

# Loosely Identified: A St. Louis Women's Poetry Collective

One Saturday morning in the spring of 1975, I found a group of women poets in St. Louis that met in the Women's Counseling Center near the University City Post Office. We sat on cast-off couches and beanbag chairs or the floor. Afterwards, we lingered outside and chatted. This group survives still, known as "Loosely Identified," the collective authors of *Breathing Out*. Now in its second printing, it can be found at local bookstores. These are my memories of the group and our work past and present.

The group came together at a Women's Art Fair in 1974. It was the early days of second-wave feminism, and we worked to reclaim ourselves and our art. In her book, *The Dream of a Common Language*, published in 1975, Adrienne Rich celebrated the nourishing language of women's intimate relationships. We wanted that language for ourselves. Our membership grew, and our workshop met, sometimes every two weeks.

For Helen, Yiddish gave insight into this common language. It was the vernacular of her childhood home, which was imperiled by the Holocaust. Her poetry would later honor that common language, but as a younger woman she wrote of her mother, "I am not a right or wrong remnant of yourself." Helen demonstrated the precarious dilemmas of gender and culture that all of us shared in some way.

For Marlene, reclaiming language meant rising early before work to write and, once at work, mobilizing women to fight for equal rights and equal pay. For her, poetry spoke for women in public and powerful ways. She marched with "Women Take Back the Night." Marlene was the first of us to turn forty, and we celebrated with a potluck featuring taped readings by Adrienne Rich. Marlene's poetry acknowledged the traumas that women experience—and the sanctuary that poetry offers in our common life.

Christina-Marie wrote poetry about her blue-collar life in St. Louis's hippy community. She showed her independence by driving to our meetings on her motorcycle, with her large white dog in the sidecar. We assembled at her home for a party where my new partner, Martha, also

a poet, met the group.

Christina-Marie got us our first reading, at a post-Gaslight bar named Frank Moskus in Exile. Helen read her "Geography of a Relationship" ("I will draw you a picture, an ideograph if you like.") We scheduled readings at the University City Public Library and the Dead Dog Gallery and began calling ourselves the St. Louis Women's Poetry Workshop.

My role in the Workshop became a link for the group with the academic settings where I studied or worked. Mentored at Washington University by Don Finkel, I welcomed his support of our group—and that of his wife, poet Connie Urdang. In the late 1970s we read in a pocket-park near the Women's Eye bookstore in DeMun. Friends' motorcycles, arriving and leaving, competed with our words.

We began to meet in the Women's Self Help Center on Newstead: more worn couches and a key for Saturday entry into a "women's safe space." Becky, a newly arrived feminist refugee from an MFA program, gave us insights into the academic New England male establishment poetry, which we might consider but not emulate. Becky added Information Technology to her skills, but her impeccable phrasing continues to distinguish her poetry. She also helped forge our practices: for instance, the poet whose work is discussed at one meeting serves as facilitator at the next.

Still active on the local scene, poets Jane E. Ibur and Jane O. Wayne participated in the group around 1980. Ibur's quick humorous insights and



Lower tier left to right, Gaye Gambell-Peterson, Jackie Jones, Rita Chapman, Rachelle Hosty. Upper tier left to right, Mary Ruth Donnelly, Karen Mondale, Nan Sweet, Martha Ficklen, Martha Talburt. Photo by Sarah Parcel, taken 8-6-04, seminar room of the U City Library.

Wayne's aesthetic accuracy blended well with our readings of American women poets such as Louise Bogan and Hilda Doolittle. The list of our poet-members grew to include Anna Lum, Carole Cohen, and as many as eighty women attending at some point over thirty years.

Buffeted by the anti-feminism of the Reagan years, the Workshop gained new energy in the 1990s from poets like Deborah, Frances, Elaine, Carol, Tess, and Mary Ruth at local college. One evening at Kaldi's Coffee, as I explained to a new member that we were "loosely identified" with UMSL, another member snatched the phrase out of the air for our name. We like its combination of freedom and affiliation, its mix of the collective and anarchic.

