

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS THE:

MUSELETTER

October 2015

Take Note!

The APS website has had a small makeover. It now has drop down menus to help you navigate and a new Yearbook page, which includes the current APS roster. If you don't see your name in the list, it may be time to renew! You wouldn't want to miss out on upcoming APS events. To see the list of current members, go to the yearbook page on the website. Or click [here](#).

IT'S PUMPKIN MONTH!

Fall is here and October 17th is our next monthly meeting! We have a fascinating presenter travelling to us all the way from California. Come to the **CEPEDA Branch Library** from 1:30-3:30. We're excited to see you!

Check Out Our Guest Speaker:

Silva Merjanian was born in Beirut, Lebanon and now lives with her husband in California (home of America's largest Armenian community). She has been published widely, including many anthologies, and has been a guest poet at events in Ireland and the University of Ohio, where she read to over 200. She is noted for her ability to provide a window into the powerful and tragic Armenian experience.

*Winners of the September Monthly Contest
will be announced at the meeting!*

SEPTEMBER WAS A BLAST!

We had a fantastic meeting last month featuring Kurt Heinzelman, sam sax, and Taya Kitysky. Thanks to all who made it!



WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU???

Kaye Voigt Abikhaled attended The Colrain Poetry Manuscript Conference on Captain Whidbey Island, Washington, September 25-28; an unforgettable weekend among advanced writers and experienced mentors in the mystical setting of a Pacific Northwest. Kaye has been invited to read a passage from her book, *Childhood in the Third Reich*, at a dedication in the Veteran's Courtyard at the Laura's Library branch, tentatively scheduled for November 1st at 1 PM. She will also be reading at Half-Price Books (see events).

Claire Vogel Camargo's poem "Writers Preserve" appears in the 2015 *Waco WordFest Anthology*. She is featured on the APS website for October. Will be a featured reader at APS 4th Thursday Reading and Open Mic at New World Deli on October 22. She attended and read at the Georgetown Poetry Festival October 2-3.

Elzy Cogswell's first chapbook, *Love Songs for Hyde Park*, was featured in a kind [article](#) in the *October Pecan Press*.

Nancy Fierstien's poem, "Fresh From the Inkling Factory," appears in *Blue Hole* magazine published for the Georgetown Poetry Festival this Fall. She also has two poems -- "Attention, All Guns" and "Are You Listening?" -- in the 2015 *Waco WordFest Anthology*. Yet another poem with a church burning theme can be found at poetsrespondtorace.weebly.com.

Alyce Guynn's poems "Laughter is Her Queen" and "Tears, Forgetfulness and Laughter" were published in the 2015 Winter/Spring issue of the *Swansea Poetry Magazine The Seventh Quarry*. Her poem "One White Crow" was recently published on *The Rag Blog*.

Cindy Huyser recently received a Pushcart nomination for her poem, "Harvest", which appears in the 2016 *Texas Poetry Calendar*. Cindy will be a juried poet for the Houston Poetry Fest on October 9, and will be reading at Resistencia Bookstore on November 1 as part of the Flor de Nopal Literary Festival's Dia de los Muertos reading. She will help keynote the Gulf Coast Power Association's EmPOWERing Women Leadership Conference on November 3 with a reading from *Burning Number Five: Power Plant Poems*.

Ken Jones' latest full length poetry book *DORMANT VOLCANO; STILL MORE PUBLISHED POEMS VOL 3*, thanks to the excellent editing work of Susan Beall Summers, will appear on Weasel Press. before the end of 2015.

Carie Juettner's poem, "Oakwood Cemetary," was recently published in *Visions International*.

Catherine Lee started blogging about jazz poetry in September 2015. If you're wondering what jazz poetry is, have a look [here](#). These are multimedia posts, with links to master performances & articles. This blog has curriculum research she's done for the stART Playing Poetricity Workshop she presented with musician Cecil Carter last spring. Here's a [sample](#).

Joe Liro, ACC Russian Professor, presented a paper last spring at the Central Association of Russian Teachers of America conference in Dallas. His topic: "Poetry in the Russian Classroom." Joe's students learn at least one masterwork of Russian poetry each semester. Joe also teaches ACC students to write their own poetry in Russian.

Bernard Mann won a Judge's Choice Award in the 2015 Senior Poet Laureate Competition for his poem, "We Stumbled To The Singing Sea".

