



THE SITTING ROOM A COMMUNITY LIBRARY

SPRING 2012

POST OFFICE BOX 838, PENNGROVE, CALIFORNIA 94951

WORDS TO LIVE BY: JANE AUSTEN

"No one minds having what is too good for them."

SPECIAL EVENTS

NOTE: All special events are free and open to everyone in the community (no memberships needed or genders excluded) unless otherwise noted; all are being held at the sort of new Sitting Room location at 2025 Curtis Drive, just off Petaluma Hill Rd., south of E. Cotati Ave, near Sonoma State University. Map and parking advice on our website: sittingroom.org.



SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2:00 TO 4:00. An afternoon of poetry and music with TERRY EHRET and her daughter CAITLIN EHRET MOE. The program will honor the vision of two women from different cultures and periods in history: the Medieval Benedictine poet, composer, scientist, and recently officially declared SAINT HILDEGARD VON BINGEN and the contemporary Uruguayan/Mexican poet ULALUME GONZALES DE LEON. The performance will weave poetry inspired by these two women with musical/vocal arrangements.

All welcome, free, no reservations necessary.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 6 TO 7PM. A RENAISSANCE TALK WITH CHRISTY DAVIDS. "Examining the Unrecognized Role of the Woman Writer in the Elizabethan Era." A conversation accompanying a special library exhibit featuring female authors and their role in Early Modern times. All welcome, free, no reservations necessary.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 7 TO 9PM. FACING SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACIES. Opening session of four Thursday night meetings of a study group for 6 to 10 people led by ANN NEEL. See complete info on our WORKSHOP page.

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2 TO 4. Our traditional MEMORIAL observance where people read from the works of women writers who have died in the past year or so. There are always, alas, plenty to read from. Bring your own or choose from the Sitting Room collection; it is surprisingly satisfying to get their voices out in the room...no fee, no need to sign up in advance; if you want to talk over options, telephone J.J. Wilson at 795-9028 after May 20th.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2 TO 5. THE SITTING ROOM'S 30th BIRTHDAY PARTY all are welcome to celebrate our Sitting Room's longevity and liveliness. In a very special tribute to women authors, CHRISTINE RENAUDIN will be presenting a multimedia Community Performance Experiment in Embodied Reading titled WOMEN OF LETTERS. (more info on p.2) Not to be missed!

Please do keep in touch by checking the fine website that Clarice Stasz keeps up to date for us, as other events do come up between newsletters; you can also email Karen Petersen at kpetersen@santarosa.edu and ask to be added to the e-list for the Sitting Room and other cultural events. There is even a FaceBook page for the SR!

The Sitting Room is always hungry for new ideas for workshops, events, play readings, interdisciplinary experiments, film series, good ways to use our comfortable space (with wireless btw), so do not think we are limited to these Newsletter listings – just check in with Christy or J.J. if you have some suggestions....We especially welcome low cost or FREE workshops.



CHEW ON THIS Saturday, April 14, 2012.

a Benefit for Sonoma County Library and the Sonoma County Book Festival

Cocktails, dinner, a silent auction, and the opportunity to chat with some of the Bay Area's best and brightest authors, including, Carolyn Burke, author of *The Life of Edith Piaf*, Zoe Ferraris, author of *City of Veils*, Anita Amirrezvani, author of *The Blood of Flowers*, Thaisa Frank, author of *Heidegger's Glasses* and many more. Follow their website for up to the minute news: www.scplf.com. Tickets are \$100.

WOMEN OF LETTERS CALL FOR READERS / PERFORMERS

A Multi-Media Community Performance Experiment in
Embodied Reading to Celebrate the Sitting Room 30th Anniversary

If the lengthy title entices rather than scares you, if you enjoy reading and exploring textuality, and if, perchance, you also enjoy moving and being moved, and generally playing with your creativity with other people, this project might be worthy of your time and commitment. I need up to 11 committed women, ready to share their reading skills and trust me to direct them into performing a staged collage of 11 women writers' letters. Each participant will be responsible for reading a volume of letters by a given writer on a pre-selected list of authors whose works happen to be held at the Sitting Room, with an eye to a certain number of themes and motifs that will be used to construct the collage, as well as the stage characters. **If interested, please call Christine at 707.206.8850.**



“The Sitting Room: Past, Present & FUTURE”

Needs YOU to write a brief piece for it on some of your adventures (remembered or imagined) at the Sitting Room during its 30 year history and its forever future. One possible prompt: What brought you to the Sitting Room? (If your piece comes out longer than a page or two, it still can be published on the website....) As usual, all genres – story telling, letters, poems, plays, etc. – will be welcome (+ any photos or other visuals you might have from its past) and as usual, this is not a juried publication. ALL contributions are published if they address the theme and meet the requirements (see our website for details of the 1 and 1/2 “ margins, times roman, 12 point, etc.;) and if you do not do electronic, mail your material unfolded to:

The Sitting Room, att. Editor of the 2012 pub, PO Box 838, Penngrove, CA 94951.

TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION ALL THE MORE POSSIBLE WE HAVE MOVED THE DUE DATE FOR ALL COPY FROM VALENTINE'S DAY TO GUESS WHAT? APRIL FOOL'S DAY! Do email JJ. Wilson at boxcar@sonic.net if you want to sound her out on your ideas, or indeed if you would like to volunteer to be on the editorial help staff, with the main work starting in early April. The publication will be sometime in the summer this year and will be dedicated to Hege Dalen and her wife, Toril Hansen, who saved so many lives in the Norway massacre.

NEWS ABOUT THE NEW SITTING ROOM

ACCESS TO THE NEW SITTING ROOM at 2025 Curtis Drive, Penngrove, 94951. The place is open to all readers whenever the red lamp is on (9 am to 9 pm) and the individual reader is always welcome even when events or programs are going on. To get an introductory tour of the new premises and info on key codes, parking, etc., you should make a point of coming when Christy Davids, our Sitter in Residence, is here: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3 to 6 pm; if you need to make a special appt with Christy, her email is christydavids@gmail.com.

PLEASE LOG IN TO THE JOURNAL IN THE ENTRYWAY WHEN YOU – guess what? – ENTER. Also consult the Wall Calendar to see what is going on and when, so you can plan your own activities. Aside from the large main rooms, there is the Writing Room for quiet work and the Poetry Room for cozy reading — and there are heaters in each of these smaller rooms.

UPDATES AROUND THE SITTING ROOM LIBRARY. The formerly unruly nonfiction section of the library is being tamed and tended to. Thanks to Ann Neel's initial organizational work, Raye Lynn Thomas' librarian prowess, and help from Christy Davids, nonfiction works are being meticulously organized according to the Library of Congress system. Next time you stop by, do check out the backroom shelves, now organized and labeled by category. Also be sure to take a look at the recently added Feminist theory and essay sections which add a new dimension to the Sitting Room's unique collection. It is really an education just to browse these shelves; give even (or especially!) unfamiliar topics a gander to learn something new. If you are new to the Sitting room, or would like to have a tour, Christy holds regular Sitting Room Open Hours Mondays and Wednesday 3-6pm.

BEYOND THE “BLUE DOT” – or YES, The Sitting Room is still circulating some of its books, but now with no paper work involved. You just take what you want (no more than three at a time) from those bulging shelves dedicated to Circulating Books on the East Wall of the entryway and walk out the door. Bring'em back when you get round to it; you can leave them on the front porch if the library is closed when you go by. O.K.? Please do avail yourselves of this availability!

**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS**



Big Read, Sonoma County 2012

The BIG READ returns to Sonoma County this March.

Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya is this year's selection. Anaya's coming-of-age story takes place in post-World War II New Mexico. An old woman with healing powers comes to live with young Antonio's family. The novel presents a world where everyday life is still full of dreams, legends, prayers and folkways.

For information on activities in your community, visit the website, krcb.org/The-Big-Read/

WORKSHOPS, ON-GOING & NEW, MULTI-SESSION AND ONE DAY

Some free, some for fee, telephone/email organizers for details and to reserve a place; all workshops open to women and men, unless otherwise specified. A fund has been begun (contributions welcome as the fund is getting low) to subsidize those who find the fees prohibitive – apply directly to J.J. Wilson at boxcar@sonic.net.

SITTING ROOM BOOK GROUP, third Wednesdays of every month, 2–4pm. All welcome. Wednesday, Feb. 15, Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*; March 21, Carson McCullers, *Member of the Wedding*; April 18, Ntozake Shange, *Sassafras, Cypress and Indigo*. For current info, consult the website: sittingroom.org or email jpage@sonic.net. We continue to meet thru the summer months on the third Wednesday of every month.

