The QUILL

Store Hours
Sunday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Monday to Saturday 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM

August 2007
Volume 3, Number 8

*The Inkwell Bookstore • 199 Main Street • Falmouth, Massachusetts 02540 • Phone 508-540-0039 • www.inkwellbookstore.com*

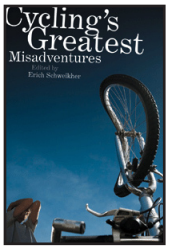
# From the Pen of the Inkwell's Owners

Even busier than the December holidays, August finds the staff of the Inkwell in danger of suffering extreme burnout. Our town becomes packed, and so does the bookstore, especially during cloudy summer days. The workload is intense due to the frenetic pace, swift turnaround of inventory, and our full author event summer schedule. We look longingly towards our annual post-Labor Day staff party, and remind each other to smile… selling books is never a burden!

We encourage our staff to read ***more*** (we only hire avid readers) as part of their jobs. Most prospective employees think they'll be able to read while working their shifts, but they are sorely mistaken. There is never any downtime in a bookstore, not even time for a coffee break! There are perks to being a bookseller, and one of the best is receiving free advance reading copies of yet-to-be published books. None of us really keeps track of how many books we read each year. Perhaps we should just for fun. Recently, idle curiosity caused us to start a contest to see which employee reads the most pages each week. We don't yet have a winner, but when it comes to reading, we are quite competitive. Most of us were called bookworms when we were children. Last week, my Mom reminisced about how excited I was at age 12 when I found a trove of books by a beloved author for sale in an unlikely place. Those books meant so much to me, just touching the covers made me happy, and eager to read, read, read. Being a bookworm is a badge of honor, one that is wearable for the rest of your life. Our children, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren are bookworms too, and we are so happy they joined the club!

Sincerely,
Michelle and Kathleen

*PS. 784 pages read this week and counting…*




## SAT., AUGUST 11, 7:00 PM
Reading and Talk by Amy Nevala

### *Cycling's Greatest Misadventures*

*Cycling's Greatest Misadventures* presents twenty-seven true stories which cross the spectrum from terrifying to comical to downright bizarre. Amy Nevala will read from the book and answer questions. Refreshments will be served.

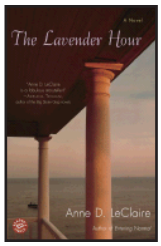
## WED., AUGUST 15, 10:30 AM
Author Ann Treistman

### *73 Ways To Help Your Baby Sleep*

Ann will give a talk and offer insights to parents. Bring your babies and share your stories while enjoying complimentary coffee and pastries at the Inkwell.

*73 Ways to Help Your Baby Sleep* tackles the single most important issue for new parents in a fresh, accessible way. As every exhausted new parent knows (and it goes without saying that every new parent is exhausted), it takes a full bag of tricks to get more than three consecutive hours of shut-eye from your little bundle of joy. So Ann Treistman—herself the mother of two—compiled 73 simple techniques for sending your infant off to Dreamland. These baby-tested tips will be manna from heaven to sleep-deprived moms and dads.
The perfect gift for new parents!

*If you cannot attend an author event, you are always welcome to pre-order your autographed copy. You can even request an inscription.*




## SUN., AUGUST 19, 5:00 PM
Bestselling Author Anne D. LeClaire

### *The Lavender Hour*

Join the Inkwell in welcoming back bestselling author Anne LeClaire. She is known for her wonderful talks about art, life, and writing. Her newest novel, *The Lavender Hour*, is about a woman who has been downsized from her teaching job. Jessie longs for a sense of renewal and decides to spend a year on Cape Cod, seeking to be cleansed by rushing ocean waters and comforted by the lavender hues of the setting sun. Other novels by Anne are *Entering Normal*, *Leaving Eden*, and *The Law of Bound Hearts*. Complimentary refreshments will be served during Ann's talk, and following a Q&A session, she will sign copies of her books.

## WED., AUGUST 22, 7:00 PM
Bestselling Author Thomas Cathcart

### *Plato and a Platypus Walk Into A Bar*

***Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes***

Not to be missed! This popular bestseller by Tom Cathcart is the feature during an evening of laughs, big ideas, and entertainment. Here's a lively, hilarious, not-so-reverent crash course through the great philosophical traditions, schools, concepts, and thinkers. It's Philosophy 101 for everyone who knows not to take all this heavy stuff too seriously. Tom Cathcart will give a talk and reading. Afterwards, he will answer audience questions and sign copies of his book. Tom Cathcart pursued the usual career path after majoring in philosophy at Harvard. Tom worked with street gangs in Chicago, doctors at Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and dropped in and out of various divinity schools. He lives with his wife on Cape Cod.

