

# The St. Louis Poetry Center Features Three Poetry Notables At Free Sunday Workshops in Early 2005

Some 6 or 7 years ago when I became interested in attempting to write poetry, a friend pointed me in the direction of The St. Louis Poetry Center, a group founded in 1946, which holds free monthly workshops in the autumn, winter, and spring of each year. At that time, I'd written a handful of pieces I thought *might* be poems. When I read them to a close relative the response was swift and certain: "I don't know where you're coming from, Bobby—but the trains don't run there anymore."

At my first visit to a Sunday workshop of the SLPC, I was able to say one of my poems and found a group of people willing to listen and offer sincere suggestions how I might improve its composition and my reading of the piece. The leader of the workshop that afternoon, or "poet-critic," was Richard Newman, editor of *River Styx* magazine. Since that first visit, the SLPC has become an indispensable component of my writing passage.

The St. Louis Poetry Center's long tradition of making newcomers feel welcome and providing an outstanding reading and discussion forum for beginners and seasoned poets alike, continues in the coming months.

Poet Michael Heffernan and Poet/Editors Laurence Lieberman (University of Illinois Press) and Christian Wiman (Chicago's venerable *Poetry* magazine) will be the featured poet-critics at free Sunday Workshops sponsored by The St. Louis Poetry Center, held at 1:30pm at the University City Public Library's 2nd-floor meeting room during the months of February, March, and April. Specific dates are given below.

Interested attendees are invited to send a poem to the featured poet-critic for possible critique during the afternoon workshops. Details for doing so are available at the SLPC's website, [www.stlouispoetrycenter.org](http://www.stlouispoetrycenter.org), or by

writing the SLPC at 567 North & South Rd., #8, St. Louis, MO 63130.



Michael Heffernan

Sunday, February 20, 2005, will feature Michael Heffernan, Professor of English at the University of Arkansas. Mr. Heffernan's latest volume of poems, his seventh, is *The Night Breeze Off the Ocean*, forthcoming in early 2005. He is the recipient of three grants in poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts, two Pushcart Prizes, the Iowa Poetry Prize, and the Porter Prize for Literary Excellence. His poems have appeared in *APR*, *Boulevard*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Margie*, *Poetry*, *TriQuarterly*, and many other reviews.



Laurence Lieberman

On Sunday, March 20, 2005, the SLPC will host poet-critic Laurence Lieberman. Mr. Lieberman is a Professor of English at the University of Illinois-Champaign and poetry editor of University of Illinois Press, where he founded the poetry series in 1971. He has published thirteen collections of

poetry and criticism, most recently, *Hour of the Mango Black Moon*, poems with paintings by Stanley Greaves and others (Peepal Tree Press of Leeds, England, 2004). His poetry has been widely anthologized, recently in *The Body Electric* (APR/Norton) and *The Best American Poetry*. His awards include grants from the NEA and the Jerome Shestack Prize from *APR*. Mr. Lieberman received a William Carlos Williams Citation from the Poetry Society of America. New work appears in *APR*, *Hudson Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Margie*, *The New Republic*, and elsewhere.



Christian Wiman

On Sunday, April 24, 2005, Christian Wiman will serve as poet-critic for the SLPC workshop. Mr. Wiman is editor of *Poetry* magazine. He is the author of two books of poetry, *The Long Home* (Story Line Press, 1998), which won the 1998 Nicholas Roerich Prize, and *Hard Night* (Copper Canyon Press, 2005). He has also written a book of criticism, *Ambition and Survival: Essays on Poetry* (Zoo Press, 2004). His poems and essays appear frequently in such places as *Harpers*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and elsewhere.

Each Sunday workshop will last from 1:30pm until 3:30pm. Messrs. Heffernan, Lieberman and Wiman have graciously agreed to hold book signings at the conclusion of each of their respective workshops.

## St. Louis Poetry Center continued...

Of further note: The St. Louis Poetry Center's National Contest has a deadline of Feb. 15, 2005. A Grand Prize of \$2,000 will be awarded to the winning poem and the winning poem will be published in Vol. 4 of *Margie/The American Journal of Poetry*. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes will also be awarded. Poet Denise Duhamel will serve as Finalist Judge. Please consult the website or write the SLPC for complete entry guidelines.

I am grateful to have discovered

The St. Louis Poetry Center. I hope, in the coming months, we will welcome many new members: young, old, in-between, and from all walks of life—further enhancing the broad diversity of distinctive voices already present.

