

Austin Poetry Society

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

October, 2009

Muse-Letter

Judy Jensen Presents "Poetry on the Page"

Our October 24 monthly meeting features Judy Jensen, poet, graphic designer and co-founder of Float Press, talking with us about "Poetry on the Page: The Visual Art." Judy has poems in journals and anthologies such as *The Prose Poem: An International Journal* and *Letters to the World: Poems from the Wom-Po LISTSERV*, and two of her ekphrastic poems are in the University of Texas Blanton Museum Project. Judy was part of the Brass Tacks Writing Group which developed *Flying*, a multimedia project which was posted online on April 30 this year: <http://qarrtsiluni.com/tag/judy-jensen/>. For Float Press, she designs and prints poetry broadsides on a 1908 Golding Jobber #6 letterpress to raise funds for charities and literary events.

Once more this month, the meeting happens on the fourth Saturday (October 24) in the Yarborough Branch Public Library, 2200 Hancock Drive, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Christine Gilbert will open the meeting as our featured poet.

At the meeting, the Board will have all the remaining paintings donated by the late long-time APS President, Robert Graves Brown. We have used many of them for contest prizes and sold many more, so they have been picked over, leaving mostly paintings members did not choose. Members who would like to have one can take their pick at the meeting. The balance will be given to Jane Star Fisher who has kindly cared for the paintings for many years.

Special APS Events

The APS Fourth Thursday Open Microphone this month, Oct. 22 at 7:00 p.m., features members Jo Mason Mazzu and David Thornberry, with Ralph Hausser hosting. The readings are always at NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe. An open mic follows featured poets. Bring your own poetry to read.

Then on Saturday, November 7 (a week later than normal) the Austin Poetry Society Critique Group, hosted by Beth Kropf, meets from 11:00 to Noon in the upstairs dining area of Central Market, 4001 North Lamar Boulevard. Everyone welcome. Bring a few copies of your poetry in progress for a friendly discussion.

Monthly Contests:

A Constitutional Vote

In September, we received barely enough entries for each of the two monthly contests, General and Light. Entries for the next monthly contest must be received no later than October 24, the day of the meeting. The rules are unchanged and you may find them online, www.austinpoetrysociety.org. (Scroll down to the links at the bottom of the page and choose Contests.)

As announced last month, on October 24th we will vote on a proposal from the Board of Directors that we cease holding monthly contests. The Austin Poetry Society has long sponsored two poetry contests each month of the program year, October through April, with entries submitted September through March. Participation in these contests declined in the last years to the extent that often we couldn't even hold the contests. The Board would like to turn the energy and funds used for the contests into activities to improve our poetry and encourage more appreciation of poetry.

One member wrote that if we eliminate the contests, we can always reinstate them. Meantime, she said, "I'd like to see something take its place. One idea might be to toss out one or two themes or a poetic form each month like: thunderstorms or pathways or limerick or sonnet and invite people to bring or write one poem on the subject."

There will be ample opportunity for discussion before the vote. Approval of the proposal would eliminate all reference to monthly contests in the Constitution and Bylaws. In November, regardless of the vote, we will announce the outcome of the contests for entries submitted in October. Thereafter, we will either continue or discontinue contests, depending on what you decide.

Welcome to New Members

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

Jessica Lane David Thornberry
Margie McCreless Roe Allyson Whipple

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.

A poem should be palpable and mute
As a globed fruit,

Dumb
As old medallions to the thumb,

Silent as the sleeve-worn stone
Of casement ledges where the moss has grown--

A poem should be wordless
As the flight of birds.
-- Wallace Stevens, from "Of Modern Poetry"

How to Get Your Poem Published: Invitation to a Roundtable

The question I get most often as President of APS is from people who just want to know how to get a poem published. The answer is not simple. In the hope of finding some light, I'm inviting you to participate in a roundtable discussion, either to get a clue or to share what works for you.

We'll actually use rectangular tables (not round). For Sunday November 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., I have reserved the Zilker Playscape Picnic Shelter at Barton Springs for the purpose. The Playscape has a roof and stands between the kiddy-train track and the downstream end of Barton Pool. I'll be there no matter what the weather; if it's cold, dress really warm.

