

Claribel Alegría Wins Neustadt International Prize for Literature

Critically acclaimed and beloved Nicaraguan/Salvadoran writer Claribel Alegría was selected by an international jury representing eight countries as the 2006 laureate of the \$50,000 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, administered by the University of Oklahoma and its international magazine, *World Literature Today*. The announcement was made during a ceremony Friday, Oct. 28, on the Norman campus of the University of Oklahoma.

The Neustadt Prize, awarded every two years, is the only international literary award from the United States for which poets, playwrights, and novelists are given equal consideration. It is widely considered to be the most prestigious international prize after the Nobel Prize in Literature and, in fact, is often referred to as the “American Nobel” because of its record of 25 laureates, candidates, or jurors who in the past 37 years have been awarded Nobel Prizes following their involvement with the Neustadt Prize.

Alegría was born in Estelí, Nicaragua, but from early childhood lived in the Santa Ana region of western El Salvador. In 1948, she earned her bachelor’s degree in philosophy and letters from George Washington University. Alegría is the 19th recipient of the Neustadt Prize and the third woman to win. Alegría’s poetry and fiction have consistently garnered critical acclaim, and she also has been widely recognized for her work on “historical testimony” in Latin

(cont. on pg. 8)

Banned

Books more fearsome than monsoons
Thunder clouds of words & earthquakes

Splintered spines. Words to worry.
Spitting truths to public seashores,

Beached truths like whales out of water.
Afraid to drown in these truths, better

To breathe freely in the lies—
the nature of man.
Words to marry. Love without truth.

Words to cut swaths of concrete
Roads through forested mountains.

Banned. Burned. Tossed. Books
to awaken the sleeping woman,

The dried-heart man. Barter
The bitter brine of bogus bigotry.

We’ve been banned, purgatory
—minds, stillborn but vital.

Banned. Oh, intimate collusion
Between page and purpose.

—Luis J. Rodríguez

From *My Nature is Hunger:
New & Selected Poems, 1989-2004*
ISBN 1-931896-24-0 / \$ 14.95

Curbstone Press Celebrates Its 30th Anniversary

Under the auspices of the Eastern Connecticut State University’s English and Spanish Departments, and ECSU itself, Curbstone Press celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a gala festival and fundraiser on September 25, 2005.

This year’s honored guests were Breyten Breytenbach, poet, writer, painter, and activist who is considered one of South Africa’s most important poets; Sam Hamill, poet, founding editor of Copper Canyon Press, and organizer of the International Poets Against War movement; Lucy Anne Hurston, a sociology professor whose compelling book about her aunt, Zora Neale Hurston recently was published; and Robert Meeropol, progressive activist, author, and speaker, and the younger son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

A host of nationally and internationally known writers and translators were present to lend their support to Curbstone Press, including Claribel Alegría, Doug Anderson, Arturo Arias, Naomi Ayala, Kevin Bowen, Agnes Bushell, Nguyen Ba Chung, Jo Anne Engelbert, Martín Espada, Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Nicholasa Mohr, Marnie Mueller, Luis J. Rodríguez, Susan Sherman, and Roberto Sosa. Also attending were many new authors recently published by Curbstone Press, including Jon Andersen, Anna Balint, James Janko, Lorraine López, James O’Hern, Marisela Rizik, and Steve Straight.

(see pg. 4)



Curbstone INK.

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Curbstone Press is an incorporated, 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts and education organization, founded in 1975.

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From the Publishers' Desk

It seems as if thirty years have zipped by. We are proud to have played a part in presenting new U.S. authors and introducing readers to major writers from other countries. Many of these books and authors have won prestigious awards, the most recent being the Neustadt Prize to Claribel Alegria.

It's also gratifying to see how many writers Curbstone presented early on have entered mainstream publishing and are now recognizable national figures, such as Jimmy Santiago Baca, Martín Espada, and Luis J. Rodríguez. We believe that one of the most important functions of the independent, nonprofit press is to advance the careers of new writers—to take risks that would be inappropriate for commercial publishers. (The financial road to this goal is, of course, difficult and uncertain, which is why your contributions are very important to the Press.)

It is obvious to us all that the mission of the Press to promote human rights and advance intercultural understanding is critical in these difficult times. We need to let our voices be heard through both literature and the political process. We need to assert continually the value of community and the benefits of diversity.