Christa Pandey has two poems in the just released U. of Texas Rio Grande Valley journal *riverSedge*.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

Ava Gregg

Murphy McBride

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

Susan Rooke is honored to have had her poem “Old Joe” accepted for publication in the persona poems anthology *Poetry of the American Southwest* (Dos Gatos Press 2016), edited by Scott Wiggerman and Cindy Huyser.

Shubh Schiesser’s poem 'Glorious Iris' was included in *Texas Poetry Calendar*. She attended the Georgetown Poetry Festival organized by Joyce and Mike Gullicksen, where she had a few readings. Shubh also attended two workshops by Anne McCardy and Jim Lavin Havelin. Her poem “Leaves” was accepted in *Blue Hole* and “Aladdin's Lamp” for *The Enigmatist*.

Bradley Strahan’s poem “15 Ways of Looking at a Blackboard” was accepted for the upcoming Lamar University Press *Wise Ass Anthology*. The autumn issue of *Visions International* was also recently released.

Susan Beall Summers attended Waco WordFest where she had 2 poems published in the anthology and Georgetown Poetry Festival where she also had a poem in *The Enigmatist* and *Blue Hole*. She had a haiku published in *100 Gourds*.

Adriel Vigo recently published 7 different chapbooks, covering a wide range of topics including religious hypocrisy, feminism, theological/philosophical questions, depression, love, relationships and death. Four of his collections are satirical. You can find his smashwords author page [here](#).

Sarah Webb will be featured in *The Syzygy Poetry Journal*, out October 7th with five star poems. She will read from her book *Black* at the Angst Gallery, Vancouver, WA, 7PM October 8th, as part of Ghost Town Poetry.

Scott Wiggerman had two new haiku in the September 2015 issue of *Cattails*, and an erasure in issue #5 of *shufPoetry*, “Across the Sky,” based on the opening page of Pynchon’s *Gravity’s Rainbow*. He is also one of five people on the planning committee for Haiku North America, a conference set to take place in Santa Fe in September of 2017.

In Memoriam- We regret to announce that APS member **Marcie Eanes** has passed away. Susan Summers kindly wrote the following:

Marcie Eanes died peacefully at her home in Racine, WI on September 14. Marcie had become a fixture in Austin poetry with five acceptances in *Di-Verse-City*, a book launch of *Cameo* at Book Woman, hanging in till the dawn at midnight-to-dawn open mics, being featured on stages in Austin, Houston, Waco and many others from New York to Los Angelus. Marcie was known for her commanding presence at the mic and zest for life. Her books include *Sensual Sounds*, *Passion’s Zest*, *Cameo* (poetry & memoir), and *Wind Point*, a chapbook tribute to Racine, WI. Marcie’s publisher Dustin Pickering of Transcendent Zero will include a tribute section in the upcoming edition of *Harbinger Asylum*. He will also host an open mic in her memory at Kick Butt Coffee on Sunday, November 1, 7-10pm during the regular program for Spoken and Heard in Austin.

Connect with Us!

www.austinpoetrysociety.org

Facebook (click it)

Twitter (click it again)

austinpoetrysociety@gmail.com

The Austin Poetry Society
P.O. Box 41346
Austin, TX 78704

MEET ME THERE...

Oct 10 (Saturday) 1-3pm-Usha Akella & Kaye Abikhaled will be featured in a reading hosted by Spirit Thom. Usha's new book, *The Rosary of Latitudes*, features works inspired by her travels. The theme of the reading is international poetry, and a round robin open mic will follow. @ Half Price Books, 5555 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78751.

Oct 11 (Sundays) 7-10pm-Spoken & Heard Open Mic
@ Kick Butt Coffee Shop, 5775 W Airport Blvd, Austin, TX 78752.

Oct 11 (Sunday) 3-5pm-The Austin Writers Roulette is an adult monthly theme-inspired spoken word and storytelling event. The theme for October is "Things Under the Bed". Donations are welcomed at this free event.
www.austinwritersroulette.com @ Malvern Books,
613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

Oct 13 (every other Tuesday) 7-9pm-Open Mic at Star Coffee in Round Rock, hosted by Ron Kewin & Louise Richardson. @ Star Coffee 201 E Main St, Round Rock, TX 78664

Oct 17 (Saturday) 1:30-3:30pm-APS Monthly Meeting featuring poet Silva Merjanian. @ the Cepeda Branch Library, 651 N Pleasant Valley Rd, Austin, TX 78702.