Please let me know you're coming so I'll make enough handouts. If you feel like you ought to pay for this kind of experience, I recommend that you contribute something to replenish the APS publication fund. For each \$10 you contribute, you'll receive a copy of *Reflections*, the anthology celebrating the 60th anniversary year of APS.

Elzy Cogswell,
poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu or (512) 452-4314

Be Our Friend on Facebook

Our Facebook group is open to everyone, not just members. Beth **Kropf** set it up and is administrator.

To join the group, go to www.facebook.com. From the row of icons at the bottom left of the homepage, select the "groups" icon. In the upper right corner, enter a search for Austin Poetry Society.

Calls for Submissions

Postmark deadline, November 1, 2009. Austin Singers' High School Poetry Contest for grades 9 through 12. Winners and their poem titles will be posted on the Austin Singers' Website (www.austinsingers.org). Print one to three poems separately on plain, white paper. In the upper left corner list your name, home address and phone numbers and in the upper right corner list your high school name and address, your grade level and a teacher. Poems must be 20 lines or less (title and spaces between stanzas do not count), unpublished, the sole work of the entrant, and must not contain profane language. Poems not in English must be accompanied by a translation. Do not send your only copies. Poems will not be returned. Mail your entries to: Debra Watkins, Poetry Contest, Austin Singers, P.O. Box 300251, Austin TX 78703. Prizes: \$100, \$75, \$50 and, for honorable mention, \$25. The top four poems will be printed in the Austin Singers' November 21-22, concert program and will be read at the concert by the winning poets. *The Austin Chronicle* plans to publish the winning poem in its November 20 issue.

Deadline November 1. Anita McAndrews Award sponsored by the Poets for Human Rights. Submit as many poems concerning human rights as you like, no more than three pages per poem. Any form, but no graphics. Familiarity with the thirty articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is recommended. Previously published poems are accepted if the author has the rights. Poems may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (stazja@yahoo.com) or as word.doc attachments, including name, address, e-mail address, phone number and permission to publish. Reading fee for each poem, \$2, payable to Stazja McFadyen and mailed to her at 100 Waverly Way, #310, Clearwater, Florida 33756. First Prize \$200. Poets for Human Rights at: <http://poetsforhumanrights.ning.com>, but I didn't find the contests described there.

Deadline November 1. Alexander Popoff Youth Award poetry contest, for ages 16 and younger. Poems must relate to some aspect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. First prize, \$100. No reading fee. E-mail entries to stazja@yahoo.com. Poets for Human Rights is online: <http://poetsforhumanrights.ning.com>.

Reading period: From now through February 10, 2010. BorderSenses, www.bordersenses.com, concentrates on writers and artists of the Southwest and the U.S./Mexico border (including writers from northern Mexico). They accept submissions only online, and presently collect work for Volume 16 of their bilingual literary journal, to be released about May or June, 2010. Submit no more than two pieces (more than that and your work will not be read), but they consider long poems (up to 65 lines). You must indicate your connection to the border area.

Portal Del Sol, an online review, provides on its home page an extensive, useful list of poetry publishing markets: <http://portal.webdelsol.com/>.

Yearbooks and Anthologies

Members who don't have their *Yearbook* already can pick them up at the Oct. 24 meeting. Do this, and you'll save us postage. After the meeting we'll have to mail them. The *Anthology* is at the printer and may be ready in time. If we have them at the meeting and you contributed a poem, you can pick up your complimentary copy. Extra copies are available, one for each \$10 you contribute to replenish the publications fund.

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us

On October 8th, Kaye Voigt **Abikhaled** participated in the German-Texan Heritage Society's Annual Conference as a member of the Authors Forum. She read from her *Childhood in the Third Reich*.

Deb **Akers'** *Borderlands'* Community of Poets series featured on Sept. 27th young poets from a Texas Youth Word Collective Project, "They Speak": Shay **Harris**, **Faylitia**, **Eric**, **Tova**, **Danny**, **Brian**, **Michelle** and **B. Shatter**. **Tova Charles** served as presenter, **Tony Beckwith**. See below with **Liliana Valenzuela**.

Barbara Youngblood **Carr** was the featured guest poet at "Thirsty Thursday" on October 15. Last month I reported that Barbara's poem, "Stone of Honor," won the "White Buffalo" Award in the Senior Poet Laureate Contest. She corrects my phraseology: it's the first ever White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate Award, not the Senior Poet Laureate Contest.

Fredericksburg poet **Sally Clark** maintains a list of poetry markets for Christian writers. You can navigate to it through her website, www.sallyclark.info.

Elzy Cogswell's poems, "Colostomy" and "The Ants I Poison" will appear as part of a chapbook anthology on death, *So It Goes*, planned to be available from Virgo Gray Press on November 1st.

Nancy Fierstien hustled to recover from gall bladder surgery so she could hear **Barbara Carr** read from her new book, *Windsongs and Moon Spirits*, at Thirsty Thursday on Oct. 15. This venue, hosted by Nancy, opens every third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at New Life Lutheran Church in Dripping Springs. Call (512) 858-2024 for directions or more details.

Ken Fontenot's poem, "Friends, 1956," appeared on the website of *Poetry Daily* on September 29. The poem originally appeared in the Fall, 2009 issue of the prestigious journal, *Prairie Schooner*.

Carrie Fountain, author of *Bum Lake*, made a presentation at St. Edward's University for their Visiting Writers Series on September 24. *Bum Lake* will be published by Penguin now that it has won one of the five prizes in the National Poetry Series 2009 Open Competition.

Joshua Kight's poem, "Hodgkin's Hole," will appear in the fall edition of the *White Pelican Review*.

Dr. Marvin Kimbrough's poem, "From Grief to Joy in 60 seconds" was a winner in Stazja McFayden's "Map of Austin Poetry," No. 362-1 (August, 2009). In the 1990s, she was a co-founder of the Poetry on the Patio series at Huston-Tillotson University, which has now been adopted as a twice a year activity by the University. **Dr. Kimbrough** may be found among the readers for each of the sessions. With **Barbara Carr**, she will be a featured reader in the APS Fourth Thursday Open Microphone in November.

Laura Kooris continues to contribute to the online journal, **DrashPit.com**, where a growing number of fans follow the publication of her poems and other short creative pieces. Take a look.

Beth Kropf's poem, "Almost Mother," will appear in the 2010 edition of *Windhover: A Journal of Christian Literature*. She was a featured reader at Barnes and Noble on October 8.

Glenn and Cherie McBride (aka Duckie and the Grackle) are publishing a new journal/diary for museum store shelves, *Nature Journeys*. Featuring their art and poetry, the book, along with others of their Tiny Bird Song publications, will debut at the Museum Association of America Convention and Expo in Austin on April 17, 2010.

APS member **Ronald Mendell's** nonfiction book, *Probing into Cold Cases*, will be published in late 2009 by Charles C. Thomas (Springfield, Illinois). The book covers the investigating of cases ranging from computer crime to homicide. This fall Ronald is also teaching computer security at Austin Community College. Next he hopes to work on poems about the post-industrial world we live in.

Dr. Katherine Durham Oldmixon's poem "La Esquina," an elegy for Austin musician **Willy Santiago**, will appear in the Fall 2009 issue of the *Normal School*. Her villanelle, "The Border is a River," is forthcoming in the Winter/Fall 2009 issue of *Borderlands*. She recently completed work on two major projects, one involving her thesis for an MFA, and the other the editorship of *Reflections: An Anthology in Celebration of Austin Poetry Society's 60th Anniversary*, which is now at the printer.

Christa Pandey read in San Antonio with a group of poets from the **2010 Texas Poetry Calendar**. She reports, "The reading in San Antonio was good. Twelve people from the *Calendar* read and there was a non-reading audience of another dozen or so." APS is presently distributing copies of its 2009-2010 *Yearbook*, which **Christa** recently finished editing. All 2009-2010 members get a free copy.

Mary E. Riley's poem, "Ridiculous Riddle," won a place in Stazja McFayden's Map of Austin Poetry Issue 362-1.

APS member and novelist **Robert Stikmanz** returned recently to his previous genre, video/audio with three postings on YouTube. Watch them if you dare: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lmmbUoygJY>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mx18xOGrvGk> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GdxTRKmi5M>.

