

# AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

## PROUDLY PRESENTS THE:

# MUSELETTER

March 2016

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Maegan Steele

W.S. Blanden III

Hugh Simmons

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

## OUR NEXT MEETING

Join us March 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30 to hear an upbeat presentation from Nathan Brown! At the Yarborough Branch Library.

**Nathan Brown** is an author, singer-songwriter, photographer, and award-winning poet who recently served as the **Poet Laureate of Oklahoma** for 2013/2014. Though he lives now in Wimberley, Texas with his wife, Ashley, he has always considered Oklahoma home. Nathan taught at the University of Oklahoma for many years, but now travels widely, offering readings, house concerts, creativity workshops, and musical performances in an effort to bring back the hint of a smile and the hope for a good story in poems . . . poems unafraid of making sense. . . poems that carry us to better places.

## Monthly Contest Results

### JUDGE'S RESULTS

General Verse: 1st place- "The Imitation Game" by John Hoag; 2nd place- "When the party ends..." by Michael D. Jones; 3rd place- "I Will Do It Better" by Sonny Regelman.

Light Verse: 1st place- "Long Distance" by LaVern Spencer McCarthy; 2nd place- "That morning cup" by Michael D. Jones; 3rd place- "Open Carry" by John Hoag.

### POPULAR VOTE

General Verse: 1st place- "I Will Do It Better" by Sonny Regelman; 2nd place- "When the party ends..." by Michael D. Jones; 3rd place- "Whims of April" by LaVern Spencer McCarthy.

Light Verse: 1st place- "Long Distance" by Lavern Spencer McCarthy; 2nd place- "That morning cup" by Michael D. Jones; 3rd place- "On my lack of financial success/ As a woman/ And the want of a presentable kitchen" by Cathleen O'Shea



## 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!

Registration is still open for Poetry at Round Top 2016. Come enjoy three days of readings, panel discussions and socializing with some of the nation's most highly acclaimed poets in a beautiful, peaceful natural setting, April 15-17, 2016. Registered participants are also invited to send a poem for the P@RT Anthology by March 25, 2016. Guidelines are [here](#). For more information, please contact us at [poetryatroundtop@gmail.com](mailto:poetryatroundtop@gmail.com)

## WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

**Kaye Voigt Abikhaled** read her poetry Saturday, March 5th at Half Price Books, 5555 N. Lamar. Joining were guest poets from San Marcos who breathed fresh poetry into Austin. Dare I say you missed an exiting afternoon! We invited them back! Come and join in: first Saturday April 2nd, from 3 - 5 PM.

**Cheney Crow** participated as a reader (early-round judge) for the annual Frost Place Chapbook Competition. She was also asked to write a review for *Poetry International Online* of Cassandra Cleghorn's book, *Four Weathercocks*, forthcoming from Marick Press. She is also plotting out an afternoon workshop called *Close-Up of the Line*, to examine strategic features, weapons of the line. Anyone interested in participating or offering a space to use, please email [cheneyg@utexas.edu](mailto:cheneyg@utexas.edu).

**Nancy Fierstien's** poem, "In My Dreams," appears in *Wimberley: Epic Flood Tests a Small Town's Strength*. It is one of three poems included in the book released Sunday, March 6th, at the Wimberley Community Center. New APS member Nathan Brown is the author of one of the other poems. Hundreds of photos and survivor's tales related to the Memorial Day Weekend flood round out the contents of this book.

**Carie Juettner:** National Poetry Month is right around the corner! If you know a teacher in the Austin area who would like a published poet to visit their classroom, please have them contact me ([cariejuettner@gmail.com](mailto:cariejuettner@gmail.com)). I offer five different presentations and workshops for grades 3-12. Learn more at my website: <http://cariejuettner.com/school-visits>

**Marcelle Kasprovicz** published her sixth book of poetry, *Le silence de la lumière/ The Silence of Light*, this past December. The book is a bilingual edition. Poems were written in French and translated into English by the author. The book will be available next week at Book people, along with her other books, and at the Austin Public Library.

**Catherine A "Jazz Cat" Lee's** "Crescendo" was accepted for publication in the 2016 *In the Words of Womyn Anthology*, published by Yellow Chair Review. On April 13 (noon-1pm) Cat and musical collaborator Cecil Carter will discuss the mechanics of creating jazz poetry on KRTU.org FM 91.7 San Antonio (audio streamed online). They will air a version of "Crescendo" paired with Cecil's original music, and his compositions for 4 other poets they trained in 2015.

**LaVern Spencer McCarthy** had five poems published in the League of Minnesota Poets anthology, the *Moccasin*.

**Katherine Oldmixon's** poems "Vespers" and "When It Last Snowed" appear in the current issue of *Sequestrum* (along with a brief interview, available [here](#)). Her poem "Poste Haste" is in the new issue of *Mom Egg Review*, MER 14. Her photograph "Bathing Beauties" will appear in the forthcoming body image issue of *Minerva Rising*. She will also be co-hosting, with Mary Minnock, the annual Exaltation of Larks poetry reading at the NCTE/Conference on College Composition and Communication meeting, Friday, April 8, in Houston.

