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Please return this form with your membership contribution to: **GUSTAVUS LIBRARY ASSOCIATES**  
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## 'Brother Act': Enger Brothers Share Podium at Author Day

by Mim Kagol, Author Day Committee co-chair

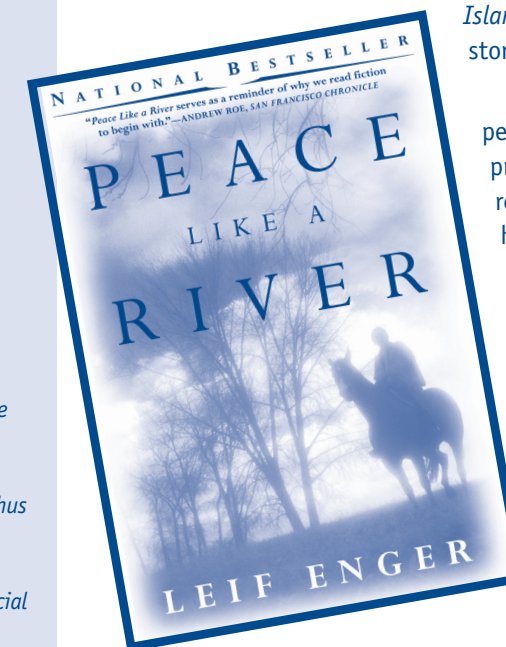


Lin



Leif

The way brothers Lin and Leif Enger describe their upbringing, it is no surprise they learned to love language and writing. The two, who are GLA's featured guests at its Fall Author Day (Wednesday, Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m., at the Edina Country Club), grew up in Osakis, Minn., the younger two of four children, and very close despite being five years apart in age. Their father was a high school band director and their mother an elementary schoolteacher. As well as reveling in the outdoors, playing imaginative games, and roughhousing together, they developed an early love of books and stories. No doubt this love was fostered by a stash of Junior Library editions with tales of cowboys, Indians, and pioneers; by their mother's reading aloud to them from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*; and by their father's natural gift for entertaining storytelling.



In the 1990s, the brothers wrote together under the pen name L.L. Enger on a series of novels about a former professional baseball player, Gun Pederson—a widowed, reclusive tough guy who kept getting called out of his ice-fishing shack to play the role of detective and crime-solver. While not lucrative, the collaboration was great fun for both and taught them a great deal about each other's styles as well as the art and craft of novel-writing.

Eventually, they abandoned that brother act and struck out on their own. Leif hit the big time in 2001 with his million-copy seller, *Peace like a River*, a story told through the eyes of Reuben Land, an 11-year-old asthmatic boy who believes, with good reason, in miracles. He, his sister, and his father set out on a cross-country search for his older brother, who has been charged with murder and is running from the law. It's a beautiful tale of family, love, faith, and miracles that author Frank McCourt describes as ". . . prose tart and crisp as a Minnesota autumn, . . . seductive and deliciously American, [with] passages so wondrous and wise you'll want to claw yourself with pleasure."

This newsletter is published three times during the academic year by the Office of Marketing and Communication, Gustavus Adolphus College, under the supervision of Dean Wahlund, director of communication services and special events and executive director of GLA. For further information about Gustavus Library Associates membership and activities, contact Wahlund or Dana Lamb at 507-933-7550 or e-mail [marketing@gustavus.edu](mailto:marketing@gustavus.edu).

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## From Your President...

Our summers hold a time to relax, travel, plus explore new and different experiences. I hope everyone has enjoyed their break from routine, whether it was enjoying a backyard picnic, hiking or biking, visiting a museum, taking a vacation, reading a new book, swimming in the lake, or being captivated by the summer Olympics.

The Olympics is a special event that truly brings people from all over the world together as they compete in numerous sports, all following their shared dreams of gold. This year's theme slogan of "One World One Dream" fully reflects the essence and the universal values of the Olympic spirit—Unity, Friendship, Progress, Harmony, Participation, and Dream. It expresses the common wishes of people all over the world, inspired by the Olympic ideals, to strive for a bright future of Mankind" (excerpted from The official website of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games).

