

Austin Poetry Society

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

January, 2010

Muse-Letter

Milligan and Barnett on Chapbooks, Jan. 23

On Saturday January 23, 1:30-3:30 p.m., we meet in the **Austin History Center**, Ninth Street at Guadalupe, to hear Bryce **Milligan**, publisher and editor of Wings Press in San Antonio, and Dorothy **Barnett**, poet and Creative Writing Program Director for Austin Community College, talking about "Poetry in Composition: The Art of the Chapbook." Milligan has authored four collections of poems, five locally produced plays, and over 1500 articles, essays and reviews. He has written five historical novels and short story collections for young adults. He will make available a selection of Wings Press poetry books and chapbooks. Dorothy Barnett, currently the Dean of Communications for ACC and a full-time English and creative writing professor, is founding editor of *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review* and *The Rio Review*. She is a post-graduate James A. Michener Fellow in Creative Writing.

Marcelle **Kasprowicz**, author of *Organza Skies*, will open the meeting as featured poet.

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).

Welcome to New Members

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

Margaret D. **Anderegg**
Patricia **Fiske**

Shuri **Geeslin**
Lisa **Salinas**

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 125.

Two Readings by Anthology Poets

Deb **Akers'** Borderlands Community of Poets series at Barnes & Noble, Sunset Valley, has graciously invited our Anthology poets to read at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 24th. Katherine **Oldmixon** will host, and these poets will gather to read: Mary Ellen **Branan**, Barbara **Carr**, Jason **Carr**, Ralph **Hausser**, Sylvia **Manning**, Christa **Pandey**, Carolyn Luke **Reding**, Shubh Bala **Schiesser** and **Thom Moon** 10. The place is 5601 Brodie Lane.

At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 28th, the APS 4th Thursday Open Mic also features Anthology poets. These poets have already signed up: Deb **Akers**, Barbara **Carr**, Elzy **Cogswell**, Laura **Kooris**, and Mary **Riley**. Ralph **Hausser** will host. An open mic follows featured poets.

CONTEST RESULTS, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SUBMISSIONS, 2009

GENERAL Verse Category

Critic/judge: Carol Carpenter

Poet	Poem	Critic's Rating	Popular Vote
George Klawitter	The Loneliness of the Hunt	1	1 (tie)
Shubh Bala Schiesser	Disquiet	2	1 (tie)
Nancy Fierstien	A Wooden Cross Can Bear the Flames	3	1 (tie)
Greg Silver	Blank Snapshot	4	2
Lee LeTeff	I Never Imagined	5	3

LIGHT Verse Category

Critic/judge: Carol Carpenter

Poet	Poem	Critic's Rating	Popular Vote
George Klawitter	The Elephant	1	2
Herman Nelson	My Daughter's Dog	2	1
Lee LeTeff	Peace Came Dancing	3	4
Cheri Shoemaker	October Moon	4	3 (tie)
Greg Silver	Stolen Moment	5	3 (tie)

Carol Carpenter,

Our Critic/Judge

Carol **Carpenter's** poems and stories have appeared in numerous online and print publications and various anthologies. Her work has been exhibited by art galleries and produced as podcasts (*Connecticut Review* and *Bound Off*). She received the Hart Crane Memorial Award, the Jean Siegel Pearson Poetry Award, Artists Among Us Award and others. Formerly a college writing instructor, journalist and trainer, she now devotes her time to writing in Livonia, Michigan.

Could mortal lip divine
 The undeveloped freight
 Of a delivered syllable,
 'T would crumble with the weight.
 -- Emily Dickinson, *Life*, XCV

Dead Poets Society

A Report from George Klawitter

A gentleman by the name of Walter Skold in Maine has a unique hobby. He visits the graves of little-known or unknown poets. On a recent jaunt, he visited the graves of 150 poets in 23 states, averaging about 2 graves per day.

At age 49, Skold has founded what he calls "The Dead Poets Society of America," encouraging other people, poets or not, to follow his lead. Of course, he does not neglect famous poets and has visited the graves of Frost, Whitman, and Longfellow.

Sometimes his visits can be dicey. Once he was nearly arrested when he went to the grave of Michael Wigglesworth and lit some torches there in the middle of the night.

This is a very praiseworthy undertaking, and Skold plans to post online his information about the location of various graves.

Last year we honored "Lost Poets" of AIPF with a reading, and a similar event is planned this April 15 (see <http://aipf.org/html/info.php>). Perhaps someone in APS would be interested in following Walter Skold's example by taking an homage process out under the sky. There are ample sites right here in Austin, but someone needs to develop a list. It could lead to a solitary meditative process, an inspiration for new poems, or even periodic group tours, with readings.

