

The Birchbark Books Reading Series

presents

Bryan Thao Worra
Andrea Jenkins
Tammy Darrah Wenberg

Wednesday, January 13, 2009
7:00 p.m.

full deli menu available at Isles Deli, 6:15 pm

curated by Michael Kiesow Moore

The Birchbark Books Reading Series features new, emerging, and established writers every month. Join us the 2nd Wednesday of the month, from September through May.



Bryan Thao Worra was born in 1973 during the Laotian civil war. He came to the US at six months old, adopted by a civilian pilot flying in Laos. In 2003, Thao Worra reunited with his biological family after 30 years during his first return to Laos. A poet, short story writer, playwright and essayist, his work appears in over 80 international publications including *Bamboo Among the Oaks*, *Contemporary Voices of the East*, *Tales of the Unanticipated*, *Illumen*, *Astropoetica*, *Outsiders Within*, *Dark Wisdom*, *Hyphen*, *Journal of the Asian American Renaissance*, *Bakka*, *Whistling Shade*, *Tripmaster Monkey*, *Asian American Press* and *Mad Poets of Terra*. He is the author of *On the Other Side of the Eye* and *Winter Ink*. Brian holds a fellowship in literature from the National Endowment for the Arts and received a 2009 Asian Pacific Leadership Award from Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. You can visit him online at <http://thaoworra.blogspot.com>

Andrea Jenkins is an award winning poet and writer. Most recently, she was named a Givens Foundation Fellow, and won the Loft Mentor Series in 2002 and the Napa Valley Writers Conference scholarship in 2003. Her work has appeared in several local publications and she has performed with The Outward Spiral, Mama Mosaic, and many others. Andrea self-published a chapbook of poems called *tributaries: poems celebrating black history*; her upcoming self-published collection will be called *Pieces of a Scream: New and Selected Poems*. She currently is co-curator of the S.A.S.E, Carol Connolly GLBT Reading Series at Intermedia Arts. Andrea is pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing at Hamline University and lives in Minneapolis, with her 8 cats, 3 dogs, and a parrot. (Ha! Just kidding)



Tammy Darrah Wenberg teaches writing for Metropolitan State University. She earned an MFA from Hamline University in 2006 where she is currently a doctoral candidate. Her first book of poetry, *Evoked, Never Commanded*, yet to be published, grew out of her thesis manuscript. She is currently working on a new book exploring the interconnectedness of two landscapes: the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains where she grew up and South Vietnam, which she experienced more as an apparition, as the daughter of a veteran of the American War. She lives and writes with her family outside of Saint Paul, Minnesota.



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The Reading Series is sponsored by Birchbark Books and Isles Deli