

JANUARY, 2012

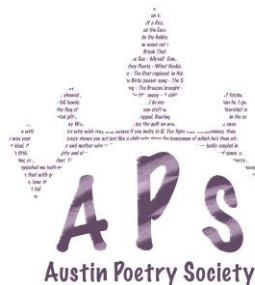
MUSELETTER

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

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At Yarborough: Robin Cravey on “Poetry as Reportage”

On **Saturday, January 21st**, at **1:30p.m.**, we meet at the **Yarborough Branch Library**, 2200 Hancock Dr., to hear **Robin Cravey** speak on “Poetry as Reportage.” A modern Renaissance man, Robin Cravey’s vocations include poet, photographer, lawyer, and political aide, as well as editor and publisher of Tilted Planet Press. Deeply engaged in his community, he is a former president of Friends of Barton Springs Pool. His poetry book *I am a comet* came out in 2007. In 2011 *A Year of Sundays*, a collection of his poems and photographs about his walks along the Lady Bird Lake trail, was published. Learn more about him at www.tiltedplanetpress.com.

Members, the January meeting marks the **submission deadline** for the **February Monthly Meeting Contest**. Bring 2 copies of a poem for each category, General and Light Verse, according to the rules on the APS website, or on page 20 of the *Yearbook*. Winners to be announced at the February 18th meeting.

The January meeting is also the **deadline** for a **special contest honoring the memory of Deb Akers**. See article this page for details.

APS Events in January

The APS 2nd Saturday Critique Group will not meet this month. Host Beth **Kropf** has cancelled the group in support of Scott **Wiggerman’s** workshop the same day. (See more details in Austin is Poetry City.) Check this space for the date and location of February’s 2nd Saturday Critique Group.

The APS 4th Thursday Open Mic is Thursday, January 26th, from 7-9p.m. Featured poets this month are Linda Marie **Cossa** and Mark (my words) **Wendell**. Features are followed by a round-robin open mic. Bring your poetry to share. Open to the public and free. Hosted by Ralph **Hausser** at NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe.

SPECIAL DEB AKERS CONTEST

A **Special Deb Akers Contest** has been sponsored by Marcelle **Kasprowicz**. Poems entered should be either about Louisiana or a humorous poem about shoes. Keep them under 30 lines and submit them no later than the January 21st meeting. Submit two copies, one with your name in the upper right corner, the other without any identification on it. You can bring entries to the meeting or mail them, postal, to the Meeting Contest Chair, Greg **Silver**, 3300 Greenlawn Parkway, Austin, TX 78757, to arrive no later than the day of the meeting. No e-mail entries please. Prizes will be 1st Prize, \$50, 2nd Prize, \$30, and 3rd Prize \$20. Only members may enter our contests, but for meeting contests, there is no fee to enter. With enough advance notice, we can hold any contest you want to sponsor for an upcoming meeting.

Elzy **Cogswell**

Membership News

APS is pleased to welcome these new members:

Lucy **Alejos**
Danielle **Burgess**
Ellie Francis **Douglass**
Paul **Dubiel**
Shila **Farahani**
Amy **Greenspan**
Michael D. **Jones**
Alberto **Long III**
Adele **Powers**
Stephen **Recker**
Max **Rice**
Daniel **Sanchez**
Courtney **Simchak-Mertz**
Haley Anne **Smutzer**
Henry Clayton **Wickham**
Leigh Anne **Winger**

Our thanks to them and to our renewing members!

Spend all you have for loveliness,
Buy it and never count the cost;
For one white singing hour of peace
Count many a year of strife well lost,
And for a breath of ecstasy
Give all you have been, or could be.

—Sara Teasdale
from “Barter”

Questionable Practices Alert

—a report from Mary Ellen **Branan**

Recently I was approached by a company called Bookwhirl. I thought at first they said Book World, which has several large book stores in the Midwest. The extremely flattering and oily marketer kept me on the phone for over an hour, seemingly reluctant to get down to brass tacks. While on the phone, I Googled Bookwhirl and found a lot of complaints from writers who said they had been scammed by Bookwhirl--not good. I pressed my caller to give me a name of a poet or poetry book he had helped successfully market. He defined success as selling 100,000 copies, via a wonderful website, reviews, and emarketing to a vast data bank for a two-payment amount of \$500-600. He gave me three poet names and named Kirkus as a review source. I got off the phone, saying I would do some research, and he should call me back the next day. Kirkus, I found, does not review poetry books. Only one of the three poets he named had a web site. I emailed the marketer and told him not to call me any more. He persisted in calling me and emailing me for a couple of days. He was angry that I had told him he didn't know much about the poor market for poetry books, at least for obscure poets. Today I got an email from the one poet (Raymond **Foss**) with a web site. The email said, "I have not had any experience with that organization."

Poets and Writers (<http://www.pw.org>) has published a **guide to literature in Austin** by fiction writer Oscar **Casares**: [http://www.pw.org/print/632655?destination=content/austin texas](http://www.pw.org/print/632655?destination=content/austin%20texas). He cites AIPF, among other literary festivals here. The article includes notable landmarks to visit. Could an APS member do the same for poetry?

December 2011 Monthly Meeting Contest

General Category Critic/Judge: Catherine L'Herisson

Poem	Author	Judge's Rating	Popular Vote
Mockingbird in October	Mariann G.-Wizard	1	1
Herod on the Edge	Mary Houston	2	3 (tie)
Une Histoire d'Amour	Monty Jones	3	2
Night Bird	Margaret Anderegg	4	3(tie)
Poems (echoing Joyce Kilmer)	Nancy Fierstien	5	4

Light Category Critic/Judge: Catherine L'Herisson

Poem	Author	Judge's Rating	Popular Vote
Winter Gathering	Margaret Anderegg	1	3(tie)
ReCAP	Gloria Amescua	2	3(tie)
The eReader Lament	John Hoag	3	1
The Legend of the Candy Cane Kid	Peter Violand	4	2
Potato Sack Athlete	Greg Silver	5	4

APS Annual Awards Contests Insert

February 1st is the first day APS members can mail their submissions to the 2012 Annual Awards Contests. Please see the special insert of Guidelines and Contests that President Elzy **Cogswell** has prepared for inclusion with this *MuseLetter*.

2012 AIPF POSTPONED

The Austin International Poetry Festival, usually held in early April, has been postponed until September 27th-30th. This year will mark the Festival's 20th Anniversary. The AIPF website is currently under construction, with a new website slated to launch February 1st. Find out more at <http://aipf.org/>.

The AIPF scheduling change has required a change to APS Annual Contest 13., The Diverse Youth Award, honoring Deb **Akers**. Please see this *MuseLetter's* insert of APS 2012 Guidelines and Contests for details.

Special Occupy Austin Contest Results

Thanks to all the poets who submitted slogans for hypothetical Occupy Austin signs. This contest was sponsored by Elzy **Cogswell**, who contributed the prizes (\$15/\$10/\$5). Members are encouraged to sponsor a special contest at any time. Nancy **Fierstien** won 1st Place with this quatrain:

Be Otherwise Occupied

Dread the greed.
(Be a sweetie.)

Shed the greed.
Feed the needy.

2nd Place went to Ralph **Hausser**, and Nancy also won 3rd.

The contest judge was Bob **Kinney**, who was president of the board of Wheatsville Food Co-op for fifteen years (see the "Bob" tree in his honor there). Bob is a journalist, photographer, and publicist. He did communications work for the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, was a president of the Central Texas Chapter of the ACLU, and wrote for the *Texas Observer*. Now he is in his third year as a board member and publicist for Mary House. See some of his photos and read more about him at bobkinney.wordpress.com.

Our critic/judge for the December Monthly Meeting Contest was Catherine **L'Herisson**. A Louisiana native, she is the current President of the Poetry Society of Texas, and a Life Member of the organization. Her poems have often won PST contests, as well as those of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Her work has been published in many places, including PST's *A Book of the Year*, as well as in the *Texas Poetry Calendar*, *Windhover*, *Lucidity*, and *The Enigmatist*.

