

# Poets Marilyn Hacker and Rafael Campo to Visit Wash U

The Center for the Humanities is proud to present two of America's leading poets, Marilyn Hacker and Rafael Campo, as part of its *SmartSet Series: Where Great Writers Read*. Hacker and Campo will give readings at Washington University in March and April, as part of a St. Louis-wide programming effort on the subject of women's health. Ms. Hacker's reading is also co-sponsored by Washington University's Creative Writing Program.

These readings are a collaboration between the Center for the Humanities and WU's Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum in programming around a major new exhibition project this spring: *Inside Out Loud: Visualizing Women's Health in Contemporary Art*. *Inside Out Loud* is the first significant survey of contemporary American art to explore critical issues relating to women's health. The 51 artworks from across the country represent such topics as breast cancer, AIDS, reproductive rights and technology, beauty and aging, paralleling the rise in awareness of Women's Health as a distinct category in the medical profession and in the community at large.

Marilyn Hacker will read from her work on Friday, March 18. A prominent lesbian activist, influential literary editor,

and a gifted translator as well as a winner of the National Book Award, her work has appeared in many anthologies of gay and lesbian poetry, and poetry dealing with AIDS and women's illness. As editor of *The Kenyon Review* from 1990-94, Hacker encouraged emerging voices of queer, women, and minority writers. Her own struggle with breast cancer and the illness and death of close friends are material for much of her work. While others trying to comprehend their experience of serious illness have credited Hacker's poetry with healing power, she is pragmatic:

"Good writing gives energy, whatever it is about. But the fact that writers are dealing with essential issues, that some are themselves implicated as HIV-positive or writing with cancer or AIDS, or as healthcare-givers, legal advisors, teachers, outreach workers, witnesses - I think that's a necessary integration of literary writing with what's actually going on in our world."

Marilyn Hacker divides her time between New York, where she teaches at City College and CUNY, and Paris.



Her most recent book of poetry is *Desesperanto* (2003).

Another poet in the front line of real-world health crises is Rafael Campo, who will read on Friday, April 15. A practicing physician as well as a poet and essayist, he teaches and practices general internal medicine at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. His medical practice serves mostly Latinos, gay and lesbian patients, and people with HIV/AIDS.

Campo has published seven volumes of poetry and essays, receiving various honors including a nomination for the National Book Critics Circle Award. His latest work is *The Healing Art: a Doctor's Black Bag of Poetry* (2003). As a Cuban-American and a gay poet, Campo's work has featured in collections of queer and Latino verse as well as poetry dealing with the experiences of illness and healing, notably *Things Shaped in Passing: More "Poets for Life" Writing from the AIDS Pandemic* (1996, with Marilyn Hacker) and *Gay Men at the Millennium* (1997).

"...it would be hubris to suggest...writing poetry could somehow cure cancer or AIDS. Yet in my own particular work as a doctor and poet, I do encounter areas of overlap that make me believe that the origins of poetry and our attraction to it run very deep within us...Poetry is the lifeblood of community; by fostering empathic connections among people, it may indeed remind each of us of our own ongoing process of being alive, of how and why we live."

Both readings will take place at 7:00pm in Steinberg Auditorium, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University, with receptions to follow.

*Marilyn Hacker (left) will read in Steinberg Auditorium, at 7pm on Friday, March 18. Rafael Campo (right) will also read in Steinberg, at 7pm on Friday, April 15.*

## Announcement New Poetry Journal

Washington University faculty and staff are cordially invited to submit original poems to a new journal that will showcase our creative efforts. Whether you've published or not, please consider sending your work—from *haiku* to epic—in any form or style that you choose. Our hope is to provide a congenial outlet for faculty and staff poets of all stripes, and to produce a journal that will represent a broad spectrum of poetic inspiration—for better or verse!

Poems can be emailed as an attachment to [cenhum@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:cenhum@artsci.wustl.edu) or can be sent as hard copy to:

Poetry Journal  
The Center for the Humanities  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Campus Box 1071  
St. Louis MO 63130-4899

Deadline: **March 31, 2005**

Please submit no more than THREE poems or a maximum of FIVE pages.

