



News Release  
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Berkeley, California

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***Poet/Librarians Read at the Berkeley Public Library:***  
**Marc Elihu Hofstadter, former Librarian, San Francisco Municipal Railway**  
**&**  
**Alan Bern, Community Relations Librarian, Berkeley Public Library**

Join local poets **Marc Elihu Hofstadter, former Librarian at the San Francisco Municipal Railway, and Berkeley Public Library's Community Relations Librarian Alan Bern** for a poetry reading sponsored by the Berkeley Public Library and the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library. This free program will be held in the **3<sup>rd</sup> floor Community Meeting Room at the Central Library in Downtown Berkeley on Saturday, August 22, 2009, at 3:00 pm.**

Marc Elihu Hofstadter was born in New York City and received his Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He taught American literature at Santa Cruz, the Universite d'Orleans (on a Fulbright Lectureship) and Tel Aviv University but for twenty-five years served as the Librarian of the San Francisco Municipal Railway. Hofstadter lives in Rossmoor with his partner David Zurlin. He has published four books of poems, *House of Peace*, *Visions*, and *Shark's Tooth*, and his fourth book entitled *Luck* (Scarlet Tanager Press) was released in September 2008. *Small Press Bookwatch*, June 2006: "*Shark's Tooth* is a remarkable poetry collection drawn from the lyrical works of Marc Elihu Hofstadter whose focus is the manifold elements of the human condition. *Shark's Tooth* intricately details the philosophical perspective existence and reprise of the mind and tangible embodiment of the spirit. Kim Addonizio writes of *Visions*: "To read Marc Hofstadter's *Visions* is to feel you're walking through an intimate museum. One or two paintings hang in each hushed, whitewashed room. The light filters in. And then, magically, each painting begins to speak. Zen-like, Hofstadter sets his spare evocations against "reality, white,/which is unknown to us," so that we're left to contemplate again the mysteries of art and artist, color and consciousness, and to remember that "sometimes life's joys are small.""

Alan Bern has worked as a librarian in the San Francisco Bay Area for sixteen years and has had two books of poems published, *No no the saddest* in March 2004 and *Waterwalking in Berkeley*

in 2007, both from Fithian Press. *Midwest Book Review*, July 2004: *No no the saddest* is “A moving and poignant collection of coping with the loss of a loved one stretched out over the long, terrible course of years.” Poet and critic Sandra Gilbert writes of Bern in *Waterwalking in Berkeley* “slowly and observantly pacing beneath the surface of things until he reaches ‘the heaven of the sun.’”

In 2002 Bern joined forces with dancer Lucinda Weaver to form their collaborative company, PACES. They have performed in Switzerland and Italy, and they have presented Bern's books of poems throughout the Bay Area in bookstores, art museums, and libraries. Most recently they have presented a stage performance of the Tristan myth, *Tristan Codas*, and are now preparing a collaborative performance, co-sponsored by the City of Berkeley, to celebrate the 89 years that Cragmont Rock Park has been a City of Berkeley park.

Gabriel Griffin, Director, Poetry on the Lake, Isola San Giulio, Orta, Italy, writes of PACES: "At dusk...as the last light faded from the lake, **Alan Bern** and **Lucinda Weaver** gave a performance of dance and poetry in Piazza Motta. Alan read his poetry in both English and Italian. In the soft lamplight and the shadows cast by the old arches and columns, Lucinda appeared ethereal in her white flowing garments. Verses echoed in the quiet square. Passers-by stopped to watch and listen, enchanted."

This free Berkeley Public Library program is a wonderful opportunity to experience the splendid poetry of Marc Elihu Hofstadter and Alan Bern's Preview of a Performance to celebrate Cragmont Rock Park in Berkeley (Celebration to be held at Cragmont Rock Park, 960 Regal Road, October 4, 2:30pm). Both authors' books are available in the Berkeley Public Library's collection.

For more information, please call 510-981-6107 or go to <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org>.

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