WRITING WEEKEND IN ENGLAND

John **Row**, an international featured reader at AIPF in 2011, is running a writing weekend on the Norfolk Broads in England in March. It is the first of a series called "Inspired Writing in Extraordinary Locations." Workshops will take place on board "Betsie Jane," a 1930's gentleman's launch. He says "We will visit sites around the Norfolk Broads dating back as far as the Vikings. Accommodation will be in self-catering lodges at the Waveney River Centre." Dates are the 23rd through the 25th of March. For details and bookings see info@waveneyrivercentre.co.uk.

Please submit all news and events for the February *MuseLetter* to aps@austinpoetrysociety.org on or before February 4th.

The February issue will cover events that fall after February 11th.

Calls for Submissions

The *Texas Poetry Calendar 2013* will accept submissions through February 21st, 2012. Guidelines are in the back of the 2012 issue and at the website: www.dosgatospress.org. There is no reading fee, but contributions to our local small presses are always a good idea. Their wonderful work deserves our support.

2012 APS Annual Awards Contests: In printed copies of the January *MuseLetter* is an enclosure listing details of the 2012 APS Annual Awards Contests. **Note: All entries must be postmarked or received by March 31st, 2012.** The same information contained in the enclosure is available along with the Contest Guidelines on our website, www.austinpoetrysociety.org, or see pages 28-30 of the *Yearbook*. Also, all persons receiving the January *MuseLetter* by email will receive a separate .rtf attachment of the contest list.

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us

Generations: A Literary Journal has accepted two of Gloria **Amescua's** poems for its February 2012 Global Issues volume. The two poems are "Besitos for Creation" and "Messenger Angels: Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua." In early December Gloria was interviewed by Brenda Nettles Riojas of *Corazón Bilingüe*, an online poetry journal. The interview may be online at the time of publication at <http://corazonbilingue.com/home.html>. Gloria also read at the Flor de Nopal Literary Festival in Austin the first weekend in December, and presented a workshop for a group of girls at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Detention Center under the umbrella of SOY Program/Red Salmon Arts, and as part of the community outreach of the Flor de Nopal Festival.

UK poet Marc **Carver** has started a universal poem which will feature "as many Austin poets as I can find. If you know of anybody who wants to add a line of poetry to this poem, feel free to pass my email on." Once it is finished, he hopes to read it the next time he is in town. Email him your line at kronski669@yahoo.co.uk.

Nancy **Fierstien** has two poems, "Independence," and "The Paraplegic's Paradox," in *Bigger Than They Appear*, a new anthology of short poems released in November by Accents Publishing in Lexington, KY. *North of Center*, a newspaper based in Lexington, praised the book in a review, and quoted "Independence." The reviewer, Michael Dan Benton, writes of Nancy's poem, "The impact of this poem hit me multiple times throughout the first reading. I stopped and started, revised and reconceived, reread and revised. Amazed at what I first felt and then somber when I revised my notion. In a few words it engages us in a multitude of images and feelings." The anthology has proved so popular it has now gone into its second printing, according to Editor Katerina Stoykova-Klemer.

Cindy **Huyser** will be the featured reader at the "Fiction Fridays" reading on January 27th, 2012 at the Cianfrani Coffee Company on the square in Georgetown. The theme of the evening will be "Our industrialized world." See Austin is Poetry City for details.

Christa **Pandey** was a guest on KOOP Radio (Writing on the Air) on January 11th.

Margie McCreless **Roe's** poem "Assisted Living Center" has been accepted by San Antonio's VIA Metropolitan Transit to be displayed on buses during National Poetry Month in April.

Susan **Rooke's** poem "In Yearning, Joan" has been accepted for the Spring 2012 issue of *Eye to the Telescope*, the online journal of the Science Fiction Poetry Association. That issue will be dedicated to speculative persona poems.

Shubh Bala **Schiesser's** poem "The Hill Country Draught" was published in the *San Antonio Express-News* on January 8th.

Brad **Strahan** is in Lommel, Belgium, but spent the holidays mostly in England where he attended concerts at Ely Cathedral, which he describes as "a gigantic, beautiful pile originating in the 12th century." He was also in Ireland a few days, meeting with Irish poets including Noel King.

