

Poetry West

The Muse News

May 2010

Meeting

Our next meeting is Saturday, May 1st, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Colorado College Worner Center, Rm. 213, Cache La Poudre and Cascade. Metered parking is available on Cache La Poudre, Tejon and other nearby streets.

Workshop Description:

Writing in the Rockies: A Workshop on Place, Forms, and Eco-poetics
Presented by **Juan J. Morales**

Above Colorado Springs, the Rocky Mountains remain a powerfully beautiful presence, our every day compass. As writers, the landscape, the view outside, and the intersections between the natural and human world guide us toward what we put to the page. In some cases, it's implied and in others it remains hidden even from ourselves. In this workshop, we will write, share, and collaborate on creating work that reflects our connections to place, our diverse communities, and our personal identities in order to refine our form and subject matter and to nurture our writerly pursuits.

Author's Bio:

Juan J. Morales was born in the U.S. to an Ecuadorian mother and a Puerto Rican father. He grew up in Colorado hearing family stories that inspired much of the poems in *Friday and the Year that Followed*, his first collection of poetry, published by Bedbug Press. His poetry has appeared in *Acentos Review*, *Border Senses*, *Many Mountains Moving*, *PALABRA*, *Poet Lore*, *War, Literature, & the Arts*, *Washington Square*, and other journals. He is the Director of Creative Writing and an Assistant Professor at Colorado State University-Pueblo. <http://www.juanjmorales.com>.

Musings

Current Poetry West Board Members:

Laura Stuckey – President

Cynthia Storrs – Secretary

Julie Andrews – Publicity
Price Strowbridge – Treasurer
Ashley Crockett - Newsletter
Julianza Shavin-Katz
Tom Barnes

We have also invited Aaron Hines to work with the board as an Intern. We also resolved to make the current Poet Laureate an honorary member of Poetry West for the duration of their term.

From Laura Stuckey:

As the second item of business during the annual meeting, the new board solicited ideas from the membership about what you would like to see happen in Poetry West. These ideas fell into three nearly even categories: the quiet work of writing and mentoring; community events; and business-related aspects of the organization, including publicity and fund-raising. Publications were also discussed—an item too large to fit into any of the other categories!

During our first meeting, we looked at this information and identified a few small projects for possible implementation. In our next meeting, we listened to a presentation from visiting consultant Lori May to help us look at ways that our website may be serve as a vehicle for us to implement some of the ideas you suggested. In future meetings, we will choose a specific area or two to work on. At this point, we are in the very early stages of brainstorming and planning, but look to this feature for more specific details as we progress.

Please talk to any board member if you have comments or suggestions.

Calendar of Events

Remaining Poetry Events in April 2010:

Our very own David Mason is the featured poet for April on PBS. Check out the link at http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/entertainment/poetry/

*From the Pikes Peak Poet Laureate website

Daily in April on KRCC, at 2:55 p.m., High-Frequency Poetry, featuring local writers (special thanks to Noel Black of KRCC for recording our local poets)

April 21, Cowboy Music and Poetry with Duke Davis, Woodland Park Library, 6 p.m.

April 24, **Inauguration of next Pikes Peak Poet Laureate**, Penrose Library, 4:30 p.m.

April 30, Poetry While You Wait/Favorite Poem reading, 7 p.m., The Gift Shop, Manitou Springs

April 29, Poetry in Your Pocket

Carry a poem close to your heart (or hip, or bum)! April 29 is the penultimate day of National Poetry Month, and we intend to end April in style. Poetry lovers across the nation will be celebrating the third annual National Poem in Your Pocket Day. Verbosity

welcomes you to join in the fun.

All you have to do is:

- Write out or print out a favorite poem
- Stick it in a pocket, leaving a bit of paper peeking out
- Whenever you see another poem-padded pocket, ask to share your poem

Open mic

The Live and Breathe Society presents **Campbell James Kersey's Incredible Poetry Night** on Monday, April 26th, 6 pm to 9:30 pm, at Venue 515, 515 Manitou Blvd., Manitou Springs. Julianza Shavin and Aliya Medhi moderate. L & B takes place the last Monday of each month, and includes an open mic reading of original work (you can also bring in work by an author you admire), in-depth critique of your own work, if requested (bring at least ten copies of your poems). This month is a birthday potluck in honor of someone who looks just like J but is, of course, aging backwards.

