

Seattle City Council

Culture, Civil Rights, Health, and Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 2:00 PM, July 9th, 2008

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **John Burgess**

Today's poet is **Suzanne E. Edison**

Suzanne E. Edison was recently awarded two grants, one from 4Cutlure and one from the City Artists program, to complete a chapbook of poems on living with a child with a chronic illness. This year, the Bellingham Repertory Dancers chose her poems for new choreography. Her work has appeared in *Drash: Northwest Mosaic 2008*; *Cascade*, The Washington Poets Association anthology; *Face to Face: Women Writers on Faith, Mysticism and Awakening*; *Poetry on Buses 2004*; and journals both in print and online. She lives with her husband and daughter in Seattle.

Tolling

By Suzanne E. Edison

Each corporal, private
first class, lieutenant, in lieu
of faces: Silvo, Zawaydeh,

I collect their names.
Clippings bulge
the bowl of the dead,
will not settle

after five years
at war in a country
whose sand I've never tasted.

Names roll in my mouth:
Mosul, Baquba, Kirkuk,
the hot spots

on Google Earth, light up—flagging

points of interest.
Does anyone

collect the missing
limbs, name them keepsakes,
pack them on ice,

or set them adrift
tethered
to promises of change,

small flames floating
in oil ?

Slaking Fear

By Suzanne E. Edison

The sky will not judge
you wanting—a cracked icicle
dripping—the sweet grass
will not gossip your out of tune,
cricket song-longings or knotted
fears. Spit your sour kernels
into furrows, fractured soil,
in autumn they return—grapes,
sugar from split skins.

-- *end* --