Castleford Poet from across the pond, Trevor **Wainwright** (aka Trev Cas' Lad or just Trev) is coming to Austin in April, arriving on the 3rd. He will perform at open mics in Austin April 4th, in Belton April 5th, and in Texas City April 6th before, he says, "an inspirational tour of Texas, hopefully taking in Terlingua on April 11th, then to Lamesa April 16th to help with Forrest Fest, then taking in Lubbock on April 17th." After Forrest Fest he will return to Austin April 23rd for more area open mics, before flying home May 2nd. This will be his second time in Austin. In 2011 he attended AIPF and Forrest Fest before touring America, covering over 4700 miles and writing nearly 80 poems. He runs an open mic in his hometown of Castleford, and is a friend of our own Thom, whom he describes as a "continuous source of inspiration."

Austin is Poetry City: Events

Please note: Recurring items are sometimes omitted to make room for special events. Times and locations are subject to change without notice. Please confirm with the venue.

Sundays (beginning January 15th), 2p.m. Sam's BBQ, 2000 E. 12th St., 478-0378. A new acoustic music and spoken word event on the screened-in porch at Sam's. Hosted by **lili** and **walter**. Sign up by 1:45 for a chance to perform after their set. Free.

Sundays, 3-6p.m. Hot Mama's Café, 2401 E. 6th St., Suite 104, 476-6262. Poetry interludes, uncensored. Host: **Melanie Rose**.

More Poetry City: Events

Sundays, 7-10p.m. Kick Butt Coffee Shop, 5775 West Airport Blvd., #725, 454-KICK. Spoken & Heard. Hosted by **Hot Tamale** and **Lost in Thought**. <http://www.kickbutcoffee.com>.

Tuesdays, 5-9p.m. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, 707-9637. Uncensored open mic, hosted by Melanie **Rose**.

Wednesdays, 6-9p.m. Thrice, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. Multi-media performances. Poetry, music, art. Improve and collaborate. Host: Julian Enoch **Bruno**. www.thricecafe.com.

2nd Thursdays, 7-9p.m. BookWoman, 5501 A-105 N. Lamar. W. Joe **Hoppe** features January 12th. W. Joe's second book, *Diamond Plate*, is scheduled for release by Obsolete! Press in 2012. Hosted by Cindy **Huyser**. Featured poets with round robin following.

3rd Thursdays, 7p.m. Thirsty Thursday at New Life Lutheran Church, 120 Frog Pond Lane, Dripping Springs. Kelsey Erin **Shipman** features January 19th. Suggested theme for open mic participants is "Whatever You Want It To Be." Hosted by Nancy **Fierstien**. Admission is free, and refreshments are provided, but donations to the Grace Food Pantry are encouraged. Call Nancy at 858-2024 for directions or more info, or see www.wearenewlife.org.

3rd Thursdays, 7:30p.m. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, monthly poetry workshop co-hosted by Barbara Youngblood **Carr** and Herman **Nelson**. Bring 10 copies of a work in progress. 418-8985 (store), 343-7940 (Carr).

Fridays, 5-7p.m. Fair Bean Coffee, 2210 S. 1st, 444-BEAN, www.fairbeancoffee.com. Music and open mic. Bring your original songs or poems to share. Hosted by Amy **Zamarripa**.

2nd and 4th Fridays, 7-9p.m. La Tazza Fresca, 37th and Guadalupe. Open mic, acoustic music and poetry. Host: Kathleen **Romana**.

3rd Fridays, 1-3p.m. Twin Oaks Library, 1800 S. 5th at West Mary. "**Share Your Stories**," a gathering to share life stories in poetry, prose, flash fiction, music, song, etc. A swapping stories venue, just for fun. All welcome. Host: Ralph **Hausser**.

Saturdays, 6-9p.m. Full English Café, 2000 Southern Oaks, 240-2748. www.fullenglishfood.com/. Poetry and acoustic music.

4th Saturdays, 2:30-4:30p.m. Twin Oaks Library, 1800 S. 5th at West Mary. **Poetry at Twin Oaks**. Not an open mic. Invitational reading only. Hosted by Ralph **Hausser** for Austin Poetry Society.

4th Saturdays, 3:30-5p.m. Mitchie's Gallery, 7801 N. Lamar, #B-148, 323-6901. All ages reading. Free admission, complimentary refreshments. www.mitchies.com.Poetry.

