

## Austin Poetry Society

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

September, 2009

# Muse-Letter

## Michael Guinn on the Art of Spoken Word

**O**ur meeting time and place have changed temporarily because of renovations at the Howson Branch Library. This month, we meet on the **fourth** Saturday in the Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Drive, just west of Burnet Road. The meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is always welcome.

Michael Guinn is a leading promoter of spoken word poetry in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. On Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup>, he comes to Austin for a presentation on "Poetry from Memory: The Art of Spoken Word." As a leader in Fort Worth Poetry Slams, he offers an exciting treatment of the subject. Spoken word poetry has become popular in Austin venues every night of the year, and recently Austin has been hosting national poetry slams.

Opening for Michael will be APS member Jennine "doc" **Krueger**, a popular performer in the Huston Tillotson Quiet Storm poetry group.

With this first meeting, our **monthly contests** resume, so bring entries for the two contests--regular poems and light poems. Guidelines are on our website. (Go to [www.austinpoetrysociety.org](http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org) and choose "Contests" at the bottom of the screen.)

Few members entered the monthly contests last year, suggesting a lack of interest. Indeed, in most months we did not have enough entries to hold contests. Considering the amount of work and expense required, the costs may exceed the benefits. Monthly contests are tentatively scheduled for September through April this year, but members will vote in October on whether they should be continued. If members discontinue monthly contests, notice will be given online and in the monthly *Muse-Letter* for November. The Board hopes to give more attention to helping poets advance in learning the art and to encouraging the appreciation of poetry.

Come share your thoughts and receive your *Year-book*, prepared this year by Christa **Pandey**.

### Welcome to New Members

We start the year with 102 members and welcome among them these new members.

Paula Bird Broadshoe, <i>Patron</i>	Angie Meyer, <i>Patron</i>
E. A. Campbell	Donna Marie Miller
Jason Carr	Karla K. Morton
Pat Edward Cavness	Carol Oppel, <i>Patron</i>
Alyce M. Guynn, <i>Patron</i>	F. J. Schaack
Sarah Hickman	Matthew Ryan Shelton
James L. Johnson	Charles A. Trahan, <i>Patron</i>
Kristyn Jodon	Ron Wendell
Jim Keahey, <i>Patron</i>	Plez "Tha' Sinator"
Ben Kropf	Wooley

We're especially grateful to those who joined at the Patron level (\$10 or more above the membership requirement). We welcome new members anytime. An application form is online, [www.austinpoetrysociety.org](http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org), choose "Join Us" at the bottom of the page. Whenever you join, your membership continues through May. At present, contributions to APS are not tax-deductible.

### Special Events in September

The **APS Fourth Thursday Open Microphones** continued monthly through August. On Thursday, September 24, 2009, 7:00-9:00 p.m., featured poets will be David **Meischen**, an editor/publisher with Dos Gatos Press and a widely-published, popular Austin poet; and Christa **Pandey**, Second Vice-President of APS and also a prize-winning poet. The readings are always at NeWorldDeli, 4101 Guadalupe. Featured poets are followed by an open microphone. Bring your own poetry to read. The new host is Ralph **Hausser**.

Also the **Austin Poetry Society Critique Group**, hosted by Beth **Kropf**, continued meeting the last Saturday of each month through the summer. The next meeting is the morning of our regular meeting, September 26, 2009, from 11:00 to Noon. The group meets in the upstairs dining area of Central Market, 4001 North Lamar Boulevard and everyone, members and non-members, is welcome. Bring a few copies of your poetry in progress for a friendly discussion with other poets.

What curse or blessing has come on me in my age  
 To harry myself for words for a strange page?  
 -- Neill Megaw, from "Old Poet," *Other Voices*

## Papers on the History of APS

In March of 1949, the Austin Poetry Society first met. This year, we celebrate our sixtieth anniversary with publication of an anthology of members' poems. The poems were selected by an Editorial Board: Samantha Adams (chair), Mary Ellen Branan, and Nancy Fierstien. Katherine Durham Oldmixon is Editor for the anthology, and Nona Blanchard chairs a subcommittee on cover art.