Since 1996 we've read every other year for *River Styx*. In April 2004, we launched *Breathing Out: Poems by Loosely Identified* at Duff's. Gaye contributed the original cover; Linda produced the design and layout. Martha found the title via Muriel Rukeyser's line "Breathe-in experience, breathe-out poetry." The book's first run sold out in six weeks, and a second printing is selling at Left Bank Books, Subterranean, and Dunaway bookstores in St. Louis, Piece of Mind in Edwardsville, and the campus bookstores of UMSL and SIU-Edwardsville. Edited collectively, featured and reviewed in the *Post-Dispatch*, *Breathing Out* brings visibility to women's poetry in the region.

Above all, Loosely Identified remains an artistic setting, anchored in its monthly workshop. As long-time member Rebecca Ellis writes, "it has been a brace and pulley, hauling me out of my own depths. It has reminded me of the valuable treasure of surprise, whether found in someone else's poem or my own." Loosely Identified aims to preserve a collective identity in an individualist age.

Anyone interested in LI may visit our web site: [www.looselyidentified.com](http://www.looselyidentified.com).

*Nanora Sweet, a member of this Workshop since 1975, teaches Romanticism, poetry, and women's writing at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.*

## Hip Israeli Writer to Speak

Israel's hippest young writer, Etgar Keret will speak at Washington University on October 19 at 4 PM in the Women's Building Formal Lounge. Mr. Keret (b. 1967 Tel Aviv) has been called a literary wunderkind, an enfant terrible, and a leading voice. At once cutting edge and widely accessible, he works in a range of genres, media and venues, writing comedy for television, lecturing at Tel Aviv University's School of Film, and redefining the direction of contemporary Hebrew prose. His novella *Kneller's Happy Campers* about life after suicide has also been published in graphic novel form (*Pizzeria Kamikaze*) and is the basis for a Sundance-supported film project ("Wristcutters"). Keret's own movie *Skindeep* won him an Israeli Oscar, and his musical *Entebbe* was awarded the first prize at Akko's theater festival. Yet he is best known for his short stories, compact pieces that combine mundane realism with flashes of the absurd, sad-funny fables of modern urban life. The event is free and open to the public. Please call 935-5156 for more information.

## Staging *The Awakening*

*The Awakening* (1899) by St. Louis author Kate Chopin (1850-1904) was perhaps one of the most controversial novels of its day. Chopin's frank, unsentimental depiction of a New Orleans matron who leaves her husband and takes a lover set off a critical firestorm that effectively ended her career. Yet today, *The Awakening* is considered an American classic, required reading in literary courses and a touchstone for contemporary, particularly feminist, authors.

In October, Washington University's Performing Arts Department (PAD) in Arts & Sciences will mark the centennial of Chopin's death with an original stage adaptation of *The Awakening* by Henry I. Schvey, Ph.D., chair and professor in the PAD. The play, set in two acts, tells the story of Edna Pontellier, a wife and mother who undergoes a powerful emotional and spiritual transformation. Unable to resume her socially acceptable roles, she takes up painting, moves into a cottage of her own and begins an affair, only to find that none of these paths truly fulfill her.

"Edna discovers that her place in the world is not what she assumed it to be," Schvey explained. "*The Awakening* dramatizes a quest for freedom which is as authentic today as it was when it was written more than a century ago." Performances take place Oct. 14-17 in Edison Theatre and Oct. 28 and 29 at the Missouri Historical Society. For tickets or more information, call the Edison Theatre Box Office, (314) 935-6543.



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## East and West Flow into Mark Twain

Whether or not we realize it, almost everything is political. My introduction to the writings of that famous American author, Mark Twain, is a case in point. Many Chinese readers might remember reading Mark Twain's humorous sketch entitled *Running for Governor* (1870) made available in translation, first, during the 1960s and then, in the 1980s. The reason why Twain's story was distributed during two very different periods in China's political fortunes (prior to the Cultural Revolution and the reopening of diplomatic links to the West) was the assumption that Chinese readers would miss Twain's humor but focus on his criticism of the American two-party campaign system. Given the fact that few Chinese had visited a western country or participated in an election or experienced the rough give-and-take involved in two-party campaigns, this was a reasonable calculation. Reasonable but wrong. Many Chinese readers did appreciate Mark Twain's humor because they saw in it something with which they were only too familiar: the sharp outline of games played for political power.

