

# When Are You Going to Write a *Real* Book?

## Visit Missouri Romance Writers to Find Out

I was an “orphan” for the first ten years of my publishing career. By that I mean that I lived in an area with no other writers of popular fiction. Ironically, I was surrounded by published authors including my own husband, Dr. James Henke. But their works were scholarly. Although I, too, was a university instructor for many years in the Ohio system, I published fourteen paperback novels before Jim took an early retirement so we could return home to St. Louis. This was where I found my “writing family”—Missouri Romance Writers of America (MORWA).

At last I had a local chapter of my national professional organization. I still remember the day I went to my first meeting in the spring of 1994. Back then we met in the Holiday Inn at Lindbergh and I-55. Being from North County, I became hopelessly lost and was late, but everyone welcomed me during the break between the business meeting and program, which was a very informative panel about mass market book buying by wholesalers and big chain stores. I had the opportunity to meet not only professionals in the book trade, booksellers and distributors, but also to form friendships with other published and yet-to-be published writers. No longer was I asked by my colleagues in the English and History departments, “When are you going to write a *real* book?” The readers and writers of MORWA believe paperbacks are not only real but loads of fun.

During the past ten years MORWA has been an invaluable place to learn and to share my own hard-won experiences with others who pursue the same dream—to be published in genre fiction. I stress all genres of popular fiction even though Romance Writers of America was formed to promote romance. Over the years many *New York Times* bestselling writers have moved from a strictly romance background to reach an even wider readership: Sandra Brown, Nora Roberts, J.D. Robb, Susan Elizabeth Phillips, LaVyrle Spencer and Tess Gerritsen, just to name a few. One of RWA’s “Hall of Fame” authors, Eileen Dreyer, is a MORWA member who now writes medical thrillers that regularly appear on *USA Today* bestseller lists.

Our programs cover a wide range of topics and several times a year we present all-day workshops. I’ve been co-chair of programs for the past year with my friend Karyn Witmer-Gow, who publishes as Elizabeth Grayson. We’ve had fascinating speakers entertain and inform us. Kathy Maxwell, a *New York Times* bestselling author, gave a day-long workshop on career management and goal setting in today’s publishing industry. My husband, James Henke, a Wash U alumnus who has published numerous scholarly books and articles on Renaissance Drama and Young Adult fiction, spoke on “Kissin’ Frogs—Archetypes in Folk Fairy Tales.” Jim explained how these stories handed down through the ages undergird all varieties of popular fiction. Of course, it made me a bit nervous until he proved to be every bit as brilliant as he had assured me he’d be. A long-time friend and true veteran of popular fiction who began her writing career in the 1960s, Roberta Gellis gave a program on research. Since Robbie has published dozens of Medieval romances, sci-fi, fantasy and mysteries and now has a historical mystery series in hardcover, she knows every trick to track down elusive information.

“A Crime Panel to Die For” was the title of our spring day-long workshop. Of all the projects I’ve worked on for MORWA in the past decade, I was most proud of this assignment. With considerable help from Eileen Dreyer and my co-chair Karyn, I assembled experts



1st tier, left to right: Judy Schmitt, Priscilla Kissinger, Carol Monk. Center: Susan Elizabeth Phillips, author and guest speaker at St. Louis County Library. 2nd tier, left to right: Karyn Witmer-Gow, Julie Opdyke, Shirl Henke, Becky Yeater, Peggy Hillmer, Karen Hudgins.

from various law enforcement and forensic fields: Dr. Mary Case, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner for St. Louis, St. Charles and Jefferson Counties; Harry Spiller, now a criminology professor who served two terms as sheriff of Williamson County, Illinois; Sergeant Joseph Burgoon, who recently retired after a distinguished career as a St. Louis PD homicide detective; Dr. Reena Roy, DNA Technical Leader at the St. Louis County Police Crime Laboratory; Thomas E. Bush III, the Special Agent in Charge of the St. Louis Field Office of the FBI; and Lt. John P. Podolak, Scene Commander with the St. Louis PD’s Hostage Response Unit. We had everything but a corpse.

