

**Gulf Coast Poets Chapter  
Of The Poetry Society of Texas  
Sept. 8, 2012 – General Meeting**



**Gulf Coast Poets  
Is proud to present  
Varsha Shah**



Varsha Shah's poems have appeared in the *Borderlands*, *Convergence* (online journal of poetry and art), *Five Inprint Poets* (a Mutabilis Press anthology), *Houston Review*, *Texas Observer*, "Between Heaven and Texas", (a book of Photography and Poetry by Wyman Meinzer, University of Texas Press), and *Time Slice* (a Mutabilis Press anthology).

Varsha regularly reads her new work at the Archway Gallery in Houston. She has attended several workshops including Inprint House, Sarah Lawrence College, Squaw Valley Community of Writers and Reed College. She continues to write and publish poetry in her mother tongue, Gujarati.

An immigrant Indian-American, Varsha is a financial professional currently living in Houston, Texas.

Varsha's poems come from an internal dialogue and desire to know the "I" and the "you" of little loves that validate the aliveness of being a human. Through writing poems she celebrates the power of now, be it in the kitchen or a museum, at the airport or in an art gallery, office cubicle or a public lounge, bedroom or on the road, backyard or a park.



## DREAMSCAPE

In sleep  
I am a whole,  
    a holy one.  
See me a grass blade  
    from any angle  
set beside time—

I am a whole without parts,  
    a holy one.  
Sometimes a fruit in the ground,  
    a free hand holding sky.  
Sometimes a breast suckling wind,  
    a mouth watering earth.

I roam in love to test this and that,  
    shredding, scrabbling words  
to feed alphabets to trees;  
    hear them speak.  
See gods come to shelter in this wholeness.  
    I marry the grass to my chair,  
offer my blood to honey bees, and  
    become the laughter of whispers  
the size of leaf's sighs.

Varsha Shah

Published by Convergence - An online Journal of Poetry & Art

## WHITE COAT RITE

*(for Pooja)*

Orange clouds somersault  
into a blue-white twilight sheet.  
Tidal laughter cracks open the shore,  
    its white noise dancing about  
the indolent palms fanning their airy hands.  
Moon at her zenith —  
light and water hold each other tightly,  
the horizon a dark strip of day's film.  
Frothy water fringed over rippling hills  
the seagulls climb in unison.

In their noisy parley  
I remember the mid-day shuffle  
of white coats, the initiation inside auditorium.  
Scores of angels ready to take off  
holding Hippocrates in their coat pockets,  
in the gentle tap of their marching steps,  
in the dazzling sleeves each a pair of promising wings.  
*"First Do No Harms,"*  
my little girl, a freshman, avows  
striding resolutely into the tide of healers.

The waves frolic,  
white shudder  
laughing, transiting,  
flapping coats riding on lights' sail

Varsha Shah  
published in "Five Inprint Poets"

# **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Poetry Reading Series Presents: Mary Margaret Carlisle**

**September 25, 2012 ~7:30 PM~**

**Webster Barnes & Noble, 1029 W. Bay Area Blvd. at I-45**



**Award winning, Dallas-born journal editor and poetry judge, Mary Margaret Carlisle has published three books and four chapbooks; her poetry has appeared in numerous national and regional anthologies; publishing credits include, among others, the Texas Poetry Calendar and several Mutabilis Press Anthologies. She is the director of Poetry Works Workshops. Both volunteers, her photographer webmaster husband, Leo Waltz, is a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for the city of Webster, Texas; they have worked together on the staff of the Houston Area Disaster Relief Services division of the American Red Cross, and give time to other local non-profit organizations. Please support the arts on the Texas Gulf Coast and join us for an evening of great poetry.**

## **GULF COAST POETS MEMBERS**

Send Venue Information to: [GulfCoastPoets@gmail.com](mailto:GulfCoastPoets@gmail.com)

Visit us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/gulfcoastpoets>

Find a GCP membership form at our website:

<http://GulfCoastPoets.info/>

To contact the President of GCP, write to:

Laura Peña <[iselapena@hotmail.com](mailto:iselapena@hotmail.com)>

Gulf Coast Poets membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. Our dues are \$15.00 a year. While our chapter is part of PST, if you wish to be an individual member of PST, you must pay state dues as well.