*Robert Nazarene is a poet and the Director of the Executive Committee of the SLPC's Board. He is founding editor of Margie/The American Journal of Poetry.*

### Fiction Writer Kathryn Davis to Visit English Department

Fiction writer Kathryn Davis will be visiting Washington University as the Fannie Hurst Professor of Creative Literature in the Department of English. She will read from her books on **Thursday, February 17th, at 8 pm** and give a talk on the craft of fiction on the following Tuesday, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 8 pm**. Both programs are in the Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201 of the main campus.

Kathryn Davis is the author of five novels, including *The Girl Who Trod on a Loaf; Hell;* and *Versailles*. She has received a Kafka Prize, the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Of her work, Kellie Wells, assistant professor in the English department and fiction writer on the faculty of The Writing Program at Washington University says: "Kathryn Davis's fiction defies description. No other writer boldly dares to claim-stake the same fictional territory. No one else writes a sentence like Davis or bores through the world's deceptive veneer with the gimlet eye that she does. Her voice is one of the most interesting and original in American fiction."



The Center for the Humanities  
Campus Box 1071  
Old McMillan Hall, Rm S101  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899  
phone: 314-935-5576  
email: cenhum@artsci.wustl.edu  
http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu

### THE CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES ADVISORY BOARD 2005-2006

Nancy Berg  
Associate Professor of The  
Jewish, Islamic and  
Near Eastern Studies Program

Ken Botnick  
Associate Professor of Art

Letty Chen  
Assistant Professor of  
Modern Chinese Language  
and Literature

Robert Henke  
Associate Professor of Drama  
and Comparative Literature  
Chair of Comparative  
Literature

Michael Kahn  
Attorney at Law, Blackwell  
Sanders Peper Martin

Larry May  
Professor of Philosophy

Steven Meyer  
Associate Professor of  
English

Angela Miller  
Associate Professor of Art  
History and Archeology

Linda Nicholson  
Stirtz Distinguished  
Professor of Women and  
Gender Studies

Dolores Pesce  
Professor of Music

Joe Pollack  
KWMU Theatre & Film  
Critic

Bart Schneider  
Editor of *Speakeasy*

Jeff Smith  
Associate Professor of  
Performing Arts  
Director of Film and Media  
Studies Department

Robert Vinson  
Assistant Professor of History  
and African and African-  
American Studies

Jim Wertsch  
Marshall S. Snow Professor of  
Arts and Sciences  
Professor of Education

*Ex officio*

Edward S. Macias  
Executive Vice Chancellor &  
Dean of Arts and Sciences,  
Barbara and David Thomas  
Distinguished Professor on  
Arts & Sciences



Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and the Regional Arts Commission.

REGIONAL ARTS  
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit No. 2535



# the figure in the carpet

February 2005 Vol. 3, No. 6

Published by The Center for the Humanities  
at Washington University

## The Rooster and The String

One enjoyable aspect of living in the American ‘melting pot’ of ethnicity is that people recognize and, if time and opportunity allow, celebrate everyone’s holidays. Although life is already quite hectic, I would vote to recognize even more holidays. Unfortunately, since becoming a citizen and being able to vote I have not found anything resembling this idea on the ballot. I suppose a logical objection to a growing number of holidays might be expense, and many of them celebrate similar concepts. Although the rationales behind many of our diverse holidays overlap, there are still advantages to celebrating more of them.

Multiple celebrations of the New Year are a good example. Last Friday evening, I held a bubbling beverage and watched the lighted ball atop a building in Times Square drop down to usher in the year 2005. The Times Square celebration stems from a calendar worked out in the 1580s at the order of Pope Gregory XIII. But, 2005, or, alternatively, the Chinese lunar year 4703, will arrive again with the Chinese New Year celebrated on February 9. Thus, one advantage of celebrating both New Year

observances is that, separated by a little over a month, the two New Years give me a chance to test drive my resolutions and see which are likely to last (and which to drop quietly). Although the Chinese adopted the Western calendar in 1911, the lunar calendar is still used for festive occasions, so if I were in China I would have even more time to eat, drink, and fine-tune my resolutions, because New Year festivities traditionally start on the first day of the lunar month and continue until the fifteenth, when the moon is brightest.

