
FEBRUARY, 2015

MUSELETTER

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 41346

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704

WWW.AUSTINPOETRYSOCIETY.ORG



Joe Brundidge on the Austin International Poetry Festival

On **Saturday, February 21st**, from **1:30-3:30p.m.**, we meet at the **Yarborough Branch Library**, 2200 Hancock Dr., to hear **Joe Brundidge (Element615)** elaborate on the variety of workshops, readings, venues and contests that this year's Austin International Poetry Festival (AIPF) has to offer.

Poet and spoken word artist **Joe Brundidge (Element615)** has been the Director of AIPF since 2013. He's performed and hosted at many venues throughout his native Texas, including Austin's EXSE Spoken Word Showcase, African American Book Festivals, and many of the locations that host AIPF readings. He has been written about as "echoing something between Coltrane and Cyrano, unapologetically romantic, devoid of pretension, and delightfully sensual. His work promotes thought as a natural by-product of itself, while unambiguously uniting his audience with his honest, compassionate take on the human experience. He speaks in a cadence that does not break down across barriers of race, age or geography." Find out more about Joe and AIPF at aipf.org

Also at this meeting we'll learn from **Greg Silver** the **results** of the **February Monthly Meeting Contests**. And if you're a nonmember reading this, all of our meetings are free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you there!

Annual Awards Submissions Open

Members, submissions are now open for the 2015 Austin Poetry Society Annual Awards. **Entries must be postmarked or received by March 31st.** This year you can enter the 26 contests via postal mail, or electronically by Submittable. All guidelines and submission details are on the website at www.austinpoetrysociety.org. Only members may enter, but if you're not a member, we can fix that! **Just send in the APS application form** (found on our website) **and membership fee** of \$20, along **with your contest entries** and entry fee of \$10 by the deadline.

Thank you to all our wonderful annual awards contest sponsors!

Each year, various members of the Austin poetry community elect to sponsor one (or multiple) of our Annual Awards. Some of the contests appear each year, but many of the contest rules and themes are chosen by the sponsors, and we're always delighted to see the wonderful variety of poems showcased at the Awards Banquet!

Thank you to our many APS, as well as non-member sponsors, such as Borgfest and Dale King (whose \$600 contribution breaks the record for largest amount of prize money offered during an APS Annual Awards Ceremony).

Keep an eye out for opportunities to sponsor a contest next year and keep Austin weird!

APS Events in February

The APS 4th Thursday Open Mic: Thursday, February 26th, 7-9p.m. This month features **Neil Meili**, **Sara Hutchcraft**, **Dora Robinson**, **Robin Barratt**, **Louise Richardson**, and **Pete Sebert**. Hosted by **Linda Marie Cossa** at NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe.

The APS Saturday Critique Group: Note Time Change! Saturday, February 21st, **10a.m.-12p.m.** (just before the APS Monthly Meeting!) Bring 10 copies of a poem for friendly discussion. Optional prompt: Write a poem about revenge. Details about revenge anthology at <http://www.robocup-press.com/revenge-anthology.html>. Facilitated by **Elizabeth Kropf** at the Yarborough Branch Public Library, 2200 Hancock Dr.

Behind a mist the bleary sun rose and set,
 At night the moon would nestle in a cloud;
 The fisherman, a ghost, did cast his net;
 The lake its shores forgot to chafe and fret,
 And hushed its caverns loud.

—William Campbell
 from "How One Winter Came in the Lake Region"

VALENTINE'S DAY-RELATED POETRY

Love has been one of the major inspirations for poetry since the dawn of civilization. A few of the world's most-revered love poems can be found among **Shakespeare's** sonnets, Pablo **Neruda's** *Twenty Love Poems*, Elizabeth Barrett **Browning's** *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, and **Dante** Alighieri's *La Vita Nuova*.

If you're looking to spend Valentine's Day with other poets, or experience some of these poems rather than read them, be sure to check out the **V-Day Erotica Reading** at BookWoman on Feb. 13th at 7p.m., or **Love Poems for Austin** at St. George's Episcopal Church on Feb. 28th at 7p.m.

