

# Newburyport Literary Festival

April 25 –27

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For Immediate Release

## Local Authors Featured at 2008 Literary Festival

One of the pleasures of the Newburyport Literary Festival is the opportunity to put local authors in the spotlight. The greater Newburyport area and the North Shore in general are graced with many writers of fiction, nonfiction, children's books, and poetry. In 2008 we are pleased to welcome a variety of these talented authors and to introduce them to new readers as well as long-time fans.

With the theme *Mundo y Palabra /The World and the Word*, the 2008 festival is honoring poet and translator, **Rhina Espaillat**. Espaillat has published ten collections of her work including *The Shadow I Dress In* (David Robert Books, 2004), winner of the 2003 Stanzas Prize, and a bilingual collection of poems and essays titled *Agua de dos rios*, published under the auspices of the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Culture (Editora Buho, 2006). Her achievements have won her numerous awards including the *Sparrow* Sonnet Prize; three yearly prizes from the Poetry Society of America; the Barbara Bradley Award and the May Sarton Award from the New England Poetry Club. Espaillat lives in Newburyport, MA, with her husband Alfred Moskowitz, a sculptor.

**Keith Ablow, M.D.** is one of America's best known forensic psychiatrists, has been retained to testify in some of the nation's most highly publicized murder cases. He has written six Frank Clevenger mysteries, among them, *Denial*, *Murder Suicide*, and *The Architect*. His nonfiction book, *Inside the Mind of Scott Peterson* was a New York Times Best Seller and he will be discussing this book at the festival.

**Elizabeth Brink's** stories and essays have appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Manoa*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Orchid*, and other publications. A resident of Newburyport, she was a member of Andre Dubus's Thursday night group for several years. Her first novel, *Save Your Own* was chosen as an Ingram Book Group New Voice.

**Michael Cantor** has won the Newburyport Art Association Poetry Competition and the New England Poetry Club's Erika Mumford Prize. Pudding House Press published his chapbook, *The Performer*, in 2007. His work has appeared in *Measure*, *Margie*, *The Formalist*, *The Dark Horse*, *Texas Poetry Journal*, *The Atlanta Review*, *The Cumberland Poetry Review* (for which he was a Robert Penn Warren Award finalist), *The Comstock Review* (for which he received a Pushcart Prize nomination), and many other journals, anthologies, and e-zines. Born in New York, Cantor has lived and worked in Japan, Europe, and Latin America, and now resides on Plum Island.

**Andre Dubus III** is the author of a collection of short fiction, *The Cage Keeper and Other Stories*. Andre wrote *House of Sand and Fog*, which was a fiction finalist for the National Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the L. L. Winship/PEN New England Award, Booksense Book of the Year, and was an Oprah Book Club Selection and New York Times bestseller. It was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film starring Ben Kingsley and Jennifer Connolly. His new book, *The Garden of Last Days*, W.W.Norton, is just out this spring.

**Ed Emberley** is a well-known children's book writer who has received some of the highest awards in the field, including the Caldecott Honor Book Awards. The New York Times has chosen Emberley books to be among its annual selections for the Best

Illustrated Books of the Year, and the American Library Association for the annual Notable Children's Book lists has selected many of his books.

**Erica Funkhouser** is the author of four books of poetry: *Natural Affinities* (Alice James Books, 1983), *Sure Shot And Other Poems* (Houghton Mifflin, 1992), *The Actual World* (Houghton Mifflin, 1997), and *Pursuit* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002). Her fifth book, *Earthly*, is published by Houghton Mifflin and has just come out this spring. Funkhouser's poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Ploughshares*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, and other magazines and anthologies. Educated at Vassar College and Stanford University, she was honored as a Literary Light by the Boston Public Library in 2002 and is a 2007 recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. She lives in Essex, Massachusetts, and teaches introductory and advanced poetry writing at MIT.

**Áine Greaney** writes essays and fiction and among her writing awards, recognition, and shortlists are the 2000 Frank O'Connor Short Fiction Award (grand prize winner), the Irish News, the Steinbeck Award, and the Hennessy Award for New Irish Writing. Áine's first novel, *The Big House* was published in 2003 by TownHouse, Dublin, and Simon & Schuster, UK. Her second novel, *Dance Lessons*, is under consideration for publication in London.

