

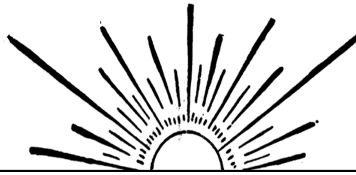
Please join The Worcester County Poetry Association as it presents the first

Stanley Kunitz Medal

to

Michael True

for his life-long contributions to poetry,
best exemplified by Worcester's own (twice) U.S. Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz.



Summer by Southwest

Dust settles on the leaves.
Locusts whirr and fall
silent. Among flowers,
only marigolds persist. At night
the sky extends beyond
the horizon, holding the Big
Dipper and the North Star
steady, just out of reach.

—*Michael True*

Sunday, July 26, 2015, 1 p.m.
Stanley Kunitz Boyhood Home

4 Woodford Street, Worcester, MA

The presentation will be followed by an open reading

seating limited, rsvp: rodgerwriter@myfairpoint.net

The Stanley Kunitz Medal is presented annually to a person with a strong Worcester County (Mass.) connection who best exemplifies Stanley Kunitz's life-long commitment to poetry and poets. The award recognizes the total commitment to poetry as Stanley lived it: teaching poetry, mentoring poets, speaking poetry, publishing poetry, and supporting organizations which nurture poetry.

Stanley Kunitz, born in Worcester, Massachusetts, was an award-winning American poet. After studying at Harvard University he worked as an editor, writing poetry for his first book *Intellectual Things* (1930). After serving while a conscientious objector in World War II, he began work as a professor and completed his collection *Passports to the War* (1944). He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1959 for his work *Selected Poems 1928-1958* (1958). His later collection *Passing Through* (1995) won a National Book Award. He served as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 1974-1976, and again from 2000-2001. After his death, he left a bequest with The Worcester County Poetry Association to establish a poetry award in his name. The awarding of this medal is in fulfillment of Stanley's bequest.

Michael True, a native of Oklahoma, is a founding member of both *The Worcester Review* and The Worcester County Poetry Association. He is the author of *Worcester Writers, 1680-1980* (1986); *An Energy Field More Intense Than War: The Nonviolent Tradition and American Literature* (1995); *People Power: Peacemakers and Their Communities* (2007); and *Plains Song and other Poems* (2013). His poems and essays have appeared in *The Worcester Review*, *Friends Journal*, *College Composition and Communication*, *America*, *Commonweal*, *Milkweed Chronicle*, and *Contemporary Poetry*. In addition to being a mentor and supporter of poets and poetry, he is a workers' activist and long-time advocate for peace and non-violence who has spoken out against violence around the world.

Stanley Kunitz Medal Selection Committee, 2015

Edward R. Cronin

Robert Steele

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