And if you can't enjoy any of the above, be sure to bring your love poems to any Open Mike this month and share your love with a willing audience!

POETRY CARAVAN UPDATE

The Poetry Caravan launched in January and is off to a great start! The readings that have taken place so far at Westminster Manor, Brookdale and Age of Central Texas have been well-received and we're getting some positive feedback from our audiences. Our current schedule is full, but we will soon be looking for poets to sign up for readings in May, June, July, and August. If you're interested in participating, follow our Facebook page for more updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/PoetryCaravanAustin>

A full list of guidelines is available via Usha Akella at 914-686-4487 or poetrycaravanaustin@gmail.com, but feedback from the venues so far encourages participants to read loudly, read classics as well as their own work, and be open to audience participation, whether that be sharing their poems, time for Q & A, or a general discussion of the poems read. Thank you for taking poetry to the people!

Calls for Submissions

From **Dos Gatos Press: Submissions for the 2016 Texas Poetry Calendar are now open. Deadline: February 20th, 2015.** 3 poems, 35-line limit per poem, any poem that could take place in Texas. Full details at: <http://dosgatospress.org/how-to-submit>. **All submissions are free, and taken online through Submittable.** Please check all guidelines before submitting - NO cover letters. Also, the editors suggest you purchase a copy of the 2015 *Texas Poetry Calendar* from either BookWoman or Malvern Books to get an idea of previously-accepted poems.

The **Poetry Society of Texas sponsors poetry contests for students** each year. Guidelines are posted online at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org, under "Contests." There are 81 contests for 2015, and students and teachers should check it out. There's plenty of time for teachers or individual students to prepare entries before the **March 1st deadline.**

Glastonbury Festival, the world's largest greenfield arts festival, is now accepting **self-nominations** for its 2015 spotlight. **Deadline: March 6th.** Tickets have already sold out to this year's festival, June 24th-28th in Glastonbury, England. For more information, visit <http://www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/>

New Southern Voices Poetry Book Prize, sponsored by **Hub City Press. Deadline: April 15th.** Submit either a 1st or 2nd full-length collection of poems (between 48-120 pages) by mail or online at www.hubcity.com/prize. Winner will receive \$1,000 and publication by Hub City Press. Reading Fee: \$25. Judge: C.D. **Wright.**

The Wimberley Village Library wants submissions for "**Wimberley Voices**," a paperback book to be published before Christmas 2015. **Deadline: September 1st.** Any original material (not already published) with Wimberley as the subject matter is welcome: essays, fiction, nonfiction, letters, interviews, poems, tall tales, true stories, remembrances and songs. Send up to 3,000 words as a Word document to circ@wimberleylibrary.org. Funds raised by the sale of the book will benefit the library. For more details, call Carroll **Wilson** at 512-847-2188.

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us

Claire Vogel **Camargo** is delighted to be chosen as a Dos Gatos Press featured poet for February 2015 by David **Meischen** and Scott **Wiggerman**. Her poem "Last Rodeo" from the *2015 Texas Poetry Calendar* appears on the Dos Gatos website. She also joined the APS Poetry Caravan and will read on Feb. 12 at The Atria.

Michael Aaron **Casares** will have poetry appearing soon in *Poetic Diversity*, the litzine of Los Angeles, as well as at Silver Birch Press as part of the "Where I Live" poetry and photography series.

Elzy **Cogswell** has two poems in the February issue of *Pecan Press*, "The Comforting World" and "Shore Magic."

Kind of a Hurricane press has accepted Diana **Conces'** poem "Spider Mums" for publication in the upcoming anthology *Petals in the Pan*.

Nancy Fierstien was a designated reader at the Tablerock Poetry Festival in Salado on Feb. 5, and volunteered to read Deb Akers' poetry at the Expressions venue on Feb. 7. She is now registered to attend the Austin International Poetry Festival and Poetry at Round Top in April. She also reports that two local authors have new books to share at Thirsty Thursday on Feb. 19. Native Texan Laurie **Coker**, who now lives just outside of Dripping Springs, will present *That Little Coker Boy*. Another well-loved Dripping Springs educator and active community volunteer, Susan Syers **Stark**, plans to share her first work of fiction, *Time Flight*. Laurie's book is a condensed collection of biographical story poems, and Susan offers "a classic adventure that celebrates the power of imagination." An Open Mike session will follow, and the February suggested theme is "Bowling Alley Blues." Doors open at 7 p.m. in the ranch house at DS Ranch Park, 1042 Event Center Road off RR 12. Call 512-858-2024 for more details.

Cindy **Huyser's** chapbook, *Burning Number Five: Power Plant Poems*, was reviewed in the February 4 edition of Blot litReviews (<http://t.co/AeIRKTOhx0>). She and Debra **Winegarten** will be the featured readers for the Nuestro Voz poetry reading on February 28 in Waco.

Cynthia **Kittredge** reports that her book *A Lot of the Way Trees Were Walking: Poems from the Gospel of Mark* has been published by Wipf and Stock.

Katherine Durham **Oldmixon** is pleased to share the online publication of the Migrations issue of *The Ilanot Review*, a literary journal based in Israel, for which she served as guest poetry editor this fall: <https://ilanot.wordpress.com/>. She also wanted to remind everyone that, once they register for Round Top, to submit a poem for the festival anthology by March 30th.

Susan **Rooke's** poem "Northern Harrier" has been accepted by *The Avalon Literary Review* for publication in their Spring Edition, to be printed by the end of March.

On Saturday, February 21st, 2015 from 10a.m. to 3p.m., ire'ne lara **silva** will be leading her "Write the Difficult" Workshop through Gemini Ink in San Antonio. Price: \$75. For more info: <http://geminiink.org/tag/irene-lara-silva/>

Brad **Strahan** reports that the Spring issue of *Visions International* has just been filled by poet Gene **Barry**, who will be visiting the Round Rock Reading Series on March 14th. *Visions International* is still accepting poems for its Fall issue. On a personal note, *Two Thirds North* (a joint Swedish-American university journal) accepted two of Brad's poems, "Walls" and "Room With a View of Lake Ohrid," and *Stillwater Review* accepted his poem "Autumn Ghazal."

Scott **Vanya** has recently had 3 e-books published, *Cuz Somewhere Along The Line I Forgot My Self*, *Might As Well Fly Away*, and *Too Much, Not Enough*. They can be found along with his over 25 other e-books at his iTunes and/or Barnes & Noble Nook pages, as well as at many other online retailers. Scott has also created an Open Mics Austin email address to better expedite the collection and dissemination of information about poetry open mics in and around Austin, gather feedback about them and the Open Mics Austin YouTube Channel, and all other things Open Mics Austin related. Any questions that folks might have or input that they might want to give can be directed to openmicsaustin@gmail.com. In addition, Scott has been making audio-verbo-visual videos, which include words, sounds and images to more fully express the poetic moment as he experiences it. They can all be viewed at the following YouTube playlist: <http://goo.gl/XM0AhK>.

Scott **Wiggerman's** third book of poetry, *Leaf and Beak*, which is a sequence of 75 nature sonnets, is now available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble etc. You can also buy it at Scott's website: <http://swig.tripod.com>. Additional information can be found at Purple Flag/Visual Artists Collective: <http://vacpoetry.org/leaf-and-beak-sonnets/>.

Austin is Poetry City: Events

Sundays, 7-10p.m. Kick Butt Coffee Shop, 5775 West Airport Blvd., #725, 512-454-KICK. **Spoken & Heard** with music. Many hosts.

1st Sundays, 3-5p.m. Recycled Reads, 5335 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX. All-ages **open mic**. Hosted by Louise Gail **Richardson**.

2nd Sundays, 4-6p.m. Stompin' Grounds, 3801 South Congress Ave, Austin, TX. **Austin Writers Roulette**. Reading and performance of original writing. Juried and hosted by Teresa Y. **Roberson**. Monthly themed reading; March's theme is "Walk in Another's Shoes". Visit austinwritersroulette.com for other dates and themes. **\$5, 18+**

Tuesdays, 7:15-11p.m. Spider House Ballroom, 2908 Fruth St., Austin, TX 78705. **Austin Poetry Slam**, a weekly slam, featuring 5 random judges, regular slam scoring style, 13 poets on stage, and rotating hosts. See <http://austinslam.com/>.