Another advantage of celebrating both New Year observations is the opportunity to revisit the ways humans have tried to understand and describe the world around them with the stories and myths that have grown up around the holiday. The Chinese Lunar Year is the longest chronological record in history, dating from 2637 BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac. The Chinese zodiac has twelve signs, referred to as the twelve Earthly Branches. These were used to keep track of time and to record events. Unlike the Western linear concept of time as a straight line from the past through the present

to the future, the traditional Chinese concept of time is cyclical. This means that after these twelve Earthly Branches came to be designated by animals, every twelve years the same animal name or ‘sign’ reappears. Because most people were illiterate when this system arose, it was a practical solution to describing and using the passage of time. Any event would be associated with the animal sign reigning during its occurrence, and a child would simply have to remember under what sign she or he was born.

Folk tales developed around this system. According to one legend, Buddha summoned all the animals to a New Year’s celebration where he was to designate the first twelve animals arriving to be the signs of the twelve year cycle. When the cat heard the news, he let his friend the rat know about it and they decided to go together. When the time came, however, the rat did not wake the cat who slept through the morning. This is why there is no year of the cat and why cats hate rats. The rat knew that a small animal like himself would not be able to compete with the others, so he begged the ox to let



Dr. Jian Leng

editor's notes

# editor's notes continued

him ride on his head. The ox agreed and they went together. But just as they were about to arrive the rat jumped off the ox's head and crossed the finish line first. This is why the year of the rat is the first in the cycle of years, and the year of the ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig follow according to their arrival orders. Chinese folk stories maintain that one's personality profile can be predicted from the animal presiding during one's birth time, and known as the 'animal that hides in your heart.' If you have visited Chinese restaurants you have probably seen these animal signs and discovered the profile for your birth year found on the paper mats beneath your plate. The year 2005 is the Year of the Rooster. People born under this sign 'tend to hide their conservative natures via a display of aggression and self-confidence, however they are very dignified.' Rooster traits include loving to be the focus of attention, showing scant regard for others, vigilance, decisiveness, straight-forwardness, and accuracy. Although it is possible to cast a rooster's actions in the aforementioned terms, other predicted traits are that roosters are 'excellent with money,' 'great purists,' and 'have minds that work along scientific lines,' which is to project strictly human characteristics on the poor bird.

This kind of anthropo-morphism, or projecting human qualities onto non-human entities, is part of early attempts to understand and describe the world. Folk explanations of the world are frequently anthropomorphic, and they range from animistic ascriptions of life and human-like motives to inanimate objects, to the ancient Greeks explaining events around them as

the actions and whims of the human-like gods. Such creative mythical structures make sense of the world. These analogical ascriptions of human qualities to natural objects reflect ideas about which human qualities were valued more than others. Besides many of the resulting pronouncements being wrong, generalizing our notions of human traits and projecting them on a large universe of natural phenomena results in a powerful ethnocentrism and parochialism. This perspective is much like the idea a worm has of an apple: that the whole world is an apple.



*Year of the Rooster Greeting Card,*  
<http://www.chinasprout.com/shop/HL044>

It is typical of parochialism that its holders do not consider themselves parochial. We seldom realize how parochial we are; we know only how parochial others are in comparison to us. Yet, it is difficult to draw a clear line between parochial and non-parochial anthropomorphisms because no matter how abstract many of our pronouncements about the world may be, they are rooted in our need

to understand and describe nature in human terms: linguistically. Human language use projects onto the world around us the limitations of our ability to communicate and describe. Even the concept of time is problematic. We may smile at the thought of a twelve year cycle of animal signs, but many issues remain to be resolved regarding understanding of time: what time actually is; whether time exists when nothing is changing; why time's arrow points forward and not backward; whether the past and the future are real; whether it is sensible to speak of time flowing; and whether the present is an objective feature of reality or only a product of subjective experience. Even the stresses and strains of Einstein's theory of relativity are described in terms of an analogy between Einstein's space and a piece of elastic material such as a plain rubber band. The current 'string theory' explanation of the space-time continuum is no better.

The traditional myths and stories concerning holidays of all cultures derive from our species' imaginative attempts to understand the world around us – and they are a reminder that there will always be new discoveries that will make what we think we know today appear primitive and parochial. Until that day I would rather celebrate the Year of the Rooster than the Year of the String.