Fall is our time to start refreshed with Olympic values that can be carried with us everywhere, and I would like to apply them to Gustavus Library Associates.

Look at what we have accomplished by being a united front through our support of the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. The students of Gustavus have access to numerous book collections as well as the technology for research. Phi Beta Kappa, Eta of Minnesota, celebrated its silver anniversary on April 7, 2008. Gustavus Library Associates was formed around the concern for adequate library holdings as well the endowment level necessary for the successful application for a new chapter of this highly distinguished society.

GLA is also about people, and one of my personal goals was to develop existing and new friendships within our community. Please join me on Monday, September 22, 2008, for our Membership Tea, hosted by new Gustavus Adolphus College president Jack Ohle and his wife, Kris. How kind of them to open their home after just getting unpacked and settled, so let's greet them with a big "GLA" welcome to Gustavus!

We have made much progress since our inception, and a new Gustavus Library Associates brochure, mailed in July, tells the "Who, What, Where, Why, and How" of GLA. As listed, we do what we do for "joy and satisfaction as [we] support young men and women who are being prepared for lives of leadership and service." Help us connect with other alumni, parents, and friends by letting us know of anyone who would be interested in GLA, so we can send them the promotional information.

Our friend- and fund-raising events take lots and lots of hard work and harmony, so "Thank You" to all of the members, volunteers, Board of Directors, and staff of Gustavus who support Gustavus Library Associates. You are truly great friends of Gustavus.

I remind you that a new directory will be prepared this fall, so be sure you are current with your membership renewal form. Your participation is greatly appreciated as we invest in Gustavus students. We welcome all who care about young people, libraries, education, and Gustavus Adolphus College to join and get involved with our various events including the Festival of St. Lucia, Author Days, Easter Bunny Breakfast, and our biennial gala benefit, A Royal Affair.

This past month the Olympics were watched across the world and dreams were fulfilled. We proudly watched our athletes compete and do their best, and you too have done your best in supporting Gustavus Library Associates. Let's dream of our bright future with excitement as GLA continues to make good things happen!

*Deb Johnson*

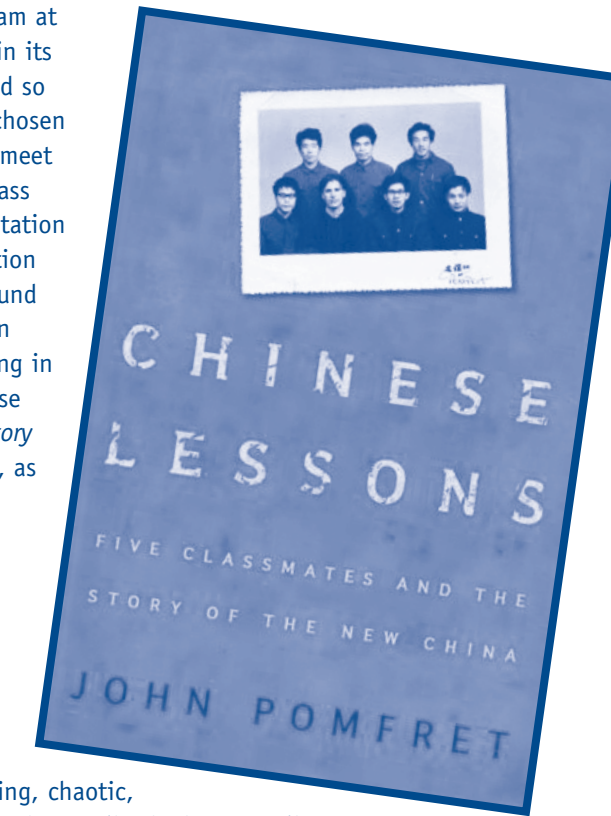
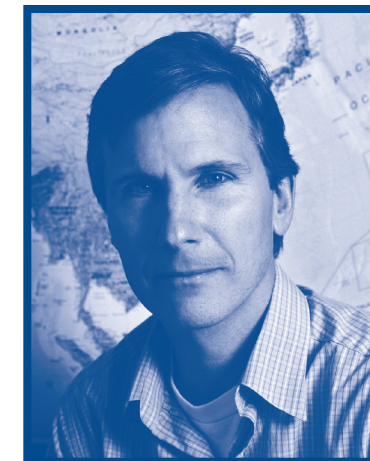
Deb Dankers Johnson '80  
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## 'Reading in Common' Selection Focuses on China

