

**Morning Book Discussion Group** discusses *The Egyptologist*, Borders, 15355A Manchester, 10am, 636-230-2992.

**Book Discussion Group** discusses *The Awakening*, SLPL Kingshighway, 2260 S. Vandeventer, 6:30pm, 771-5450.

#### Thursday, February 23

WU Professor **Marjorie Garber** speaks on **Helen Clanton Morrin**, Edison Theatre, Mallinckrodt, WU, 6445 Forsyth, 4pm, 935-5858.

**Book Discussion Group** discusses *Little Scarlet*, SLPL Schlafly, 225 N. Euclid, 7pm, 367-4120.

**Lisa Vander** reads, Borders, 11745 Olive, 7pm, 432-3575.

WU Writing Program Spring Reading Series presents poet **Linda Gregerson**, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201, 8pm, 935-7130.

**U. City Great Books Discussion Group** discusses "The Dead are Silent" & "Kong at the Seaside," 6800 Washington, 8pm, 994-7914.

#### Friday, February 24

SLPL Baden Branch presents **Authors@Your Library** with **Susan Booker-Jackson**, 8448 Church, 4pm, 388-2400.

#### Saturday, February 25

**Book Discussion Group** meets, SLPL Buder, 4401 Hampton, 1:30pm, 352-2900.

#### Sunday, February 26

MO History Museum presents **John W. Reps**, Lindell at DeBaliviere, 2pm, 454-3150.

#### Monday, February 27

**Thornbirds Book Discussion Group** for Adults discusses *To Kill a Mockingbird*, SLCL Thornhill, 12863 Willowyck, 2pm, 878-7730.

The **Nishmah Teen Book Group** meets, Borders, 1519 S. Brentwood, 7pm, 918-8189.

#### Tuesday, February 28

**Book Discussion Group** discusses *Under the Banner of Heaven*, SLCL Grand Glaize, 1010 Meramec Station, 2pm, 636-225-6454.

LBB presents **Bruce Benderson**, author of *The Romanian*, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm, 367-6731.

**As the Page Turns** Book Group discusses *The Time of the Uprooted*, SLCL Weber Road, 4444 Weber Rd, 7pm, 638-2210.

**Judith Stix & Robert Lowes** read their poetry, Focal Point, 2720 Sutton Blvd, 7:30-9pm, 636-225-5423.

#### Notices

The Missouri Association of Publications presents its 2nd Annual Publishing Summit at Memorial Union, University of Missouri-Columbia, March 2-3. Please visit <http://www.missouripublications.org> for details.

#### Abbreviations:

B&N: Barnes & Noble; LBB: Left Bank Books; SLCL: St. Louis County Library; SLPL: St. Louis Public Library; WU: Washington University.

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

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## A Chicken Sings the Blues

The sale-priced mound of frozen chickens in the cooler at the grocery store reminded me of a letter I read recently. The author referred to a report stating that even a moderate pandemic of bird flu could kill more than 200,000 people in this country and nearly 2 million could die in a severe outbreak. The letter went on to say that if no one ate poultry or eggs then birds would not live in conditions that spread the flu in the first place and the world would be a much safer place. Despite the fact that it has yet to sicken a single American, the potential for a bird flu virus pandemic was the top health story of 2005 and the poster 'bird' for this story has become the chicken. In fact, the predominant media image of chickens this past year was of a very dangerous creature that could be made clean only by mass executions or immunizations. I could not help smiling at the irony of the situation, as I placed a few of the frozen carcasses in my cart, because 2005 was the Chinese "Year of the Chicken."