To contact the Membership Chair of GCP, write to:

Membership <[gulfcoastpoets@gmail.com](mailto:gulfcoastpoets@gmail.com)>

### **Are you a member of PST? If so, remember to renew in June!**

Poetry Society of Texas membership runs from July 1st through June 30th of each year. Membership dues for PST are \$25.00 a year for Active and Associate members and are payable in advance on an annual basis from July 1 to June 30. Members, unless specifically exempt, must have their dues current before submitting contest entries. To be listed in the current A Book of the Year, dues must be received by November 30.

The status of a member's dues is shown on the address label of The Bulletin. A brochure giving full requirements for membership may be obtained from the Membership Chairman. Send dues, correspondence relating thereto, change of address and/or corrections to:

Lynn Lewis, Membership Chairman

1704 Enderly Place

Fort Worth, TX 76104

E-Mail: [elsquared59@yahoo.com](mailto:elsquared59@yahoo.com)

now accepting submissions  
For their November 2012 issue  
For more information visit  
<http://www.redriverreview.com/>

Big River Poetry Review  
Is now accepting submissions  
Visit <http://www.redriverreview.com/>  
For guidelines

San Pedro River Review  
Is now accepting submissions  
Visit <http://www.sprreview.com/>  
For guidelines

Sarah Cortez

Editor, Writer, Teacher, Speaker

**FALL 2012 CLASSES, all in Houston, TX**

**Poetry: The Revision Project**

This class will focus on those poems of yours that seem to defy revision. The ones you've labored over through many drafts without a clear sense of making headway.

Of the seven classes, four will focus on issues of structure, intention, voice, pace, and diction in three previous versions of each poem. The other classes will look at each poet's revisions based on class and teacher feedback.

*Dates: Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12 (Mondays)*

*Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

*Tuition and Registration: \$200*

*Location: Montrose-area bungalow*

**The Spiritual Essay**

Weekly prompts from various spiritual traditions will encourage the individual exploration of each writer's unique expression of spiritual writing. Students may write from a position of faith or one of doubt. The emphasis will be on issues of writing craft to better communicate and reveal each writer's ideas within the crucible of the personal essay.

*Dates: Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3, 24, 31, Nov. 7 (Wednesdays)*

*Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

*Tuition and Registration: \$200*

*Location: Montrose-area bungalow*



## Writing Your Spiritual Legacy: The Stories and Wisdom You Will Leave Behind

What have you learned from life?

What is important to you?

Which stories would you share to pass along your wisdom?

This class will focus on these three questions in order to write your spiritual legacy, which is your unique offering of the wisdom from your life to another (or others).

There will be joyful exercises to bring forth each participant's precious life stories; there will be time and materials for writing your own spiritual legacy.

No previous writing experience is necessary. Students may write from a position of faith or of doubt, of optimism or cynicism, of energy or despair. All spiritual traditions are honored and encouraged.

NOTE: This workshop is offered on two separate Saturday mornings this fall. Each workshop is three hours in length and the material covered in each workshop will be the same. Tuition covers attendance at one of the workshops. (Please specify your chosen date.)

*Date: Sept. 29, 2012 (Saturday) or*

*Date: Nov. 10, 2012 (Saturday)*

*Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*Tuition: \$45 (Pre-registration and pre-payment) or \$55 (day-of-class registration and payment)*

*Location: [Archway Gallery, 2305 Dunlavy St., Houston, TX \(Montrose area\)](#)*

Full tuition is due before or at the first class.

TO REGISTER:

Please mail a check for the tuition to:

**S. Cortez, POB 980579, Houston, TX 77098-0579.**



I can now accept payments through PayPal or credit card. Please email me for PayPal information. Please understand that tuition is non-refundable unless there is a medical emergency.

Please [Contact Me](#) if you wish to register for a course or have any questions. If you would like to make arrangements to pay in two installments, please mention that.

I wish you many successes with your writing, and I hope to be able to contribute to those successes through my writing classes.

