

# ***Marblehead Festival of Arts***

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## ***For Immediate Release***

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## **Writers' World Featured at Marblehead Festival of Arts**

**Marblehead MA (June 1, 2011)** – Each year, a devoted group of authors, novelists, poets, essayists and journalists gathers for the Marblehead Festival of Arts Writers' World series of programs. Workshops, exhibits, presentations and camaraderie highlight this extraordinary segment of the Festival, to be held July 1-4 at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 28 Mugford Street.

This year's workshops promise fascinating presenters and lively conversation, according to co-chairs Scheffreen and Carol Thompson. On Saturday, July 2, from 10 am until noon, author and teacher Phyllis Karas returns to Writers' World to discuss her new book, *Where's Whitey*, a story of murder, friendship and loyalty within the mob. It is the sequel to her bestselling *BRUTAL: The Untold Story of My Life Inside Whitey Bulger's Irish Mob*. The new release describes many situations omitted from her first book, creating more intrigue; and Karas uses insider knowledge to more than hint at the whereabouts of the FBI's Most Wanted Fugitive.

Irene Pepperberg, an associate research professor at Brandeis University and a lecturer at Harvard University, is a scientist noted for her studies in animal cognition, particularly in relation to parrots. Dr. Pepperberg is best known for her work with long-time friend Alex, an African Grey Parrot who was the subject of her 30-year experiment. On Saturday afternoon, from 2 to 4 pm, she will discuss

her bestseller, *Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Discovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence—and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process*. It is a remarkable, true account of an amazing, irascible parrot, his best friend and a landmark scientific achievement.

On Sunday, July 3, from 2 to 4 pm, writer and editor Janet Ruth Young will discuss “The Young Adult Novel in the Age of the Internet.” Discussed within the context of her two books, *The Opposite of Music* and *The Babysitter Murders*, Young will propose the idea that if the Internet has changed the way many of us get our information, then the same changes ought to take place in the lives of characters we write about. She will explore how online newspapers, chat rooms, social networking sites and blogs affect the way a character thinks and makes decisions important to the story.

*Something Healthy to Eat: A Love Story with Food* is a collaborative effort by author Florence Goodman and her husband, editor and photographer Henry Goodman. The couple will discuss their journey from writing and editing through publication and marketing on Monday, July 4, from 10 am until noon in “Not Just a Cookbook.” As an accomplished cook, Flo was able, over the years, to reverse her husband’s high cholesterol without medication by changing ingredients in the preparation of well-loved and familiar foods. The couple was encouraged to take 600 recipes, scribbled on scraps of paper and index cards, and compile them into a published book, which they agree has been an exciting and challenging experience.

The juried Writers’ World Exhibit is comprised of original, previously-unpublished adult and student fiction, essays and poetry. The judges, Claire Keyes, Jenna Fogle, Bill Purdin and Peter Franklin, are well-respected members of the arts world who have arduously studied all of the submitted works. All accepted entries

will be available for public reading during the Festival; and award-winning entries are to be published in the Writers' World booklet.

Cafés and salons have evolved over the centuries as writers have gathered to discuss their craft with other writers. With this historical perspective, the Festival Literary Arts Café is a comfortable place where readers and writers may discuss works while enjoying coffee, tea and light fare. It will be open each day to welcome Festival goers.

On Monday at 2 pm, the Mugford Street Players will continue a long-established tradition of performing readings of winning entries from this year's Writers' World works. Please join the Players, along with the authors, to enjoy these contributions to the Marblehead Festival of Arts and the art world.

For more information, visit [www.MarbleheadFestival.org](http://www.MarbleheadFestival.org).

PHOTO CREDIT: Betty Dew

### **About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFoA)**

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over the July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (including painting, sculpture, photography and drawing), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, the Film Festival, Writers' World, the Street Festival, the Children's Festival, Artisans' Marketplace and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than 40 committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year-round and relies solely on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFoA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call 781-639-ARTS or visit [www.MarbleheadFestival.org](http://www.MarbleheadFestival.org).

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