

Book & Leaf Press Release

10 Park Street

Brandon, Vermont

Meeting the Muse: Gary Margolis, Michael Palma, Joyce Thomas

Open MIC for poets and prose writers

Thursday, June 22, 2017 at 6:30PM

Contact: B. Amore (amoreb@earthlink.net)

Book & Leaf Bookstore is presenting three award winning authors, **Gary Margolis, Michael Palma** and **Joyce Thomas** for its June 22nd **Writers Read** series. All three have published books of poetry which range from the mythic folktale realm to questions of nature and the human heart. There will also be an **Open MIC** for poets and prose writers (five minute maximum). Come and enjoy great presentations and conversation, and of course, complimentary tea, coffee and sweets!

In his newly published book, *Runner without a Number*, **Gary Margolis** engages us in the events and occasions of our nation and neighborhood, in lives fully and incompletely lived: from Gettysburg's battlefield to Boston's Marathon; from Rome to Vermont and the nuclear desert of Yucca Flats, Nevada; through love's emotional seasons of joy and regret, desire, and disappointment. These poems invite us to reflect on Joseph Campbell's question: "How do we turn the events of our lives into experience?" *Runner without a Number* asks the reader to contemplate how we locate ourselves in nature and in the human heart, in our real and imagined fragmented and whole stories. How we can be found and redeemed in the ground and surprise of language. His third book, *Fire in the Orchard* was nominated for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, as well as *Raking the Winter Leaves: New and Selected Poems*. Poet, counselor, husband, father, and grandfather, Gary Margolis draws on his fifty years of writing poems to draw us one moment closer, one day nearer.

Michael Palma is the author of several poetry collections, *The Egg Shape*, *Antibodies*, *A Fortune in Gold*, and *Begin in Gladness*. His seventeen translations of modern Italian poets include prize-winning volumes of Guido Gozzano and Diego Valeri with Princeton University Press. His fully rhymed translation of Dante's *Inferno* was published in 2002 and reprinted as a Norton Critical Edition in 2007. Dana Gioia, former Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts, writes of Palma, *How few contemporary poets display such perfect pitch or perfect balance. His suavely musical poems achieve exactly the right blend of verbal melody and enriching harmony, and the attentive reader is astonished at how poems of such sharp intelligence also speak with such quietly tangible passion.* In addition to his published work, Palma will be sharing some poems in process. Formerly a New Yorker, he now happily lives and works in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Joyce Thomas is a Professor of English at Castleton University, Vermont and teaches courses in world and children's literature. She is the author of one non-fiction work, *Inside the Wolf's Belly; Aspects of the Fairy Tale* as well as two collections of poetry, *Skins*, and most recently, *Washing Birds*. Her poetry has appeared in various small press magazines and journals, as well as multiple anthologies, and she is the recipient of the 2005 James Hearst Poetry Prize (*North American Review*). Critic, Tom Smith, writes, ***Washing Birds***

is all about celebration and compassion. Joyce Thomas recreates in words the curious wonder that is nature (elephants and birds, for instance), the unlikeliness of the human heart. She summons from her readers regret for the birds and elephants suffering the whims and catastrophes attending human amusements and pollutions. She recognizes both the natural mutability that all creatures (elephants, birds, people) share, and the cultural calamities of endangered species and heart attacks. There is white magic and black magic in the world. Joyce Thomas invites us to respond to both.

Please join us for this for an evening of stimulating and thought-provoking poetry which speaks with great sensitivity to the world we live in. Support your local talent and keep expanding our community of lovers of music and the written word.

BIOS and Book Blurbs

Gary Margolis is Emeritus Executive Director of College Mental Health Services and Associate Professor of English and American Literatures (part-time) at Middlebury College. He was a Robert Frost and Arthur Vining Davis Fellow and has taught at the University of Tennessee, Vermont and Bread Loaf, and Green Mountain Writers' Conferences. Dr. Margolis was awarded the first Sam Dietzel Award for Mental Health Practice in Vermont by the Clinical Psychology Department of Saint Michaels' College and the Covey Community Award of the Counseling Service of Addison County. His poem, "The Interview" was featured on National Public Radio's "The Story" and Boston's ABC Channel 5 interviewed him on the Middlebury campus reading his poem, "Winning the Lunar Eclipse", after the 2004 World Series.

Michael Palma is an accomplished translator and poet. His most recent volumes are *Faithful in My Fashion: Essays on the Translation of Poetry* (2016), *Journey Into the Dark*, a translation of Ennio Contini (2017), and *Enchanted Anguish*, a translation of Salvatore Violante (with Lina Sanniti, 2017). He has served three times as a grants panelist and four times as an expert evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts, and has written several Teacher's and Reader's Guides for the NEA's Big Read program, as well as serving as an Elector of the Poets' Corner at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. He was born in the Bronx, and now lives and works in Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Joyce Thomas has served as Professor of English at Castleton University for over thirty-five years. Her poetry has appeared in various small press magazines and journals, as well as anthologies, including *Birchsong: Poetry Centered in Vermont* (the Blueline Press), *The Poets' Grimm: 20th Century Poems from Grimm Fairy Tales* (Story Line Press, and *Orpheus and Company: Contemporary Poems on Greek Mythology* (University press of New England). Poetry awards include the 2005 James Hearst Poetry Prize (*North American Review*).

