

POETRY WEST NEWSLETTER

THE MUSE NEWS

JULY 2008

"Poetry is life distilled." -- Gwendolyn Brooks

MEETING

The July 5 PW workshop will be held from 10 am – noon, outdoors at Monument Valley Park around the north pond. From Cascade Ave., drive west on Uintah. Turn left (at the 7 – 11) onto Glen. Follow the curve around and park on the street (facing north) between the railroad tracks and the pond. We will be in the shade at the south end of that pond. Bring a chair if you can (we will have some extras), a water bottle, sunscreen, and a hat. Consult www.poetrywest.org for map.

Poetry West member Tom Barnes will lead us in creating a Renga (renku) form of Japanese linked verse. Tom is interested in reading and writing many different forms of poetry, including haiku and senryu (which is like haiku, but deals with people instead of nature). He has an interest in Japanese verse and has been a member of a Zen *Sangha* (meditation group). There is some connection between Zen and Japanese verse forms. However, you DO NOT need to know anything about Zen or Japanese poetry to enjoy this meeting. There will be no critique or pressure to participate. You may choose to participate or may simply observe. This will be a joint creation of a series of haiku-like linked verses, probably one or two per person, as time allows.

This endeavor is contemplative and there will be moments of silence. Don't be apprehensive about that. Just come prepared to observe and contribute as you are moved to do so. Enjoy. Inspiration for renga comes from nature. If you wish to draw on recollections of another time and place or even use your poetic imagination, by all means go for it.

Poetry West member Pat Nolan will introduce the workshop with a short summary of eastern writing and philosophy, which she experienced while participating in numerous Japanese poetry salons while living in Japan for two years.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING

The June 7 workshop was facilitated by Clark Smith, who took us through a romp of a sample poem he brought along, and we worked on best use of poetic diction: strengthening and tightening, attending to vigorous verbs and strong nouns. The second half was devoted to critique of poems brought by PW members. Many thanks to Mr. Smith for his workshop.

Rest of year schedule:

August: No workshop

September 6: Odes and Addresses. And Digital Poetry. Presenter: Jessy Randall. Worner Center, CC.

October 4 : Fairy Tales and Myths. Presenter: Tony Friedhoff. Place: Worner Center.

November 1 : Topic to Be Announced. Presenter: Sohem Patel. Place: Worner Center.

December: Christmas Party. Time and place to be announced.

MUSINGS

The Green Fuse Poetic Arts Association Summer Poetry Festival, June 28-29, features free two-hour poetry workshops taught by regional poets including [Katherine West](#), Maggie Rowlett, and M. D. Friedman. It will be held at the Loveland Museum in downtown Loveland, Colorado. Call 970-214-8766 or write for more info at Tiakata_99@yahoo.com.

Slam poetry continues, thanks to the generosity of the Gill Center, on July 18, August 22 and September 12, 6:30-8:30 pm, 315 E. Costilla St. Come judge, slam, or just listen. Slams are free, are for ages 17 and up, with a requested donation of any amount for the slam and/or Gill Foundation. Poetry Slam is competitive performance poetry. For information on slam rules and tips, contact Karen Sucharski at kalikookalehua@aol.com.

Laurie Wagner Buyer is leading a writing retreat in Wyoming, July 11 - 13. For further information, contact Susan Stolz at susan@womenoutwestmagazine.com, 406 - 579 -0098.

San Juan Mountains Retreat, July 18 - 20 -- "The Gathering Gathering" -- Taught by Sandra Dorr, this is a weekend retreat for writers -- both women and treasured men-writer friends, by special request -- to gather up work, and to bring work-in-progress. In the process of writing alone and with the group, students will finish a draft and a plan as to where they might send the final piece. The workshop features writing exercises that begin with memory and proceed to other things, and read fiction, memoir, some poems, and autobiographical excerpts of Annie Dillard and other lyrical Western writers. The setting is a beautiful house at 10,000 ft., 6 miles from Cimarron, on the Alpine Trail between Montrose and Gunnison (2 hours from Grand Junction). The house sleeps 12, with an additional teepee out back. Picture lofts, decks, hammock, porches and nooks, overlooking 20,000 acres, and the "Little Blue" running below. Retreat hours: 4 p.m. Friday – 1 p.m. Sunday. Cost: \$275 (\$250 before June 30). Limited to 12. Note: as of June 25, there was only one space left. For this and other Dorr events email sandydorr@bresnan.net.

Wooglin's Deli, 823 N. Tejon St., hosts open mic Nights 6-9 pm, Tuesdays. Singers, musicians, songwriters, poets, storytellers, comics and all who support the arts are welcome. Info: 578-9443

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

KRFC, out of Fort Collins, hosts a weekly radio program, which airs Sundays at 6:30 p.m. Karen Sucharski was interviewed by Dona Stein, show's hostess, and read poetry a few months ago on this station. The number is 88.9; if it does not come in clearly on your radio, try on your computer. The website may still say 6:00 pm, but the show actually airs at 6:30: www.krccfm.com. Also, KRCC (91.5 FM) features a poem a day at 2:55 pm.