Our organization strives to offer educational opportunities to published and unpublished writers. I have enjoyed mentoring several people during my tenure with MORWA, critiquing their manuscripts, rejoicing when they make their first sales and offering consolation when they receive rejection letters. I remind them that I could paper the walls of my house with all the rejections I received before selling my first book. All our published authors give generously of their time to help others make that first sale, including judging several writing contests we run annually.

In November, MORWA is offering a program by Carmeline Utz, a licensed psychotherapist, entitled “Boys and Girls Together: A Therapist Looks at Male-Female Relationships.” We meet every third Saturday of the month at the Barnes & Noble, 9618 Watson Road. Programs begin at 11 a.m., and there is a five dollar visitor’s fee. If you write fiction or dream of writing fiction, please come for this program. I promise you won’t be an “orphan” any longer.

*Under her own name USA bestselling author Shirl Henke has published twenty-six historical romances and romantic suspense paperbacks with Dorchester, Warners, Penguin and St. Martins Press. She is currently under contract with Tor Books for two hardcover political thrillers. Corrupts Absolutely will be out in April, 2005 under her pseudonym, Alexa Hunt.*

## The SmartSet Series: Where Great Writers Read



The Center for the Humanities' *SmartSet Series: Where Great Writers Read* continues on November 8-9 with **Wil Haygood**, one of the nation's leading African American biographers. A staff writer for the Style section of the *Washington Post*, Haygood was a feature writer and national and foreign correspondent for the *Boston Globe* for 17 years. As well as being a Pulitzer Prize finalist, he has been honored with the *Sunday Magazine* Editors Award, the New England Associated Press Award, the National Headliners Award and the National Association of Black Journalists Award, which he received three times. Haygood has served as writer-in-residence at Ohio State University

and Visiting Writer at Colorado College and has received numerous distinguished literary fellowships. A graduate of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and a resident of Washington, D.C., Haygood has published four books: *Two on the River*, *King of the Cats: The Life and Times of Adam Clayton Powell Jr.*, (a *New York Times* Notable Book); *The Haygoods of Columbus: A Family Memoir* (awarded the Great Lakes Book Award); and *In Black and White: The Life of Sammy Davis, Jr.*

Wil Haygood will read and sign his work at 8 pm on Tuesday, November 9, in Room 204, Anheuser-Busch Hall (Law School). He will discuss his writing and the art of biography at 4 pm on Wednesday afternoon, November 10, in the McMillan Café (Room 115), Old McMillan Hall on the Hilltop WU Campus. Receptions follow both events, which are free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase at the events.

### Day of the Dead Beats: November 1

The annual celebration of Beat poetry, Day of the Dead Beats, takes place in the gallery adjacent to Dressel's Pub Above (419 N. Euclid in the Central West End) on Monday, November 1, at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The live performances of dead - and some still living - Beat poets - Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, Charles Bukowski, Richard Brautigan, Gary Snyder, Dianne DiPrima, LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka), Gregory Corso and Herbert Huncke - by local writers, actors, musicians and personalities was started in 1997 following the death of Allen Ginsberg, and has been held every year since. Past participant Brett Underwood is coordinating the event.

As November 1 falls on the eve of Election Day, this year the program has been slightly shortened. Call 771-0986 for information. The event will be recorded by Double Helix Television and KDHX for future broadcast.



ARTS & SCIENCES

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 of  
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

November 2004 Vol. 3, No. 3

Published by The Center for the Humanities  
at Washington University

## The Diaries of Children and the Construction of Childhood

In a web search through the international news, I came across a story that initially stopped me in my electronic tracks, and then made me wonder why I found it so powerful. The story was a follow-up to the siege at No. 1 School, in Beslan, Russia that took place from September 1st to 3rd. The outlines of the siege and its consequences are, by now, well known. Striking right after opening day ceremonies, heavily armed terrorists stormed into the school and held some 400 students, teachers, and parents hostage. The article, which appeared as a Chinese translation from the German newspaper *Bild*, described the diary a thirteen-year-old girl named Christina wrote during the time she, her sister, and her mother were held hostage in the school's gymnasium. Christina calmly chronicles a rapidly deteriorating chain of events. The first day she notes that everyone was allotted only a small drink of water and complains of being limited to a 'one minute' trip to the bathroom. The second day she writes that all the adult men were taken out and killed and that rain poured down on the roof so hard that no one could sleep. The third day, she notes that her 10-year-old sister Sheila asked her mother when the president would come and save them and goes on to describe her sister crying for

food and water, and then, because she could not be quieted, being killed by the terrorists.

