

Cambridge Poet Populist Final Nominations – Poet Biographies

Denise Bergman - has lived in Cambridge since 1975 in the Area 4 neighborhood. Her poetry reflects her longtime devotion to urban living and to Cambridge in particular. Her widely published work, which includes poems about changing neighborhoods, their collective histories, the political struggles of her neighbors, and our daily goings-on, shows a commitment to poetry as an expressive tool for acknowledging community. She conceived and edited *City River of Voices*, an anthology of urban poetry by Cambridge writers. *Keyholes*, her series of poems about places in Cambridge that have significantly changed use over time, received a City Council commendation. The first lines of her poem "Red" were recently installed as public art in Dana Park. She hosted a CCTV series called "Women in the Arts" and was a poetry editor of *Sojourner, a Women's Forum*. Her poetry book *Seeing Annie Sullivan* (2005) was republished last year in Braille.

Philip E. Burnham, Jr. – has lived on and off in Cambridge his entire life. He is a retired schoolteacher who began writing poetry in his first year of married life. His first book, *My Neighbor Adam*, was based on a neighbor he had while he was a Cambridge resident and also contains the autobiographical poem, "On the Red Line," which narrates his experience while riding the MBTA Red Line at various points in his life. He has published four poetry collections and has offered a seminar for poets at the Cambridge Public Library. Philip is a member of the "Bagel Bards," a group of local poets who meet weekly to share poems and ideas over breakfast.

Richard Cambridge – is the co-founder of *Singing with the Enemy*, a politics-based troupe, and *Presente*, a show about political prisoners that both prominently feature poets and their work. Richard has won numerous prizes including a first and third place acknowledgment at the National Poetry Slam in 1992 and 1993, a second place acknowledgment for the Allen Ginsburg Prize, and Best Male Performance Poet in the 2000 Boston Poetry Awards. In 1997, he was the overall Winner of the Master's Slam at the National Poetry Slam and his troupe, *Singing with the Enemy*, was acknowledged at Best Poetry Troupe at the 2000 at the Boston Poetry Awards. He published a book of poems entitled *PULSA – A Book of Books* in 2005 and currently serves as the Curator of the Poets' Theater at Club Passim in Cambridge and co-hosts *Squawk Coffeehouse* at Harvard Epworth Church.

Diana Der-Hovanesian - is the author of 23 books of poetry and translations. She was a Fulbright Professor of American Poetry in 1996 and 1999. She is the recipient of the Paterson Prize in 1998, an NEA Fellowship, prizes from American Scholar, P.S.A., Prairie Schooner and others. Diana also serves as President of the New England Poetry Club. Her most recent collections include *The Second Question* (Sheet Meadow) and *The Other Voice: Armenian Women's Poetry* (2005).

Jean Dany Joachim – is the Director of Cultural Events at Bunker Hill Community College. Born in Haiti, Jean Dany moved to Cambridge over two decades ago and in addition to his work as a poet, he organizes *City Nights Readings* in Central Square, which occurs every three months and showcases local poets, writers and performers. Among other locations, his work has appeared in *Runes* and *Love and Other Poems*, published by Trilingual Press.

Irene Koronas - is a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art with a degree in Fine Arts. Her watercolor painting takes on a formal approach with the use of the grid or in forming small squares that juxtapose each other. She has been working as an artist since the age of twelve and later began to also write poetry. Her written work has been published in a variety of small press journals and she is the author of five chapbooks with a book of poems scheduled to be published in 2007.

Peter Payack – is a longtime Cambridge Resident and Assistant Professor at Berklee College of Music, UMass Lowell, and UMass Online. In 1976, he founded Phone-A-Poem which stills run with support from Emerson College. His poem, *No Free Will in Tomatoes*, was sandblasted into the floor of the Davis Square T station as part of the award-winning Arts on the Line arts-in-transit project. Peter won the 1980 Rhysling Award for Best Poem in Science Fiction Poetry. He has also been published in *Amazing Science Fiction Stories*, *Asimov's Science Fiction* and his work was anthologized *Knowing & Writing, New Perspectives on Classical Questions; Astronomy, from the Earth to the Universe; The Poets' Encyclopedia; The Paris Review Anthology; The Alchemy of Stars; and Burning With a Vision*. More recently, he has created Star Poems, which are poems written on an illuminated message board on the underside of a plane.

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Deborah Priestly - is co-owner of Out of the Blue Gallery in Cambridge. She hosts *Open Bark Candlelight Poetry Series* every Saturday night, and has volunteered time to organizations like the Very Special Arts and the Women's Organization of Cambridge. She co-edited the *Out of the Blue Writer's Unite Anthology* and Ibbetson Street Press published a volume of her own poetry, entitled *The Woman Has a Voice*.

Molly Lynn Watt's book of poems, *Shadow People*, was published by Ibbetson Street Press in January, 2007. Her work appeared or is forthcoming in *South Carolina Review*, *HILR Review*, *The Wilderness House Literary Review*, *Types and Shadows Review*, *Teachers and Writers Collaborative*, *The Boston Globe*, *Friends Journal*, *Spare Change*, *Peaceworks*, *The Distillery*, *Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review*, *Sing Out*, *English Country Song and Dance Newsletter*, *Domestic Affairs*, *The Occasional Moose*, *The Monadnock Ledger*, *Chicken Soup*. Molly writes day trip articles for the *Occasional Moose* and co-authored and performs the role of Ruth in *Songs and Letters of the Spanish Civil War*. A retired teacher and educator, she taught poetry writing in classrooms and led several writing groups including one for Transition House. In addition to membership in NoCA and Backstares Writers, Molly also hosts the monthly *Fireside Reading Series* at Cambridge Co-Housing and chairs the monthly Poets of Roundtable at Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement.