

# AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

## PROUDLY PRESENTS THE:

# MUSELETTER

February 2016

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Carrie Laski

Andy Roach

Nanette South Clark

Natalia Malesa

Marcie Oates

Lisa Avery

Aaron Horowitz

Elizabeth Johnson

Kathleen Burke

Thank you for joining APS- we look forward to getting to know you.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Is just around the corner! Join us February 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30 to hear Cindy Huyser present "Selecting Your Collection: Making Your Poems into a Manuscript". At the Yarborough Branch Library.

**Cindy Huyser's** chapbook, *Burning Number Five: Power Plant Poems*, was selected co-winner of the 2014 Blue Horse Press Poetry Chapbook contest. Twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize, her poetry has appeared in a variety of publications, including *The Comstock Review*, *The Nassau Review*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *San Pedro River Review*, and *Layers* (Plain View Press, 1994). Cindy co-edited the *Texas Poetry Calendar* from 2009-2014, and is currently co-editing a volume of persona poetry of the Southwest for Dos Gatos Press, forthcoming in 2016. She hosts a monthly poetry reading and open mic at BookWoman in Austin, Texas.

## ITEMS OF NOTE

The Annual Contest categories and guidelines are [online!](#) You can enter by mail or online via Submittable. There are 25 contests this year, with a total of \$2,135 in prize money. The deadline for entry is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Good luck!

The Poetry Caravan is looking for spring volunteers! More info [here](#).

## WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

**Kaye Voigt Abikhaled** and six poets from the U.S. and Canada attended the Colrain Intensive at Brandt House, Greenfield, MA January 15-18, arranged by Joan Houlihan, Director, and Peter Covino, one of the founders of Barrow Street Press. Kaye also read Valentine/Love poetry at Half Price Books' First Saturday, 5555 N. Lamar on February 6th. The venue is open to all poets who would like to read their poetry in a round-robin format at Half Price Book's monthly First Saturday event.

**Gloria Amescua** had two poems "Fall into the Fig" and "Not the Last Pretender" included in *Entre Guadalupe y Malinche: Tejanas in Literature and Art* published by UT Press. She will be reading during the book release reading and one day symposium, February 26-27, 2016 at The Emma S.



Barrientos MACC, Austin, TX. She was a featured reader with Sonny Regelman, and Kathryn Culpepper on Jan. 9th at the Round Rock Library and Visions International: A Poetry Afternoon. Gloria also has two poems, "El Guitarista" and "From El Valle to West Texas," accepted for inclusion in the Dos Gatos Press upcoming publication, *Southwest Persona Anthology*.

**Diana Conces'** poem "Repetitions" was accepted for publication in the upcoming anthology *Secrets and Dreams*, to be published by Kind of a Hurricane Press.

**Nancy Daley** made it through a 30/30 January challenge, writing a poem each day. She is about to embark on the editing/reworking process.

**Nancy Fierstien** was pleased once again to serve as a featured reader for the Tablerock Poetry Festival in Salado on Feb. 4. She also notes that her poem, "The Ultimate Enrichment Place," has earned wall space -- frame and all -- in the New Books section of the Dripping Springs Community Library.

**George Klawitter** published four poems in the latest issue of *Assaracus*, including "Mid-Town," "Sestina," "Song," and "Ganymede."

**LaVern Spencer McCarthy** recently had three poems published in *Red Earth Revisited*, an anthology by Poetry Society Of Oklahoma.

**Dillon McKinsey** (APS Life Member) will be the featured poet in Singapore at the SOKA annual Peace Symposium at the Wee Kim Wee Centre of Singapore Management University March 3-5, 2016. This international conference works towards the creation of a deeper understanding of peace.

**Christa Pandey's** attended the week-long Palm Beach Poetry Festival in January, which included a five-day workshop with Thomas Lux (of Georgia Tech). Her poem "Assurance" was accepted by *Yellow Chair Review* for publication in March.

**Paula Starche** will be reading at the Elmer Kelton conference at Angelo State University on March 4th.

**Bradley Strahan's** poem "Coffee Café Blues" was accepted by the *San Pedro River Review*.

**Susan Beall Summers** had nine poems published in January: 3 in *Dead Snakes*, 2 in *Nowhere Poetry Journal*, 2 in *Plum Tree Tavern*, "Stardust" in *Yellow Chair Review*, and "Why a Cheshire Cat Grins" in *Silver Birch Press*. She recently attended the book release of *Native Instincts* by Rod Stryker and Tablerock Poetry Festival in Salado.