Our present challenges are great. Because of the recession, Curbstone's sales are down 25%. Donations are also down. We did raise a third of our goal for total annual donations at the very successful 30th Anniversary event in September, held at Eastern CT State University in Willimantic, but as close as we can figure, we will need to raise an additional \$20,000 by year's end, so we hope you will donate generously and urge others to do the same. And give books for holiday gifts (our web site now has a secure shopping cart).

Looking forward, we are planning to step up our national fundraising campaign in 2006 and to plan for an endowment drive in the near future in order to insure that the Press will thrive far into the future. That is a legacy that would be gratifying to leave, and we wish to give our heartfelt thanks to Russell Banks and Grace Paley and all the members of the Authors Committee who are helping us to take the first steps toward this goal.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Doyle & Alexander Taylor,
Co-Directors Curbstone Press

MISSION AT THE HELM:

Curbstone Press, a 501(c)(3) arts and education organization, was founded in 1975 in Willimantic, Connecticut. Throughout its history, the Press's Board and Co-Directors have nurtured Curbstone's focus on creative literature that invites readers to examine social issues, encourages a deeper understanding between cultures, and reflects a commitment to promoting human rights. Curbstone's mission weaves together two interdependent programs: 1) publishing creative literature that illuminates the issues of our time, and 2) bringing writers into U.S. communities to promote literacy, knowledge about many cultures, respect for human rights, and appreciation of good literature, among people of all ages.

Library Bookgroup Welcomes Marnie Mueller

The Jonathan Trumbull Library Book Group in Lebanon, Connecticut, is going strong, about to begin our eighth year of lively discussion and shared literary enjoyment. Often averaging more than twenty people at each meeting, our group is passionate about reading and sharing our thoughts and ideas with each other.

We have recently added another exciting component to our yearly schedule—inviting authors to come and speak to our group and join in our discussion of their books. Past authors have included Margot Livesey (*Eva Moves the Furniture*, Picador, 2002), and local Connecticut author, Janice Law (*Voices*, Forge Books, 2003).



From left: Melissa Hayes, Marnie Mueller, Peg McCormick and Julie Culp (Library Director). Photo courtesy of John Nicol.

This past May, we were delighted to welcome Curbstone author Marnie Mueller, who spoke to our group about her novel, *My Mother's Island*. Marnie graciously gave a reading from her powerful novel, and then joined us for lively discussion and Q&A session. Our group is not known for being shy, and members didn't hesitate to share their emotional reactions to Marnie's novel. All agreed that *My Mother's Island* is a haunting account of a mother/daughter relationship, tested not only by the mother's imminent death, but by their lifelong struggles together. Marnie manages to capture the myriad emotions involved—what Wally Lamb calls “. . . a daughter's death watch: loving, angry, remorseful, and profoundly revealing of our lives as adult children.”

Marnie is an exciting and vibrant speaker, and very willing to share her thoughts and emotions with others. The atmosphere was electric as group members talked about their own family

experiences. We also asked Marnie about her inspiration and writing style, and her other books (published by Curbstone): *The Climate of the Country* (1999) and *Green Fires* (1994).

We were pleased that Curbstone's co-directors, Alexander Taylor and Judith Ayer Doyle, could join us, along with Jantje Tielken (Publicity and Marketing). They cheerfully manned the busy book sale table, where Marnie signed copies of all three of her novels.

This event was truly the highlight of our year, and we are so grateful that Marnie could join us. Reading her novel and having the privilege of discussing it with her was truly an enriching experience. We are fortunate to have Curbstone Press right in Willimantic, and appreciate their help in bringing one of their very talented authors to Lebanon.

—Melissa J. Hayes, Jonathan Trumbull Library Book Group, Lebanon, CT, May 17, 2005.

The Poet and the Poem

“The Poet and the Poem” from the Library of Congress now enters its 28th consecutive year of broadcast. In September 2005 and again in January 2006, a series of 7 one-hour programs will be available free to all public radio stations via NPR. Programs are broken into two discrete segments so the first half of each show can be taken alone, making fourteen 30-minute programs in each series. “The Poet and the Poem” features the country's top poets in a one-hour show: interview/reading/discussion of craft. Poet Grace Cavalieri talks to other poets about the process and inspiration for each poem. In readings surrounded by conversation, an intimate portrait of the writer is created. The Fall 2005 season features Ted Kooser, Poet Laureate of the United States, and award-winning poets Martin Walls (NY) and Claudia Emerson (VA). Also slated to perform from the Washington DC area is Quique Aviles, DC Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick, and Maryland poet Edgar Silex. Ohio Poet Herbert Martin, author of the new biography of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, will also be featured in the fall. The widest spectrum of voices in poetry is found on “The Poet and the Poem.” The program holds the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Silver Medal for entertainment.

