

Austin Poetry Society

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

May, 2010

Muse-Letter

Annual Awards Ceremony on May 15

On May 15, 2010, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., the Austin Poetry Society **Annual Awards Ceremony** takes place in Agard-Lovinggood (A-L) Auditorium on the Huston Tillotson campus, 900 Chicon. Some 59 prizes totaling some \$1300 will be awarded to winners, including some 24 first place prizes. First place poems will be read (by the winners when they are present). Newly elected officers will be installed. You can park on Chalmers Street west of the campus and fairly near a campus entrance beside A-L Auditorium. For ADA access to the auditorium, go around the building to enter from the east end.

On May 27, 2010, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. we hold the monthly **APS Fourth Thursday**, hosted by Ralph **Hausser**. The featured poets will be long-time Austin poet and AIPF organizer Ron **Jorgenson** and new APS member (and monthly prize winner) Margaret **Anderegg**. An open mic for everyone always follows the featured readers. As always, it's at the NeWorld-Deli, 4101 Guadalupe, with good food, good drinks, good folks and mind-boggling poetry.

Then on Saturday, May 29, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. the **APS Poetry Critique Group**, hosted by Beth Kropf, meets in the upstairs dining area in Central Market on Lamar at West 38th. (Ascend the stairs next to the coffee bar.) Bring seven copies of one of your poems for friendly discussion. This month's prompts: a poem about an ordinary household object, or a tool, or an article of clothing, or something very familiar you take for granted; or a poem about a roomful of ghosts. Or one about a clock without any hands. Or whatever is on your mind.

Poetry Society of Texas Contests

Each year, the Poetry Society of Texas (PST) sponsors 100 poetry contests for adults. The deadline for entries is August 15. Prizes range down from \$450 for first place in Contest 1, and first place poems from each contest will be published in the PST *Book of the Year*, but in addition, ten other poems are given honorable mention in each contest.

Complete information about these contests (both general guidelines and the specific requirements for each contest) are posted online in a single .pdf file: <http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/PST2010Brochure.pdf>.

You must join PST before you submit your entries. Although Austin Poetry Society is a chapter of PST, that does not make you a member of PST. The PST membership year is from July 1 to June 30th. To qualify for the upcoming contests, send in your \$25, preferably before July 1st but definitely before submitting your entries. Make your check payable to Poetry Society of Texas, and mail it to:

Lynn Lewis, Membership Chairman
1704 Enderly Place
Fort Worth, TX 76104

Include complete contact information: name, address, phone, and e-mail on a separate sheet from your poems.

The fee for entering the contests is \$5.00 per envelope of entries, and you can put as many unfolded entries into the envelope as will fit. The entry fee must be submitted with the poems (not with your membership fee). Contest 1 is the only exception, requiring an additional \$5 for each poem entered, but you may enter Contest 1 as many times as you like. You may only enter one poem for each of the other contests. All entries must be unpublished and not previously broadcast anywhere, and submissions cannot be currently submitted to other publishers. The Guidelines are precise and should be followed diligently. For examples, format all poems in Times New Roman, and leave all your identification off the two copies of each poem you submit. Read and follow the guidelines carefully. Non-Texans can register as Associate Members, but qualify for fewer contests.

Join or Renew in APS Now

Total membership in the Austin Poetry Society grew to 145 before the fiscal year's end. If you have been a member, now is the time to renew. A membership application form is at www.austinpoetrysociety.org/membership.htm.

If you're not already a member, now's your chance to get a full-year's privileges, since our memberships run from June 1 to May 31. Whip out a checkbook and mail us the fee, payable to Austin Poetry Society. Get the *Museletter* and contest privileges, September through May. (Members also qualify for the annual contests a year from now; they require only a small additional fee.)

The best part about joining is knowing that you're supporting the lush life of poetry in Austin.

