

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Announcing the 2018 Recipient of the Fourth Annual Stanley Kunitz Medal**

Judith Ferrara of Worcester, Massachusetts, has been chosen to receive the 2018 Stanley Kunitz Medal awarded through a gift from two-time Poet Laureate of The United States and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and Worcester native Stanley Kunitz.

The medal, presented annually since 2015, is awarded to a person with a robust Worcester County (Massachusetts) connection who best exemplifies Stanley Kunitz's (born in Worcester in 1905) life-long commitment to poetry and poets. The award recognizes the total commitment to poetry as Kunitz lived it: Teaching poetry, mentoring poets, speaking poetry, publishing poetry, and supporting organizations which nurture poetry.

Writer and visual artist Judith Ferrara lives in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her poetry and essays have been published in three collections: *Gestures of Trees* (Mellen Poetry Press), *A Brush with Words* (Autumn Light Press) and *The little O, the earth: Travel Journals, Art & Poems* (Palette and Pen Studio), and in journals such as *the black fly review*, *The Comstock Review*, *The Portland Review Literary Journal*, *GSU Review* and *The Worcester Review*. In 2009, she began a study of poet Stanley Kunitz and Ferrara continues to research his life and poems. In 2016, she transcribed the correspondence, memoir, and diary of his mother, Yetta Kunitz Dine and is currently developing a manuscript that includes these materials as well as supporting chapters about her life. Her art has appeared in group and solo exhibitions since 1988.

Nominator Robert Gill said of Ferrara, "She, alongside Carol Stockmal, developed the Kunitz/Stockmal House Docent Program to train individuals to conduct tours of the Stanley Kunitz Boyhood Home. She helped establish the Kunitz Boyhood Home Summer Writing Series."

An award ceremony and reception, free and open to the public, to coincide with Kunitz's birthday celebration, will be held at the Worcester Historical Museum at 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Mass., on Thursday, July 26, 2018, 6:30-8:30 p.m. It will begin with a 30-minute open reading celebrating Stanley Kunitz.

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## **About the Worcester County Poetry Association**

The Worcester County Poetry Association (WCPA) was founded in 1971 with a threefold mission: celebrate the rich literary history and creative energy of Central Massachusetts through public readings, workshops, festivals, scholarly conferences and other programs; support the publication of the literary journal, *The Worcester Review*; and collaborate with libraries, bookstores, colleges and universities, museums, churches, schools, community centers, businesses and a variety of cultural organizations to promote poetry events. The WCPA is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

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Not for Publication: For more information, contact  
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Judith Ferrara  
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