

# Introduction

WE ARE DELIGHTED to announce that Diane Wald is the winner of the first annual Anne Halley Poetry Prize for “the corgis of queen elizabeth,” which appeared in the Spring 2004 issue. The Halley Prize will be awarded to the author of the best poem to appear in each volume of this magazine. This year’s judges were *MR* poetry editors Ellen Watson and Deborah Gorlin, and Professor Margo Culley of the UMass English Department.

Diane Wald is an alumna of the MFA program at the University of Massachusetts. She has published three chapbooks and an electronic chapbook, and two books, *Lucid Suitcase* from Red Hen Press in 1999, and *The Yellow Hotel* from Verse Press in 2002. A resident of Boston, she works by day at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. For those readers in the Amherst area, she will be receiving the prize and giving a reading at 8:00 PM on April 21, 2005 at Amherst Books, 8 Main St., Amherst. At 5:30 PM on the same day she will be our guest on *MR*<sup>2</sup>, *Massachusetts Review Radio*, on WMUA (91.1 FM or streamed on [www.wmua.org](http://www.wmua.org)).

It is perhaps a coincidence that our managing editor Corwin Ericson discovered, in a file of antique *MR* lore, a letter from the poet Allen Tate to Anne Halley, dated June 5, 1965, just after the appearance of Anne’s book *Between wars, and other poems*. “Dear Anne,” he writes, “I knew you were a brilliant young woman, but so far I was concerned you hid your poetic light under a bushel. You are so much better than Ann Sexton and Denise Levertov that they aren’t good enough to be in the same room with you.” Here at her home magazine, we think so too.

*David Lenson, for the editors*