The Reading in Common program at Gustavus Adolphus College is now in its ninth year. The program is designed so that all first-year students read a chosen book during the summer and then meet with faculty members and upper-class students during New Student Orientation to discuss it. New Student Orientation is also loosely based each year around the themes found in the Reading in Common book. This year the Reading in Common committee selected Chinese Lessons: Five Classmates and the Story of the New China, by John Pomfret, as its featured book.

Pomfret is an award-winning journalist who lived and worked in China off-and-on for a decade. His first sojourn in China came as an American exchange student at Nanjing University in 1981, near the outset of China's limited reopening to the West and its halting, chaotic, and momentous conversion from Maoist totalitarianism to police state capitalism and status as world economic giant. Over the next two decades, Pomfret returned twice as a professional journalist and, as an Associated Press reporter, was an eyewitness to the events at Tiananmen Square in 1989. He served as Beijing bureau chief for the *Washington Post* from 1998 to 2003.

Pomfret's enthusiasm and personal access make his book an engaging examination of three tumultuous decades, rooted in the stories of classmates whose remarkable grit and harrowing experiences neatly epitomize the sexual and cultural transformations, and the economic ups and downs, of China since the 1960s. The author visited the Gustavus campus on Sept. 15 to lecture on the themes of his book.



In addition to being integrated into New Student Orientation, Pomfret's book also dovetails with the College's new, campuswide themed learning program, "Gustavus Global Insight," and his visit became the opening event for that program. Gustavus Global Insight has been developed to allow Gustavus students, faculty, and staff to focus on one country, region, or global issue during the academic year. This year's focus is China. ■

## The Children's Hour

by Elaine Brostrom

Reading to children—one of life's delightful chores! Not to be missed is the fun of laughing with a child over the antics of Winnie the Pooh and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood.

In future issues of *Ex Libris* we hope to remind you of classics to be enjoyed with your young friends. We also plan to browse the Book Mark at Gustavus and, with the help of Judy Schultz, book-buyer for the Book Mark, bring you suggestions of new books written for children.

If you're traveling in other countries, don't forget to visit a book store and ask them who their country's Dr. Seuss is. In a bookstore in Birmingham, England, for instance, I bought for my grandchildren *Budgie, the Little Helicopter*, written by (at that time) H.R.H. Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson. But their absolute favorite was a book I bought in Australia, *I'll Take You to Mrs. Cole*, a cautionary tale in a new setting with different idioms, but the common message, "Behave yourself—or else!" with a lovely, cuddly ending.

Watch for the Children's Hour in upcoming issues of *Ex Libris*!



## Construction Zone

The staff of Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library is completing the conversion of some office spaces to student areas. In particular, the well-lit space where the interlibrary loan office has been will be converted to an open reserves/reading area. Interlibrary loan services will move behind the circulation desk for a more seamless service area. Two smaller offices will also be converted from librarian offices into public spaces. ("Hector" and "Helen," the library's two group computing facilities, are also being moved—to the main floor where they'll be more visible.) The bad news is that all of this involves some construction. The library will be a slightly noisier, dustier place, through September. But the staff hopes that this will be a small price to pay to open up some prime space to students who, after all, live in the library much of the academic year.