*Jian Leng*  
*Assistant Director*  
*The Center for the Humanities*

All ever  
indicate  
by sign  
314 pre

Tu  
Macha  
SLPL  
Scanlan  
Feb. 15

First C  
Powell,  
the W  
Power  
State o  
A&B M  
UMSL,

LBB  
Drum  
Anythin  
Against  
6040 S

Th  
Book S  
Book G  
books,  
Branch  
921-72

Author  
Wartts  
Robert  
Chasca  
St. Lou  
Library  
5834.

Knit &  
Wicke  
your cr  
7pm. 8

LBB pr  
discuss  
the Win  
6731.

F  
LBB  
discuss  
St. Lou  
Comm  
6040 S

Laurea  
Rock R

# St. Louis Literary Calendar

## Events in February

Events are free unless otherwise indicated. Book events are followed by readings. All phone numbers take area codes unless indicated.

### Monday, February 1

**Machacek Book Group** meets, Machacek Branch, 6424 N. Euclid, 10am. 781-2948. Also Tues. 7pm.

**Civilizations** presents **Kevin O'Rourke**, author of *Who's Gonna Take My Seat? Manhood, Race & Power in America* discussing "The Lives of Black Men," Century Rms, Millennium Student Center, 10am-6:30pm. 516-4833.

**B&N** presents **Laurie Lynn Bond** discussing her book *What You Say Can & Will be Used Against You*, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 7pm. 367-6731.

### Tuesday, February 2

**Share: Not Your Mother's Music Group** discusses music-themed readings, SLCL Florissant Valley Branch, 195 New Florissant, 7pm. 367-6731.

**Harry Jackson, Charles Jackson, Jr., Margaret Hermes, Robert Earleywine, Edmund de Waard** read from *Under the Arch: True Stories*, Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 7pm. 821-2222.

**Lit Book Group** discusses *Walden* by **Gregory Maguire**, bring your own work, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 6:30-8:30pm. 622-6280.

**LBB** presents **Carlos Ruiz Zafon** discussing his book *The Shadow of the Wind*, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

### Friday, February 4

**B&N** presents **Huping Ling** discussing her book *The Chinese in St. Louis: From Enclave to Cultural Community*, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 1pm. 367-6731.

**Readings of the Heart** meets, Road Branch Library, 10267

St. Charles Rock, St. Ann, 1pm. 429-4845.

**Rare Books & Special Collections**, WU presents **Jana Harper** discussing "The City as Subject: Urban Books," Gingko Room, Olin Library, 4pm. 935-5583.

**LBB** presents **Douglas Coupland** discussing his books *Hey Nostradamus!* and *Eleanor Rigby*, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**COCA's Women Center Stage** series presents **Sister Helen Prejean** discussing her new book *The Death of Innocents*, COCA Theatre, 524 Trinity, 7pm. \$25/\$20. 725-1834 x 124.

**B&N** presents **Huping Ling** discussing her book *The Chinese in St. Louis: From Enclave to Cultural Community*, 8871 Ladue, 7pm. 862-6280.

### Saturday, February 5

Author **Margaret Durham** visits SLPL Central, 1301 Olive, 10am. 241-2288.

**Barry Kepp**, author of *Goldmined! The DreamShop Sourcebook - Your Compass for Creation & Complete Self-Expression*, leads "Dreamshop," a workshop on personal creativity, Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton, 1-6pm. 404-9189.

**Melvin Oliver** discusses his book *Black Wealth/White Wealth: A New Perspective on Racial Inequality*, MO History Museum, 10am. 361-9017.

Movie Matinee screens **Hitchcock's Marnie**, SLPL Barr Branch, 1701 S. Jefferson, 3:30pm. 771-7040.

### Monday, February 7

**LBB** presents **Kalisha Buckhanon** discussing her book *Upstate*, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

### Tuesday, February 8

The Assembly Series at WU presents 9/11 Commission Report author **Robert Kerrey**, Graham Chapel, WU, 11am. 935-5297.

**Fortissimae** book group discusses *The Asian Journal of Thomas Merton* edited by **Naomi Burton Stone** et al, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 11am. 862-6280.

**Foreign Literature Book Group** discusses *Palace of Desire* by **N. Mahfouz**, WU's West Campus Library, 7425 Forsyth, 7:30pm. 727-6118.