The Center for the Humanities is pleased to support Washington University faculty Marvin H. Marcus (Associate Professor of Japanese Language & Literature) and Fatemeh Keshavarz (Associate Professor of Persian Language & Literature and Jewish and Near Eastern Studies; Director CSISC) in their efforts to launch this publication.

## Missouri Botanical Garden Poetry and Gardens Festival

A free poetry and gardens festival will be presented at the Missouri Botanical Garden on **Saturday, April 9**, from **12:00 to 2:30pm**. Feature presentations include nationally-acclaimed nature poet, Pattiann Rogers's *Song of the World Becoming*, Bobby Norfolk's *World of Flora*, Wright Entertainment Music, Riverview Garden High School students' *Poetic Expressions in the Natural Sciences*, and Sylvia Duncan reading from her works. Book signing will follow the program at 2:30pm in the Schoenberg Auditorium, Ridgeway Center. This program is organized by Elders Probe the Arts, St. Louis Poetry Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Left Bank Books, with financial assistance from the Regional Arts Commission. For details contact [poet@Elders-Probe-the-Arts.org](mailto:poet@Elders-Probe-the-Arts.org) or (314) 991-1529. Honorary chairs for the program are Barbara Harbach, Professor of Music at University of Missouri, St. Louis; Marie Chew-Elliot, St. Louis Poetry Center Board; and Cheryl D.S. Walker, Poet and General Counsel of Citadel Partners, LLC.

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the  
**figure**  
in the carpet

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## Battle-Axes in the Mirror

As I sit trying to organize my thoughts for these notes, it is cold and overcast outside – it is the dreariest part of winter. Still, I am warm and cheerful. I just finished talking to our daughter in New York and was reminded of how proud I am of how well she has turned out (despite the less than perfect parenting skills of her parents). No matter where or when, there are always difficulties involved in growing up, but these difficulties have become more and more complex. From adolescence on, one is expected to make important decisions about what one should do for a living, where to live, when or whether to marry and have children, all with the sense that these decisions will contribute to the success or failure of one's life project. Because it is difficult to decide on a life project at adolescence, and equally hard to measure the success or failure of such an abstract concept at any age, I would like to think that my life could serve as a story that might help her as she travels through the stations of life. If she is to learn from my life, however, I should also tell her the things that cause me

doubt and fear, but that I keep inside.

Still, I doubt that she would think the ups and downs of her mother's story very relevant. Unlike the culture in which I grew up, this culture's emphasis on youth means that experiences coming with age no longer make old people wise in the eyes of our youth. Unless we die early, we will all get old, so I want my daughter to see in my life that aging is not to be feared. Why, then, do I look at the mirror and cringe when I see the natural result of that process? Why do I buy the promise in fancy bottles of super restorative, multi-intensive, organic night cream? Because I want to look my best; but also because everywhere I turn, I am confronted with the social message that says female beauty means youth. I am always aware that no matter what makeup I buy or what clothes I wear or how many miles I put in on the treadmill, I no longer fit those images. I no longer see 'me' in the mirror of mass culture. I should warn her that one day she, too, will no longer have a reflection in that mirror.

It is easy to overlook the

pervasive impact that mass culture has on how we feel about ourselves and our bodies. Take, for example, the most common 'delivery system' of mass culture: television. On average, individuals in the industrialized world devote three hours a day, or half their leisure time, to watching television. At this rate, someone who lives to be 75 would have spent nine years in front of the tube. But it does not take that long to have the effect I am talking about. Since Western television arrived in the Pacific island of Fiji in 1995, the cultural idea that gaining weight was a sign of health and attractiveness has undergone a dramatic shift. Directors of a Harvard Eating Disorders Center study, which spans 1995-98, report that girls who watched television three or more nights a week were 50% more likely to say they were "too big or fat," and 30% likelier to diet than those who did not. Fiji has only one television station and among the Western programs it shows are *Melrose Place*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, and *Seinfeld*. How much stronger is that message for a girl who has had 160 channels available to

