

Austin Poetry Society

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

May, 2009

Muse-Letter

Annual Awards Ceremony, May 16th

Old Year Ends, New Year Begins

On Saturday, May 16, we reach the annual climax of our program year when we meet at 1:30 p.m. for our Awards Ceremony. We will award over \$1,400 in prizes to winners in eighteen contests. The program is open to the public and free, and light refreshments will be served. It all happens in Agaard-Lovington (A-L) Auditorium on the Huston Tillotson University campus, 900 Chicon Street at Seventh Avenue. **See parking directions on page 2.** The best part of the ceremony is the winning poems, which will be projected on a big screen while the authors read them.

Officers for the new year, elected in the April meeting, will be installed:

President	Elzy Cogswell
1 st Vice-President	Katherine Durham Oldmixon
2 nd Vice-President	Christa Pandey
Treasurer	Thom Moon 10
Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Fierstien
Recording Secretary	Beth Kropf
Historian	Ralph Hausser

The new President appoints two at-large members of the Board as well. He will be seeking volunteers for committees and projects, so pick up the phone when he calls.

Spread Poetry Like Chunky Peanut Butter

Now is the time to join the Austin Poetry Society or renew your membership. We have a fiscal year, running from June 1 to May 31, and joining now gives you a full year with all our fun and games.

Last month members voted to raise the dues to \$20 (patron membership: \$30 or more). You can bring that to the annual awards ceremony on May 16, or just mail it in, payable to Austin Poetry Society, P.O. Box 684672, Austin, TX 78768.

Fourth Thursday Honors

Big Land, Big Sky, Big Hair Poets

On May 28th, the APS Fourth Thursday open microphone will feature poets whose poems appear in the ten-year anthology of poems from *The Texas Poetry Calendar (Dos Gatos Press)*. *Big Land, Big Sky, Big Hair* features the best from ten years of Texas poetry. On May 28th, all poets included in the book are invited to come and read their work in the APS Fourth Thursday open microphone. Copies of *Big Land* will be available for purchase.

Among the poets who have confirmed that they plan to be present for the party are Joe **Blanda**, Elzy **Cogswell**, Ralph **Hausser**, Cindy **Huysen**, Peggy Zuleika **Lynch**, David **Meischen**, Katherine Durham **Oldmixon**, Beverly **Voss** and Scott **Wiggerman**.

As usual, the reading happens at the NeWorldDeli, 4101 Guadalupe, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. An open microphone follows featured readers, and all poets are welcome. (You don't have to be in the book.) Fourth Thursday continues through the summer. Great ideas go well with good poets and good food.

CONTEST RESULTS, FEBRUARY SUBMISSIONS, 2009 Critic/judge: Jennifer Stewart, University of New Orleans GENERAL Verse Category

Poet	Poem	Critic's Rating	Popular Vote
Mary Hermes	Theatre Opaque	1	2 (tie)
Dawn Ambuehl-Sadek	Minutiae	2	1
Thom Moon 10	Gathering of Clouds	3	3
Mary Riley	Quadratic Quandary	4	2 (tie)
Janet Carruth McGuffin	Just Say Rain	5	4

An insufficient number of entries were submitted for a contest in the LIGHT Verse Category

One thing does not lead to another
 it leads to everything.
 -- Naomi Shihab Nye, from "The Problem of Muchness,"
Honeybee: Poems (HarperCollins)

Calls for Submissions

DEADLINE June 15. APS 60th year anthology. Members of Austin Poetry Society should submit up to three unpublished poems from which a committee will choose one for inclusion in our anthology, with a publication target date of October 15. Not a member? With your poems send a \$20 check to join. Maximum 36 lines, no more than 60 characters per line. Use 12 point type. Include an SASE for notification of which poem has been selected. Manuscripts will not be returned. Your submission indicates that you have the right to let us publish the poem. Send paper copies. We cannot consider e-mail submissions. Send to Austin Poetry Society Anthology Committee, P.O. Box 684672, Austin, TX 78768.

DEADLINE June 15. The Houston Poetry Fest 2009 happens October 8 through 11. Guest Poets and a Featured Poet will be invited. In order to be considered as an applicant for the "Juried Poet" category, submit the following items by June 15: four copies of no more than five poems, totaling no more than five typed pages, with titles but without your name or ID; a cover letter, with name, address, phone numbers, e-mail address, and a list of the titles of your poems; a brief biography for the anthology in case your poems are chosen; an SASE for notification of outcome (manuscripts will not be returned); a tax-deductible donation of \$15 to Houston Poetry Fest, a 501(c)(3) organization. Send it all to: Houston Poetry Fest / Attention: Submissions / P. O. Box 22595 / Houston, Texas 77227-2595. See <http://HoustonPoetryFest.com>.

It's Everywhere in Austin. It's Everyone

We like to walk an hour every day. It's a luxury which retirement affords. In our town, you can't always do that comfortably, so when the weather is too hot, we go inside an air-conditioned mall to get our exercise and look for poems about consumerism.

On May 7, as we were entering one of the many mall stores which are planning to close with devastating effects on the lives of employees, we noticed a young man standing at the door and scribbling in a notebook. Betty asked, "Are you counting customers?" When he said no, she revised it to "Writing poetry?" and he said "Yes!", surprised that anyone would guess. He said he always keeps a notebook handy, because he never knows when something will strike him as needing a poem. He seemed really pleased to hear about poetry groups and activities available in Austin. We exchanged names and e-mail addresses. (He has now received this *Museletter*.)

Poets are everywhere. They are everyone. In our town poetry is learning to come out and smile.

--Elzy Cogswell

Study Opportunity

William Wenthe, a poet and Professor of English at Texas Tech University, offers a week-long poetry workshop, "Plot in a Bottle," at the Split Rock Arts Program on the Twin Cities Campus in Minneapolis, June 14-19. The workshop explores the nuances of shaping the quality of "plot" in the small space of a poem. See the Summer 2009 Workshop and Retreat Schedule: <http://www.cce.umn.edu/splitrockarts/re/sources/index.html>.

Awards Ceremony Parking at HTU

The A-L Auditorium (Agaard-Lovington Building) sits beside Chalmers Street, at the west edge of campus. Park at the curb or in the grassy lot. South of the building a sidewalk leads to the entrance with four steps to the auditorium side door. For no steps but a longer walk, go to the east end of the building and enter there. On a campus map, <http://www.htu.edu/ContactUs/index.html>, the A - L Building is No. 14.

New APS Critique Group

Elizabeth (Beth) Kropf, about to begin her second year on the APS Board of Directors, has taken to heart a need for a poetry critique group which several members have mentioned. While there are many good critique groups in Austin, none of them meet on weekends.

Beth is starting such a group and the first meeting will happen on Saturday May 30th at 11:00 a.m. at the Central Market near 40th and Lamar, upstairs. Do come and help get it started. Thereafter she plans to meet one Saturday a month. When there are no poems to critique, the group will share writing exercises to take home or work on in the meeting. If you cannot attend the first session but would like information about future meetings, contact Elizabeth: bethkropf2004@yahoo.com.

Our Friends Remembered

This year, Austin International Poetry Festival honored AIPF poets who have died. We invited their friends and relatives to read their poetry. The "Lost Poets" reading honored: Glen Alyn, Alli Aweusi, Sara Clark, Floyd Freeman, Roxy Gordon, Xan Grant, Albert Huffstickler, Patricia Robinson Arnold Inyang, Byron Kocen, Shannon Leigh Lewis, Brinsley Sheridan, Ana Sisnett, and C. A. (Clifton) Wiles.

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us

Roberto **Bonazzi**, APS member, literary columnist for the *San Antonio Express/News*, and publisher of Wings Press, was a presenter at Twig Book Shop in San Antonio on March 7, along with Victoria Garcia-Zapata **Klein** and Bryce **Milligan**.

Barbara Youngblood **Carr** edited *di-verse-city* for the Austin International Poetry Society and hosted (get this) four of the venues – while recovering from a knee operation. Even before AIPF, on April 15th, she read for Huston Tillotson's **Poetry on the Patio** and then went with Dr. Marvin **Kimbrough** to tape for the EXSE Spoken Word showcase. Did I mention that she attended the Round Top Festival? On April 25th she presented a paid workshop on the Coast and will be a featured poet around Houston and the Coast in both July and August. On May 2 she planned a trip with her daughter through West Texas and New Mexico doing book events and signings along the way. With several medical issues, she writes about her time waiting in doctors' offices: "I actually get a lot of writing/editing done there."

Elzy **Cogswell** with Thom Moon 10 took poetry to the people for the Academy of American Poets "Poem in a Pocket" observance of National Poetry Month. On the designated day, April 30th, they stood at the corner of Sixth and Congress and handed out over 720 poems to lunchtime passers-by, a dozen for every year of the existence of Austin Poetry Society. Other members passed out poems all over town.

Jena **Gessaman** offers improvised Poems on the Spot while you shop at Sunset Valley Farmers Market, Tony Burger Activity Center parking lot, Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. On an Olivetti Studio 45 typewriter, she turns them out for tips.

Michael **Gilmore's** latest collection of poems, *Restless Astronomy*, from Dalton Books, was admiringly reviewed on April 26 by APS member Roberto **Bonazzi** in the *San Antonio Express-News*.

Lyman **Grant** was among the Whitman scholars and poetry community leaders who participated in an early Annual **Walt Whitman Birthday Celebration**, this year on May 9 (the birthday is May 31). The observance is sponsored by the Montgomery County Literary Arts Council and Lone Star College. Dave **Parsons** helps to organize the event.

Tiff **Holland** has nine micros (ranging between 8 words and 180) posted online by *Frigg: A Magazine of Fiction and Poetry*: <http://www.friggmagazine.com/issuetwentyfour/splashpages/TiffHolland.htm>. Worth reading.

Dr. Marvin G. **Kimbrough** read the poem "Frederick Douglass" at the April meeting of the Douglass Club of Austin. The poem was written by Robert Hayden (1913-1980), the first African-American to be Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, Library of Congress (1976).

APS member Jennine **Krueger** performed with Precious **Yett** at the Round Top Poetry Festival in April.

Former APS President Garrison **Martt** performed in a production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in May. The play was produced at the Curtain Theater. Garrison still works with the **Past Poetry Project**.

San Antonio poet P.C. **McKinnon** sends e-mail poetry news to his friends daily, and we owe him our gratitude for publicizing Austin events in those mailings. To receive his mailings daily and promote poetry collaboration in the I-35 corridor, ask him: sapoet@hotmail.com.

Katherine Durham **Oldmixon** won the Creative Writing Study Abroad Contest in poetry offered by the University of New Orleans, so she will spend July writing poetry in Brunnenburg Castle, Italy, at the Ezra Pound Center for Literature. In April she read in the Round Top Festival, and in May she is featured poet in the Barnes & Noble Arboretum series hosted by Herman **Nelson**. The Borderlands Fourth Sunday series at Barnes & Noble (Brodie Lane) will feature her as one of the Brass Tacks writers. On May 9 for the **Writers' League of Texas**, Katherine presented to a packed class "The Rhythm of the Line: Making a Sentence Sing." With D'Arcy **Randall**, Judy **Jensen**, W. Joe **Hoppe** and David **Meischen**, she produced collaboratively a series of poems, "Flying," now in the spring issue of *qarrtsiluni*: <http://qarrtsiluni.com/2009/04/30/flying/>. The *Borderlands* issue edited by Katherine will appear about the end of May.

Lee **Robinson** and Jerald **Winakur** (Comfort) read from their new books -- Robinson's second poetry collection, *Creed*, and Winakur's memoir, *Memory Lessons: A Doctor's Story* -- at Barnes & Noble Arboretum in Austin, on May 1st.

APS member Robert **Stikmanz** will have a release party for his book, *Sleeper Awake* (Dalton Publishing) in BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, at 7:00 p.m. on June 23.

Brad **Strahan** has two poems scheduled for publication in *The Christian Science Monitor* this summer, "Choptank River" and "Summer & Saltwater."

Thom Moon 10, after his success at the Texas Book Festival, revived for AIPF his performance of Thomas Hardy and Paul Evans in the Darrel Mayers production of poetry, music and dance. In this he was backed by dancers and the band Bucolics Anonymous. Thom is a professional poetry workshop facilitator--recently performing at Katherine Anne Porter (Charter) School, Salado High School, and several times at Schreiner University in Kerrville (see some of these on www.youtube.com, by searching for his former name, Thom the World Poet). Thom continues to host Monday night readings at the Hideout on Congress and two monthly readings: Expressions on first Saturdays and Vinny's Italian Café on first Wednesdays.

APS member Liliana **Valenzuela** will present a workshop class in the Port Townsend Writers' Conference, Washington State, which takes place from July 12 to 19. Her workshop will focus on the words we use in writing, "What is your particular linguistic treasure trove?" she asks. "How can you use it to enrich your writing?" Information: www.centrum.org/writing/2008/12/boundless-curiosity-the-work-of-liliana-valenzuela-.html

Scott **Wiggerman** will offer "Poetic Forms for Today's Poets" in the **Writers' League Summer Writing Academy**, July 27-31, at Sul Ross University, Alpine, Texas. There's a substantial price break if you register before June 15. We all need to polish our sonnets, villanelles, sestinas, ghazals and pantoums. Register at <http://store.writersleague.org/poeticforms.aspx>.

APS members Precious **Yett** and Jennine **Krueger** repeated their Round Top Festival triumph for AIPF the following week.

Text Money to the Academy of American Poets

For just a few more days, poets.org, the website of the Academy of American Poets (AAC), has established a way to support its work through your mobile phone. To send them \$5 right now, you can text the word POETS to 20222, but this connection will only work through May 15. The donation will be charged to your mobile phone bill and will support the massive collection of poetry projects sponsored by AAC. To make a larger donation, you can send multiple texts or visit them online at Poets.org/donate.

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us, a Team Sport

We survived the **Austin International Poetry Festival**, and now it's time to start preparing for the 2010 edition, scheduled for April 15-18. AIPF gets bigger every year--you can feel its presence now in MySpace, Facebook, and Linked In. The Austin Poetry Society supports AIPF as one of the greatest poetry events in the Austin year. APS members hosted twenty of the venues this year: our hosts included **Deb Akers**, **Barbara Youngblood Carr**, **Elzy Cogswell**, **Patricia Fiske**, **Ken Jones** (of Houston), **Dillon McKinsey**, **David Meischen**, **Katherine Durham Oldmixon**, **India Rassner-Donovan**, **Carolyn Luke Reding**, **Chip Ross**, **Thom Moon 10**, **Liliana Valenzuela**, and **Scott Wiggerman**.

The **Downs-Jones Library at Huston Tillotson University** sponsors **Poetry on the Patio**, a semiannual outdoor reading with invited poets and student readers. On April 15, the event included APS members **Kaye Voigt Abikhaled**, **Barbara Youngblood Carr**, **Elzy Cogswell**, **Dr. Marvin G. Kimbrough**, **Katherine Durham Oldmixon**, and **Horacio Peña** (whose poems were read in three languages, featuring student **Alex Martinez** and **Dr. Anne Cirella-Urrutia**, an HTU French professor).

Annually **ChannelAustin (Cable Channel 10)** performs the outstanding cultural (and historical!) service of collecting videos of readings by Austin area poets and broadcasting them, first in an all-day steady stream and then sporadically through the year. In April some fifty poets had ten minutes apiece to read their work. Included were APS members **Faye Voigt Abikhaled**, **Barbara Youngblood Carr**, **Dr. Marvin Kimbrough**, **Jennine Krueger**, **Chip Ross**, **Thom Moon 10**, and **Precious Yett**. The program, **EXSE**, is hosted by **Selah Vie**.

The **Lamesa poetry festival, Forrest Fest**, came in glory to Austin this year, serving as the **May Expressions Series** event, expanded to a full day of poetry celebrations at the **Baha'i Center**, with poetry, music and workshops from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. APS poets who were featured or managed programs included **Deb Akers**, **Margo Davis**, **India Rassner-Donovan**, **Thom Moon 10**, **Dawn Ambuehl-Sadek**, and **Herman Nelson**. Participants came from all over the state, the country and the world.

In April, four APS poets placed in the **Map of Austin Poetry e-mail contest** on the theme, "National Poetry Month." Our winners were **Thom Moon 10**, **Barbara Youngblood Carr**, **Neil Meili** and **Dr. Marvin Kimbrough**. Subscribe: mapofaustinpoetry-subscribe@eGroups.com.

Last month's regular meeting of the **Austin Poetry Society** on April 18 was an open microphone. **Thom Moon 10** opened the show as featured poet and then served as emcee for the reading. These APS members read for us: **Samantha Adams**, **Mary Ellen Branam**, **Elzy Cogswell**, **Nancy Fierstien**, **Christine Gilbert**, **Ralph Hausser**, **Mary Hermes**, **George Klawitter**, **Elizabeth Kropf**, **Jo Mason-Mazzu**, **Carolyn Luke Reding**, **Greg Silver**, and **Thom Moon 10**.