Written in 1870, the story begins with Twain being nominated

for Governor of New York. Twain felt that he had an advantage over his opponents because he was a man of good character - a decent man. He based this belief on newspaper accounts about how his opponents "had become familiar with all manner of shameful crimes." In fact, in the beginning, Twain was inclined not to campaign because he was embarrassed to have his good name associated with such people. Just as he declared his candidacy, however, newspapers begin publishing the most sensational news about him. Now that he was a gubernatorial candidate, one newspaper stated, perhaps he would explain how he came to be convicted of perjury by

thirty-four witnesses in Wakawak, Cochin China in 1863. Worse yet, he was supposed to have caused a poor widow and her family to be thrown off their farm. Twain noted he had never seen Cochin China, let alone heard of Wakawak, but, stunned by the baseless accusations, he did not reply. Next

came a newspaper story detailing Twain's theft of valuables from cabin-mates in Montana. Although he had never been to Montana, Twain was hereafter referred to in the newspapers as "Twain, the Montana Thief" as well as the "Infamous Perjurer." Then, in quick succession, came a story about Twain's slander of his opponent's deceased grandfather, earning him the title of "The Body-Snatcher," and another noting his failure to give a speech due to his state of "bestly intoxication" for

which he came to be called "Mr. Delirium Tremens Twain." Twain's silence in the face of these false stories was seen as admission of guilt, and the

public soon jumped on the bandwagon with letters accusing him of still other crimes. By the time Twain decided to respond to the charges, his 'character' was no better than that of his opponents. Rather than reply, he decided that he "was not equal to the requirements of a Gubernatorial

*As you are probably aware, Washington University will host one of the 2004 Presidential Debates, scheduled for 8 p.m., Oct. 8, in the Athletic Complex.*



Dr. Jian Leng

editor's notes

campaign” and sent his withdrawal, signing it, “Truly yours, *once* a decent man.”

Everyone who read this translated sketch along with me twenty years ago laughed so hard they cried. The news today reminds me of Twain’s story. We are now squarely in the crosshairs of two campaigns to elect the next President and, like it or not, the stories that make the headline news every day contribute to our collective decision. How do they influence our voting behavior? Louis Menand notes in “The Unpolitical Animal” (*The New Yorker*, August 27, 2004) that there are at least three theories about democratic politics. The first is that voters who have a reasonable grasp of affairs and a coherent political belief system (about ten percent of the population) are hugely outweighed by the faction that responds to slogans, misinformation, sensational news stories, last minute surprises, and random personal associations. The claim is that most people simply do not understand what it means, as a practical matter, for a candidate to promise to be “fiscally conservative” or to support “faith-based initiatives.” To be fair to this group, even my short time as an observer of American politics leads me to believe that the candidates do not always understand the practical implications of their promises, either.

A second theory is that people’s voting preferences are shaped by opinions of the elite. This group of people do understand the positions as well as the implications and communicate their preferences to the rest of us by various cues. Unfortunately, the loudest cues I notice are coming from the same political and cultural ‘celebrities’ over the same media sources that helped create misinformation and sensational news stories that obscured campaign issues in the first place. Still, the primary cue

for many voters comes from their own political party, and the party elite are far more polarized than the majority of voters. In fact, according to surveys, most people identify themselves as moderates.

The third theory gives voters credit not only for sifting through cues given by the campaigns and the media and interpreting those of elite opinion-makers, but also for employing other shortcuts such as hunches ranging from ‘the candidate seemed likeable’ to ‘the economy is doing pretty well.’ This is why political campaigns are filled with such impassioned, optimistic, but ultimately vacuous clichés about the future. This is what a large number of voters apparently want to hear and it reminds me of something Nikita Khrushchev once said, “Politicians are the same all over: they promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.” Perhaps it is a desire for a ‘bridge,’ be it over an actual river, through economic straits, over troubled waters, or simply to a better but unspecified future that leaves voters exposed to just those hopes, fears, assumptions, and prejudices that respond to party slogans, misinformation, and sensational news stories. Twain’s story reminds us that the presidency is, as Twain’s contemporary, Ambrose Bierce, once wrote: “The greased pig in the field game of American politics.”