### Wednesday, February 9

**St. Louis Publishers' Association** meets, Richmond Hts. Community Center, 8001 Dale, 6:30pm. \$5 non-mems. 205-2679.

### Thursday, February 10

**Sisters in Crime** meet, with former City Attorney **Dee Joyce-Hayes** on "Interesting Court Cases," SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 6:45-9pm. 636-938-7163.

**Readings @ The Contemporary** presents **John Tipton & Kirby Olson** reading from their poetry, Contemporary Art Museum, 3750 Washington, 7pm. 863-3033.

**U. City Great Books Discussion Group** discusses *The Turn of the Screw* by **Henry James**, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington, 8pm. 994-7914.

### Friday, February 11

**LBB** presents **Malcolm Gladwell** discussing his book *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

### Saturday, February 12

**Mystery Lovers Book Club** meets, SLPL Carondelet branch, 6800 Michigan, 11am. 752-9224.

**Scottie Priessmeyer** leads a seminar on "How to Write a Book," Kathryn Linneman Library, 2323 Elm, St. Charles, 10:30am-12pm. 636-922-8557.

**Frans De Waal** discusses his book *Chimpanzee Politics*, Living World, St. Louis Zoo, 7:30pm. \$8/\$5/\$3. 768-5450.

### Sunday, February 13

**B&N** presents mystery writer **Susan McBride** reading from her book *The Good Girls' Guide to Murder*, 8871 Ladue, 2pm. 862-6280.

**St. Louis Chamber Chorus** presents "Poetry in Song: No Man is an Island," with settings of **John Donne's** poetry, Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, 3pm. \$18/

\$16. 636-458-4343.

**Love Ya Like a Sista** book group discusses *Married Men* by **Carl Weber**, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 4pm. 862-6280.

**Shaw Book Group** discusses *Flippin' the Script* by **Aisha Ford**, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 4pm. 862-6280.

### Tuesday, February 15

**Romance Writers of America** (MO Chapter) present **Eileen Dreyer & Kathleen Korbel** on "Dedicated Villains - or, Bad Guys are people Too," 11am, B&N, 9618 Watson. Visitors \$5. [www.morwa.org](http://www.morwa.org).

**Kingshighway Book Group** discusses *Pride and Prejudice* by **Jane Austen**, SLPL Kingshighway Branch, 2260 S. Vandeventer, 6:45pm. 771-5450.

### Wednesday, February 16

The Assembly Series at WU presents rap artist & poet **Saul Williams**, author of *Said the Shotgun to the Head*, Graham Chapel, WU, 11am. 935-5297.

**Richmond Hts Book Group** discusses *Sunday at the Pool in Kigali* by **Gil Courtemache**, Richmond Hts. Community Center, 8001 Dale, 7pm. 645-6202.

### Thursday, February 17

**SIUE's English Language & Literature Association Speaker Series** presents **Walt Wolfram** discussing sociolinguistics and vernacular languages, SIUE Conference Center/MUC, 7pm. [jmoy@siue.edu](mailto:jmoy@siue.edu).

**WU English Dept's Writing Program** presents **Kathryn Davis** reading from her fiction, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201, WU, 8pm. 935-7130.

### Saturday, February 19

**Jonathan Smith**, SLU, lectures on "Journey Into Blackness" via films *Slave Ship*, *Tamango*, & *Amistad*, MO History Museum, 10am, breakfast 9am \$11.95. 454-3150.

**Shaw Book Group** discusses *Missouri Gateways* by **Aisha Ford**, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. 862-6280.

**Romance Writers of America** (MO Chapter) meet, kaffee klatsch, 9:30am. **Eileen Graessle & Sue Weinstroer**

on "Bundles of Joy? Ugly Characters in Your Fiction," 9618 Watson, 11am. [www.stlouispoetrycenter.org](http://www.stlouispoetrycenter.org)

### Sunday, February 20

**Michael Heffernan** at **St. Louis Poetry Center** at City Library, 6701 Delmar, Submission info: [www.stlouispoetrycenter.org](http://www.stlouispoetrycenter.org)

### Monday, February 21

*River Styx* presents **John Bogen & Michelle Boisjoly** from their work, 7:30pm, 399 N. Euclid. \$5/4. 533-4545.

### Tuesday, February 22

**LBB** presents poet **Kevin O'Rourke** discussing his book *Black*, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**MO-Tell** holds its Gateway Story Swap, Salad Bowl, 3949 Lindell, 6-9pm. 994-7914.