Austin is Poetry City

The *Muse-Letter* welcomes news of upcoming events and readings, but this is the last issue until September. Austin poetry keeps going all summer, so check our list of recurring events online: www.austinpoetrysociety.org, select Resources, then select Recurring Poetry Events. Other events are listed in the "Litera" column edited by Ric Williams in the *Austin Chronicle*, free at local businesses each Thursday. We collect our information from a multitude of persons, some of whom are poets, so you need to verify the information before you fly to Austin for the event.

May 14, Thursday 7:00-9:00 p.m. Return of BookWoman, features **Ralph Hausser** in the series organized and hosted by **Deb Akers**. An open mic follows the feature. **Bookwoman**, 5501 A-105 North Lamar, 472-2785, www.ebookwoman.com. debakers@sbcglobal.net.

May 14, and all Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. An open mic with featured readers. **Barnes & Noble, Arboretum**, 10000 Research Boulevard, hosted by **Barbara Youngblood Carr**, 418-8985 (store) 343-7940 (Carr)

May 16, Saturday, 1:30 p.m. APS 2009 Annual Awards Contest Winners, announced and read. **Huston Tillotson University A-L Auditorium (Agaard-Lovington Building)**, 900 Chicon at East Seventh Street. Parking on **Chalmers** west of the University. Walk onto campus using the sidewalk ramp south of the building. It's **Building 14** on the map: <http://www.htu.edu/ContactUs/index.html>. Additional parking is in the grassy field on **Chalmers Street**, across from the University: Complete access instructions appear on page 2.

May 17, Sunday, from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. Kimberleigh "Strange Fruit" Thompson, an APS member, reports her recent long-delayed expensive surgery. She writes that a **Strange Fruit Benefit Committee** has booked Austin's premiere music venue, **Antone's**, 213 West 5th Street, to raise money for her medical debts. The **W.C. Clark Blues Review** will headline and numerous bands, poets and artists are joining to make this the place to spend that Sunday afternoon.

May 18, Monday, 7:00-10:00 p.m. The Hideout, 617 Congress. Features **Stacey Shea**, host of **Spoken&Heard Sundays** at **Kick Butt Coffee**. Always an uncensored round robin open microphone. Creative collaborations encouraged. Bring canned food.

May 21, and all Third Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Poetry Workshop at Barnes & Noble, Arboretum, 10000 Research Boulevard. Bring ten copies of a poem for critique. Hosting by **Barbara Youngblood Carr**, **John Berry** or **Herman Nelson**.

May 21, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Thirsty Thursdays in Wimberley, Texas: featured artist and open mic, **New Life Lutheran Church**, 120 Frog Pond Lane. Admission: Cans for **Food Pantry**. Contact: **Nancy Fierstien**, 858-2024, www.wearenewlife.org.

May 24, Sunday, 4:00 p.m. The Borderlands Community of Poets invitational venue organized by **Deb Akers**, with a new group and a new host each month. **Barnes & Noble**, 5601 Brodie Lane. Contact borderlandspoetry@sbcglobal.net.

May 25, Monday, 7:00-10:00 p.m. The Hideout, 617 Congress. Features **Anonymous**--a prolific poetess. Always an uncensored round robin open microphone. Creative collaborations encouraged.

May 28, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. NeWorldeli, 4101 Guadalupe. The APS Fourth Thursday open microphone features poets from the ten-year *Texas Poetry Calendar* anthology, **Big Land, Big Sky, Big Hair**. The book contains over 25 poems by APS members. We want all the poets in the book -- you don't have to be an APS member -- to come and share poems. A completely open round-robin follows.

June 3, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Vinny's features **Madeleine Mercier** followed by the open mic. Eat at 6:00, showtime at 7:00, 1003 Barton Springs Road, 482-8484. This time bring twenty copies of your original work to make an instant anthology and take home an original book of combined works.

June 6, Saturday, Expressions, All Women Month. 7:00 p.m. showtime. (Doors open at 6:00.) All women performers this month. **Austin Baha'i Center**, 2215 E.M. Franklin Ave., (512) 926-8880. Bring canned food for the **Poets Pantry**. Help with the **Potluck** in the break.