This story reminded me of another thirteen-year-old girl who wrote a diary some sixty-two years ago. Anne Frank had two years to write about her life. Anne was forced into hiding from the Nazis when her sister was ordered to report to a labor camp during the Holocaust. She and her family spent 25 months during World War II secluded in an annex of rooms above her father's office in Amsterdam. This seclusion did not protect Anne from the knowledge of what was happening around her. She wrote, "Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. ... We assume most of them are being murdered. The English radio says they're being gassed." Another excerpt almost presages Christina's situation; "Have you ever heard the term 'hostages'? That's the latest punishment for saboteurs. It's the most horrible thing you can imagine. Leading citizens – innocent people – are taken prisoner to await their execution. If the Gestapo can't find the saboteur, they simply grab five hostages and line them up against the wall" (October 9, 1942).

The experiences of these two girls are obviously vastly different. Christina survived the school siege

and Anne died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp nine months after she and her family were arrested. Still, an important similarity is that they both left written records that provide a child's eye view of events that defy description by adults. Another similarity is that both stories are powerful to us because they were written by children. Our reaction to a child's diary of these horrific events is immediate and almost involuntary. Childhood is a social category that we consider qualitatively different from adulthood, a special and vulnerable stage that we seek to protect against the pain of adult life. Yet, it was not always this way. The French historian, Philippe Ariès, was among the first to demonstrate that while children are present in all cultures their presence has been and still is regarded very differently in different times and places. In the West, the image of children moved from small adults to creatures of innocence and weakness only some four hundred years ago. This particular vision of modern Western childhood is both historically and culturally specific, but the power of that vision is found in the extensive globalization of Western ideas of childhood. It is a power we do not fully understand but that, for better or worse, political factions around the world have used and still employ



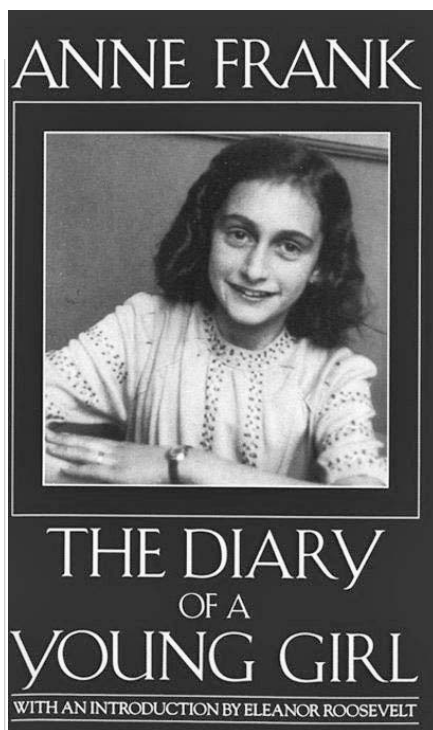
Dr. Jian Leng

editor's notes

to further their own ends.

Childhood as a category imposed on children ignores the subtleties in the life of individuals on their road to adulthood. No matter how young, children are active participants in the courses of their own lives. Children themselves react to and actively affect the reality that faces them on a day-to-day basis. The experience of childhood is, of course, stratified by such things as class, age, gender, and ethnicity, by urban or rural backgrounds, and by particularized identities created for children through religious and cultural beliefs. We can see Anne's urbane and intellectual family background in her writings. We can also see that Anne reflects on her role as a child: "Am I really only fourteen? Am I only just a silly school girl? Am I really so inexperienced in everything?" We do not see, however, the passages her father thought were mere teenage musings and inappropriate for public consumption. He deleted these, perhaps because he found them incompatible with his goals in releasing the diary. In these passages Anne probably described what it was like to be a child during a time where even the weak and vulnerable were exposed to the harsh realities of the adult world. What we know of Christina's background suggests she is less urbane than Anne and her brief experience as a diarist allowed her no time to develop anything but the most superficial description of events. Her short text also contains drawings of fantastic animal shapes that suggest she was struggling with the surreal nature of events surrounding her. I do not question the horror of her experience, but it might be again that the international publication of her diary is meant as much to appeal to our emotions about the politics of the event as about her experience.

