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Books of Hope helps writers discover how easy it is to become published

By Meghan Frederico

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Writers of all ages shown how to become published.

Small and independent presses offer aspiring authors an opportunity to break into publishing, yet many new writers do not know how to use them to their advantage.

"People think it's impossible to get published," said Doug Holder, a Somerville poet, founder of the Ibbetson Street Press and the Arts Editor for The Somerville News, "but with small presses, it can be easier than they think."

On Monday, February 23rd, from 7-9 pm at 530 Mystic Avenue, Mr. Holder will talk about how new writers can publish their work through small and independent presses, or even create their own small press. He will speak from experience in the industry, which includes running Ibbetson Street Press, a poetry journal and publisher that produces the work of about 7 new authors a year.

Attendees will have a chance to participate in creative writing exercises, and will also hear from guest speaker C.D. Collins, whose book of poetry was recently published by Ibbetson Street.



The free event is part of the Youth & Community Writers Series organized by Books of Hope, a collaboration between the Mystic Learning Center, a nonprofit affiliated with the Mystic Housing Development in Somerville, and the Somerville Arts Council.

For the past decade, Books of Hope has sought to help urban teens achieve self-expression and advocacy through creative writing. The non-profit's writing workshops teach poetry, short story, memoir, and non-fiction, and publishes books written by participants. According to Florence Bergman, the director of the Mystic Learning Center, Books of Hope has published over 125 young authors, who keep all the proceeds from their book sales.

For further information about the event, contact Soul Brown at (617)640-0252.