Locating Lysippe is a feminist discussion group founded and led by Sonoma State graduate students, Christy Davids and Erica Tom, who are pursuing MA degrees in Literature. Readings, meeting dates, and discussion follow-ups are posted at locatinglysispe.wordpress.com. Meetings will be held at the Sitting Room, alternating on Wednesdays from 5–7 and Saturdays from 11–1pm on the following dates:

Wed., February 29th; Sat., March 17th; Wed., April 4th; Sat., April 28th. All interested in feminist conversations are welcome to join at any point throughout the new schedule (no fee by the way). Former topics of discussion have included French feminist thought, the birthrate in Brazil, feminism in online media. For other queries, you may email us at Locating.Lysippe@gmail.com.

Monday, Feb. 13 and Friday, Feb. 17, 9 to noon. The kickoff days for **Terry Ehret's two popular eight-session Poetry reading and writing workshops**; for more details + info on how to sign up go directly to Terry's website: tehret99@comcast.net as they fill up fast. (The fee is \$200 + \$20 for the SR; \$50 deposit required.)

Saturday, March 3, 9 to noon. BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, MARIE THOMAS MCNAUGHTON will again offer her ingenious and effective workshop on the joys (!) of **READING AND WRITING OBITUARIES**. Part how to and part creative writing exercise, participants learn compression, selection, and even a bit of storytelling. It is a fascinating form to master — and, let's face it, likely to be useful. Cost is \$20. Marie is coordinating. To reserve your space email her at mrmac@sonic.net or telephone her at 707 529-0734.

Saturday, March 17, 10 to 4. Novelist, essayist and screenwriter **BARBARA QUICK** will be offering a writers' empowerment workshop. Whether your book is at present a manuscript in search of a publisher OR a courage-starved idea, Barbara will give you practical advice about shaping your story, polishing your prose and figuring out the best way to get it on the road to publication. You can visit Barbara's website at www.BarbaraQuick.com to see more about her many achievements. To sign up for the workshop. write by March 11 bqwriter@gmail.com. The workshop price is \$40 (tuition reduction available through the Sitting Room scholarship fund).

Saturday, April 7, 9:30 to 12:30. Kickoff for **DAN COSHNEAR'S DRILL, BABY, DRILL**, every Saturday in April writing workshops: Here is how Dan describes them: "I'm talking about writing exercises: four intense sessions focused on the elements of the craft of fiction with brief readings, brief lessons, and writing exercises. We'll practice developing dynamic settings and dynamic characters, and constructing meaningful, sensible dynamic plots for those characters. We'll get comfortable with the various narrative positions, stretch and tune our voices, and we'll challenge our abilities to see from various points of view. We'll write dialogue rich in subtext and scenes which are dramatically compelling. If your wish is for a safe, supportive and stimulating environment in which to generate new writing, please contact Daniel Coshnear: 707 869-0329 or coshn@sonic.net. Cost of 4 sessions is \$110 (ten of which goes to the Sitting Room). Max # of students: 10.

Thursday, April 12, 19, 26 and May 3, 7 to 9pm. **FACING SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACIES**. Opening session of four Thursday night meetings of a study group for 6 to 10 people led by **ANN NEEL**. (\$100 fee which includes \$10 for the Sitting Room with partial scholarships possible if needed; readings of articles or chapters available at the Sitting Room)

Ann starts the description of her inquiry with the following quote from James Baldwin:

...the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do. It could scarcely be otherwise, since it is to history that we owe our frames of reference, our identities, and our aspirations. She goes on to say: To understand the meaning of "race" in this country, one has to begin looking closely at the foundational institution of slavery. This study group begins with the assumptions that slavery as an institution was basic to the establishment of this country; that it lasted a very long time and was not so long ago; that those defined as "white" are often apt to be unconscious or oblivious of its legacies (an aspect of white privilege), while most of those defined as "people of color" are only too aware of how its consequences assault their well-being on a daily basis. However, everyone can benefit from looking closely at the historical actualities of enslavement, even its presence in their own ancestor's lives, to understand just how this institutional heritage has produced and sustained personal and social nightmares in the present." Ann concludes, "As one of the millions of U.S. citizens who descend from slaveholding families, I believe this is one way I can take responsibility for the institutional 'sins of the fathers' so that our children and their children won't have this mess left to them as it has been irresponsibly left to us by our ancestors. We will take on this journey together in the thoughtful, supportive atmosphere provided at the Sitting Room."