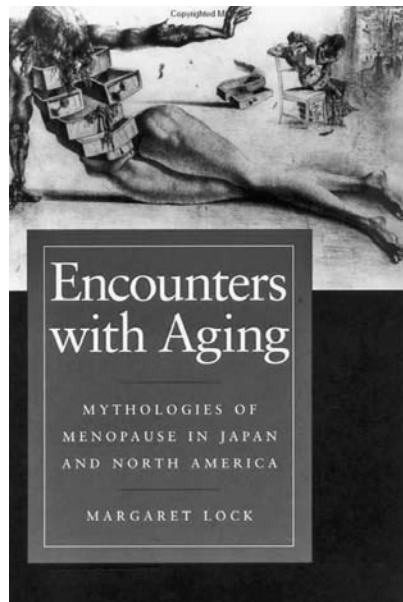


Dr. Jian Leng

editor's notes

her since she was old enough to sit up in front of the TV screen?

Social pressure to look and behave in certain ways is to be expected, but the strength that mass culture exerts on universal age-related biological experiences of women is astonishing. In *Better Than Well* (2003), Carl Elliott discusses the debate about hormone replacement therapy, which doctors used to prescribe routinely to postmenopausal women. Although there are questions about whether hormone replacement therapy actually prevents age-related diseases or whether the benefits outweigh the risks, most clinicians agree that it does eliminate unpleasant menopause symptoms. One of the most common of these symptoms is hot flashes, which may occur in as many as 85 percent of American women. Hot flashes, however, are not universally experienced as problems, let alone medical problems, by women of all cultures. For her book *Encounters with Aging* (1993), anthropologist Margaret Lock conducted 105 interviews with Japanese women ranging in age from forty-five to fifty-five. Only 12 of these women mention symptoms that could be interpreted as hot flashes. Moreover, not a single Japanese woman reported suffering from any of the most common symptoms experienced by North American women, such as sleep disturbance or night sweats. Lock argues that the most important influences accounting for these dramatic differences are cultural. Japanese women do not fear or dread menopause the way that North American women do. For a woman to be getting older in



*Encounters with Aging*, Margaret Lock (University of California Press, 1995)

Japan means that she is advancing in a social hierarchy, and this is accompanied by more responsibility and greater recognition of her maturity and wisdom. Contrast this view of a woman's middle years with our own, where menopause is associated with lack of sexuality and a slow, downward decline into debilitating old age, and you begin to see why mass cultural messages can exert such power.

I do not fear growing older, but I fear the marginalization that comes with it. Valued cultural space for women, apart from being objects of attraction, is lacking. And in America, women must be young, or give the semblance of being young, to be attractive. In China where I grew up there was such a space for women. My grandmother personified the older woman who could, with her accumulated wisdom and experience, command the attention of any company of adults and cause

apprehension in the hearts of misbehaving children. Apparently America once had space for this kind of woman. In *Southern Ladies and Gentlemen* (1975), Florence King notes that older Southern women filled a similar role. King goes on to say that "A country without a tradition of redoubtable battle-axes is a country that does not offer its young women any positive images for female old age." Surely it is time for women, who will one day be grandmothers, to create such an image to reflect in the mirror of mass culture. It is time for us to talk out loud about our inner fears and doubts. I adored my grandmother and, even at the risk of being called a 'battle-axe,' want to be like her. I may never be able to explain everything I feel to my daughter, but I can pass on a positive image of an older woman to her.

The effect of mass culture, commercialism, and art on women's health issues runs much deeper than the few examples I give here, but a good place to investigate it further is the *Inside Out Loud* exhibit showing January to April at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum at Washington University. The Center for the Humanities, in conjunction with the exhibition, has invited two poets whose work is strongly linked to women's health, to contribute to this interdisciplinary event celebrating Women's Month.