George Klawitter is a long-time APS member and a Professor at St. Edward's University. Two upcoming events provide opportunities to celebrate the work of deceased Austin poets. If you could read for the Expressions series on March 6, tell Thom Moon 10, worldpoet@rocketmail.com, and if you could read the poetry of a late relative or friend at the Lost Poets Reading for AIPF on April 15, write Elzy Cogswell, poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu.

Record Our Meeting?

A member who cannot come to the January 23rd meeting on chapbooks would love to have a tape of the meeting for when she returns to town. If you have the equipment, she would be grateful.

Christina Sergeyevna

Wendy Christina Podwalny, 51, passed on in Austin, Texas, January 12, 2010. Moving to Austin in 1995, Wendy turned her attention to writing poetry. She was a published writer and was the Director of the Austin International Poetry Festival. Wendy wrote under the pen name, Christina Sergeyevna and is honored in AIPF each year as writers are awarded the Christina Sergeyevna Award. A Memorial Service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 16, 2009 at Cook-Walden Chapel of the Hills Funeral Home in Austin.

Annual Awards Supplement

Appended to this *Museletter* you will find a copy of the **List of Contests and Guidelines for our Annual Awards**. We will accept entries beginning February 1st (please not before), and the postmark deadline is March 31st. This supplement will not be attached to the online *Museletter*, since the same information is already linked on our **Resources** page. Please adhere scrupulously to the **Guidelines and individual contest rules**.

Reflections: 60th Year Anthology

We believe we have distributed all of the complimentary contributors' copies of our *60th Year Anthology*. Extra copies will be available for pick-up again at the January 23 meeting whether you have a poem in the anthology or not. We're asking that for each additional copy, you contribute \$10 to replenish the publications fund to empower us to plan another anthology someday. We'll even mail you a copy in appreciation for a contribution. Postal delivery costs us about \$2.50 for one copy.

New Poetry Books from Plain View Press

In the fall, Susan **Bright's Plain View Press** published three poetry books: *Black Irish* by Michele Madigan **Somerville**; *Questions of Fire* by Gregg **Mosson**; and *The Guilt Gene* by Diana M. **Raab**. Take a look: <http://www.plainviewpress.net/>.

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

Wild Poppies is a CD featuring poetry and music in honor of Marilyn **Buck**, an Austin poet now in prison. The CD features many poets including APS member Mariann **Wizard** and Austin poet Akwasi **Evans**. It's available for \$15 through The Freedom Archives, 522 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, (415) 863-9977, info@freedomarchives.org.

Barbara Youngblood **Carr** was a presenter, reading from her newest Ancestor Series book, *Windsongs and Moon Spirits*, at the Annual Writers' Festival at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Her poem about Omaha Beach was published in the *National Third Infantry Magazine* in November. In the midst of physical and technological repairs, she continues hosting her usual venues: 7:00 p.m. Thursday January 14 at Arboretum Barnes & Noble; the workshop there on Thursday, January 21; and *Borders-on-the-Word* on the Fourth Wednesday, January 27. Barbara will have a vendor table at the Fifth National Women's Story Circle Network Conference, Feb. 5-7, at the Wyndham Hotel in Austin. She'll be signing all her Ancestor Series books and offering some new and different greeting cards.

Elzy **Cogswell** had three poems, "A New Year's Revolution," "Lumberjack," and "Tongue Fruit," in the January *Pecan Press*, newsletter of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association. He encourages any poets who live in Hyde Park to submit short poems to the poetry editor, APS member Nancy Taylor **Day**, 4001 Duval, Austin 78751.

APS Member Doyle Morgan **Fellers** of Dripping Springs has been asked to present a series of three poetry readings and commentary on poetry's value as entertainment, education and personal expression for the residents of Querencia at Barton Creek.

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia **Kittredge**, New Testament Professor at the Seminary of the Southwest, has had a poem accepted for publication by the *Anglican Theological Review*. She has two poems in *Lifting Women's Voices*, a book published by the Office of Women's Ministries at the Episcopal Church Center. Russell Schulz, Associate Professor of Church Music, saw her poem in the seminary Advent booklet and set it to music as an anthem. In the seminary's periodical, *Ratherview*, Prof. Kittredge recently presented an article on the interpretation of Biblical themes in the poetry of Emily Dickinson.

APS Board Member Beth **Kropf** was a reader at the Windhover Writer's Festival and presented a workshop, "The Art of the Sestina." Wei **Liu**, the first recipient of the **Jenny Lind Porter Scholarship**, has two poems, "Private eros love song, 1974" and "untitled, To Emily," posted by *Prick of the Spindle*, Vol. 1.2: http://www.amateurartwork.com/poetry/1.2/liu/untitled_to_jenny.htm.

