

PoetryWest

The Muse News

August 2011

Meeting

Poetry West's upcoming workshop, **August 6th**, will be held at the Casa Verde Commons House, 1355 Lindenwood Grove, 80907. PW meets the first Saturday of each month at the Worner Center of Colorado College when school is in session. When not in session, we meet at Casa Verde.

Workshop

Anima Writing Workshop with Anita Jepson-Gilbert

Psychologist Carl Jung has described the *Anima* as Feminine energy, which both men and women can tap into, if they're willing to step out of their controlling consciousness and into the unconscious realm of imagination. During the workshop we will attempt to get in touch with the collective unconsciousness among us and allow the *Anima* to reveal the hidden truths behind our words. Anita requests that, **If you're planning to attend this workshop, to jot down, in advance, and bring, any dream images you've had, no matter how strange they may seem to you.**

Within the 2-hr. presentation, there will be 3 short writing periods that flow out of the discussions: 1) from dream images, which participants have brought with them (you can jot them down there if you forget, of course 2) from a work of art, which she will bring, and 3) from words offered spontaneously by the Poetry West members. These exercises are designed to allow the unconscious to guide our writing, but these are merely starters, and can be shared, but will not be critiqued. Participants are encouraged to talk about the process since there are often surprises that occur when delving into the unconscious.

Anita Jepson-Gilbert teaches ESL in Denver, where she also facilitates poetry workshops with the Columbine Poets of Colorado. CP is a chapter of The National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Her latest chapbook is entitled *EVERYWOMAN*, from Pudding House Press (2010). She is also the author of an award-winning, bilingual childrens' book, *Maria and the Stars of Nazca / Maria y las Estrellas de Nazca* (2004), which is about the mysterious, gigantic land drawings near the Andes mountains in Peru, and the woman who discovered them.

Musings

Membership Remainder 2011-2012 Year

Dues are now pro-rated – so if you have friends seriously interested in poetry and great workshops (as well as Muse-submissions/copy of Muse at no cost),

dues are currently \$15. Please see www.poetrywest.org for how to submit dues. Questions? Email contactpoetrywest@gmail.com.

New members

Welcome back to Norm Karasa, and welcome, Al Johnson and Robert Gorham.

“The Eleventh Muse” 2011-2012

Poetry West is accepting submissions to its literary journal, “**The Eleventh Muse.**” Postmark deadline: **Oct. 1, 2011.** Please send 3-5 poems, with \$15 reading fee (*free for dues-paying members of Poetry West*), to Poetry West, 2106 Constellation Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80906. Cover art submissions are also encouraged. **Comprehensive guidelines:** www.poetrywest.org. Further information, write contactpoetrywest@gmail.com or call Julie Shavin at (719) 375-1200. Payment is in copies, and all work is considered for monetary awards.

BrainRaining

from your president

Not sure if it's actually storming thing or not. Does anyone like the idea of running a short poem by a PW member in each issue of the newsletter? I'm considering a spotlight of 6 lines maximum. Seeking a good name for this item. If anyone is interested, please send your poem in the body of an email to contactpoetrywest@gmail.com or to julianza@comcast.net

Around Town

Blissfest Call for Art Entries & Reminder

Blissfest for charity will be Oct. 14th-16th this year: all genres/media. Calling for visual artists – work to be lightly juried (many in PW are visual artists). The show will hang in Marika's in Manitou from Sept. 5 October 31. Pieces need not be wire-backed. Artist keeps 70% of sales, with 20% to Marika's, and 10% to charity. 3-D works, like sculpture, jewelry, and fabric arts, are also welcome. Poetry night, involving 12 poets at 10 minutes max, will occur from 6-9:30 pm., Oct. 16. All events but the art show take place at Venue 515, 515 Manitou Blvd. Manitou Springs. Please see [com](http://www.blissfest333.com), www.blissfest333.com, or contact michaelbliss333@yahoo.com, or julianza@comcast.net. Short films are still being accepted.

Haiku Society

The Haiku Society meets the third Sunday of each month at the Mediterranean Café, 118 E. Kiowa St., at 2 pm. For more information, call 540-2038.

At the Table with Poetry West

This event occurs every Sunday from 5-7 pm. Ashley Crockett hosts this casual reading, writing, and critique forum for interested members of Poetry West and the public. Stop by, have some food and drink, and enjoy working with fellow poets.

Calls for Submissions

From *Poets & Writers*: 25 new magazines looking for submissions:

http://www.pw.org/explore/new/literary_magazine

Check out new listings on *Poets & Writers* Small Press Database:

http://www.pw.org/small_presses

Open Mics

Modbo

This open mic takes place the last Friday of every month at 8 pm. The featured poet July 29th is Chris Vigil.

Goddess Open Mic

Formerly at Black Cat Books, this group now meets at Marika's Coffeehouse, 739 Manitou Ave., on the first and third Mondays of each month, from 7-9 pm. Karen Sucharski is event facilitator. For further information contact kalikookalehua@aol.com or Marika's, 685-4438.

Free Expression Poetry Club

Please contact the Free Expression Poetry Club at UCCS to get on their email list to stay informed. To get involved in performing, contact Alex Davidson at 303-957-6228.

The Colorado Springs Writers Reading Series

This open mic, hosted by Abby Murray, is located in Venue 515 at the Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Blvd., Manitou Springs. It takes place the second Friday of every month at 7:30 pm. August 12th's featured author is fiction-writer Lynne Bryant, reading from her recently-published novel, *Catfish Alley*. The evening begins with an open mic, ten readers maximum (arrive a little early to sign up), poetry or prose, @ 3-5 minutes. August's meeting will be across the parking lot in Venue 515. Further info: www.cswritersreading.blogspot.com

Regional Happenings

Aug. 05: Grand Junction

As part of The Grand Valley Performing Arts Festival, there will be a special poetry performance, "Poetry in EEEemotion" a venue celebrating the three E's - the energies of spoken word, music, and dance. The event begins 5 p.m., and is

hosted by [Suzanne Bronson](#). You are welcome to attend an evening with some of the area's great local poets, musicians, and dancers. The event is free and will be performed in The Black Box (Experimental) theatre at the Moss Performing Arts Center on the Colorado Mesa University campus. □

Grand Junction Aug. 6

The Grand Valley Performing Arts Festival is proud to host free poetry workshops on Saturday, August 6th, in The Recital Hall at the Moss Performing Arts Center on the Colorado Mesa University campus. From 11 a.m. until noon, there will be a children's poetry workshop and from noon to 1 p.m., there will be an adult poetry workshop. Bring pen and paper and enthusiasm, says [Suzanne Bronson](#).

Aug. 07: Ft. Collins (Radio)

R. J. Lambert reads his work, as well as discusses the process of earning a Creative Writing Ph.D., on Dona Stein's "The Poetry Show" 6-7 p.m. on Sunday, August 7. Tune in KRFC 88.9 FM, or visit <http://www.krcfm.org> (hit the Listen button).

Aug. 18: Boulder

Kathryn T. S. Bass reads from her new book, *The Mysteries*, on August 18 at the Innisfree Bookstore, 1203 13th St. Suite A, Boulder, 7 PM.

Aug. 20: Denver

Kathryn T. S. Bass reads from her new book *The Mysteries* on August 20 at the Glovinsky Gallery, 800 W. 8th Ave., Suite 116 (Please use Inca Street entrance) in Denver, at 7 p.m.

Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Loma

Horses, writing and nature are combined in "Pursuing You," a unique three-day self-exploration and rejuvenation retreat by Inside Lead Intelligent Retreats©. Ann Leadbetter, Mesa State Professor of English and facilitator of Women Writing for a Change, and Gateway Canyons Resort offer "Pursuing You," an opportunity for women to refresh spirit and connect with heart. Set in Western Colorado's spectacular red-rock country, the work integrates the beauty of nature with thought-provoking equine interaction and creative writing to transform your written voice. This event runs from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2011. □ Further information: □ <http://www.insideleadcounseling.com/register.html>

POETRY PRISM

Standing Female Nude (Anvil Press Poetry, 1985) is the first collection of poems published by Scottish poet Carol Ann Duffy, who was named Britain's first female Poet Laureate, in 2009. The book is compelling for its feminist themes and exploration of cultural and sexual identity, but perhaps of even greater interest to poets is the variety of dramatic voices embodied by the poems' speakers. The array of speakers allows Duffy to explore her themes from varied and keen-eyed perspectives.

In the poem "Girl Talking," Duffy uses a child-narrator to tell the story of a

cousin who was raped during Eid Day, a festival of Ramadan. The young narrator, unable to comprehend the gravity of what happened, never uses the word “rape.” The poem begins, “On our Eid day my cousin was sent to / the village. Something happened. We think it was pain.” After the girl dies at the end of the poem, the speaker relays a holy man’s pronouncement: “She went out at noon and the ghost took her heart.”

Duffy’s narrators can also be much more light-hearted and satiric. In “Head of English,” the speaker is a stuffy English teacher who hasn’t a clue as to the soul of poetry. “...Remember / the lesson on assonance, for not all poems, / sadly, rhyme these days. Still. Never mind.” As the poet finishes her presentation, the woman says, “I’m sure / that gave an insight to an outside view.” The poet’s marginalization is depicted with wry humor.

The title poem, “Standing Female Nude” is told from the point of view of a female model for a painting. As the speaker narrates the poem, it is clear that there is no connection between the artist and the model, and her representation in the painting is not true to form, but caters to commodity and consumer expectation:

“I shall be represented analytically and hung
in great museums. The bourgeoisie will coo
at such an image of a river-whore. They call it Art.”

The speaker is oppressed both as a woman and as a member of the working class. She is one of many narrators who express the complex, feminist and global world view of Carol Ann Duffy. Any poet wishing to expand the dramatic potential of his or her own poems will find inspiration in this book.

- *Review by Laura Stuckey*

Please submit your newsletter items to sammeyland@comcast.net by August 17th.

End Rhyme

“The poem is a little myth of man's capacity of making life meaningful. And in the end, the poem is not a thing we see – it is, rather, a light by which we may see – and what we see is life. – Robert Penn Warren