

POETRY

Female poets conjure the 'Muse'

Sentinel staff report

The Muse is an often elusive target for too many artists, but it always seems to get to Santa Cruz every spring.

The 29th annual "In Celebration of the Muse" event is gearing up for another rollicking evening on Saturday at the Cabrillo College Music Recital Hall.

The venerable literary event — the longest-running of its kind in Santa Cruz County — brings together an impressive list of women writers and poets to read their work and to conjure the Muse.

As part of the "Muse" event, one poet is chosen to have her work published in a chapbook. This year's chosen author is Santa Cruz's Kate Aver Avraham, a breast cancer survivor and mother who lost her son. She will read from her new chapbook "Perhaps the Truth is Also Blue" — "In this brief existence/ We must learn to observe with our whole being."

Other writers and poets invited to speak this include Wilma Marcus Chandler, Angie Boissevain, Ziggy Rendler-Bergman, Maggie Paul, Ellen Bass, Susan Freeman and many others. The show is dedicated to Maude Meehan, a poet and a pillar of the "Muse" community who died in 2007. "Muse" is a benefit for Poetry San-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kate Aver Avraham is the winner of this year's 'Celebration of the Muse' chapbook award.

ta Cruz, which is co-sponsoring the event with the Cabrillo College English Department, and Amber Coverdale Sumrall and Dena Taylor.

The event takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$16 in advance; \$18 at the door; \$8 for Cabrillo students, available at Bookshop Santa Cruz, Capitola Book Cafe, Crossroads Books in Watsonville and at 464-8983.

IF YOU GO

'IN CELEBRATION
OF THE MUSE'

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Cabrillo College
Music Recital Hall, Aptos

COST: \$16 advance; \$18 at
the door; \$8 Cabrillo
students with ID

DETAILS: 464-8983 or
www.poetrysantacruz.org