~ Excerpt from *Folklore, Idiosyncratic News and Commentary from Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library at Gustavus Adolphus College.*

## The Student as Scholar – and the GLA

by Barbara Fister, *Head Librarian*

One of the hallmarks of a Gustavus education is the opportunity for students to work closely with a faculty member doing research. When faculty members from departments across campus convened for a week-long workshop sponsored by the Kendall Center on "The Student as Scholar," one of the great revelations was the extent to which research is happening everywhere, in many creative ways. Last spring's first annual Celebration of Creative Inquiry gave the campus a snapshot of all the intriguing work our students are doing, from a documentary filmed in India, to an examination of democratic spaces at Jane Addam's Hull House, to energy storage systems for wind power systems.

The library been right at the heart of this research activity for many years, thanks to the Patricia Lindell Scholarship. Made possible by the generous support of GLA members, this fund supports both a biennial research paper award and a generous stipend for a student to do research to benefit the library and the College under the direction of a librarian. These projects have included documenting the history of the Arboretum and the College's recovery from the 1998 tornado, a qualitative study of creativity in the classroom, and even a study of faculty attitudes and administrative support for student research at Gustavus. Two of the scholarship winners have gone on to become librarians—one of them our own Michelle Twait.

Our most recent scholarship winner, Andi Twiton, conducted a literature review and a national survey on common reading programs on college campuses. Though these are increasingly a feature of college life, there hasn't been much published about their goals and impact. When a *New York Times* reporter covered College common reading programs last summer, she quoted from Andi's project, which she found posted on the library's website! We've always believed student research is important, but it was gratifying to have that belief validated by the Times.

This fall we will be busy reading through the dozens of papers submitted last spring to determine our third biennial research paper award winner. It's always exciting to see what students have accomplished. Later this fall, we'll be announcing our next scholarship project, to be completed in the spring. Though it may not make it to the pages of the Newspaper of Record, we know it will be an opportunity for one of our students to make a contribution to the College—and to find his or her own voice as a scholar. ■

## Phi Beta Kappa Chapter Celebrates 25 Years

The silver anniversary of Eta Chapter of Minnesota, Phi Beta Kappa, was observed on the Gustavus campus on April 7, 2008. Twenty-five years ago—on April 7, 1983—the chapter was installed on campus, the result of an application submitted by several members of the faculty who held the Phi Beta Kappa recognition.

Gustavus Library Associates was established as an effort to strengthen the Phi Beta Kappa application, by adding to the library collections and providing ongoing resources for future needs. In the 25 years since the founding of Eta Chapter of Minnesota, Gustavus Library Associates have carried through on their intent to provide for Bernadotte Memorial Library by contributing annual membership gifts to the current year's budget and providing considerable funding in an endowment with annual interest specifically directed to the library. At this time, Gustavus Library Associates provides approximately 25 percent of the library's annual budget.

April 7, 1983, was a day to be celebrated, and Gustavus Library Associates takes pride in being a part of this milestone in the academic life of Gustavus Adolphus College. ■

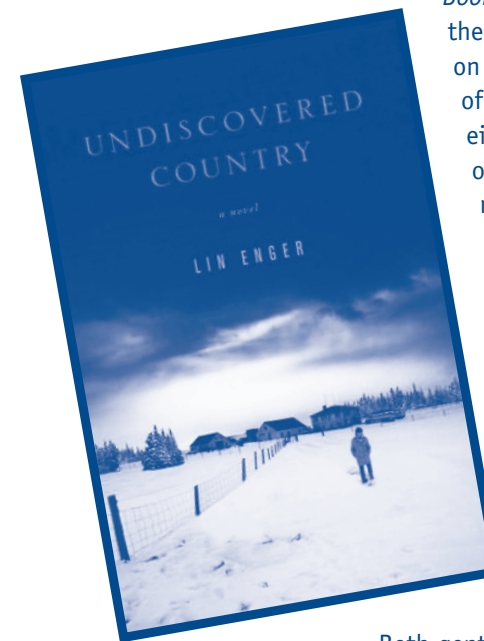
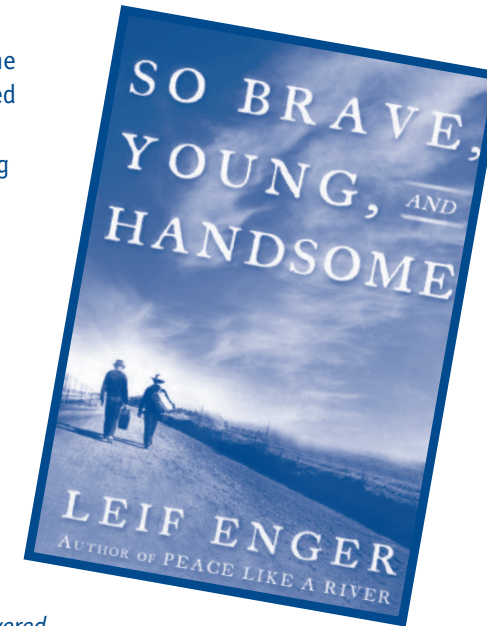
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Leif's second book, *So Brave, Young, and Handsome*, was published in June and spins the irresistible tale of Monte Becket, a disillusioned Minnesota writer trying to follow his highly successful first novel with a second and having just discarded his seventh failed draft. He impulsively leaves his adored family and his failures behind to embark on an unlikely adventure. *Publishers Weekly* describes the novel as an "expansive saga of redemption in the early twentieth century West . . . peopled with sharply carved characters and splendid surprises . . . an adventure story so rich you can smell the spilled whiskey and feel the grit."

Meanwhile, sharing the summer literary spotlight with his younger brother, Lin published his first novel, *Undiscovered Country*, in July. Set in a fictional small town in northern Minnesota, it is crafted as a retelling of the great drama of Hamlet, the son who suspects his uncle of murdering his father. For 17-year-old Jesse Matson, his sense of responsibility to his grieving, damaged mother and his sensitive little brother clashes with his fierce anger as he agonizes over whether—and if so, how—to attain revenge. A review in August's *Bookpage* calls it "glistening prose, set so gently on the frozen lakes of Minnesota." Reviewer Tony Moss, on the book review website *mostlyfiction.com*, says of the story, "Reworkings of classics are usually either fun romps or total flops—this is that rarest of outcomes, one well worth reading on its own merit."

Leif Enger's prose style is sumptuous, Lin Enger's is spare. Leif's voice is voluble and affable, Lin's is guarded and reserved. Leif's writing is a garden in full summer bloom; Lin's writing is the silent stand of bare trees beside a frozen lake. Though their voices are distinct, both writers boldly and gracefully bring to life great themes—family, loss, love, and ties to home—as they seek to understand people's weaknesses and strengths in times of heartbreak and of joy.

Both gentlemen are engaging speakers, too, and are looking forward to collaborating again, this time as GLA's Fall Author Day speakers. Mark your calendars now for Nov. 5, for a "brother act" you won't want to miss, and watch for your invitation in the mail. ■



## Gustavus Library Associates

### Coming Events Fall 2008

Monday | September 22  
10:00–11:30 a.m.

#### Fall Membership Tea

Campus Home of  
President Jack and Kris Ohle

Friday | October 3  
3:30 p.m.

#### Celebrate Gustavus: Inauguration of President Jack R. Ohle

Christ Chapel  
Gustavus Adolphus College

Tuesday and Wednesday  
October 7 and 8

#### Nobel Conference 44: "Who Were the First Humans?"

Lund Center Arena  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
(Opening at 9:30 a.m.; information  
online at [gustavus.edu/nobelconference/](http://gustavus.edu/nobelconference/))

Wednesday | November 5  
9:30 a.m.

#### Author Day, with Lin and Leif Enger

Edina Country Club  
(Invitation to follow)

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  
December 5, 6, and 7  
3:30 and 7:30 p.m.

#### Christmas in Christ Chapel: "Joyeux Noel"

Christ Chapel  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
(Call 507-933-7520 for ticket information  
or visit [gustavus.edu/events/cc/](http://gustavus.edu/events/cc/).)

