

Austin Poetry Society

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

March, 2010

Muse-Letter

Dillon McKinsey, "Poetry in the Air," on March 27

On Saturday March 27, 1:30-3:30 p.m., we meet in the Austin History Center, Ninth Street at Guadalupe, to hear Dillon McKinsey talking about "Poetry in the Air: The Art of Reading Aloud." A long-time member and sometime officer in Austin Poetry Society, Dillon is also the guiding light for "Writing on the Air," broadcast each Wednesday, 6:00-7:00 p.m. on KOOP, 91.7 FM, and also streamed online, www.koop.org.

Cindy Huyser, co-editor of the *Texas Poetry Calendar*, will open the meeting as featured poet. Cindy's poems have appeared in *The Comstock Review*, *Borderlands*, the *Texas Poetry Review*, and a variety of other publications.

Please note that the time and place for the meeting is a change from the meeting time and place shown in your *Yearbook*. Continued renovation at Howson Branch Public Library has required this change. Note also that next month's meeting, on April 17, will be changed from the *Yearbook* listing. Details about that meeting, which serves as a venue for Austin International Poetry Festival, will appear in next month's *Museletter*. (See article, Page 2.)

Welcome to New Members

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

Hetty Alyse Borinstein
Brittney D. Broadway
Alyssa DeCaulp
Ellie Douglas
Sonya Ingwerson
Annie La Ganga

Jake Ryan McCoy
Jacob Cain McRae
Adriana Montenegro
Susan Rooke
Thomas L. St. Julien
Richard Stein

Total membership has reached 141. Not a member? Join now to enter our annual contests: <http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org/membership.htm>.

Last Chance for Annual Contests

The postmark deadline for the Austin Poetry Society Annual Awards Contests is March 31st. Now is the time to prepare your entries. The guidelines and list of contests are available in your *Yearbook* and online, www.austinpoetrysociety.org/contests.htm. Only members of APS may enter, but you may submit your membership fee (\$20) and application form with your contest entries and entry fee (\$10) if you like. More than \$1300 in prizes will be awarded at our May 15 meeting. It's the climax of our program year, and the newly elected officers will also be installed.

CONTEST RESULTS, JANUARY SUBMISSIONS, 2009

GENERAL Verse Category

Critic/judge: Jill Alexander Essbaum

Poet	Poem	Critic's Rating	Popular Vote
George Klawitter	Forward	1	3 (tie)
Margaret Anderegg	Kite	2	1
Herman Nelson	The Big Want	3	3 (tie)
Shubh Bala Schiesser	My Father's Last Time	4	2
Greg Silver	No One There to Miss	5	4

LIGHT Verse Category

Critic/judge: Jill Alexander Essbaum

Poet	Poem	Critic's Rating	Popular Vote
Nancy Fierstien	Toxic Soil's in Transit from Upstate New York	1	1
George Klawitter	The Armadillo	2	2
Herman Nelson	Sweetie Pie's and My New Day	3	4 (tie)
Shubh Bala Schiesser	Wimberley Show Offs!	4	3
Greg Silver	Hair Apparent	5	4 (tie)

Jill Essbaum, Our Critic/Judge

Jill Alexander Essbaum is the author of the 1999 Bakeless Prize winner in poetry, *Heaven*, the 2005 collection of sonnets, *Oh Forbidden*, and *Necropolis*, from NeoNuma Arts. She publishes in many journals including *Poetry* magazine, *Christian Century*, and *Image*. In 2003, she was awarded an NEA literature grant. She taught writing for Concordia University in Austin. While living in Switzerland she returned to Austin to serve as the University of Texas visiting poet in the spring, 2007. She lives in Austin now.

Ahora Matilde*(For Matilde Garvia, now)*

No more can I read my poem of her,
 for it is present tense, and she passed yesterday.
 All the great names of Spanish poetry,
 her voice made living spirits,
 despite mi poco Español.
 And then she spoke Poetry in a language
 whose name even I do not know.
 It was her Magick, her art.
 Goddess willing, she knows all
 words and languages now,
 and we will trade verses,
 bellissima, in another world.