The Benefit for **Brad Strahan's** *Visions International* on its 30th anniversary happened on September 22nd at the Players Club in Manhattan. **Brad** reports that representatives of the U.N. and the Guggenheim Foundation were present. He was invited to read at two other series while he was there including **George Spencer's** popular Phoenix series. *Visions* collects poetry from everywhere and has published many distinguished poets including **Ai**, **Andrei Codrescu**, **James Dickey**, **Lawrence Ferlinghetti**, **Jack Gilbert**, **Allen Ginsberg**, **Linda Gregg**, **Marilyn Hacker**, **Ted Hughes**, **Sharon Olds**, **Naomi Shihab Nye** and **Louis Simpson**.

Thom Moon 10's poem, "No Room at the Inn," appeared in *The Covenant Journal*, Issue 31 (Sept., 2009). Back from Australia and preparing to visit England, **Thom** continued to host Monday night readings at The Hideout. His U.K. tour includes poetry events from October 10 through November 3, ranging from the Cheltenham Literature Festival through Yorkshire, Cheshire, Castleford, Sussex, Margate, Dover, and elsewhere. We expect him back at least by Monday night, November 9th when he appears with **Element 615** at the Hideout. If you're suffering from **Thom** withdrawal, check out his online broadcast, listed on the next page under October 23 and 25.

On October 8, **Liliana Valenzuela** and **Tony Beckwith** were featured poets in the BookWoman Open Mic series. **Liliana** is a literary translator, essayist, and poet. She won four first prizes in the APS annual awards contests in May. **Tony** has been writing for decades, mainly poems and stories, with lots of whimsy.

Scott Wiggerman is currently presenting his course on sonnets for the Writers' League.

Precious Yett graduated from Air Force basic training on September 25th, and she's now in Maryland in technical training school. She's taking a journalism course. She writes that she misses the poetry world "so much," and we miss her powerful performance poetry as well.

Poetry as a Team Sport

The Downs-Jones Library at **Huston-Tillotson University** sponsors a **Poetry on the Patio** event twice a year, featuring HT students, faculty, and invited poets. On October 14, APS members Barbara Youngblood Carr, Marvin Kimbrough, Katherine Durham Oldmixon, and Elzy Cogswell were among the readers. Beautifully, **Quiet Storm** poet Treeandrea Grundy sang an opening spiritual.

On **October 25, Sunday, at 4:00 p.m.**, the **Borderlands Community of Poets** reading at Barnes and Noble, Sunset Valley (5601 Brodie Lane), will feature a distinguished array of *Borderlands* editors including Usha Akella, Deb Akers, Robert Ayres, Alice Batt, Kurt Heinzelman, Zara Houshmand, Katherine Durham Oldmixon, and D'Arcy Randall. Host: Deb Akers., borderlandspoetry@sbcglobal.net.

Austin is Poetry City

October 15-17, 8:00 p.m. each night. Hip Hop Theater Explosion 7 in the Vortex Theater, 2307 Manor Road, hosted by Zell Miller III. Many poets and slam teams will perform including the **Under 21 Poets**, the **NeoSoul Slam Team**, and **The Cipher**. Tickets are \$10 to \$30.

October 16, Friday, 8:00-10:00 p.m. A new open mic, every Friday at JP's Java, near the University, 2308 San Jacinto (at Duval). It's in the back room, round robin format. Christopher Beam invites you to bring yourself and your poetry, music, stories, dance, writings and free expression. Info: Call Bear at (409) 392-6063 or e-mail: cosmicbeam@hotmail.com.

October 17, Saturday, 6:00 p.m. "They Speak Youth Poetry Slam" presented by Texas Youth Word Collective at The Independent, 501 Studios (corner of E. 5th & Brushy St.), Austin. Cover charge, \$5, free to slam participants and children under five. Sign-up starts at 5:00. Info: Tova Charles (514) 554-3720, Project Coordinator; Dr. Sheila Siobhan (512) 422-6653, Executive Director. E-Mail: u21slam@yahoo.com. Website: www.txywc.org.

October 18, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. BookWoman, features Khaled Mattawa reading his own new poems and readings from his translations from Arab women poets, Imam Mersal, Joumana Haddad, Maram Almassri. Baklava and hot tea provided. Reading organized by Deb Akers. 5501 A-105 North Lamar, 472-2785, www.ebookwoman.com.

October 21, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. BookWoman, features Ladan Osman, a Michener Center MFA Poetry fellow from Somalia, and Cara Zimmer, a graduate of UT's MA program in Creative Writing. Put together by Deb Akers. 5501 A-105 North Lamar, 472-2785, www.ebookwoman.com.

