

# PoetryWest

## The Muse News

### March 2011

#### Meeting

Poetry West meets from 10:00 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month. Our next meeting & workshop is March 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at the **Casa Verde Commons House, upstairs room.**

#### Workshop Description

Brian Barker will present a workshop and writing exercise on **Ekphrastic Poetry**. He will touch on the history of ekphrasis (poetry based on works of art), while we examine model poems, consider the limitations and freedoms of the genre and how the ekphrastic writing process can be used for inspiration and to overcome writer's block. Mr. Barker will bring along a selection of art postcards and books for use in a writing exercise. Please arrive a little early for this event, as there is another event starting at 10 a.m. downstairs, and it would be nice not to interrupt.

Barker will also present an **evening poetry reading** from 6:30 to 8:30 that evening on the main level of the Casa Verde Commons House.

Brian Barker is the author of *The Animal Gospels* (Tupelo Press, 2006) and *The Black Ocean* (Southern Illinois University Press, forthcoming June 2011), winner of the Crab Orchard Open Competition. His poems, reviews, and interviews have appeared (or are forthcoming) in *Poetry*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Ploughshares*, *Agni*, *Quarterly West*, *TriQuarterly*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *The Washington Post*, *Blackbird*, *Pleiades*, and *storySouth*. He teaches creative writing at the University of Colorado, Denver, where he co-edits *Copper Nickel*.

Both events are free and open to the public. The Casa Verde Commons is located at 1355 Lindenrose Grove, just east of Dogtooth Cafe on Columbia/Wasatch.

#### Upcoming Workshops

April 2, 2011: Michael Martinez will lead the workshop and also present an evening reading, along with wonderful poets from the Denver area. Look for further details in next month's Muse News.

Thank you to the Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project ([www.pikespeaklaureate.org](http://www.pikespeaklaureate.org)) for providing funding for both the Barker and Martinez evening events.

PW needs volunteer member workshop facilitators for June and July. If you have a topic not recently addressed and might be interested, please contact Julianza at [julianza@comcast.net](mailto:julianza@comcast.net) with ideas and questions.

#### Musings

**PW Board 2011-12**

Our recently-elected officers follow:

President: Julie K. Shavin  
Vice-President: Suzanne Segady  
Secretary: Cynthia Storrs  
Treasurer: Ron Truax  
Publicist: Julie Andrews  
Webmistress: Janice Black  
Member-at-Large: Ashley Crockett  
Newsletter Editor: Suzanne Segady  
Board Intern: Autumn Hall

### **Baca Retreat 2011**

The Baca retreat will be held this year from noon Wednesday, May 18 through noon Sunday, May 22. Cost will be \$35/night. The retreat is meant to be a time for quiet renewal and refreshment for writers and artists, especially those who have given generously of their time to Poetry West – or to poetry and the arts in general. We are happy to welcome new participants, so please feel free to tell anyone you feel would benefit.

We try to guarantee peaceful, uninterrupted time to write, walk and contemplate in this beautiful southwest setting. All participants should be able to find congenial nooks to work without distraction, and everything is arranged to allow participants to leave behind everyday cares and open themselves to new possibilities while at Baca.

Accommodations are in four-bedroom Southwestern-style lodges at Colorado College's beautiful Baca Campus in the San Luis Valley near Crestone. Communal gatherings occur primarily around often-exuberant meals; shared kitchens and/or restaurants are available. A fun and festive reading usually occurs near the end of the retreat.

### **Art into Words**

From Telise (pron. *Telisa*) Rodelv of Cottonwood Center for the Arts, forwarded by Pat Nolan, here is a perfect tie-in to this month's workshop!

Cottonwood is inviting Poetry West members to participate in its upcoming gallery show "Art into Words." The show, which will run March 25<sup>th</sup> - April 20<sup>th</sup>, will showcase collaborative paintings and poems. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage in National Poetry Month! Poets are encouraged to view the artists' works February 25<sup>th</sup>, when all artists working in all media will be present; you can also visit any time up to the submission deadline, March 18<sup>th</sup>, but this date is a good guarantee for viewing. Poets will choose a painting that inspires a poem, or matches an already-written poem, and the poem must be framed and ready to hang (wired back) by the 18<sup>th</sup>. Also, you may bring poems to show the artists, who may choose to create artwork to go with your writing. Additionally, you may submit paintings and poems of your own, self-collaborations or with others, for jurying -- the artwork must meet CC's standards. Many options!

You are very welcome to participate in this wonderful "marriage" of art and words, which will run most of National Poetry Month. For further information, please contact Telise at [teliser@earthlink.net](mailto:teliser@earthlink.net), 520-1899, or 886-7049.

### **National Poetry Month**

Venues

National Poetry Month venues are coming together. Here is a sketch (i.e., undetailed), of what is happening, as well as in progress.

Venues:

- ↳ Marika's Coffeehouse, April 16th,
- ↳ Black Cat books -- many days/nights from which to choose – can include a closing night (April 30th) reception for ourselves: stay tuned.
- ↳ Poor Richard's Bookstore (in progress), one or more occasions
- ↳ Poet Laureate library event April 10th
- ↳ The Cottonwood show "Art into Words"
- ↳ Another coffeehouse, gallery, and assisted living center (in progress)

Suggestions are more than welcome. The date/time will be set, and poets can pick when to show up and read. Dates/times should be finalized soon and will then be broadcast, possibly as a NewsFlash. Poets who choose one or more venues are invited to send those plans to the April newsletter. The venues will be advertising/promoting to the public.

### Poets in the Schools

If you would like to teach a class in a school setting during April, here is the procedure: call the school district for that particular school (easy to find by googling), and register as a volunteer. It's not hard to do, and approval does not take long. There is also an option to register as a paid consultant, which I believe is a bit more complicated. Then, contact the school and discuss the workshop you propose. Schools are very receptive to having us come in and share our expertise with poetry. Another option is to propose an assembly of all classes/one grade, or several grades combined, and present along with a fellow poet. It's a wonderful experience, and if you have questions about this, you could contact anyone within PW who has been a writer in the schools, including [julianza@comcast.net](mailto:julianza@comcast.net).

### Fundraising and Grants

Money may not buy happiness, but it does enable PW to pay our speakers well, and to attend to gas cost for those traveling quite a distance (and for those whom we'd like to secure from a further distance). Somehow, this feels like happiness. I have asked Janice Black to help with grant writing.

Also, I have a fundraising idea which might be fun (fundraising is, after all, 3 parts "fun"): a swap-day like a garage sale, if we can reserve the Commons room for some time in May or June: a small admission fee for attendees, and then - swap away! Any and all kinds of household/yard/clothing items are welcome, including, of course, writing-aids/perks like chapbooks or poetry magazines you no longer wish to keep, reference materials, desks, lamps, chairs, coffee-mugs, - and for me, a laptop. – Jz

### New & Improved Website

Suggestions are welcome from membership for expanding our website so that it is very useful to members. Already under consideration are helpful links, a capsule retrospective of the former month's workshop, a few contest/submissions deadlines monthly, a mentoring page for those who wish to give and receive feedback by connecting with a fellow PW member, an expanded book review, and member profiles (see Colorado Poets Center site re this last). Please send any ideas you have!

### Logo

Pat Nolan has been working on a logo for our website and some stationery. If anyone else within membership would like to submit a logo, please do! - to [julianza@comcast.net](mailto:julianza@comcast.net). Then any and all will be presented to general membership so that it is a democratic choice.

## **The Eleventh Muse**

If you are interested in working on this publication, please contact [julianza@comcast.net](mailto:julianza@comcast.net). The group is forming now!

## **Still in the works...**

Julianza is still perseverating (redundant, yes) on the idea of a **Poetry Conference**, modeled on other writing conferences. This would take an enormous amount of planning, even to have it run one day or full weekend, involving fundraising/grant (see above), 4 or 8 imported poets (2-hours slots), advertising, accommodation choices if from far away (speakers, guests), venue selection, and a profit for PW. This is a back-burner issue, with the Muse's being on the front. Please share your thoughts.

Julianza has contacted seven State Federation of Poetry Societies in search of a "**Sister (or Brother) Society**" for Poetry West, hopefully in a different geographical terrain. Two possibilities so far, and awaiting further response. The idea is similar to cities with twin cities: in this case, sharing & learning about poetry, meeting new poets, swapping the kinds of activities we pursue -- and possibly finding speakers who might come from very far away but who happen to be stopping, say, in Denver (thence to us!) & etc.

## **Calls for Submissions**

*Messages From the Hidden Lake*, the anthology published by Friends of the Alamosa Library, is accepting submissions of writing and artwork, with a deadline of May 1st. They are also seeking judges for both prose and poetry. If interested, please contact [librarian@alamosalibrary.org](mailto:librarian@alamosalibrary.org) or go to <http://www.alamosalibrary.org/index.html>.

In from Karen Sucharski: I will again be editing the poetry anthology for **Finding Our Voices Art Show and Sale** for all victims and survivors of sexual assault and their allies. (This includes everyone.) Please submit poetry about surviving trauma: personal or as an ally of someone you love. Up to five poems can be submitted; deadline is March 1. In lieu of the \$5 submission fee, chosen poets can purchase one copy of the anthology for \$5 and additional copies for the publish price of \$11. All proceeds go to providing art workshops year round for survivors and victim of sexual assault. Last year's anthology sold out and can now be special ordered for the original purchase price of \$11 through me. For further information, please email Karen at [kalikookalehua@aol.com](mailto:kalikookalehua@aol.com) or Joyce Aubrey at [fovartshow@gmail.com](mailto:fovartshow@gmail.com).

## **Open Mics**

Literary Open Mic with Abby takes place next on March 15th, 7:30 pm, at Black Cat books in Manitou, 720 Manitou Blvd. This open mic occurs each third Friday of the month, is open to those who write poetry or prose, and is part of the Colorado Springs Writers Reading Series. Further information: [abby.murray@ppcc.edu](mailto:abby.murray@ppcc.edu) or [cswritersreading@gmail.com](mailto:cswritersreading@gmail.com)

Literary Open Mic with Abby will double as a National Poetry Month event on April 15th, 7:30

pm at Black Cat Books in Manitou, 720 Manitou Avenue. A guest speaker will read in April, TBA. Consider coming out and sharing your work! [abby.murray@ppcc.edu](mailto:abby.murray@ppcc.edu) or [cswritersreading@gmail.com](mailto:cswritersreading@gmail.com)

## Reviews

Please read PW member and CC professor David Mason's *Wall Street Journal* review of *Under the Sun: The Letters of Bruce Chatwin*, edited by Elizabeth Chatwin and Nicholas Shakespeare (Viking). Follow this link to learn more about this journalist/novelist whose works *The Songlines* and *In Patagonia* continue, long after his death in 1989, to attract new readers and critical interest.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704364004576132151397881250.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_MIDDLE\\_Video\\_Third](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704364004576132151397881250.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLE_Video_Third)

## POETRY PRISM

If you would like to submit a review of a poet's work, please contact [julianza@comcast.net](mailto:julianza@comcast.net).

Please submit April newsletter items to Suzanne at [sammeyland@comcast.net](mailto:sammeyland@comcast.net) by March 17 2011.