Note: students from Falcoln school district will be attending, with their English teacher, so in the first hour or so, present poems that are appropriate for age 13. Canvas Cafe will be open for food and drink, including wine/beer -- and it is good for us to support Venue 515 with purchases. Information: Julianza, 375-1200 or julianza@comcast.net.

April 30 at 8 pm BYOB Poetry at the Modbo Gallery (across the alley from 15C). Modbo hosts an open mic the last Friday of the month with a featured guest poet.

Saturday May 1, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. All interested writers (18+) are invited to the first ever Pikes Peak Writing Marathon. This is a community writing event that is sponsored by the Southern Colorado Writing Project (CSU-P). It will begin and end in the Carnegie Reading Room at the Penrose Library.

A writing marathon is a progressive, small-group writing activity (guidelines will be covered and the process explained on the day of the event). Bring pen/pencil, paper, and a small amount of cash for food and/or beverages.

Our first and former Poet Laureate Aaron Anstett announces the first event of a new program called

SAY WHAT: Surrealism

Friday, May 17, 6 - 7p.m., Gallery of Contemporary Art (GOCA), Plaza of the Rockies

SAY WHAT is new forum for poetry in Colorado Springs. Poetry and contemporary art can be difficult to approach—they don't always make sense. But this program eases visitors into conversations about both (with a glass of wine and expert interpreters in hand).

SAY WHAT is the product of community collaborators interested in teaching people about poetry through art and vice versa. Each session explores ideas related to

structure, theme, language and content in poetry, that can also be seen in the corresponding visual art exhibition.

BYOP (bring your own pillow) and enjoy the program.

Poetry Prism

There is great value in reading literary magazines, online or in print. Recently, I discovered Leonore Wilson, poet-extraordinaire. What beautiful, musical, gritty, wise and wonderful words! Wilson is in love with language, with ideas, with wonder. Living in "the wilds" of northern California, she freely incorporates the natural world, and her themes range from relationships to religion to philosophy to music and more.

Consider these lines: *The creek bed, near-brittle rock/Of bone, and yet the butterflies ripple/Rush over the ferment of sludge....* and this: *Here the fury/Of my adherent yoke transfixes me with a million/Eyes on this spit-spattered frontier, in these/Childhood fields of skeletons and scars.* "Spring Gods," the first poem I encountered, a tale of loss and hope, ends thus: *stones were drawn/to our anxious and swinging/bones as if we were/the forefathers of flame,/and the gold sparks/inside the flame,/two crimson flowers,/two Judas/butterflies in braid.*

We are poets, and I think the following, if out of context, could apply to the writing process: *You are turned over/and over like a rock tumbled out/until you glisten, resplendent;/thus having been seized, the pain/does not retreat, but increases/until you nourish it...* Here, an excerpt demonstrating *unashamed poetic license*: *wind like an/immortal diamond/ spread over the ball-knots/of disputing planets/and the whirl and whorl of stars/ while the symmetrical/and the/unsymmetrical/entreated molecules atoms gases/like blood-gush and the first fitches/of fern came forth/the beautiful blossoming yellow sun, the whitened/and swaled feathers of birds/rose....*

Wilson's poetry, to me, is not just words, but also music, dance, painting, and more, a breathless, breathful of marvelous pastiche. Her work has appeared in Quarterly West, TRIVIA, Third Coast, Pif, Poets Against the War, Madison Review, Five Fingers Review, Heyoka, Mungbeing, and elsewhere. She recently received a request to apply for Poet Laureate of Napa, California.

– respectfully submitted by Julianza

Calls for Submissions

June 9th Brown Bag Poetry reading (working title for the event) on 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm at Cottonwood Center For the Arts, Spittler Gallery, 1st floor, 427 E. Colorado Avenue, C/S.

Poets interested in reading, please email Pat Nolan, RIVERPHOTO@aol.com. with an estimate of how much time you will need. RSVP as soon as possible, since the time allotted may fill up. We will keep a 'wait list' in the event of any individual cancellations. This show is open to the public. People will be invited to bring their own lunch.

The theme of the show in the gallery at that time will be "Military Appreciation." You

may respond to that topic or not, as you wish.

The staff at Cottonwood is excited about launching this collaborative effort with Poetry West and other poets in the community and look forward to more.

Deadline for June Newsletter Items

News items will be due on May 20, 2010. Please send your information to Ashley Crockett at ashleycrockett@gmail.com.

“...meditate some secret about Spirit,
how it rides it out, age after world age.

Soar with the heat waves and the thunderheads...”
William Mullin