FIRST (OK, SECOND) FRIDAY APRIL:
13 APRIL 2012

Presented by Mass Center for the Book in Partnership with Mass Library System
First Friday April

Announcements

Reports from the MassBook Judging Panel in Fiction (for Adults)
— with thanks to Jan Resnick, Convener in Fiction

Guest Author:
Myfanwy Collins, author of *Echolocation*  
(Engine Books, Indianapolis)
MassBook Awards Committee

Katie Baxter, Convener, Children’s/Young Adult Literature (2014)
Laurie A. Cavanaugh, Coordinator, Reading & Discussion Guides (2014)
James R. Kelly, Convener, Nonfiction (2014)
Jan Resnick, Convener, Fiction (2014)
Peter Thornell, Convener, Poetry (2014)
Sonny Vandermark, MLA Liaison (ex officio)
Sharon Shaloo, MCB Director (ex officio)
Announcements

- MBLC has launched a Facebook page and posted a wonderful video about libraries. Do check it out and link to it from your websites.

- Candlewick Press is asking for video submissions about the importance of picture books for a project that celebrates their 20th anniversary. Link to info from the Massachusetts Center for the Book Facebook page. Could be a great summer activity in your libraries.

- Speed Dating with Massachusetts Must-Read Authors – May 9th at MLA Conference

- Publicity materials for “Must-Read” Books will be distributed at MLA Conference.
Jan Resnick, Convener:

The 2012 Fiction Panel had a lot of wonderful books to evaluate and several of them fit into categories that would work nicely for book talks, book groups or general readers advisory suggestions. During our deliberations, the same comment came up time and time again: “I can’t wait to book talk this one.” It’s an exciting year with lots of wonderful choices.
Short Stories

Pearlman, Edith – *Binocular Vision (Lookout Books, University of North Carolina, Wilmington)*

Binoculars help you see close to what is far away. So too does Edith Pearlman's *Binocular Vision (Lookout Books, University of North Carolina, Wilmington)*, a collection of 34 new and collected stories. Whether set in South America or 'Godolphin' Massachusetts, these stories offer lives, places, and actions, poignantly and vividly rendered.

Murray, Sabina – *Tales of the New World (Black Cat)*

Here are ten tales of world explorers and adventurers. Based on real people (Magellan, Captain Zimri Coffin, Balboa, Mary Kingsley, Edward John Eyre, this collection offers the humanity behind the legends. "Murray... is astute about the addictive nature of adventure and the unnerving relationship between the explorer and those he explores/hunts.”

(Kirkus)

Hoffman, Alice – *The Red Garden (Broadway Paperbacks)*

In a series of linked stories, *The Red Garden* evokes the evolution of the mythical Berkshire town of Blackwell. The collection covers over 300 years and generations of changing characters in tales full of bravery, fortitude, a magical garden, and indelible people. *The Red Garden* is a magical mixture of fable, reality, and history.

Bachelder, Chris – *Abbott Awaits (Louisiana State University Press)*

Although not strictly a collection of stories, each chapter is a standalone picture of elements of Abbott’s life. *Abbott Awaits* is an episodic journey through three months of the life of a university teacher on summer break waiting on the birth of his second child. The book looks at his daily travails of fatherhood, marriage, and adulthood in an often
humorous fashion. The narrator, who we know only as Abbott, muses philosophically on his situation as he goes about the chores of an everyday suburban existence.
Mysteries

McCaffrey, Vincent – *A Slepyng Hound to Wake* (Small Beer Press)

On the eve of a WTO speech, mathematician James Fenster is murdered by a very elegant, surgically precise bomb. Interpol Inspector Henri Poincare takes the case with unimaginable consequences. Finding the killer and killers takes him across the ocean and to the “end of the world.” First in a series.

Tripp, Dawn – *Game of Secrets* (Random House)
Fifty years after Luce Weld disappeared during an affair with Ada Varick, Luce’s granddaughter is dating Ada’s son and Luce’s daughter meets Ada for a weekly Scrabble game of hidden intentions and dark secrets.

Finder, Joseph – *Buried Secrets* (St. Martin’s Press)
Under age Alexa Marcus is kidnapped from a club in Boston and buried alive to pressure her father to turn over a file of sensitive national interest. Nick Heller, private spy, looks for Alexa and finds manipulation and theft at very high levels of the U.S. Government. Second in the Nick Heller series.

MacDonald, Tom – *The Charlestown Connection* (Oceanview)
Dermot Sparhawk of Micmac and Irish descent is a former football star and a current recovering (30 days) alcoholic. When his murdered godfather dies at his feet, a whole
series of Boston and family mysteries unravel. Readers will enjoy this debut’s suggested solution to a famous Boston art heist.
The cost of war

Harrington, Laura – *Alice Bliss (Pamela Gorman Books)*

*Alice Bliss (Pamela Gorman Books)* is fifteen, and her dad is being deployed to Iraq. His absence in the family structure changes everything and everyone. This very moving story illustrates the effect of war on one American family and touches the reader on a visceral level. Alice’s story is powerfully told and is equally accessible to adults and young adults.

Krivak, Andrew – *The Sojourn (Bellevue Literary Press)*

After Jozef Vinich’s mother’s tragic death in Colorado, his father returns them to pre-World War I Austria-Hungary. They live off the land as shepherds and hunters until Jozef and cousin Zlee go off to war as sharpshooters. The horror of war in the trenches, the brutality of a POW camp, and their role as distance killers change the boys forever. *The Sojourn* is a new, suspenseful look at an old war.

Feldman, Ellen – *Next to Love: A Novel (Spiegel & Grau, Random House)*

The horrors of war are brought home to a small Massachusetts town by three women growing up as WWII war brides and how they deal with the legacy of that war during the next three decades. Some soldiers don’t come back, and those that do are haunted by what they left behind. “Equally impressive is her understanding of the period and of the assumptions not only about race and sex but also about keeping private pain private, which made the Greatest Generation not only flawed but often deeply, quietly miserable.” *(Booklist)*

Shea, Christina – *Smuggled (Black Cat)*

Smuggled from Hungary to Romania during the closing months of World War II, five-year-old Eva Farkas is transformed into Anca and forbidden from speaking Hungarian ever again.
The book is told in vignettes from Eva/Anca's life, as she lives as a changeling under Romanian Communism and struggles to maintain her identity under the iron of oppression, and liberates herself after the Berlin Wall falls and the Ceacescu regime is overthrown.

**Searle, Elizabeth – Girl Held in Home (New Rivers Press)**
The war on terror makes its appearance in this novel. Post 9/11 trauma triggered wise and unwise life decisions on the part of many of this story's characters. In Arlington MA a Muslim family comes under scrutiny by kids as well as adults. In this climate, Maura wonders at her marriage's stability and her own attraction to Frannie. Her teenage son becomes infatuated by a young Asian girl living (being held?) in the Muslim home. All trails lead to disruption and damage.
Guest Author
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