



News Release
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Berkeley, California

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**Local Poets Read at the Berkeley Public Library:
Adam David Miller
accompanied by Cellist Gael Alcock
and
Marc Elihu Hofstadter**

Join local poets **Adam David Miller** accompanied by cellist **Gael Alcock** (www.gaelalcock.com) and **Marc Elihu Hofstadter** 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 **3rd floor Community Meeting Room at the Central Library in Downtown Berkeley on Saturday, May 17, 2008, at 2:00 pm.**

Berkeley Poet Adam David Miller has worked in northern California in the arts for four decades, as teacher, writer, editor, publisher, radio & television producer. Miller will present his new memoir, ***Ticket to Exile, a memoir of an African American childhood in the Jim Crow South.*** At age nineteen, A. D. Miller sat in a jail cell. His crime? He passed a white girl a note that read, "I would like to get to know you better." For this he was accused of attempted rape. *Ticket to Exile* recounts Miller's coming-of-age in Depression-era Orangeburg, South Carolina. A closet rebel who successfully evades the worst strictures of a racially segregated small town, Miller reconstructs the sights, sounds, and social complexities of the pre-civil rights South. By the time he is forced into exile, we realize that this fate was inevitable for a young man too intelligent and aware of the limitations of his society to remain there without disastrous consequences. Miller's other books include *Apocalypse is My Garden* (1997) and *Land Between* (2000). His book of poems *Forever Afternoon* won the first Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award, which included publication by Michigan State University Press, 1993. He has been invited to read, lecture and present workshops in schools and colleges throughout the US and in several foreign countries. Miller's "West African Woman Casts Her Shadow" (*Neighborhood and Other Poems*, 1992)

was awarded a First Prize in the 2004 Artists Embassy International Dance Poetry contest. He has also written, directed, and, with a theatre company, produced plays.

In this program Miller performs with East Bay cellist, composer, improviser, and storyteller Gael Alcock. Alcock is a member of the Cazadero Jazz Collective, M.O.S.A.I.C. (a women composers guild), and Pulcinella Duo (piano and cello). Combining a love of storytelling with performing and teaching, she presents music and stories for young people in schools, museums, hospitals, and libraries. Gael also maintains a private studio, teaching group and individual lessons to students of all ages and levels. A former member of Berkeley and San Jose Symphonies, Gael is also a skilled improviser. She collaborates often with both dancers and writers/poets.

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 three books of poems, *House of Peace*, *Visions*, and *Shark's Tooth*, and has a book forthcoming from Scarlet Tanager Press that's entitled *Luck*. ***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.""

This free Berkeley Public Library program is a wonderful opportunity to experience the great synergy of words and music from Adam David Miller and Gael Alcock and the splendid poetry of Marc Elihu Hofstadter.

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

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