Saturday, May 12 (just one day before Mothers Day!), 9 to 1. A chance to meet with **Kate Farrell**, editor of the recently published **WISDOM HAS A VOICE: Every Daughter's Memories of Mother** anthology, along with two of her contributing authors, for a discussion of the ever fascinating question of what we all learned from our mothers. After working with some guiding questions, there will be time for doing some writing and then for sharing them in small groups. COST: \$45 (which includes a copy of the book, of course). For more information, visit her website: WisdomHasAVoice.com. To sign up, email catharine.farrell@comcast.net.

I have a vision, Chuck... I can see the day coming when women will have the same opportunities in sports as men!

— Peppermint Patty, 1979

CHARLES SCHULZ MUSEUM

Leveling the Playing Field

December 17, 2011 to August 12, 2012

From the earliest days in Peanuts, Charles Schulz's girl characters were active in many sports from football to figure skating. Although not always stellar athletes—after all, who can forget Lucy's ineptitude in the right field or Marcie's total bewilderment with sports of all kinds—the girls were equal participants. After Schulz met tennis great Billie Jean King in the 1970s, he highlighted the issue of girls in sports with a multi-day storyline in 1979 about Title IX, the 1972 legislation that bans sex discrimination in schools, whether in academics or athletics. 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the law, a perfect time to learn more about women's sports history and to celebrate Schulz's hilarious, often poignant, and even-handed depiction of girls and sports in Peanuts. www.schulzmuseum.org/



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COMMUNITY EVENTS

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Schulz Information Center

Women in Science

In celebration of Women's History Month, the University Library @ Sonoma State University will explore women in science. Through discussions, exhibits, and displays there will opportunity to hear how women are working in and thinking about science.

In the Gallery: XX: Women, Science, and Art

This exhibit will feature six Bay Area women artists, all of whom are grappling with issues of science in their art. Exhibition will be from March 1 – March 31 with a reception on March 1 from 4-5:30.

Lectures and Discussions: Women in the Sciences

Women scientists who are inside and outside of the academy will discuss how they got interested in their field, some hurdles and achievements they have gone through, where the field is heading, any ethical and/or political issues they see on the immediate horizon. Discussions will be March 7, March 14, and March 21 at Noon in Schulz 3001. All events are free and open to the public. Additional info: library.sonoma.edu/

SONOMA FILM INSTITUTE

LE BONHEUR ("Happiness"), by the great French filmmaker, Agnes Varda
Friday, March 2 at 7:00 and Sunday, March 4 at 4:00 www.sonoma.edu/sfi

Wordtemple Poetry Series takes place at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 6780 Depot Street, Sebastopol, CA. www.wordtemple.com.

Literary Wednesdays On KRCB

Tune in every Wednesday @ 7 p.m. to KRCB, FM91, for literary programming: Word by Word; A Novel Idea; WordTemple; Page on Stage. You can also check out their podcasts on www.krcb.org

WRITERS AT SONOMA

<http://sonoma.edu/english/>

Thursday, March 8th, 7pm, Green Music Center

Maxine Chernoff is author of six books of fiction and 13 books of poetry, including *The Turning*, *A House in Summer*, and *To Be Read in the Dark*. She edits the long-running literary journal *New American Writing*, and is Professor and Chair of Creative Writing at San Francisco State since 1996.

Tuesday, April 17, 6pm, Schulz 3001

Rebecca Solnit is author of 13 books about art, landscape, public and collective life, including the recent *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas*. She has worked with climate change, Native American land rights, anti-nuclear and anti-war issues as an activist and journalist.

SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE

For complete information, see www.santarosa.edu/communityed

Love In The Open Hand: Terry Ehret and Donna Emerson

Monday, February 13, 2012, 12:15pm, Newman Auditorium

Wednesday, April 22, 2012, 7 pm, Mahoney Library, Petaluma Campus
Donna Emerson and Terry Ehret will read from their new poetry collections, *Wild Mercy*, and *Night Sky Journey*, exploring the faces of love.

An inside view of the California prison system: one woman's remarkable journey.

Linda Lee Smith, victim of domestic violence

Monday, March 5, 2012, 12:15pm, Newman Auditorium,

Women and Islam. Dr. Heidi Saleh and Jaleelah Siddiqui

Monday, March 12, 2012, 12:15pm, Newman Auditorium,

Miss Representation (Film Presentation)

Wed., March 7, 7:00-10:00 pm, Carole Ellis Auditorium, Petaluma Campus
This highly acclaimed film exposes and challenges the media's disparaging and sexualized portrayals of women.