<http://poetacortez.com/teaching/>

**Austin International Poetry Festival  
will be September 27-30, 2012**  
**The AIPF Headquarters has been confirmed: Crystal Auditorium/Nature's Treasures  
Community Center, 4103 N IH-35,  
Austin, TX, 78722.**  
**Visit <http://aipf.org> for more information**

**Poetry Out of Bounds  
will be October 6, 2012  
1:00pm  
Baybrook II 1029 W Bay Area Blvd  
Webster, TX. 77598 281-554-8224**

**Houston Poetry Fest  
will be October 12, 13, 14  
Willow Street Pump Station  
Of the University of Houston –Downtown  
811North San Jacinto  
in downtownHouston  
visit <http://houstonpoetryfest.info> for more information**

## **The Three Elements Poetry Prompts**

- 1. A balloon**
- 2. A park**
- 3. A someone from your past**

- 1. A ruined dinner**
- 2. A sweater that's too small**
- 3. A pet**

- 1. Springtime**
- 2. A dream**
- 3. A dessert**

- 1. A two-room house**
- 2. A desert**
- 3. Animal skulls**

- 1. Musicals**
- 2. Bread pudding**
- 3. A thunderstorm**

**Combine the above elements into a poem.  
It can be funny, a memory, written for someone else, or  
as practice. Try it out and see where your minds takes you.**

**September**

## Poetry Reading Calendar

**September 11: Amanda Auchter and Lacy M. Johnson**

[Kaboom Books](#), 3116 Houston Ave. @ Bayland, 7:30 PM, free

**September 13, LitFuse Series: Miah Arnold, Marc Phillips, and Sarah Cortez**

[Kaboom Books](#), 3116 Houston Ave. @ Bayland, 7:30 PM, free

**September 18: [Dave Parsons: book signing and discussion](#)**

[Brazos Bookstore](#), 2421 Bissonnet Street Houston, TX 77005, free

**September 20, The Archway Readers**

[Archway Gallery](#), 2305 Dunlavy, 77006, 6:30 PM, free

**September 24: Margaret Root Brown Reading Series: Junot Diaz**

[Inprint](#) at [Wortham Theater Center – Cullen Theater](#), 7:30



The following websites provide information on poetry events, contests, magazines, festivals, and much more

<http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/>

<http://www.poets.org/>

<http://www.poetrysociety.org/psa/>

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/>

<http://www.pw.org/>

<http://nfsps.com/index.htm>

<http://publicpoetry.net/>

<http://www.inprinthouston.org/>

<http://aipf.org/>

<http://festivalhill.org/>

<http://gulfcoastpoets.info/>

<http://houstonpoetryfest.info/>

## **Texas Poetry Calendar 2013**

### **Texas Poetry Calendar Fall reading schedule:**

Blue Willow Book Shop, Houston — August 25, 4 p.m.

Benbrook Public Library, Benbrook — September 14, 3:45 p.m.

Georgetown Poetry Festival, Georgetown — October 6, 1 p.m.

The Twig Book Shop, San Antonio — October 27, 3 p.m.

BookPeople, Austin — December 1, 4 p.m.

Coffee Oasis, Seabrook — December 3, 7:00 p.m.

Dallas Poets Community, Dallas — December 7, 7 p.m.

For more information on the readings and ordering please visit [www.dosgatospress.org](http://www.dosgatospress.org)

Gulf Coast Poets in the new Texas Poetry Calendar: Darla McBryde, Barbara Ann Carle, Laura Peña, Thomas Ames, Kay L. Cox, Dede Fox, Alan Birkelbach, Rebecca Hatcher Travis, Sandi Stromberg, Jean Mahvier,

**Next meeting announcements**

**Poetry Out of Bounds**

**Will be Held  
On Saturday, October 6th  
At 1pm**

**Barnes and Noble  
1029 W Bay Area Blvd  
Webster, Tx. 77598**

**Come and help us kick off**

**Houston Poetry Fest!**

# Gulf Coast Poets

## Treasurer Report for Sept 8, 2012 General Meeting

Report Period: July 1 – August 31, 2012 -- with 2012 YTD totals

*This report covers the two month period since last report*

	Cash Flow: July 1 – Aug 31, 2012	2012 Totals
Contests.....	0.00	0.00
Dues.....(1 Regular) .....	0.00	230.00
Speaker Expense.....	-20.05	-387.63
Honorarium	-10.00	
Speaker Lunch	-10.05	
Lodging	-.00	
Donations.....	.00	20.00
Interest/Dividend.....	.33	1.36
Officer Travel.....	-20.00	-20.00
<b>Net Cash flow, July 1 – Aug 31</b>	<b>-39.72</b>	<b>-156.27</b>

