

PLEASE JOIN THE WORCESTER COUNTY POETRY ASSOCIATION AS IT PRESENTS THE

2016 STANLEY KUNITZ MEDAL

TO

DAN LEWIS

FOR HIS LIFE-LONG CONTRIBUTIONS TO POETRY, BEST EXEMPLIFIED BY WORCESTER'S OWN
(TWICE) U.S. POET LAUREATE STANLEY KUNITZ.

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2016, 6:30 P.M.
FLETCHER AUDITORIUM, WORCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
30 ELM STREET, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

THE EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL COMMENCE WITH A 30-MINUTE OPEN READING

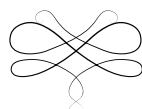
TWELVE

It was, by god, a cold crossing.

We caulked the planks of our leaky vessels
with whatever words we could find. A sky
as fearsome as angels wheeling above us,
we fashioned our prayers into swords.

But the wind
ate everything we had. In the end, nothing
could save us. Although someone
must have been spared to write this down
as if it were, indeed,
the truth.

-DAN LEWIS



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 (1905-2006) was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, a city he said, "provoked him into poetry." After studying at Harvard University he worked as an editor, writing poetry for his first book *INTELLECTUAL THINGS* (1930). After serving 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. He was instrumental in founding both the Fine Arts Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and Poets House in New York City. 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 the legacy of Stanley's request.

DAN LEWIS lives on the edge of Patch Reservoir in Worcester, Massachusetts. The 2012 winner of The Frank O'Hara Prize, has published four collections of poetry: *TICKETS FOR THE BROKEN YEAR* and *THIS GARDEN* in 2011, *ICONOSPHERES* in 2013. His fourth poetry collection, *INTIMATIONS OF THE FOCAL PLANE*, came out this year. Lewis served as typesetting and design editor of *THE WORCESTER REVIEW* from 1999-2011. He has been a volunteer member of The Worcester County Poetry Association's board of directors for over twenty years from 1996 through 2016. In that capacity he regularly volunteered to design and produce countless broadsides for other poets and published numerous editions of *THE ISSUE*. Currently you can find Dan experimenting with jazz and poetry.

STANLEY KUNITZ MEDAL SELECTION COMMITTEE, 2016



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