Despite the power politics and character assassination that make up so much of recent campaign politics, we will have to try to come together as a people for the common good once the election is finished. Like Twain, we believed we were decent people when we started this process, and we want to be decent people at the end of it, no matter who wins the election.

Jian Leng  
Assistant Director  
Center for the Humanities

## On Translating Opera

Hugh Macdonald, Avis Blewett Professor of Music in Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis will be the first 2004-05 speaker in the Center for the Humanities’ continuing Translation Series. His lecture is entitled “On Translating Opera.”

Professor Macdonald has translated two operas, Haydn’s *Armida* and Bizet’s *The Pearl Fishers* for Opera Theatre of St. Louis, which presents all of its operas in translation. He has also translated Debussy’s *Pelleas and Melisande*, which has been performed several times in England and the USA. This presentation should be of interest not only to those who think about the art of translation, but also to those who are concerned with adapting art to meet the temperament of today’s audiences.

“The worldwide trend towards singing opera and classical songs only in the original language is not to everyone’s taste,” said Macdonald; “there is a strong argument for singing in the language of the audience.” Having translated a number of operas and cantatas for singers, he is conscious of the special problems presented by translation for music, but equally convinced that the artistic benefits can be unexpectedly abundant.

Macdonald is the Recipient of the Szymanowski Medal (Poland), and the founding editor of the New Berlioz Edition. He has published books on Berlioz and Scriabin, and articles on many facets of 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century music.

The event will take place at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, October 13, in the McMillan Café (Room 115) in Old McMillan Hall on the Hilltop Campus of Washington University. A reception follows the program. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the Center at (314) 935-5576.

## St.

All events indicated. E signings. PH 314 unless

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Machacek Machacek 781-2948. A Diane Middl Husband: H Marriage, L 6731.

W Ann-Marie M The Way to Euclid, 7pm Carl Dennis Gallery 210, 8pm. 516-68

Readings @ poets Carl Contempo Washington

Dr. Neal Barr the Food S 7pm. 367-67

St. Louis Ch in Song II: Love,” Trini 8th. 3pm. \$1 Sharon Kinn The Life of Flash, Webs E. Lockwood

T LBB present his book Th the Door of Church, 7pm

W Susan Falu Undeclared

# St. Louis Literary Calendar

are free unless otherwise noted. Book events are followed by phone numbers are area code unless otherwise indicated.

## Saturday, October 2

**Bill Porter** visits, SLPL Cabanne Branch, 6 Union, 2pm. 367-0717.

**Against Borders** present an event at Alternative Bookfair, St. Ann's Episcopal Church, 3664 Arsenal, all ages. [www.alternativeeducation.org/bookfair](http://www.alternativeeducation.org/bookfair).

## Tuesday, October 5

**Book Group** meets, SLPL Central Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 10am. Also Tues, Oct. 19.

**Brook** reads from her book *Her* by **Louise Erdrich**, *Lughes and Plath - Portrait of a Poet* by **Michael Robbins**, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

## Wednesday, October 6

**MacDonald** reads from her book *The Crow Flies*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**S** reads from his poetry, UMSL Metrolink north campus stop, 345.

## Thursday, October 7

**The Contemporary** presents **Dennis & Rodney Jones**, Contemporary Art Museum, 3750 Grand, 7pm. 535-4660.

## Friday, October 8

**Hard** reads from his book *Breaking Education*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

## Sunday, October 10

**Chamber Chorus** presents "Poetry Shakespeare - The Food of the Soul" at Lutheran Church, 1805 S. Grand, 6/18. 636-458-4343.

**ney Hanson** discusses her book *Helen Stephens: The Fulton Street Groves Public Library*, 301 Grand, 5pm. 961-3784.

## Tuesday, October 12

**S Deepak Chopra** reading from *The Book of Secrets: Unlocking the Power of Your Spiritual Life*, 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Church, 367-6731.

## Wednesday, October 13

**udi**, author of *Backlash: The War Against American Women*

lectures, **WU Assembly Series**, Graham Chapel, WU, 11am. 935-4620.

**Boone's Bookies** book club discusses *A Patchwork Planet* by **Anne Tyler**, SLCL Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, 2pm or 7pm. 636-227-9630.