## MEET ME THERE...

Feb 13 (Saturday) 1-3pm-APS Critique Group-Hosted by Elizabeth Kropf. Bring 10 copies of a draft to discuss. Email [elizabethrebeccakropf@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethrebeccakropf@gmail.com) for the prompt. @ Yarborough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756.

Feb 14 (Sunday) 2-4pm-Linda Marie Cossa will read poems (along with various other presenters) in celebration of Valentine's Day. @ City Hall, S 1<sup>st</sup> St, Austin, TX 78701.

Feb 14 (Sunday) 4-6pm- The Austin Writers Roulette is an adult monthly theme-inspired spoken word and storytelling event. Donations are welcomed at this free event. Find the monthly theme at [www.austinwritersroulette.com](http://www.austinwritersroulette.com)  
@ Malvern Books, 613 W 29<sup>th</sup> St, Austin, TX 78705.

Feb 14 (every Sunday, except for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month) 7-10pm-Spoken & Heard Open Mic.  
@ Kick Butt Coffee Shop, 5775 W Airport Blvd, Austin, TX 78752.

Feb 14 (Sunday) 8pm- World-famous poet Sarah Kay (*No Matter the Wreckage*) will perform old and new work. Opening by poets Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz (*The Year of No Mistakes*) and Derrick Brown (*Our Poison Horse*). @ Bookpeople, 603 N Lamar, Austin TX, 78703.

Feb 15 (Mondays) 6-9pm- Cacophony of Crafts: Weekly round robin reading, hosted by Rhie Azzam Morris. @Epoch Coffee, 2700 West Anderson #409, Austin, TX 78757.

Feb 18 (Thursday) 7pm-Thirsty Thursday: This month's featured guest is Tim Anderson, pastor of St. John/San Juan Lutheran in Austin, and author of the book *Just a Little Bit More*. The suggested theme for the Open Mike is "What I Saw When I Looked in YOUR Mirror." Canned goods and non-perishable foods for our local food pantries are always appreciated at these free gatherings. For more information, call host Nancy Fierstien at 512-858-2024. Co-hosted by New Life and the City of Dripping Springs. @ the ranch house at Dripping Springs Ranch Park, 1042 Event Center Drive.

Feb 19 (3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays) 1-3pm- Share Your Stories. Hosted by Ralph Hausser. @ the Twin Oaks Library, 1800 S. 5th Street, Austin 78704.

Feb 20 (Saturday) 1:30-3:30pm- APS Monthly Meeting featuring poet Cindy Huyser. @ Yarborough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756.

Feb 21 (Sunday) 4pm- An Afternoon of Poetry with Andrea Eames & Jenna Opperman. Andrea Eames has released two novels: *The Cry of the Go-Away Bird* and *The White Shadow*. Jenna Opperman has an MFA in Poetry from New England College, and has been published in a wide variety of poetry journals and magazines. @ BookWoman, 5501 N Lamar Blvd A-105, Austin, TX 78751.

Feb 25 (Thursday) 6:45pm- Linda Marie Cossa hosts the APS Open Mike Night, featured readers: Barbara Carr and Pete Siebert will present on their new book of love poems, Louise Richardson, Robin Baret, Chuck Taylor, and Dora Robinson. Also more AIPF announcements. @ NewWorldDeli 4101 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX 78751.

Feb 25 (Thursday) 7-8pm- W. Joe's Poetry Corner: our host W. Joe Hoppe interviews a poet, who will then give a reading and answer questions from audience members. @ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

Feb 26 (every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday) 6:30-8:30pm-Poetry Plus Open Mic Night-all genres welcome. Sign up beforehand by emailing Mike & Joyce Gullickson [poetkind@yahoo.com](mailto:poetkind@yahoo.com) or Mike Jones [8direct@gmail.com](mailto:8direct@gmail.com) @ Cianfrani Coffee Co. 109 W 7<sup>th</sup> St, Georgetown, TX 78626.

Feb 26 (Friday) 7-8pm- I Scream Social: Galentine's Day Edition. Get your cones ready for another installment of Malvern Books' newest FREE reading series, featuring young women poets and fiction writers from the Austin community. This month's I Screamers are Katherine Noble, Julie Poole, and Sam Karas. @ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

Feb 26-27 (Friday-Saturday) Entre Guadalupe y Malinche Anthology Release and One Day Symposium: includes multiple readings, performances, panels and workshops by many different writers. All events free and open to the public. More info [here](#). @ The ESB-Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St, Austin, TX 78701.