3rd Tuesdays, 7p.m. Drink & Ink, at rotating venues. Hosted by Genevieve **Evans**. Email gen.athena.evans@yahoo.com for more information.

Wednesdays, 1-3p.m. Strange Brew, 5326 Manchaca Rd. **Harriett's Writing Group**, read, write, hangout. Share your creative process with willing eyes and ears. An opportunity to write together with fellow writers. Hosted by Robin **Barratt**, 512-878-7636.

2nd Wednesdays, 7-8:30p.m. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. **Mind Maze Reading Series**, organized by Raw Paw Press. Features: Joe **Brundidge**, Ash **Smith** and Montsho Jarreau **Thoth**, who will be releasing a chapbook. Hosts: A.R. **Rogers** and Wade **Martin**.

4th Wednesdays, 7p.m. St. George's Episcopal Church, Kleburg Hall, 4301 N. IH 35, Austin, Texas 78722. **Austin Quantum Artists**, an open-source creative community of collaborators, patrons and partners. Hosts: Dora **Robinson** and Pete **Sebert**.

Thursdays, 8p.m. Dozen Street, 1808 East 12th, Austin, TX. **PoTty Mouth**. 5 performers, 5 to 15 minutes each, all things words, anything goes. No music. Encourages performers to host their own night with their own guests. Hosted by Jim **Trainer** and Maydee **Distefano**. See <https://www.facebook.com/pottymouthdozenstreet> for more information.

1st Thursdays, 7:30-10p.m. Wake the Dead Coffee House, 1432 Old RR 12, San Marcos, 512-754-9253. All ages **round robin reading**, hosted by Michael **McClanahan**.

2nd Thursdays, 7:15-9p.m. BookWoman, 5501 A-105 N. Lamar. **Featured poets** followed by **round robin** open mic. The February 12th featured readers are A.R. **Rogers** and Sarah **Hackley**. Hosted by Cindy **Huysen**.

2nd Thursdays, 7:30p.m. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, mezzanine. Monthly **open mic** with featured poets. Co-hosted by Barbara Youngblood **Carr** and Herman M. **Nelson**. For more info call 418-8985 (Barnes & Noble) or 343-7940 (Carr).

3rd Thursdays, 7p.m. Dripping Springs Ranch Park, 1042 DS Ranch Road, Dripping Springs. **Thirsty Thursday**, themed event with featured poets, open mic follows. Features: Laurie **Coker** and Susan Styers **Stark**. Next theme: Bowling Alley Blues. Host: Nancy **Fierstein**. Call Nancy (512-858-2024) for info and/or directions.

3rd Thursdays, 7:30p.m. Barnes & Noble Arboretum, mezzanine. Monthly **poetry workshop** hosted by Barbara Youngblood **Carr**, author of 17 books of poetry/prose and short stories, and published author Herman M. **Nelson**. Bring 10 copies of a work in progress for friendly critiquing. For more info call 418-8985 (Barnes & Noble) or 343-7940 (Carr).

Fridays, 6:30p.m. Green Man Coffee House, 6501 Linda Lane, Austin, TX 78723. Happy Hour Pot Luck **celebration with conversation** and frequent live music in the Backyard Theatre. green-man.ch.com. Contact cosmic hosts **Lina** and **Zow** at 512-627-4097 for more information.

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. Swapping stories just for fun. All welcome. Host: Ralph **Hausser**.

1st Saturdays, 1p.m. Harvest Foundation, 6633 E Hwy 290, Ste 303. **Spoken Scribes Writing Labs**, a spoken word workshop and slam. Contact Selah **Vie** for more information: 512-228-0014.

1st Saturdays, 12-3p.m. Alpha House, 211 Chicon St., Austin, TX 78722. **They Speak Youth Slam**, a free one-hour youth-oriented writing workshop, followed by a \$5 poetry slam (free for workshop participants). Host: Christopher **Michael**.

