JANUARY Monthly Meeting

Saturday, January 21st, 1:30-3:30 pm

Presenter: ALAN BERECKA

Alan Berecka was recently named the Poet Laureate of Corpus Christi. His forthcoming and fourth collection of poems: *The Hamlet of Stittville* is a collaboration with the New Yorker cartoonist and boyhood friend John Klossner. Berecka earns his keep as a reference librarian at Del Mar College. His work has appeared in such publications as *Red River Review, Texas Review, The Christian Century, Windhover, Ruminate, St. Peter’s B-List,* and *Oklahoma Poems…and Their Poets.*

Location: Yarborough Branch Library – 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756

[NOTE: Monthly Contest entries are due at or before this meeting. For more details click HERE.]

Please visit the Austin Poetry Society’s website for more information (or possible changes) about this and other APS related events.

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APS JANUARY EVENTS

The APS SATURDAY CRITIQUE GROUP: Will meet on Saturday, January 14th, 1-3 p.m. Bring 10 copies of a poem to share. The group is facilitated by Elizabeth Kropf. Meeting location: Yarborough Branch Library – 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756. Email elizabethrebeccakropf@gmail.com for the prompt—which is optional.

APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic Reading: The next reading will be held on January 26, 2017, featuring poets Ute Carson, Alyce Guynn, Nan Boye Nagle, Thom the World Poet, Chuck Taylor, and Ralph Hausser. Hosted by Linda Marie Cossa, the event takes place at NeWorlDeli, 7-9 p.m., on 4101 Guadalupe Street, Austin, TX. Austin Poetry Society members who are interested in being future features, please come to the reading and give Linda Marie your contact info. She would love to highlight more APS poets for the monthly poetry reading at NeWorlDeli.

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WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME ANOTHER NEW MEMBER!

Loren Stell

Austin Poetry Society wishes to thank Loren for joining our organization. We extend a warm welcome to you and hope to see you at some of our monthly meetings and poetry events.

HAIKU

No sky
no earth - but still
snowflakes fall.

-Soseki

-Hasin
The Austin Poetry Society’s annual Holiday Party, held on December 17th, drew a large gathering of its members. Led by our APS President, Barbara Gregg, the participants included Nathan Brown (APS Vice-President), Claire Vogel Camargo (APS Secretary), Sonny Regelman (APS Membership Director), Carie Kinder Juettner (APS Communications Director) and many other enthusiastic members. Those in attendance were treated to a potluck of tasty eats and an energetic open-mic reading.

A big thank you to all the members who attended the celebratory event. We hope to see many of you again at the January 21st, 2017 monthly meeting!

FEBRUARY 2017 EVENT

APS Monthly Meeting:
Saturday, February 18th,
1:30-3:30pm

Presenter: Anne McCrady

Location: Yarborough Branch Library –
2200 Hancock Dr,
Austin, TX 78756

More details coming soon!

[NOTE: Winners of the January Monthly Contest will be announced at this meeting.]
November/December Monthly Contests
The results of the November/December Monthly Contests are in!

Judge’s Results:

**General Verse**
1st place = “Whims of November” by LaVern Spencer McCarthy
2nd place = “Garden” by Ralph Hausser
3rd place = “The First Day of Kindergarten” by Cynthia Drake

**Light Verse**
1st place = “Appetizers” by Barbara Blanks
2nd place = “Chicken Soup” by Ralph Hausser
3rd place = “Lady from Latchett” by LaVern Spencer McCarthy

(A big thanks to this month’s judge—Lyman Grant!)

Popular Vote:

**General Verse**
1st place = “Garden” by Ralph Hausser
2nd place = tie between “The First Day of Kindergarten” by Cynthia Drake and “Cries in the Night” by Von S. Bourland

**Light Verse**
1st place = “Appetizers” by Barbara Blanks
2nd place = “One Night” by Diane Hinman
3rd place = “Playful Wind” by Greg Silver

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated! We look forward to more of your wonderful poetry in 2017.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Visit the APS website for Monthly Contest rules and guidelines. [Click HERE.]

HELPFUL INTERNET RESOURCES FOR POETS

**PoemHunter**
A Database of Poems, Poets, and Quotations: [Click HERE]

**Poetry Society of America**
The Poetry Society of America, the nation’s oldest poetry organization, was founded in 1910. [Click HERE]

**Literary Magazines**
“Here, you’ll find editorial policies, submission guidelines, contact information—everything you need to direct your work to the publications most amenable to your vision.” [Click HERE]
KAYE VOIGT ABIKHALED

Kaye Voigt Abikhaled is a naturalized citizen of the United States (1965) and is fluent in German. Her first book of poems was *Childhood in the Third Reich: WW II and its Aftermath*, published by Mellen Poetry Press (2001). The author translated the book into German in 2006. English is her second and preferred language for writing poetry. She was a January 2016 resident at the Colrain Intensive Manuscript Conference at Brandt House, MA. *The Thin Rim of Earth* is a recently completed manuscript. Her poems have appeared in national journals and anthologies in the U.S. and Canada. Kaye is a member of the Austin Poetry Society and Life Member of the Poetry Society of Texas (as well as its Counselor for the Austin area). She was the first Runner Up, of the XXth Fernando Rielo World Prize for Mystical Poetry, Madrid, Spain, December 2000.