January. Texas Nafas program. Poet Carrie **Fountain** will be interviewed by Ric **Williams** and will read a number of her poems. Texas Nafas founder and President Farid **Mohammadi** says the program airs at different times on Time Warner Cable and Grande. For exact times please go to www.channelaustin.org.

January, alternating Sundays beginning January 15th, 4-6p.m. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar. **Dos Gatos Press** is offering a series of **free workshops**. Each workshop is based on an exercise in *Wingbeats: Exercises and Practice in Poetry*, and will be led by the author of that exercise. January 15th will feature Kurt **Heinzelman** leading "The Window Poem," and January 29th will feature Katherine Durham **Oldmixon** leading "Lyrical Bees: Writing Poems Inspired by Biology." Abe Louise **Young** leads "Birds in the Classroom" February 12th, and February 26th David **Meischen** will lead poet Georgia **Popoff's** *Wingbeats* workshop "Tales from the Bathroom: The Curious Path to a Poem." Workshops will take place in the classroom on the third floor of BookPeople, no advance registration necessary.

Sunday, January 15th, 4-6p.m. BookWoman, 5501 A-105 N. Lamar. **Onward Plain View Press Benefit Reading and Tribute**. A fundraising event to benefit Plain View Press and honor the late publisher, Susan **Bright**. Pam **Knight**, Plain View publisher since January 2011, will read from Susan's forthcoming poetry manuscript "Tiny and the Giant," to be released in 2012. Co-hosting and reading will be Ute **Carson**, world-traveler, poet and novelist, author of the new book *Just a Few Feathers*; and Judith Austin **Mills**, ACC adjunct, poet and fiction writer, whose debut historical novel is *How Far Tomorrow*.

Saturday, January 21st, 10a.m.-6p.m. The Writing Barn. Scott **Wiggerman's** workshop, **Six Approaches to Structuring a Poem**. (The January 14th workshop is sold out.) For info, contact Scott at editors@dosgatospress.org.

Sunday, January 22nd, 4-6p.m. BookWoman, 5501 A-105 N. Lamar. **Book Launch**. Devorah **Winegarten** launches *There's Jews in Texas?*, winner of the 2011 *Poetica Magazine* national poetry contest. Deborah, known primarily for her biographies of Texas women, will recount what it was like growing up as one of the few Jews in her North Dallas elementary school and what it was like to have a mother both famous and infamous. Share a nosh with her while she celebrates her latest book. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll support BookWoman, all at the same time.

Friday, January 27th, 6:30-8:30p.m. (One of a series on 2nd and 4th Fridays.) Cianfrani Coffee Company on Georgetown Square, 109 West 7th, Georgetown. **Fiction Fridays** features Cindy **Huyser**. The theme of the evening will be "Our industrialized world." The reading includes an open mic. This series features poetry, fiction, music and almost anything creative in a welcoming caffeinated atmosphere.

Thursday, February 2nd. Central Texas Poetry and Prose Readings in Salado, TX, Tablerock Amphitheater inside the meeting room behind the Tablerock stage, 409 Royal Street. Poetry Fest open to the public, with readings by guest poets from 7 to 9p.m., and open mic from 9 till "when ever." Guest MC: **Thom** the World Poet. **Bring cat poems** for a Tablerock Anthology, Volume 5 of *Cat Tales*, proceeds of which will benefit the Salado Humane Society. See www.tablerock.org, and RSVP to Event Coordinator Jackie **Mills**, (254)947- 9205, or Tablerock1@aol.com.

Saturday, February 4th, 6-10p.m. Expressions, Austin Baha'i Center, 2215 E.M. Franklin Ave., 926-8880. For the month of Valentine's Day, the session dedicates itself to love poems only, featuring love songs by Chris **Van Loan** and love poetry by Kathleen **Romana** and friends. Doors open 6p.m., showtime 7p.m. Admission is a dish for the pot luck/cans for Poets Pantry. All ages reading.

Tuesday, February 14th, 8:30p.m. 29th Street Ballroom at Spider House, 2908 Fruth St. Ebony **Stewart**, a major performance poet from Austin, will feature at Austin Poetry Slam. Soon she will release a new CD, *The Vertebrae Mixtape*. See www.EbPoetry.com.