Lone scholars, sniping from the walls
 Of learned periodicals,
 Our facts defend,
 Our intellectual marines,
 Landing in little magazines
 Capture a trend.
 -- W. H. Auden, from
As I Walked Out One Evening

Texas Poetry Calendar 2011 Includes Thirteen APS Members

Congratulations to everyone who has poems in the 2011 *Texas Poetry Calendar*, including these APS members:

Deborah **Akers**
 Von S. **Bourland**
 Mary Ellen **Branan**
 Shirley Elliott **Cosby**
 Kelly **Ellis**
 Nancy **Fierstien**
 Christine **Gilbert**
 Ronald J. **Jorgenson**
 Donna Marie **Miller**
 karla k. **morton**
 Katherine Durham **Oldmixon**
 Brenda Nettles **Riojas**
 Mariann G. **Wizard**

Austin's Dos Gatos Press publishes the *Calendar*, which is edited by **Dave Meischen**, **Scott Wiggerman**, and **Cindy Huyser**. Each year prizes are offered for best poems in the *Calendar*. This year the prize poems were chosen by the distinguished poet, **Cyrus Cassells**, and "Saturday Market" by APS member Dr. Charles A. **Stone** (Ronald J. Jorgenson above) won the \$75 third prize.

When the 2011 edition appears, it will be available through the website, dosgatospress.org.

Fort Worth Poetry Society

Jeannette L. **Strother**, President of the Fort Worth Poetry Society (FWPS), reports that they celebrated their centennial, 1910-2010, on April 17. The program included a review of the history of FWPS, and a Power-Point presentation, with a youth program presented simultaneously in the Youth Pavilion by Dr. Jeffrey DeLotto. Don Shook read a letter from Mayor Mike Moncrief. The organization produced an anthology, *Beyond the Gate*, for the Centennial and also offered copies of its 50th Anniversary book.

City Council Names Park for Margret Hofmann, Tree Advocate

Poets and poetry organizations from all over the country supported the APS-nominated name for a downtown park, the "**Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove**." The distinguished Austin poet Albert Huffstickler, known as the "Bard of Hyde Park," was a two-time winner of the Austin Book Award. However, the Council received much stronger support for naming the park for Margret **Hofmann**. Mrs. **Hofmann**, who served on the Council herself in the 1970s, was instrumental in producing a widely-respected tree-protection ordinance. In this she reflected the intense environmental consciousness of the city.

On April 22, the Council decided to name the park for Hofmann, but not before members of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and even some Council members expressed interest in naming another small park—to be developed in Hyde Park on city property at 38th and Duval, as the Albert Huffstickler Poetry Park.

Following are remarks made to the Council by Elzy Cogswell:

"I'm the current President of the Austin Poetry Society. In that role, I was the first person to ask that the park be named for the poet, Albert Huffstickler.

"Only yesterday I learned that another name, Margret Hofmann Park, has been proposed.

"That's problematic for me, because I've been in Austin a long time, and I've had two life-long friends, Albert Huffstickler and Margret Hofmann. ...

"There's a poem that begins, "I think that I shall never see ..." Most of you could supply the next line, "A poem lovely as a tree..." Anyone who thinks that trees and poetry are in any way opposed to each other doesn't understand either.

"... I want to make this decision as painless for you as possible.

"I believe that supporters of poetry and Albert Huffstickler have made it clear to you that besides being music city, Austin is also Poetry City and that some official recognition of the fact would be appropriate, not to mention beneficial to the long-term interests of the city. Huff was the Willie Nelson of Austin poetry.

"I can't speak on behalf of poets in general or even all the members of the Austin Poetry Society. Personally though, I recognize that it's appropriate for you to name this park for Margaret Hofmann, who is not only a friend of trees but also a person with a poetic spirit.

"I only ask you to remember that we need another memorial park, possibly in Hyde Park where Huff lived, as a focal point for poets and poetry organizations in Austin."

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us: *Individual Achievements*

Von **Bourland** won or placed ten times at the Poetry Society of Oklahoma Annual Awards Banquet on March 13th. She took one first place, three second places, three third places, two honorable mentions and one Judge's Citation Award. Also, she won second place for the *Harp-Springs Poetry Journal* Mary Oliver "White Pine Award" with her prose poem, "Teton Threesome." On April 10th, Von was a Workshop Assistant at Vivian Stewart's IWA Amarillo Seminar, especially the song-writing workshop, where Von sang lyrics to old favorites, then, as a demonstration, sang the newly written lyrics to the same songs.