# Staff Reviews

## Recommended by CRISTIN

### *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

By J. K. Rowling
Scholastic, $34.95
20% off at Inkwell

"I was fourteen years old when a friend recommended the Harry Potter series to me. She loaned me the first three books, and I read them all in one weekend. It wasn't until book three, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, that I admitted to my adoration of the series. I was so reluctant to jump on the HP bandwagon, but here I am, nearly a decade later, reviewing the final installment of the series...

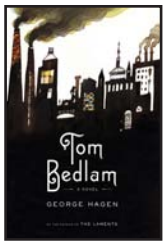
The first chapters of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* seem fairly choppy and unfocused, as though Rowling had too many scenes flitting through her mind. Rowling's style made me wonder whether she felt encumbered by the responsibility of meeting her readership's high expectations. Rowling's fears (assuming that she had any) seemed to be reflected in the plot, as there is a large portion of the book which shows Harry fumbling about, haphazardly making slow progress toward his ultimate goal - in short, feeling unsure of what to do next.

Many peripheral characters make cameo appearances - which I must confess, I wish Rowling had expanded upon a bit more-and vanish as abruptly as they appeared, as though they disappeared into thin air. There are some compelling scenes and interesting introductions to new aspects of the magic that exists in Harry's wizarding world (again, it would have been great if Rowling had lingered here, and shown it to us in more detail.) In short, I wish the book had been packed with more detail.

I vehemently detest spoilers, so I will not write any further on the topic of the last installment of an inexplicable literary phenomenon-the likes of which I doubt I'll ever see again in my lifetime. I must admit, there is something about Harry Potter... perhaps it is the idea of going to Hogwarts that is so appealing. Whatever it is, Harry Potter has obviously provided people with delight, and is an undeniably great source of entertainment.

## Recommended by STEPHEN

### *Tom Bedlam*




By George Hagen
Random House, $25.95

"First, a little mention about the author's debut novel *The Laments*: From the first paragraph, I was hooked on *The Laments.* Page one had me laughing out loud. I read the paragraph to my wife Donna, and soon we were both laughing. The book opens with a baby swapped at birth on the continent of Africa. The novel is not all laughs - there are themes that the characters evolve with: bigotry, family, loss, and the search for identity as they move from one country to another. This book is a must read for anyone who enjoys a well written, intelligent, funny and moving novel. This is my first time saying this - *The Laments* receives my highest recommendation.

George Hagen's new novel *Tom Bedlam* is a journey well worth taking... it is set in Victorian England and like Tom, we too lust, feel loss, and crave lemon tarts. Similar to a Dickens novel, Tom goes from a child laborer to becoming an exclusive prep school student by means of a mysterious family benefactor. After making a pact that will haunt him, he proceeds with his education to become a doctor.

*Tom Bedlam* shows how small deeds in childhood can resonate for a lifetime, and how the bonds of family ultimately prevail against the devastating march of progress and human folly. Most of all, it is a journey with a good friend.

You will want to catch the author's train early and stay with the ride. This is the author's second book, and it will be exciting to see his works as he evolves as a writer."

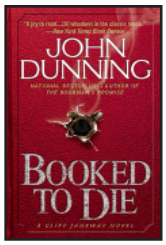
George Hagen is the author of *The Laments,* a *Washington Post* bestseller which won the William Saroyan International Prize for writing Hagen had lived on three continents by the time he was twelve; he now lives in Brooklyn with his wife and three children.

GEORGE HAGEN WILL BE SPEAKING AT THE INKWELL ON SAT., SEPTEMBER 15TH

DON'T MISS THIS FANTASTIC EVENT!