Oct 17 (Saturday) 7:30pm-A reading by recent U.S. Poet Laureate Charles Wright, followed by a Q & A with Rob Casper, Head of the Poetry Center, Library of Congress. More info [here](#). @ the Avaya Auditorium POB 2.302 southeast corner of Speedway & 24th St on UT Campus.

Oct 17 (Saturday) 10-3pm-Poetry class at Gemini Ink- Award-winning, Austin poet Carrie Fountain will help you confront your fears and create new material for your writing in this adventurous class: Fear of the Bad Poem. More info [here](#).
@ Gemini Ink, 1111 Navarro St, San Antonio, TX 78205.

Oct 20 (Tuesday) 7-8pm-An evening with poets Reginald Gibbons & Michael Anania. More info [here](#).
@ Malvern Books, 613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

Oct 21 (Wednesday) 7-8pm-Book launch for *The Opposite of People*, the most recent collection from poet Patrick Ryan Frank. More info [here](#). @ Malvern Books, 613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

Oct 22 (Thursday) 7-9 pm-APS Open Mic-Linda Marie Cossa hosts- Angel Abitua, Patricia Fiske, Peggy Wright, Allyson Whipple, Brady Peterson, Clair Vogel Camargo. @ NewWorldDeli 4101 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX 78751.

Oct 23 (every 2nd & 4th Friday) 6:30-8:30pm-Poetry Plus Open Mic Night-all genres welcome. Sign up beforehand by emailing Mike & Joyce Gullickson poetkind@yahoo.com or Mike Jones 8direct@gmail.com
@ Cianfrani Coffee Co. 109 W 7th St, Georgetown, TX 78626.

Oct 24 (Saturday) 1-3pm-APS Critique Group-Hosted by Elizabeth Kropf. Bring 10 copies of a draft to discuss. Prompt for October- "Grab the closest book. Go to page 29. Write down 10 words that catch your eye. Use 7 of words in a poem. For extra credit, have 4 of them appear at the end of a line." Prompt by Kelli Russell Agodon from www.agodon.com.
@ Yarborough Branch Library 2200 Hancock Dr, Austin, TX 78756.

A POETRY AFTERNOON

Oct 10 (Saturday) 1:30-3pm-The Round Rock library & Visions International present a Poetry Afternoon. Featured readers include: Lyman Grant worked at ACC for 35 years, ten of them as Dean of Arts and Humanities. He has 3 poetry books including *As Long As We Need & Last Work*, his latest. Joanne Holladay was one of Lyman's best former students. Her work has been published in many places including *Borderlands* & the *Texas Poetry Calendar*. Followed by an open reading by attendees.
@ Round Rock Library, 216 E Main St, Round Rock, TX 78664.

Oct 24 (Saturday) 5:30pm-Poetry & Politics- Join us for an evening of politically charged poetry and spoken word! Featuring Kyle Dargan, author of *Honest Engine*, along with Amanda Johnston and Drea Brown. Community open mic starts at 5:30pm, feature reading at 6:00pm. @ BookWoman, 5501 N Lamar Blvd A-105, Austin, TX 78751.

Oct 25 (Sunday) 4-6pm-Dripping Springs Community Library Annual Fundraiser, featuring Poets Laureate Larry D. Thomas and Nathan Brown. Includes live music, silent auction and wine tasting. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at the DS library or [here](#). For info email friendsofDSLlibrary@gmail.com @ the homestead farmhouse at Dripping Springs Ranch Park (1042 Even Center Dr, Dripping Springs, TX 78620), across from the elementary school on Ranch Road 12.

Oct 25 (Sunday) 4-5:30pm-Book launch for *Pray, Pray, Pray: Poems I wrote to Prince in the middle of the night*, the most recent collection from poet E. Kristin Anderson. More info [here](#). @ Malvern Books, 613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 1 (first Sunday of each month) 3:30-5:30pm-Open Mic Poetry hosted by Louise Richardson. @ Recycled Reads, 5335 Burnet Rd, Austin, TX 78756.