Jian Leng  
Assistant Director  
Center for the Humanities



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D.A. Powell  
Lounge, Dunc

# St. Louis Literary Calendar

## Events in March

are free unless otherwise  
Book events are followed  
Phone numbers are area  
unless otherwise indicated.

### Tuesday, March 1

scik reads his book *The Big  
e of Man, Nature, & Fowl*  
&N, 8871 Ladue, 7pm. 862-

I Society presents Carol Diaz  
discussing her book *Petroglyphs  
hs of Missouri*, MO History  
m. 454-3150.

### Wednesday, March 2

ly Series at WU presents Judy  
co-author of *Our Bodies Our  
The Impact of the Media on  
ealth,"* for *Inside Out Loud*,  
pel, WU, 11am. 935-5297.

lish Language & Literature  
peaker Series presents Brad  
sing his autobiography, *Goat*,  
erence Center/MUC, 7pm.  
du.

### Thursday, March 3

ok Group discusses *Stitch n'  
bie Stoller* and *Women with  
Angeles Mastretta*, bring your  
&N, 8871 Ladue, 7pm. 862-

n reads from her book *Mystic &  
999 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.*

ysession (WU), author of  
*o Seismology, Earthquakes &  
ure*, discusses tsunamis and  
s, SLCL Headquarters, 1640  
7pm. 994-3300.

pt's Writing Program presents  
reading from his poetry, Hurst  
cker 201, WU, 8pm. 935-7130.

### Friday, March 4

Laureates of the Heart meets, Rock Road  
Branch Library, 10267 St. Charles Rock,  
St. Ann, 1pm. 429-4845.

### Saturday, March 5

Elizabeth Gentry Sayad discusses her book  
*A Yankee in Creole Country*, SLCL Daniel  
Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, 10am. 636-  
227-9630. Also Sat 3/12, Sachs Branch,  
16400 Burkhardt, 2pm. 636-728-000.

St. Louis Writers' Guild workshop, B&N, 8871  
Ladue, 10am-noon. 821-3823.

Barry Kepp, author of *Goldmined! The  
DreamShop Sourcebook*, leads  
"Dreamshop," a workshop on personal  
creativity, venue tba, 1-5pm. 404-9189.

Sheila P. Moses discusses her book *I, Dred  
Scott*, Borders, 1519 S. Brentwood, 2pm.  
918-8189.

### Sunday, March 6

Former rock star Steve Cash reads his book  
*The MEQ*, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 2pm. 862-  
6280.

James M. Huggins, Michael Kahn, Michael  
MacCambridge, Colleen McKee, Rick Skwiot,  
Charles Warts read from *Under the Arch:  
St. Louis Stories*, U. City Public Library,  
6701 Delmar, 2pm. 727-3150.

### Monday, March 7

Jon Bauman discusses his book *Santa Fe  
Passages*, Webster Groves Public Library,  
301 E. Lockwood, 7pm. 961-3784.

### Tuesday, March 8

Fortissimae Book Group discusses *Moonlight  
on the Avenue of Faith* by Gina B. Nahai,  
&N, 8871 Ladue, 11am. 862-6280.

Legs McNeil discusses his book *The Other  
Hollywood: The Uncensored Oral History  
of the Porn Film Industry*, LBB, 399 N.  
Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

LBB presents Dr. Louis Ignarro discussing  
his book *No More Heart Disease*, SLPL  
Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-  
6731.

Foreign Literature Book Group discusses  
*Sound of the Mountain* by Yasunari  
Kawabata, WU West Campus Library, 7425  
Forsyth, 7:30pm. 727-6118.

### Wednesday, March 9

Kristen Naiman leads OASIS Writing Group,  
Crestwood OASIS 305, Famous-Barr,  
Crestwood Plaza, 1-3pm. \$18 course. Also  
Wed 3/23. 539-4557.

