

Gulf Coast Poets

Chapter of the Texas Poetry Society



September 13, 2014
General Meeting
Carolyn Dahl and
Carolyn Florek

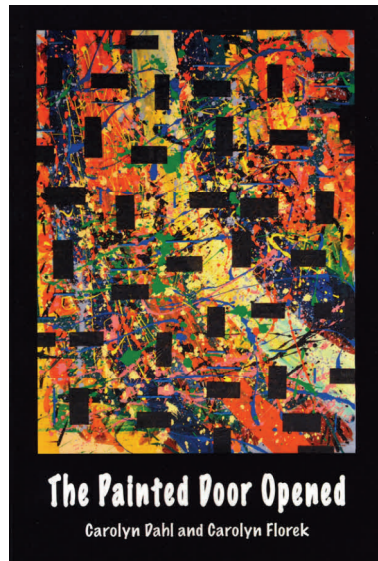
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Gulf Coast Poets Proudly Presents

Born in Minnesota, Carolyn Dahl's first career was as a professional singer and actress before turning to writing and art. Since then, Carolyn's essays and poems have been published in twenty-five anthologies including *Women On Poetry* (McFarland), *Reading Lips* (Helen Keller Foundation), *Beyond Forgetting* (Kent State) and various literary journals including, *Copper Nickel*, *Colere*, *Hawaii Review*, and *Sojourn*. She was a PEN Texas finalist award winner in nonfiction, has received grants from the Texas Commission on the Arts, and residencies to Hedgebrook and the Vermont Studio Center. Carolyn's art has been shown in museums (New Orleans, Mint Museum, Santa Fe), art centers (Chicago Textile Arts Center, Brookfield Craft Center, Arrowmont), and in numerous galleries in the U.S. She has appeared as a guest artist on HGTV and PBS programs and is the author of *Transforming Fabric* (F&W Books) and *Natural Impressions* (Watson-Guptill Publications). When she isn't writing or making art, she enjoys raising monarch butterflies in her kitchen and setting them free in her Houston garden. www.carolyndahlstudio.com.

Carolyn Tourney Florek is a poet, visual artist, and landscape designer, (recently retired), who lives in Houston and Santa Fe. She received a B.S. in Geology (1977) from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, and a B.F.A. in Painting from the University of Tulsa (1982). In the 1980's Carolyn frequently exhibited her paintings in various galleries and alternative spaces in Houston. She began writing poetry seriously around 1990 and took her first Inprint workshop in 2001 from poet Michael Lieberman. At Inprint she has also studied with poets Tony Hoagland, Martha Serpas, and Sasha West. Her poetry has been published in *The Texas Review*, *Illya's Honey*, and recently in, *Lifting the Sky: Southwestern Haiku and Haiga* (Dos Gatos Press, 2014). Her poem, "Over Flat Creek" received a Pushcart nomination and is published in the *Texas Poetry Calendar 2014*. She is co-founder with her husband Bob of Mutabilis Press, a non-profit literary press dedicated to publishing mostly Texas poets. They have two grown children, three dogs, a cat, a couple of fish in a small pond, and a freestyle garden full of flowers to attract butterflies and birds. www.mutabilispress.org.



Dahl and Florek, by way of an impressive breadth of media, frame the almost missed, the revelation nearly obscured by life-dulling expectations. Bound with poetic text, their gallery of paint, photographs, and fabric embodies these dialogs of contrast and connection; and, as if embodying a final paradox, they move into discrete material spaces where their separate voices can be heard. Their striking collaboration reminds me how much we need art to see nature, nature to see art, and both to see ourselves.

—Martha Serpas, author of *The Dirty Side of the Storm*

Like “coyotes [that] call us to the tattooed stones,” this collection calls the reader to a landscape of twin visions, informed by the sister arts of poetry and painting. Initially, one might be tempted to see the volume as primarily ekphrastic, but such is not the book’s intent. The Visual Poems, for instance—whether *blind drawing* or *angel*—actually reverse the impulse of ekphrasis. They use rich sensory detail not to gaze into a painting but to look fiercely into language and its metaphorical possibilities. Dahl’s and Florek’s is a vocabulary of color, figure, sound through which these poems witness the external world, not through artifice, but by staring directly into it—whether snow or mud-bottomed stream, duck-weed or canyon hummingbird—so that nature and our humanity meet, leave marks “on the chalkboard of [a] mountain.”

—Robin Davidson, author of *Luminous Other: Poems*

I Bring You a Beet

**It is the planet's heart
dipped in roses. The first
bite will be hard, your mouth
ruby with effort, but sweet
with secrets like creases
in lips or folded gowns.**

**Let its juice drip
into your palm.**

**The color is fierce,
bold as you want to be.**

As you expect to live.

Eat it all.