Although I do not mean to make light of the potential for

disaster a pandemic might bring—and certainly the news stories want us to believe the end of the world as we know it is, as usual, just around the corner—I am not the only one who finds some humor in the current situation. A friend in China forwarded a short video clip via e-mail that captured the irony perfectly. Much as Bono of the rock band U2 might use the stage for a political message, this anthropomorphic MTV-like cartoon presents a rock band of chickens fronted by a tiny roly-poly chick singing about the plight of chickens everywhere. The lyrics are a lament about humans who, like the author of the above letter, now say that chickens are not clean or safe. In a style similar to that of the troubling pictures of smiling pigs found adorning the walls of a barbecue restaurant, the chick sings: "Eat my meat, I have no protest, eat my eggs and I am happy. But I cannot accept being treated as pollution. It is the same chicken meat and the same eggs as it has always been. Why are we now becoming the source of infection? Although bird flu is dangerous, the only blame we

have is that our ancestors were also birds." And while the scene shifts from the chicken band to images of jail cell doors closing on chickens and shiny piles of eggs and scenes of humans in biohazard suits hauling away the band's bass player, the chick cries that "nowadays, it's more difficult to be a chicken than a human." The clip ends with the chick, backed by different colored chickens holding banners asking for peace and love, singing, "Why can't we let the 'Year of the Chicken' just pass, and hopefully all the unhappy things with it. Best wishes to all the little chickens, little ducks, and little children. We chickens hope for a peaceful and healthy world in 2006. Although we seem to be left out, humans cannot live in a world without chickens."

I do not remember any similar public relations efforts on behalf of cattle during the 'mad cow' scare a few years ago. Then we were treated to images of cattle being driven into large trenches and shot and their carcasses burned. I suppose the image of a fuzzy baby calf singing about the plight of cattle everywhere



Dr. Jian Leng

editor's notes

Continued...

would not have been so appealing. Yet, despite a drop in cheeseburger sales for a few months during that period, the current proliferation of hamburger advertisements suggests that we humans (and the economic forces that have a say in our daily diet) cannot live in a world without cattle and beef. I suspect that, like the refrain in the little chick's lyrics, humans cannot live in a world without chickens either. This is made all the more true by the final irony of this situation: the vaccine that protects humans against even the conventional human flu (a disease thought to contribute to some 36,000 deaths in the United States every year) is incubated in chicken eggs.

Just as the vast majority of flu sufferers in this country experience only a mild illness, there is some evidence suggesting that "bird flu" is more common and less deadly than first feared. The H5N1 strain has ravaged flocks in at least 16 mostly Asian countries since late 2003 and, as the latest incidents of it in Turkey demonstrate, it is spreading to Eastern Europe along the migratory routes of wild birds. Yet it appears that many people who get the disease do not become seriously ill and quickly recover. Let us hope that by the time the next "Year of the Chicken" comes around, the reputation of our feathered friends has recovered. In the meantime, I suspect that dogs are wondering just what dangers await them in a few weeks with the beginning of the "Year of the Dog."

*Jian Leng*  
Associate Director  
The Center for the Humanities

## The Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellows' Lecture and Workshop Series

The Center for the Humanities is pleased to announce its first class of Faculty Fellows and their invited scholars' lectures and workshops in February, Spring 2006.



### Thursday, February 16

"How Jewish is it? Translations of Jewish Memory in Contemporary German Culture"

Leslie Morris (University of Minnesota, Director of Center for Jewish Studies)

4:00 pm, Anheuser-Busch Hall

This lecture is an examination of contemporary literary texts (by W.G. Sebald in particular) and public art installations that conceptualize the "place" and "non-place" of Jewish memory. Prof. Morris explores the relationship between Jewish text and text as ruin that has emerged as a dominant trope of contemporary German Jewish culture.

### Friday, February 17

"German Studies/Jewish Cultural Studies/Diaspora Studies: The 'Place' of Germany"

Workshop with graduate students in German Department  
Leslie Morris

10:00 am, Location TBA

The workshop proposes expanding the parameters of German-Jewish Studies by turning to recent critical work in Diaspora Studies that examines the relationship between place and language, place and history, and place and the 'non-place.'



### Thursday, February 23

"Objects for the Table: La Bruyère, Descartes, and Dutch Golden Age Painters"

Harriet Stone (WU, Department of Romance Languages)

4:00 pm, Anheuser-Busch Hall

Studying objects at the court of Versailles and in Dutch genre painting, Harriet Stone explores the expansion of knowledge in the seventeenth century as informed through Descartes's revolutionary scientific method. Prof. Stone will show how the table of knowledge that we construct by considering together the depictions of objects in science, literature, and art reflects less a final truth than the art of science itself.

Events  
February

All events are free unless indicated. Book events by signings. All phone numbers have a 314 prefix unless indicated.

### Wednesday, February 15

**The Borders Book Club**  
*Kite Runner*, 10990 Sunset Blvd, 0300.

**Pam Houston** reads from *Hound*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 6731.

### Thursday, February 16

**Mystery Lovers' Book Club**  
*Die Upon a Kiss*, SLCL, Lindbergh, 10 am, 994-3300.

**Aleksandar Hemon** speaks at University Pearson House, Big Bend, 1:30pm, 968-7100.

**Book Journeys Discussion** discusses *The Photographer*, Trails, 8400 Delport, 2pm, 968-7100.

**Trail Blazers Book Club** discusses *Angels & Demons*, SLCL, Bluffs, 4153 N. Hwy 67, 2pm, 968-7100.

WU professors **Kathryn Iwamoto** and **Wells** read from their work at Euclid, 7pm, 367-6731.

### Saturday, February 18

The St. Louis Writers Guild hosts a workshop with **Denise Duff** at 9618 Watson Rd, 10am, 863-4400.

SLPL Carpenter Branch hosts *Makings of a Writer: Profiles of American Authors and their Works* at S. Grand, 11am, 772-6586.

**Howard Bowens** reads from *The American* at SLPL Divoll, 4234 N. Grand, 0313.

# St. Louis Literary Calendar

## Tuesday, February 7

SLPL Machacek Branch hosts a **Book Discussion Group**, 6424 Scanlan, 10am, 781-2948.

LBB presents **Jeff Biggers**, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm, 367-6731.

## Wednesday, February 8

**Bookies Book Discussion Group** meets, SLCL Oak Bend, 842 S. Holmes, 2pm. 822-0051. Also **Feb. 22**, 2pm.

**Sisters in Crime** holds mystery critiquing event, SLCL HQ, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 636-938-7163.

**Jill Connor Browne** reads from her work, SLCL HQ, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 7pm, 367-6731.

**Boone's Bookies** discuss *Under the Tuscan Sun: At Home in Italy*, SLCL Daniel Boone, 300 Clarkson, 2pm & 7pm, 636-227-9630.

## Thursday, February 9

**Murder of the Month Club** discusses *Exit Wounds*, SLCL Indian Trails, 8400 Delport, 3:30pm, 428-5424.

SIEU ELLA Speaker Series: **Salikoko Mufwene**, Conference Ctr, Morris University Center, 7pm, email [jmoy@siue.edu](mailto:jmoy@siue.edu).

LBB presents **Martha Patterson**, 1895-1915, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm, 367-6731.

St. Charles Community College Coffeehouse hosts an **open-mic** in the Student Center Private Dining Room, 4601 Mid-Rivers Mall, 7-9pm, 636-922-8407.

**Contemporary Issues Book Discussion Group** discusses *War on Truth*, SLPL Carpenter, 3309 S. Grand, 7pm, 772-6586.

WU Writing Program Spring Reading Series presents poet **Lucie Brock-Broido**, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201, 8pm, 935-7130.

**U. City Great Books Discussion Group** discusses *The Last Faun & The Woman of Samaria*, 6800 Washington, 8pm, 994-7914.

## Friday, February 10

**Great Expectations Discussion Group** discusses *The Tea-Olive Bird Watching Society*, SLCL Rock Road, 10267 St. Charles Rock, 10am, 429-5116.