While the history of childhood has been explored by scholars for some forty years, and the political uses for far longer than that, we are only beginning to appreciate all the differences between



*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, Bantam Books, 1947.

childhood and adulthood. Some differences are artifacts of social and cultural ideas developed over the past four hundred years, others, like recent discoveries about the maturation of the brains of teenagers and their intense and often self-destructive behavior, are rooted in human biology.

These issues and the literature that has sprung up around them stretch across human experience. Washington University will offer opportunities for active participation in discussions of such topics through an interdisciplinary Children's Studies Minor coordinated by the Center for the Humanities and involving the departments of English, African and Afro-American Studies, Education, History, and Psychology. Children are the living messages we send to the future, so it is important that we understand and appreciate the institutions that shape those messages.

*Jian Leng*  
Assistant Director  
Center for the Humanities



All events are free unless otherwise indicated. Book events are followed by signings. Phone numbers are area code 314 unless otherwise indicated.

### Monday, November 1

Day of the Dead Beats (see announcement), gallery adjacent to Dressel's Pub Above, 419 Euclid, 7pm. 771-0986.

Julius Hunter discusses his book *Absurd Alphabettime Stories*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

### Tuesday, November 2

Machacek Book Group meets, SLPL Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 10am. 781-2948.

Rodrigue François discusses his book, *Messengers of Liberty*, SLPL Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-4120.

### Wednesday, November 3

SIUE English Language & Literature Association presents poet Sonia Sanchez reading from her work, Conference Center/MUC, SIUE, 7pm. [jmoy@siue.edu](mailto:jmoy@siue.edu).

### Thursday, November 4

WU Assembly Series presents Peter Balakian, author of *Black Dog of Fate*, lecturing on "The Armenian Genocide and America's First International Human Rights Movement," Graham Chapel, WU, 11am. 935-4620.

LBB presents Michael MacCambridge discussing his book *America's Game*, Buzz Westfall

author series,  
1640 S. Lindbergh

Peter Balakian  
*The Burning*  
*Genocide and*  
LBB, 399 N. E.

Readings @  
presents poets  
Cole Swenson  
Museum, 375  
863-3033.

Paul Dorrell  
*Living the Art*  
*Growing,*  
*Succeeding in*  
8871 Ladue, 7

WU English de  
presents Matt  
from her poe  
Duncker 201. V

### Friday

Laureates of t  
Road Branch  
Charles Rock  
4845.

Aisha Ford  
*Flippin' the Sc*  
7pm. 862-6280

### Sunday

St. Louis Jewis  
opens, with Ke  
Tomlin, 6pm;  
Featured aut  
Glezer, Nao  
Schwartz, Aar  
Goldstein & T  
Building, 2 M  
Series ticket \$  
442-3299.

Society of Chil  
Illustrators ho  
Charles Co  
speakers inclu  
Ransom. Rate  
Eleanor Sulli

# St. Louis Literary Calendar

SLCL Headquarters, 7pm. 994-3300.

discusses his book *Tigris: The Armenian America's Response*, SLCL Headquarters, 7pm. 367-6731.

**The Contemporary** by Jocelyn Emerson & ... Contemporary Art 60 Washington, 7pm.

discusses his book *Artist's Life: A Guide to Persevering and in the Art World*, B&N, 8pm. 862-6280.

**WU's Writing Program** with thea Harvey reading poetry, Hurst Lounge, WU, 8pm. 935-7130.

**Friday, November 5**  
**The Heart** meets, Rock Library, 10267 St. Ann, 1pm. 429-

discusses her book *Script*, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am.

