

Seattle City Council

Culture, Civil Rights, Health and Personnel Committee Meeting

2:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 10th, 2008

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **John Burgess**

Today's poet is **Carol Levin**

Carol Levin's chapbook, *Sea Lions Sing Scat*, was released by Finishing Line Press in 2007 and another, *Red Rooms and Others*, is due to appear soon from Pecan Grove Press. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in the New York Quarterly, Gander Press Review, The Massachusetts Review and The Seattle Review. Her poems were set as a choral work by Seattle composer Carol Sams and have been performed by various choirs. Carol collaborated in translating Anton Chekhov's four major plays, now being offered in a manuscript "The Three Sisters and Three More, Plays by Anton Chekhov," they also wrote a dictionary of Stanislavski terms for theater artists. She is a winner of The Late Blooms Postcard Series, The Seattle Times "Winter" award, and is an editorial assistant for the Crab Creek Review. She teaches the Alexander Technique in Seattle.

Baritone At The Mariners

by Carol Levin

Everybody stood. Some
covered their heart with a hand,
doffed their hat and expected
nothing out of the ordinary.

The microphone was placed
on a tripod at home plate.
With his shirt tucked M. Smith
stepped up over
the groomed field grass.

The crowd could have been a three tiered ring
of choristers courteously

waiting for the upbeat but

they were holding hot dogs with sweet relish
in buns, caramel-corn, pink and green
cotton-candy spun on sticks and bulky cups of cold beer.

The baritone--
“Oh-O say-can-you-see”,
slowed everybody down, began
to lubricate the crowd. Smith
took his time.

A great energy exchange amplified
the air. M. Smith made love
with his song, caressed the bleachers,
the players, the umps, security guards
and me. Turned the U.S.A’s battle song
anthem bravely into a love song
tribute, like sliding home on honey.

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