

Austin Poetry Society

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

February, 2010

Muse-Letter

Susan Bright on Animated Poems

On Saturday, February 27, we meet at 1:30 p.m. to hear about "Poetry in Motion: The Art of Animating Poetry." from Susan **Bright**, Publisher and Editor of Plain View Press (www.plainviewpress.net/). Francesca **Talenti** animated Susan's poem, "Life-Jacket," and other poems, winning an award for her work. You could help by bringing a wifi-equipped laptop so we may group around screens to view Susan's poem. Dr. Marvin **Kimbrough** is our featured poet, and the \$1,000 Jenny Lind Porter Scholarship winner, Alyssa **DeCaulp**, a writing student at St. Edward's, will come to read some of her poetry and to meet members. Our meeting is in the Austin History Center, 9th and Guadalupe, again.

Parking on Saturday is free, both in the Library parking lot and on the street. ADA access is on the east end of the building (Guadalupe Street entrance). The meeting is also free and all are welcome.

Time To Enter Our Annual Contests

The **Austin Poetry Society** is currently accepting entries for its Annual Awards Contests. The 21 contests offer prizes totaling over \$1300. In your *Yearbook* or online, read carefully the list of annual contests and their guidelines, <http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org/contests.htm>. Only members may enter, but a membership costs only \$20, lasts through May, and gets you much more than the Annual Contests: www.austinpoetrysociety.org/membership.htm.

After you join, the entry fee for annual contests is \$10, and you may enter the remaining monthly contests free. The postmark deadline for annual contests is March 31.

Welcome to New Members

We're very pleased to have these new and renewed members since last month:

DeAndre D. Echols	Ashley S. Kim
Kathryn Marie Payne	John & Carolyn Reding
Rolando Romo	Audell Shelburne

If you're not a member, print out an application form from our website (<http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org/membership.htm>), whip out your checkbook, and join up. Total membership has reached 127.

Roundtable on Rewriting

This Saturday, February 20, share your expertise and hear others talk about how to improve poetry after it's already drafted. "Finding Your Voice in the Rewrite Stage" is the subject for an APS roundtable in the Yarborough Branch Public Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. Be brave and bring some of your poems (7 copies to hand around). We'll use them for examples, but we're gentle folk. You don't have to be a member to attend, and this is free.

AIPF registration and submission of entries has been extended to March 15th, www.aipf.org. See page 2.

Von Bourland, Our Critic/Judge

Von **Bourland** won five (5) first places in the 2009 Poetry Society of Texas contests, and she also won the Austin Poetry Society Taylor-Made Poem Award. She writes poetry, non-fiction, nostalgia, fiction, and, just for fun, sometimes science fiction. She volunteers actively for the Hi-Plains Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas, Amarillo, and has been Hospitality Chair, 1st Vice President/Program Chair, and President of that organization. Other than writing Von enjoys crafts, traveling, and singing in her church choir. She is the current Editor of the Poetry Society of Texas *Bulletin*.

CONTEST RESULTS, DECEMBER SUBMISSIONS, 2010

LIGHT Verse Category

Critic/judge: Von Bourland

Poet	Poem	Critic's Rating	Popular Vote
Nancy Fierstien	Please Don't Eat the Daisies	1	3
Shubh Bala Schiesser	Nature's Mad Dance	2	1
Greg Silver	Those Stomach Butterflies Don't Stand a Chance	3	4 (tie)
Margaret Anderegg	Grandparents	4	2
Herman W. Nelson	Beauty and the Beast	5	4 (tie)

The good of poetry. Fiercely minding?
 Magicking us with the way it sings?
 Perhaps enough that it keep on finding
 Less impoverished names for things.
 -- Neill Megaw, "All This Fiddle," *Other Voices*

Ashley Night on February 25

This Fourth Thursday, Feb. 25th, Austin Poetry Society uses its monthly open microphone to honor volunteers who are helping get ready for the Austin International Poetry Festival, which will be April 15-18 this year. Featured poets will be Ashley **Kim**, the Director of this year's Festival, and Ashley **Williams**, a member of the Board of APS. All AIPF volunteers are encouraged to come to read their poetry and be honored for their work. Questions? Ralph, r_hausser@hotmail.com and Elzy, poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu. A round-robin open mic follows featured readers, and anyone can participate.

As always, the APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic is from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe. Good food, good drinks, good people and good poetry. What more could you ask?

Streamlined Business Meetings

In the January meeting, members approved a motion to change the procedures for administration of APS. The vote was unanimous except for a single abstention. Members instructed the Board of Directors to take full responsibility for the record of decisions taken and the financial state of the Society. Business meetings which come at the end of each monthly full membership program will include only summary reports from the Board on developments substantially affecting the welfare of the Society or on which a decision of the members must be taken.

This does not change any principles in the Bylaws of the organization. Any revision of the Bylaws and any other significant change in APS processes will continue to be submitted to members for a vote, as required by the Bylaws.

Matilda Garvia, 1911-2010

Austin poet Matilda Garvia, 98, passed away on Saturday, February 6th. She was well-known here and also world-wide for her achievements in the arts. She grew up in Bolivia where she appeared in the 1932 movie, *Hacia la Gloria (Toward Glory)*. Recognized as a radio pioneer in La Paz in early life, Garvia was known here as a *declamadora*, powerfully reciting enormous amounts of poetry from memory. She was much loved and respected among Austin performance poets, appearing in venues even in this last year.

Register Now for AIPF

The Austin International Poetry Festival takes place this year in four glorious poetry-saturated days, April 15-18. If you haven't already registered, you're in luck: they've extended the deadline to March 15. Choose your best three poems, write a brief biography, and sign-on to "www.aipf.org" to register and submit your entries. You may be chosen to be included in this year's anthology, or even win the Christina Sergeyevna Award for best poem. In any case, you will be supporting the best festival we have, and you'll get to be friends in person with some great poets.

APS Critique Group, February 27

On Saturday, February 27, at 11:00 a.m. (before the regular meeting), bring seven copies of one or more poems to meet with the **APS Critique Group**, hosted by Beth **Kropf**, in the upstairs dining area of Central Market, Lamar and 38th Street. Sympathetic readers will talk with you about your work. This month we will review sestinae drafted for this meeting as well.

In 2007, Beth completed a Master of Arts degree in Creative Writing from **Perelandra College**. The online degree program requires only a brief summer stay in San Diego for residency. Beth reported on the program in our January meeting. It is an accredited, not-for-profit program which also offers a B.A. in Writing. With her MA, Beth now teaches Composition for Bryant & Stratton College Online. She credits her degree not just for her job but also for her published poetry and for poetry awards she has won. You may look for yourself: www.perelandracollege.com/

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us: *Individual Achievements*

I can't promise that what you read here is accurate. I try to report what I receive, but I can't check the details. -- Editor

Kaye Voigt **Abikhale** gave a poetry presentation to 23 first graders at Trinity Episcopal School on January 22nd. She reports that "twenty-three thank you letters" then came her way. The University of Texas Ladies Club commissioned her to write a poem in honor of their 50- and 60-year members. Kaye presented and read the poem, "Occasion," at their February 5th luncheon in the Austin Woman's Club.

Deb **Akers'** poem, "Día de los Muertos," will appear in the next issue of *Ardent*, the poetry journal from Poetry in the Arts. Deb will be a featured reader for the APS Fourth Thursday open mic in March.

Barbara Youngblood **Carr** signed copies of the latest volume in her Ancestors Series, *Windsongs and Moon Spirits*, at Barnes and Noble Arboretum on January 30th. She will attend three festivals in April – Austin, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Nancy **Fierstien** of Dripping Springs, an APS Board member, has two poems, "Get the Message" and "Here's How the Catlike Canary Sings", in the *Cat Tales III* anthology produced by the Tablerock Poets in Salado this month. Copies are available for \$10 each, with proceeds going to a scholarship fund for students involved with the annual Salado Legends program at the Tablerock Amphitheater.

