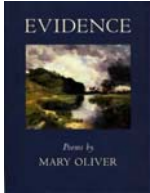


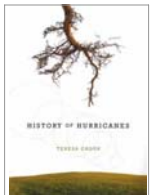


MASSBOOKS OF THE YEAR/POETRY

*Recommended Reading from the 10th Annual Massachusetts Book Awards
(Books Published in 2009)*



Evidence by Mary Oliver (Beacon Press). Every poem in this collection, in which the poet continues to share her breathtaking observations of the smallest details in nature, is rich in imagery and meaning. Drink it in one long swallow and savor every drop.



History of Hurricanes by Teresa Cader (Northwestern). With thoughtful and graceful language, these poems explore the inevitability of death.



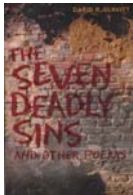
Long Division by Andrea Cohen (Salmon Poetry Ltd). Each poem tells a perfectly-contained story that engages the reader with familiar references, the right combination of carefully-chosen words, and a subtle humor.



The Looking House by Fred Marchant (Graywolf). Each poem in this wonderfully crafted collection is a room worth visiting again and again.



Lost Alphabet by Lisa Olstein (Copper Canyon). A remarkable collection that that renders loss, found, in the crease of every poem.



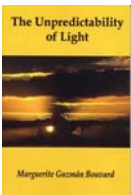
The Seven Deadly Sins and Other Poems by David Slavitt (LSU Press). These poems explore the mundane moments of our existence and the complex questions that keep us awake at night, in language rich in allusions and thoughtful passion. A bonus: translations of four short classical pieces.



Steerage by Bert Stern (*Ibbetson Street*). A collection of poems that deepens and settles with each read like an unfolding dream.



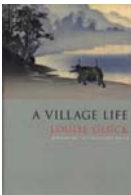
This is the Red Door by James R. Whitley (*Ironweed*). A wonderful collection of lyrical poems about love, loss, and moving on.



The Unpredictability of Light by Marguerite Guzmán Bouvard (*Word Press*). A delightfully written collection of poems that cradles with its fullness at every turn of the page.



The Us by Joan Houlihan (*Tupelo Press*). This sequence of unique linked poems explicates the lives of a primitive people--their journeys, betrayals, and loss of innocence--in language characterized by a re-conceived and captivating syntax and elemental, almost child-like, images.



A Village Life by Louise Glück (*Farrar, Straus and Giroux*). Delicious words and phrases invite the reader into the lives of the characters who inhabit these luminous poems.



Wheeling Motel by Franz Wright (*Alfred A. Knopf*). Raw and refined expressions of forgiveness and a yearning for grace mark the poems in this collection.

Judges for the 10th MassBooks in Poetry: Diane Giarrusso, Boxford Town Library; Liz Gray, Dana Hall School Library; Enzo Surin, Bunker Hill Community College Library, Charlestown
The Massachusetts Book Awards are a program of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, on the web at www.massbook.org.