



# University of Tampa Press

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## BOOK NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Steve Kowit Wins 2006 Tampa Review Prize for Poetry



Steve Kowit (Photo by Mary Kowit)

Steve Kowit of San Diego, California, has won the 2006 Tampa Review Prize for Poetry. He will receive a \$1,000 cash award plus hardcover and quality paperback book publication by the University of Tampa Press for his winning manuscript, entitled "The First Noble Truth."

The judges praised Kowit's book as "snappy and smart," combining a powerful "sense of narrative and street-like music" in a manuscript that is "subtly musical, surprising, and clever without pretension."

In making the award, they wrote: "Steve Kowit has found a voice and music distinctly his own . . . by turns serious, humorous, passionate, political, intimate, maddening, and inspiring. He is above all else a poet who cultivates *awareness*, challenging us to enlarge ourselves and affirm our relationships with and responsibilities for our world."

A selection of poems from the forthcoming book will appear as a "sneak preview" in the fall issue of *Tampa Review*, the award-winning hardcover literary journal published by the University of Tampa Press.

Steve Kowit is a California author with several collections of poetry in print, including *The Dumbbell Nebula* (Heyday Books) and, most recently, *The Gods of Rapture* (City Works Press), a collection of poems inspired by the erotic verse of India. His work appears regularly in magazines and journals and has been read by Garrison Keillor on National Public Radio. His teaching manual, *In the Palm of Your Hand: The Poet's Portable Workshop* (Tilbury House), is widely used. He is the recipient of a National Endowment Fellowship in Poetry, two Pushcart Prizes, and several other awards.

Kowit grew up in New York and then spent a few years in San Francisco during that city's brief counterculture revolution. After refusing to serve in Vietnam he spent three years living in Mexico, Central America, and South America. Returning to the U.S., he worked as a book editor in Florida and then moved to San Diego, where he founded that city's first animal rights organization and became involved in the Zen, Vipassana, and Gurdjieff communities.

He has taught at colleges in Idaho and Maryland and at both the University of California, San Diego, and at San Diego State University. He currently lives in the back-country hills of San Diego county near the Tecate border with his wife Mary and several animal companions. He teaches at Southwestern College.

Judges of the Tampa Review Prize for Poetry also identified ten finalists for the 2006 prize. They are:

**Rick Bursky** of North Hollywood, Ca., for "The Book of My Mistakes";

**Martin Greenwald** of Toronto, Canada, for "Slow Mountain Train";

**Brent Hendricks** of Tuscaloosa, Ala., for "Everything";

**Ruth Moon Kempher** of St. Augustine, Fla., for "Paper Windows";

**P. V. LeForge** of Grand Ridge, Fla., for "Ways to Reshape the Heart";

**Patrick Martin** of Garrison, N.Y., for "Fossils Awake";

**Kirk Nasset** of Meadville, Pa., for "Saint X";

**Young Smith** of Lexington, Ky., for "In a City You Will Never Visit";

**Gwen Strauss** of Lacoste, France, for "Water Witching"; and

**Helen Wallace** of St. Petersburg, Fla., for "Shimming the Glass House."

The Tampa Review Prize for Poetry is given annually for a previously unpublished book-length manuscript. Winners receive \$1,000, hardcover and quality paperback book publication by the University of Tampa Press, and royalties on sales of their books. Submissions are now being accepted. Entries must follow published guidelines and must be postmarked by December 31, 2006.

Guidelines are available at <http://tampareview.ut.edu> or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The Tampa Review Prize for Poetry, University of Tampa Press, 401 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606.

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For more information contact:

Richard Mathews or Sean Donnelly at (813) 253-6266 — or e-mail [utpress@ut.edu](mailto:utpress@ut.edu)

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