

# POETRY WEST NEWSLETTER

## THE MUSE NEWS OCTOBER 2008

### MEETING:

#### OCTOBER MEETING AND WORKSHOP:

The meeting will be on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 10:00 to noon at Room 213 of Colorado College's Worner Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave.

Poetry West's monthly workshop presented by Tony Friedhoff, MFA, emerging poet and creative writing teacher at UCCS, will focus on the fairy tale as a legitimate art form and affinities between fairy tales and poetry, including dreamlike logic that effortlessly blends the mundane with the grotesque and the magical. The workshop is free and open to the public.

### MUSINGS:

Poet **Susan Tichy** will read Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00pm, in the University Center at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway. Tichy's third book of poems is *Bone Pagoda* (Ahsakta Press, 2007). Her fourth collection, *Gallowglass*, is now in manuscript. Recent poems have appeared in *Agni*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *CutBank*, *Denver Quarterly*, and *Indiana Review*. She lives in Colorado and in Virginia, where she teaches at George Mason University. She also serves as poetry editor for the new journal *Practice: New Writing + Art*.

**Erin Malone**, former Poetry West member, won the 2007 Concrete Wolf poetry chapbook contest. Her chapbook, *What Sound Does It Make*, is now available from Amazon and elsewhere. Visit <http://concretewolf.com/contests/2007.htm> for more information.

**Lisa Lewis**, recent winner of Poetry West's chapbook contest, won the American Poetry Journal book prize sponsored by Dream Horse Press for poems including *Story Box*, the chapbook to be published by Poetry West.

**David Whyte**. Wednesday, October 15. "The Core Conversation: Essential Steps for Difficult Times." Poet David Whyte, examines the way adversity in the outer world can be a friend, returning us home to saner simplicities. This lecture is part of the "Leadership as a Performing Art" series. All events are at 7:00 p.m. at Colorado College, Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., free. Information (719) 389-6607

### WORKSHOP MATERIAL:

#### **The Fairy Tale as Poem, The Poem as Fairy Tale: Toward a New Old Aesthetic**

"The fairy tale is poetic, legend, historic"—Jacob Grimm

"Everything poetic must be like a fairy tale"—Novalis

One of the primary aims of this workshop will be to bring about a meaningful experience of the fairy tale. Looking to the aesthetic and psychological approaches of Max Luthi and Bruno Bettelheim, I'll lead us through a consideration of the fairy tale as a legitimate art form, with its own set of techniques and stylistic features, that aims primarily at giving us a portrait of what it is to be human.

My other goal for our meeting will be to highlight the aesthetic affinities between fairy tales and poetry. A rich tradition exists of poets retelling or responding to fairy tales, so we will be looking at excellent poems from this tradition, by writers such as Anne Sexton, Günter Grass, Randall Jarrell, Roald Dahl, and Anna Swir.

What I'm more interested in, though, is the vibrant aesthetic of a great many poems that don't explicitly reference fairy tales, their themes or subject matter, but that are infused nonetheless with the vivid and profound lightness of the fairy tale aesthetic. In these poems, we see sharp figures and images, and a dreamlike logic that effortlessly blends the mundane with the grotesque and the magical. To see this clearly, we'll be looking at writers like Rimbaud, Rilke, Juan Ramón Jiménez, Stevens, Lorca, Tomáš Šalamun, Tomas Tranströmer, Charles Simic, and Russell Edson.

A familiarity with fairy tales or fairy tale theory is by no means a prerequisite for our meeting, but if it's been awhile since you've sat down with a good fairy tale, I recommend taking a look at the following two websites. The first is an online version of the complete tales of the Grimm brothers, and the second is Andrew Lang's *Blue Fairy Book*. Enjoy!

[www.cs.cmu.edu/~spok/grimtmp/](http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~spok/grimtmp/)

[etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/LanBlue.html](http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/LanBlue.html)

Tony Friedhoff teaches writing at UCCS. He has an MFA degree from the University of Massachusetts—Amherst, and has also studied writing at the University of Arizona. His poems have appeared in *The Comstock Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, and *Pleiades*, and will be in the next issue of *Fairy Tale Review*, due out in December.

**DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER:** Please submit items to [Fawnbell@gmail.com](mailto:Fawnbell@gmail.com) by Saturday, October 18, 2008.