

JANUARY, 2015

MUSELETTER

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

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Dr. Brad Strahan on Poetry and Ireland

On **Saturday, January 17th**, from **1:30-3:30p.m.**, we meet at the **Twin Oaks Branch Library** (1800 S. Fifth St.) to hear from **Brad Strahan** about his experiences in Ireland, as well as his book of poems regarding his extensive stay there, *A Parting Glass, a remembrance of Ireland*. He'll also bring along unique hands-on material from Eire and share work by a few Irish poets he has recently published.

Bradley Strahan is the editor of *Visions International*, a review dedicated to sharing and publishing work from all countries and nationalities around the world. He is also the host of the **Visions International Reading Series** at the Round Rock Public Library (216 E Main Ave, Round Rock, TX 78664), which will feature poet/critic/publisher/editor **R.T. Castleberry** and **APS-/AFPF-/AIPF-**feature **Allyson Whipple**, on **January 10th** from **1:30 to 3p.m.**. An open mike always follows the features, so bring poems to share!

This meeting marks the **submission deadline** for the **February Monthly Meeting Contest**. Bring 2 copies of a poem for each category. The winners will be announced at the February 21st meeting. All of our meetings are free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you there!

APS EVENTS IN JANUARY

The APS 4th Thursday Open Mic: Thursday, January 22nd, 7-9p.m. This month features **Ron Kewin**, **Sarah Webb**, **Joyce** and **Mike Gullickson**, **Michael D. Jones**, and **Charles Darnell**.

Hosted by **Linda Marie Cossa** at **NeWorlDeli**, 4101 Guadalupe.

The APS Saturday Critique Group: Saturday, January 24th, 1-3p.m. Bring 10-12 copies of a poem in progress to discuss with friendly fellow poets. January (optional) prompt: Describe how you feel right now using your sense of smell. If you feel angry, write about what your anger smells like. Facilitated by **Elizabeth Kropf** at the **Yarborough Branch Public Library**, 2200 Hancock Dr.

AIPF Will Soon Be Here!

Register today for the 2015 Austin International Poetry Festival at www.aipf.org. AIPF's anthology submission is open, so register today for your chance to be published in *di-verse-city*. **Anthology submission deadline is January 31st, 2015.** Anyone may register and submit poems for the anthology competition. Cash prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, and each entrant receives a free copy of *di-verse-city 2015*. There will also be an Anthology Highlights Reading during the Festival, featuring the six best poems read by their authors. Find guidelines at aipf.org by clicking on the "Anthology" tab. If one of your poems is published in the anthology and you are unable to attend the festival in Austin, a copy of the anthology will be mailed to you. You can also pay a \$25 entry fee solely to submit poems to the anthology if you already know you will be unable to attend the festival. Questions? Email james@aipf.org or mark@aipf.org.

If you know a poet under the age of 18 who is interested in submitting poetry for the youth anthology competition, guidelines can be found at www.aipf.org under the "Youth" tab. Youth anthology submission deadline is **February 14th, 2015**. All **youth registration MUST be completed by, or with the help of, a parent or guardian**. Youth registration includes waiver and photography/film release portions that cover participation in all youth activities—readings, youth/teen slams and workshops.

Also, AIPF feature poet **Nikki Giovanni** will be giving a reading during the festival, but as an added benefit to this year's line-up there is an opportunity to attend the **Distinguished Poet VIP Reception**, as a pre-performance gathering before her Saturday night reading.

Lastly, be sure to attend next month's APS meeting, where Festival Director **Joe Brundidge** (a.k.a. Element615) will answer all your questions about the above and more.

In the meantime, be sure to check out the Festival website for more details!

Love,

Austin Poets International, Inc. Board of Directors

And now the stones arise again
 Till all the world is built anew
 And now in one accord like rhyme,
 And we who wound the midnight clock
 Hear the clock of morning chime.

— Elder Olson
 from “Pavane for the
 New Year”

Letters from Hestia’s BookWoman Debut!

APS member and Open-Mike host Linda Marie Cossa will be performing her play *Letters from Hestia* as part of BookWoman’s Getting to Know the Goddess series. It will show at **3:30p.m. on Sunday, January 18th at BookWoman** (5501 N Lamar Blvd.), and will also feature Gordon **Magill**, Dana **McBride**, Nano **Boye Nagle**, and Susan **Summers**. This is a performance-play, crafted on-and-off since 1981, that presents the goddess as a stage of life. Donations will go towards Safe Place and BookWoman.

December Monthly Meeting Contest

General Category Critic/Judge: Mary Ellen Branam

Poem	Author	Judge’s Rating	Popular Vote
Fragments	Monty Jones	1	1 (tie)
Scattered: a triquain swirl for Glenn	Barbara Blanks	2	1 (tie)
Moon Dance	Herman Nelson	3	3
On the World’s Most Dangerous Road	Mariann Garner-Wizard	4	1 (tie)
Remembrance of Blossoms	Ben Pehr	5	2

Humorous Category Critic/Judge: Mary Ellen Branam

Poem	Author	Judge’s Rating	Popular Vote
It’s just the fish	Michael D. Jones	1	3
Winter Greens	Mariann Garner-Wizard	2	1
Seed Song	Herman Nelson	3	5
My End Justifies the Jeans	Barbara Blanks	4	2
Missing Link	Lavern Spencer-McCarthy	5	4

Our December Critic/Judge was Mary Ellen Branam. Dr. Mary Ellen Branam received her Ph. D. in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Houston. Her poems have appeared in numerous literary magazines, as well as *The Texas Observer*. Branam’s poetry volume *Weavings* was a Blue Light Book Award winner in 2010, and that collection went on to win the Peace Corps Poetry Prize the following year. Since moving from Houston to Bastrop several years ago, she has been an active and much appreciated member of the Austin Poetry Society.

Calls For Submissions

The 8th Annual Tablerock Poetry Festival Anthology calls for Animal poems for the *Animal Tales* anthology. **Deadline: February 1st.** For more information, queries, and/or submissions, contact Jackie Mills at Tablerock1@aol.com.

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.**

Poetry as a Team Sport

APS Vice-President Allyson Whipple has created a **video tutorial on how to put multiple poems in one cohesive document**, in response to many questions about how to do this for the *Texas Poetry Calendar*. The tutorial is not Dos Gatos Press/*Texas Poetry Calendar* specific, though, so if you’ve ever wondered about poem/document merging, or want a refresher before sending a submission out, her how-to video can be found here: <http://youtu.be/jPIwt43xV5U> The tutorial video can also be viewed by visiting the “Resources” tab of the APS website: http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org/?page_id=12.

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us

Kaye Voigt **Abikhaled** was a featured reader at EXPRESSIONS on January 3rd, 2015.

Elzy **Cogswell** has four poems in the January issue of *Pecan Press*: "Trite Images," "Seabreeze," "Unity with Each Other," and "The Sanctity of Ordinary Folks."

Laurie **Coker** is proud to announce the release of her latest collection of poems, *That Little Coker Boy*, a book of autobiographical story poems told from the viewpoint of a child growing up in a small town and rural community of Texas during a time of historic change, the 1940s, '50s and '60s. She reveals to readers her own perception and insight of the era and the region in which she lives when segregation, sex, gender discrimination, homophobia, human and animal rights and music are emerging topics undergoing dynamic change -- sometimes sad, sometimes humorous-- but reflective of the times. Available now from www.Amazon.com or <https://www.createspace.com/4440764> or you may order through your local bookstore.

Cheney **Crow's** poems "The Ear of Her Dog" and "A Doctor Reminds Me of London" will appear soon in *Terminus Literary Review*.

Nancy **Fierstien** reports: "Anyah **Dishon** will help Thirsty Thursday reopen its doors at 7 p.m. on Jan. 15th. Come find out what the creative force behind Awesmic City Cafe's venue has been up to lately. Share your work too, at the Open Mike. This month's theme is "Vistas."

Mariann **Garner-Wizard** reports: "I did one poetry thing over the holidays, writing and reading a new one, "Like Chocolate for Spanish," on a special Boxing Day edition of *Rag Radio*, joining local music legends Powell St. John, Spencer & Sue Perskin, Maryann Price, and Christy Palumbo Foster in the KOOP studios with host Thorne Dreyer for a laid-back hour of old-school Austin fun. The show was dedicated to the memory of singer-songwriter-banjo picker John Clay, who recently passed away. People can hear the show anytime via the *Rag Radio* archives: <https://archive.org/details/RagRadio2014-12-26-HolidayJamWithPowellStJohnSpencerPerskinMore>. I also sang one of my songs, "Rich Man Worry/Cream," belting it out pretty well while sitting between TX Music Hall of Fame member St. John and jazz crooner Ms. Price - musta been osmosis!"

Joyce **Gullickson's** poem "For Clarity's Sake" was accepted for an upcoming love anthology edited by Stacy Savage, due to release in time for Valentine's Day. All proceeds will benefit One Love Foundation. Her poem "Waiting To Be Heard" can be read online at silverbirchpress.com, which is, to quote Joyce, "the coolest site with poems written in answer to Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poem "I am Waiting". Lastly, her poem "A Certain Understanding" was accepted for San Antonio Via Poetry on the Move 2015. It will be illustrated by a local art student and appear in the buses during April, National Poetry Month. This is her 6th year to have a poem featured on the buses.

Mike **Gullickson's** poem "I Will Cover You" will appear in the same love anthology with Joyce's "For Clarity's Sake," and his poem "Waiting to Reboot" can be seen alongside Joyce's "Waiting To Be Heard" at silverbirchpress.com. Mike's collection *A Promise of Music* is available for purchase on Amazon.

Cindy **Huyser** and her chapbook, *Burning Number Five: Power Plant Poems*, were featured in the Texas Energy Report's article "The poet and the power plant," published on December 23, 2014. The article has been reprinted with permission on Cindy's website (<https://cindyhuyser.wordpress.com/press/the-poet-and-the-power-plant/>). She and journalist Polly **Hughes** will be featured at the Power Across Texas Women's Energy Reception on Wednesday, January 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. Cindy Huyser's poem "How to Write a Poem" appeared in the 2014 *Blue Hole*, the magazine of the Georgetown Poetry Festival.

Beth **Kropf** is proud that her poem "poison" was published in the 2014 edition of *Blue Hole*.

Catherine A **Lee** has been added to the roster of SA Poet Source, at www.sapoetsource.com. The stART Playing Poetricity Workshop she is running with musician/educator Cecil Carter begins January 6 and runs every Tuesday through March 31, thanks to funding from San Antonio's Department for Culture and Creative Development. They are training 5 poets to work better musically with live jazz, and public performances happen at High Wire Art Gallery, 326 W Josephine St., San Antonio, TX 78212 on the following dates: Feb. 3, March 3 & 31.

Jack **McCabe** (a.k.a. magicjackatx) and **Thom the World Poet** performed at Kick Butt on the final Sunday in 2014, with Joe **Brundidge** and Debbie **Cano** as hosts.

Farid **Mohammadi** encourages everyone to check out the January edition of Texas Nafas, presenting poet Celeste Guzman **Mendoza** interviewed by Lijana **Valenzuela**. For exact Time please go to www.channelaustin.org and search for Texas Nafas Presents Celeste Guzman **Mendoza**.

Christa **Pandey's** poem "Delusion" appears in the winter issue of the *Taj Mahal Review* (India). Christa took up the NYT challenge calling for poems about race with her poem "Them." She will join the APS Poetry Caravan in February.

Margie McCreless **Roe** has had a poem, "Among Antiques," accepted by the *Texas Observer*.

Susan **Rooke's** poems "Fifteen Years Ago" and "Witching for Water" are online at *Kentucky Review* (under "issues"). They will also be included in *KR's* annual print edition, coming January 2015. Her "Fishing on Copano Bay, 1962" appears in the latest *Blue Hole* anthology. She was excited and honored to learn that she and J. Paul **Holcomb** were chosen by David **Meischen** and Scott **Wiggerman** as the Dos Gatos Press featured poets for December, with their poems from the *Texas Poetry Calendar 2014* appearing on the Dos Gatos website. A favorable review of the summer issue of *Flycatcher: A Journal of Native Imagination* (in which Susan's poem "Autumn Reliquary" appeared) is in *The Review Review* newsletter. Read it at <http://www.thereviewreview.net/reviews/empathy-ecology-belonging-new-online-lit-mag-has-foc#.VH4CcB9iqy8.facebook>. In addition, she'll be a featured reader for the 2nd Thursday series on May 14th at BookWoman. The series is hosted by Cindy **Huyser**.

Brad **Strahan's** poem "Diner Blues" was accepted by *The Edge*. He is also going to be a reader at Westminster Manor on January 7th as part of the APS Poetry Caravan.

Sarah **Webb's** poetry collection, *Black* (Virtual Artists Collective, 2013) was selected as a finalist for the 2014 Oklahoma Book Award and the 2014 Writers' League of Texas Book Award. She led workshops in Oklahoma City, the Georgetown Poetry Festival, and Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Scott **Wiggerman** will be the guest poet on Houston's Public Poetry web book club, Ex Libris, on January 20, 7-8 p.m., where the discussion will focus on Thomas James' *Letters to a Stranger*. Listen in or talk live, using the direct link, available for log-in from your computer or cell phone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/361703309>. For a preview of Thomas James' remarkable book, take a look at Scott's essay (but ignore the bio, which has him recently moved to New Mexico!): <http://publicpoetry.net/jan-2015-scott-wiggerman-on-thomas-james/>

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; January's theme is "Redemption". 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/>.

2nd Tuesdays, 7-8:30p.m. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. **Mind Maze Reading Series**, organized by Raw Paw Press. Hosts: A.R. **Rogers** and Wade **Martin**.

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.

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 January 8th featured reader is Donna **Snyder**. Hosted by Cindy **Huyser**.

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. Next theme: Vistas. 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 February theme is "For the Love of," featuring poets memorializing late poets Susan **Bright**, Albert **Huffstickler**, Deb **Akers**, Peggy **Lynch**, C.A. **Wiles**, Dr. Marvin **Kimbrough**, and others. 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 Alan **Altamont** and Nancy **Fierstien**, open mic to follow. Host: Dr. Bradley **Strahan**.

Friday, January 9th, 7-8p.m. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. An **evening of poetry** featuring Paula **Cisewski**, Katy **Chrisler**, and Stephanie **Goehring**.

Wednesday, January 14th, 7-8p.m. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. **W. Joe's Poetry Corner**, featuring KOOP "Writing on the Air" host and author of *Beer Songs for the Lonely*, Francois **Pointeau**. Organized Q & A, followed by a reading and audience Q & A.

Saturday, January 17th, 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.

Saturday, January 17th, 7:30p.m. University of Texas - Arlington's Bluebonnet Ball Room. The 9th Annual MLK Evening of Slam. Tickets are \$15 and include meal and parking. Call 972-704-5001 for more info.

Sunday, January 25th, 2-3p.m. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street. An **afternoon** with D.R. **Goodman** and Cyrus **Cassells**.

Thursday, February 5th, 7p.m. Tablerock Amphitheater, 409 Royal St., Salado, TX 76571. **The 8th Annual Tablerock Poetry Festival.** Host: **Thom the World Poet**.