Thursday | December 11  
11:00 a.m.

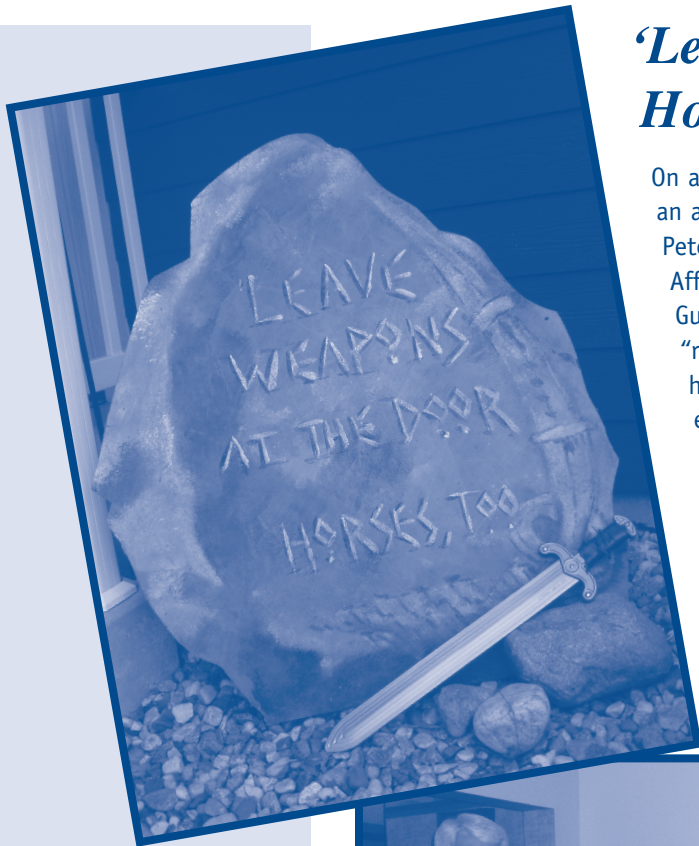
#### Festival of St. Lucia Luncheon, featuring Kevin Kling '79, humorist

Alumni Hall  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
(Invitation to follow)

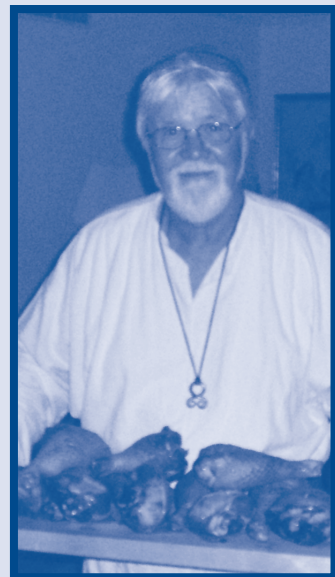


## 'Leave Weapons at the Door . . . Horses, Too'

On a Saturday evening in May, 12 guests gathered to enjoy an authentic Viking dinner at the home of Jan Jensen in St. Peter. The dinner guests were winning bidders of a Royal Affair auction item offered by the faculty and staff of Gustavus's Folke Bernadotte Memorial Library. Acting like "real Vikings," they ate with their fingers and drank from homemade vessels while being served by Mike Haeuser, emeritus library faculty (archivist), and library staff members Jan Jensen and Ginny Bakke. The Gustavus friends raved (swinging their swords) about the unique Viking-themed evening of food and merriment. They had reason, this summer, to remember that special evening again . . . classmate Clem Nelson, one of the "Vikings" present at the feast, passed away on July 9. ■



*Pictured from the left:* Bob Erdman '56, Judy Lund Erdman '57, David Johnson '54, Mary Brubacher, Dick Brubacher '54, Joan Bonn Wright '55, the late Clem Nelson '57, Carolyn Jens Brusseau '56, John Wright '54, Janet Christenson Carlson '53, Roger Carlson '54, and Marlys Mattson Nelson '57.



