



# George Wallace Collection, 1999 -

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George Wallace Collection, 1999 –  
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George Wallace, Suffolk County's First Poet Laureate, is an award winning poet and journalist from New York who has performed his work across America and in the great cities of Europe. He is co-host of PoetryBrook, a SUNY Stony Brook poetry radio show which is streamed live on the worldwide web at [www.wusb.org](http://www.wusb.org) Thursdays at 6 p.m. In 2000, he founded Poetrybay, a prestigious online poetry publication which was selected in 2004 by Stanford U. for archiving and distribution through the world-wide LOCKSS program.

Creator of the four-city Big Sur Marathon in 2001 (see *Offbeat*, David Amram, Thunders Mouth Press, 02, pp 236-244), and the Nesenkeag Benefit, he has been invited to read his work for such events and venues as the Norfolk Poetry Festival, Norwich, International Poetry Festival, London; Ways With Words, Lake District (UK); Shakespeare & Co, Paris (FR); and Biblioteca Civica, Parma, Odradek, Rome, Centro Trevi, Bolzano (IT).

Radio appearances have included segments on WNYE, WBAI, WPLJ, in NYC; BBC-2 Cumbria and Suffolk, UK; Radio Bolzano, Bolzano, Italy; KPFA, Oakland Ca; World Underground Radio, Louisville Ky; and KHSU, Humboldt, Ca. In 2003-04 he toured the UK, Italy and the East and West coasts of the United States, as well as continuing his rigorous performance schedule in the Metropolitan New York area at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Algonquin Club, Sidewalk Cafe, C-Note Cornelia Street Cafe and Bowery Poetry Club.

While influenced by a number of aesthetics, Wallace's poetry frequently constitutes a departure from conventional academic poetry of the late 20th century, amalgamating directions suggested by French Surrealism and American Beat Prosody, emphasizing invention and the imagination as the wellspring for narrative.

Contemporary writers who have studied with Wallace in workshops have called his innovative methods for triggering the creative writing process "absolutely mind-boggling." His writing has been praised as being "penetratingly direct" (Hugh Fox), "a miracle of conjugation between apparently irreconcilable parts" (Paolo Ruffilli), "Blakeian" (John Hall) and "quite simply beautiful" (Neeli Cherkovski). His performance approach has been called "spellbinding" (David Amram) and "reminiscent of e.e. cummings' reading voice - the best I know of" (Mary de Rachewiltz).

Others comment: "(He is) my patron saint of contemporary mystic realism," Gareth Higgins, Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin. "Poetry that truly brings Surrealism into an American context and makes it work," Dennis Pahl, LIU-CW Post. "Something of Whitman has snuck into Wallace - that same marrowy vigour, the uninhibited reach, that headlong urgency riding the surf-crest of its own abundance - except that, with Wallace, his narrative shirt-buttons are all undone," Mario Petrucci.

Early chapbooks include *Tie Back the Roses* (Explicitly Graphic, UK, 86); *The Milking Jug* (Cross Cultural Communications, US, 88); *Tales of a Yuppie Dropout* (Writers Ink, US, 93); *Butterflies and Other Tattoos* (Bootleg Press, US, 93); *The Poems of Augie Prime* (Writers Ink, US 99). In '01 his poetry was published in booklet form for the State of California 150th anniversary programming. In '02 an e-book, *For Immediate Release*, was published by Sniffy Linings. 2003 saw the release of *Swimming Through Water*, a 448-page bilingual book length collection of his work, in English and translated into Italian by Anny Ballardini. Also released from Pudding House Press in 2003 was "Greatest Hits," a small sampling of Wallace's most popular poems.

In 2004 three chapbooks were released: in Italy, a new bi-lingual volume, entitled *Fifty Love Poems* (La Finestra Editrice, tr. under supervision of Flaminio di Biaggi); in England, *Burn My Heart In Wet Sand* (Troubador Books); and in the US, *Without Benefit of Men* (Chlemskyia Zhurnal).

Winner of the CW Post Poetry Prize Wallace, who is listed by Poets & Writers, has served as a member of the board of directors of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association, Taproots, TeenSpeak, Long Island Poetry Collective and CityArts; and has been a poetry and art critic for Academic Library Book Review, Northport Journal, Opera News, Art Times, West Hills Review, LI Parents & Children, Huntington's Cultural Legacy, Long Island Forum, Portfolio Magazine, LitKicks, Transference, Drunken Boat, Milk Magazine NYCBigCityLit, Improper Hamptonian, IncWriters, and Newsday.

He is a primary force behind numerous poetry journals, anthologies, reading series, radio and television poetry programs (see NYT, LI Section, 8/18/02, pg 12). They include *Walt's Corner*, in *Walt Whitman's The Long-Islander*; *Long Island Quarterly*; *Poetry Barn*; the *Long Island Poetry Reading Room*, the *Long Island Poet's Walk*; *Long Island Poetry Repertory Theatre*; and *In Autumn: An Anthology of Long Island Poets*. In 1998 he co-edited *Dumb Beautiful Ministers* with Bill Heyen.

Wallace maintains a national speaking schedule from a base in NYC, with appearances at such locations as *Poets On The Vine*, Aquebogue, NY; *Kerouac Festival*, Lowell Ma; *Westhampton Writers Festival*; *International Festival of Poetry*, Paterson, NJ; *Emily Dickinson Reading*, NYC; *Iliad Marathon Reading*, NYC; *Interurban*, Norman Ok, *Insomniacathon*, Louisville Ky; the *Hofstra Cultural Center*; *Stony Brook University Special Collections*; *North Hollywood Valley Poets*; *Eclectic Gallery*, Battle Creek Mi.; *Hannah Kahn Poetry Foundation*, Coral Gables, Fla; *Native Sons of the Golden West*, Oroville Ca.

Wallace has dialogued with numerous individuals in the world of underground Bohemian literature, from Alan Ginsberg and Janine Pommy Vega and Charles Plymell to Carolyn Cassady and Elaine Kaufman. His conversations and interviews with major figures in contemporary literature and the arts - William Stafford, Samuel Menashe, Robert Bly, Sharon Olds, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Adrienne Rich, Paul Muldoon, Mary de Rachelwitz, David Ignatow, Budd Schulberg, Robert Creeley, Diane Wakoski, Kurt Vonnegut, Marvin Bell, Peter Max - have appeared widely. Dozens of publications have

used his poetry - including New York Times, Newsday, About.com, GSU Review, Modern Maturity, Cafe Review, Long Shot, Milk Magazine, Confrontation, South Florida Poetry Review, Runes, Cold Mountain Review, and Central California Poetry Journal.

His concert dates have included appearances with composer Leonard Lehrman, jazz composer David Amram - with whom he has collaborated on three CDs - and musicians such as Levon Helm, Paul Winston, Joe Mannix, John Sinclair and Thurston Moore.

An author whose work has been translated into French, Spanish, Italian, German, Korean, Bengali, Russian and Macedonian, he has also served as a translator - including works of Roque Dalton and Arturo Onofri. His work is in the collections of the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, the California State Archives and the William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library.

(Source: Poetry Bay website at <http://www.poetrybay.com/editorial.htm>)

The George Wallace Collection is comprised of six typescript poetry journals containing works written from November 1999 through December 2005, and a typescript novel published in October 2001. The poetry journals, which contain works on a variety of subjects, are arranged chronologically by the month in which each was written. David Amram, author and composer, described the lone novel in the collection, *Down Dream Road*, as a “great personal adventure story and a picture of life’s journey.”

George Wallace Collection, 1999 -  
Box and Folder Listing

**Box 1**  
**Folder**

**Description**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Poetry journal (typescript), <i>Sahara</i> , Nov. 1999-Dec. 2000                            |
| 2 | Poetry journal (typescript), <i>The Warehouse That Ate Everything</i> , Jan. 2001-Dec. 2001 |
| 3 | Poetry journal (typescript), <i>Swimming Through Water</i> , Jan. 2002-Dec. 2002            |
| 4 | Poetry journal (typescript), <i>La Vraie Nature D' Amour</i> , Jan. 2003-Oct. 2003          |
| 5 | Poetry journal (typescript), <i>Burn My Heart</i> , Nov. 2003-Dec. 2004                     |
| 6 | Poetry journal – (typescript), <i>The Ones We Don't Forget</i> , Jan. 2005-Dec. 2005        |
| 7 | Novel (typescript), <i>Down Dream Road</i> , Oct. 2001                                      |

*See also:*

*Without Benefit of Men* - PS3573.A42567 W57 2004

*When I Was Dead* – PS3573.A42567 W583 2006

*Tie Back the Roses* – PS3573.A42567T65 1986

*Tales of a Yuppie Drop-Out* – PS3573.A42567 T351992

*Swimming Through Water* [*Nuotando Attraverso L'acqua*] – PS3573.A42567 S85 2002

*A Sesquicentennial Suite* – PS3573.A42567S48 2000

*The Poems of Augie Prime* – PS3573.A42567 P65 1999

*The Milking Jug* – PS548.N7 L68 / PS3573.A42567M5 1989

*Greatest Hits, 1988-2002* – PS3573.A42567 G84 2003

*Burn My Heart in Wet Sand* – PS3573.A42567 B78 2004

*After the Fall* – PS3573.A42567 A57 2005

*50 Poesie D'Amore* – PS3573.A42567 F45 2004

*In Autumn: An Anthology of Long Island Poetry* - PS548.N7 I6 1994

*Butterflies and Other Tattoos: Poems by Frederica* – PS3556.R373 B77 1993