**Friday, November 6**  
**Book Festival 2004**

keynote address by Lily runs through Nov. 17. Authors include Maggie Ragen, Howard Cushman, Naama Kobi Kahn, JCC, Wohl Millstone Campus Dr. \$40, ind. tickets vary.

**Children's Book Writers &** hold their conference, St. Community College, with Jeff Weigel, Jeanie and info @ 831-4114.

van, author of *Twice*

*Dead*, discusses her work, SLPL Buder Branch, 4401 Hampton, 10am. 352-2900.

## Monday, November 8

T.M. McNally discusses his book *Quick*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

## Tuesday, November 9

T.M. McNally reads from his story collection *Quick*, Webster U, Pearson House, 8260 Big Bend, 1:30pm. 968-7170.

Gerald Heaney & Susan Uchitelle discuss their book *Unending Struggle: the Long Road to an Equal Education in St. Louis*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

LBB presents Janet Desaulniers discussing her book *What You've Been Missing*, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 7pm. 994-3300.

**Foreign Literature Book Group** discusses *Elective Affinities* by Goethe, WU's West Campus Library, 7425 Forsyth, 7:30pm. 727-6118.

**The Center for the Humanities at WU** SmartSet Series presents biographer Wil Haygood reading from his work, Room 204, Anheuser-Busch Hall, WU Law School, 8pm. 935-5576.

## Wednesday, November 10

**WU Assembly Series** presents Anchee Min lecturing on her autobiography, *Red Azalea*, Graham Chapel, WU, 11am. 935-4620.

**Boone's Bookies** book club discusses *Chopping Spree* by Dianne Mott Davidson, SLCL Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, 2pm or 7pm. 636-227-9630.

**The Center for the Humanities at WU** SmartSet Series presents biographer Wil Haygood discussing the craft of biography, McMillan Café, 115 Old McMillan, WU, 4pm. 935-5576.

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

**Sisters in Crime** meets, with a writers workshop: Jo Hiestand & Laura Bradford on "Setting," SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 6:45-9pm. 469-6356.

Dean Kotula & Mariette Pathy Allen discuss their books *The Phallus Palace* & *Gender Frontiers*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

## Thursday, November 11

Howard Schwartz discusses his book *Tree of Souls: Mythology of Judaism*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**U. City Great Books Discussion Group** discusses *The Divine Comedy: Inferno Cantos III-XXXI* (Zappulla translation) by Dante Alighieri, 8pm, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington. 994-7914.

## Friday, November 12

**Broadway Center of Arts** presents poetry & prose readings by the **Heartland Women's Writers' Guild**, 124 E. Main, Belleville, IL. 618-476-1637.

Local poets read their work, Genesis House Poetry Café, 6018 Delmar, 7pm. 636-225-5423.

## Sunday, November 14

**St. Louis Chamber Chorus** presents "Poetry in Song II: Lovers & Lyres," musical settings of poems by Sappho, Catullus & Ronsard, 3pm. \$16/\$18. 636-458-4343.

**The BookClub** discusses *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. For time and venue, 636-451-3232.

## Monday, November 15

Ann Wells discusses her book *Raising Babies in St. Louis*, LBB, 399

N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

*River Styx* presents poets Debra Kang Dean & Rockwell Gray reading from their work, Duff's, 392 N. Euclid, 7:30pm. \$5/4. 533-4541.

## Tuesday, November 16

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

**Kingshighway Book Group** discusses *Breath, Eyes, Memory* by Edwidge Danticat, SLPL Kingshighway Branch, 2260 S. Vandeventer, 6:45pm. 771-5450.

**LBB Lesbian Reading Group** discusses *The World Turned* by John d'Emilio, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7:30pm. 367-6731.

## Wednesday, November 17

John Lutz discusses his book *Show Business is Murder*, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. 862-6280.

Kay Kramer, of St. Louis private press The Printery, lectures "From Gutenberg to Gates: the Quaint, the Curious and the Simply Bizarre," WU Olin Library, Gingko Reading Room, level 1, 4pm. 935-4045.