**The Center for the Humanities** at WU Translation Series presents **Hugh MacDonald** on "Translating Opera," McMillan Café, 115 Old McMillan, WU, 4pm. 935-5576.

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

**Augusten Burroughs** reads from his book *Magical Thinking*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**Buzz Casson** discusses his autobiography *Living the Rock'n'Roll Dream: The Adventures of Buzz Casson*, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 7pm. 994-3300.

**SIUE Arts & Issues Series** presents **Marlin Fitzwater & Joe Lockhart** debating the election, 7:30pm, Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center, SIUE. \$12/\$6 conc. 618-650-2626.

## Thursday, October 14

**Sisters in Crime** feature **Ridley Pearson** at their monthly meeting, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 6:45pm. 469-6356.

**Mark Falanga** reads from his book *The Suburban You*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**Carpenter Book Group** discusses *Ida B.* by **Karen E. Quinones**, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 7pm. 772-6586.

**U. City Great Books Discussion Group** discusses *Metamorphosis* by **Franz Kafka**, 8pm, Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington. 994-7914.

## Friday, October 15

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

## Saturday, October 16

**Romance Writers of America** (MO Chapter) meet, with **Shirl Henke, Julie Beard & Charlotte Hubbard** on "From Idea to Novel: How the Pros Build a Story From Thin Air," B&N, 9618 Watson, 10am. [www.morwa.org](http://www.morwa.org).

## Sunday, October 17

**Alison Funk** leads **St. Louis Poetry Center's** monthly workshop. For submission details,

time & venue, 352-4164.

## Monday, October 18

**Adult Readers Book Group** discusses *Gifted Hands* by **Ben Carson**, SLPL Julia Davis Branch, 4415 Natural Bridge, 12:30pm. 383-3021.

**Thomas Frank** reads from his book *What's the Matter with Kansas?: How Conservatives Won the Heart of America*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**Writer Elaine Viets** visits, SLPL Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 7pm. 781-2948.

**River Styx** presents **Cathy Day & Jeffery Thomson** reading from their work, 7:30pm, Duff's, 392 N. Euclid. \$5/4. 533-4541.

## Tuesday, October 19

The Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies program at WU presents Israeli novelist **Etgar Keret**, author of *Kneller's Happy Campers*, Women's Building Formal Lounge, WU, 4pm. 935-5156.

**Kingshighway Book Group** discusses *The Bone People* by **Keri Hulme**, SLPL Kingshighway Branch, 2260 S. Vandeventer, 6:45pm. 771-5450.

**Robert Olen Butler** reads from his new collection *Had a Good Time: Stories From American Postcards*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

## Wednesday, October 20

WU English dept's **Writing Program** presents **Naama Goldstein**, author of *The Place Will Comfort You*, Women's Building Formal Lounge, WU, 4pm. 935-5156.

**Richmond Hts. Book Group** discusses *Goodbye Tsugumi* by **Barbara Yoshimoto**, Richmond Hts. Community Center, 8001 Dale, 7pm. 645-6202.

**Ken Wells** reads from his book *Travels with Barley: A Journey Through Beer Culture in America*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**Eric Brende** discusses his book *Better Off: Flipping the Switch on Technology*, SLCL Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 7pm. 994-3300.

## Friday, October 22

WU English dept's **Writing Program** presents **Tom Kilroy & Adrian Frazier**, on "Irish Drama Today," Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall 201, WU, 4pm. 935-7130.

## Saturday, October 23

**Mystery Lovers' Book Club** meets, SLPL Carondelet Branch, 6800 Michigan, 10am.

752-9224.

WU English dept's **Writing Program** presents a dramatic reading of *The Shape of Metal* by **Tom Kilroy**, Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall 201, WU, 1:30pm. 935-7130.

## Monday, October 25

LBB presents **Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson** reading from their book *Peter and the Starcatchers*, SLPL Central Branch, 1301 Olive, 7pm. 367-6731.

Open Book Club discusses *Middlesex* by **Jeffrey Eugenides**, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 7pm. 862-6280.