The Austin History Center archives the papers of the Austin Poetry Society. Ralph Hausser, this year's Historian for the Society, notices that the Center has a copy of *Heritage of Dreams*, the 1976 anthology of the Society, but he also notes that they do *not* have our other three anthologies: *Second Harvest* (1982), *Austin Poetry Sampler* (1986), and *Golden Jubilee Anthology 1949-1999* (2000). If you have a copy of one of those, he would love to deposit it in the History Center, but if you want to keep it yourself, Ralph will eagerly photocopy it for deposit there.

For that matter, if you have any APS historical papers at all, Ralph would like to see that they are properly preserved in the Austin History Center. Contact him: r\_hausser@hotmail.com.

## Texas Poetry Day

Besides our anthology, many other options for observing October 15<sup>th</sup>, Texas Poetry Day, are available. In the past we have had readings and workshops, and the publication of poetry bookmarks has also been proposed. Such events require willing hands and sponsors. If you would like to help, just contact Elizabeth, eacVision@yahoo.com, one of our new members who co-chairs the Poetry Day Committee along with Ralph Hausser.

## Received in the Spring

I want to thank you for the Jenny Lind Porter scholarship. Meeting all of you was a great inspiration to me. I hadn't realized until then how much a supportive community had been lacking in my experience with writers.

I've been working as an intern for the *Bat City Review* this year.  
 --Catherine Chiodo

## Association of Writers & Writing Programs

An AWP Writer's Calendar online lists current grants, awards, calls for submission, and events for writers. You can't get to it unless you're a member, which costs \$65 for one year or \$110 for two years. With member credentials, you can access a far more complete list than what we can provide below. To view the Writer's Calendar, you must join AWP, then, armed with a username and password, go to <http://www.awpwriter.org/>, > AWP eLink > Calendar.

## Calls for Submissions

**Deadline: Oct. 1. The Permian Basin Chapter Poetry Contest**, two categories: 1. Cowboy Poetry, and 2. All other poetry. Must be at least 18-years-old to enter. Entry fee: \$3 per poem. Enter one poem per category, but no multiple entries. Prizes in each category, \$50, \$35 and \$25. Winning poems will be read at a Poetry in the Basin program on November 14, and along with other selections will be published in this year's anthology. Mail entry fee and poems to Contest Chair: The Permian Basin Poetry Society, 4313 Anetta Drive, Midland, TX 79703-6906.

**Deadline Oct. 1. Missouri Review 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Jeffrey E. Smith Editor's Prize Contest.** Up to 10 pp. of poems, \$20 fee. [www.missourireview.com/contest/](http://www.missourireview.com/contest/).

**Deadline Oct. 1. The 2009 New Southerner Literary Contest.** 3 poems, 50-line limit on poems. Fee \$10. [www.newsouthern.com/?page\\_id=263](http://www.newsouthern.com/?page_id=263).

**Deadline Nov. 1. The Enigmatist Poetry Contest.** Submit 1 to 3 previously unpublished poems, 32 lines or less. No names on poems. Include a cover sheet with name, address, phone, e-mail, and poem titles. All poems will be considered for publication. Prizes: \$100, \$50 and \$25. Poems will not be returned. Send a \$5 entry fee (for 3 poems; additional poems \$1 more each), payable to Mike Gullickson. Mail entries to *The Enigmatist* c/o Mike Gullickson, 104 Bronco Drive, Georgetown, TX 78633. Questions? poetkind@yahoo.com or (512) 756-8303 Sample copies available for \$5. If you prefer you may submit for publication without entering the contest and without paying a fee.

**Deadline November 1. 4th Annual Anita McAndrews Award Poetry Contest.** First prize \$200. The theme is Human Rights. Send two copies of each entry, one with your name and contact information, one without name. Include a reading fee of \$2 per poem entered. Mail entries and fee payable to Stazja McFadyen, 100 Waverly Way, #310, Clearwater, Florida 33756. A youth contest is also offered.

**Deadline: January 1, 2010. Virgogray Press** is an independent Austin area press run by Michael Aaron Casares. This deadline is for a projected anthology chapbook, *America Remembered*, for which he wants poems about America. Virgogray offers other projects with various deadlines, including two online journals and occasional chapbooks. Look at what they offer: [www.virgograypress.wordpress.com](http://www.virgograypress.wordpress.com). Published chapbooks are already available. For information write Casares at: michael.aaron.casares@gmail.com.

**Deadline about March 3, 2010** (based on previous years). **Poetry Society of Texas Student Award Contest for 2010.** Info for teachers: E-mail Kaye Abikhaled, [abikhaled@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:abikhaled@mail.utexas.edu).

