

# AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS THE:

# MUSELETTER

November 2015

Lots of thanks to October's  
guest speaker

Silva Merjanian!

If you missed it, you can find  
out about her work [HERE](#)



Also thanks to Claire Vogel  
Camargo for this and last  
month's photo!

## HELLO NOVEMBER!

Our next monthly meeting is November 21! Local poet Sasha West will present at the Twin Oaks Branch Library from 1:30-3:30pm. Come curious and bring a friend!

### Our Guest Speaker:

**Sasha West's** poems have appeared in the *Southern Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Forklift*, *Ohio*, *Third Coast*, *Born*, and elsewhere. She holds graduate degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Houston, where she was editor of *Gulf Coast*. Her work has garnered awards including scholarships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Rice University's Parks Fellowship, Pushcart nominations, and Inprint's Verlaine Prize. She lives in Austin with her husband and teaches writing at the University of Texas's LBJ School of Public Affairs.

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*Monthly Contest Submissions  
are due at the meeting!*

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## AND THE WINNER IS...

The votes are in for the last monthly contest! But first, here's the bio of our lovely contest judge:

**Elizabeth Kropf** is an Austin area poet and writing instructor. On the faculty for Bryant and Stratton College, she develops and teaches writing courses. Poems by Kropf have appeared in a wide range of print and online journals. She is a frequent featured reader at central Texas poetry venues. She has facilitated the APS critique group for several years. Ms. Kropf also served a recent term on the APS Board as Recording Secretary.

Here are the **Judge's Choices**:

### General Verse

1<sup>st</sup> Place- "Paralympics" by John Hoag; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- "How to Draw a Blank" by Marc McMahon; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place-"ROOSEVELT & ME (Summer 1943)" by Bradley



Strahan; 4<sup>th</sup> Place- “The garbage truck comes on Thursday” by Michael D. Jones; 5<sup>th</sup> Place- “October’s Agenda” by LaVern Spencer McCarthy

### Light Verse

1<sup>st</sup> Place- “The Gravity of the Situation” by Barbara Blanks; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- “RATTLEBONE’S ITALIAN DREAM” by Bradley Strahan; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- “My friend the Sasquatch” by Michael D. Jones; 4<sup>th</sup> Place- “Cowboy Obituaries” by John Hoag; 5<sup>th</sup> Place- “Cursèd Apps” by Ralph Hausser

### Popular Vote:

#### General Verse

1st & 2nd place tie: “The garbage truck comes on Thursday” by Michael D. Jones and “ROOSEVELT & ME (Summer 1943) by Bradley Strahan  
3rd & 4th place tie: “October’s Agenda” by LaVern Spencer McCarthy and “Paralympics” by John Hoag

#### Light Verse

1st place: “My friend the Sasquatch” by Michael D. Jones  
2nd place: “Cursèd Apps” by Ralph Hausser  
3rd place: “RATTLEBONE’S ITALIAN DREAM” by Bradley Strahan

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to add the following talent to our growing ranks:

Daniel Roessler

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

## WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU???

**Claire Vogel Camargo** is delighted to have her poem "Writers Preserve - A Diorama" accepted by *Snapdragon: A Journal of Art & Healing* for their December "The Art of Creating" issue. She enjoyed being a featured reader at APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic at New World Deli on October 22, 2015.

**Diana Conces** is honored that her poem, "Chief Orejas de Conejo," has been accepted for publication in the forthcoming *Dos Gatos Press Anthology of Southwestern Persona Poems*.

**Linda Marie Cossa’s** poem, “Nouns at the Border are not to be Trusted”, was published in the October issue of the *Texas Observer*. Her poem “Changing Woman” also appeared in the *Blue Hole Anthology*. “I Love my Crocodile Brain” appeared in *The Enigmatist*. Her artwork piece “Goddess of Great Changes” appeared on the cover.

**Cheney Crow** has a translation forthcoming (next year) in *International Poetry*, a journal of poetry in translation edited by Ilya Kaminsky. The untitled poem is from the collection *Elle Dit* by Algerian-French poet Vénus Khoury-Ghata.

**Nancy Fierstien** was a featured reader Nov. 12 at the Barnes & Noble Arboretum venue hosted by Barbara Youngblood Carr.

**Ken Jones'** latest poetry collection *DORMANT VOLCANO* (Weasel Press) has been released to positive reviews and been nominated by the publisher for a 2015 Texas Institute of Letters Award.

**Carie Juettner** will be attending the Poetry Society of Texas Annual Awards Banquet in Dallas on Saturday, November 14th. She's eager to find out how her poems and poetry manuscript placed in the competition.

**Elisabeth Sharp McKetta’s** new book, *Poetry for Strangers* ([click here](#)), comes out Nov 13! It is based on her blog ([poetryforstrangers.com](#)) which has changed hundreds of people’s relationship with poetry, mobilizing poets and non-poets alike to share their writing on an eclectic array of weekly words.