## Tuesday, October 26

**St. Louis Gateway Storytellers** hold their meeting and story swap, 6pm, Salad Bowl Cafeteria, Lindell. 997-3474.

**Mary Elizabeth Ladd and Julie Wiskirchen** read from their book *St. Lou Haiku*, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-4120.

**Lesbian Reading Group** discusses *An Archive of Feelings* by **Ann Cvetkovich**, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7:30pm. 367-6731.

WU English dept's **Writing Program** presents **Tony Earley**, discussing his writing, Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall, WU, 8pm. 935-7130.

## Wednesday, October 27

**Central Book Group** meets, SLPL Central Branch, 1301 Olive, 4:30pm. 241-2288.

**Gay Men's Reading group** discusses *Liquor* by **Poppy Z. Brite**, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7:30pm. 367-6731.

## Thursday, October 28

**Just the Books** reading group meets, SLPL Barr Branch, 1701 S. Jefferson, 6pm. 771-7040.

**Schlafly Book Group** discusses *Felicia's Journey* by **William Trevor**, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-4120.

**Ian Froeb, Tamara Tuirado** and other local authors read from their work in *Best New American Voices 2004*, LBB, 399 N. Euclid, 7pm. 367-6731.

**Carpenter Spanish Book Group** discusses *La Casa de los Espiritus* by **Isabel Allende**, en Espanol, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 7pm. 772-6586.

**Alliance Française Cercle de Lecture** discusses *Meurtre chez Colette* by **Estelle Monbrun**, en Français, 8505 Delmar Ste. G, 7:30pm. 432-6734.

**U. City Great Books Discussion Group** discusses *The Story of Philosophy*

(Schopenhauer chapter) by **Walter Dill Scott**, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Washington, 8pm. 994-7914.

WU English dept's **Writing Program** presents **Tony Earley** reading from his fiction, Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall, WU, 8pm.

## Friday, October 29

**Underwood Reading Series** presents **Joanna Klink and Richard Greenfield**, The Common Space, 615 N. Grand, 7:25-6:27.

## Saturday, October 30

**Anita Henehan** discusses her book *Run Away From Home After 50*, Central Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid, 2:41-20.

**Saturday Writers** meet, Cultural Arts Center, 300 Civic Park, O'Fallon, 11am. For more members. 636-379-9362.

## Sunday, October 31

**Contemporary Fiction and Non-Fiction Reading Group** discusses *Leaves of Grass* by **Walt Whitman, West Campus Library, Moog Lounge, 4pm. 481-0730.**

## Notices

**St. Louis Poetry Center & Elders-Friends Arts** present a "Poetry and Craft" workshop, led by **Sylvia Dunbar**, Nov 16. 991-1529.

**Crossings Concerts & the Iowa International Writing Program** present **United Artists 2004**, Oct 2-5. Music, literature, drama, different venues in St. Louis. For more info, call 721-8940.

**St. Louis Writers Guild** sponsors a writing contest, 5000 words, max 3 MS., Oct. 31 deadline. Entries to Donna B. PO Box 771765, 63117. For info, 771-7655.

## Abbreviations:

B&N: Barnes & Noble; LBB: Little, Brown Books; SIUE: Southern Illinois University; Edwardsville; SLCL: St. Louis Central Library; SLPL: St. Louis Public Library; UMSL: University of Missouri; WU: Washington University.

Check the online calendar at [www.stlouisartsci.wustl.edu](http://www.stlouisartsci.wustl.edu) for more information. To advertise, send event details to [litalcal@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:litalcal@artsci.wustl.edu), or call **Beresford**, calendar editor, at 314-435-4353.

# Young Readers' Literary Calendar

Registration is required for most Library events – call branch first.

## Friday, October 1

**Storytime** features *It's Hard to be Five* by Jamie Lee Curtis, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. Ages 2-5. 862-6280.

## Sunday, October 2

**Wombat Stew & other Australian tales**, SLCL, Grand Glaize Branch, 1010 Meramec Station, 11am. Ages 3-6. 636-225-6454.

## Monday, October 4

**Story Time**, ages 4-8, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid, 10am. 367-4120. Also October 18.

**Preschool Story Time**, ages 2-5, SLPL Carondelet Branch, 6800 Michigan, 10:30am. 752-9224.

**Preschool Story Time**, ages 2-5, SLPL Kingshighway Branch, 10:30am. 771-5450. Every Mon.

## Tuesday, October 5

**Storytime** features *Diary of a Wombat* by Jackie French. Ages 2-5. B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. 862-6280.

**Preschool Story time**, ages 2-5, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 10am. 772-6586.

**Preschool Story time**, ages 2-5, SLPL Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 10am. 781-2948. Every Tues except 10/26.

**Young Adult Booktalk**, SLCL, Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey, 4pm. Ages 12-15. Also 10/19. 291-7570.

**Writing Word Art: Calligraphy**, SLCL, Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, 6:30pm. Ages 8-12. 636-227-9630. Also Weber Road Branch, 10/7, 4pm, 638-2210, & Bridgeton Trails Branch, 3455 McKelvey, 3:30pm, 291-7570.

## Wednesday, October 6

**Monkey Business**, pre-school story time, SLCL Jamestown Bluffs Branch, 4153 N. Hwy 67, 10am & 1:30pm. Also **Hens & Chicks**, 10/13; **Pumpkins**, 10/20 & **Celebrate Halloween**, 10/27. 741-6800.

**Preschool Story Time**, 10am, ages 2 1/2-5. **Toddler Story Time** 11am, ages 14-30 mos. Every Wed & Thur except 10/27 & 10/28. SLPL Buder Branch, 4401 Hampton. 352-2900.

## Thursday, October 7

**Lap Time**, stories and play, SLCL, Grand Glaize Branch, 1010 Meramec Station,

9:30am. Ages 9 mos.-2 years. 636-225-6454.

**Toddler Story Time**, ages 18mos-3, 10am. **Preschool Story Time**, ages 3-5, 10:30am, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid, 367-4120. Also 10/21.

**Preschool Story Time**, ages 3-5, SLPL Julia Davis Branch, 4415 Natural Bridge, 10:30am. 383-3021.

**Home Schoolers Reading Patch Club**, SLCL Jamestown Bluffs Branch, 4153 N. Hwy 67, 2pm. Grades 1-3. Also grades 3-5, 10/14 & grades 6-8, 10/21. 741-6800.

Learn about **Ben Franklin** through stories and other activities, SLCL Cliff Cave Branch, 5430 Telegraph, 4:30pm. 487-6003. **Club Read** discusses **Urban Legends**, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 3:30pm.. Ages 12+. 772-6586 Also 10/20, Central Branch, 1301 Olive. 241-2288.

## Friday, October 8

**Storytime** features *Curious George* by Margret & H.A. Rey, in book & in person, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. Ages 2-5. 862-6280.

**Preschool Story Time**, ages 3-5, SLPL Central Branch, 1301 Olive, 10am. 241-2288. Also 10/22.

**Curious George**, in person, Mid-County Branch, 7821 Maryland, 3pm. Preschoolers. 721-3008.

## Saturday, October 9

**Teddy Bear Tea**, stories and other activities, Samuel C. Sachs Branch, 16400 Burkhardt, 10:30am. Ages 3+. 636-728-0001.

## Monday, October 11

**Preschool storytime**, SLPL Cabanne Branch, 1106 Union, 10am. 367-0717; SLPL Barr Branch, 1701 S. Jefferson, 11am. 771-7040. Every Mon except 10/4.

## Tuesday, October 12

**Storytime** features *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. Ages 2-5. 862-6280.

**Stories Tonight: Fall Fun**, SLCL, Rock Road Branch, 10267 St. Charles Rock, 7pm. 429-5116.

Young Audiences of St. Louis presents storyteller **Bobby Norfolk** with "Stories of Cultural Diversity", multicultural tales, SW Illinois College, 4950 Maryville, Granite City, IL, 7pm. 968-5554x21.

## Wednesday, October 13

**Preschool storytime**, ages 3-5, SLPL Walnut

Park Branch, 5760 W. Florissant, 10am. 383-1210.