Barbara Youngblood **Carr** was once more a leader in preparation and presentation of the Austin International Poetry Festival. She appeared as an AIPF poet in a radio interview on KOOB-FM; performed as a featured poet in the weekly concert at Central Presbyterian Church; attended the Lucidity Poetry Retreat in Eureka Springs, Arkansas; appeared as an author for the Red Fern Festival (Tahlequah, Oklahoma) with her Ancestor Series books; and hosted her usual monthly poetry and workshop venues in April.

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

Nancy **Fierstien's** poem, "Intro to Motherhood," was accepted for publication in the May, 2010, issue of *Parent:Wise Austin Magazine*. Regular third Thursday readings hosted by Nancy will resume in June at New Life Lutheran Church. Info: 858-2024.

Kit **Leamy**, a new member of APS, has had a poem, "You Touched My Scars," accepted for publication in the July, 2011 *Open Minds Quarterly*. The *Quarterly* is a project of the Northern Initiative for Social Action.

With **Thom Moon Bird** traveling, Lee **LeTeff** hosted the Mayday edition of Expressions, with a powerful lineup of Austin poets.

San Antonio poet Naomi Shihab **Nye** has been added to the Board of Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets.

Katherine Durham **Oldmixon** has been busy with Austin International Poetry Festival and the Round Top Festival. On May 20th with Lyman **Grant** of ACC, she will be an Austin presence at the annual Walt Whitman Birthday Celebration in Conroe. Dave **Parsons** of Lone Star College-Montgomery organizes the event.

Larry **Piltz** posted a poem about bankers, "We're Focused in Going Forward" on *The Rag Blog* (theragblog.blogspot.com) for April 20. Also, on May 5, "The Gulf," criticizing the corporate power which resulted in the British Petroleum oil spill.

Brenda Nettles **Riojas**, an APS member in Harlingen, has gone public with her podcast, *Corazon Bilingue* (www.corazonbilingue.com), which features bilingual interviews and conversations with poets about language, culture and the dynamics of poetic creation. Beginning on Mother's Day, the production runs as a radio program on KMBH Radio/88.9 FM, an NPR affiliate. It airs Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Shubh Bala **Schiesser** attended the Round Top Festival, reporting that "The place is an oasis in the wilderness." While there she attended Naomi Shihab **Nye's** "very thought provoking" workshop. Shubh's poem "A Park in Sintra Valley (Lisbon, Portugal)," appeared in the Round Top anthology.

Johnett **Scogin** is coordinating a women's memoir writing workshop on the weekend of May 15th. If you're interested, you could ask her.

James **Stewart**, a San Antonio poet, has been distributing e-mail copies of a prodigious list of upcoming poetry events, initially aimed mainly at events in the I-35 corridors but presently touching the whole state. Recently he reported that he has moved the list ("Poetry This Week") to his website, www.voicesabookofhope.com. Scan to the end of the list on the left of the screen and choose Starving Poets Society. If you have any corrections, additions or deletions on the list of events, you can e-mail Jim at BRGGH@msn.com.

Isabella **Taylor** is a talented 9-year-old poet who has presented well-received readings in The Hideout on Mondays and also in the APS Fourth Thursday series in the NeWorldeli. She will be featured at the Hideout on May 17, and you won't be sorry if you're there.

Larry **Thomas**, the 2008 Texas Poet Laureate, is one of the speakers for the May 20th **Walt Whitman Birthday Celebration** in Conroe, Texas. Larry's recent books include *The Skin of Light* (Dalton Publishing, http://www.daltonpublishing.com/our_books/skin-of-light/), *Larry D. Thomas: New and Selected Poems* (in the TCU Texas Poets Laureate series), and *The Fraternity of Oblivion* (Timberline Press). He kindly agreed to judge our monthly contests for March/April, but we lacked enough entries to hold the contests.

Poetry As a Team Sport: *Group Achievements*

EXSE once more has taped at least ten hours of Austin poets and broadcast them on Channel 10. The readings are re-run periodically through the year. Daily, check the schedule: <http://facil.channelaustin.org/guide>. Among the APS poets who have appeared on EXSE are: Kaye Voigt **Abikhaled**, Barbara Youngblood **Carr**, Michael Aaron **Casares**, John Layne **Hendrick**, Dr. Marvin G. **Kimbrough**, Jennine "Doc" **Krueger**, Dillon **McKinsey**, Dave **Oliphant**, **Thom Moon Bird**, Sol **Waters**, Mariann **Wizard**, and Plez **Wooley**.

