

March 2004 Meeting

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MEDITATIONS ON ART Mt Diablo Branch Welcomes Thomas Farber

Most writers are known for a genre, or a particular type of writing; finding a single word to sum up **Thomas Farber** would be quite difficult. This talented author has written five works of nonfiction, four collections of short stories, two books of epigrams and two novels. He has collaborated with such artists as Wayne Levin and was a commentator on NPR's *All Things Considered*. A lecturer at UC Berkeley, Farber has had his work endowed by Guggenheim, Fullbright and NEA fellowships. The San Jose Mercury News heralded his latest work of fiction, *The Beholder*, as a "passionate feast". The SF Chronicle said "Farber brings a poet's care to the craft of writing, sculpturing the phonetic beauty of words."

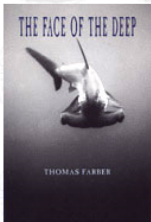
How has he been so successful? What is his secret? His latest nonfiction, *A Lover's Quarrel*, a book on writing, is his meditation on his lifelong vocation. It is a collection of stories, anecdotes and quotes, deemed "a sidelong meditation on the practical meaning of art, seen unpretentiously in the terms of an American life," by Robert Pinsky. Phyllis Rose calls it "always surprising, like jazz...by turns a diary, a reading journal and a meditation on the creative process."

Thomas Farber has been Visiting Distinguished Writer at the University of Hawaii, Fulbright Scholar for Pacific Island Studies, recipient of the [Dorothea Lange–Paul Taylor Prize](#), and Rockefeller Foundation resident scholar at Bellagio, Italy.

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