	Account Balances: July 1 – Aug 31, 2012 –	Total for 2012
Checking Ledger		
<i>Beginning</i>	1932.33	2038.88
Transfer from Cash	.00	(1/1/2012)
Checks written (3)	-30.00	
Debit card (1)	-10.05	
Dividend	.33	
Ending	1892.61	1892.61
<i>Outstanding checks (2)</i>	35.00 <i>Bank chk bal=1927.61</i>	
Cash (undeposited checks, cash)		
<i>Beginning</i>	.00	10.00
Received	.00	
Transferred to Checking	-.00	
Ending	.00	.00
Savings (int. posted quarterly)		
<i>Beginning</i>	5.33	5.33
Ending	5.33	5.33
<b>All accounts</b>		(1/1/2012)
<b>Beginning</b>	<b>7/1/2012</b>	<b>1937.66</b>
<b>Ending</b>	<b>8/31/2012</b>	<b>1897.94</b>

Treasurer Reports will normally end on the last day of the month preceding the meeting and cover the month(s) since the previous report.

Advance note: Annual domain name (GulfCoastPoets.info) registration fee of \$17 due in Sept.



# Gulf Coast Poets (GCP) Minutes – 07/14/12

Recording Secretary: Daniel Carrington, Jr.

## 10:37am – Meeting called to attention

### Announcements:

1. *Rattle* magazine currently has a contest for a single poem with the winning entry receiving a \$5,000 prize. Deadline: August 1<sup>ST</sup>. Check the website – [www.rattle.com](http://www.rattle.com) – for details.
2. Upcoming 2013 Texas Poetry Calendar readings will take place at various venues around the state – notables include Blue Willow Bookshop in Houston, TX on August 25<sup>TH</sup> and Coffee Oasis in Seabrook, TX on Dec. 3<sup>RD</sup>. Dos Gatos Press website has info on the complete reading series.
3. Kay Cox announced that Detrick Hughes will be featured at Coffee Oasis in Seabrook, TX on September 3<sup>RD</sup>.
4. Houston Poetry Fest's (HPF) submission deadline is Sunday, July 15<sup>TH</sup>, but a Saturday postmark is recommended. Check the HPF website for submission guidelines.
5. The Austin International Poetry Festival (AIPF) registration deadline has extended to August 15<sup>TH</sup>. You can register at the AIPF website.
6. Mary Margaret Carlisle (Lifetime) announced that GCP is mulling releasing a poetry anthology. Further details will be announced as they become available.
7. Poetry "Out of Bounds" will take place on October 6<sup>TH</sup>. Check the HPF website for details.

**10:43am** – Mary Margaret Carlisle led the GCP meeting in a collaborative poetry exercise. In the spirit of the Roman *cento* form, the goal was to build a single unified poem by having members contribute one line each. The final poem is available to read in the September GCP handout.

### 10:55am – Featured Reader: Terry Jude Miller

After a brief intro, Terry read a selection of poems from his newest book *The Butterfly Canonical* as well as works from his previous collections *What If I Only Find Moonlight?* and *The Day I Killed Superman*. Throughout, he showcased his powerful signature minimalist style.

### 11:14am – Open Mic Readers (interspersed with door prizes):

1. Ann Fogelman (Lifetime) – "Feed Me"
2. Darla McBryde – "Song for My Father", "Never Surrender to the Spinning Sky"
3. Luran Perry English – "Wings of Summer", "Sand Waves", "Wish You Well"
4. Kay Cox – "If I Had Had a Grandfather", "A Gaggle of Blonds"
5. Mary Margaret Carlisle (Lifetime) – Read the group's cento poem
6. Laura Peña – "Window Wishing"
7. Jean Mahavier – "A House for the Texas Coast", "Sunday Outings"
8. Lee Mahavier – "Paper Summer"
9. Caroline Mahavier – "Quaintly Fantastical"
10. Thomas Ames – "Tail Feathers", "She Doesn't Know"

11. Meloni Davis – “A Morning of Nothing”, “I Have All I Need  
Right Now”

12. Mary Margaret Carlisle (Lifetime) – “Thoughts Like Peaches”

**11:48am – Additional Announcements:**

1. Mary Margaret Carlisle’s Poetry Works Workshop anthology is coming up. You may submit if you are a member. Speak with Mary for further details.
2. GCP takes a break in August; the next meeting will be September 8<sup>TH</sup>.

**11:50am – Meeting adjourned. Lunch afterwards at King Food.**

**Untitled Collaborative Poem, GCP July meeting**

the rain makes boats of sticks  
flowing down the street into storm drains,  
collecting debris and treasures now lost.  
grackles perched on the curb stab at the travelers.  
ignore the conversation of the birds  
as beauty arcs across the sky in multicolor gradients.  
now the sticks pile in the drain and the water backs up,  
colorful, large sticks whirl around in the water,  
water which then must rise obediently in the choked drain.  
I am drained, watered by marital obedience.  
but now drained, I’ve discovered freedom,  
the freedom to sail, mast of bones, spirit unfurled.  
just as the water breaks free of the ditch,  
one stick hangs, flips up and lands on the sidewalk,  
now freed from its brothers’ drowning.  
resurrection arrives with sunlight.

**by (Lines 1-16)**

1. Mary Margaret Carlisle (Lifetime)
2. Laura Peña
3. Meloni Davis
4. Terry Jude Miller
5. Kay Cox
6. Luran Perry English
7. Thomas Ames
8. Ann Fogelman (Lifetime)
9. Daniel Carrington
10. Yong-Ae Kim
11. Carmen Jacobsen
12. Darla McBryde
13. Lee Mahavier-Peterman
14. Jean Mahavier
15. Caroline Mahavier
16. Terry Jude Miller

Dos Gatos Press

Call for Submissions

A New Anthology of Haiku/Senryu and Haiga

Submissions Window: September 1, 2012–January 15, 2013

A new Dos Gatos Press anthology will feature original, previously unpublished haiku/senryu and haiga that focus on the Southwestern United States. Scott Wiggerman and Constance Campbell will serve as editors. Penny Harter will write the preface. We anticipate a 2013 release date.

You need not be a resident of the Southwest to submit. The arrangement of the anthology will be by seasons, though the poems need not include a *kigo*, or traditional “season” word.

You may submit haiku/senryu or haiga or both.

Please visit <http://dosgatospress.org/how-to-submit#1> for more information

## Poetry Society of Texas-Gulf Coast Poets Chapter-2012 Members

Carolyn Lee Adams  
Thomas Bridges  
Diana D. Buckley LIFETIME  
Barbara Carle  
Mary M. Carlisle LIFETIME-Membership Chair  
Daniel Carrington, Jr -Recording Secretary  
David Cowen LIFETIME—Vice-President  
Kay Cox  
Meloni Davis  
Winston Derden LIFETIME  
Pat Dixon LIFETIME  
Susan Ellis LIFETIME  
Lauran Perry English  
Edith Escalante  
Sybil Estess  
Ann Fogelman LIFETIME  
Dede Fox  
Ada Fuller  
Mary Ann Goodwin  
Sharon Goodwin  
Jerry Hamby  
Glynn Monroe Irby  
Nancy Johnson  
Jean Mahavier  
Cherie McBride  
Glenn Nelson McBride  
Darla McBryde  
David Meischen  
John Milkereit  
Terry J. Miller  
Richard Peake LIFETIME  
Jonathan Peckham  
Laura Peña—President  
Oscar Peña  
Juan Manuel Perez  
Varsha Shah (new)  
Loueva Smith  
Sharman Speed  
Lynne Streeter LIFETIME  
Sandy Stromberg  
Carolyn Thorman (new)  
Rebecca Hatcher Travis  
Bill Turner  
Adriana Babiak Vázquez

Luis Vázquez  
Leo F. Waltz-Treasurer and Webmaster  
Germaine Welch (new)  
Scott Wiggerman

#### HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Peggy Z. Lynch (2006)\*  
John Gorman (2007)  
Larry Thomas (2008)  
Robert Clark (2009)  
Alan Birkelbach (2010)  
Ted Badger (2011)  
Erica Lehrer (2012)