

# Poetry

# West

## The Muse News

October 2009

## Meetings

Our next meeting is **Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Worner Center Rm. 213, Colorado College, 902 N. Cascade Avenue.** The meeting will be a "Killer Openings" workshop with **David Mason**. This workshop will survey a range of opening lines from poems by poets living and dead. The idea is to think more astutely about how one gets into a poem, what is set up, dramatically and lyrically, by a good opening, and how openings pay later dividends in poems. ***Each participant should bring a poem he or she is willing to revise***, and we'll talk about egress and regress, doors opening, doors closing.

*Upcoming Meetings:*

November workshop and critique session: *Peggy Godfrey*

December workshop: *Art Goodtimes, who will lead us in a Talking Gourds gathering*

## Musings

**Lois Hayna** has been publishing! She has a poem in the recent issue of *Dritto*, and her poem, "Brief Eden" will appear in the fall issue of *Greensboro Review*.

**Jessy Randall's** young adult novel, *The Wandora Unit* (Ghost Road Press) is now available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and elsewhere. It's about love and friendship in the high school literary magazine

crowd. Charlie Anders (of *She's Such a Geek*) says it's "like a John Hughes move about the Bloomsbury Group. Funny, poetic and charming."

**Dana Deason of the Gazette** has created a new section within the arts specifically showcasing poetry events (the Gazette also publishes Fresh Ink, but this is different). **Julianza Shavin** has agreed to be her "contact person" for all things poetry-related. Please send Julianza information about events -- general venues, your own performances, collaborations, etc., at [julianza@comcast.net](mailto:julianza@comcast.net) and she will send them to Ms. Deason. Technically, the item must be 500 characters or less, but if you do not wish to re-word/edit, Julianza will do so. Send your items two weeks in advance, and include the what, where, when, who. As for the "why" of poetry, who knows?!

**Ct. Pf. Joseph Uphoff, Jr.** has published several photographs in the *Gazette*. One center spread includes Joseph's photographs of poets reading at various venues such as the Rubbish Gallery, and the new, Modbo Gallery. Three more photos published in the edition for the weekend of 09/12/2009 are ballet photos from the Studio Dance and Art Center. You can access the photos at: [csfreshink.com](http://csfreshink.com).

**Ben Humphrey** provides this feedback on your responses to his September workshop on titles: "I would like to express my gratitude to 16 members of Poetry West for some very valuable comments on my titling workshop. While the vast majority felt the time distribution was about right, a few thought the warm up exercise on titling poems from famous poets was too short. Written instruction for the small work groups was also suggested.. In the future the first 2 sections will be slightly shorter, more time will be given to titling published poems and friends will help me create written instructions for the small groups. The extra hand written comments were much appreciated. Thanks to all." *And thanks to you for a great workshop, Ben!*

Thanks to the many of you who have agreed to participate in "**A Writer in Every School.**" Anyone still wishing to volunteer on October 20 please contact me at [laura.off.rhyme@gmail.com](mailto:laura.off.rhyme@gmail.com).

## Calendar of Events

**Steve Langan** will give a poetry reading on **Wednesday, September 30, 7:00 p.m.** at Colorado College Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Center for the Arts, Film Screening Room 825 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs. The reading is free and open to the public.

Steve Langan's most recent collection of poems is *Meet Me at the Happy Bar* (BlazeVOX [books], 2009). He is also the author of *Freezing* and *Notes on Exile and Other Poems*. Langan's poems are included in a variety of journals, including *Colorado Review*, *Many Mountains Moving* and *The Eleventh Muse*. He is Executive Director for HONORreform Foundation, a leader in patient injection safety issues, and he is on the faculty of the University of Nebraska MFA in Writing program. Additionally, he is working toward a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, concentrating on collaborating with physicians on creative writing projects.

The website for **Author Fest of the Rockies**, a writing workshop offered in Manitou Springs **October 2-3**, is now live: <http://www.authorfestoftherockies.org/>.

**October 8** is the **Blissfest Get-Together and Discussion** to be held at Venue 515, Manitou 5 pm-Close. All artists welcome. Bring your Poetry, Art, Music and Films

On **October 10, 9 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**, Rev. Roger Butts, of High Plains Church Unitarian Universalist, will facilitate a workshop entitled: ***The Poetry of Mary Oliver: A Guide To The Life Of The Spirit***. The retreat will be held at Mt. St Francis Retreat Site (Pine Room), 7740 Deer Hill Grove, Colorado Springs, CO. The morning will include reading a bit of poetry and asking questions about what matters, where you've been, where you're headed. There will be ample time to journal, to walk in nature, to ponder, to talk in small groups and large. All Are Welcome: Atheist, Humanist, Christian, Buddhist, Seeker, Unitarian or "none of the above."

To register or for more information contact Rev. Roger Butts at [Revrogerb@msn.com](mailto:Revrogerb@msn.com) or call at 719-260-1080. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested.

**Michael Bliss, Aliya Medhi, and Julianza Shavin** are hosting a new open mic, to be held at Venue 515, the **last Thursday of each month**. Venue 515 is right across from The Business of Arts Center in Manitou. The event will start at 6 pm and the first night will be September 24th. WE WANT YOU TO READ! The Canvas Cafe has food and drink. More information: [julianza@comcast.net](mailto:julianza@comcast.net).

## Poetry Prism

Congratulations to **Julianza Shavin** for submitting the winning entry "Poetry Prism" as the title for this book review section, and thanks to all of you who submitted entries. We will include reviews of volumes of poetry as well as books related to poetry--in one way or another. *We need book review submissions for future newsletters!*

**The Making of A Sonnet: A Norton Anthology. Edited by Edward Hirsch and Eavan Bolan. Norton, 2008.** This anthology will challenge any notion that the sonnet is a stale or fixed form. In addition to a few chronologically arranged chapters that present sonnets by century, several other chapters portray sonnets in a different light. These chapters are what set this volume apart from other anthologies. The chapter "The Sonnet in the Mirror" is a survey of sonnets about sonnets that covers a period of about 200 years. It includes Burns, Keats and the Rossettis, as well as contemporaries Bogan, Carruth, and Collins. "The Sonnet Goes to Different Lengths" presents alternate sonnet forms that have been spun by poets for as long as the sonnet has been alive, and "The Sonnet Around the World" includes a history of the form throughout the globe. Each chapter also begins with an engaging essay. You will come away from this book impressed by the vitality and innovation of this traditional form.

## Deadline for November Newsletter Items

Please submit any calendar items to Laura Stuckey, Editor, at: [laura.off.rhyme@gmail.com](mailto:laura.off.rhyme@gmail.com) by Saturday, October 17.

*"There have been extensions and reductions,  
departures, rebellions. The full story of the sonnet  
ought to include these." --Edward Hirsch and Eavan  
Boland*