– John Berry

APS and AIPF: Partners in Art

The 18th annual Austin International Poetry Festival (AIPF), a city-wide celebration of poetry and poets, will be held April 15th through 18th, 2010. Events will be all over town. AIPF Headquarters will be Ruta Maya Coffeehouse. At least thirty-three members of Austin Poetry Society (APS) have already registered to attend the Festival, and we expect others are still registering. Late registration continues now: www.aipf.org.

Festival Director Ashley Kim says it's too late to submit poems for the AIPF anthology--selected poems will be announced soon. Till March 25 you can still register to read; have your name and bio in the Program; and attend four fabulous poetry-filled days of readings and workshops. Late registration is open till April 17: www.aipf.org. Your business or organization can be a supporter of AIPF: e-mail aipfdirector@gmail.com, or call/text (512) 731-5907 to find out how.

APS members have always been active volunteers for AIPF, often playing leadership roles. This year for the first time, as "a hand in support, friendship, and collaboration" APS has taken a full-page ad in the AIPF Program,

Mary Maclaine Berry, 1925-2010

Mary Berry, the wife of a long time guiding light for Austin poetry, John Berry, passed away March 9th. In speaking of her, John turned to lines from his poem about her, "The Testament of Andro Mann": "idea as a muse, practical as a cat, wholly Her own" and "Marching the church aisle to our wedding. / No one 'gives Her away'; She is Her own gift." Her memorial service will be at 2:00 p.m. on April 3 in the Live Oak Unitarian Church, 3315 El Salido Parkway, Cedar Park, Texas.

Ron Jorgenson of AIPF has asked for volunteers to consider housing one of the festival's visiting poets. Poets from out of the country, around the nation and throughout the state will be here to share their work. They need fellow poets who can offer a room or couch during the festival. It's a great way to make friends from the wide world of poetry. If you can help, please contact Ron: rrjorgenson@gmail.com.

Perhaps the most exciting connection between APS and AIPF came about when the Board of APS noticed that our April meeting was on Saturday, April 17, during the Festival. Not wanting to have a meeting in competition with AIPF venues, the Board invited AIPF to make our meeting one of their venues and list it in their program. AIPF was happy to oblige. The Festival will appoint ten or twelve readers from those who are in the anthology, *di-verse-city*, selected from the APS members whose poems are included, and others may sign up to read as well. AIPF is bringing karla k. morton, the current Texas Poet Laureate and an APS member, to be featured, and karla agreed to be featured poet for the APS meeting while here. After karla's reading, she will emcee for the poets who follow.

APS March Activities

On Saturday, March 27, at 11:00 a.m. (before the APS 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. Talk with sympathetic readers about your work. This month, if you like, you could follow Beth's nudge and write a poem to meet the requirements of APS Annual Contest 2, the Border/Lines Award: subject, "Borderlands (cultural, political, poetical, spiritual, psychological, etc.)"

On Thursday, March 25, the APS Fourth Thursday open mic will feature Deb Akers and Greg Silver reading their poetry. Each month, after the featured readers, a round robin open mic provides a chance for everyone to read. Ralph Hausser is host for the series, which has completed two years now. The sessions run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the NeWorldDeli, 4101 Guadalupe. Good food, good drinks, good poems.

Remembrance of Lost Poets

On the first day of AIPF, from 3:30 to 5:30 on April 15th, 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 I am collecting a list of people who want to read, with the names of the poets they want to honor. If you would like to participate, please send word so I can get you on the list: Elzy Cogswell, poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu, or 452-4314.

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us: *Individual Achievements*

Kaye Voigt **Abikhaled** was a contest judge for the Utah State Poetry Society's Philosophical-Religious Long Poem Contest in February, and for the Poetry Society of Texas Student Awards, Middle School Category in March (with 127 entries). In March she also judged the long poem category for the Amarillo, Texas Frontiers in Writing contest.