KRCC features a poem a day on Writers' Almanac, hosted by Garrison Keillor, 2:55 pm. One can also sign up to receive the station's newsletter; sometimes there are fascinating programs about writers and writing process.

Don't forget to come hear Karen S. and Julianza S. do street-performance poetry. Dates/places: Saturday, July 5, 1-4 pm; Friday, July 25, 5-8 pm, both at the Town Clock; and Saturday, August 16, 1-4 pm, at the Shoshone Spring on Manitou Ave. (next to Manitou Jack's). The first reading was June 27 and was fun, the weather beautiful, and toward the end a beautiful rainbow enhanced the evening.

OTHER MUSINGS

2008 COLORADO BOOK AWARDS

Finalists have been selected for the 2008 Colorado Book Awards, which Colorado Center for the Book at Colorado Humanities has released just in time to add to your summer reading list. Poetry finalists follow, and congratulations to all:

Robert King (Greeley) ***Old Man Laughing*** (Ghost Road Press)
David Mason (Colorado Springs) ***Ludlow*** (Red Hen Press)
Jessy Randall (Colorado Springs) ***A Day in Boyland*** (Ghost Road Press)

Anne Waldman (Boulder) **Outrider** (La Alameda Press)

In mid-June, Ben Humphrey attended Hilda Raz's five-day master class along, with five other poets. The emphasis was not on individual poems, but rather on a collection of 70 to 80 poems each writer is preparing for publication as a book. Ben says "the feedback was very valuable, not only from Hilda but also from the five other participants, all accomplished poets." For more information about a master class/Ms. Raz, contact Ben at ghumphreyb@aol.com.

POET LAUREATE PROJECT

"Dream City 2020 Project to vision the future of our region will kick off in June. At time there will be a call for poets to share their poems about the past, present and future of our area. As well, the PL Project is working to develop an activity connecting poetry and our military personnel and their families. There will be opportunities for poets to lead workshops in a variety of settings. Also, there will be opportunities for poetry in the schools, and there is a *Poetry While You Wait* project. For further information, please e-mail John.Atkinson@q.com.

NEW LITERARY WEBSITE

Frances Gomeztagle's husband Travis has a new website covering literary goings-on in Colorado Springs. It is called [cslitlife](http://www.cslitlife.com). It includes events, videos of local performance poetry, a pod-cast, and photographs. Members design a page for themselves and can communicate with other participants. It's very cool. Take a look at www.cslitlife.ning.com.

OTHER GOOD WEBSITES:

Writers.com is a fascinating site to peruse: all kinds of useful information about publishing, writers, class-offerings (including one on poetry in July), interesting tidbits having to do with writing/books, and links to many sources. Perhaps google Colorado Poets Center, run by Dr. Robert King, who recently gave PW a wonderful workshop (rwendellking@comcast.net). Among his favorites sites are Verse Daily (www.versedaily.com) and Poetry Daily (www.poems.org), both posting a poem a day, with links to the author and publisher. Also, If you go to Poets & Writers, it will have a calendar of many, many contests, complete with guidelines and deadlines. The Paris Review is also good googling, as is The Academy of American Poets.

WHAT WE ARE READING

Pat Nolan is reading *March of Folly: From Troy to Vietnam*, Barbara Tuchman. Also, *Eating Stone, Imagination and the Loss of the Wild*, by Ellen Meloy.

Janice Black claims to be laughing her head off at *Over Hexed*, by Vicki Lewis Thompson. She is also reading *The Temple of My Familiar*, by Alice Walker, Carl Sagan's *Billions & Billions*, and recommends *The Synonym Finder* as a useful reference tool.. She asks that any other works like *Over Hexed* be sent her way at janiceblack@gmail.com.

Mary Bem is reading *The Poetry Home Repair Manual*, by Ted Kooser (former U.S. Poet Laureate).

Julianza is reading *Anne Sexton, A Self-Portrait in Letters*, *Anne Sexton: A Biography*, the latter by Diane Wood Middlebrook, the poet's collected works, and Saul Bellow's *Henderson The Rain King*.

WHERE WE ARE PUBLISHING

Lois Hayna is publishing this winter/spring in *Dritto*, *The Louisiana Review*, *The Ibbotsen Street Press*, online in “a couple of places,” and on the Colorado Poetry Calendar.

CHALLENGE

Who is the poet whose work is labeled “minimal,” (vs. “minimalist”), and whose newly released book includes the following (similarly-sized point type) poem on a full page? lighth

Please send news for the August newsletter to julianza@comcast.net by July 23.