

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

www.fineartscenter.com

CONTACT: Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu

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WHAT: Amherst Lit Series
In Celebration of Amherst's 250th Anniversary
April 1 through 30
Various Locations throughout Amherst
Events are free and no tickets are required. For more information call 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMas or online at www.fineartscenter.com/amherstlit

IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release go online to:
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UMass Celebrates Amherst's 250th Birthday with a Free Lit Series

It's a month-long party dedicated to Amherst's rich literary history. In celebration of Amherst's 250th Anniversary, the UMass Fine Arts Center is collaborating with the UMass MFA Program for Poets and Writers, and the Juniper Literary Festival to present a month-long series of readings, a literary journal and press fair, roundtables and a literary scavenger hunt for families. For more information and a complete schedule, visit fineartscenter.com/amherstlit. All events are free and open to the public. No tickets are required.

It all gets started beginning April 1 through the 30th with a **Literary Scavenger Hunt** for families with young children throughout downtown Amherst. Families can start anywhere, do it all in one day or take their time, and there's a small prize awarded at each location if the clue is solved. Participating businesses include Amherst Books, Food for Thought Books, Bart's Homemade, The Toy Box, A.J. Hastings and the Jones Library Children's Room. Clues are available at each location. Clues and a map of the Amherst Lit Series trail are available online at www.fineartscenter.com/amherstlit.

On Thursday, April 2 at 7PM at Wunderarts Gallery in Amherst, there will be a **New Writers Reading** where the public can hear some of our local, young award-winning authors read from their new books. Featured will be Chris Bachelder, Elizabeth Hughey, Jedediah Berry, and Lisa Olstein. Refreshments are generously provided by Portabella Catering.

Amherst's own luminary writer **Martín Espada** will read from his recent work on Wednesday, April 15 at 7PM at the Amherst Cinema. Called "*the* Latino poet of his generation" and "the Pablo Neruda of North American authors," Martín Espada has published sixteen books in all as a poet, editor, essayist and translator, including two collections of poems last year. A reception follows at Tabella Restaurant, with a cash bar/complimentary appetizers. The event is free and there are no advance tickets. Seating is limited and available to first come, first served the evening of the event. Theater capacity is 186 seats.

Finally, in celebration of *Massachusetts Review's* 50th birthday there will be an **Independent Journal and Book Fair**, Juniper Festival Launch and reception on Friday, April 24, from 6-8 PM in the Fine Arts Center Lobby. The book fair and Juniper Festival continues the next day, Saturday, April 25, 12:30PM - 5:30PM and 7:30PM-10:00PM. The weekend offers a showcase of local, regional, and national independent journals and presses as well as two days of events including readings, roundtables and an exhibition of *Massachusetts Review* covers exhibition in the University Gallery. The exhibition includes a selection of original art works that ran on the covers, including work by Jerome Liebling, Leonard Baskin, Richard Yarde and Laylah Ali.

All events are free and open to the public. For a complete list of participating journals and presses, authors' bios, scavenger hunt clues, and a map of where it all takes place, visit fineartscenter.com/amherstlit. Presented in collaboration with the UMass MFA Program for Poets and Writers, the Juniper Literary Festival and the Fine Arts Center. The Martín Espada reading is sponsored in part by the Amherst Cinema and Tabella Restaurant. For more information about Amherst's 250th Celebration visit www.amherst250.org.

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