—Grace Cavalieri, “The Poet and the Poem” from the Library of Congress.

Curbstone's 30th Anniversary Fundraising Fiesta

Curbstone is very grateful to the many individuals, organizations and businesses that sponsored this event:

Diamond Circle: Anonymous, Judith Doyle & Alexander Taylor; *Gold Circle:* Consortium Book Sales & Distribution, Stephen & Elizabeth Welch; *Major Sponsors:* Harcourt Inc., Worth & Louise Loomis; *Sustaining Sponsors:* George Gibson & Linda Johns, Wally & Chris Lamb, William & Nancy Orr, Touchstone/Fireside at Simon & Schuster, Farrar, Straus & Giroux; *Supporting Sponsors:* Anonymous, Compton & Irmgard Rees; *Contributing Sponsors:* Lisa Adams & David Miller, George Bahamonde & Jenny Smith, Ellen Lee Cohen, Martha Collins & Ted Space, Hilary & Steven Dahlberg, Virginia Fulton & Murphy Sewall, Joan Joffe Hall & David Morse, W. Nick Hill & Barbara Arn, Patricia Luke, Marcia & John McGowan, McGrath & McGrath, LLC, Susan Taylor Pate, Fred Pfeil, Matt & Maria Proser, Puffin Foundation, Lila Roomberg, Transcontinental Book Group, Paul & Lisa Von Drasek, Joan Walden Enterprises.



From left to right: Lucy Anne Hurston, Martín Espada, Marisela Rizik, Co-directors Judith Doyle and Alexander Taylor, an enthusiastic audience, Breyten Breytenbach, Jo Anne Engelbert and Roberto Sosa, Claribel Alegria and Marcia McGowan, Sam Hamill, James Janko, Alastair Taylor and Judith Doyle, Luis J. Rodríguez, and Arturo Arias.

Searching for You

I went out searching for you
crossing valleys
and mountains
ploughing distant seas
asking of the clouds
and the wind your whereabouts
it was all useless
useless
you were within me.

Seizing Hold

Seizing your light
I pass through time
there have been and will be
unexpected winds
hurricanes
storms
and droughts
but I have always known
that you'll hold on to me.

It Cannot

Sadness
can't cope with me
I lead it toward life
and it evaporates.

At the same time that we offer these poems in memory of John Mulligan, we also offer them for all the people who have lost family and friends during the many natural disasters that have occurred during the past several months, not only on the Gulf coast but also around the globe.

After winning the 2004 Miguel Mármol Prize, and the 2005 Premio Atzlán Prize, Mary Helen Lagasse's *The Fifth Sun* was recently awarded a 2005 Independent Publisher Book Award (IPPY Award) in the category Multicultural Fiction. The IPPY Awards, launched in 1996, are intended to bring increased recognition to the thousands of exemplary independent, university, and self-published titles produced each year, and reward those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing.

The Fifth Sun is an inspiring story of a young Mexican immigrant who struggles valiantly for a better life for herself and her family. This fast-paced novel takes her through her adventures in New Orleans, her marriage, her struggle to raise her children, her deportation, and her attempt to recross the river and be united with her children.

In Memoriam

We are sad to report the untimely death of John Mulligan, who was killed on October 12, 2005, when struck by a car in Mountain View, California.

John won the PEN/Oakland Award in 1998 for his autobiographical novel *Shopping Cart Soldiers*, which recounted the pain and suffering of returning veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. *Shopping Cart Soldiers* proved an effective therapeutic tool for helping other veterans understand and cope with PTSD, and John spent a great deal of his time visiting veterans centers and homeless shelters to read from his novel and discuss PTSD.



Shopping Cart Soldiers was written in Maxine Hong Kingston's famed writing workshop for veterans. It received praise from numerous critics. Author and critic Gerry Nicosia commented, "I thought that this was one of the pre-eminent novels in the country for showing the after-effects of the Vietnam War on the psyche, really one of the top three of its kind ever done. You so seldom get someone who went through that sort of experience and comes through with such a great ability to articulate it. Many vets have told me he really helped them understand their own experience. It's terribly sad that he's gone." So it is. Rest in peace, John.

Donations in John Mulligan's memory may be made to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 333 1/2 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003-1148.

J.M.G. Le Clézio's *Wandering Star*

Wandering Star is a deeply compelling story that explores the Holocaust and its repercussions with a delicate consideration of all who are oppressed. In a time of intense conflict in the Middle East, it is a blessing to uncover Le Clézio's prose, which focuses on the traumas of life in exile. He does not judge Esther, a Jewish girl who takes part in the founding of Israel, or Nejma, a Palestinian who becomes a refugee, but sympathizes with both their struggles.

Matthew N. Proser, professor emeritus of English of the University of Connecticut, wrote the following piece:

Wandering Star was first published in its original French in 1992 by the notable Gallimard and has been put out by Curbstone Press in a masterful translation by C. Dickson. Though less well-known in the U.S., Le Clézio's fiction is well-recognized in France. C. Dickson has worked with and published Le Clézio's work before: a short story in *Another Chicago Magazine* in 1994, one in *The Chicago Review* in 2000 and his book, *The Round and Other Cold Hard Facts*, recently done by the University of Nebraska Press in January, 2003.

Wandering Star is at once a painful chronicle and a romance in the epic sense. It tells two discrete stories linked by an adventitious connection when two girls briefly meet. One is Esther, a Jewess (called Hélène while her parents attempt to submerge their identity after having emigrated to the south of France during the beginning of World War II). After many wanderings and much suffering she and her mother finally make it to Eretz Yisraël. The other is Nejma, a Palestinian girl who has been forced to flee to refugee camps upon the establishment of the Israeli state.

Thus, *Wandering Star* contains two wanderers whose stories interconnect less by plot than by the substance of their stories. That substance concerns suffering along with the spark of hope that keeps them alive during their wanderings. The beginning of the novel shows Esther and her parents (her father is a member of the Maquis) in the little town of Saint-Martin-Vésubie near Nice in 1943 during its occupation by the Italians. This period is described almost lyrically—an age of innocence—because the Italians do not press fiercely on their French “hosts”. In a way, this section is a kind of “coming-of-age” prelude to what follows: the flight of the Italians as the Germans come in to occupy the town. This forces all the Jews, both practicing and non-practicing (such as Esther and her family), to try to cross the mountains into Italy. The scenes describing their suffering and the religion that keeps them going through the cold, wet mountains are some of the most moving I have recently read. Le Clézio seems to me a master in the quick and permanent establishment of character and the evocative description of nature. The descriptions of humans

struggling through the stupendous nature of which they are both a part and yet separate from, evoke large, biblical associations. The group, dragging their belongings, the aged dropping by the wayside, is decimated; but Esther and her mother manage to arrive in a small Italian village on the other side of the border, where they become servants in an inn. The Maqui father is killed on a mission, and part of Esther's life is dedicated to finding out precisely how and where this happened. Eventually, daughter and mother journey back into France to try and reach the port at Marseille in order to emigrate to the Holy Land. The rest of their tale brings to anguished life the sufferings and disappointments they go through, but which lead to their ultimate success, if their ability to survive their own lives can be so described.



The story of Nejma is in its way even more painful, for what we find here is the horror of life in the camps, specifically Nour Chams in 1948. Le Clézio shows the hunger, thirst, and filth, which result in malnutrition and despair, the seeds of anarchy we have come to witness today. But Nejma is taken under the wing of the old woman, Aamma Houriya, who teaches her marvelous tales and shows

her the way to survive in this man-made desert. Just as Esther is calmed and fortified by nature and the mysteries of the religion that lies in her background, so Nejma is fortified by Aamma Houriya's kindness and her traditional tales. These latter give Nejma a magical past, a human connection, that helps her to see some hope and beauty. Finally she leaves the camps with Saadi, a black who adores her and wishes to lead her back to his African homeland. They suffer the blazing, arid heat of the desert and its freezing nights, but it is doubtful they will ever reach Saadi's home. The final words of this section are: “The road had no end”.

Esther carries a notebook in which Nejma has inscribed her name at their very brief meeting, one girl finishing her wanderings, the other beginning them. They are different in cultural backgrounds, but humanly identical in their courage, power of endurance, faith in something outside themselves, and most of all, in their suffering. Perhaps this is why Le Clézio names his book in the singular: one (not two) *Wandering Star*. I read *Wandering Star* with great pleasure and complete absorption. It is a truly beautiful and fortifying novel that centers on a significant subject very much on people's minds today.

Wandering Star, J.M.G. Le Clézio. ISBN: 1-931896-11-9, paper, 320pp, \$15.00. A perfect Christmas gift!

I Have A Comrade

*For all militants who've given their lives
to crush poverty in our country*

I have a comrade who's sleeping
three feet three inches underground.

He isn't cold in the head,
Nor are his cold feet either.
Grass is carrying him away
But his body is buried.

My body is a force
but one that can dream.
It's a force
but one that also gets desperate.

In the land of Haiti
kids are dreaming
but they only dream nightmares.
They see strange things while sleeping.
They see snakes that are crawling
with little cups of water 'round their necks.

But in the land of Haiti
there are also forces which stand up and act.
They rise like grass
that never stops growing

Excerpt from: *Open Gate. An Anthology of Haitian
Creole Poetry.* Edited by Paul Laraque and Jack
Hirschman. ISBN 1-880684-75-6 / \$15.95

WAR MOVIES by Wayne Karlin

"*War Movies* differs from most Vietnam stories, including the usual Hollywood fare, because Karlin occasionally tries to write from the Vietnamese point of view—demonstrating the war's effects on the locals and also casting himself among the enemy invaders. Instead of trying to forget his past, he embraces the horror of it, and he shares with his readers an unforgettable lesson about forgiveness."

—*The Washington Post*

"It is a hallmark of Karlin's writing about the war that he treats the Vietnamese and the Americans in his book with the same sympathy and understanding; he does not, as too many chroniclers of the period do, praise one at the expense of the other. He gives his Americans as much humanity as the Vietnamese; he does not let American guilt about the war blur the personal and moral complexity of the American fighting men....In *War Movies* Karlin summons up from his great store of empathy a wisdom that a generation later begins at long last to heal the wounds of war." —*The Los Angeles Times*

WATERCOLOR WOMEN / OPAQUE MEN by Ana Castillo

"Castillo's novel in verse is mythic, earthy, sardonic, and unsparing in its outrage and compassion as she joins story and poetry, past and present, and love and valor." —*Booklist*

"Here she has attempted a hybrid that pulls in the long poem's openness to large ideas and experimentation, the pride of the epic, the empathy of the novel and the fierceness of the author's raw, unsparing commentary." —*Chicago Tribune*

WANDERING STAR by J.M.G. Le Clézio

"J.M.G. Le Clézio's novel of a young Jewish girl's coming of age in wartime France is compelling."

—*Baltimore Jewish Times*

"Those unfamiliar with Mr. Le Clézio and his work should know that he is considered a rare beast by the French: an artist and a best-selling author." —*Dallas Morning News*

GREEN RICE by Lam Thi My Da

"The poems resonate with the rhythms and cycles of life...They are personal and concrete, yet contemplative and philosophical...they are both accessible and subtle, evoking a sense of timelessness and renewal that lingers more profoundly than nostalgia, grief, joy, or hope"

—*MultiCultural Review*

Holiday / 30th Anniversary Sale

**A book is a perfect holiday gift. Save
50% or more when you order
selected Curbstone Press titles
between now and Dec. 31, 2005.**

**Please visit our web site at
www.curbstone.org for a listing of
sale books.**

Latino Boom: An Anthology of U.S. Latino Literature (Pearson Longman, 2005) by John S. Christie, Professor of English at Capital Community College in Hartford, Connecticut, and Jose B. Gonzalez, Professor of English at the United States Coast Guard Academy, in New London, Connecticut, is now available. The anthology features notable Curbstone authors Jack Agüeros, Lorraine López, Naomi Ayala, Martín Espada, Leroy V. Quintana, Luis J. Rodriguez, and Tino Villanueva.

During the last two decades, Christie and Gonzalez have had many Curbstone authors visit their classrooms, so they view the publication of their work as a way of informing the world of the groundbreaking literature that Curbstone has helped produce. "The anthology has received great early reviews, and we anticipate that it will be used in many classrooms where the beauty of Latino literature is recognized and respected," says Gonzalez. Christie adds, "As editors, we were fortunate to have been exposed to the richness of Curbstone's literary efforts. We've taught the works of these authors and know how well students react to them."

The first anthology of Latino literature to offer teachers and students a wide array of scholarly and pedagogical resources for class discussion and analysis, this thematically organized collection of fiction, poetry, drama, and essay presents a rich spectrum of literary styles. *Latino Boom* offers such unique features as maps (of the Mexican-American War, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Central America, and the Turnabout Map of the Americas), a timeline of Latino cultural and historical events, bibliographies, film and novel sections, and chapters that provide analysis of Latino narrative and Latino poetry.

Latino Boom: An Anthology of U.S. Latino Literature. New York: Pearson Longman, 2005. ISBN: 0-321-09383-6

About 2 times a month, Curbstone emails news about current publications, events, and readings for different regions. If you wish to be added to this list, change your e-mail address, or be removed from this list, please visit: <http://www.curbstone.org/optinorout.cfm>, or send a message asking to be added to or removed from the list to: cplist@curbstone.org. You may also write or call Curbstone Press at 321 Jackson St., Willimantic, CT 06226. Phone: 860-423-5110.

America. Her work has been translated into more than 14 languages, and she has received numerous awards in Europe and Latin America, including the Order of Arts and Letters (the highest honor the French government can bestow upon an author), a Doctorate *Honoris Causa* from Eastern Connecticut State University in the United States, and an honorary degree from the Universidad Centroamericana in Managua, Nicaragua. Her collection of poetry *Sobrevivo* received the Casa de las Américas Prize, and *Sorrow*, a translation of her book *Saudade*, published by Curbstone Press, won the Independent Publisher Book Award for Poetry in 2000. Recently, she was honored in Nicaragua by the Nicaraguan Academy of Language for her contribution to Central American culture and was acknowledged by the Nicaraguan Writers Center for her valuable contribution to Nicaraguan literature. She also was appointed an honorary member of the Nicaraguan Institute of Hispanic Culture and honored as Citizen of the Century by the city of Esteli, Nicaragua.

"Claribel Alegria is a courageous and revered Latin American writer of the 20th century," said Robert Con Davis-Undiano, executive director of *World Literature Today*.

"A writer of extraordinary versatility, Claribel Alegria offers an eloquent, graceful and courageous voice in illuminating the problems and complexities of her Central American homeland," said Daniel Simon, *World Literature Today* managing editor.

David Clark, editor-in-chief of *World Literature Today*, added, "We at *World Literature Today* are excited that she has won the prize, and we look forward to producing a special section as a tribute to her in *World Literature Today*, where we have reviewed her work for more than 17 years."

Daisy Zamora, who nominated Alegria, said she considers Alegria "to be a major voice in Latin America, and she represents the struggle for liberation in Central America. Alegria has become the voice for the voiceless and dispossessed."

"She is our acetylene rose," Curbstone publisher Alexander Taylor commented, "an astonishing blend of beauty, power, and the fierce determination to get it right in her life and in her poetry."

Alegria will be honored in October 2006 at the University of Oklahoma



Claribel Alegria

Julia de Burgos's *Song of the Simple Truth* (edited by Jack Agüeros) will be published in Norwegian by Cappelan Publishing House.

Wayne Karlin received the Excellence in the Arts Award from the Vietnam Veterans of America. He also participated in the 2005 Fall Festival of Writers, "Thirty Years After: Literature and Film of the Vietnam War" at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. His feature presentation was on Vietnamese-American reconciliation through literature.

James Scully's *Line Break* will be published in Turkish next year by Gri Publishing House

Roberto Sosa is poet-in-residence at the University of Cincinnati for the fall 2005 semester.

Curbstone Press is pleased to announce that Sam Hamill, founding editor of Copper Canyon Press and internationally known poet, translator, and activist, has joined Curbstone Press as a contributing editor.

Sam will work out of his new print shop in Port Townsend, Washington. Besides bringing his considerable editorial and acquisition skills to the Press, he will have his own imprint, Middlepoint Press, in the Curbstone list. The Middlepoint Press series will be designed and produced in Port Townsend and distributed by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution.



Sam Hamill's print shop

Recommended from Other Presses

Francisco Aragón, *Puerta Del Sol* (Bilingual Press) • Jack Lueders-Booth (photographs), *Inherit the Land* (Pond Press) • Ana Castillo, *Psst...I Have Something To Tell You, Mi Amor* (Wings Press) • Joy Castro, *The Truth Book. Escaping a Childhood of Abuse Among Jehovah's Witnesses* (Arcade Publishing) • John S. Christie and José B. Gonzales (editors), *Latino Boom: An Anthology of U.S. Latino Literature* (Pearson Longman) • Lucy Anne Hurston, *Speak, So You Can Speak Again. The Life of Zora Neale Hurston* (Doubleday) • Esther Singer Kreitman, *Deborah* (The Feminist Press) • Andrew Lam, *Perfume Dreams. Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora*