Usha **Akella** visited Granada, Nicaragua, arriving on Feb. 14 for the annual international poetry festival there. On the northwestern edge of Lake Nicaragua, Granada's poetry festival hosted poets from 130 countries. She wrote of her last impression of Nicaragua: "a tiny congregation of worldwide ethnicity in Casa del Café, Granada Airport. In waiting for individual flights, poets from Israel, Africa, Iceland, Nicaragua and India shared a farewell warmed by coffee and friendship."

Deb **Akers** appeared on Dillon **McKinsey's** "Writing on the Air" with Zara **Houshmand** and Judy **Jensen** on February 24.

Chris Bear **Beam** hosts the open mic at JP's Java, 2803 San Jacinto across from the Posse East, each Friday at 7:30 p.m. Beginning Friday, March 26, Chris along with Emily **Comstock** is starting another weekly group to meet in the back room at 6:30 (the hour before the open mic). They invite anyone who feels their "creativity is stifled, suppressed or lost," or others who just want to see where their creativity is taking them. Bring yourself and a copy of Julia Cameron's, *The Artist's Way*, which will serve as a trail-guide in the 12 to 13 week series. The series is free. Info: (409) 392-6063.

Von S. **Bourland** attended the Poetry Society of Oklahoma Annual Awards Banquet on March 13th. Out of eighteen categories entered, she received one First Place, three Seconds, three Thirds, two First Honorable Mentions, and one Judge's Citation, a total of ten awards! Von has been named an Honorary Mockingbird Member by the Mockingbird Chapter in McKinney, Texas.

Barbara Youngblood **Carr**, in a program arranged by the Writers' League of Texas, presented a creative workshop for children at Oak Springs Elementary on February 22nd. On the 27th, she had book-signings and readings in Lake Jackson at both a private celebration and a Hastings bookstore. With other AIPF Board members, she will be a featured poet in the Expressions series on Saturday, April 3. She will also be performing piano music and poetry with other musicians and poets at Central Presbyterian Church's weekly concert. She will appear as host in assorted venues and events for the Festival. She does all this while maintaining her ongoing Austin poetry venues.

Ute **Carson**, formerly a Galveston poet, has moved to Austin and is preparing a book, *Your Weekly Dose of Poetry*. See her website, <http://www.utecarson.com/hypno.shtml>, where you will find some of her poems posted under "Writings." Using hypnotism, Ute offers a number of courses, workshops and consultations on subjects like Weight Loss, Grief, Addiction, Depression and Post-Traumatic Stress Recovery.

Elzy **Cogswell** will be featured reader for the monthly meeting of the Poetry Society of Texas in Dallas on April 10.

Mike **Gullickson's** poem, "Dreaming of Haiti," has been chosen to be displayed on the VIA Metropolitan Transit System in San Antonio during National Poetry Month. Only ten poems were chosen, and riders will be given a number to dial on their cell phones to hear a recording of the poets reading their posted poems.

Ashley **Kim**, Director of the Austin International Poetry Festival, joined other AIPF volunteers at the NeWorlDeli on February 25 as they were honored by Austin Poetry Society for the work they are doing.

APS member Peggy Zuleika **Lynch** is the appointed Librarian of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

Glenn and Cherie **McBride** (a.k.a. Duckie and the Grackle) have turned their poetry into fund-raising for wild birds. On February 25th, they performed their first fund-raiser for Wichita Falls Wild Bird Rescue in the Grand Ballroom of the Kemp Art Center, Wichita Falls. The performance included background piano music, animated text poetry and storytelling.

Dillon **McKinsey** collaborated with Billy Malkus of the Texas Sapphires on the lyrics for "Someone Else is On the Label," a song on their brand new Sophomore CD, *As He Wanders*. It's available online: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/as-he-wanders/id358107156>, but it may take an iTunes download. Dillon will be the presenter in the APS meeting on March 27.

karla k. **morton**, an APS member and the current Texas Poet Laureate, will make the morning presentation for the Annual House of Poetry at **Baylor University** on March 25, opening the 2010 **Beall Poetry Festival**. (See Events, page 4.)