Forrest Fest, Lamesa, Texas, was celebrated April 30 and May 1, including appearances by these APS members: karla k. **morton** (Texas Poet Laureate); **Thom Moon Bird** (hosting the finale program); and Dr. Charles A. **Stone**. Also featured were Austin poet Ric **Williams** (facilitating a workshop on images of women in poetry and art), Austin poet and venue host Kathleen **Romana** making a Tai Chi presentation, and Briley **Parker**, five-year-old UIL Poetry competition winner.

Kaye Voigt **Abikhaled**, Barbara Youngblood **Carr**, Elzy **Cogswell**, and Katherine Durham **Oldmixon** were invited readers for Poetry on the Plaza, a semi-annual event sponsored by **Downs-Jones Library at Huston Tillotson University**, on April 14.

The **Round Top Festival**, with a wonderful cast of international, national and state poets, happened in April. APS members present included Barbara **Carr**, Nancy **Fierstein**, Alyce **Guynn**, Cindy **Huyser**, David **Meischen**, Katherine Durham **Oldmixon**, Christa **Pandey**, Shubh Bala **Schiesser**, and Scott **Wiggerman**.

The **NewFlower Market**, 9620 Manchaca at William Cannon, is looking for poets and musicians who would like to read/perform in an area of the store that is set aside for entertainers and performances. They want book people for afternoon readings, preferably Saturdays or Sundays, but would be open to other ideas. This is not like a regular open mic, but more informal, unless someone wants to organize something. Info: dhiggins3@austin.rr.com with the subject line: Peggy Poetry.

Calls for Submissions

This column emphasizes calls for local area submissions. We can't check the details; that's your job. For more comprehensive lists of calls for submissions, you could subscribe to *Poets & Writers* or *The Writer's Chronicle*.

Deadline: May 29th. **Haltom City Public Library** (near Fort Worth) invites your poems on the suggested (not mandatory) theme of High Noon High Tea. It's a contest for everyone, first grade through adult, with six divisions by age group, and Haltom City residence is not required. Your typed entries should not have identification information on the poems, but clip to your entries a separate cover letter with your name, address, e-mail (if applicable), phone number, and age/grade. (Also specify that it's for the Poetry Contest – there's a separate short story contest with a maximum of 2,500 words.) The prizes are a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift certificate and publication on the library's website. Mail it to Lesly M. Smith, Haltom City Public Library, 4809 Haltom Road, Haltom City, TX 76117.

Deadline: June 1. Michael Gullickson encourages you to submit some poems for the next edition of *The Enigmatist*. Send up to three previously unpublished poems, 30 lines or fewer each, to: *The Enigmatist* c/o Mike Gullickson, 104 Bronco Drive, Georgetown, TX 78633. With a \$5 entry fee, you may enter the contest for best poem (1st prize, \$100, 2nd prize \$50 and 3rd prize \$25). Enter additional poems for \$1 each more, and all poems will be considered for publication. Do not include your name on entries; add a cover sheet with name, address, phone number, e-mail address and poem titles. Poems will not be returned. Make check payable to Mike Gullickson.

Deadline June 15. The **San Antonio Poetry Fair** has opened one contest (No. 1, The National San Antonio Poetry Award) for entry by poets outside San Antonio. You can only enter one poem, and the fee is \$3.00. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are respectively, \$200, \$100 and \$50. Winners and selected other entries are published in an anthology. Read the Guidelines at: <http://www.unusualmuseums.org/sapf/>. Last year, poems by three APS members won honorable mention in the contest for the Billie Stroud Appreciation Award: "The Rhyme of it All" by Shirley Elliott **Cosby**; "Fantasies" by Ron **Burt**; and "Sour Grape Babies" by Jerri **Hardesty**. The Fair itself happens Saturday, October 30, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. It happens in the UTSA Downtown Campus in the Buena Vista Street Building. Questions: billiestro@aol.com or smoore2942@aol.com.

