

POETRY WEST NEWSLETTER

THE MUSE NEWS

MAY 2008

"The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work." - Zola *(submitted by Lois Hayna)*

MEETING

MAY MEETING AND WORKSHOP

The next PW workshop will be on **Saturday, May, 3, 10 am to 1 pm** in Room 213 of Colorado College's Worner Center, at the corner of Cascade and Cache La Poudre. Note the extended time (members may leave at noon if necessary). This workshop will be led by Nico Alvarado-Greenwood, a recent graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. It will focus on "looking deeply at the humble things in our lives" and martialing "dumb facts into witty conversations."

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING

Ceil Malek and Frances Gomeztagle led the April performance workshop. Ashley Crockett, Ben Humphrey, Julianza Shavin, and Constance Davis performed original poems. A basket of "pocket poems" was passed around and members read them aloud. Election was held for Vice-President; Hal Gimpelson and Julianza Shavin will share the office.

Members signed up for various PW venues which took place during April, National Poetry Month. Ceil had compiled poems in many forms, such as Ramage, Valentine, and Postcard Poems. Members read several aloud, then worked in small groups, selecting a form to model, and sharing finished products.

MUSINGS

Frances Richey will read from her poetic memoir "The Warrior: A Mother's Story of a Son at War," at the Worner Center, CC campus, April 30, 5 pm. The event is free.

Jake Adam York and Aaron Anstett will read at the McHugh Commons of Colorado College, May 1 at 7 pm. 1090 N. Cascade Ave. Free. Information: Paula: 389-6853

Pikes Peak Poets offers a free performance workshop, followed by a poetry reading/performance 6:30-8:30 pm, Tuesday, May 6 in the Carnegie Room, Penrose Library. 6:30: practice workshop; 7:30: perform your original poetry or poetry of others. All poets and poetry genres are welcome. To perform, have your poem memorized. Info/to reserve performance time: Jim Ciletti 634-2367.

Greil Marcus will speak on Bob Dylan's "Masters of War: Stories of a Bad Song" on May 2 at 7 pm at the Colorado College Worner Center. Free.

Black Cat Books (720 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs) offers an open mic 7-9 pm the first and third Mondays of each month, hosted by Karen Sucharski. Info: kalikookalehua@aol.com.

Luvsaverb open mic is hosted by Philip Curtis. See www.luvsaverb.com or call 233-1698.

The Business of Art Center, Manitou, hosts a monthly art trading-card session; we poets are now invited to perform on a regular basis. PW did so in April as part of National Poetry Month. Info: julianza@comcast.net.

Billy Collins, former US Poet-Laureate, will begin the commencement ceremonies for Colorado College at 8:30 am, May 19, at the Armstrong Quadrangle (Cascade/Cache La Poudre – across Cascade from Worner Center.) Weather NON-permitting (an announcement will be made 6 a.m. On KRCC, 91.5), commencement will be at the World Arena. Public is invited. Information: Marshall Kean, 389-6754.

OTHER MUSINGS

The Poet Laureate selection committee chose poet Lois Hayna, 95, as Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Emeritus. Hayna has published five books of poetry and a CD of her works. She is an active member of Poetry West,

which she helped found in 1986 to promote poetry in the Pikes Peak region.

Ben Humphrey will be taking a master's class with Hilda Raz this summer. Upon completion, he is interested in presenting members with information about master's classes, the structure, how do get into such a class, costs, and the helpful ideas that Ms. Raz, in particular, has on compiling poetry for publication

BACA RETREAT

The Baca retreat is meant primarily as a time for quiet renewal and refreshment for those who have given generously of their time to Poetry West – or to poetry and the arts in general. When possible we also welcome new retreatants. Our mission is to guarantee peaceful, uninterrupted time to write, walk and contemplate in a beautiful southwest setting. The number of participants is limited so that all can find appropriate nooks and crannies to write without distraction. We expect that each retreatant will leave behind their everyday cares and open themselves to new possibilities while here. It is required that each retreatant respect the writing and meditative time of others. Accommodations are dorm style and retreatants are required to clean up after themselves. Communal gatherings occur primarily around often-exuberant meals (kitchens and/or restaurants are available) and a festive reading at the end of the retreat.

Dates this year are Wednesday, May 14 at noon through Sunday, May 18 at noon. The cost this year is \$33 per night. If you have questions or to apply, please call Sandra McNew at 632-4374 or e-mail her at sandramcnew@aol.com with Baca Retreat in the subject line. Thanks!

PIKES PEAK POETRY CONFERENCE?

An idea: What do members think of a conference regarding poetry, modeled after the Pikes Peak Writers' Conference? It's hard to publish a book of poetry, sure, but we could invite self-publishing houses, let them speak of their various "packages," have speakers regarding preparation for manuscripts, agents for what they are looking for in terms of publishing you yourselves, editors of chapbooks re: what they desire/select, manuscript preparation, famous poets' reading, etc. If you are interested, please write julianza@comcast.net.

PW SALONS

PW salons hopefully will be up and running in the near future. Send input about format, location, and participation to Hal Gimpelson at halndeb@att.net.

HOW WE WRITE – Lois Hayna

Lois Hayna is a founding member of Poetry West. She is the author of three collections of poetry and has served on a PW board several times throughout the history of the organization. She sent the following regarding her writing process:

"I read quite a lot of poetry because I want to keep up with what's being done. I go to my desk because that's where writing happens. If I have no idea for a poem, I sometimes give myself an assignment – maybe do a sonnet or a pantoum or a terza rima. Or write a poem in third person, or do one with no adjectives or use only long sentences. I may try to rework one that didn't come off well, but if it's too bad, tinkering's not likely to help. Best to pitch it. If I'm not at my desk I not only don't work, I don't have ideas to work on. One privilege age confers is the time to spend on the writing I really want to do."

WHAT WE ARE READING

Dave Reynolds is reading "Neruda's Garden: An Anthology of Odes," translated by Maria Jaccetti.

Mary Bem recommends "Blood and Thunder," by Hampton Sides, a history of Kit Carson and the conquest of the American West.

Constance Davis is reading "The Blessing," an autobiographical memoir by Gregory Orr, in which the poet writes of poetry as survival. She is also perusing a selection of writings, photography, and poetry entitled "From May Sarton's Well" compiled by Edith Schade.

Karen Sucharski enjoyed "Waiting to Expire," by Jerome Davis, a local African-American poet. She says his poems were gritty and sometimes funny and very real, and that the book comes with a CD.

Julianza Shavin is reading "View from Behind the Mirror" by Lois Hayna and a biography of Dylan Thomas by Paul Ferris, having recently completed "Fire," by Anais Nin.

WHERE WE ARE PUBLISHING

Dave Reynolds' poem *After Grading Papers, I Stack Wood* will appear in the fall edition of "The Broken Bridge Review."

Karen Sucharski's poem *Relativity* was chosen by the Center for Integrated Arts Education to appear on their website for high school teachers to access and use in teaching poetry.

Aliyah Medhi's *Snake Poem* was published in the Spring 2008 issue of "The Bitter Oleander."

Please send any news for June newsletter, by May 26, to Julianza@comcast.net.

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