Nov 4 (Wednesday) 7-8pm-Book launch for *Actual Cloud*, the first full-length collection from poet Dalton Day. More info [here](#). @ Malvern Books, 613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 6 (Friday) 6:30pm-Torch Literary Arts presents the Wildfire Reading Series, featuring Parneshia Jones (Chicago, IL), author of *Vessel: Poems*, and Ellen Hagan (Brooklyn, NY), author of *Hemisphere*. Community open mic starts at 6:30pm, feature reading at 7:00pm. Questions? Email torchliteraryarts@gmail.com. <http://www.torchliteraryarts.org/> @ BookWoman, 5501 N Lamar Blvd A-105, Austin, TX 78751.

Nov 6 (Friday) 7-8pm-Book Launch for *Dismantlemenets of Silence: Poems Selected and New*, by William Virgil Davis. More info [here](#). @ Malvern Books, 613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 7 (Saturday) 6-10pm-*Expressions!* reading featuring poets Dora Robinson, Pete Sebert, Ralph Hausser, Barbara Carr, Elaine Hosage, Debangana Banerjee, & Scott Vanya. Also music and potluck supper at intermission (bring a dish!). @ Austin Baha'i Center, 2215 E M Franklin Ave, Austin, TX 78723.

Nov 7 (Saturday) 3-5pm-Launch party for *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review, Issue 43*. More info [here](#). @ Malvern Books, 613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 8 (Sunday) 3-5pm-The Austin Writers Roulette is an adult monthly theme-inspired spoken word and storytelling event. The theme for November is "Bumper Sticker Philosophy". Donations are welcomed at this free event. www.austinwritersroulette.com @ Malvern Books, 613 W 29th St, Austin, TX 78705.

Nov 12 (Thursday) 7:15-8:45pm Cindy Huyser hosts Ken Fontenot for the 2nd Thursday Poetry Reading and Open Mic @ BookWoman, 5501 N Lamar Blvd A-105, Austin, TX 78751.

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.

SUB THIS HERE

The Poetry Society of Texas' Student Awards Brochure with a deadline of March 1st, 2016, is available to Texas students and their teachers at: poetrysocietyoftexas.org. All students are invited to enter free of charge.

EXPRESSIONS!2016 Anthology-send your best poem as read@Expressions to expressionsanthology@gmail.com.

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

Poets for Human Rights announces 2015 Anita McAndrews Award Poetry Contest. Submissions deadline: Nov 30, 2015 Prize: \$200 & publication of winning poem online. Winner Announced: Dec 10, 2015. Theme: Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Poem Length: Up to 96 lines, typed, any format. No fee for first poem. \$1 reading fee for additional poem submissions. No simultaneous submission or previously published poems. Submit by mail to Stazja McFadyen, 1006 Vapor Drive, Pflugerville, Tx. 78660. Include cover sheet with name, address, phone number, email, short bio, poem title(s). More info contact Stazja McFadyen at stazja@yahoo.com

THAT'S A WRAP

As a final treat, APS Board Member Claire Vogel Camargo has graciously granted us this interview. You can find more of her insights featured on our website. Enjoy!

What do you love about poetry?

The first thing I love about poetry is that it provides a way to express myself in a short form. I used to think, "I can't write a book." I discovered with poetry I don't need to worry about that, which is freeing. Second, though I kicked and screamed initially at form or obscurity expectations I perceived, I have found that trying to write in forms and not so literally is good mental exercise if nothing else. And the surprise of succeeding feels great.

How do you handle writers' block?

As for writers' block, I need a prompt. Even the prompt is no guarantee though. My favorite way to get going is to attend a class or workshop, regardless of how short in time it is - in which a prompt is given, a short writing period, and then a sharing of what people have written. That way, if I am stumped, listening to others' versions of how they wrote to the prompt can help me. If I'm working alone without a homework prompt, I look at paintings hanging on my walls, *Wingbeats I or II*, or Mary Oliver poems for ideas. To get going, I may choose the shortest form like a haiku to get started. Just look out the window or recall nature moments I enjoyed on vacations.



What advice would you give your beginner poet self?

I would advise my beginner poet self to keep a spiral notebook handy day and night to jot down any nuggets regardless of how few words. By nuggets I mean anything that resonates: thoughts; comments from TV, newspaper, whatever or whomever. I would tell myself to just start writing whatever comes to mind, without asking others' critique initially. To not worry if it's right or good. Rather to allow this new bud to be born and grow feeling protected and approved of.