**WU English Dept's Writing Program** presents **Kathryn Davis** reading from her fiction, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201, WU, 8pm. 935-7130.

### Wednesday February 23

**Central Book Group** meets, Rm. 1, SLPL Central, 4:30pm. 539-0396.

**Barr Book Group** discusses *Confederacy of Dunces* by **Kennedy Toole**, SLPL S. Jefferson, 5:30pm. 771-7040.

### Thursday, February 24

**Schlafly Book Group** discusses *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by **Zora Neale Hurston**, SLPL, 225 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**Alliance Française** Lecture discusses *La Chanson Douce* by **Orsenna**, 8505 Delmar, 7:30pm. 432-0734.

**U. City Great Books Discussion Group** discusses *Slaves on Fire* by **Kurt Vonnegut**, Presbyterian Church, Washington. 994-7914.

### Friday, February 25

**Underwood Poets** present **Clark & Dan Beachy-Quinn** from their work, Gallery, 419 N. 10th, 7pm. 725-6280.

# Young Readers' Literary Calendar

## Saturday, February 26

**Saturday Writers** presents Romance writer **Irene Hannon**, O'Fallon Civic Park Bldg., O'Fallon, MO, 11am-1pm. \$5 for non-members. [www.saturdaywriters.org](http://www.saturdaywriters.org).

## Monday, February 28

**Contemporary Fiction and Non-Fiction Reading Group** discusses *A Presumption of Death* by **Jill Paton Walsh & Dorothy L. Sayers**, WU's West Campus Library, Moog Lounge, 2-4pm. 481-0730.

**¡Leamos! Spanish Book Group** discusses *El Amor en Los Tiempos de Colera* by **Gabriel Garcia Marquez**, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 7-8pm. 772-6586.

**The BookClub** discusses *The Sound and the Fury* by **William Faulkner**, for time and venue call 636-451-3232.

## Notices

**Cinema St. Louis** announces the 2005 CinemaSpoke Screenplay Competition, submit an original feature length screenplay, winners get public readings, deadline February 4, 5pm. 454-0042; [www.cinemastlouis.org](http://www.cinemastlouis.org).

**St. Louis Poetry Center** announces its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Best Poem Contest, cash prizes & publication for winners, judge Denise Duhamel, deadline postmark Feb 15, send 3 unpublished poems + \$15 fee + SAE to 567 North & South #8, 63130.

**Writers Under the Arch** writing group meets, February 1, 8, 15 & 22, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. 862-6280.

OASIS classes: **Richard Newman** teaches *Creative Writing*, 5595 Grand Dr., Fridays Feb 4-Apr 8, 2-4pm, \$40; **Kristen Naiman** leads *OASIS Writing Group*, Famous-Barr, Crestwood Plaza, Weds. Feb 9, 23, Mar 9, 23; Apr 13, 27, 1-3pm. \$18. 539-4557.

Check the online calendar at [cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu](http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu) for more events. To advertise, send details to [litcal@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:litcal@artsci.wustl.edu), or call 314-935-5576.

For space reasons, we list mainly events for school-age children. For pre-school story times, contact branches of SLPL and SLCL, B&N and Borders bookstores. Registration is required for most library events.

## Wednesday, February 2

Folktales from Africa, ages 5-12, SLCL Florissant Valley Branch, 195 New Florissant, 3:45pm. 921-7200.

## Thursday, February 3

**Writer's Workshop**, discuss & critique each others' poetry, fiction, essays, ages 16+, SLCL Grand Glaize Branch, 1010 Meramec Station, 7pm. 636-225-6454.

## Monday, February 7

**African-American Read-In Chain**, all ages, most SLPL branches. Call branch for times.

## Tuesdays, February 8, 15

**Young Adult Booktalk**, discuss books, write reviews, SLCL Bridgeton Trails branch, 3455 McKelvey, 4pm. 291-7570.

## Thursday, February 10

**Club Read** explores African influence around the world, teens, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N.Euclid, 4-5pm. 367-4120.

## Tuesday, February 15

**Ridley Pearson** reads from his book *Peter and the Starcatchers*, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 7pm. 862-6280.

## Thursday, February 17

**Carpenter Teen Book Club** discusses *Double Dutch* by **Sharon Draper**, grades 6-9, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 4pm. 772-6586.

