

# Poetry West

The Muse News

November 2009

## Meetings

Our next meeting is **Saturday, November 7, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**, Worner Center Rm. 213, Colorado College, 902 N. Cascade Avenue. The group will explore influences of a season or an element of the weather which evokes an emotion or experience. The critique workshop will be conducted by **Peggy Godfrey**. She ranches near Moffat, Colorado in the San Luis Valley, spending time outdoors daily. Weather and seasons influence both her work and her creativity. **Participants, please bring 6 copies of one of your poems inspired by weather or a season.** We will break into small workgroups, and thereafter reassemble to share at least one poem from the group.

The December workshop will be a Talking Gourds gathering led by **Art Goodtimes**, Telluride performance poet extraordinaire, who returns to Poetry West after many years' absence.

## Submission Opportunity

Jessy Randall is guest-editing the February 2010 issue of the online poetry magazine *Snakeskin* (<http://www.snakeskin.org.uk>). The theme of this issue is WORK, including housework, homework, yard work, paid work, any kind of work other than the work of writing itself.

Please send up to six poems on the topic to [jessyrandall@yahoo.com](mailto:jessyrandall@yahoo.com). No previously-published poems. Simultaneous submissions are allowed. No attachments – poems should be in the body of the email.

The deadline is December 1.

## Musings

Three Poetry West members (who wish to remain anonymous) placed in this years Columbine Poets competition. Columbine Poets is the State Chapter of the National Federation of Poetry Societies. Veronica Patterson was judge, and we are very thankful for all of **Anita Jepson-Gilbert's** hard work in coordinating the event, which included a meal, readings and a workshop. For more information regarding Columbine Poets, please contact Anita at [Anitajg5@aol.com](mailto:Anitajg5@aol.com).

Congratulations to **David Mason**, whose poem, "Fathers and Sons" appeared in the September 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the *New Yorker*.

**Jane Hilberry** is going to be teaching a writing course for teachers this summer in CC's MAT program--a week long colloquium in which teachers will read and write poetry, and consider different ways of bringing it into the classroom. Stay tuned to the *Muse News* for more details as summer approaches.

Congratulations to **Jessy Randall** who has just published her young adult novel, *The Wandora Unit*. The book is showcased on "The Big Something" feature on KRCC's website. If you visit [www.krcc.org](http://www.krcc.org) you can click on a link to hear Jessy read and discuss her novel.

If you might be interested in taking over as **editor for *The Muse News*** during 2010, please contact me. We need a new person to take over the newsletter beginning in January to produce the February issue. It is a lot of fun and you will enjoy corresponding with PW members each month!

# Calendar of Events

There is a show of artwork at our beloved Black Cat Books, 720 Manitou Ave. It consists of artwork banned from shows in Colorado Springs. It has been up the entire month of October and we are going to have a poetry open mic in response to the show on **October 27 from 6-8 p.m.** Please go view the show and WRITE WRITE WRITE.

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

## *Colorado College Visiting Writers Series events:*

**Kay Ryan:** Beloved Poet-Laureate of the United States, author of *Say Uncle, Elephant Rocks, The Niagara River* and other books. Tuesday **November 3rd** at 7 PM in the Cornerstone Theatre. Sponsored by the Demarest Lloyd Lecture Fund.

**Bonnie Nadzam:** CC's Daehler Fellow in Fiction, whose work has appeared in such magazines as *The Kenyon Review, Ninth Letter, Callaloo* and *Iron Horse Review*. Thursday **November 12th** at 7 PM in McHugh Commons.

**David Quammen:** Award-winning naturalist and author of many books, including *Wild Thoughts from Wild Places, The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* and *Natural Acts*. The Harold D and Rhoda N Roberts Memorial Lecture. Tuesday **December 1st** at 7 PM in the Gates Common Room of Palmer Hall.

**Jane Hilberry** and her father **Conrad Hilberry** will be reading from their new joint book of poems, *This Awkward Art: Poetry by a Father and Daughter*, on **Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.** in McHugh Commons on the CC campus, as part of the Visiting Writers Series.

**Jane and Conrad Hilberry** will also be doing a book signing in conjunction with a show by photographer Tim Davis, whose work graces the cover of the book, on **December 11 4-8 p.m** (reading at 7 p.m.) at Gallery Two-Ten, 210 E Cimarron St. Colorado Springs .

## Poetry Prism

This section includes 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!* Thanks to **Julianza Shavin** for submitting this one!

I am reading an incredible book with daughter Amadea, who is ten: *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen. Though prose, it is quite poetic in places, and in overall tone. We are enthralled.

Brian, 13, survives a plane crash after the pilot dies, only to land on a desert island. His struggle to survive is a torment, but he perseveres. His inventiveness and creativity are remarkable. A city-dweller, he has never before appreciated the abject terror or sublime beauty inherent in the natural world. In addition to "man" vs. nature, I see a theme of "poetic evolution." The book is full of epiphanies, and what is a poem but an epiphany?

*Hatchet* is a tale of self-empowerment in the face of overwhelming odds. The subplot involves the divorced parents, Brian's anger at his mother, and the fact that her gift, the hatchet, is key to his physical survival - and perhaps more. I am not certain of this last; we have 2 chapters to go! It would be a great story to share with children or grandchildren, and my older daughter has let me know there is a sequel. This book is definitely worth pursuing.

## **Deadline for December Newsletter Items**

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

*“Good style in prose is always hostage to the precision, speed, and laconic intensity of poetic diction.”*

*-- Joseph Brodsky*