

Please join The Worcester County Poetry Association as it presents the  
**Stanley Kunitz Medal**

to  
**Carle Johnson**

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

**Abstraction with G Clef**

With a baton dipped in Mahler, paint  
the background with all the trees of Norway.  
Show that *The 1812 Overture* marched beyond  
those Grieg mountains. Place the rising sun  
behind the tallest. Let mountain and sun  
suggest the entrance of the chorus  
in Beethoven's *Ninth*. On the lower right,  
bounce a brook through the forest  
like an Alban Berg operatic intention.  
Let the darker pines echo Wagnerian themes.  
Paint the sky Bartok, with a strand of clouds  
descending like a Chopin *Polonaise*. Have  
a hunter moving with Schoenbergian dissonance,  
listening for the Listzian howl of the wolf.  
Accent the main features with Stravinsky's  
neoclassical calligraphy. And finally the wolf.  
The wolf knows the hunter's rifle has  
the perfect pitch of a Hindemith suite.  
Let the wolf be pure Prokoviev.

—Carle Johnson

Thursday, July 27, 2017

6:30-8:30 p.m.

**The Worcester  
Historical Museum**

30 Elm Street, Worcester, MA

**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.

**Carle A. Johnson** hosts the Worcester Barnes & Noble Bookstore Open Mic and the Sugden Writers Workshop in Spencer. Since 1989, he has been an editor of the WCPA's *The Worcester Review*. He was the founding editor of the WCPA's Poetry Newsletter in 1979 and has produced and hosted over 100 original TV programs, "Poets-In-Profile," for WCTC-TV, Worcester. He organized the Stanley Kunitz 80th Birthday Festival in 1985 and the 2005 Stanley Kunitz Symposium at Clark University. He was the Executive Director of the Elizabeth Bishop Conference and Poetry Festival, which received the Worcester Telegram & Gazette 1997 Visions 2000 Cultural Enrichment Award as the outstanding cultural event in Worcester for 1997. Carle has studied at the Bread Loaf Writers Conference and with poets Sam Cornish and Kathleen Spivack. He has published articles on poets and has lectured on poets and poetry throughout New England. He has had poems in *Concrete Wolf*, *Sahara*, and *The Worcester Review*, among others. He has published three books: *Herculaneum Via A Plectrum* (2009), *Autobiography of the Poet* (Ballard Street Press, 2010) and *THE POINT* (2010). Johnson is originally from Laconia, N.H. but currently lives in Worcester., Mass.

#### **The Stanley Kunitz Committee, 2017**

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