Linda Cheviot **Himes** of Jonestown (northwest of Austin) signed copies of her book of poems, *Live, From the Mystic* (New York: Strategic Book Publishing, www.strategicbookpublishing.com) at Barnes and Noble Arboretum on January 30th. The book is also available at Hastings Books in Round Rock and at BookPeople in Austin.

Marcelle **Kasprowicz** was our featured poet in the January APS meeting.

Beth **Kropf**, APS Board member, will be the featured reader at BookWoman on Thursday, March 11.

Cynthia Gail **Manor's** four poems, "Dune," "The Women in Me," "Uncommon Valor," and "The Trail," have all been published in Jason O'Neal Williams' anthology, *Royalistic Ink Presents, Poetic Voices*.

Neil **Meili's** poem, "Ode to Achmatova," was quoted by Ric **Williams** in the *Austin Chronicle* (Jan. 29, 2010) in honor of beloved Austin poet Christina **Sergeyevna** (Wendy Christina Podwalny), who died January 12. The lines quoted were "And what is this sweetness / you have brought to our table / the gnawing at the bone of our pain."

karla k. **morton's** *Stirring Goldfish* has been published and is available online: www.finishinglinepress. She appeared for the Tablerock Festival, and the next day for a high school class in Salado. The current Poet Laureate of Texas and a member of APS, karla will be our featured poet on April 17, emceeding a joint Austin Poetry Society/Austin International Poetry Festival open mic, especially for poets in the AIPF anthology and APS members. The AIPF features karla that week as well.

Katherine Durham **Oldmixon's** villanelle, "When the Border is a River," appeared in *Borderlands'* Issue 33 (Fall/Winter). Her poem "Aliens Among the Brittle Stars" appears with voice recording in the current issue of *qarrtsiluni* online literary arts magazine. In the same issue, her photograph of the Healing Buddha in Nara, Japan, will appear. In January Katherine participated in a Faculty Resource Network seminar on Literature and the Environment at Universidad de Sagrado Corazon in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Christa **Pandey**, APS Board member, judged the monthly contest for the Poetry Society of Texas in February. She received word that *Ardent* will print her poem, "Mai and I." Mai was Christa's mother-in-law.

Horacio **Peña's** poem, "El angel cantor de la Paz Centro" ("The Singer Angel of the Paz Centro"), has been accepted for April publication in *Ventana abierta*, a journal of the University of Santa Barbara, California. Peña is a world-renowned Nicaraguan/American poet who lives in Austin.

Austin poet Larry **Piltz** had his poem, "You Asked Us To Believe (Oh Yes You Can)" posted on the Rag Blog on February 13. (<http://www.theragblog.blogspot.com>.)

F.J. **Schaack** won second place out of 620 entries in the *Austin Chronicle* Short Story Contest for his "Cribdeath: Bellocq's Girl." The story is available online, <http://www.austinchronicle.com/gyrobase/Issue/story?oid=oid:960563>.

Shubh Bala **Schiesser's** poem, "Servitude vs. Attitude" was posted on DrashPit.com. She has joined the Texas Poetry Society, registered for AIPF, and submitted poems for *Borderlands*. She attends critique groups regularly.

Austin poet Mary **Selph** was chosen by Naomi Shihab **Nye** as one of the poets included in *Time You Let Me In: 25 Poets Under 25* (Greenwillow/HarperCollins). The book has received a starred review in the *School Library Journal*.

Greg **Silver** will be a featured reader for the APS Fourth Thursday open mic in March.

Kristi **Sprinkle's** poem, "Soul Good," was chosen as "Poem of the Issue" by Ric **Williams** for the *Austin Chronicle* (February 12).

Ebony **Stewart's** first poetry book, *The Many Faces of SHE*, is available for purchase from <http://www.EbPoetry.com>. Her CD, *The Chrysalis* is also available online.