1st Saturdays, 6-10p.m. Austin Baha'i Center, 2215 E M Franklin Ave, Austin, TX 78723. **Expressions**, an all-ages themed reading featuring a pot luck (bring a dish) and Poets Pantry (bring canned food). Various hosts and featured poets, followed by an open mic. The March theme is "Poetry Festivals Preview," featuring Joe **Brundidge (Element615)** for AIPF, Connie **Williams** for Forrest Fest, Mike & Joyce **Gullickson** for Georgetown Poetry Festival, and P.W. **Covington** for Rio Grande Valley Poetry Festival. www.austinbahai.org

2nd Saturdays, 1:30-3p.m. Round Rock Public Library, 216 E Main Ave, Round Rock, TX 78664. **Round Rock Reading Series**, featuring Carrie **Fountain** and Tomas Q. **Morin**, open mic to follow (it's Valentine's Day, so feel free to bring your love poems). Host: Dr. Bradley **Strahan**.

Thursdays, February 5th-March 26th, 5:30-7p.m. Twin Oaks Branch Library, 1800 S. 5th Street. **Badgerdog Creative Writing Workshop** for Adults, aspiring writers work with a Badgerdog Teaching Artist over eight weeks to create new works of poetry and prose. All participants will be published in a chapbook. This event is free, and a great introduction into the various creative writing opportunities Badgerdog has to offer.

Thursday, February 12th, 7:30p.m. Avaya Auditorium, POB 2.302 on the University of Texas Campus, 201 E. 24th St., Austin, TX, 78712. The **Michener Center Reading Series**, featuring poet Matthea **Harvey**.

Friday, February 13th, 7p.m. BookWoman, 5501 A-105 N. Lamar. V-Day Erotica Reading, a woman-centric and sex-positive evening of erotica and sensuality featuring Allyson **Whipple**, Anushka **Jasraj**, Denise **Hudson**, Candyce **Rusk**, Cindy **Huysen**, Jasmine A **Cash** and Dana **Sayre**.

Saturday, February 21st, 9a.m.-3p.m. AISD Performing Arts Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 1500 Barbara Jordan Blvd. **The Reflexive Teaching Artist**: Building a Purposeful, Powerful Reflective Practice, a workshop offering strategies to support a teaching artist's capacity to create, connect and critically engage their participants. Hosted by **MindPOP** and **Flashdrive**. Contact karen.sullivan@mindpop.org to register/for more information.

Saturday, February 21st, 7-8:30pm. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. **Fun Party with Noah Eli Gordon**, poetry and more with Noah Eli **Gordon**, Lisa L. **Moore** and Ryan **Bender-Murphy**.

Saturday, February 21st, 7:30-10:30p.m. Geo-Growers Crossroads Garden, 12002 Hwy 290, Austin, TX 78737. **Awesmic City Café**, poetry, music and a Taco truck. Look for the string-lights in the garden entrance, or come through the parking lot to the back area of the business. Contact host Anyah **Dishon** for more info: anyah7777@aol.com.

Thursday, February 26th, 7-8pm. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. **W. Joe's Poetry Corner**, featuring organized Q & A, followed by a reading and audience Q & A.

Saturday, February 28th, 7p.m. St. George's Episcopal Church, Kleburg Hall, 4301 N. IH 35, Austin, Texas 78722. **Love Poems for Austin**, an evening of appreciating Austin through photography, music, drama and poetry. Hosts: **Austin Quantum Artists**.

Saturday, February 28th, 7-9p.m. Art Forum of Waco, 1826 Morrow Avenue, Waco, TX 76707. **Nuestra Voz/Our Voice**, with featured poets Cindy **Huysen** and Deborah **Winegarten**, open mike to follow.

Sunday, March 1st, 3-4p.m. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. An Afternoon with Scott **Wiggerman**, Paul **Licce** and Joe **Blanda**, launching Scott's newest book, *Leaf and Beak*, showcasing Paul's photography and accompanied by Joe's live acoustic guitar.