

POETRY WEST NEWSLETTER

THE MUSE NEWS

AUGUST 2008

"Innocence of heart and violence of feeling are necessary in any kind of superior achievement: the arts cannot exist without them." -- Louise Bogan

MEETING

There is no workshop for August. However, Janice and Julianza are hostessing a potluck, independent of PW sponsorship, from 10 am to noon, August 2, at the Casa Verde Commons, 1341 N. Royer Street. Look for the yellow house with a little white fence and a pond on the west side of Royer between San Miguel and Columbia. If you will bring something, please try and email JaniceEblack@gmail.com or julianza@comcast.net so we end up with a variety of good eats. If you haven't time to email, just show up with what you have (or just an appetite). Any form of beverage is great, too; plates, silverware and cups will be provided. Be sure to bring along some original or admired poetry to share, and feel free to bring family members and friends. See you then!

Regular workshops will resume in September, as follows: September 6, 10 am to noon, CC, Room 213, Worner Center. Description from presenter Jessy Randall: "Odes and Addresses, With a Little Digital Poetry for Dessert." We will talk briefly about the classical and English ode and then read odes and addresses by modern-day poets including Pablo Neruda, Kenneth Koch, Nikki Giovanni, and others. Then we will work on our own odes and addresses, and read our work aloud if we choose. We will end this part of the workshop at 11:30. Then those who are interested can walk over to Tutt Library where we'll spend a half hour in the TLC1 lab looking at examples of digital poetry, also known as poetry-that-goes or "netcessary literature" – literature for which the net is necessary.

REVIEW OF LAST MEETING

The July 5 PW was held outdoors at Monument Valley Park around the north pond. Tom Barnes and Pat Nolan led us in creating a Renga (renku) form of Japanese linked verse. It was a contemplative and collaborative endeavor in which members contributed short verse, in loose or formal Haiku format, the linked poem-in-process was read, and then more verses added, until the "finished product" had around 22 verses, or about 66 lines. Pat Nolan transcribed the poem as we went along. There were a few challenges; the pond and setting were were beautiful, but the highway noise rather loud. However, this latter was probably very good discipline in learning to focus! The other challenge was our Western mentality, and trying to create via a slower, less competitive pace and demeanor. Thanks so much to Tom and Pat for the workshop.

MUSINGS

ON TO SALON!

Thanks to Hal Gimpelson, one of our VP's, Poetry West salons return in September, the third Saturday from 4 pm to 6 pm (September 20th, the first salon), most months. Consider bringing snacks and drinks. The format is still under discussion as of this time, but Hal has sent the following ideas. One format is to have a presenter offer several pieces of original work (or work by an admired poet), followed by discussion, totaling about 45 minutes to an hour. This would allow for a deeper delving into the nuances of skill and world-view than could any individual piece. The discussions are to focus on various levels of interconnections, but technically are not a critique. It *may* possible, however, to request critique. A break is followed by a second presentation. Hal is asking for hosts/hostesses, presenters, and any input you might have regarding format, themes, etc.

Slams are growing! There was a good turnout of both poets and audience, for the most recent, on July 18. The next slams are August 22 and September 12, 6:30-8:30 pm, 315 E. Costilla St. Come judge, slam, or just listen. Slams are free, are for ages 17 and up, with a requested donation of any amount for the slam and/or Gill Foundation. Poetry Slam is competitive performance poetry. If you want to slam, bring 3 poems. Memorization helps with performance and score. For further information on slam rules and tips, contact Karen Sucharski at kalikookalehua@aol.com.

Edifice Gallery hosts an open mic on the second Saturday and fourth Thursday of the month at 325 N. Tejon -- 634-5323.

Into music, or poetry with music? The Ancient Mariner in Manitou hosts jazz (in-house band first), then slam jazz with poetry, Sunday nights, beginning at 9 pm. The slamming part usually begins around 9:45. One of our slammers from July 18, Dan F. ("squawmusic"), as well as Harry K and Julianza, performed poetry with the band July 20, and Julianza handled keyboards during Dan's ama-a-a-zing rap poetry.

Black Cat Books (720 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs) offers an open mic 7-9 pm the first and third Mondays of each month, hosted by Karen Sucharski. Info: kalikookalehua@aol.com.

Luvsa verb on-going open mic is hosted by Philip Curtis. See www.luvsa verb.com or call 233-1698.

The last street-performance through Pikes Peak Arts Council (Karen S. and Julianza S.) will take place on Aug. 14, 1-4 pm at the Shoshone Spring on Manitou Ave. (next to Manitou Jack's).

OTHER MUSINGS

World Slam Champion Buddy Wakefield wowed a crowd at Edifice Gallery July 17, after a short open mic in which several PW members and others participated. Wakefield was incredible – witty, wise, dehydrated and (perhaps thus) cocky. His adoration of poetry, of words, of performance, and sending a message, were pronounced, and he is quite the inspiration, an act to which to aspire. He was selling his books and cd's. Most of his performance was videotaped. For information on how to contact him or obtain some of his work (which seems so like play, but we all know differently), contact julianza@comcast.net.

Jane Wampler announces the following: New Mexico poet Renee Gregorio has opened an aikido and poetry dojo in El Rito, New Mexico, not too far from the Ojo Caliente Hot Springs. For information, contact <reneeclaire@cybermesa.com>.

The Colorado Book Awards winners (see last newsletter) will be announced in October.

Colorado Art Ranch and Art Works for the Heart of the Rockies will host 5 visual and literary artists near Salida Colorado. The residency Begins September 28, 2008 and ends October 30, 2008. Deadline for applications is August 1, 2008. For more information: [Http://www.coloradoartranch.org/nextresidency.htm](http://www.coloradoartranch.org/nextresidency.htm)

YELLOW PINE POETS

Sept. 6: The Yellow Pine Poets present "String Theory:Life Lines" ("connection, disconnection and jump ropes in word, music, sound, and touch") featuring Kristin Anderson, Erin Christensen-Mandel, Maggie Boys, Suzanne Schmidt, Paige Doughty, Kate McElroy, Ellen Orleans, and others, at the Wild Sage Community House, 7 pm. Free. The Wild Sage Community House is located at 1650 Zamia Drive in north Boulder (3 blocks north of Yarmouth between Broadway & 28th). For details, contact Ellen at eorleans@earthlink.com. Also, consider "Match and Mismatch," featuring Loveland poets [Katherine West](#) and [MD Friedman](#), poet and writer Jamba Dunn, and fiction writer Cat Altman on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 pm. Same location, same contact info.

KRFC radio, out of Fort Collins has invited Julianza to read on The Poetry Show, hosted by Dona Stein. Stay tuned for date (most likely Dec. 14). The show airs at 6:30 pm.

POET LAUREATE PROJECT

For involvement in several projects promoted by the Poet Laureate Project, please email JohnAtkinson@q.com.

WHAT WE ARE READING

Are you kidding? We're all outside enjoying the weather!

CHALLENGE (old & new)

Answer to last week's challenge regarding the (entire) poem "light" is Aram Saroyan.

New challenge: What poet was captured and enslaved as a child in West Africa and was educated by the slave-owners, who soon discovered this poet was a prodigy? The writer met General George Washington after writing a poem in praise of him and the American Revolution.

Please send news for the September newsletter to fawnbell@gmail.com by August 25. Thank you for your trust and positive feedback during this interim of providing the PW newsletters.