Brad **Strahan** had two poems, "Shards" and "Kingsdale St. Pictures," accepted by *Evening Street* (a print publication). He hopes his press, Black Buzzard, will have its next book, William Swarts' *Strickland Plains & Other Poems*, out by the end of February.

Thom Moon Bird's poem, "Begging is a legal and loving profession" from his *i live in an age* was chosen as Poem of the Issue by Ric Lance **Williams** for the Feb. 5 *Austin Chronicle*. On January 23, Thom performed the poetry of Thomas Hardy with Bucolics Anonymous in the Dougherty Arts Center. The conclusion of the show is available on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQEAFB-zLuQ#watch-main-area>. Thom will be a featured poet at Forrest Fest on April 30/May 1.

Liliana **Valenzuela** was featured by ACC's Literary Coffeehouse at Austin Java on February 8.

William **Wenthe's** poem, "For the Coming Catastrophes," was a finalist in *Cutthroat* magazine's 2009 Joy Harjo Poetry Competition. Professor Wenthe, who teaches at Texas Tech University, sometimes judges contests for APS.

Cairol Dawn **Worley's** poem, "Exhaled," was published by Lame Goat Press and honored as The Best of the Best in February.

Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove

The proposal from the Austin Poetry Society Board of Directors to name a park the Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove has not been scheduled for consideration by the City Council. What's taking so long? A few days before each Thursday meeting you may check upcoming agendas when they are posted (http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council_meetings/). We'll try to let you know as well.

Calls for Submissions

LAST CHANCE Deadline: February 20, 2010. The 2011 Texas Poetry Calendar. Guidelines are on the website (<http://www.dosgatospress.org/>) and also in the back of the 2010 *Texas Poetry Calendar*. Cyrus Cassells, author of four acclaimed books of poetry, will judge the awards for 2011.

The Enigmatist, a poetry journal produced by Mike and Joyce **Gullickson**, currently invites submissions for its contests. Prizes are \$100, \$50, and \$25 dollars, with a bargain basement entry fee of \$5. Mike kindly mentions that if you just want to submit, that's free. At this price, don't be silly. Enter the contest and support a local publisher. Info: poetkind@yahoo.com, or (512) 591-7330.

Virgogray Press is accepting poetry submissions for three upcoming anthologies. The themes are: "Mother," "Classic American Values," and "National Poetry Month (ANY)." If you are interested in submitting your work to any of these, please visit <http://virgograypress.wordpress.com/> and look at Michael **Casares'** remarkable achievements there.

Deadline, April 1. Parent:Wise Magazine invites your essays (to 1,000 words) and poetry (to 24 lines) for its annual Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day issue. Make it relevant to motherhood or fatherhood. Send submissions, electronic only, to Editor@ParentWiseAustin.com. They pay for what they print.

Deadline: April 15, Forrest Fest Peggy Lynch Poetry Competition. No fee. Submit either e-mail or postal, one poem, no more than 32 lines, with a cover specifying your name, address and age. Prizes: Adult contest (14 and up), \$100 first place. Children's contest (13 and under), \$50 first place. Complete details: <http://www.forrestfest.com>. Questions? redsagewoman@hotmail.com.

NO deadline (since *Ardent* is an ongoing publication). **Ardent**, the poetry journal of Poetry in the Arts (PITA) invites your submission of up to three unpublished poems, any style, but preferably with passion, strong emotion, heat. No more than 32 lines per poem. Poems are not returned, so keep your originals, and notification only goes to authors of selected poems. Include a "permission to use" statement. An issue is planned for April, so you may have to wait for the issue six months from now. E-mail submission to rimer777@gmail.com (their preference), or postal to Dillon **McKinsey**, *Ardent* Editor, 1909 Hollow Ridge Drive, Cedar Park, TX 78613-6729.

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 new "Literary Events" column in the *Austin Statesman*. Often we omit ongoing items to include special events.

