

## Austin Poetry Society

P. O. Box 684672, Austin, TX 78768  
www.austinpoetrysociety.org

April, 2010

# Muse-Letter

## karla k. morton leads joint AIPF/APS reading

**O**n Saturday April 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m., we meet in the North Village Branch Library, 2505 Steck Avenue, for an unprecedented joint reading **between** Austin Poetry Society (APS) and the Austin International Poetry Festival (AIPF). For the first time, the APS meeting becomes a venue in AIPF, and the current Texas Poet Laureate, **karla k. morton**, an AIPF featured poet this year, agreed to be our APS featured poet as well. She will emcee this annual National Poetry Month reading. Karla's book of poems reflecting on breast cancer, *Redefining Beauty*, is available from its publisher, Austin's Dos Gatos Press, and she has a collection of Sufi poems forthcoming on May 7, available for pre-order at [www.kkmorton.com/goldfish.html](http://www.kkmorton.com/goldfish.html).

APS sponsors two other meetings during this National Poetry Month. On Thursday, April 22, our **Fourth Thursday Open Mic** hosted by Ralph **Hausser** features two bilingual poet/translators, Lilliana **Valenzuela** and Sylvia **Manning**. As always, readings run from 7:00-9:00 in the NeWorldeli, 4101 Guadalupe, and are followed by a round-robin open microphone.

### Welcome to New Members

We're very pleased to welcome these members, new or renewed since last month:

Von **Bourland**  
Claire V. **Camargo**  
Jerri **Hardesty**

Ronald J. **Jorgenson**  
Catherine A. **Lee**  
Janet **McGuffin**

Total membership has reached 145. Not a member? Join now for a full year's membership, June, 2010-May, 2011. [www.austinpoetrysociety.org/membership.htm](http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org/membership.htm).

Then, on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., Beth **Kropf** hosts our **Poetry Critique Group** in the upstairs dining area of Central Market, 38<sup>th</sup> and Lamar. Bring poems for gentle discussions.

### Monthly Contests

The March/April monthly contest was cancelled because not enough poets entered. This was our last chance for a monthly contest, since the May meeting is devoted entirely to the Annual Awards Contests. In September, we will invite your entries for the first contest of the fall.

#### CONTEST RESULTS, FEBRUARY SUBMISSIONS, 2009

##### GENERAL Verse Category

Critic/judge: Dave Oliphant

Poet	Poem	Critic's Rating	Popular Vote
Margaret Anderegg	Morning Glories	1	1
Nancy Fierstien	If...	2	2
Mary Riley	Parasiempre	3	4
Herman M. Nelson	Contrails and Other Historic Events	4	3
Scott Buster	We'll Drink and Smoke	5	5

##### LIGHT Verse Category

Critic/judge:

Poet	Poem	Critic's Rating	Popular Vote
Margaret Anderegg	Selective Learning	1	1
Greg Silver	The Prodigal Migraine Returns	2	3 (tie)
Herman M. Nelson	Mama's Fry-Pan	3	2
Shubh Bala Schiesser	Heart	4	3 (tie)
Scott Buster	Secret Days	5	4

### Dave Oliphant,

#### March Critic/Judge

Dave **Oliphant** has produced more than 25 books including *Backtracking* (a 2004 poetry collection) and translations of two volumes of Chilean poetry, one of which, *Love Hound* by Oliver Welten, won the poetry prize at the 2007 New York Book Festival. Dave worked for the University of Texas for thirty years, serving among other things as a senior instructor in English, rhetoric and writing. He was also an editor of the scholarly journal, *The Library Chronicle*.