**Preschool storytime**, ages 2-6, SLPL Baden Branch, 8448 Church, 10:30am. 388-2400. Also 10/27.

## Thursday, October 14

**Dino Quest**, story time, SLCL, Tesson Ferry Branch, 9920 Lin-Ferry, 10am. Ages 2-6. 843-0560.

**Evening Storytime**, SLCL, Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, 6:30pm. Ages 2-6. 636-227-9630.

## Friday, October 15

**Storytime** features **Metro Theatre Company**, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. Ages 2-5. 862-6280.

## Saturday, October 16

**The Pumpkin Patch**, story time, SLCL, Thornhill Branch, 12863 Willowyc, 11am. Ages 2-8. 878-7730.

DVS movie of the month is *Harry Potter & the Chamber of Secrets* from the book by **J.K. Rowling**, SLPL Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan, 2pm. 781-2948.

## Tuesday, October 19

**Storytime** features *Roger, the Jolly Pirate* by Brett Helquist, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. Ages 2-5. 862-6280.

## Wednesday, October 20

**Bunnica-Special Story Time**, with the rabbit from James & Deborah Howe's books, SLCL, Lewis & Clark Branch, 9909 Lewis & Clark, 10am. 868-0331.

Author **Uncle Henry** visits, Schlafly Branch Library, 225 N. Euclid, 10am. 367-4120.

## Thursday, October 21

**Baden Teen Book Club** meets, SLPL Baden Branch, 1448 Church, 4pm. Ages 13-18. 388-2400.

**Spooky Stories Extravaganza**, SLPL Barr Branch, 1701 S. Jefferson, 11am. Grades 4-8. 771-7040.

**Frog Prince**, fairy tales, SLPL Cabanne Branch, 1106 Union, 3:30pm. 367-0717.

**Carpenter Teen Book Club** discusses *Cique du Freak* by **Darren Shan**, SLPL Carpenter Branch, 3309 S. Grand, 4pm. 772-6586.

## Friday, October 22

**Storytime** features *Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. Ages 2-5. 862-6280.

**A Squirrel's Tale**, story time, SLCL, Tesson Ferry Branch, 9920 Lin-Ferry, 10am. Ages

2-6. 843-0560.

**COCA Family Theatre Series** presents Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia in *Very Eric Carle*, based on **Carle's** books, COCA, 524 Trinity, 7pm. Also 10/23-24, 1:30 & 3:30pm. Ages 2+. \$17. 725-6555.

## Saturday, October 23

COCA presents a collage workshop based on **Eric Carle's** books, 524 Trinity, 11:30-12:30, ages 4+. \$20 family. 725-6555.

**Metro Theatre Company** presents *Salt & Pepper* by **Jose Cruz Gonzalez**, a play about reading, MO History Museum, 11am. Also 10/24, 1:30 & 3:30pm. Ages 7+. \$14/\$12. 997-6777.

## Monday, October 25

**Global Kids Discover Norse Mythology**, SLCL, Tesson Ferry Branch, 9920 Lin-Ferry, 4:30pm. Ages 8-13. 843-0560.

## Tuesday, October 26

**Storytime** features *The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin* by Joe Troiano, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. Ages 2-5. 862-6280.

## Thursday, October 28

**Bunnica in person**, with the rabbit from James & Deborah Howe's books, SLCL, Prairie Commons Branch, 915 Utz Lane, 10:30am, Preschool+. 895-1023. Also Rock Road Branch, 10267 St. Charles Rock, 7pm. 429-5116.

**Spooky Tales**, Halloween stories, SLCL Headquarters Branch, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 11:30am. All ages. 994-3300.

## Friday, October 29

**Storytime** features *The Runaway Pumpkin* by Kevin Lewis, B&N, 8871 Ladue, 10am. Ages 2-5. 862-6280.

## Saturday, October 30

**The Kahok Dancers**, Native American stories & dance, SLCL Jamestown Bluffs Branch, 4153 N. Hwy 67, 2pm. All ages. 741-6800.

## Notices

**Teen read week**, October 17-23, at SLCL Branch libraries, with a variety of activities promoting teen literacy, theme "It's Alive!". Launch at Daniel Boone Branch, 300 Clarkson, Friday, Oct. 15, 6:30pm. 636-227-9630. See local branches for details or call Headquarters, 994-3300.

**Halloween Parties** most SLCL & SLPL branches are holding Halloween events including stories, treats, games and other activities. Contact local branch for details.