Kaye spent over a decade supporting Poetry in Schools in the Austin area and chaired the Student Poetry Society Awards, 2003 of the Poetry Society of Texas. As Editor of *A Galaxy of Verse*, she published ten issues 1999 – 2004. Over the years, she has judged poetry contests for various local, state, and national poetry societies.

When did you start writing poetry?  I became interested in writing poetry in 1985, around the time The Austin Writer's League was founded.

What types, styles, or forms of poetry do you write?  I am interested in most forms of poetry, especially the general development of short, un-punctuated free verse lines, which is probably as a result of increased use of iPhones and their small screens. Such poetry gives hints of thought only and allows a reader to form his own opinion of a poem's subject. The poem becomes more inclusive for both reader and the poet/writer. Still, a well-written poem using styles and forms of thirty or so years past can be a surprise, a gem to be remembered. Well-turned phrases, with interwoven historical facts (that may require research for clarification), and final lines that zing, stun and surprise make a poem (for me at least) worthy of remembering, even to make one sinfully crimp the page in admiration and respect for the poet who is in a class by himself/herself.

What poets have you read, and which ones are you presently reading?  I have read with gusto Josef Komunyakaa, Seamus Heaney, Denise Levertov, Emily Dickinson, Naomi Shihab Nye . . . and so many others. Anthologies of any kind are a gold mine for poetry reading, whether a Norton Anthology, Sound and Sense, or even an obscure out-of-print "Fine Frenzy" by McGraw-Hill, Inc. (1972)—that I found at a book sale somewhere. These volumes have become treasured reading: old, yellowed, with penciled notes by previous owner/students. The books sit on my desk. I pick them up to overcome a ‘dry spell’. Presently, I am getting back to Dana Gioia, Ilya Kaminsky, and a slim volume by Marianne Szlyk.

Explain you writing process (the way you go about writing a poem).  I was fortunate to attend Thursday morning classes with Neill Megaw (at the N. Lamar Sr. Center), whose writing process I have followed through the years: an idea comes across, becomes pages of draft, then set to rest. Coming back to the draft, I begin a merciless surgery, cutting unnecessary asides, words, lines, format: let it marinate for a while longer. It may still be a lousy poem though, so I fine-tune or change lines, change stanzas, re-write the poem again until it is deemed right. On occasion, a poem writes itself, period. There it is, and it will not let you change a thing. Those are new found poems, new thoughts, new writing. On the other hand, there are some of my poems, 22 years old, whose lines I still rewrite today for better sound, or better rhythm, especially when my German by birth gets in the way.

What are you presently working on?  A manuscript, "The Thin Rim of Earth," is finally complete. “Dirge with Joy” was completed this past August 2016.

Austin Poetry Society Annual Poetry Contests

If you are planning on submitting entries for the [APS 2017 Annual Contests](https://www.austintxpoetry.org/contests), we have great news: the contests are currently OPEN! The new list of 24 contests have been posted on the APS website. Entries are due by April 1, 2017. You must be a current Austin Poetry Society paid member to enter any of the contests. Please visit the APS website for all the details and guidelines [CLICK HERE](https://www.austintxpoetry.org/contests).
APS Poets Participate in the Dos Gatos
2017 Texas Poetry Calendar reading at Malvern Books

On December 10, 2016, many poetry lovers from all around Austin, and other Texas cities, gathered for a reading of poems from the 2017 Texas Poetry Calendar. The anthological calendar is a Dos Gatos Press publication, edited by Allyson Whipple and Wade Martin. Dos Gatos press co-founder, David Meischen, flew in from his home in New Mexico to participate in the event, which was held at Malvern Books.

Several of our own APS members had poems included in the 2017 calendar: Barbara Randles Gregg (APS President), Nathan Borwn (APS Vice-President), Claire Vogel Camargo (APS Secretary), Carie Kinder Juettner (APS Communications Director), Gloria Amescua, Christa Pandey, Shubh Bala Schiesser, Judith Austin Mills, Barbara Blanks, Diana L. Conces, Cynthia J. Drake, Jerri Hardesty, Marcelle Kasprowicz, Bradley R. Strahan, and Mark E. van Gelder. Many of these fine APS poets were present at the event to read their contributing works. The reading was videotaped by Malvern Books and can be accessed online CLICK HERE. Congrats to all the contributors of the 2017 Texas Poetry Calendar!