A word is dead  
 When it is said,  
     Some say.  
 I say it just  
 Begins to live  
     That day.  
 -- Emily Dickinson, *The Collected Poems*

### Austin International Poetry Festival, April 15-18: HQ, Ruta Maya, 3601 South Congress

Congratulations to everyone who has poems in the 2010 Austin International Poetry Festival anthology, *di-verse-city*, including these APS members:

Tony **Beckwith**, "Nameless Dread"  
 Paula Bird **Broadshoe**, "The Western Sky Nodding Off"  
 Elzy **Cogswell**, "Creatures of the Night"  
 Christine **Gilbert**, "Full Circle"  
 Joyce **Gullickson**, "Modern Day Prophecy"  
 Mike **Gullickson**, "Dreaming of Haiti"  
 John Layne **Hendrick**, "The Yin and Yang of Sin"  
 Cindy **Huysen**, "The Question of June"  
 Laura **Kooris**, "The Way Away"  
 Elizabeth **Kropf**, "The other side of the fence (for J.Z.)"  
 Lee **LeTeff**, "A Joyful Journey"  
 Dillon **McKinsey**, "Fear of Flying"  
 Donna Marie **Miller**, "To Cornelia"  
 Herman M. **Nelson**, "Rock Island Line, 1936 Remembered"  
 Katherine Durham **Oldmixon**, "The Gulf"  
 Christa **Pandey**, "Dare I Claim Texas As My Home?"  
 Carolyn Luke **Reding**, "Fifty Years of Palm"  
 Liliana **Valenzuela**, "You Can Die from Washing Dishes"  
 Scott **Wiggerman**, "Bluebonnets in December"

You can see the full fabulous schedule online: [www.aipf.org](http://www.aipf.org), and register late there as well (you'll need to mail in your fees). By registering, you get the complete printed program, sure to become a collector's item. You can even sign up at the registration desk after the Festival starts.

All this happens because Austin poets are just weird enough to contribute their time and resources. It's not easy, but it's the right way to be. You should volunteer to fill a vacant position on the Board (Chair of the Fund Raising Committee or Chair of the. Public Relations Committee).

APS members on the Board of AIPF include Barbara **Carr**, Ron **Jorgenson**, Ashley **Kim**, Jessi **Lane**, and Board Member Emeritus Deb **Akers**. Featured poets include five APS members this year: **Thom** Moon Bird, Patricia **Fiske**, Herman **Nelson**, Carolyn Luke **Reding**, and Texas Poet Laureate karla k. **morton**.

## Remembrance of Lost Poets

On the first day of AIPF, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Remembrance of Lost Poets, a reading of the work of deceased poet friends, takes place again. We treasure the poetry our friends and relatives have left behind, and we want to honor them for their gifts to us. David **Jewell** will emcee the event, and Elzy **Cogswell** is collecting a list of people who will read along with the names of the poets they want to honor. If you would like to participate, please send word and you will be helping the disorganized feel more orderly: [poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu), or 452-4314.

Among many others, we will honor **Wendy Podwalny (Christina Sergeevna)**, **Robert Graves Brown**, **Xan Grant**, **Albert Huffstickler**, and **Neil Megaw**. You may make your own tribute to one of these or others. Sign up.

## City Council Considers Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove

Last year the Austin Poetry Society Board of Directors nominated "**Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove**" as the name for a small triangular city park in the intersection of South First Street and César Chávez just north of Lady Bird Lake. The Parks Department had invited possible names. **On Thursday, April 22, the City Council will choose a name for the park.**

This is not just a chance to honor one distinguished Austin poet but an opportunity for our City to register its support for poetry itself. Whether we succeed depends in part on how much enthusiasm we demonstrate in letters, e-mails, phone calls, and appearances to speak at the Council meeting. You may e-mail the whole Council with one message: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/groupemail.htm>. A postal letter is more influential. Council members are listed online: [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/site/city\\_hall\\_portal.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/site/city_hall_portal.htm), and the address is City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, TX 78701.

The specific order of the agenda will probably not be published until the preceding meeting is held, possibly April 15. That's a good time to contact the Council.

Poets and poetry organizations, both in Austin and throughout the world, have spontaneously started encouraging the Council to give us this permanent home base for Austin poetry. Supporters may sign up to deliver a brief Citizen Communication at the beginning of the meeting, and any City Council needs poetry.

Wikipedia provides background information about Albert Huffstickler, and he's on Facebook as well.

## Poetry Coming Down All Around Us: *Individual Achievements*

Kaye **Abihaled** judged the assigned and open topic of the monthly poetry contests this month for the Alamo Area Poets of Texas.