St. Louis Art Museum & the Archaeological Institute of America present **Jodi Magness**, SLAM Auditorium, 1 Fine Arts Dr, 7pm, 655-5493.

## Saturday, February 11

**The Mystery Lover's Book Club** discusses *When Death Comes Stealing*, SLPL Carondelet, 6800 Michigan, 10am, 752-9224.

**Write Along Writers Workshop** takes place, SLCL Indian Trails, 8400 Delport, 11:30am, 428-5424. Also **Feb. 25**, 11:30am.

**Writers Workshop** offered for amateur writers, SLCL Mid-County, 7821 Maryland, 2-4pm, 721-3008.

**Satellite Reading Series** takes place, Fort Gondo Art Gallery, 3151 Cherokee, 7pm, email [clamp34@charter.net](mailto:clamp34@charter.net). Also **Feb. 18 & 25**.

## Sunday, February 12

The **BookClub** discusses *The Blind Watchmaker*, 636-451-3232.

**Susan McBride** reads from her work, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 2pm, 862-6280.

## Monday, February 13

Local author **Lydia Douglas** reads, SLCL Lewis & Clark, 9909 Lewis-Clark, 7pm, 994-3300.

WU Writing Program Spring Reading Series presents poet **Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill**, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201, 8pm, 935-7130.

## Tuesday, February 14

SLCL **Grand Glaize Book Discussion Group** discusses *The Fallen Man*, 1010 Meramec Station Rd, 2pm, 636-225-6454.

SLCL **HQ Book Discussion** discusses *The Year the Colored Sisters Came to Town*, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 7pm, 994-3300. Also **Feb. 16**, 2pm.

**As the Page Turns** Discussion Group discusses *The Jane Austen Book Club*, SLCL Weber Road, 4444 Weber, 7pm, 638-2210.

Valentines **Open Mic Night** sponsored by the St. Louis Writers Guild, 7pm, 821-3823.

**Book Discussion Group** meets, SLCL Samuel C. Sachs, 16400 Burkhardt, 7pm, 636-728-0001.

WU Foreign Literature Group discusses *The True History of the Kelly Gang*, LL of West Campus Bldg, 7425 Forsyth, 7:30pm, 727-6118.

## Wednesday, February 15

**Book Discussion Group** meets, SLCL Samuel C. Sachs, 16400 Burkhardt, 2pm, 636-728-0001.

**Evening Book Group** discusses *Evidence of Murder*, SLCL Oak Bend, 842 S. Holmes, 7:30pm, 822-0051.

## Thursday, February 16

**Borders Historical Book Group** discusses *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant*, 10990 Sunset Hills, 1pm, 909-0300.

**Book Journeys Discussion Group** discusses *As I Lay Dying*, SLCL Indian Hills, 8400 Delport, 2pm, 428-5424.

St Louis Writers Guild presents **John Dalton**, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 7pm, 862-6280.

LBB presents **Peter C. Brown**, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm, 367-6731.

WU Writing Program Spring Reading Series presents **Ellen Akins**, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201, 8pm, 935-7130.

## Friday, February 17

**Peter C. Brown** reads, Borders, 1519 S. Brentwood, 7:30pm, 918-8189.

## Saturday, February 18

Big Sleep Books presents **Susan McBride**, 239 N. Euclid, 1pm, 361-6100.

## Sunday, February 19

Pre-submit writing to the St. Louis Poetry Center's **poetry workshop** critiqued by **Susan Swartwout**, U City Library, 6701 Delmar, 1:30-3:30pm, 770-9130.

## Monday, February 20

*River Styx* presents **Tim Seibles** and **Kathryn Davis**, Duff's Restaurant, 392 N. Euclid, 7:30pm, 533-4541.

## Tuesday, February 21

**Book Discussion Group** meets, SLPL Machacek, 6424 Scanlan Ave, 10am, 781-2948.

Calendar continues on back page...