

## **Baron Wormser to Speak at Southwest Harbor Public Library**

**SOUTHWEST HARBOR** – Baron Wormser will give a reading from his new novel, *Tom o' Vietnam* at the Southwest Harbor Public Library Thursday evening, November 30, 5:30. Many know Wormser as Maine's poet laureate from 2000 to 2005.

*Tom o' Vietnam*, traces the travels of a Vietnam vet in the fall of 1982. *Tom o' Vietnam* is a very American road novel but also an evocation and investigation of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. Like *Tom o' Bedlam*, Tom is hiding out, "impersonating a person," as he puts it. Tom journeys on one bus after another across a landscape that makes him wonder what he was fighting for. From Santa Fe to Washington, D.C., he meets fellow Americans who have their own stories to tell and who wonder about his. Along the way he spends time with his three sisters, all the while attempting to deal with the demons of the war and the ghosts of the Shakespearean tragedy he carries with him. *Tom o' Vietnam* blends poetry, history, and dark wit, as it bears witness to the depths of eloquence and grief, anger and endurance.

Wormser is the author of nine books of poetry and a poetry chapbook. He is the co-author of two books about teaching poetry and the author of a memoir along with a book of short stories and a novel. He teaches in the Fairfield University MFA program. He also is the Founding Director of Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching in Franconia, New Hampshire. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He served as poet laureate of Maine from 2000 to 2005 and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Maine at Augusta in 2005.

There will be books for sale and signing. For more information, call the Library at 244-7065.