Austin is Poetry City: Events

Often we omit ongoing venues to include special 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*; the "Literary Events" column in the *Austin Statesman*; or Jim Stewart's www.voicesabookofhope.com / his Starving Poets Society, which lists meetings statewide.

May 13, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. The **BookWoman Open Mic**, hosted by Deb Akers, will feature Victoria poet Michael McClanahan. Open mic poets are invited to read poems by their favorite poets, as well as their own work. 5501 N. Lamar, Suite 105-A, 472-2785. www.ebookwoman.com.

May 16, Sunday (and every Sunday), 2:00 p.m. South Austin Acoustic in **Café Caffeine**, 909 West Mary, features local poets and musicians.

May 17, Monday, 7:00-10:00 p.m. The **Hideout** this week features the talented 9-year-old poet, Isabella Taylor. Don't miss her. With Thom abroad, Lee LeTeff is hosting.

May 20, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Nancy Fierstien's **Thirsty Thursday** series poets will read at a "Soirée" hosted by the Dripping Springs Women's Club on May 20th. Among others, the event features APS members Thom Moon Bird, Kaye Abikhaled, Christa Pandey, Lee LeTeff, Doyle Fellers and Nancy herself. The regular third Thursday series will resume in June at New Life Lutheran Church, 120 Frog Pond Lane, Dripping Springs. Info: 858-2024.

May 20, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. The annual **Walt Whitman Birthday Celebration** at Lone Star College, Montgomery (in Conroe) presents a panel discussion with Whitman scholar Michael Robertson from the College of New Jersey. The afternoon begins on campus in the LSC Montgomery Library, Building F. Then, at 7:00 p.m., the birthday party moves to The Corner Pub on the square in Conroe with a stellar collection of poets including Katherine Durham Oldmixon, ACC's Lyman Grant, and two Texas Poets Laureate, Larry Thomas and Paul Ruffin. Dave Parsons organizes the series.

May 23, Sunday, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Dillon McKinsey announces that **Ardent**, the semi-annual poetry journal of Poetry in the Arts, will host a reading to introduce its new issue at Barnes & Noble, Sunset Valley, 5601 Brodie Lane. The series is **Borderland's Community of Poets** organized by Deb Akers, and readers from the issue will include Mike Alexander, Frances Longaker, Bernard Mann, Kelsey Shipman and APS members Deb Akers, George Klawitter, Christa Pandey.

May 29, Saturday, 6:00 p.m. A poetry experience you're unlikely to have elsewhere. Jim Stewart invites us to drive to San Antonio for a monthly event with poetry, music, art and *ice sculpting*. Two of the country's best ice sculptors go head to head with chain saws and 1200 pound blocks of ice. It's an indoor-outdoor event, with a pot luck meal and poetry outside under the stars. **Gevers Street Studio**, a Coop Art Studio and Gallery at 718 South Gevers. From Hwy 90, get off on the Gevers Street Exit and head north. The studio is on the right, a half block south of Martin Luther King Drive. From IH-35, get off on the Gevers Street Exit and head south. The Studio will be on your left, a half block south of MLK Drive.

June 5, Saturday. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Show starts at 7:00 p.m. Expressions: "June is a Woman," The Society of Dancing Crones presents poetry, dance and music honoring crone wisdom. An all ages reading. Admission—a dish for the pot luck supper at the interval, and cans of food for the poets pantry. Austin Bahá'i Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin Ave. (512) 926-8880, austinbahai.org.

July 3, Saturday. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Show starts at 7:00 p.m. Expressions: Tenth Birthday Celebration with performers from the last decade of Expressions. An all ages reading. Admission—a dish for the pot luck supper at the interval, and cans of food for the poets pantry. Austin Bahá'i Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin Ave. (512) 926-8880, austinbahai.org.

August 7, Saturday. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Show starts at 7:00 p.m. Expressions: "Poetry (and Music!) for Peace" An all ages reading. Admission—a dish for the pot luck supper at the interval, and cans of food for the poets pantry. Austin Bahá'i Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin Ave. (512) 926-8880, austinbahai.org.