Jean Carnahan discusses her book *Don't Let the Fire Go Out*, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 7pm. 994-3300.

**Richmond Hts. Memorial Library Book Group** discusses *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, 8001 Dale, 7pm. 645-6202.

## Thursday, November 18

Elizabeth Gentry Sayad discusses her book *A Yankee in Creole Country*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**Schlaflly Book Group** discusses *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers, SLPL Schlaflly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-4120.

**Carpenter Book Group** discusses *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith, 33 Grand, 7pm. 772-6586.

## Friday, November 19

Steve Steinberg discusses his book *Baseball in St. Louis, 1900-*, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 7pm. 862-6280.

**SIUE Arts & Issues Series** presents Marlin Fitzwater & Joe Lock debating the election, 7:30pm, Meridian Ballroom, Morris Union Center, SIUE. \$12/\$6 conc. 618-2626.

## Saturday, November 20

**Missouri Center for the Book** presents their 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, featuring MO writers Jodie Lynn, Sharon Shinn, Richard Pearson, Richard Newman, Val Vogrin, Margot McMillen, and Tiedemann, SLPL Schlaflly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 10am-5pm. 367-6731.

**Mystery Lovers' Book Club** meets, SLPL Carondelet Branch, 600 Michigan, 10am. Call for title, 9224.

**Romance Writers of America** (Chapter) meet, 10am. Carmelina speaks on "Boys & Girls Together," 11am, B&N, 9618 Waterview, [www.morwa.org](http://www.morwa.org).

**Adult Readers Book Group** discusses *Short Stories* by Langston Hughes, SLPL Julia Davis Branch, 700 natural Bridge, 12:30pm. 383-3838.

**MO-Tell** presents "Tellabration 2: A Worldwide Storytelling Event," Union Ave. Christian Church, 7:00pm, Union, 3:00pm. 997-2376.

## Sunday, November 21

Steven Schreiner leads St. Louis Poetry Center's monthly workshop, U. City Library, 6701 Delmar, 1:30pm. For submission details, 770-9126.

# Young Readers' Literary Calendar

## Monday, November 22

UMSL Center for the Humanities presents **Bob Dyer** "songtelling" Missouri & Mississippi folklore, JC Penney Conference Center, room 229, UMSL, 12pm. 516-5699.

LBB presents **Rick Huhn** discussing his book *The Sizzler: George Sisler, Baseball's Forgotten Great*, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 7pm. 994-3300.

## Tuesday, November 23

Carpenter Spanish Book Group discusses *Sonar en Cubano* by **Cristina Garcia**, 3309 S. Grand, 7pm. 772-6586.

## Wednesday, November 24

Central Book Discussion Group, SLPL Central Branch, 1301 Olive, 4:30pm. 539-0396.

LBB Gay Men's Reading Group discusses *A Confederacy of Dunces* by **John Kennedy Toole**, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7:30pm. 367-6731.

## Thursday, November 25

Alliance Française Cercle de Lecture discusses *Les Rivières Pourpres* by **Jean-Christophe Grange**, en français, 8505 Delmar Ste. G, 7:30pm. 432-6734.

## Saturday, November 27

Saturday Writers meet, Cultural Arts Center, 300 Civic Park, O'Fallon, 11am. \$3 non-members. 636-379-9362.

## Tuesday, November 30

**Mary Troy** discusses her book *Cookie Lily*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

Check the online calendar at <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 **Amanda Beresford**, calendar editor, at 314-935-5576.

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

## Monday, November 1

**Story Time**, ages 4-8, SLPL Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 10am. 367-4120.

## Tuesday, November 2

**Young Adult Booktalk**, discuss and review current books, grades 5-8, SLCL Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey, 4pm. 291-7570.

**Club Read**, "Graffiti"; personalize a notebook, teens, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 4pm. 772-6586. Nov. 3, Kingshighway Branch, 2260 S. Vandeventer, 771-5450. Nov. 4, Baden Branch, 8448 Church, 388-2400; Divoll Branch, 4234 N. Grand, 534-0313. Nov. 9, Central Branch, 1301 Olive. 241-2288. Nov. 17, Barr Branch, 1701 S. Jefferson, 771-7040. Nov. 18, Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 3:30pm, 781-2948.

## Wednesday, November 3

**Teen Time** presents "Before the Lights Go Out: the 'Cool Papa' Bell Story", SLPL Cabanne Branch, 1106 Union, 3:30pm. 367-0717.

**Family Literacy & Story Night**, all ages, SLPL Divoll Branch, 4234 N. Grand, 5pm. 534-0313.

## Thursday, November 4

**Australian animals**, stories from Oz, all ages, SLCL Cliff Cave Branch, 5430 Telegraph, 4:30pm. 487-6003.

## Monday, November 8

SLCL presents activities and a reading of *Where the Wild Things Are* by **Maurice Sendak**, ages 4-8: 6:30pm, Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, 636-227-9630; Nov. 10, 7pm, Rock Road Branch, 10267 St. Charles Rock,

429-5116; Nov. 13, 10am, Weber Road Branch, 4444 Weber, 638-2210; Nov. 15, 11am, Prairie Commons Branch, 915 Utz Lane, 895-1023; Nov. 17, 10am, Lewis & Clark Branch, 9909 Lewis-Clark Blvd, 868-0331; Nov. 18, 10am, Cliff Cave Branch, 5430 Telegraph, 487-6003; 4pm, Grand Glaize Branch, 1010 Meramec Station, 225-6454; Nov. 19, 10am, Tesson Ferry Branch, 9920 Lin-Ferry Dr., 843-0560.

## Wednesday, November 10

**Teen Time**, stories and issues, Cabanne Branch, 1106 Union, 3:30pm. 367-0717. Also Nov. 17.

**St. Louis Society for the Blind & Visually Impaired** presents DVS movie *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* from the book by J.K. **Rowling**, all ages, SLPL Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid & Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 6pm. 241-0478.

## Friday, November 12

**Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra** presents Symphony Storytime, Deborah Bloom, violin, Borders, 1519 S. Brentwood, 10am. 534-1700.

**COCA Family Theatre Series** presents ODC/San Francisco in a stage adaptation of *The Velveteen Rabbit*, COCA, 524 Trinity, 7pm. Also Nov. 13 & 14, 1:30 & 4:30pm. Ages 2+. \$20. 725-6555.

## Monday, November 15

**Story Time**, ages 4-8, SLPL Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 10am. 367-4120.

**Celebrate Children's Book Week**, ages 5-12, SLCL Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey, 3:45pm. 291-7570.

## Tuesday, November 16

**Young Adult Booktalk**, discuss and review current books, grades 5-8, SLCL Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455

McKelvey, 4pm. 291-7570.

## Thursday, November 18

**Baden Teen Book Club** meets, SLPL Baden Branch, 8448 Church, 4pm. Ages 13-18. 388-2400.

**Carpenter Teen Book Club** discusses *The Breadwinner* by **Deborah Ellis**, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 4pm. 772-6586.

## Saturday, November 20

**St. Louis Society for the Blind & Visually Impaired** presents DVS movie *The Little Mermaid*, from the story by **Hans Christian Anderson**, all ages, SLPL Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid & Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 6pm. 241-0478.

## Sunday, November 21

**Theatreworks/USA** presents a staged version of *A Christmas Carol* by **Charles Dickens**, Florissant Civic Center Theatre, James J. Eagan Center, 1 James J. Eagan Dr., 2pm. Also Nov 26 & 27. Ticket prices @ box office. 921-5678.

## Monday, November 22

**Celebrate Children's Book Week**, ages 7-12, SLPL Julia Davis Branch, 4415 Natural Bridge, 4pm. 383-3021, also SLCL Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey, 3:45pm. 291-7570.

## Notices

**National Children's Book Week**, events at many libraries, Mon-Sat November 15 - 21. Check local branch library for details. Call SLPL 241-2288; SLCL 994-3300.

## 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.