

POETRY WEST NEWSLETTER

THE MUSE NEWS APRIL 2008

MEETING:

APRIL MEETING AND WORKSHOP:

The meeting will be on Saturday, April 5, 10:00 to noon at Room 213 of Colorado College's Worner Center (corner of Cascade and Cache La Poudre).

This workshop will be linked to the first national Poem in Your Pocket Day, sponsored by the Academy of American Poets. Select a poem, not too long (one you've written or one you admire), to bring to the workshop. You'll share your poem with other PW members and guests. We'll also write pocket poems. National Poem in Your Pocket Day is April 17, a day when people across the country will carry poems in their pockets and read them in parks, libraries, schools, workplaces and bookstores. More information can be found at <http://poets.org/page.php/prmID/406>

Prior to the workshop, we'll address the election for Vice President. This is the last time business will be held during a meeting. Hal Gimpleson has expressed interest in the position as well as Julianza Shavin-Katz. Nominations will be taken from the floor, as well. The duties of VP will include making special e-mail announcements, assistance in leading ad-hoc committees, special projects, planning salons (not necessarily acting as host or hostess) and standing in temporarily for Co-Presidents in the event of absence or incapacitation.

There will also be a call for volunteers to work on the Eleventh Muse and an open invitation for new project ideas.

Although workshops will permit brief, business related announcements the focus of our meetings will be workshops and poetry. This is the last time large business discussions will be conducted at the monthly meeting.

*The May workshop will be taught by Nico Alvarado, a recent graduate of the Iowa Writer Workshop. Look for more information on Alvarado in the next newsletter.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING:

Ceil Malek led the March performance workshop. Ashley Crockett, Julianza Shavin, Constance Davis, and Ben Humphrey performed their original poems.

POETRY SALON:

Poetry West salons have been put on hold by the board until further notice. Please check all newsletters for updates.

MUSINGS:

April is National Poetry Month. Below are listed several opportunities to read or hear poetry.

Black Cat Books- 720 Manitou Avenue, Manitou Springs.- Monday, April 7 and April

21, 7-9 pm by special invitation from Karen Sucharsky as part of her Goddess Poetry Reading (God's welcome, too!) Contact Karen 232-5461

Business of Arts Center- Saturday, April 19, 10am at 515 Manitou Ave. This reading will partner with the Art Trading Card session which begins at 10am. The reading will start at 11:00 while the artists make cards. Poets are also invited to make cards. Supplies for the art project are free. The Art Trading Cards are also a perfect size for pocket poems.

Mediterranean Café, Sunday, April 20, 1-3pm

Couture Laundromat on Tejon near Cache La Poudre- Saturday, April 26, 10am- 11am

Laura Reilly Gallery- Saturday, April 26, 6:00-8:00 pm

King Soopers on Uintah at the Starbucks near the deli - Sunday, April 27, 2pm-3pm

PW needs readers for our various readings throughout April, people to stand at a PW booth at the Poet Laureate announcement at East Library on April 12, and volunteers for putting poems in baskets at various locations throughout April. Contact Frances at fgomeztagle@gmail.com or by calling 302-2549 if you're interested.

Other reading opportunities

Also, Julianza Shavin will read at a local group home for boys, will lead Howbert Elementary School's assembly for grades 3-5 last week in April (exact date TBD), and still negotiating for the much-coveted, very busy venue of Smokebrush. She is looking for others to come on board for any of these venues, and is interested in joining other poets at venues they have achieved. Please call 375-1200.

March 29, 2008 -First international SWAN day event will be held from Sunrise - 11pm at the Gill/Gay and Lesbian Foundation building 314 E Costilla. Swan Day includes over 30 visual and performance works. Jessy Randal will lead an Open Mic at 4:00 p.m. For more info or to participate, email Ani Rose Whaleswan at Anirose@livingstonesunlimited.org or call 314-8526. See SWANday.org for more info

OTHER MUSINGS:

Baca Retreat, May 2008

The Baca retreat is meant primarily as a time for quiet renewal and refreshment for those who have given generously of their time to Poetry West – or to poetry and the arts in general. When possible we also welcome new retreatants.

Our mission is to guarantee peaceful, uninterrupted time to write, walk and contemplate in a beautiful southwest setting. The number of participants is limited so that all can find appropriate nooks and crannies to write without distraction. We expect that each retreatant will leave behind their everyday cares and open themselves to new possibilities while here. It is required that each retreatant respect the writing and meditative time of

others.

Accommodations are dorm style and retreatants are required to clean up after themselves. Communal gatherings occur primarily around often-exuberant meals (kitchens and/or restaurants are available) and a festive reading at the end of the retreat.

Dates this year are Wednesday, May 14 at noon through Sunday, May 18 at noon. The cost this year is \$33 per night. If you have questions or to apply, please call Sandra McNew at 632=4374 or e-mail her at sandramcnew@aol.com with Baca Retreat in the subject line. Thanks!

What we read/ How we Write

This section will be dedicated to PW members, their writing process and/ or what they are reading. This month, Liz Lewis is reading *Collected Poems of Lynda Hull*, *The Feeling Buddha* by David Brazier, *Maytrees* by Annie Dillard, *The Good Husband of Zebra Drive* by Alexander McCall Smith.

Some info about your Board Members and Co-Presidents:

Board members

Lois Hayna is a founding member of Poetry West. She is the author of three collections of poetry and has served on a PW board several times throughout the history of the organization.

Liz Smith Lewis is a long time member, former PW president and works as the government documents coordinator at CC's Tutt Library.

Ron Noel is a long time member and counselor. He also guides meditation sessions.

Sheryl Cline Matthews is a new member, having been in the organization for over a year. She's also an elementary school counselor working with special needs children.

Pat Nolan is a long time member and visual artist. She's studied Haiku and other forms of Japanese poetry in Japan.

Co-Presidents

Ceil Malek is a long time member, with more than twenty years in the organization. She's a writing professor at UCCS, teaching creative nonfiction and composition.

Frances Gomeztagle is a new member. She also freelances for the Colorado Springs Independent, teaches writing to adolescents at Futureself and will begin graduate school this June, seeking a degree in counseling.