## Recommended by MICHELLE

### *Booked to Die*




By John Dunning
Pocket, $7.99

"Finely drawn characters and good hard-boiled dialogue propels this mystery to the top of the stack. Denver homicide detective, Cliff Janeway, finds himself on the wrong side of the law when his nemesis and all-around bad guy, Jackie Newton, forces Cliff to action in the name of justice. Cliff is an anomaly among his fellow detectives… he collects rare books, and eventually owns his own antiquarian bookshop. The lore about the collectible book trade is fascinating. Dunning, who owned an antiquarian shop, is the perfect tour guide into the realm of the passionate, unscrupulous, and quirky book collectors and dealers. This one will make you wish for a first edition!"

# Book Clubs

### Science Fiction Reading Group

Monday, August 20, 7:00 PM

*Dies the Fire*
By S.M. Stirling
Roc Books, $7.99

Public welcome. The SF Reading Group has been meeting for 8 years, and reads a broad selection of current and classic speculative fiction.

### History Book Group

Thursday, August 23, 7:00 PM

*The Eye in the Door*
By Pat Barker
Plume Press $14.00

This book club is open to all. The first syllabus focuses on World War I. Book club members receive a 10% discount off the current reading selections. Visit www.inkwellbookstore.com to see the complete syllabus of reading selections.

### Mosaic Book Club

Thursday, September 27, 6:00 PM

*Icarus Girl*
By Helen Oyeyemi
Anchor, $14.95

### Classics Book Club

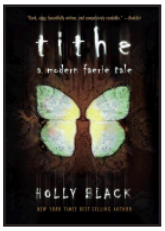
*The Grapes of Wrath*
By John Steinbeck
Anchor, $14.95

September date to be announced.

*"A room without books is like a body without a soul"* — Cicero

# Staff Reviews

Recommended by MOLLY




***Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale***

By Holly Black
Simon Pulse, $ 6.99

"*Tithe* is a drastically modern fairy tale. The book opens with our heroine, Kaye Fierch, wallowing in angst. Kaye channels Holden Caulfield's disconnect with reality, spiced with Sarah Silverman's sass. Although certainly not a classic, Holly Black's ability to weave in and out of reality is astonishing, and leaves you forgetting what parts of Kaye's life are normal and what parts aren't. This book reminds the reader of playing pretend as a child, in addition to the teenage confusion of knowing you don't belong. Although technically a young adult book, this novel will be enjoyed by all ages. *Tithe* is a beach read, a Friday night read, an afternoon tea read -- you won't be able to put it down. And luckily, once you do, Black has yet another modern fairy tale waiting for you, Her second novel in this style, *Valiant*, is just as (if not more) enthralling. All in all, *Tithe* is wonderful -- it'll leave you wishing you had green translucent skin, as well."

# Notes from the Basement

By MICHELLE LEMAY

The title of this column is meaningful to us at the bookstore, but our customers might not feel enlightened. We have a 2,300 plus square foot office/meeting space beneath our store where we hold writing classes, calligraphy workshops, bridge lessons, etc. When we first saw the basement, it didn't look like much - it had bare walls, and was filled with broken light fixtures and lots of dirt. Yet, we saw the hidden potential in the cavernous space. We've since shown the room off to other bookstore owners, and they always gasp in awe (and we suspect jealousy.) You see, most bookstores are extremely cramped - their office desk doubles as the table where the employees eat their lunches, and there isn't even room to hold a meeting without being interrupted. In addition to having a community meeting space, our staff can enjoy their breaks in peace, and the owners and assistant manager each have their own desks. That might not seem like a luxury to most business people, but trust me, it brings us great joy. The basement is the root of our business, the tangible representation of our mission statement. This modest room offers respect for our employees, a clean and organized space from which to grow our business, and a place for our community to learn, make friends, and be entertained.

THURSDAY, AUG. 30, 6:30 PM
Bestselling Author Gwendolen Gross

***The Other Mother***

Author talk, wine & cheese, Q&A, book signing. Join the Inkwell in welcoming bestselling author Gwendolen Gross. In her new compelling novel about family, work, and the constant push and pull of contemporary womanhood, Gross, author of *Getting Out* and *Field Guide,* creates a stunning, dark, and suspenseful novel that is as brave as it is shocking.
Amanda is a successful book editor at a prominent publishing house in New York City. Thea is a stay-at-home mother of three who has never really left the community in which she grew up. The two women find themselves both drawn to and repelled by each other and their opposing choices in the constant struggle to balance career and family life. When a disaster forces Amanda and her family to take refuge in Thea's home, the underlying tensions simmering between them are forced to the surface.
"A suspenseful and compulsively readable domestic drama that's anything but ordinary. Smart and timely." -- Harlan Coben

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4, 6:00 PM
WRITING GAMES NIGHT
with Jamie Cat Callan
creator of

***The Writer's Toolbox***

Come join Jamie and learn how to write stories, poems, essays, and plays using the right side of your brain. Jamie will talk about her writing kit and show you how to use improvisational technique to have fun with writing. Say goodbye to writers block and hello to your creative self!