## Poetry Coming Down All Around Us

Deb Akers will be featured in the October 3rd Expressions program "Another Night for Peace," at the Baha'i Center.

Dawn Ambuehl-Sadek gave birth to a daughter, Maya, on May 17, the day after our Annual Awards Ceremony, at 8:46 p.m. At birth Maya weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was measured at 18 inches long.

Austin poet Robert Ayres, for his "Hill Country Galleria" won Honorable Mention in the *Texas Poetry Calendar 2010* entries. Mark Doty judged the contest.

Austin poet Constance Campbell had her poem, "there was a time," published in the *Lilliput Review*, #169 (July, 2009).

Barbara Youngblood Carr was featured at the Onion Creek Country Club Literary Guild on Friday, September 11. The eighth book in her Ancestor Series, *Windsongs and Moon Spirits*, will be available after October 1. Barbara had a whirlwind summer with featured poetry readings and book signings in Alpine and Fort Davis, Texas, plus Ruidoso and Tula Rosa, New Mexico in May; First Fridays in Houston in June as well as speaker and workshop facilitator for Camp Indigo (summer camp for refugee children) in Austin; Coffee Oasis in Seabrook in July; and River Oaks Borders Books, Houston, in August. On Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup>, Barbara was featured in the Expressions series with Herman Nelson, presenting some of his original songs. She will be the only author at the annual Celebrate the Illinois River Fest, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on the weekend of Oct 10th. Her poem, "Stone of Honor," won the "White Buffalo" Award in the Senior Poet Laureate Contest. With Marvin Kimbrough, Barbara will be a featured reader in the APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Doyle Morgan Fellers, who spends the summer in Michigan, was the guest poet of four area libraries there. Doyle read a series of poems relating to the seasons and life on the lake. He and his wife have a cottage on Black Lake near Cheboygan, Michigan. At each event Doyle donated the sales of his book, *Come Sit With Me*, to the libraries' development programs.

Nancy Fierstien (Dripping Springs) has three poems in the *Cat Tales II* anthology, "The Cat We Just Had to Let Go", "Stray Cats", and "A Cat with Attitude." Proceeds from the anthology provided scholarships for college students involved in the Salado Legends musical. Her poem, "The Ripple Effect," was published in the June issue of *Austin Parent:Wise* magazine. Nancy will be featured in the October 3, Expressions program "Another Night for Peace."

APS member Ken Fontenot's third book of poems, *In a Kingdom of Birds*, will be published by Wings Press of San Antonio in the spring of 2011.

Alyce Guynn's poem "Blue Candle" is published in *The Seventh Quarry Swansea Poetry Magazine*, Issue Ten. Her poem "Speaking of Feet" appeared in the June 15th issue of *The Rag Blog*. The song "Crow's Flight" which Guynn co-wrote with Marvin Dykhuis is recorded on Dykhuis' new CD *My House*, released in July.

Ralph Hausser was one of the invited readers in *Borderlands' Fourth Sunday: A community of Poets* series, hosted by Deb Akers.

Tiff Holland had three poems accepted by *The Awakenings Review* in July. An adjunct instructor in English at Austin Community College, Dr. Holland was featured in the Bookwoman Open Mic on September 10. Her flash "Cadet" was included in *Wigleaf's Top Fifty* for 2008 and her story "The Boys" was a "notable story" for 2008 by *StorySouth Magazine*. Her work has twice been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Her poetry chapbook *Bone In a Tin Funnel* is available through Pudding House Press. Recently, she did a "Five Things" reading at the Art Authority. She has new work scheduled to appear in *Night Train* and *Smokelong Quarterly* (along with an interview.)

Ken Jones' third full-length collection, *Pleadings from the Pleiades*, is set for a Fall release by Poetry in the Arts Publications. He plans a book tour in late 2009 or early 2010.

Marvin G. Kimbrough's poem, "Remembering the penny post card," took second place in Stazja McFadyen's Map of Austin Poetry Contest #358-1, for May. To join the list and receive the monthly e-mailed list of poetry events and the MAP contest announcements, write: [mapofaustinpoetry-subscribe@eGroups.com](mailto:mapofaustinpoetry-subscribe@eGroups.com). With Barbara Youngblood Carr, Dr. Kimbrough will be a featured reader in the APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic on November 19<sup>th</sup>, which you may note is a *third* Thursday to avoid the Thanksgiving exodus.

APS member Elizabeth Kropf will be the featured guest poet at "Thirsty Thursday" on Sept. 17. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. at New Life Lutheran Church, 120 Frog Pond Lane off Highway 290 in Dripping Springs. Contact host Nancy Fierstien at (512) 858-2024 for more details.

APS member Cynthia Gail Manor was the invited reader for the Juneteenth celebration at Doris Miller Auditorium. This was her second year as presenting poet for the holiday, which commemorates the day Texas slaves were informed about the Emancipation Proclamation. Texas cotton farmers conspired to keep it a secret until the crops were planted.

Jo Mazzu attended her first poetry reading in August (the APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic), where she listened to others' poetry and read her own. She will be featured with David Thornberry in the Fourth Thursday readings on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Visiting her niece in Winston-Salem, Jo was able to read for another poetry reading, and she attended an all night poetry slam, making contacts with other poets. Another niece, a professor at NYU, invites her to visit and read at the University.

Dillon McKinsey (APS President, 2003-2006), reports that his program, *Writing on the Air*, KOOP Radio, 91.7 FM, every Wednesday, 6:00-7:00 p.m., has been continued. Fresh nourishment for writers every week. Online at [www.KOOP.org](http://www.KOOP.org).

APS member Karla K. Morton, the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate, has a new book available, *Redefining Beauty*, published by Dos Gatos Press. For an order form, e-mail Scott Wiggerman at [editors@dosgatospress.org](mailto:editors@dosgatospress.org), or go online: <http://www.dosgatospress.org/>. She was a featured reader for the APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic in August.

Herman Nelson was a featured performer for the Expressions series on September 5<sup>th</sup>, presenting his own music and lyrics, accompanied by Barbara Youngblood Carr.

Katherine Durham Oldmixon spent July at the Ezra Pound Center for Literature at Brunnenburg in Merano, Italy. While she was there, the *Borderlands* spring/summer 2009 ekphrasis issue, which she edited, appeared. She will travel to the Rane Gallery in Taos for a reading by the New Mexico area poets included in the issue on Saturday, Sept. 19. *Ellipsis* published her poem, "Self-Portrait in a Bus Window" this summer.

Christa Pandey reports that *Lutheran Digest* has accepted one of her hymns as a poem. She will be reading for the *Texas Poetry Calendar* in San Antonio on September 19<sup>th</sup>, and she will be a featured reader in the APS Open Mic at NeWorldDeli on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## If Only We Had Rain Coming Down Like Poetry

Horacio Peña was the cover feature for *La Prensa Literaria* for August 22, 2009. The article includes a two page interview and his poem, *Hay que poner a Dios de moda*.

Austin poet Laura Stevenson had her poem, "in the leaves," published in the *Lilliput Review*, #169 (July, 2009).

Ebony Stewart, who was a NeoSoul Slam champion in 2007 and 2009 reports that she has a book, *For Girls Whose Heaven has a Ghetto*, and a CD, *Ebony Stewart Presents: The Chrysalis*, both coming out in October. She is a featured performer in Zell Miller III and Up Rise! Productions' *Hip Hop Theatre Explosion 7* coming in October as well. Her website is [www.ebpoetry.com](http://www.ebpoetry.com).

Bradley Strahan reports that in honor of *Visions International's* 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a benefit will take place in Manhattan on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The event happens in The Player's Club on Gramercy Park. Brad has two more poems coming in the *Christian Science Monitor*, "Of Senses and Seasons" and "November Dawn." *Waterways* is publishing five of his poems, "Suddenly Fireworks," "Past Imperfect," "The Alice Effect," "A Fall of Leaves," and "Archaeology." *Waterways* is a small New York City literary magazine which, like *Visions International*, celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Brad was a featured reader for the APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic in August.

Thom Moon 10 returned from Australia and immediately resumed hosting his many open mic venues including the Hideout on Congress on Monday Nights and the Expressions series on first Saturdays. (See [www.austinpoe.org](http://www.austinpoe.org) and choose "Resources" for recurring venues.) On September 9<sup>th</sup> Thom performed with Barbara Kooyman and Rich Bowden at the Cactus Café.