## Friday, February 18

**Teen movie**, *Holes* from the book by **Louis Sachar**, pizza & prizes, SLCL Tesson Ferry Branch, 9920 Lin-Ferry Dr., 7-9:30pm. 843-0560.

**GMT Productions** present "The Adventures of Lewis & Clark," Florissant Civic Center Theatre, James J. Eagan Center, 1 James J. Eagan Dr., 7:30pm. Also Sat.19, 2:00pm. Ticket prices @ box office. 921-5678.

## Wednesday, February 23

Video & story *Arthur Gets Locked in the Library*, ages 6+, SLCL Sachs Branch, 16400 Burkhardt, 4pm. 636-728-0001.

## Friday-Sunday February 25-27

**COCA Family Theatre Series** presents **Tom Chapin & Friends**, COCA, 524 Trinity, 7pm. Also Sun. Dec 12, 1:30 & 3:30pm. All ages. \$17. 725-6555.

## Saturday, February 26

Movie matinee, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, from the book by **Lynn Reid Banks**, SLCL Cliff Cave Branch, 5430 Telegraph, 2pm. 487-6003.

**Gregory S. Carr** of Griot Theatre presents *Call & Response: A History of Negro Spirituals*, SLCL Prairie Commons Branch, 915 Utz Lane, 2pm. 895-1023.

## Monday, February 28

**Bob the Builder** stories, ages 3-6, SLCL Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, 6:30pm. 636-227-9630.

## Notices

Lindbergh High School presents the **Reeve Lindbergh Book & Poetry Festival**, public opening Feb 27, with authors Tracy Campbell Pearson, Rob Raines, Shelley Pearsall, Pam Vaccaro, Dorinda Nicholson, June Rae Wood, 490 S. Lindbergh, 1:30-5pm. 729-2410.

SLCL branch libraries present **Opus Ensemble & Blake Travis** with **Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf**. All ages. Call branches for details.

SLCL branch libraries present **Papa & Jackie Wright** with *The Tortoise and the Hare*, a puppet show from Aesop's fable. All ages. Call branches for details.

SLCL presents "Beating the Story Drum," African folk tales, drumming and dance with **Kenya Ajanaku & the Harambee Youth Group**, or **Janice LaSane Katambwa**. All ages. Call branches for details.

**SLCL Branches:** Cliff Cave, 5430 Telegraph, 487-6003; Daniel Boone, 300 Clarkson. 636-227-9630; Florissant Valley, 195 New Florissant, 921-7200; Grand Glaize, 1010 Meramec Station, 636-225-6454; Jamestown Bluffs, 4153 N. Hwy. 67, 741-6800; Mid-County, 7821 Maryland, 721-3008; Oak Bend, 842 S. Holmes, 822-0051; Prairie Commons, 915 Utz Lane, 895-1023; Rock Road, 10267 St. Charles Rock, 429-5116; Sachs, 16400 Burkhardt, 636-728-000; Tesson Ferry, 9920 Lin-Ferry Dr., 843-0560; Thornhill, 12863 Willowick, 878-7730; Weber Road, 4444 Weber, 638-2210.

SLPL presents African & African American storytellers **Loretta Washington**, Feb 4, 10am, Central, 1301 Olive, 241-2288; Feb 1, 10am, Baden, 8448 Church, 388-2400; Feb 15, 10am, Barr, 1701 S. Jefferson, 771-7040; Feb 2, 10:30am, Cabanne, 1106 Union, 367-0717; Feb 8, 10am, Carondelet, 6800 Michigan, 752-9224; **Gladys Cogswell**, Feb 7, 3pm, Carpenter, 3309 S. Grand, 772-6586; Feb 7, 10am, Walnut Park, 5760 W. Florissant, 383-1210; **Sidime Mamady**, Feb 8, 10am, Divoll, 4234 N. Grand, 534-0313; Feb 7, 5pm, Julia Davis, 4415 Natural Bridge, 383-3021; **Bobby Norfolk & Kenya Ajanaku**, Feb 1, 10am, Buder, 4401 Hampton, 352-2900; Feb 23, 10am, Schlafly, 225 N. Euclid, 367-4120.

## Abbreviations:

B&N: Barnes & Noble; LBB: Left Bank Books; SIUE: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; SLCL: St. Louis County Library; SLPL: St. Louis Public Library; UMSL: University of Missouri St. Louis; WU: Washington University.

For more listings visit [cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu](http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu).