

POETRY WEST NEWSLETTER

THE MUSE NEWS

JUNE 2008

“Poetry is a packsack of invisible keepsakes.” - Carl Sandburg

MEETING

JUNE MEETING AND WORKSHOP

The June 7 Poetry West workshop will be held at the Casa Verde Commons Co-housing meeting room from 10 a.m. to noon. The address is 1355 Lindenwood Grove, Colorado Springs, CO 80907. Please check www.poetrywest.org for directions and map.

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Clark Smith earned an MA in English lit from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1967, where he studied with J.V. Cunningham, Edgar Bowers and Thom Gunn and published a few poems. He is a past president of Poetry West. Clark describes himself as an “over-educated, aging capitalist hippie -- a hermit who occasionally comes out of seclusion to attend writing retreats.” Poetry West members should bring poems, with multiple copies for critique (attendance has been 25-30 lately). A presentation (lecture) will precede the workshop: The Slaughter of Adjectives by Nouns and Verbs.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING

Nico Alvarado-Greenwood presented his workshop, “The Poetics of the Everyday,” to a full house on May 3. His three-hour workshop focused on reading familiar poets (William Carlos Williams, Jack Collom, Emily Dickinson, James Schuyler) as well as the less familiar (Joe Brainard, Lorine Niedecker, Eileen Myles, Paul Blackburn, Mildred O'Brien). Nico showed attendees how to extrapolate a prompt from the poems, including letter poems, writing about a physical problem like a headache, writing “I remember” a la Joe Brainard, and describing a place as sparsely as Williams.

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS 2008

- July 5: Renga Workshop. Presenters: Pat Nolan, Ben Humphrey, and Tom Barnes. Place: outdoors; specifics to be announced.
- August 2: Picnic and discussion of the Regeneration of Poetry West.
- September 6: Odes and Addresses. Also, Digital Poetry. Presenter: Jessy Randall. Place: Worner Center.
- 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

John Atkinson announces the following regarding “Dream City 2020 Project,” which envisions the future of our region: the project will kick off in June, and there will be a call for poets to share their poems about the past, present and future of our area. Stay tuned for more information. If you are interested please e-mail John.Atkinson@q.com.

Goddess Open Mic: first and third Mondays at Black Cat Books, 720 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, from 7-9 p.m. First hour is an open mic; the second is poetry tag -- so bring your journals and typed poems and share some stuff that hasn't seen the light of day recently or ever. Information: Karen Sucharski at kalikookalehua@aol.com.

Wooglin's Deli, 823 N. Tejon St., hosts Open Mike Nights 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays. Singers, musicians, songwriters, poets, storytellers, comics and all who support the arts are welcome. Call 578-9443 for information and to sign up.

Pikes Peak Arts Council Performance Poet of the Year Karen Sucharski and Poetry West Co Vice-President Julianza Shavin have been selected as Manitou Street performers for the summer season. They will be doing a variety of duets, individual poems and poems with original musical compositions by Julianza, who is an accomplished composer. Their first performance is on Friday, June 27 from 5-8 p.m. at the Cheyenne Spring on Manitou Ave. (near Patsy's candies). They will also perform Saturday, July 5 from 1-4 p.m. and Friday, July 25 from 5-8 p.m., both at the Town Clock. Their final performance for the summer will be Saturday, August 16, from 1-4 p.m. at the Shoeshone Spring on Manitou Ave. (next to Manitou Jack's).

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

OTHER MUSINGS

The Poet Laureate 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. If you are interested please e-mail John.Atkinson@q.com.

Marginalia, the annual literary review from the English Dept. at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, was selected by Poets & Writers magazine as one of the "Twenty New Journals Ready to Read Your Work" in P&W's May-June 2008 issue, and got a nice write-up. We applaud the work of all the staff of *Marginalia*. The journal publishes a print and an electronic version. HOWEVER, Colorado poets should know that it is not accepting submissions at the moment "due to an overwhelming number of submissions." The magazine plans to start accepting later in the year—watch the website for further information. (www.westernstate.edu/marginalia)

The Green Fuse Poetic Arts Association in northern Colorado has begun a quarterly member-written newsletter. The first issue features a Letter from the Editor by Katherine West, "Notes from a Poetry Workshop" by Pat Maslowski, "Ballads and Blues" by song-writer/poet Jeff Hoffman and a review by M. D. Friedman of Amy Wray Irish's *Creation Stories*, published by Green Fuse Community Press in 2008. To be put on the mailing list, contact them at greenfusepress.yahoo.com.

The 2008 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry has been awarded to two poets, Robert Hass (*Time and Materials*) and Philip Schultz (*Failure*). Ellen Bryant Voigt was a finalist in the competition.

WHERE WE ARE PUBLISHING

PW Co-Vice-President Hal Gimpelson's photography was the cover art for the April issue of "*Anti*," which is edited by our own Steve Schroeder.

Please send any news for July newsletter, by June 22, to fawnbell@gmail.com.