Friday nights, 6:30-7:30 p.m. once it gets organized. Bear the Poet Man, host of Friday night readings at JP's Java, invites you to join a group to spend three months or so meeting once a week to consider chapters from Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way*. Each chapter includes pleasurable exercises to rouse the artist within you. To add your name, e-mail Bear, cosmicbeam@hotmail.com or phone him, (409) 392-6063.

February 21, Sunday and every Sunday till March 20, 2:00-4:30 p.m.. Cafe Caffeine, 909 West Mary, prepares for the Million Musicians March (the March starts at noon on Saturday, March 20), an event jointly sponsored by Austin Center for Peace and Justice and Instruments for Peace. Featured poets include, Kathleen **Romana**, Bear the Poet Man, Dillon **McKinsey**, Edgar **Pace**, and John **Berry**. With them, read your peace poetry between bands Sundays.

February 24, Wednesday, 5:30-7:00 p.m. and each Wednesday for five weeks. Vespers & Verses. St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 West 15th Street, features poetry along with Taize worship in its Lenten vespers.

February 24, Wednesday, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Writing on the Air, KOOP Radio, 91.7 FM or online at www.koop.org <http://www.koop.org/>.

February 24, Wednesday, and each Wednesday night. South Austin Soul, 2801 Manchaca Road. Info: DJ Happy Happy James World, (512) 551-3982.

February 27, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Gather in Temple to remember Morrie **Greene**, Rod **Foyt**, and all the living poets of Temple, Belton, Salado, Austin etc. Come to remember, celebrate, read, listen, digest and cherish. The House of Lee, 2711 Exchange Plaza, Temple, (254) 778-3111.

February 28, Sunday, 4:00 p.m. Borderlands Community of Poets features "Bilingual Poets of Austin". Poets include Tony **Beckwith**, Celeste **Guzman-Mendoza**, Iréne **Lara Silva**, Anjela **Villarreal-Ratliff**, Lydia **Armendariz**, Gloria **Amescua**, Steve **Vera**, and Enrique **Cabrera**, with poet/writer/translator Lilita **Valenzuela** as presenter. Series host: Deb **Akers**. Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley, 5601 Brodie Lane. borderlandspetry@sbcglobal.net.

March 1, Monday, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Hideout, 617 Congress, features Annie **LaGanga**.

March 5, Friday, 6:30 p.m. The first of a new open microphone series at Hill Country Bookstore, Georgetown (on the square). Mike **Gullickson** reports that a poetry workshop group is forming in Sun City. Info: Mike or Joyce, poetkind@yahoo.com, or (512) 591-7330.

March 6, Saturday, 6:00 doors open, 7:00 showtime. Expressions holds a "Remembrance of Poets Passed." Come to read the poetry of Austin poets now gone on. Among those featured: Elzy Cogswell remembers Albert **Huffstickler** and Neill **Megaw**; Jim Stewart remembers Jeannie **Guthrie**, Roxy **Gordon** and Hondo **Crouch**, Ed **Seymour** reads from his mother's poetic work; Garrison **Martt** remembers Kathrin **Gann**, C.A. **Wiles** and Neill **McGaw**, Mike Henry remembers **Pasha**, and Darla McBryde remembers Townes **Van Zandt**. You are welcome to evoke the best of remembered loved ones. Austin Bahai Center 2215 E.M Franklin Ave. Admission: Bring a dish for the Pot Luck/cans for Poets Pantry. Notify Thom: worldpoet@rocketmail.com.

March 11, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Bookwoman features Beth **Kropf** in their open mic, hosted by Deb **Akers**. 5501 North Lamar #A105.

March 11, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Austin's longest-running continuous poetry venue at the Arboretum Barnes & Noble, 10,000 Research Boulevard. Hosted by Barbara Youngblood **Carr** and Herman M. **Nelson**. Featured will be Irene **Mooneyhan**; Chip **Ross**; Michael **Sadler**; Herman **Nelson**; John **Berry** and Barbara herself. She encourages you to wear something green and bring out your limericks. Info: 418-8985 (Barnes & Noble) or 343-7940 (Carr).