

## Byram poet, teacher discusses new anthology

BY DIANA TUORTO.

**BYRAM** - Sander Zulauf is a poet and editor of The Journal of New Jersey Poets, an annual magazine featuring dozens of local poets and book reviews. He is also the first Poet Laureate of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. Zulauf teaches English and creative writing at the County College of Morris in Randolph. He has published two poetry collections; *Succasunna, New Jersey* and *Living Waters*, a chapbook which has raised more than \$1,500 for St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Succasunna. Zulauf also compiled the first ten volumes of *The Index of American Periodical Verse*.

DT: When did you first begin writing poetry? What inspired you?

SZ: I began writing poetry in high school. I think most people get serious about writing poetry at that age since idealism is closely related to adolescence. There was a sense of excitement and wonder of discovering my unique place in the world. Later on, I was particularly inspired by James Wright; his poem "A Blessing" made a major impression on me.

DT: What projects are you currently working on?

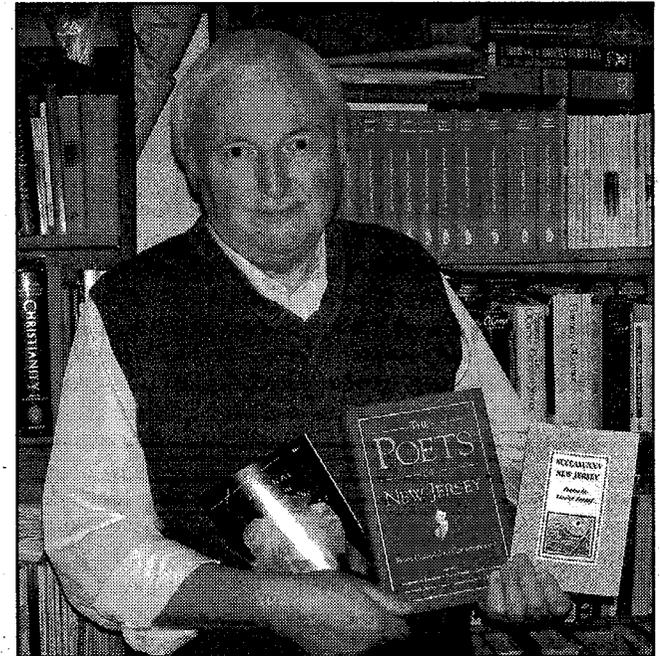
SZ: I'm working on a poetry collection entitled *Where Time Goes*, which is scheduled for publication by Dryad Press in 2008. I also recently gave a talk on "The Late Poems of Kenneth Burke," who was a poet and philosopher of language and lived in Byram. He is known all over the world as "the greatest rhetorician since Cicero."

DT: You were recently involved with the release of an anthology of New Jersey poets. Please tell our readers about this volume.

SZ: *The Poets of New Jersey: From Colonial to Contemporary* was published in December 2005 by Jersey Shore Publications. I was one of three poets who edited the anthology, which features the work of 65 poets. It includes historic poets such as Philip Freneau, Walt Whitman and Kenneth Burke, along with modern notables like Amiri Baraka, Allen Ginsberg, Joyce Carol Oates, and contemporary NJ Pulitzer Prize poets Yusef Komunyakaa, Paul Muldoon, C.K. Williams and Stephen Dunn. Sussex County College recently held a great reading for the book featuring five of the poets included in the anthology.

DT: What do you enjoy most about teaching? What do you hope to leave your students with?

SZ: I've been teaching in New Jersey since 1968 and I love my career. It's been the greatest profession that I could imagine. Being a professor, you never know what influence you are having on your students. At CCM, I've taught students of all ages and hope I've made a difference. The biggest reward is when I see former students become successful teachers, novelists or poets. It's always rewarding teaching people how to write, especially when many of them don't believe they will ever excel at it. I even had one student dedicate her first novel to me. That was a wonderful gift—and it's a very good novel!



DT: Are there any other major goals you'd like to accomplish in the future?

SZ: In January, I'll be participating in the Association of Writers and Writing Programs' annual conference in New York City, and I'm also inviting one of our foremost poets to read at the County College of Morris next April during National Poetry Month.

Above all, my focus is not only on poetry, but on being there for my wife, children and now grandchildren and sharing their important moments. They inspire me and keep me going.