

## IN THE MARGINS

## LITCITY

## POETRY EDITED BY FLORINE MELNYK

6/2

**Hallwall's "Ways in Between Gender Series." 8pm.** Author and activist Leslie Feinberg will read from her new book *Drag King Dreams*. Trinity Episcopal Church, 371 Delaware Ave. (852-8314); \$5-\$7. (854-1694)

6/4

**Open reading. 3pm.** Hosted by Celia White and featuring Norma Kassirer, with slots available for open readers. Tru-Teas in the Elmwood Collective, 810 Elmwood Ave. (887-2921)

6/7

**Adelante! Book Group. 7: 45pm.** Discussion of author Chris Bohjalian's book *Trans-sister Radio*, in conjunction with Gay/Lesbian Pride Month. Towne Restaurant, 186 Allen St (884-5128). (881-1424)

6/7

**Booksigning. 7pm.** Metta Spencer will read from and discuss her new book *Two Aspirins and a Comedy*. Borders Books, 2015 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga (685-2844)

## RECURRING EVENTS

**Children's Writer's and Illustrators Group.** 7pm, the 1st Thursday each month. Borders Books (2015 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, 685-2844). <http://firstthursdaycreative.blogspot.com>

**EM Tea Coffee Cup Open Mic Poetry Series.** 7-9:30pm every Tuesday EM Tea Coffee Cup Café, 80 Oakgrove Ave. at Hughes St. (884-1444)

**Just Buffalo Writers Critique Group.** 7pm, meets first and third Wednesday of every month. Flux Gallery, Market Arcade Arts Centre; just buffalo literary center members only. (832-5400)

**Moonlight Poetry Circle.** 9pm, first Fri. of each month. Share poetry informally through spoken word, song, music, art, etc. 320 West Ave., lower. [moonlightcircle@hotmail.com](mailto:moonlightcircle@hotmail.com)

**Northside Writers Group.** 7pm, first and third Thursday of each month. Ascension Lutheran Church, 4640 Main Street, Amherst. (626-4204).

Send weekly literary event info (name, description, location, date, time, and admission) to: [editorial@artvoice.com](mailto:editorial@artvoice.com), subject "In The Margins," or fax to: 881-6682. Listings must be received by the Wednesday before publication for consideration.

### Back by Popular Demand: POETRY IN ARTVOICE!

In the Margins features poetry by local writers on an irregular, though roughly monthly basis. The poetry editor will be Florine Melnyk. Submissions of no more than 5 poems and no more than ten pages in length can be sent by e-mail to [florine@starcherone.com](mailto:florine@starcherone.com) or by mail to Florine Melnyk, Poetry Editor, Artvoice, 810 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14202 Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope to have manuscripts returned.

## ONONDAGA

Adjudicators and teachers of the law  
Organizers of the Harvest Festival and Midwinter Ceremonials  
The Green Corn Festival, the Strawberry Festival and  
The Maple Sugar Festival; Keepers of the faith

Ha-wah-ne-u—the Creator—knows it to be true  
The Peacemaker knew it to be true  
Hiawatha knew it to be true  
The False Face Society knew it to be true

Custodial chiefs of the four sacred rituals:  
The Feather Dance, Thanksgiving Dance  
The Personal Chant and the Bowl Game  
Great champions of the lacrosse fields  
The People on the Hills know it to be true  
The Tadodaho knew it to be true  
The Prophet Handsome Lake knew it to be true  
Chief Shenandoah knew it to be true

That the treaties of land cession were not proper  
To the people of the Ever-growing Tree  
The sovereign Bearers of the Grand Central Council Fire  
And the sacred wampum beaded belts

The Iroquois Nation knew it to be true  
The League of the Haudenosaunee knew it to be true  
The Five Nations and the Six Nations knew it to be true  
The pale-faced Americans know it to be true

—ivan smason

## cathartic

Pre-Dawn pleasures  
I awoken with a mind  
Full of images  
Disconnected from the  
Universal flow  
The Muse pulls my training wheels  
and with a violent push  
I go  
Blank parchment fills with  
Words  
I cleanse so that the  
Muse will visit me nightly  
to entrust me again with  
Secrets  
hither to Unknown

—charles forness

## BOOKREVIEW



### Eduardo & I Prose Poems by Peter Johnson White Pine Press, 2006 \$14

Award-winner, paradigm-shifting editor, prose poetry master and stand-up comedian of letters—not bad for a local boy. Like prose poet Jack Kerouac, Buffalo's own Peter Johnson likes to travel with friends who he can view the world through. In his last collection, *Miracles & Mortifications* (White Pine Press, 2001), which won the prestigious James Laughlin Award of the Academy of American Poets, Johnson's travel partner was Gigi. This time around Johnson creates Eduardo—a character bizarre and humanly flawed enough to allow his imagination free reign. And Peter Johnson's imagination is a brilliant, constantly surprising place, perfectly matched to the flexible, surrealistic, and, yes, poetic, possibilities afforded by the prose poetry form. Former editor of the seminal *The Prose Poem: An International Journal*, and author of three previous prose poem collections—including his first White Pine Press title, *Pretty Happy!*—Peter Johnson has not only carved his own niche in the constantly unfolding universe of American prose poetics, but he's helped establish the form's foothold in this country. Plus, he's damn funny. Throughout this book, Eduardo tries to start a "real ass-kicking, girl-licking" rock band; pretends to be tough-guy poet Charles Bukowski, but with a bagel and tomato juice instead of whiskey and whores; and hangs "outside from the top of the Biltmore at 4 a.m. with no possibility of applause." At the end of the day, *Eduardo & I* is as humorous a book of poetry as you're likely to read. The book's second section is still funny, but also turns more personal as Johnson leaves Eduardo behind, turning his gaze upon his own life and family. Here we see the poet meandering through a suburban landscape of grave yards, living rooms and turnpikes with a head full of partially-formed poems—half smiling, half crying. As always, Peter Johnson's landscapes may be unsettling, but they are always authentic.

—peter connors