(Heyday Books) • Eleanor Lerman, *Our Post-Soviet History Unfolds* (Sarabande Books) • Peter Phillips & Project Censored, *Censored 2006. The Top 25 Censored Stories* (Seven Stories Press) • Bessy Reyna, *The Battlefield of Your Body* (Hill-Stead Museum) • Luis J. Rodríguez, *Music of the Mill* (Rayo, an imprint of Harper Collins) • Peggy Rosenthal (editor), *Imagine a World: Poetry for Peacemakers* (Pax Christi USA) • John Surowiecki, *Watching Cartoons Before Attending a Funeral* (White Pine Press) • Bruce Weigl, *The Unraveling Strangeness* (Grove Press) • Tom Wells, *The War Within. America's Battle over Vietnam* (Henry Holt and Company).

Mármol Prize for Latina/o First Fiction

The Mármol Prize is for a first work of fiction in English by a Latina/o writer that reflects a respect for intercultural understanding and fosters an appreciation of human rights and civil liberties. Entrants who have previously had poetry or nonfiction works published in book form are eligible. Only submissions of book-length novels or collections of stories are eligible.

The winner of the prize will be published by Curbstone Press and receive a \$1,000 advance against royalties.

To enter, send a typed double-spaced manuscript and \$15.00 entry fee by December 31, 2005, to Mármol Prize, Curbstone Press, 321 Jackson Street, Willimantic, CT 06226. The winner will be announced in March 2006 and the manuscript published in the spring of 2007. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE). All entrants will receive a copy of the winning book when it is published.

Previous prize winners: **2006** - No Winner, **2005** - Sylvia Torti for *The Scorpion's Tail*, **2004** - Mary Helen Lagasse for *The Fifth Sun*, **2003** - Carla Trujillo for *What Night Brings*, **2002** - Lorraine López for *Soy La Avon Lady and Other Stories*.

Authors Committee Endorses and Promotes Curbstone Press

*A healthy publishing environment demands
a vigorous nonprofit press.
Too many important voices would never be heard
in the absence of courageous independent publishers.*

With this statement, Co-chairs Russell Banks and Grace Paley have invited fellow writers to join the Authors Committee for Curbstone Press. Announced to coincide with Curbstone's thirtieth anniversary, the Authors Committee has been created to "promote the importance of Curbstone's vision and the literary excellence of the poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction that it publishes." As of this writing, eighty-seven authors have accepted the invitation. "Thank you," wrote one, "for considering me as part of the Curbstone family."

As Curbstone seeks to cultivate its future organizational stability and expansion of its literary efforts, the Authors Committee will play a unique supportive role. The public endorsement of Committee members, celebrated writers with regional, national and international recognition, can increase Curbstone's credibility in the eyes of potential readers, educators, and donors not well acquainted with the Press. Curbstone's association with widely respected authors can help elevate the Press's visibility in a marketplace currently characterized by publishing conglomerates and mega-bookstores: an environment not friendly to the nonprofit publisher.

Besides lending their names, members spread the word about Curbstone in their own literary and academic circles, refer and encourage other writers who would welcome an invitation to membership in the Authors Committee, donate financially as means allow, and permit their names to be used in promotional materials. Some are able to appear at events on behalf of the Press. Some will help in ways as yet undreamed.(!) We can say this because member responses have been generous, some extravagantly so:

"Curbstone may use my name to approach anybody for promotional purposes."

"I will support Curbstone in any way I can."

"We'll carry Curbstone's books...and host authors' readings."

"Por supuesto que estaré encantada de pertenecer al Comité de Autores de Curbstone."

"I am always on the look-out for good manuscripts and will continue to encourage submissions from people I think are right for Curbstone."

Committee Chairs Paley and Banks will continue to extend their invitations and welcome recommendations for potential members. Suggestions, preferably including contact information, may be sent to them via e-mail or note to the Authors Committee at Curbstone Press.