**Judith Austin Mills** read from her poetry sequence *Accidental Joy* at Malvern Books on November 13, 7:00 p.m. She and Ute Carson will participate in the launch of a multi-genre volume edited by Pamela Laskin, who flies in from NYC for the event. Mills will also introduce her newly released historical novel *Those Bones at Goliad*. She'll be signing both her books there, as well as at the Round Rock Library's Literary and Book Festival (see events).

**Edgar Pace** is working on a cd of poetry with musical arrangement. It's groove poetry. He's looking forward to completing it (hopefully by December) and sharing at some of the events in Austin.

**Christa Pandey** had an early acceptance of one poem for the *Dos Gatos Press Anthology* 'Voices of the Southwest.' She also read for the Poetry Caravan.

**Sheila Rae** wrote a new poem "On Felicity" inspired by Mary Oliver's new collection, *Felicity*.

**Daniel Roessler's** poetry chapbook *Almost Somebody* is now available for pre-order ([here](#)) from Finishing Line Press ([www.finishinglinepress.com](http://www.finishinglinepress.com)). It is a limited press run, so if you are interested in a copy, please pre-order. Pre-order purchases will ship Feb. 12, 2016.

**Bradley Strahan** had two nice acceptances: "Black is the Color" at *Oyez Rev.* and "Isolation" at *Falling Star*.

**Susan Beall Summers** won the Rock the Chair Weekly Challenge by Yellow Chair Review. She also co-hosted the Marcie Eanes remembrance open mic at Kick Butt Coffee with Transcendent Zero Press, will be attending the anthology launch of *Outrage: Protest Anthology for Injustice in a Post 9/11 World*, and the book launch of *Dormant Volcano* by Ken Jones which she helped compile and edit for Weasel Press.

## MEET ME THERE...

Nov 13 (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.

Nov 13 (Friday) 7-8pm- Join us in celebrating the Austin launch of *It's All About Shoes*, a collection of essays, poems and stories about women and their unusual relationship to shoes, edited by Pamela L. Laskin. Pamela will share excerpts from the anthology, and will be joined by writers Judith Austin Mills and Ute Carson, who will read from their recent works.  
@ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 14 (Saturday) 1-5pm- The Literary and Book Festival: Discover some of our local literary riches, meet area writers and groups and enjoy some readings. Come meet with and purchase from representatives from Visions/Black Buzzard Press, Austin Community College, Slough Press, Plain View Press, Austin Poetry Society, Baca Writing Club, Windhover (Mary Hardin Baylor University), Legacy Texas, and individual authors. For info contact [Julie Chapa](#), 512-218-7014.  
@ the Round Rock Library 216 E Main St, Round Rock, TX 78664.

Nov 14 (Saturday) 2pm- The Past Poetry Project will present a performance of the Fireside Poets (Longfellow, Whittier, Holmes, Lowell and Bryant). More info [here](#). @ Windsor Park Branch Library, 5833 Westminster Dr, Austin, TX 78723.

Nov 18 (Wednesday) 7-8pm- Presenting W. Joe's Poetry Corner, in which our host W. Joe Hoppe interviews a poet, who will then give a reading and answer questions from audience members. This month's guest is Carrie Fountain. @ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 19 (Thursday) 7-9 pm-APS Open Mic-Linda Marie Cossa hosts- Readers include Angela Ratliff, Linda Gordon, Elneta Owens, Debangana Banerjee, Scott Vanya, Chip Ross. @ NewWorldDeli 4101 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX 78751.

Nov 19 (Thursday) 7pm- "Thirsty Thursday"- The Open Mike theme is "Hats." If you do miss this one, consider joining us in January 2016...because we're on sabbatical in December. Host Nancy Fierstien has directions at 512-294-6597.  
@ the ranch house at Dripping Springs Ranch Park, 1042 Event Center Drive.

Nov 20 (Friday) 7-8pm- Join the editors at *Revista Pterodáctilo*, a journal of Latin American literature, arts, and culture, for their semesterly Poetry and Ptamales Party, featuring readings by different poets from the UT community. They will also be releasing their *Best of Pterodáctilo* publication, a print edition recapping the last four years of work by Pterodáctilo bloggers. @ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 21 (Saturday) 10am-12pm-APS Critique Group-Hosted by Elizabeth Kropf. Bring 10 copies of a draft to discuss. Email elizabethrebeccakropf@gmail.com for the prompt. @ Yarborough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756.

Nov 21 (Saturday) 1:30-3:30pm-APS Monthly Meeting featuring poet Sasha West.  
@ the Twin Oaks Library, 1800 S. 5th Street, Austin 78704.

Nov 21 (Saturday) 6:30pm- Awesmic City Café 1st Anniversary! Pot Luck, Poetry, Music hosted by Anyah Dishon (anyah7777@aol.com) @ GEO GROWERS -Paradise Garden 12002 Hwy 290 West (at the back of Geo Growers Store).

Nov 27 (Friday) 7-8pm- Join us for a reading from poet Glenn Hardin.  
@ Malvern Books, 613 West 29th Street, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 29 (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.

Dec 4 (Friday) 7pm- Flor De Nopal Literary Festival's Annual Reading. Featuring poets and writers: Dan Vera, Sarah A. Chavez, Jose Antonio Rodriguez, Ben Olguin, ire'ne lara silva, Vincent Cooper, Nicole Moore, Wade Martin, and Sarah Shaney. @ ESB-Mexican American Cultural Center,

Dec 5 (Saturday) 1-3pm- Join award-winning Writergrrls Cindy Huyser, Debra Winegarten, Marjorie Brodie, and other soon-to-be award winning Writergrrls at the FIFTH Annual Austin Writergrrl Book Fest! Hear wonderful works-in-progress, share amazing noshes and beverages, and more...@ BookWoman, 5501 N Lamar Blvd A-105, Austin, TX 78751.

Dec 5 (Saturday) 2-5pm- Flor De Nopal Literary Festival: Free Writing Workshops. 2-3:30pm Workshop: "When all your antenna quiver, your body becomes a lightning rod": Sensory Details & Writing From the Body" led by Sarah A. Chavez. 3:30-5pm Workshop: "Approaching Dissonance: Unsettling Our Poems" led by José Antonio Rodríguez. RSVP to flordenopal@gmail.com @ Raul R Salinas Room ESB-Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St. Austin, TX 78701.

Dec 5 (Saturday) 6-10pm- Darrel Mayers presents Wassail 2015 Preview. Also featuring Herman Nelson and John Barry. Potluck supper at intermission (bring a dish!). @ Austin Baha'i Center, 2215 E M Franklin Ave, Austin, TX 78723.

Dec 6 (Sunday) 3:30-5:30pm-Open Mic Poetry hosted by Louise Richardson.  
@ Recyled Reads, 5335 Burnet Rd, Austin, TX 78756.

Dec 12 (Saturday) 10:30am-12:30pm-APS Critique Group-Hosted by Elizabeth Kropf. Bring 10 copies of a draft to discuss.  
@ Yarborough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756.

Dec 13 (Sunday) 3-5pm-The Austin Writers Roulette is an adult monthly theme-inspired spoken word and storytelling event. Donations are welcomed at this free event. Find the theme for December at [www.austinwritersroulette.com](http://www.austinwritersroulette.com)  
@ Malvern Books, 613 W 29<sup>th</sup> St, Austin, TX 78705.

## SUB THIS HERE

The new open season begins for submissions for the 2016 issues of *Visions International*. Send 3-6 unpublished poems, no simultaneous submissions, as Word attachments to [vias.poetry@gmail.com](mailto:vias.poetry@gmail.com).

New Millenium Writings is accepting submissions for multiple genres-including multiple and simultaneous submissions. Click [here](#) for details.

Dos Gatos Press is accepting submissions for an anthology of Persona Poems of the Southwest. Guidelines [here](#).

## THAT'S A WRAP

In closing, here are some lovely thoughts from APS Board Member Judith Austin Mills!

### How did you find poetry?

Well, poetry was like a member of the household I was born into, so I always felt a natural affinity for the genre. After my dad passed away a few years ago, we played a tape of his reciting "Invictus." My 91-year-old mother will still look in the direction of tumbling leaves and say, "Glory be to God for dappled things." But finding my own poetic voice was as epic a quest as anybody's. It took a long time for me to feel some confidence about the phrases I was putting on paper and even longer to speak those lines before an audience.



### Which poet/writer has influenced you the most?

I'm always reminding myself to get better acquainted with poets I haven't read much yet. I can't let go of some very old "friends," though. When I'm at my desk, I can reach out and grab a hardback collection of Dylan Thomas poetry, given to me in 1968. There was a strong French connection in my career, so I'd thank Victor Hugo and Jacques Prévert for their enduring influence. But if you're wondering whose poetry helps keep me sane and inspired today, my dog-eared copy of *Words Under the Words*, by Naomi Shihab Nye, is the answer.

### What are you learning from your process right now?

I am learning the hard way—the silly way—that sticky notes are just not cutting it as idea/draft pages. I end up with a couplet right after the command "Get GAS!" And never mind what a wad of chewing gum does to an epiphany in iambic pentameter. Kidding aside, I absolutely agree with those who advise writers of every kind to keep pen and paper at hand. Here's my early New Year's resolution: Find a petite notebook that fits into what you already carry, and (just the way you did as a freshman in 1968) type up those notes as soon as you get home, so you can decipher them later!

## Connect with Us!

[www.austinpoetrysociety.org](http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org)

Facebook (click it)

Twitter (click it again)

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