

By [Victor D. Infante](#)
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Lewis wins Kunitz Medal

Speaking of poetic laurels, Dan Lewis of Worcester will be the recipient of the second annual Stanley Kunitz Medal Award.

The award is made possible through a bequest from the two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and Worcester native Stanley Kunitz to the Worcester County Poetry Association, and is awarded by the WCPA to a person with a strong Worcester County connection who best exemplifies Kunitz's life-long commitment to poetry and poets. Kunitz died in 2006.

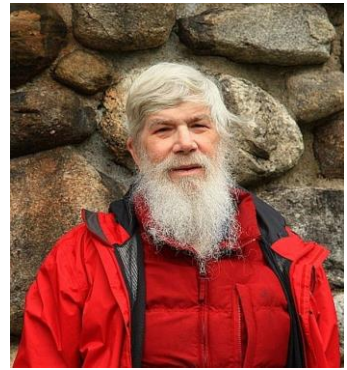
The award recognizes a total commitment to poetry as Kunitz lived it: teaching poetry, mentoring poets, speaking poetry, publishing poetry and supporting organizations that nurture poetry.

John Hodgen, visiting poet at Assumption College, and a member of the selection committee, said of Lewis, "There is a certain Whitman-like generosity of vision, remarkable intelligence, a heart as big as the world, and always the questioning, this sense of ongoing wonder. Stanley would have approved."

Rodger Martin, chairman of the selection committee, said, "Lewis' decades of dedication, not only to his poetry but poetry in general and Worcester in particular, is rare."

Lewis is the 2012 Winner of The Frank O'Hara Prize. He has published four collections of poetry: "Tickets for the Broken Year," "The Garden," "Iconospheres" and this year's "Intimations of the Focal Plane." He has also been an active board member of the WCP for more than 20 years.

An award ceremony and reception will be held to honor Lewis at 6:30 p.m. July 28 at The Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm St., Worcester. This reading will coincide with Kunitz's birthday, and will include a reading of his work.



Dan Lewis will be the recipient of the second annual Stanley Kunitz Medal Award. Photo Courtesy Michael Lewis