*Pictured above:* Emeritus Archivist Michael Haeuser, in costume, served the meal.

*Pictured right:* The table was set in "Viking" style.



Photos by Ginny Bakke

## Festival of St. Lucia to feature special guest Kevin Kling

by Barb Larson Taylor, Lucia Committee co-chair



The Festival of St. Lucia at Gustavus is a day of Scandinavian delight and legend, a time to pause in the busy Christmas season to think about those things that bring light to our world. It is also time to eat the delicious delights at the Scandinavian Smörgåsbord for lunch.

Gustavus Library Associates is proud to feature Kevin Kling during the luncheon in Alumni Hall. Kling is a celebrated playwright and storyteller best known for his popular commentaries on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and his storytelling stage shows like *Tales from the Charred Underbelly of the Yule Log*, delivering hilarious, often tender stories. Kling's autobiographical tales are as enchanting as they are true to life: hopping freight trains, getting hit by lightning, performing his banned play in Czechoslovakia, growing up in Minnesota, and eating things before knowing what they are.

Kling describes his zodiac sign as "Minnesota with Iowa rising..." He grew up in Osseo, a Minneapolis suburb, and graduated from Gustavus in 1979 with a theatre major. His storytelling started when a friend from the now defunct Brass Tacks Theatre asked him to perform his stories. Since then, he has been awarded numerous arts grants and fellowships. The National Endowment for the Arts, The McKnight Foundation, The Minnesota State Arts Board, The Bush Foundation, The Jerome Foundation, and others have recognized Kling's artistry.

Kling was born with a congenital birth defect—his left arm is about three-quarters the size of his right arm, and his left hand has no wrist or thumb. More than five years ago, Kling was in a motorcycle accident. The brachial plexus nerves in his right arm were pulled completely out of their sockets. Currently, he has partial use of his left arm and cannot use his right arm at all, but that hasn't appeared to slow him down.

Kling continues to write plays and stories in a rigorous fashion, and travels around the globe to numerous storytelling festivals and residencies. He has been invited to perform the acclaimed National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tenn., for a fourth consecutive year. Kevin has released a number of compact disc collections of his stories and his first book, titled *The Dog Says How*, hit the shelves last October.

The Festival of St. Lucia sells out early every year. Registration information will be mailed in October, and you are encouraged to turn in your reservation promptly. ■

*Gustavus Library Associates*  
cordially invites you to a

### *Fall Membership Tea*

*Hosted by President Jack and Kris Ohle*

Monday, September 22, 2008  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
President's Campus Home  
Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, Minnesota

*All friends and friends of friends are welcome!*

## Keeping Up

Spring 2007 Author Day guest **Matthew Sanford** and his Mind Body Solutions nonprofit organization have won \$100,000 in the Volvo for Life contest. This is a wonderful affirmation for the work he is doing—he will be increasing work at the Courage Center and is hoping to direct his efforts to help returning vets.

Nodin Press releases **Jim Gilbert's** new book, *Jim Gilbert's Minnesota Nature Notes*, on Sept. 15. Gilbert, a 1962 Gustavus graduate, former executive director of Linnaeus Arboretum, and a featured speaker at the Spring 1986 Author Day, has also contributed phenology notes to the soon-to-be-available 2009 Linnaeus Arboretum calendar, which also features stunning photographs by **Anders Björting**, himself a 1958 graduate and guest speaker at a GLA gathering in Fall 1980. Visit the Arboretum website ([gustavus.edu/arboretum](http://gustavus.edu/arboretum)) for up-to-date information.

**Thomas Friedman**, Spring 2004 Author Day guest, is the author of a new book, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America*, due out in early September.

**Bill Holm**, a 1965 Gustavus graduate and Author Day speaker in both Winter 1991 and Spring 2002, has been named a 2008 McKnight Distinguished Artist in recognition of artistic excellence spanning more than three decades. The honor recognizes Minnesota artists who have made significant contributions to the state's cultural life and includes a \$50,000 cash award.