# The World Outside Your Door

*A monthly review column focusing on diversity in literature.*

By CHARLOTTE McCANE

***Ralph Ellison: A Biography***

By Arnold Rampersad,
Knopf Publishing Group
$35.00

*"Ralph Ellison: A Biography* is the story of the rise of one of the most elusive African-American writers out of desperate poverty and virulent racism to reign as one of the most sought after intellectuals in America.

Rampersad has written a meticulously detailed biography of Ellison and his universe as a result of Rampersad's unrestricted access to Ellison's papers at the Library of Congress, his literary executor, and his late widow.

The narrator in Ellison's *Invisible Man* (winner of the 1953 National Book award) states in the prologue, "I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me." The character is a complex African-American man whom the world refuses to see as a full human being. In the epilogue, he questions why the invisible man is never more hated than when he is honest, and never more loved than when he says what people want to hear.

I strongly recommend that one must read Rampersad's richly detailed portrait to comprehend the burden and measure of Ellison's brilliance in his novel *Invisible Man*."

BACKGAMMON CLUB
WEDNESDAYS, AUGUST 15, 22, 29
7:00 - 8:30 PM

CALLIGRAPHY CLUB
WEDNESDAYS, AUGUST 15, 29
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
*Anyone is welcome at both clubs!*

*If you cannot attend an author event, you are always welcome to pre-order your autographed copy.*

*You can even request an inscription.*

# rambLings from the Book Nook

## *"What a Character"*

By CRISTIN CALI

As I watched in amazement on Friday night, Harry Potter fans of all ages, backgrounds, tastes and styles united in celebration of one phenomenal hero. The Harry Potter celebration prompted me to realize that it is often the presence of an exceptional main character (and strong supporting characters) that makes readers rejoice in the reading experience.

I've interviewed many members of the staff, asking them what they value in a main character. Kathleen said that she enjoys a character who has a slightly "sick" side. She prefers to read about someone unusual, who possesses a keen sense of humor. Kay also values a witty protagonist, and likes her antagonists to be very devious and clever.

Charlotte believes that a good protagonist possesses honesty, integrity, sincerity, fair-mindedness, compassion, tolerance and open-mindedness-someone who is beyond reproach. As far as bad guys are concerned, Charlotte prefers someone who isn't too transparent or obviously bad. A bad guy whose villainy is a genuine surprise-now *that* makes for an authentic, chilling antihero!

When I asked Steve about the character traits he values, he listed intelligence as an essential trait. He also very much appreciates a character with a quick wit and a penchant for music. Two of his favorite heroes are Sherlock Holmes, and Ali from Patry Francis' thriller, *The Liar's Diary*. Michelle similarly values intelligence above all other traits, and is particularly interested in characters who are considered outsiders, or "black sheep."

Personally, I value a main character who has dealt with loss and experienced grief, yet manages to carry the weight of such burdens with grace and dignity. I find intelligent, slightly cynical, wry and terribly clever male characters extremely attractive. One literary character who seems to embody the majority of these traits is Mr. Rochester, of *Jane Eyre* fame. Mr. Rochester is my ideal, and were he to emerge from the pages and meet me in the flesh, I would die a very happy woman.

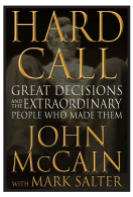
My favorite female characters are always brilliant, and are often armed with an extraordinary quip that will playfully put any adversary in his or her place. Princess Cimorene of the *Enchanted Forest Chronicles*, Faris Nallaneen of *A College of Magics,* and the famous Elizabeth Bennet of Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice* are an inexhaustible source of entertainment and inspiration. Every time I read of their adventures, I revel in their independence, strength, resourcefulness and charm.