Katherine **Oldmixon** spent last week at the national Conference on College Composition and Communication in Louisville, co-convening with Mary **Minnock** the annual poetry workshop and Exaltation of Larks reading.

Oda Lisa **Roberts** has a book of farcical fun, *Memory's Shorts*, available at amazon.com. She sells signed copies direct through memoryshorts@gmail.com. The cost is \$12.95 + sales tax + shipping). There is a Facebook account under Memory's Shorts.

Kathleen **Romana**, host for La Tazza Fresca open mics, 7:00-9:00 on second and fourth Fridays, had a selection from her poem, "Afterglow," chosen as Poem of the Issue for the February 19 *Austin Chronicle*.

New APS member Susan **Rooke's** poem "Washing Sin Away" appears in the newly released Winter 2010 issue of *Folio, A Literary Journal at American University*. Her poem "One Night at Moonrise" will appear in Volume 55 of *U.S.1 Worksheets*, out on the 28th of March.

Shubh Bala **Schiesser's** poem, "Doormat," has been accepted by Virgogray Press for its Carcinogenic Poetry collection. She's been busy submitting poems to AIPF and to the APS Annual Awards Contests.

Brad **Strahan's** poem, "Thaw-Song," has been accepted for publication in the *Christian Science Monitor*. Also, the *San Pedro River Review* accepted his poem "Jukebox."

Liliana **Valenzuela** had 16 poems in Spanish published in *Antología Canicular*, Editorial Campamocha. 2009. She also had an essay and two poems in Spanish in *Ventana Abierta*, no. 27, University of California at Santa Barbara, Fall 2009. On February 28, she served as host for the *Borderlands* Community of Poets featuring "Bilingual Poets of Austin."

Scott **Wiggerman** will teach a course in the Writers League Summer Retreat at Alpine (July 26-30). The course is "Putting the Creative in Creative Writing: A One-Week Exercise Program." A full description is online, <http://www.writersleague.org>. His poem, "After Hearing Elie Wiesel" appears in the new Poetica Publishing collection, *Mizmor L'David Anthology: Holocaust/The Shoah*. Scott reports that, with Cindy **Huysen**, he is about three fourths of the way through reading the poems for the 2011 *Texas Poetry Calendar*.

Mariann **Wizard**, after returning from a trip to Colombia, is putting together a "love program" for this years **EXSE**. (See Calls, page 4.)

Calls for Submissions

This column emphasizes local calls for submissions. You can get many more calls for poetry, chapbooks, contests, etc. in your mailbox six times a year from either of these sources: *Poets & Writers*, \$17.95 (one year), P.O. Box 422460, Palm Coast, FL 32142-8397 (www.pw.org); *The Writer's Chronicle* (Association of Writers & Writing Programs), \$20 (one year, a full membership costs more), Mail Stop 1E3, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030 (www.awpwriter.org).

Deadline: March 31. The Austin Poetry Society Annual Awards Contests. See "Last Chance" article on Page 1.

Deadline: March 31. Brad Strahan's *Visions-International* invites your unpublished poetry submissions for its next issue, <http://www.blackbuzzardpress.com/home.html>. Submit to: Visions-International, 3503 Ferguson Lane, Austin, TX 78754.

Deadline: April 1. A National Poetry Month Anthology from Michael Aaron Casares' Virgogray Press. He's also inviting submissions for a "mother" based anthology, as well as an anthology about "classic American philosophy and values." His Carcinogenic Poetry Anthology is still accepting submissions. Look online to see what's already available: <http://virgograypress.wordpress.com>.

Deadline: April 9, 7:00 p.m. EXSE Spoken Word Poetry Showcase puts you on TV reading your poetry. You have up to ten minutes, and it will be shown on Cable Channel 10, beginning with a marathon broadcast and then repeated from time to time. View videos of past EXSE Spoken Word Showcases at: www.youtube.com/ (search for EXSE). There's a \$10 submission fee plus a \$20 production fee on the day of your performance. Download the Submission form at: [http://www.channelaustin.org/files/docs/EXSESpokenWord Application 2010.pdf](http://www.channelaustin.org/files/docs/EXSESpokenWordApplication2010.pdf).

Deadline: May 1. Submit poems to *The Enigmatist*, which is preparing its fourth issue. Editor Mike Gullickson reports that several *Enigmatist* poets have been nominated for Pushcart Prizes, and the magazine is getting national attention. Info: Mike at poetkind@yahoo.com or (512) 591-7330.

Deadline: May 31. PressPress, an Australian publisher, sponsors an international chapbook contest. Submit your best chapbook (20-40 pages). The winner receives \$600 (Australian) and publication, and some of the finalists have also been offered publication. Read their full requirements and look at what they have done before: www.presspress.com.au.

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. Notification only goes to authors whose poems have been selected. Include a "permission to use" statement. An issue is planned for April, so you may have to wait for the next issue six months from now. E-mail, submissiontorimer777@gmail.com (their preference), or postal to Dillon McKinsey, *Ardent* Editor, 302 Cripple Creek Road, Cedar Park, TX 78613. (This is a new postal address, correcting our last issue).

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.

March 19, Friday, 4:30 p.m. The second screening of *One Night in Vegas* as part of the SXSW film festival takes place at the Alamo Lamar 3, 1120 South Lamar Blvd. The film, about the boxing match between Mike Tyson and Bruce Seldon, features two poets, Josh Bennett and B. Yung.

March 25, Thursday-March 27, Saturday. The 16th Annual Beall Poetry Festival at Baylor University. On March 25, the Baylor English Department hosts a "House of Poetry" with karla k. morton making the morning presentation and Anne McCrady offering an early afternoon workshop. Info: <http://www.baylor.edu/beall/> or (254) 710-1768.

March 28, Sunday, 4:00 p.m. Borderlands Community of Poets features poets from the "Fifteen Minutes of Fame" group: Judith Rosenberg, Kathy Waller, David Davis, Donna Lee Brown, Carol Journeay, Mary Dallas and Geoffrey Journeay-Kaler. Host: Deb Akers. Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley, 5601 Brodie Lane. borderlandspetry@sbcglobal.net

April 1, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. The UT Michener Center for Writers presents its Spring 2010 Visiting Poet, Brigit Pegeen Kelly, who has published three books of poetry: *To the Place of Trumpets* (1987), which was selected by James Merrill for the Yale Younger Poets Prize; *Song* (1995), winner of the Lamont Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets; and *The Orchard* (2004), a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award, an LA Times Book Award, and the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry. She was the 2008 recipient of the Academy of American Poets Fellowship. Avaya Auditorium ACES 2.302, SE corner of 24th & Speedway.

April 2, Friday, 6:00-8:00 p.m. will see another **First Friday Reading in Georgetown** organized by Michael Gullickson. He reports that on March 5th when Ron Jorgenson and Nancy Fierstien read, they drew book browsers to listen. He encourages others to attend. Info: Mike at poetkind@yahoo.com or (512) 591-7330.

April 3, Saturday, 6:00 p.m. doors open, 7:00 p.m. the show starts. In observation of National Poetry Month, **Expressions** honors Austin International Poetry Festival, featuring readings from members of the AIPF Board, including Ashley Steakley Kim, Barbara Youngblood Carr, and more, with Bob Mud, a featured performer for AIPF 2010.

April 8, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. "Thirsty Thursday" switches its regular April meeting time to the second Thursday of the month, so Australian poet Bob Mud can be a featured guest reader. Includes an open mic. New Life Lutheran Church on Frog Pond Lane and Highway 290, Dripping Springs. Call host Nancy Fierstien for more info at (512) 858-2024.

April 30-May 2, 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, Haryette Mullen, Naomi Shihab Nye, Peggy Shumaker, William Wenthe, Jacqueline Kolosov, and others. Check online: www.festivalhill.org. It's not free: the entire weekend will cost you \$125.