Usha **Akella** read from her book, *A Face That Does Not Bear the Footprints of the World* in the Rothko Chapel in Houston on March 25. She was joined in a program of Sufi music and poetry by the internationally popular musician, Steve Gorn.

Thomas **Cable**, whose November presentation for APS is still mentioned with fondness, was a featured reader in the Ransom Center's noon Poetry on the Plaza event on April 7<sup>th</sup>. He appeared along with author Prudence Mackintosh, who also teaches at UT.

**Elzy Cogswell's** "Pouring" appeared in the April *Pecan Press*.

Ralph **Hausser**, the APS Historian, has updated our papers at the Austin History Center (AHC), including newsletters back to 2006, anthologies, and yearbooks. He admires the helpful staff at AHC, and wants contributors to *Reflections*, our sixtieth anniversary anthology, to know that their work is now a little part of Austin's cultural history.

Katherine Durham **Oldmixon** recently had two poems, "Marina, La Malinche" and "La Guadalupe de Juan Diego" and a photograph accepted for publication in the upcoming New Classics issue of *qarrtsiluni*. Katherine attended the conference of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs, speaking on a panel about creative writing study abroad.

Christa **Pandey's** poem, "Poetry Fest," will appear in the poetry month anthology from **Virgogray** Press edited by Michael Aaron **Casares**. Christa reports as chair for this year's Annual Awards Contests that 36 people entered a total of 411 poems. We have eighteen juried contests (one was postponed to next year for lack of sufficient entries). Five people will each perform one of their poems for the Spoken Word Poetry Award, and they will be judged by others present for the Ceremony on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Exhausted Poet's Award will be presented to the poet who had the most poems listed among finalists for our monthly contests this year. We'll hold the Awards Ceremony in Auditorium A-L at the west end of the Huston Tillotson University campus. Christa deserves our thanks for the work she has already done for the contests, our biggest event of the year. She also edited this year's *APS Yearbook*.

Susan **Rooke's** poem "Rail Way Bridge" will appear in the Spring/Summer 2010 issue of *The Aureorean*, due out in April. *Time of Singing* will publish two of her poems, "Planning for the Garden" and "From One Year to the Next, On Water," in their Spring 2010 issue. *Bellowing Ark* has accepted three of her poems for publication in an upcoming issue.

Austin performance poet Ebony **Stewart** maintains a busy schedule of presentations: guest host and feature for the BMC Black Media project, Boyd Vance Theater, 6:30-9:00 p.m., on April 9, free; feature for the "They Speak Youth Slam Finale," 501 Independent Studios, 6:00 p.m., April 10, with \$5 admission to benefit the contestant's creative work; feature at The Hideout, 617 Congress, 6:00-10:00 p.m., Monday, April 12; feature for Austin Neo Soul in the Pflugerville Club Illusions, 8:00-Midnight, April 29<sup>th</sup>, \$6 admission.

Bradley **Strahan's** two poems, "Deja Vu" and "Rattlebone's Dilemma," will be published by *Steam Ticket*.

Liliana **Valenzuela** invites everyone to check out her new website: [www.lilianavalenzuela.com](http://www.lilianavalenzuela.com).

Scott **Wiggerman** reports that he and Cindy **Huyser** are on the second reading of poems submitted for the *Texas Poetry Calendar*. They hope to be able to notify selected poets sometime in April. Scott will be teaching at the Summer Writers' Retreat in Alpine again this summer, July 26-30, with a class focused on exercises: "Putting the Creative in Creative Writing: A One-Week Exercise Program." Early registrants get a discount: <http://www.writersleague.org/programs/swa-class-instruct.html>

APS member Mariann **Wizard** reports that Austin's prison poet, Marilyn **Buck**, is being treated for a rare cancer in Fort Worth's Federal Medical Center. Marilyn asks that friends everywhere join her every morning at 7:00 a.m. Texas time for a few minutes of meditation. Visualize her healthy, healed, happy and free. (Her release after thirty years of prison is scheduled for this summer.) Mariann herself stays busy, posting two poems in *The Rag Blog*, "After Armageddon" and the latest, "Pirates of Health-Care Reform," March 31, 2010.

## Poetry As a Team Sport: *Group Achievements*

Lee **LeTeff** and Patricia **Fiske**, both APS members, were featured readers for the new South Austin Acoustic Series on April 4<sup>th</sup>. They appeared with an array of distinguished international artists including Clive **Price**, Bob **Mud**, and Daniel **Ciooper**. The series continues each Sunday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at Cafe Caffeine, 909 West Mary.

Katherine Durham **Oldmixon**, Scott **Wiggerman**, David **Meischen**, Judy **Jensen**, D'Arcy **Randall**, and Liz **Garton Scanlon** have a sonnet crown, "Rising Water," forthcoming in *Poemeleon*.

**Morgan Printing** extends congratulations to all the authors who appear in their April publications: *Di-Verse Youth 2010* (AIPF); *Di-Verse-City 2010* (AIPF); *Round Top Poetry 2010 Annual Poetry Festival Chapbook*; and *The Rio Review* (Spring 2010 Austin Community College Journal).

### Letters to the Editor

[Regarding the presentation by Dillon **McKinsey** in our March meeting] What a great meeting we had. Dillon was a speaker you can admire. He had a theme, stuck by it and delivered it with aplomb. And that as a poet!

--Christa **Pandey**

I am an amateur poet who is looking to become a professional one day. My first step will be to become surrounded by other writers such as myself. Hopefully being in your society gives me a chance to improve and to know wonderful and talented poets in my area.

--DeAndre D. **Echols**

## Calls for Submissions

For more comprehensive lists of calls for submissions, you could subscribe to *Poets & Writers* or *The Writer's Chronicle*.

**Ongoing. Poetica Publishing Company** is actively looking for poets to co-publish chapbooks and full collections on any theme. They format and design the manuscript with a full color laminated cover. Guidelines: [www.poeticapublishing.com](http://www.poeticapublishing.com).

**Deadline: April 9, Friday, 7:00 p.m.** Read your poetry for TV broadcast. **EXSE Spoken Word Showcase** does a great job of it each year. To get the details, try <http://www.channelaustin.org/> or e-mail the lead producer, Karla Saldaña, [exsespokenword@channelaustin.org](mailto:exsespokenword@channelaustin.org).

**Deadline: April 15. qarrtsiluni's Second Annual Poetry Chapbook Contest.** Winner announced August 1, and online publication follows. Selected poems from submitted chapbooks will be published online, and two runner-up chapbooks will be selected. [www.quartsiluni.com](http://www.quartsiluni.com).

**Deadline: May 1. Submit poems to *The Enigmatist*,** which is preparing its fourth issue. Info: Mike Gullickson, [poetkind@yahoo.com](mailto:poetkind@yahoo.com), (512) 591-7330.

**Postmark deadline: May 15.** Lianne Mercer and Sally Clark want poems about **Fredericksburg, Texas**: the history, people, architecture, landscape, wildlife, or events, real or imaginary. Selected poems will be published in an anthology to be sold locally. Of special interest are old poems about Fredericksburg written by those who may have passed on. Poems should be no more than 30 lines, including spaces. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and a 20-word bio on each poem. An SASE must be included for a reply. 1-3 poems may be submitted online at [www.fredericksburgpoems.yolasite.com](http://www.fredericksburgpoems.yolasite.com) or mailed to Flying Cow Productions, P.O. Box 654, Fredericksburg, TX, 78624. Payment to selected authors will be one complimentary copy of the book. Anticipated publication date is October 1, 2010.

**Deadline: May 31. The Alabama State Poetry Society** is accepting submissions for the Annual John and Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition. Prize: \$100 and 50 copies of his/her winning chapbook. Poems may be previously published if poet retains all rights. Send 20-24 total pages of poetry, (poems may be longer than one page, but total page count must be 20-24) with two (2) title pages: one with author ID, and one with NO author ID. Send manuscript with a \$15 reading fee payable to New Dawn Unlimited, Inc. Mail to: Jerri Hardesty, ASPS 2010 Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition, 1830 Marvel Road, Brierfield, AL 35035.

## Austin is Poetry City: Events

As always, we can't guarantee any of the details below. You're only safe if you verify it yourself. You may also check Ric Williams' "Litera" column in the *Austin Chronicle*, or the "Literary Events" column in the *Austin Statesman*. Often we omit ongoing venues to include special events.

**Each Sunday, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. South Austin Acoustic Series** is a new performance venue at Cafe Caffeine, 909 West Mary.

**Each Sunday, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Hot Mama's Café,** 2401 East 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1004, (512) 476-6262. Host: Austin Leprechaun. Free.

**Each Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. South Austin Soul,** 2801 Manchaca Road. Poetry and music round robin with various hosts. Free.

**Each Thursday, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Top Drawer,** 4902 Burnet Road, (512) 454-5161. Poetry and music prior to acoustic night. Host: Kathleen Romana.

**Each Friday, 5:00-7:00 p.m.** A new Open Mic at **Fair Bean Coffee**, South First at Live Oak, across from End of an Ear. Host: Amy Zammarripa.

**April 10, Saturday, 2:00 p.m.** APS member Robert Stikmanz will be signing books "for all high fantasy buffs." Borders Books, 3309 Esperanza Crossing, Austin.

**April 12, Monday, 6:00-10:00 p.m. The Hideout** features Roger West (from London) and Austin's Ebony Stewart.

**April 21, Wednesday, Noon. Poetry on the Plaza:** Water, Air, Earth & Fire. Harry Ransom Center Plaza, 21<sup>st</sup> and Guadalupe. [www.hrc.utexas.edu](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu). National Poetry Month. Free.

**April 22, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Michener Center for Writers** sponsors an appearance by August Kleinzahler, American poetry's roguish, prize-winning bad boy. Avaya Auditorium, ACES 2.302 Southeast corner of 24<sup>th</sup> and Speedway. Info: [www.utexas.edu/academic/mcw](http://www.utexas.edu/academic/mcw) or call 471-1601.

**April 22, Thursday, 8:00-10:00 p.m.** APS member and poet Catherine Lee is featured among performers in a jazz/poetry collaboration in San Antonio: High Wire Arts, 326 W Josephine Street.

**April 24, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. A Red Poppy Festival reading.** Georgetown Library. Info: Mike Gullickson, [poetkind@yahoo.com](mailto:poetkind@yahoo.com), (512) 591-7330.

**April 30th/May 1st all day. Forrest Fest** returns, and conquers Lamesa, Texas again. Be there for some of the best poetry and barbecue in the country. Register online: <http://www.forrestfest.com/welcome.html>. Hear Texas Poet Laureate karla k. morton and thank her for taking poetry all over Texas. And don't miss five-year-old Briley Jo Parker, UIL poetry competition winner when she reads.

**April 30th-May 2nd, Poetry at Round Top Festival** provides an opportunity to visit with prominent American poets, including this year recent U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser, along with Brigit Pegeen Kelly, Philip Pardi, Harryette Mullen, Naomi Shihab Nye, Peggy Shumaker, William Wenthe, Jacqueline Kolosov, and others. Check online: [www.festivalhill.org](http://www.festivalhill.org). It's not free: the entire weekend will cost you \$125.

**May 1, Saturday, 7:00-10:00 p.m. Expressions,** with special host Lee Leteff, features poets and singers of green growth renown. Bahai Center 2215 E.M Franklin Ave. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., Showtime at 7:00 p.m. Bring a dish for the pot luck and cans for the poets pantry, (512) 926-8880.

**May 5, Wednesday, Noon. Poetry on the Plaza:** Cinco de Mayo. Harry Ransom Center Plaza, 21<sup>st</sup> and Guadalupe. [www.hrc.utexas.edu](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu). National Poetry Month. Free.

**May 7, Friday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. First Friday Reading** in the Hill Country Bookstore, Georgetown. Info: Mike Gullickson, [poetkind@yahoo.com](mailto:poetkind@yahoo.com), (512) 591-7330.