Farid **Mohammadi**, founder of Texas Nafas, continues to sponsor and generate wondrous poetry events in Austin, and he lets us re-live those events recorded on DVDs. Take a look at the shows in his list. You may want one: <http://www.texasnafas.org/video.html>.

San Antonio poet Naomi Shihab **Nye** has been elected to the Board of Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets. In the announcement, Chancellor Edward Hirsch said, "A resident of Texas, a citizen of the world, Naomi Shihab Nye is a deeply humane poet whose work crosses borders and lifts spirits."

APS Board Member Christa **Pandey's** hymn, "The Might of God," was published in *The Lutheran Digest* (Winter, 2010).

APS member Carolyn Luke **Reding** plans to graduate in May from the Seminary of the Southwest with a Masters of Art in Religion (MAR) degree. She hopes a new book of lyric and narrative poetry will emerge from her Master's project.

APS member Robert **Stikmanz** was interviewed on Dillon **McKinsey's** "Writing on the Air" show, KOOP FM, 91.7, <http://writingontheair.com/?p=31>. His book, *Sleeper Awakes*, received a good review from Ethan Nahté: http://www.popsyndicate.com/site/story/sleeper_awakes_by_robert_stikmanz.

Bradley **Strahan** gave a workshop and a reading at the Writers' Festival at Mary Hardin-Baylor University. His course, "Poetry Good Enough to Publish," will be presented again in the UT Informal Classes program. It's Course No. 7523.301, and meets four times, on Tuesdays, Feb. 16 through March 9, 7:30-9:30 p.m. The course is for poets of all skill levels who want to improve their craft. To register, Google UT informal classes, view classes, and click on Writing; it's the last item on the alphabetical course list.

Thom Moon 10 received word that the Wassail fest in December where he performed with others raised \$1,642.31 for kids in the Sudan. Pictures of the event, which drew a big crowd, are online: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/8280530@N06/sets/72157623114536904/>. Thom's presentation of "Poetry Becomes Another Orphan," improvised live at the Hideout, was taped by Lee **LeTeff** and is now available on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXDu2mUpSww>.

Leo **Waltz** reports that he is building the web site for Alan **Birkelbach** and it is partially functional: <http://AlanBirkelbach.com>.

Scott **Wiggerman** reports that the remaining 2010 *Texas Poetry Calendars* are now on sale from Dos Gatos Press for \$8.00 including shipping to one address while supplies last. Send checks to Dos Gatos Press, 1310 Crestwood Road, Austin 78722.

APS Board Member Ashley **Williams** was featured reader for Bookwoman's open mic on Jan. 14th. As an avid reader of poetry, Ashley says her favorite poets include Sylvia Plath, Anne Sexton and e.e. cummings. She attributes inspiration for her own poetry to myths, Bible stories and pop culture and, of course, personal experience.

Mariann G. **Wizard**, an APS member, will now write a periodic column on the subject of "Complementary and Alternative Medicine" in *The Rag Blog*. Mariann is a professional science writer with a wide-ranging knowledge of natural health therapies. On Jan. 4th her article titled "Towards a conscious self-health-care continuum," appeared. She is one of the poets who reads on the CD, *Wild Poppies* (q.v. above). Recently she also posted "South Africa's Dennis Brutus: A Poet for Human Rights."

APS member Precious M. **Yett** reports that she has finished basic training in the Air Force and, after a visit to Austin from January 18th to 24th, will be stationed in San Antonio.

Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove

The proposal from the Austin Poetry Society Board of Directors to name a park the Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove will not be considered by the City Council until their meeting of January 21st or later. 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

URGENT Deadline Feb. 1, 2010: Youth Poetry Anthology for the 2010 Austin International Poetry Festival. Poems from kids in grades K-12 in public / private / home school settings. Go to www.aipf.org for info or contact aipfya@sbcglobal.net.

Deadline Mid-February. Register for the **Austin International Poetry Festival (AIPF)**. Choose three of your best poems under thirty lines, draft yourself a biography under 75 words, and go online, <http://www.aipf.org>, to register. **Warning:** The website has been down because of reconstruction, but they hope to have it up by January 15, later than usual. As soon as you can reach it, register and get in your poetry submissions because **submissions close in mid-February**. The festival happens Thursday April 15th through Sunday, April 18th. It'll cost you a \$30 check or money order, and it's worth much more than that. One of your poems may be chosen for the festival anthology, *Di-Verse-City*, and be considered for the Christina Sergeyevna Award.

Postmark Deadline: February 20, 2010. The 2011 Texas Poetry Calendar. Submit by postal mail 1 to 3 typewritten poems in 12-point Times New Roman font; 35-line limit per poem, including title and blank lines. No previously published poems. Do not place your name or other identifying information on the poems themselves. They prefer poems with a Texas connection. Include a cover letter with: the title of each poem (first line for an untitled poem, but they prefer titled poems); your email address and phone number; and a biography of 100-200 words including your publication history and achievements as a writer. If you have no e-mail account, include an SASE for contact. Poems will not be returned, so keep a copy. Contributors published in the calendar receive a complimentary copy of the *Texas Poetry Calendar 2011*. Selections will be made by May, 2010. All submissions are eligible for the 2011 Texas Poetry Calendar Awards. The 2011 contest judge is Cyrus Cassells. Include a check for \$5.00, payable to Dos Gatos Press.

Submissions Open Now for the Peggy Lynch Poetry Competition sponsored by **Forrest Fest**, which happens April 30 and May 1 in Lamesa, Texas. Poem must be no more than 32 lines, but any form is okay. There are two categories: Adults, 14 and up, and Children, 13 and under. Include a cover with your name, address, age, and title of your poem. No names or identifying information on the poem. Postal Mail your entry to 301 North 19th Street, Lamesa, Texas 79331, or e-mail to: forrestpoetry@live.com. Prizes: Adult First Place, \$100.00, Second and Third Place awards receive a Forrest Fest honors certificate. Children's First Place, \$50.00, Second Place \$15.00 and Third Place \$10.00. First place winners in both categories must be present to receive the award. Winners of second and third place need not be present. Contact: redsagewoman@hotmail.com, (806) 777-9864, <http://www.forrestfest.com>. No entry fee is required.

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*.

January 18, Monday, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Thom Moon 10 hosts an open mic featuring Jen Borland with her new book and new poems. The Hideout, 617 Congress.

January 20, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. (signup), 8:00 p.m. (showtime). A new venue at Café Caffeine, 306 East 5th Street. A talent show hosted by Edgar Pace.

January 21, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Thirsty Thursday features San Antonio poet Beverly Monestier, who just won the 2009 Edwiin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award for her new collection, *What The House Is Made Of*. New Life Lutheran Church, 120 Frog Pond Lane, Dripping Springs.

January 22, Friday and ongoing second and fourth Fridays, 8:30 p.m. A new venue, Griot Poets, 1408B Cedar. This party runs on into the night. Home made food (vegan) and drinks are available, and there may be a \$5 door charge for the band. Poets should come early and find the bright new space.

Through January 24th, Thursday through Sunday, 8:00 p.m. Austin poet David Jewell is doing a fun show, *Surfin' UFO*, at the Vortex Repertory Company, 2307 Manor Road. David provides words, with lots of musical help and big-screen video images. Kid-friendly! .

January 25, Monday, 6:00-10:00 p.m. The astonishing performance poet, Annie La Ganga, author of *Stoners and Self-Appointed Saints*, is featured at The Hideout, 617 Congress, hosted by Thom Moon 10.

January 27, Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 p.m. A new poetry-only venue every second and fourth Wednesday at the Java Garden, 4410 East Riverside. Buffet available. Host: Lee LeTeff. Phone 385-8858.

January 30, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. The APS Poetry Critique Group, with Beth Kropf hosting, meets each month on the last Saturday in the Central Market upstairs dining area, 38th and Lamar.

January 30, Saturday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Be at the Arboretum Barnes and Noble for Barbara Youngblood Carr's book-signing for the newest in her Ancestor Series, *Windsongs and Moon Spirits*, .

February 3, Wednesday, Noon. Poetry on the Plaza: A Poet Walks into a Movie. Harry Ransom Center Plaza, 21st and Guadalupe. www.hrc.utexas.edu. Free.

February 4, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. The Tablerock Poetry Festival, a one-nighter in Salado, counsels that you confirm your plans to come with Jackie Mills, tablerock1@aol.com, (254) 947-9205, and bring with you your cat poems. It's possible to arrange car-pooling. Poetry from the event goes into next year's publication, and the Tablerock poets, www.tablerock.org, annually raise funds for the Humane Society.

February 6, Saturday, 6:00-10:00 p.m. Expressions: Love poems only. Host: Thom Moon 10. Music: Chris Van Loan. Featured: Kathleen Romana, Edgar Pace, Dillon McKinsey, Element 615 and Darla McBryde. Expressions is an all-ages reading; bring poetry to present. Admission - a dish for the pot luck supper at the interval and cans of food for the Poets Pantry. Doors open 6 p.m., showtime is 7:00. Austin Bahá'í Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin Ave., www.austinbahai.org, (512) 926-8880.

February 15, Monday, 7:00-10:00 p.m. The Open Secret, a new venue hosted by John Hawk at Kick Butt Coffee in the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe.