Association*


# THE Seacoast Writer

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### SWA FALL CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

**M**eeting in a new place brought a new perspective to our conference. The McConnell Center certainly provided us with more space *and* more restrooms. Our group concurred that Green Bean's food was really top drawer. Some folks were spotted returning to the buffet table two and three times. You know who you are! Food was in abundant supply, and SWA participants are blessed with hearty appetites.

Workshop attendees gave many positive reports on our four presenters. Those who attended the poetry workshop given by Walter Butts and S. Stephanie said it was 'very well organized,' 'fabulous,' and 'the best workshop' they had ever attended.

Tim Horvath's fiction workshop elicited responses such as 'exceptional,' 'very interesting and unique.'

Those who attended Deirdre Randall's publishing workshop reported that Deirdre supplied great visuals and handouts and went into great detail about the subject with valuable insights from Skye Wentworth, her assistant.

Sue Wheeler's workshopers said that Sue 'is confidence-inspiring' and 'her presentation was well-run.'

Attendees at each group wished that their workshops could have lasted longer.

*Many of you provided us with suggestions for future workshops, including poetry for young children, repairing final drafts, fantasy, copyright and the legal aspects of writing, and songwriting.*

"Attendees at each group wished that their workshops could have lasted longer."

## MEMBERSHIP

**I**n addition to providing a discounted contest entry fee, membership dues of \$25 a year also entitle members to the organization's quarterly newsletter and a discount on the two Writer's Conferences SWA sponsors each year.

Contestants may join SWA when they submit their entries.

Membership applications are also available at ([seacoastwritersassociation.org](http://seacoastwritersassociation.org)).

Please notify us if you change your e-mail address or your mailing address. Send your new address information to our membership chair, Michael Wade at [beekah@comcast.net](mailto:beekah@comcast.net).

## REV UP YOUR COMPUTERS FOR OUR ANNUAL WRITERS CONTEST

**T**he deadline for entries to the Seacoast Writers Association's twentieth annual writers contest is February 1. Winning authors will receive prizes of \$100, \$75, and \$50 in each of three categories: short story, personal essay, and poetry. Please note: Entries must be received by the contest director by February 1. Be sure that you allow sufficient time for delivery.

Winning entries will be published in the SWA anthology of contest winners, *Currents VII*, and will also be posted on the organization's website—[www.seacoastwritersassociation.org](http://www.seacoastwritersassociation.org).

The competition is open to the public with no restrictions on geographic area. Contestants are permitted to enter in all three categories, but may submit only one entry in each category (except for poetry where up to three poems may be submitted). Entries will be judged by experienced published writers chosen for their critical expertise. All work must be original and cannot have been previously published.

Entry forms and guidelines can be downloaded at [www.seacoastwritersassociation.org](http://www.seacoastwritersassociation.org) or send a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope to contest director Pam Gjettum, 6 South Street, Exeter, NH 03833. No entries will be accepted without an entry form. Entry fees are \$5 per entry for SWA members and \$10 per entry for non-members.

*Prizes will be awarded at the SWA Spring Conference, May 15, 2010, at the McConnell Center, Dover, NH.*



Winners, who are guests of the SWA conference, will be notified in advance. First place winners are invited to read their winning entries.

### WE HAVE A WINNER!

**T**he winner of our \$10.00 off coupon for a future Seacoast Writers' Conference is Kristina Schram of Center Barnstead, NH. Congratulations, Kristina!

### ANOTHER CHANCE TO WIN

**F**rank Miller of the Greater Brockton Society for Poetry and the Arts has asked us to spread

the word about a no-fee contest for New England Poets. Prizes are \$500, \$250, and \$125. For further information check the website: <http://gbspa.homestead.com/PoetryContest.html>.

## ARE YOU THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR?

**D**o you have some fresh ideas for conference workshops? Pat Parnell is looking for help with the spring conference—someone brave enough to consider taking over the role of conference coordinator for next fall. It's a great position for getting to know lots of your fellow writers, and you'll have wonderful support from the SWA Board. E-mail Pat at [patparnell@comcast.net](mailto:patparnell@comcast.net) or call her at 603-778-1470.

Our longtime SWA secretary, Joan Castro, has decided to enter into a well-deserved retirement. We will miss her extraordinary skills and wonderful sense of humor, but understand. The position of SWA Secretary is now available to someone who is well organized and eager to join our Board. The benefits include working with some wonderful people and being on the inside track of seacoast creativity. If you are interested in the secretarial position, please call Joan for information about what is involved in the position. Her phone number is 603-436-8853. If you are interested in trying the position, call Michael Wade at 603-778-8182.