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

Sisters in Crime meet, with Laura Bradford  
(*Jury of One*) & Jo Hiestand (*Death of an  
Ordinary Guy*) on "You Sold Your First Book!  
Now What?" SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S.  
Lindbergh, 6:45-9pm. 636-938-7163.

### Thursday, March 10

U. City Great Books Discussion Group  
discusses *Why Terrorism Works* by Alan  
Dershowitz, Trinity Presbyterian Church,  
6800 Washington, 8pm. 994-7914.

### Saturday, March 12

MO Historical Society presents Steve  
Steinberg discussing his book *Baseball in  
St. Louis, 1900-1925*, MO History Museum,  
3pm. 454-3150.

### Sunday, March 13

Mary Ellen Havard, Mary Openlander, and  
Jan Newhouse discuss their books *Breast  
Cancer: One Illness, Two Women, Four  
Seasons*, and *Moondance: Life Through  
the Cancer Lens*, for the *Inside Out Loud*  
exhibition program, U. City Public Library,  
6701 Delmar, 2pm. 727-3150.

Love Ya Like a Sista book group discusses  
*Soul Journey* by Jacquelin Thomas, B&N,  
8871 Ladue, 4pm. 862-6280.

### Tuesday, March 15

Ray Bosenbecker discusses his book *So,  
Where'd You Go To High School?* SLCL  
Tesson Ferry Branch, 9920 Lin-Ferry, 7pm.  
843-0560. Also Thurs 3/31, Bridgeton Trails  
Branch, 3455 McKelvey, 7pm. 291-7570.

### Wednesday, March 16

The Assembly Series at WU presents Native  
American author Sherman Alexie on  
"Without Reservations: An Urban Indian's  
Comic, Poetic, & Highly Irreverent Look at  
the World," Graham Chapel, WU, 11am.  
935-5297.

Keith Boykin discusses his book *Beyond  
the Down Low: Sex & Denial in Black  
America*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-  
6731.

Richmond Hts. Book Group discusses *The  
Clearing* by Tim Gautreaux, Richmond Hts.  
Community Center, 8001 Dale, 7pm. 645-  
6202.

### Thursday, March 17

St. Louis Writers' Guild meets, B&N, 8871  
Ladue, 7-8pm. 821-3823.

### Friday, March 18

The Center for the Humanities presents poet  
Marilyn Hacker reading from her work, for  
the *Inside Out Loud* exhibition program,  
Kemper Art Museum, Steinberg Hall, WU,  
7pm. 935-5576.

Wash U Opera presents *A Month in the  
Country* by Lee Holtby after Turgenev's  
play, Edison Theatre, 8pm. \$15/\$10/\$5. Also  
Sat 3/19. 935-6543.

### Saturday, March 19

Joycelyn K. Moody, ed. *African American  
Review*, lectures on "Caught in 'A Cage of  
Obscene Birds': Black Women Narrate  
Slavery," MO History Museum, 10am.  
Breakfast 9am \$11.95. 361-7229.

Romance Writers of America (MO Chapter)  
meet, kaffee klatsch, 9:30am. Lynn  
Michaels, author of *Mother of the Bride*, on  
"Writing Romantic Comedy," 11am, B&N,  
9618 Watson. [www.morwa.org](http://www.morwa.org).

Saturday Writers presents Martha Everett,  
ed. *Missouri Life*, on "Making Successful  
Pitches," St. Peters Community Center,  
1035 St. Peters Howell, 11am-1pm. \$5 non-  
mems. [www.saturdaywriters.org](http://www.saturdaywriters.org).

SLPL's Hitchcock Festival presents *The  
Birds*, Barr Branch, 1701 S. Jefferson,  
3:30pm. 771-7040.

### Sunday, March 20

CLASS Book Group discusses *Flippin' the  
Script* by Aisha Ford, B&N, 8871 Ladue,  
10am. 862-6280.

Laurence Lieberman leads a St. Louis Poetry  
Center workshop, U City Library, 6701  
Delmar, 1:30pm. Submission info 770-9130  
& [stlouispoetrycenter.org](http://stlouispoetrycenter.org).