October 22, Thursday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The APS Fourth Thursday Open Microphone this month features APS members Jo Mason Mazzu and David Thornberry. The readings are always at NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe. Featured poets are followed by an open microphone. Bring your own poetry to read. Ralph Hausser hosts the event.

October 22, Thursday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. BookWoman features Alyce Guynn and Mariann Wizard reading from their own work and that of others. 5501 North Lamar, A-105. Come hear two long-time friends reading together at last.

October 23, Friday and Oct. 25, Sunday, 10:00-11:00 a.m. You can hear Thom Moon 10 live online while he is on his United Kingdom tour. He will be broadcast online as well as on the air on the "Radio Marj" poetry programme of the Community Radio, Radio Saint Austell Bay, Cornwall: <http://www.rsab.org>.

October 24, Saturday and Oct. 25, Sunday, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Poets for Climate Change, a reading by many poets at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, San Antonio, the outdoor amphitheater behind the Center's offices, 10750 Pleasanton Rd., San Antonio, (210) 628-1639. Directions: Take exit 46 from Loop 410 (Moursund Boulevard, south of the city), proceed south for 0.7 miles. Gate is on the left. To attend, participate, or otherwise contribute support, contact Mobi Warren (210) 496-4942 mobiwarren@gmail.com. www.350.org.

October 28, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Borders-on-the-Word, one of Austin's longest-running poetry venues, meets at the Triumph Cafe and Coffee Shop, 3808 Spicewood Springs Road (just off MOPAC). Always hosted by Barbara Youngblood Carr, the October/Halloween Theme will be "Women Can be Really Scary Things, Too!" Featured will be Irene Mooneyhan reading about *brujas*, etc. For the open mic bring scary poems. Information: 343-1875 (Triumph Cafe) or 343-7940 (Carr).

October 31, Saturday. The last Saturday of the month is the normal meeting time for the APS Critique Group hosted by Beth Kropf. This time, it has been postponed to November 7 (see details in a text box on page 1).

October 31, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. The Past Poetry Project Halloween Party, features scary poetry from great poets (dead ones, though their spirits may well attend). Bring the kids for poetry, a relatively safe Halloween activity. Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Drive.

October 31-November 1, Saturday and Sunday, all day. The **Texas Book Festival** comes round again with lots of events at the State Capitol and hereabouts, free and open to the public. A complete schedule has been posted: <http://www.texasbookfestival.org/Calendar.php>.

November 4, Wednesday, Noon, Poetry on the Plaza at the Ransom Center, University of Texas, 21st and Guadalupe, features Michener Center alumna Carrie Fountain and two astronomers, Mary Kay Hemenway and David Lambert, reading poetry related to "The Moon and the Stars." Free, open to the public, and with refreshments. www.hrc.utexas.edu. Couldn't ask for anything more heavenly.

November 7, Saturday, 7:00 p.m. For the Expressions series, Edgar Pace will launch *A Passionate Poet* (featuring the work of Edna St. Vincent Millay) with seasonal music by Chris Van Loan and seasonal poetry by Kathleen Romana. Also expected: Herman Nelson, John Berry, Philip Abbott and you. Baha'i Center, 2215 E.M Franklin Ave, 926-8880, www.austinbahai.org, worldpoetry.org.

November 9, Monday, The Hideout, 617 Congress Avenue. Thom Moon 10 returns and appears with **Element 615**, another of Austin's most distinguished performance poets. 476-0473. Host: Thom Moon 10. Featured readers are always followed by a round robin open mic for both poets and musicians.

November 12, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. James Fenton, Oxford Professor of Poetry from 1994 to 1999, delivers a **Harry Ransom Lecture** in the Prothro Theater of the Harry Ransom Center, 21st and Guadalupe. He will discuss "Life-Writing." www.hrc.utexas.edu. Free and open to the public. No reservations required, but seating is limited.

November 13, Friday, Ken Jones will present poetry and music at the Texas Association of Popular Culture in San Angelo. The next day, **November 14, Saturday, at 5:00 p.m.** he will read in Austin from his latest book, *Pleadings from the Pleiades* at **Brave New Books**, 1904 Guadalupe.