**Dyke Hendrickson** is a journalist and publicist who covers cutting-edge medical research, often at MIT and the Harvard teaching hospitals. He is the author of two books, *Last Night in Hollywood*, a novel, and *Quiet Presence: Stories of Franco-Americans in New England*, a social history.

**Cheryl Richardson** is the author of New York Times bestselling books *Take Time for Your Life*, *Life Makeovers*, *Stand Up for Your Life* and *The Unmistakable Touch of Grace*. As a professional coach and speaker, her work has been covered widely in the media including "The Today Show," "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," the New York Times, USA Today, Good Housekeeping, and O Magazine. Cheryl was

the team leader for the Lifestyle Makeover Series on the “Oprah Winfrey Show” and she accompanied Ms. Winfrey on the "Live Your Best Life" nationwide tour.

**William Sargent** is a consultant for PBS’s NOVA series. His books include *The House on Ipswich Marsh* (UPNE, 2005), *Crab Wars: A Tale of Horseshoe Crabs, Bioterrorism, and Human Health* (UPNE, 2002), and *A Year in the Notch: Exploring the Natural History of the White Mountains* (UPNE, 2001). Formerly director of the Baltimore Aquarium and a research assistant at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Sargent has taught at the Briarwood Marine Science Center and at Harvard University.

**Frank Schaeffer** is a bestselling author of both fiction and nonfiction. His memoir *Crazy for God: How I Grew Up as One of the Elect, Helped Found the Religious Right, and Lived to Take All (or Almost All) of It Back* has been called “a brilliant book” by the *New Statesman*. His book *Keeping the Faith: A Father-Son Story about Love and the U.S. Marine Corps* was a *New York Times* extended list bestseller, and his Calvin Becker trilogy of novels explores the dilemmas of members of the Christian fundamentalist community.

**Anne Easter Smith** writes historical fiction set in England and Europe in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Her latest book, *Daughter of York*, was published by Touchstone Fireside, Simon & Schuster NY and released in February to glowing reviews. *Daughter of York* follows Margaret, a royal princess and headstrong sister of King Edward IV, who is given in marriage to Charles, son of the Duke of Burgundy.

The Newburyport Literary Festival is to be held on April 25-27, 2008. The literary events and readings will take place in bookstores, churches and theaters around Newburyport. There will also be events for children and teens. The festival is free and open to the public.

### **About Rhina Espaillat**

Rhina P. Espaillat was born in the Dominican Republic in 1932. She has lived in the United States since 1939 and taught high school English in New York City for several years. Espaillat writes poetry and prose both in English and in her native Spanish. Her work has appeared in numerous magazines and over forty anthologies. She resides in Newburyport, MA where she coordinates the Newburyport Art Association's Annual Poetry Contest, is on the Steering Committee of the Newburyport Literary Festival, and is a founding member and former director of the Powow River Poets. She has also been instrumental in bringing about bilingual poetry readings in the North of Boston area, and bilingual activities shared by the high school students of Lawrence and Newburyport.

### **About the Newburyport Literary Festival**

The 2008 Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF) runs from Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27. The NLF aims to promote literacy in the community and in America with various literary efforts over the month of April.

A three-day celebration of reading, writing, and the love of books, this year's festival features more than 50 writers of distinguished fiction and non-fiction-including short story writers, children's authors, biographers, nature writers, critics, screenwriters, poets, novelists, and journalists, who will read and discuss their work in venues throughout Newburyport's historic downtown.

The Newburyport Literary Festival is sponsored by the Newburyport Literary Association, Inc. in collaboration with Newburyport Adult & Community Education, the Newburyport Public Library, and the Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce. The founding sponsors are the Institution for Savings and the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. Additional funding is provided, in part, by the Amesbury Cultural Council, the Newbury Cultural Council, the Newburyport Cultural Council, the West Newbury Cultural Council and the Provident Bank.

All festival events are wheelchair accessible and open to the public. All events are free, except for the opening night gala. For complete information about the festival, including event times and venues, please visit: [www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org](http://www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org)