Contemporary Fiction and Non-Fiction  
Reading Group discusses *Deception Point*  
by Dan Brown, Moog Lounge, WU's West  
Campus Library, 2-4pm. 481-0730.

Poets Bob Lowes, Amy DeBrecht, & Judith  
Stix read from their work on nature, The

Green Center, 8025 Blackberry, 7  
8314.

The Book Club discusses *Maus, A  
Tale: My Father Bleeds History*  
Spiegelman, for time & venue: 6  
3232.

### Monday, March 21

River Styx presents poets Alan Sha  
Phyllis Moore reading from their wo  
392 N. Euclid, 7:30pm. \$5/4. 533-

Brad Land discusses his book  
*Memoir*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7p  
6731.

### Tuesday, March 22

St. Louis Gateway Storytellers m  
Story Swap, Salad Bowl Cafeter  
Lindell, 6-9pm. 997-3474.

Andrew Winston discusses h  
*Looped*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7p  
6731.

### Wednesday, March 23

The Assembly Series at WU presents  
Nuland, author of *How We Die: Re  
on Life's Final Chapter*, on "The  
Body & the Human Spirit," Graham  
WU, 11am. 935-5297.

### Thursday, March 24

Classic Fiction Book Group di  
*Atonement* by Ian McEwan, B&  
Ladue, 7:30pm. 862-6280.

WU English Dept's Writing Program  
Frank Bidart reading from his poe  
Lounge, Duncker 201, WU, 8pm. 9

### Friday, March 25

The Interdisciplinary Program  
Humanities at WU presents Cathle  
on "Structuring Female Vision: the  
Choir Frescoes at Sta. Maria Donn  
Naples," Rm. 209, Eads Hall, V  
1:30pm. 935-4200.

### Monday, March 28

Open Book Club discusses *T  
Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffeneg  
8871 Ladue, 7pm. 862-6280.

Nevada Barr discusses her book *H  
An Anna Pigeon Mystery*, LBB,  
Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

# Young Readers' Literary Calendar

## Thursday, March 31

Neil Bascomb discusses his book *The Perfect Mile*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

WU English Dept's **Writing Program** presents **Frank Bidart** on the craft of poetry, Hurst Lounge, Duncker 201, WU, 8pm. 935-7130.

**Alliance Française Cercle de Lecture** discusses *L'empreinte de l'ange* by **Nancy Huston**, Ste. G, 8505 Delmar, 7:30pm. 432-0734.

**U. City Great Books Discussion Group** discusses *The Book of Revelation* by St. John, from *The New Testament*, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington, 8pm. 994-7914.

### Notices

**St. Louis Writers' Workshop** spring session begins March 7, with workshops on novel, poetry, play, short fiction, & essay writing. For fees & schedules, [www.stlww.com](http://www.stlww.com) or 692-2629.

**Writers Under the Arch** writing group meets, Tuesdays March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 7pm. 862-6280.

Register now for **National Association for Poetry Therapy** conference, with keynote speaker Gregory Orr, May 4-8, Hyatt Regency, Union Station. [www.poetrytherapy.org](http://www.poetrytherapy.org), or call 636-947-7039.

**SLCL Adult Reading Club** runs March 1-May 31, throughout metro area, prizes, contact local SLCL branch or call 994-3300.

Register now for **Summer Writers Institute** at WU, June 13-24, instructors **Robert Earlywine**, **David Clewell**, **Rick Skwiot**, **Kathleen Finneran**, for fees and details call 935-6759.

**SCBWI** holds a retreat for Children's Writers, March 11-13, Louisiana, MO, led by **Pam Zollman**. [www.geocities.com/scbwimo](http://www.geocities.com/scbwimo).

Check the online calendar at <http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu> for more events. To advertise, send event details to [litalc@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:litalc@artsci.wustl.edu), or call **Amanda Beresford**, calendar editor, at 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 required for most library events.