Although fictional characters are born from an author's imagination-often displaying exaggerated traits otherwise diluted among the common man or woman-there is the possibility that each magnificent character has been inspired by an amalgamation of real people. If you were to create a fictional character, whose personality traits would you draw from? Who are the great characters (in fiction and reality) that have enriched your life? Do you share some of your own finest traits with your favorite characters? Do you share their flaws or weaknesses as well? Have fun thinking of your favorite characters!

# NEW RELEASES

## Week of AUGUST 13

### *Hard Call*

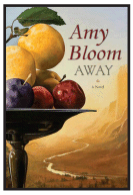



By John McCain
Twelve, $25.99

At some point in our lives, we all face tough decisions and have to make that hard call. In this remarkable book, Senator McCain and Mark Salter use experiences of both extraordinary people and people in extraordinary circumstances to dramatically describe the anatomy of a great decision.

## Week of AUGUST 20

### *Away*

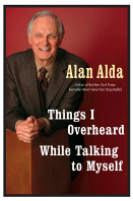



By Amy Bloom
Random House, $23.95

In this brilliant new novel, which is at once heartbreaking, romantic, and completely unforgettable, Bloom pens the epic and intimate story of young Lillian Leyb, who after her family is destroyed in a Russian pogrom comes to America alone, determined to make her way in a new land.

## Week of SEPTEMBER 3

### *Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself*




By Alan Alda
Random House, $24.95

On the heels of his acclaimed memoir, *Never Have Your Dog Stuffed*, beloved actor and best-selling author Alan Alda amuses and moves us with his unique and hilarious meditations on questions great and small.

The QUILL Newsletter

*The Inkwell Bookstore*
*199 Main Street*
*Falmouth Village, Massachusetts*
*02540*

TO:

## FRI., AUGUST 10, 7-9:00 PM

Musician Gary Girouard

## *Naked Piano Night*

Enjoy live piano music by Gary Girouard while browsing books. His original compositions offer a captivating view of the timeless nature of the piano.

The piano on the Naked Piano CD is a Steinway "D" - a 9' concert grand piano that is recognized by many as the standard by which all other pianos are compared. The albums were recorded live in historic Steinert Hall - located in downtown Boston. The resonant acoustics and crumbling plaster provide the perfect backdrop and enviornment for The Naked Piano recordings: Naked Piano Volume I and Naked Piano Volume II. A portion of each CD sale is donated to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, in Ashford, Connecticut that provides camp experience for children with cancer and blood disorders.

*Gary will also be performing in the Whispering Solo Piano Benefit Concert, Saturday, Sept. 1.*

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## HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN CLUB

FRI., AUGUST 17 7:00 - 8:30 PM

At the next meeting the discussion will be the "Hungarian legends, lore and historical myths." Participants are asked to bring samples of their favorite Hungarian recipes to share with the members. The club's goal is to keep alive the Hungarian heritage, and to bring together Hungarians and any who are interested in the country's history, people, and customs. Various programs, guest speakers and dinners are planned. Please email: hungarianclub@comcast.net or call 508-540-4839.

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## INDEPENDENT WRITERS' CLUB

SAT., AUGUST 18,
SAT., SEPTEMBER 15
1:00 to 3:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 15 KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

ROBERT MURRAY
*Executive Director, for the Falmouth Housing Authority*

JUDITH MURRAY
*Falmouth Housing Corporation*

The Independent Writer's Club is for active writers to read their work, share experience or just meet with people of the same interest. Beginners as well as established authors are welcome. Occasionally prominent writers, editors, publishers and agents are invited as guest speakers. Meets year round on the first and third Saturday of the month. Call 508-540-4839 or email Madeleine Felker at: madeleinefelker@comcast.net.

## AUGUST 1- SEPTEMBER 4

ART SCENE AT THE INKWELL

## FEATURED ARTIST CAPE COD PAINTER DIANA LEE

Diana Lee is a longtime resident of Cape Cod. She spent her childhood summers at her family's cottage in North Falmouth and has lived the majority of her adult life in East Falmouth. Her landscape and seascape paintings have evolved from her love of the ocean and beach. In 1978, after completing four years of studio art, Diana received a diploma from The School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Her mentors, Bill Flynn and Jack Clift, were strong influences in her development as an artist. Both teachers helped in refining her artistic abilities and philosophy through graphics and drawing. She found a freedom and confidence in drawing that gave her the knowledge and skill to work flexibly with a variety of formats including the figure and still life. Diana also pursued the disciplines of sculpture and painting at the Museum School, with painting remaining as her primary interest and career.