**Christa Pandey's** poem 'Identity' was accepted for the anthology *In the Voice of Womyn*.

**Susan Rooke's** two poems, "The Way to Sanco" and "Noon Whistle, Electra," appear in the Spring 2016 issue of *San Pedro River Review*, themed The American Southwest.

**Bradley Strahan** had three poems accepted in the *Chaffey Review*: “Li Po”, “Geese”, and “Zippers”.

**Scott Wiggerman** will return to Texas July 17-22, 2016 to teach "Something Bold, Something New: Best Poetry Exercises from a Decade of the Writers' Retreat" for the 10th annual Writers' Retreat at Sul Ross University in Alpine, Texas, sponsored by the Writers' League of Texas. Registration should open in the next week or so—check details [here](#).

## MEET ME THERE...

March 12 (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.

March 13 (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 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

March 13 (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.

March 14 (Mondays) 6-9pm- Cacophony of Crafts: Weekly round robin reading, hosted by Rhie Azzam Morris.  
@Epoch Coffee, 2700 West Anderson #409, Austin, TX 78757.

March 15 (Tuesday) 7-8pm- Fog Machine: A Night of Poetry, featuring five fantastically talented poets: Precious Uwuigbe, Zachary Cosby, Catch Business, Rachel Bell, and Shy Watson. @ Malvern Books, 613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

March 17 (Thursday) 7pm-Thirsty Thursday: Come search for your pot o' gold at the end of a Thirsty Thursday rainbow! The suggested theme for the Open Mike is "The Obituary Club." 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.

March 18 (3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays) 1-3pm- Share Your Stories. Hosted by Ralph Hausser.  
@ the Twin Oaks Library, 1800 S. 5th Street, Austin 78704.

March 18 (Friday) 7-8pm- I Scream Social. Get your cones ready for another installment of I Scream Social, featuring young women poets and fiction writers from the Austin community. This month's readers are Kendra Fortmeyer, Melanie Westerberg, and Janalyn Guo. And we'll also have live music from Jessie Torrisi of The Please Please Me.  
@ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

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

March 20 (Sunday) 1-3pm- An Emily Dickinson Sunday. In this crowd-sourced, participation-based event, we will resurrect the poems of Emily Dickinson, hauling them out of the schools and into the streets.  
@ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

March 20 (Sunday) 4-6pm- The Lion & The Pirate Unplugged with Special Guest Maria Palacios. VSA Texas and the Pen2Paper Creative Writing Contest invite you to a very special edition of the Lion and Pirate Unplugged Open Mic. As well as our regular Open Mic event for performers of all ages and abilities, this month we are delighted to have a special guest, poet, author, spoken word performer, motivational speaker, and disability rights activist Maria R. Palacios.  
@ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

@ March 24 (Thursday) 6:45pm- Linda Marie Cossa hosts the APS Open Mike Night, featured readers: Garrison Martt, Ralph Hausser, Linda Gordon, Charles Darnell, Angela Ratliff, Gloria Amescua. Also more AIPF announcements from Mark Wendall and Lynn Wheeler. @ NewWorldDeli 4101 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX 78751.

March 25 (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.

March 26 (Saturday) 7-8pm- Join us for a reading with poets Emily Pérez and Ryan Sharp.  
@ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

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

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

April 12 (Second Tuesdays) 7pm- Pot luck. Poetry. Music. Hosted by Genevieve Evans.  
Rotating venues ([email--gen.athena.evans@gmail.com](mailto:gen.athena.evans@gmail.com)).

April 15-17 (Friday-Sunday) Poetry at Round Top. You can find the full lineup and schedule [here](#).

April 23 (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.

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

## IN CLOSING

This month I (Kathryn Culpepper) wrote the blurb for the website. So in keeping with tradition, I get to be interviewed for the Museletter. Although interviewing yourself is kind of strange, so I pilfered questions from past editions. Photo courtesy of Sam Bond Photography.

### How did you find poetry?

Through Pinterest and Amazon. I could never relate to the poetry taught in school; but when I found poems that explained life experiences relative to me, that put words to the otherwise unexplainable, I fell in love with it.

### How do you handle writers' block?

I eat Nutella and watch Netflix. And inevitably, some plot or character or quote from whatever I'm watching will inspire me to put a few sentences together. And the Nutella gives me chocolate courage to face whatever it is I need to write but have been avoiding. For me, I think that's what writers' block really is-something needs to come out of you, and you're resisting it because writing honestly and powerfully can hurt. But you do it anyway and you're better for it.

### Do you write in any other genres?

Yes! It's perhaps the main thing that makes me grow as a writer. Everyone says poetry teaches you about the economy of language, and therefore makes your longer pieces better. But the reverse is true as well. Writing fiction taught me about voice and perspective. Writing picture books taught me to write for the audience and not for myself. Memoir teaches me what to trust the reader with, and what to keep for yourself. Now if only I can weave all that wisdom together...