## Tuesdays, March 1 & 15

**Young Adult Book Talk** presents a discussion of current books. Learn to write reviews and to research reviews online. Every first and third Tuesday, ages 12-15, meeting room II, SLCL Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey, 4pm. 291-7570.

## Wednesday, March 2

**After-School Special—Read Across America** asks "Who is this man named Seuss? And what lesson can everyone learn from the Lorax?" Ages 5-12, in the auditorium, Florissant Valley Branch, 195 New Florissant. 921-7200.

## Saturday, March 5

**Metro Theatre Company** presents *The Short Tree and the Bird That Could Not Sing* by **Dennis Foon**, MO History Museum, 11am. Also **Sun 3/6**, 1:30 & 3:30pm. For tickets, 997-6777.

## Monday, March 7

**Experience life at Cahokia Mounds**; play games Cahokian children might have played, make a Native American-style mask, and view the exhibit *The City of Cahokia Mounds*. Ages 8-13, Sponsored by The Tesson Ferry Branch, 9920 Lin-Ferry, 4:30pm. 843-0560.

**Global Kids**, Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries; learn more about Spanish-speaking cultures. Also **Mon 3/14**, **3/21**, **3/28**. Rock Road Branch, 10267 St. Charles Rock, St. Ann, 7pm. 429-5116.

## Wednesday, March 9

**Boone's Bookies: Book Discussion Group** presents a discussion on *All Over but the Shoutin'*. This memoir, by *New York Times* correspondent **Rick Bragg**, recalls an economically impoverished childhood in Alabama, desertion by his father at age six, and other life events. Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, 2pm and 9pm. 636-227-9630.

**The Opus Ensemble** and storyteller **Blake Travis** bring *Peter Rabbit* to life. Recommended for families. Auditorium, Mid-County Branch, 7821 Maryland, 10am. 721-3008.

## Sunday, March 13

**Theatreworks/U.S.A.** presents *Ramona Quimby*, from the books by **Beverly Cleary**, Florissant Civic Center Theatre, James J. Eagan Center, 1 James J. Eagan Dr, 7:30pm. Also **Sat 3/19** & **Sun 3/20**, 2:00pm. Ticket prices @ box office. 921-5678.

## Saturday, March 26

**Imaginary Theatre Company** presents *Ferdinand The Bull*, from the book by **Munro Leaf & Robert Lawson**, Mainstage, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Webster U, 130 Edgar, 11am and 2pm. \$6/\$4. 968-4925.

### 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.

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

## A Conference on Medieval Japan

From **March 27-29, 2005**, Washington University in St. Louis will host *Translations and Transformations: The Heike monogatari in Nô*, an interdisciplinary conference focusing on the dynamic relationship between two prominent performance genres that helped give shape to medieval Japan. The conference brings together scholars from the US, Japan, and Singapore to explore the translation of episodes from Japan's medieval epic war tale, the *Tale of the Heike (Heike monogatari)* as they are interpreted in eight nô plays. In addition to eight sessions consisting of scholarly presentations and translations of the nô plays, there will be two keynote speeches, the first by Professor Haruo Nishino, Director of the Institute of Nogaku Studies at Hôsei University in Tokyo, and the second by prominent Japanese literature specialist and former Washington University faculty member Professor J. Thomas

Rimer of the University of Pittsburgh. A performance of the traditional art of *Heike biwa*, or recitation of episodes from the *Tale of the Heike* to the accompaniment of the *biwa* lute, will be performed on the evening of March 27 by Ms. Yasuko Arai, licensed transmitter of the *Heike biwa* tradition. The conference is sponsored by the Japan Foundation, the Visiting East Asian Professionals program of Washington University, the Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies/US Japan Friendship Commission, and the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures at Washington University. For more information, please see the conference website: [http://artsci.wustl.edu/~veap/heike\\_no/index](http://artsci.wustl.edu/~veap/heike_no/index), or contact **Elizabeth Oyler**, Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature, conference organizer, at 935-4327.