

AREA WRITERS

April 4 event to celebrate National Poetry Month

By Nanette Deetz
Correspondent

ALAMEDA » In honor of National Poetry Month in April, the Alameda Island Poets will feature three Bay Area poets and a musician-poet from 7 to 9 p.m. April 4.

The open mic portion is from 8 to 9 p.m. The event is hosted by the Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St.



Maureen Killough

Maureen Killough's book of poetry is entitled "Underseams." Her poetry has won Best in Show and first-place honors for free-form poetry at the San Mateo County Fair. She has attended the annual Beat Poets event at the Beat Mu-

seum in San Francisco. She and her husband Daniel Swetlik form the music/poetry duo "Two Loose." Swetlik accompanies her poems on bass and writes original compositions from her poetry. John Rowe has poems appearing in numerous small press journals and anthologies. His latest chapbook is entitled "Beyond Perspective," published by Finishing Line

Press. Rowe is co-host of the monthly Last Word poetry reading series at Nefeli Cafe in Berkeley. Jan Dederick, who is married to Rowe, has published two chapbooks and a memoir collection. Her favorite topics for poetry are nature and the irony of humans and human culture, mothering and healing. Dederick is also a co-host of Poetry Express, a weekly reading in Berkeley.

April is National Poetry Month

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda Island Poets will celebrate National Poetry Month with a reading featuring John Rowe, Jan Dederick and Maurine Killough. Nanette Deetz is hosting the reading. Light refreshments will be served and an open mic follows the featured poets.

Rowe has had poems appear in a variety of small press journals and anthologies. His latest chapbook is *Beyond Perspective* from Finishing Line Press.

Rowe's previous poetry chap-

books *At My Wit's Beginning* and *Winsome Losesome* showcase his tendencies toward whimsical word play and a minimalist approach.

He is a co-host of the monthly Last Word Poetry Reading Series held at Nefeli Caffè in Berkeley on second Fridays. For many years he served as president of the Bay Area Poets Coalition (BAPC) and



Courtesy photos

John Rowe

associate editor of BAPC's *Poetalk* journal. Find out more about him at www.rowepoet.com.

Dederick was born with the writing bug, but she also has been bitten by the music bug, the gardening bug and the homeopathy bug. She has self-produced two chapbooks and one full-length memoir collection. She



Jan Dederick

takes poet Rainer Rilke's advice to heart: "You write because you have to." Her favorite topics include: nature, the irony of humans and human culture, mothering and healing. She

loves to write in form, as well as free verse, is not afraid to rant and accepts her tendency to become emotional while reading. She is a co-host of Poetry Express, a weekly reading in Berkeley.

Killough is a poet and author of the poetry book, *Underseams*. Her poetry has won best in show and was a two-time, first-place winner for free-form poetry at the San Mateo County Fair. She is frequently featured at Bay Area readings, including the annual Beat Poets event at the Beat Museum in San Francisco.

She served on the California Writers Club Board from 2014 to 2017 and is past host for the monthly open mic readings at Reach and Teach, held the third Wednesday of each month. In the duo Two Loose, her husband Daniel Swetlik accompanies some of her poems on bass guitar and also writes original compositions from Maurine's poetry.

The poets will read from 7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, April 4 at the Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St. Find out more at www.alamedaislandpoets.org.



Maurine Killough