Kimberleigh Thompson was an Austin host in May for the 2009 Women's Film and Performance Art Fest, sponsored by M.A.L.I. (Media Arts and Literacy Institute).

Liliana Valenzuela reviewed the first official English biography of Gabriel Garcia Márquez in *The Texas Observer*, <http://www.texasobserver.org/reviews/made-in-macondo>. In the August 21<sup>st</sup> issue, she reviewed Eduardo Galeano's *Mirrors: Stories of Almost Everyone*. Liliana wrote from Vermont where she was doing a residency at the Vermont Studio Center, that her reading in the Lowe Lecture Hall there on September 6<sup>th</sup> was well-received.

William Wenthe has a poem in the forthcoming Volume 8 of *Margie: The American Journal of Poetry*.

Scott Wiggerman's poem, "After Hearing Elie Wiesel," was just published at *Poetica Magazine* online: <http://www.poeticamagazine.com/holocaustedition.htm>.

## Poetry as a Team Sport

Cairol Dawson reports that the Eagle Mountain Writer's Workshop celebrated its first successful year at St. Anne's Church in Lake Worth, Texas. "Membership grew and harvested great writers and poets this year and members are getting published every month. Woo Hoo!"

David Meischen, Scott Wiggerman, and ten other poets will participate in an ekphrastic poetry event called "Threaded Lives" in Taos, October 3, at the Rane Gallery. The project is a collaborative evening combining spoken word performance and the textiles of twelve renowned Southwest fiber artists.

## Austin is Poetry City

**September 17, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.** Elizabeth Kropf is a featured reader for Thirsty Thursday at New Life Lutheran Church, 120 Frog Pond Rd. in Dripping Springs. Host of "Thirsty Thursday" is Nancy Fierstien. 858-2024. Admission: cans of food for poets' pantry.

**September 17, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.** Richard Oram leads a free gallery tour in the HRC for "From Out That Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Edgar Allan Poe." A second curator's tour of "From Out That Shadow" takes place Thursday, October 22, at 7:00 p.m. If you can't attend the curator's tour, free docent-led tours of the current Poe and "Other Worlds: Rare Astronomical Works" exhibitions are offered Tuesdays at noon and Saturdays at 2 p.m.

**September 20, Sunday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.** APS members Cherie and Glenn McBride hold their fifth annual "Naked with Feathers" art sale in Lake Jackson, Texas, 249 Circle Way. A sample of Cherie's shore-bird paintings may be viewed at <http://www.yellowbirdstudio.com/>. A portion of the proceeds supports the Gulf Coast Birding Observatory. They are also offering their Calendars and designer jewelry from Benold's. RSVP: (979) 297-8708.

**September 21, Monday, 7:00-10:00 p.m.** Element 615 releases his CD, "Words Here!" The Hideout, 617 Congress Ave. 476-0473. Host: Thom Moon 10. Featured readers followed by round robin open mike for both poets and musicians.

**September 24, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.** The award winning poet, C.D. Wright, was for five years poet laureate of Rhode Island. The Michener Center for Writers at UT Austin sponsors her presentation in the Avaya Auditorium, Room 2.302 in the HRC, on the southeast corner of 24<sup>th</sup> and Speedway. Free to students and the public. For more information, call 471-1601.

**September 27, Sunday, 4:00 p.m.** Borderlands' Community of Poets will feature young slammers from the "They Speak" group (formerly U21 Slam Texas Youth Word Collective). Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley, 5601 Brodie Lane, host Deb Akers.

**September 30, Wednesday, Noon.** Poetry on the Plaza at the HRC, "The Sand and the Oyster: The Poetry of Carol Ann Duffy." Caroline Devlin, of Actors from the London Stage, will read works by British Poet Laureate Duffy. Free, and with refreshments.

**October 3, Saturday,** Doors open 6:00 p.m. Showtime 7:00 p.m. Expressions has "Another Night for Peace" featuring many poets and musicians including APS members Nancy Fierstien and Deb Akers. At the Baha'i Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin Avenue, 926-8880. Admission: a dish for the pot luck/cans for the poets' pantry. All ages reading.

**October 10, 17, and 24, Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** APS member Scott Wiggerman will present "The Well-Seasoned Sonnet" as a fall workshop for the Writers' League of Texas. Focus of the course is not on the history of the form but on the future of the form, including lots of activities, new poems, and critiques. Details can be found at: <http://store.writersleague.org/workshops.aspx>