## SWA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**D**avid Carroll, a former SWA keynote speaker and workshop presenter, was nominated for a 2009 National Book Award for his recent book, *Following the Water: A Hydromancer's Notebook*.

We are sorry to report the passing of Kennard H. Lang, husband of SWA member Mary Quayle-Lang. Ken had a long and distinguished career in the hospitality industry and in public service. Our hearts go out to Mary as we offer her our condolences on her loss.

## LITERARY EVENTS

**A**s part of the N.H. Authors' Series, Rebecca Rule will interview Dayton Duncan on Sunday, January 24 at 2:00 p.m., in the 5th floor reading room of the UNH Diamond Library. Dayton Duncan, a New Hampshire resident, is an award winning writer and documentary film maker. Mr. Duncan has worked with Ken Burns on Mr. Burns' award-winning series for public television, *The Civil War*, *Baseball*, and *Jazz*. Mr. Duncan is the author of nine books on topics ranging from Lewis and Clark to New Hampshire presidential primary politics to Mark Twain. His two books for young readers, *People of the West* and *The West: an Illustrated History for Children*, have won awards. To register for Mr. Duncan's event go to [https://www.events.unh.edu?RegistrationForm.pm?event\\_id=6430](https://www.events.unh.edu?RegistrationForm.pm?event_id=6430). This URL is case sensitive.

On Tuesday, January 22, at 7 p.m., at *RiverRun Books* in Portsmouth, N.H., John Michael Albert presents poets from *The 2010 Poets' Guide to New Hampshire*, which he edited. Mike is our poetry workshop presenter for the SWA May 15 Spring Conference.

## BOOK REVIEW by Pat Parnell

*Circulation*, a novella by Tim Horvath.  
Sunnyoutside, Buffalo, NY 2008

'*Unruly Fiction*,' the title of Tim Horvath's workshop at the October 2009 SWA conference, made me a little leery about what to expect from his novella. A graphic work with large dark drawings and tiny type, like those in the comics' pages? Wide variations in type fonts and point size scattered in several directions across the pages? Solid blocks of print in stream of consciousness, á la Molly Bloom?

With the first paragraph, I relaxed, aware that I was safe in the hands of a writer who knows exactly what he is doing and what effects he wants to create. *Circulation* explores the fiction staple, the relationship of father and son, as seen from the point of view *Continued on p.4*

*Continued from p.3* of a son who is trying to make his father's final days more comfortable and more reassuring. The narrator, Jay Pardo, Circulation Director of the Biltchrist, Michigan, Public Library, interweaves three stories to create his narrative.

One, the past, his childhood, when his and his brother Aidan's daily lives were dominated by his father's great project, *The Atlas of the Voyage of Things*, which, in his father's dust jacket copy, "documents the marvelous, intricate, globetrotting chain of events by which things come to be what and where they are." The project sounds to the reader like Wikipedia on steroids, and when Jay cleans out his father's apartment, he finds only piles of notes for the *Atlas*—the mammoth task of writing the book never even begun.

The second story forms the framework of the novel, the narrator's visits to his father in the hospital, conveying the older man's gradual decline. The third story centers on the father's first book, self-published in the narrator's infancy, *Spelos, An Ode to Caves*. The narrator manages to get the book included on

the shelves of libraries where he works. The family even goes, in the boys' youth, to visit the copy in the Library of Congress. But we writers know, the hardest thing is not to get something published; the hardest thing is to get some one to read it. Here is the narrator's final gift to his father, a series of fictional adventures involving Spelos as it is checked out by a dizzying variety of imaginary readers.

Closing *Circulation*, the reader is left with amusement at Tim's gentle sense of humor. (Jay's niece takes after her grandfather with her goal of a collection of "one of everything.") But the strongest emotion I felt was the narrator's love and compassion for his father, which suffuses the entire story and which rebounds to the narrator at the conclusion with the healing sense of being embraced by open, open arms.

Anyone interested in obtaining *Circulation* can contact Tim at [horvathon@aol.com](mailto:horvathon@aol.com). To learn more about Tim and his adventures in unruly fiction, go to [www.timhorvath.com](http://www.timhorvath.com).

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Mark your new 2010 Calendar

Seacoast Writers Spring  
CONFERENCE

(new location - McConnell Center/Dover Adult Learning Center, 61 Locust St., 603-742-1030)

Saturday, May 15,

8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.



Winter Photo Composite  
by Marilyn Rudenstein