

MARCH, 2015

MUSELETTER

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 41346

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704

WWW.AUSTINPOETRYSOCIETY.ORG



Michael Aaron Casares on Small Presses and More

On **Saturday, March 21st**, from **1:30-3:30p.m.**, we meet at the **Yarborough Branch Library**, 2200 Hancock Dr., to hear local poet Michael Aaron **Casares** expound on his own small press (Virgogray Press), the pros and cons of self-publishing and the general state of small presses in America currently, as well as what that environment could mean to you as an aspiring author, editor, publisher, etc.

Michael is the founder and chief editor of Virgogray Press (<http://virgograypress.net/>), which considers a range of poetic styles from diverse geographies and turns them into full-length or chapbook-sized collections. He is also the creator of Austin Salon Poetic, Carcinogenic Poetry, and Nothing. No One. Nowhere.

Members, this meeting marks the **submission deadline** for the **April Monthly Meeting Contest**. Bring **2 copies of a poem for each category**, General and Humorous Verse, according to the rules in the *Yearbook* found on the APS website, www.austinpoetrysociety.org). The **winners** will be **announced** at the **April 19th meeting** (cash prizes for 1st and 2nd Places). All of our meetings are free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you there!

Austin International Poetry Festival April 9th-12th

The 23rd annual Austin International Poetry Festival is almost here! Four days of poetry celebrations and activities that include up to 20 live local readings, 20 workshops, 5 open mics, 5 music and poetry presentations, 2 poetry slams, and much more, at a wide range of venues across Austin. It's all open to the public, and this year there will be over 250 registered poets from the international, national, regional and local arenas. Full details available on the website, aipf.org.

Also, be sure to thank the many volunteers and sponsors that make AIPF happen each year. Every person you see helping direct others to readings or workshops throughout the weekend is doing it for the love, so be sure to show them some love!

Annual Awards Deadline March 31st

If you haven't done so, NOW is the time to get submissions ready for the Austin Poetry Society 2015 Annual Awards Contests! **Entries must be postmarked or received by March 31st.** **Members only** may enter the 26 contests via either postal mail or by Submittable. Nearly \$3000 in prize money is at stake! Not a member? Just send in the application form (on the website at www.austinpoetrysociety.org) and membership fee of \$20, as well as your contest entries and entry fee of \$10 by the deadline. Guidelines and submission details are on the website. Then join us May 16th for the fun!

Randy Lusk/T.I. Donation

In July, Randy Lusk, friend of Thom the World Poet, donated \$1000 to the Austin Poetry Society. Which is praiseworthy in and of itself. But he also recommended we contact Texas Instruments to see if they would match this amount...and they DID! So, thanks to Randy Lusk and T.I., poetry in Austin is \$2000 more well-funded, community-inspired and able to thrive. Our thanks for this most generous act!

APS EVENTS IN MARCH

The APS 4th Thursday Open Mic: Thursday, March 26th, 7-9p.m. This month Angela Villareal **Ratliff**, Lydia **Armendariz**, Gloria **Amescua**, Ken **Fontenot**, Monty **Jones**, and Ralph **Hausser** feature. Hosted by Linda Marie **Cossa** at NeWorlDeli, 4101 Guadalupe.

The APS Saturday Critique Group: will not be meeting this month. The next APS critique group will meet on April 18th, **10a.m.-noon**. Bring 10 copies of a poem in progress to discuss with friendly fellow poets. April (optional) prompt: Use the following phrase as inspiration for/in a poem: "I'm not quite convinced." Facilitated by Elizabeth **Kropf** at the Yarborough Branch Public Library, 2200 Hancock Dr.

‘Poor wanderer,’ said the leaden sky
 ‘I fain would lighten thee,
 but there are laws in force on high
 which say it must not be.’

—Thomas Hardy
 from “The Subalterns”

Poetry at Round Top Registration Opens

Registration is open for the Poetry at Round Top Festival, April 17th-19th, featuring Sharon **Olds**, Richard **Blanco**, Patricia **Smith**, Ellen **Bass**, Carrie **Fountain**, Kevin **Prufer**, Laura **Van Prooyen**, Michael **McGriff** and Malachi **Black**. All registered participants are invited to send one poem for the festival anthology. Guidelines and full information about the festival are on the P@RT website at <http://poetryatroundtop.org>.

Katherine Durham Oldmixon

February Monthly Meeting Contest

General Category Critic/Judge: Gloria Amescua

Poem	Author	Judge's Rating	Popular Vote
After Margaret Atwood's Year of the Flood	Ralph Hausser	1	4
Ultrasound	Robert Glover	2	2
Briefly, in the laundromat	Michael D. Jones	3	3 (tie)
A Hardly Rain	Barbara Blanks	4	1
The Experience of Art	Ben Pehr	5	3 (tie)

Humorous Category Critic/Judge: Gloria Amescua

Poem	Author	Judge's Rating	Popular Vote
In praise of free verse	Michael D. Jones	1	2
The Final Zinger	Barbara Blanks	2	1
Lady Bird International Arrivals	Mariann Wizard	3	3
Confetti in Times Square	Greg Silver	4	4
Master Bath	Jay Jones	5	5

Our February Critic/Judge was Gloria **Amescua**. An Austin resident and active poet in the area for many years, Gloria Amescua is also an inaugural member of the national Latino poetry community **Cantomundo**. She is a workshop presenter for youth as well as adults, and her poetry has appeared in a broad range of journals, including *Di-Verse-City*, *Kweli Journal*, *Awakening*, *The Texas Poetry Calendar*, and *Best Austin Poetry*. She was the 2013 winner of one of the most competitive annual APS contests, **The Austin Poetry Society Award**. Also, in 2011, Gloria was selected for **Hedgebrook's** Writers in Residence program on Whidbey Island, Washington.

Poetry March Madness

APS Vice-President Allyson Whipple will be hosting a revision-based workshop from March 17th to March 31st. Participants will focus on pruning bulky lines, setting sail to stanzas that don't belong, and garnering advice on how to declutter your space (on the page or off). The workshop will also feature writing prompts and intensive critique of two poems throughout the weeks. For more information, visit: <http://allysonmwhipple.com/2015/02/17/register-for-poetry-march-madness-2015/>

Calls for Submissions

The open reading period for **Nothing, No One, Nowhere**, Vol. 2, No. 1 is open from **March 1st to April 20th**, 2015. Send up to **5 poems**. Full guidelines at <http://www.nothingnoonenowhere.com/p/submission-guidelines.html>.

Carcinogenic Poetry is currently accepting submissions on a rolling basis: writers may submit **1-3 poems once every quarter**. The blog takes the stance that ‘the truth is to lies like cancer.’ Full guidelines and more info at <http://virgograypress.net/catalogue/other-publications/carcinogenic-poetry/>.

Submissions are open for **The Enigmatist 2015**. **The deadline is May 1st, 2015**. Please contact editor Mike **Gullickson** at poetkind@yahoo.com for guidelines. He says, “I am also looking for **cover art** that is enigmatic in any form.”

The **Poetry Society of Texas** is seeking the best possible range of interesting **speakers for its 2015 Summer Conference** that runs from **July 16 to July 18**. If you are a great public speaker, have books to sell, publish journals, write columns for poetry magazines or direct workshops, you might be an ideal candidate! For more information, e-mail Birma Castle of the society's Beaumont chapter at birma12@juno.com.

Forrest Fest 2015 is hosting its annual **contests** for Elementary, Middle School, High School, Adult and Spanish language entries. **Deadline: April 1st**. **First place** in each category will win **\$25**. No entry fee. More information can be found at http://www.aipf.org/aipf/FORREST_FEST.asp.

Poetry Coming Down All Around Us

On February 26th, Usha **Akella**, founder of the Poetry Caravan, received an official citation from the mayor, alongside two other artists, for their work as Cultural Ambassadors in the city of Austin.

Gloria **Amescua's** poem "Endless Paring" was published in the February issue of *San Antonio Express News*. Also, Gloria, Angela Villarreal **Ratliff**, and Lydia **Armendáriz** will be presenting a special program at NeWorld on Thursday, March 26, start time, 7:00 pm.

Claire Vogel **Camargo** is very happy to have her poem "Guns and Tortilla Soup" accepted for the spring issue of *Illya's Honey*. Also, the *Permian Basin Beyond 2014 Anthology*, which contains three of her poems, will now be in the Stanford University Archives in e-book form. She looks forward to participating in AIPF this April 9th-12th.

In addition to hosting her two monthly poetry venues at the Arboretum Barnes & Noble, Barbara Youngblood **Carr** was the featured poet at Nokturne Coffee House in Webster, TX on Jan 5th, the featured poet at First Fridays in Houston, TX on Mar 6th, a featured author at the Take 190 W. Art Fair in Killeen, TX on Mar 7th, and she will host five venues during the Austin International Poetry Festival, Apr 9th-12th, two of which will be combined music and poetry.

Jane **Chance's** poem "I Go Back To October 1944," which appeared in *Ilanot Journal 5* (Winter, 2015: *Migrations* issue, co-guest-edited by Joan **Leegant** and Katherine Durham **Oldmixon**), can be seen here: <https://ilanot.wordpress.com/i-go-back-to-october-1944/>. Also accepted were a poem, "Litany to Our Lady of Headlines" and two photos, "What Remains " (9/11 Memorial Pool), and "The Boy in the Window," for *Degenerates: Voices for Peace* (2015), publication forthcoming. In addition, eight poems: "At the Breton Abbey of St. Gildas de Rhyus," "Aventure," "The Château de Comper," "Humors for Ash-Wednesday," "Migration," "The Night the Books Fell," "The Savior of Worm Hall," and "Unicorn," will be published in April with a headnote in *New Crops from Old Fields: Eight Medievalist Poets*, ed. Oz Hardwick from Stairwell Books, Ltd., of York, England 2015. Jane was also selected as a featured reader for Words&Art on Nov. 12, 2014 for her ekphrastic poem "Dirt," in response to the exhibit "Yamatane" at Rice Art Gallery, Oct. 2014-Jan. 2015. Lastly, she will be a guest poet for the monthly meeting of En Amie at Braeburn Country Club, Houston, Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Elzy **Cogswell's** poem "The Ongoing Collision" appeared in *Lucidity Poetry Journal - Online* (Feb., 2015). Two of his poems, "Wag Your Tail" and "Flat, Smooth and Hard," appeared in Austin Quantum Artists' *Expressions: Living Heritage Poets*, both of which were reprinted from his collection *Subtle Tea*.

Nancy **Fierstien** is a featured reader for Barbara **Carr's** venue at the Arboretum Barnes & Noble book store at 7:30 p.m. on March 12, and will share "positive poetry" as a featured guest at Expressions in May. In spite of the fact that it falls during Spring Break Week, her Thirsty Thursday doors will be open March 19 at 7 p.m. in the ranch house at DS Ranch Park. You'll find the park at 1042 Event Center Drive in Dripping Springs...and no, that's not a new address. It's just a different street name designed to help confuse the general public, Nancy says. If you need directions, call her at 512-858-2024. The Open Mike theme for the month is "Tropical Fruits."

Ken **Jones** features at Speak! Poet at Montrose Library in Houston on March 12, and his new solo piano poetry music project, Face of the Apocalypse, is available on CD Baby.

Christa **Pandey's** poems "Self Portrait with Attitude" and "Balance" have been published in a fine anthology of essays and poems, entitled "Crossing Lines," from Main Street Rag Publishing of North Carolina. Her poems will be featured alongside many others that address crossing the cultural, racial, religious lines of intercultural marriage. The book is now in production and will be shipped in Mid-April. But you can check it out at <http://mainstreetrag.com/bookstore/product/crossing-lines/>. Her poem "Love of home spread thin" was posted in the Silver Birch Press blog under the theme "Where I Live" on March 2nd. She read two times with the Poetry Caravan in February and has offered to volunteer with AIPF.

Laura **Pena's** two poems "Shabby" and "Sunflower" were accepted for publication in the Spring issue of *Illya's Honey*. Her poem "The Bluejay Scolds" was accepted for publication in the May issue of *Red River Review*.

Susan **Rooke** wanted to let everyone know about Lamar University Press' Pushing the Envelope: Epistolary Poems, released on March 8th. The work in the collection is comprised of literary envelopes that readers can open to discover the more than two-thousand year old tradition of combining letter-writing with poetry. Learn more at www.LamarUniversityPress.Org. Also, her poem "Accident-Prone" has been accepted by *inkscrawl*, an online journal of minimalistic speculative poetry. Her poems "Red" and "The Queen's Confeitor" have been accepted by Kind of a Hurricane Press for inclusion in their forthcoming fairytale-themed anthology, *Twice Upon a Time*.

Rie Sheridan **Rose** has had poetry accepted to both the *Ghosts: Revenge* anthology from James Ward Kirk Publications and the *Crossing Over* anthology from Horrified Press.

Pete **Sebert**, of Austin Quantum Artists, and **Thom the World Poet**, of Expressions!, combined forces to create a book of poems that honors Austin's many Living Heritage Poets. Your copy, and more information about the publication, can be found at aqartists@gmail.com.

Bradley **Strahan's** poem "Rattlebone's Theory of History" was accepted by the leading literary journal in the DC area, *Gargoyle*. *Dewpoint* accepted his poem "Past Tenses." And his Visions International reading at the Round Rock Public Library will feature, direct from Ireland, Gene **Barry**, Director of the Fermoy International Poetry Festival on March 14th.

Susan **Summers** attended For the Love of Austin, which was sponsored by Austin Quantum Artists, the book launch of *Expressions! Living Heritage Poets*, an LBJ student recognition of music and poetry, and two inspiring poetry events at the Harry Ransom Center. She and Chris **Bolton** just completed a small chapbook for the Temple & Belton poets, comprised of poetry inspired by the exhibit at the Temple, TX Cultural Activities Center, *Icons in Transformation*. She will also be reading for the APS Poetry Caravan on March 12 and March 23. She is looking forward to attending Baylor's Beall Festival & House of Poetry on March 25, followed closely by AIPF and Round Top. She is a fan of the renewed open mic in Round Rock. She's also been working with Farid Mohammidi, doing interviews for Texas Nafas. Her poem "Beside the Altamaha River" has been published for the *Where I Live Series* by Silver Birch Press. Upcoming appearances include being featured at Expressions! On April 4th and the Sun Poet's Society in San Antonio on April 8th. For more information, check out www.tidalpoolpoet.com.

Scott **Wiggerman**, author of the new *Leaf and Beak: Sonnets*, will be repeating his workshop, "Writing the Bad Sonnet," from *Wingbeats II* at Poetry @ Round Top on April 18. Scott has new haiku in both *Frogpond* and *A Hundred Gourds*, and the new anthology, *The Quiet Born from Talk: Festschrift for Wendy Barker*, features his poem, "A Wet Winter Night."

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: Charles **Darnell**, Ejede Okogbo and John **Herndon**, releasing his chapbook *Birds and Flowers*. 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**.

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 March 12th featured reader is Joe **Jimenez**. 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: Tropical Fruits. 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.

2nd & 4th Fridays, 6:30-8:30p.m. Cianfrani Coffee Company, 109 West 7th St. (on the Square), Georgetown, TX. **Poetry Plus** Open Mic Night. Hosted by Mike Jones (8direct@gmail.com) and Mike & Joyce Gullickson (poetkind@yahoo.com).

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, 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. 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, direct from Ireland, Gene **Barry**, Director of the Fermoy International Poetry Festival, and Brad **Strahan**, open mic to follow (it's pre-St. Patrick's Day, so feel free to bring your Irish-inspired poems). Host: Dr. Bradley **Strahan**.

Saturday, March 14th, 7p.m. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. **The Cowtown Circle**, Dave **Oliphant's** latest poetry collection launch.

Saturday, March 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.

Wednesday, March 25th-Friday, March 27th. Baylor University, Waco, TX. **The 21st Annual Beall Poetry Festival**. Celebration of poetry hosted by BU's English Department, offering readings and lectures by Susan **Wheeler**, Simon **Armitage**, Terrance **Hayes** and Neil **Corcoran**. For more information visit <http://www.baylor.edu/beall/>.

Saturday, March 28th, 7p.m. Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705. **Just a Trace of Moon**, a reading of Ken **Fontenot's** latest book of poems.

Thursday, April 2nd, 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 Fiona McFarlane and poet Michael **McGriff**.