Dos Gatos Press is working on a compilation of the best poems from the last decade's of Texas Poetry Calendars—to be published as their 2018 Texas Poetry Calendar. We are proud of the many APS members whose poems have appeared in these great poetry calendars throughout the years.

THE POETRY CARAVAN IS IN NEED OF MORE READERS!

Readers are needed for The Poetry Caravan. The next reading is on Thursday, January 12. The Poetry Caravan is a non-profit organization that was founded by Usha Akel-la in White Plains-Greenburgh, NY. It was formed to offer poetry readings and workshops to disadvantaged audiences in women’s shelters, senior homes, educational institutions, and hospitals. Please sign up to read by adding your name to their reading chart (be sure to read the guidelines before you sign up). CLICK HERE

You can also visit The Poetry Caravan’s Facebook Page for more information, or email:

poetrycaravan@austin@gmail.com
or
elizabethrebeccakropf@gmail.com.

TEXAS NIGHT SKY FESTIVAL WRITING CONTEST

Sunday, January 15 is the DEADLINE for entries in the Texas Night Sky Festival writing contest. Visit www.cityofdrippingsprings.com

APS STILL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

If you are a member of the Austin Poetry Society and would like to volunteer, please email us at austinpoetrysociety@gmail.com. We are currently looking for a treasurer, as well as people to chair various committees. We would love your help. Let us know if you are interested!
POETRY NEWS ABOUT YOU!!

Kaye Voigt Abikhaled placed fourth in Poetry Society of Texas’ 2016 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize.

Benjamin Nash’s poem "The Yellow Bells" was accepted by Thin Air, and his poem "Easter Island" was accepted by The Offbeat.

One of Brad Strahan’s poems was read at St. James (Anglican church) in Ireland. ”Hymn,” another poem from his latest book is being reprinted in the Good Shepherd church newsletter. Brad, who has relocated to North Carolina, wants APS members to know: “if anyone has long range plans to visit Raleigh, NC, I might be able to arrange a reading for them at my series in Aversboro Coffee (a great little venue).” He also wants to remind “Austin area folks that Visions is still open to their poetry too—despite having relocated to NC.”

MORE POETRY EVENTS IN AUSTIN and LOCAL AREAS

Friday, January 6th, 7-8 p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. An Evening with Andrew McFadyen-Ketchum & Jenny Molberg. Join us for a reading with acclaimed poets Andrew McFadyen-Ketchum and Jenny Molberg.

Saturday, January 7, 6-10 p.m., EXPRESSIONS! Featuring the NEW poetry of Herman Nelson, John Berry, Ron Kewlin, Robin Barratt, Louise Richardson, Janet Kuypers. At Austin Bahai Center, 2215 E.M Franklin Ave. Bring a dish for pot-luck and cans for poets’ pantry! All ages!

Sunday, January 8th, 4-6 p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. Austin Writers Roulette. Featuring a different monthly theme and line up of artists who love to perform their original written works such as poetry, essays, and spoken word.

Sunday, January 15th, 2-4 p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. Poets Protest Against Trump. Join local poets for readings and discussion as we protest the upcoming inauguration and celebrate the communal power of our voices to stand against bigotry and oppression.


Thirsty Thursday will resume at 7 p.m. Jan. 19th, and will continue to meet in the Council Chambers at Dripping Springs City Hall, 511 W. Mercer St. until further notice. Major renovation work at City Hall is anticipated in 2017, so please call venue host Nancy Fierstien at 512-858-2024 for location updates. The Open Mike theme for January is "Thelma and Louise OR The Van OR The Cliff."

Saturday, January 21st, 7-8.30 p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. The Lion & The Pirate Unplugged. In association with VSA Texas and the Pen2Paper Creative Writing Contest, we’re delighted to present an inclusive (mic-less) open mic for writers and musicians.

Sunday, January 22nd, 3-4 p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. An Afternoon with Steve McCaffery & Karen Mac Cormack. Join us for a reading from acclaimed poets Steve McCaffery and Karen Mac Cormack.

Tuesday, January 24th, 7-8 p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. Malvern’s Multi-Verse. Join us for a FREE monthly reading series, Malvern’s Multi-Verse, in which we explore the infinite possible (multi)verses of Austin’s boundless poetic universe!

Friday, January 27th, 7-8 p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. I Scream Social. Malvern Books’ FREE reading series, hosted by Malvern’s own Annar Veröld and Schandra Madha, and featuring young women writers from the Austin community.

Sunday, January 29th, 4-5 p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. Book Launch for a collection called The Entropy of Rocketman. Join us in celebrating the launch of The Entropy of Rocketman, a new collection of poems by Rita Anderson.

Friday, February 10th, 7-8p.m., Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. An Evening with Michael McLaughlin. Join us for an evening with poet Michael McLaughlin, author of the collection Countless Cinemas.