Feb 27 (Saturday) 2-3pm-The Lion & The Pirate Unplugged. In association with VSA Texas (The State Organization on Arts and Disability) and the Pen2Paper Creative Writing Contest (a project of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities), we're delighted to present an inclusive (mic-less) open mic for writers and musicians. @ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

Mar 5 (Saturday) 3pm-Local Poet and Novelist Andrea Eames speaking & signing her new book of poems, *The Making of Stones*. @ Bookpeople, 603 N Lamar, Austin TX, 78703.

Mar 8 (Second Tuesdays) 7pm- Pot luck. Poetry. Music. Hosted by Genevieve Evans.  
Rotating venues (email--gen.athena.evans@gmail.com).

Mar 12 (Saturday) 1-3pm-APS Critique Group-Hosted by Elizabeth Kropf. Bring 10 copies of a draft to discuss. Email elizabethrebeckakropf@gmail.com for the prompt. @ Yarborough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756.

Mar 19 (Saturday) 1:30-3:30pm- APS Monthly Meeting.  
@ Yarborough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756.

Apr 1 (Friday) –Deadline for entry in APS Annual Contest.

Apr 7-10 (Thursday-Sunday) Austin International Poetry Festival ([website](#)).

Apr 15-17 (Friday-Sunday) Poetry at Round Top. Featured poets include Robert Hass, Dorianne Laux, Terrance Hayes, Dunya Mikhail, Benjamin Saenz, Carmen Tafolla, Rosemary Catacalos, Sasha West, and Maurice Manning. You can find the full lineup with bios, workshop descriptions, program schedule, etc, [here](#).

## SUBMISSIONS

There are two options this month, both with fast-approaching deadlines. Here they are for you prompt ML openers!

*2016 di-vêrsé-city Anthology* ([website](#))

*Don't Talk to Me About Love Magazine* ([website](#))

## BONUS CONTENT

Unfortunately in compiling the 2014-15 Anthology, a portion (the first stanza) of the March/April general verse winner “Making Soup” by Barbara Blanks was accidentally lost. The following is the winning poem in its entirety. Apologies to Barbara Blanks and readers who missed the full flavor of the soup being made.

### Making Soup

If grief were soup,  
I'd fill a large copper-bottom kettle  
with salted water, set it on the range,  
and turn on the flame. I'd drop in  
tiny red potatoes, bright orange  
baby carrots, perfect pearl onions,  
and a meaty beef bone for flavor.  
Nothing else—for grief is basic,  
uncomplicated.

I'd stand over the kettle,  
watch the vegetables  
and bubbles dance,  
let fragrant steam bead on my cheeks,

Find APS!

[www.austinpoetrysociety.org](http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org)

[austinpoetrysociety@gmail.com](mailto:austinpoetrysociety@gmail.com)

Facebook

Twitter

then drip steadily back into the pot.

I'd let it simmer

until broth cooked away,

until vegetables turned to sludge,

until meat melted off bone

and marrow dissolved—

until only sterile,

dried-up nothing remained.

Grief isn't soup—

but I've had my fill.

-Barbara Blanks

## IN CLOSING

This month APS Board Member Susan Rooke is featured on our website. Here are a few extra words of wisdom from her...

### What's your main source(s) of writing inspiration?

Usually my inspiration comes from personal experiences or from what I see around me. Here in the present, or something I dredge up from the past. In the case of my speculative poetry, the inspiration will come from imagining myself in a fictional experience, and what emerges will often be a persona poem. So in a way, what comes out is always factual, at least to me. My poetry isn't political, it isn't social commentary. I'm not a poet of "witness" except in the most literal sense: I write what I witness myself.

### How has your poetry changed through the years?

Now I write largely from observation, but that wasn't always the case. When I was younger I used to just make things up out of whole cloth. Faking emotion, faking depth. Writing about things I didn't actually feel. This isn't very satisfying, and when I was about 30 I stopped writing for a long time. When I returned to it, my husband Glen and I had been into birdwatching for nearly 20 years. And that's what strengthened my observation muscle. Now I try to flex that muscle whenever I write, no matter what the genre or type of poetry. So did birdwatching save my poetry? I think it did!

### Do you write in any other genres?

I do! I've written a few short stories, mostly flash fiction, but in recent years I've spent most of my time on a fantasy series. The first book, *The Space Between*, is complete, and soon I'll be done with the initial revision of the second, *The Underland: The Rise of Tanipestis*. There will be at least one more book in the series. These books and the characters who populate them have been my heart and soul for the past decade. I have to get them out into the world.