According to Co-chairs Paley and Banks, Authors Committee members as of Curbstone's September 25th Thirtieth Anniversary are:

Grace Paley and Russell Banks, Co-chairs; Jack Agüeros, Claribel Alegría, Julia Alvarez, Benny Andersen, Jon Andersen, Doug Anderson, Christian G. Appy, Francisco Aragón, Manlio Argueta, Carol Ascher, Naomi Ayala, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Robert Bagg, Anna Balint, Gioconda Belli, Kevin Bowen, Breyten Breytenbach, Joe Bruchac, Ferruccio Brugnaro, Agnes Bushell, Ernesto Cardenal, Ronald Casanova, Belle Gale Chevigny, Nguyen Ba Chung, Jane Ciabattari, Jo Anne Engelbert, Martín Espada, George Evans, Jonathan Galassi, Danielle Legros Georges, Margaret Gibson, Dagoberto Gilb, Larry Heineman, Robert Hershon, Edward Hirsch, Jack Hirschman, Sylvia Iparraguirre, Wayne Karlin, Barbara Kingsolver, Maxine Hong Kingston, Alfred Korn, Mary Helen Lagasse, Marianne Larsen, Jenny Lim, Lorraine López, devorah major, Demetria Martínez, Alice Mattison, David McKain, Matilde Mellibovsky, Sarah Menefee, E. Ethebert Miller, Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Marnie Mueller, Marilyn Nelson, James O'Hern, Rubén Palma, Alicia Partnoy, Nelson Peery, V. Penelope Pelizzon, Fred Pfeil, Paul Pines, Leroy Quintana, Gregory Rabassa, Margaret Randall, Sergio Ramirez, F.D. Reeve, Marisela Rizik, Luis J. Rodriguez, Mel Rosenthal, Penny Rosenwasser, Cheryl Savageau, Jim Scully, Susan Sherman, Edgar G. Silex, Myra Sklarew, William Jay Smith, W.D. Snodgrass, Steve Straight, Ho Anh Thai, Piri Thomas, Sergio Troncoso, Carla Trujillo, David Unger, Luisa Valenzuela, Chuck Wachtel, Daisy Zamora.

—Alexandrina Sergio, Authors Committee Coordinator

Please visit our website regularly for our Bargain of the Month, Events, and other News. You can now shop online via our Secure Shopping Cart.
<http://www.curbstone.org>

How to Support Curbstone

As a nonprofit literary organization, Curbstone relies on grants and individual donations for half of its total revenue. Future growth and stability require that Curbstone Press increase its support from individual donors, especially in light of the fluctuations found in both the marketplace and grants opportunities.

Curbstone's school and community programs are funded by grants. Grant funding, unstable by nature, cannot respond to the need for consistency, a requirement for high-quality educational programming. Annual individual donations will supplement grant support to sustain the educational outreach and allow Curbstone to respond to requests from other communities in need.

As nonprofit publishers compete in a marketplace now characterized by publishing conglomerates and mega-bookstores, Curbstone must strengthen its efforts to develop works by new writers, translations of important international writers, and works by authors writing for children and young people. Annual individual donations can provide the edge that will allow Curbstone to remain a vibrant resource for readers and writers now and into the future.

How You Can Help

- Make as generous contribution as you can now.
- Help spread the word about Curbstone Press, its mission, its authors and outreach, and its need for funds.
- Consider leaving a legacy to Curbstone Press in your will or insurance policy to help ensure the strong continuation of its mission into the future
- Ask your local or university library to order Curbstone titles.
- Connecticut residents can donate to Curbstone through United Way. Select Curbstone as the recipient of your United Way donation.
- Connecticut residents using SBC long distance service, please designate Curbstone as the recipient of SBC donations (5% of every dollar you spend on long distance calling). To sign up, call SBC at 1-800-635-7638.

Yes! I want to support Curbstone Press and encourage the diverse voices that make our culture richer.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return this form with your check or credit card information in an envelope addressed to:

Curbstone Press, 321 Jackson Street, Willimantic, CT 06226

If you wish to make your donation by credit card, please fill out the following information:

AMEX ___ MC ___ Visa ___ Card # _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature _____ Phone: _____

NEW & RECENT TITLES



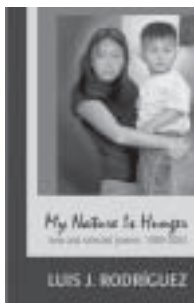
Watercolor Women Opaque Men is a wild and raucous narrative of a single, working mother, the daughter of Chicano migrant workers, and her

struggles for upward mobility.

“Castillo is an amazingly prolific writer of poetry, fiction, essays and criticism, and she seems tireless in her travels to reach out to her audiences all over the country and beyond.”—*Chicago Tribune*

“Castillo has fashioned an engaging cautionary tale through the eponymous and endearing ancestors of those who are ruled by the heart.”—*El Paso Times*

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—Donna Seaman, *Booklist*

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