

# Our Distinguished Judges

## The New Letters Awards for Writers

*New Letters* has been honored again, in this 23rd year of the Literary Awards series, by the service of final judges who are



prize-winning authors, gifted teachers, and astute critics. Poetry judge Mary Jo Salter is the author of six poetry collections, including *A Phone Call to the Future: New and Selected Poems* (2008), and *Open Shutters*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the

Year; she has coedited recent editions of *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. She is Emily Dickinson Senior Lecturer at Mount Holyoke College and lives in Amherst, Mass.

Fiction judge Rishi Reddi is the author of *Karma and Other*



*Stories*, and her work has been included in *The Best American Short Stories* series. Born in Hyderabad, India, and raised in Great Britain and the United States, she also is an environmental attorney for the state of Massachusetts.

Gerald Early, our essay judge, is the author of *One Nation Under a Groove: Motown and American Culture*, and *The Culture of Bruising: Essays on Prizefighting, Literature and Modern American Culture*, winner of a National Book Critics Circle Award



for criticism. He also was a consultant on Ken Burns' documentary films on baseball and on jazz. He is Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters and director of The Center for the Humanities at Washington University in St. Louis.

All Awards entries first received thorough and anonymous appraisal by our preliminary judges, themselves widely published writers. Our goal is to discover and promote great writing, and we receive entries from established writers along with new and under-recognized writers. Often, the new writers emerge, and we take a special delight in that.