Diana enjoys using bright bold colors in her compositions and responds to her subject matter by what she sees and feels. She uses the brush stroke and palette knife to show movement and action in her painting and to evoke emotion. She works in oils, acrylics and pastels. Diana has received numerous awards including being selected as an emerging artist by Cape Cod Life magazine. She also was included in an article in the Cape Women Magazine. She has taught classes and workshops at both the Falmouth Artist Guild and the Cape Cod Art Association.

## MEET THE ARTISTS

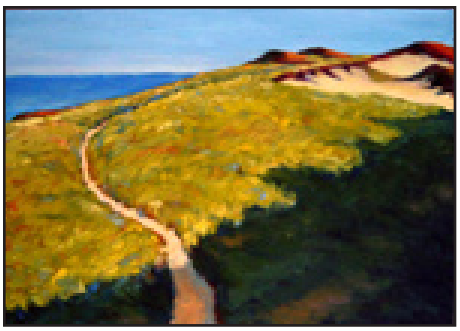
FRI., AUGUST 17, 6-8:00 PM

DIANA LEE
MARGIE COLLIS

Wine and cheese reception
public welcome.

"I enjoy two worlds of artistic expression. First, as a teacher, I like guiding students to develop artistically. It gives me satisfaction that I am helping people who are interested in learning to paint and am rewarded with a sense of purpose and meaning. Teaching is a good balance of interaction in my community which also enhances my life as a working artist.

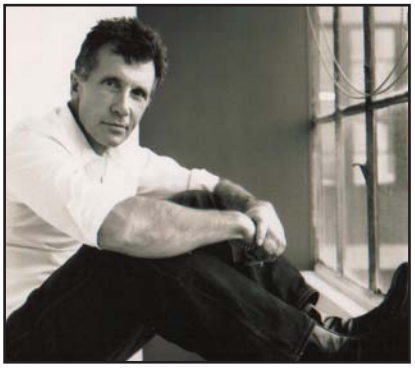
My other world of art and creativity is being a landscape and still life painter. I am happiest and in harmony with the world around me when I am painting. Using bright, rich colors in my landscape and still life compositions I enjoy painting boldly. Working in various medias including oils, pastels and acrylics I respond to my subject matter by what I feel intuitively and see emotionally. I enjoy plein air painting and being close to nature. In inclement or cold weather, I paint in my studio working from still lifes, sketches and photographs. I begin by breaking down nature into flat abstract forms and then build the composition with color, brush stroke and sometimes palette knife. Painting is a way of life for me and it defines who I am." — Diana Lee

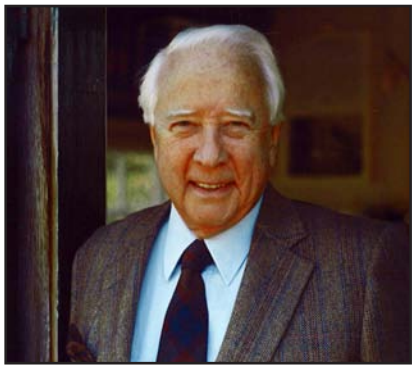
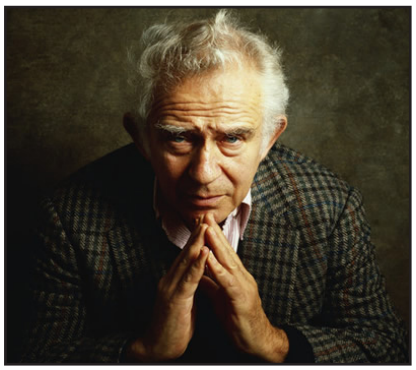


# *Cape & Islands Author PHOTOQUIZ*

*Here are eleven Cape and Islands authors who are nominated for the 2007 Cape and Islands Inkwell Award.*

*Identify each nominee. Score ten for every correct identification. A score of 60 is passing; 70 is good; 80 or more is excellent.*



*The nominees are:*

*Michael Cunningham,*
*David McCullough*
*Patry Francis,*
*Nathaniel Philbrick,*
*Wendy Williams,*
*Philip R. Craig*
*Peter Abrahams,*
*William Martin,*
*Cynthia Riggs,*
*Norman Mailer*
*Amanda Eyre Ward*