**Lick your fingers
if you like.**

-- Carolyn Dahl

Monstrous Dill

See what you've done in my Southern garden!
You odd fellow—jutting up 42 inches.
Coarse stems crowned with sour yellow.
I'll pick your leaves, wrench your stem,
collect your seeds. I'll grind you up.
Your heavy heads and thin necks
make excellent complements with cukes.
You, jammed round fat green fingers
with naked garlic—Bathed in hot vinegar
and salt. Brass ringed in glass jars,
displayed, waiting beautiful for my sandwich.
So there Dill, you laughing ugly weed.
So there! You are delicious.

-- Carolyn Florek

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

Recording Secretary: Daniel Carrington, Jr.

10:47am – Meeting called to order.

Announcements:

The deadline for 2014 Houston Poetry Fest submissions has been extended to July 15th.

GCP Recording Secretary Laura Peña (filling in for President David Cowen) recounted announcements from the June 2014 GCP handout incl. the following:

Rattle online magazine submission deadline of July 15th for (1) poem -- \$5K prize.

2015 Texas Poetry Calendar is available for purchase online thru Dos Gatos Press.

Various upcoming summer retreats and workshops (Re: handout).

Mary Carlisle (2014 GCP Anthology committee chair) announced that the committee was seeking editors. Deandra Newcomb and Laura Peña volunteered.

Bay Area Writers League's critique group meets at the Webster, TX Barnes & Noble. Check website.

Winston Derden announced Speak! Poet, the quarterly poetry and interview series, will be held at Brazos Bookstore on July 20th at 2:00pm. Jonathan Moody and Dulce Veluthukaran featured.

10:54am – [Laura Peña introduced our Featured Poet, Winston Derden, and summarized his poet's bio.](#)

10:56am – Featured Poet: Winston Derden

Winston Derden presented a wide cross-section of his work including pieces on a variety of subjects, deftly alternating between weighty themes like love and terminal illness and

lighter fare such as Texas summers, crepe myrtles trees, and rhubarb pie. Through it all, he displayed the wit, wisdom, and humor that are the hallmarks of his unique poetic style.

11:13am – Door prizes were awarded to Billie Hill and Laura Peña.

11:15am – Open Mic Readings:

Mary Margaret Carlisle – “I Can’t See If There are Pennies on Your Eyes”

Laura Peña – “All I See in 10 Minutes”, “Serene”

Bill Turner – “Ode to Bookstores”, “From Egypt”

Billie Hill – “Brave Heart”, “Fallen” “Act I, Take II”, “Times Table”

Yong-Ae Kim – “Night Madness”, “For Students of Poetry”

***Door prizes were raffled off at intervals during the Open Mic. Luiz Velasquez and Deandra Newcomb were both winners.**

Additional Announcements:

Houston’s weeklong Word Around Town reading series will take place from Aug. 10th-16th. Check its website for venues and details.

11:35am – Meeting adjourned. Lunch afterwards at La Madeleine.

Inprint First Fridays

**October 10, 11, 12, 2014--Houston Poetry Fest
November 7, 2014
December 5, 2014 — Billie Hill**

**Readings begin at 8:30 pm Inprint House
1520 West Main (two blocks south of The Menil Collec-
tion, one block east of Mandell). Admission is free**

Ongoing: OPEN MIC LOCATIONS

**1st Mondays: NOKtune, 17062 Saturn Ln, Houston, TX 77058,
8:30 PM free**

**4th Tuesday: Barnes & Noble, 1029 W Bay Area Blvd, Web-
ster, 7:30, free**

Wednesdays: Notsuoh, 314 Main St, 77002, 9 PM, free

**3rd Wednesday, Heights Library, 1302 Heights Blvd. 77008,
6:00 PM, free**

**4th Wednesdays: Teatro Bilingue Houston, 3333 Jensen Dr,
7:30-10 PM, Tintero/Inkwell – Bilingual Reading Series**

Fridays: The House of Tea, 1927 Fairview, 77019, 9 PM, free

**Saturdays: Secret Word Café, 2061 Dowling, 11 AM Write
Club, workshop hosted by Marcell Murphy**

**Sundays: Bohemeo, 708 Telephone Rd., Suite E, 77023, 8 PM,
free**

**Sundays: Bambou, 2540 University Blvd (in Rice Village) 7
PM. Cost: \$10**

Gulf Coast Poets Present
2014 Poetry Out of Bounds

This event is scheduled for Oct 4, 2014, 1 pm at the Webster Barnes & Noble IH-45 at Bay Area Blvd (SE quadrant). Hosted by the Gulf Coast Poets. More information will be posted at <http://houstonpoetryfest.info/>. Contact Laura Pena at iselapena@hotmail.com if you want to participate.

2014 Houston Poetry Fest. Oct. 11-12. For event information see <http://houstonpoetryfest.info/>. *Congrats to GCP members Daniel Carrington, Jane Chance, Glynn Irby, Sandi Stromberg; Featured Poet Darla McBryde.*

Friendswood Public Library's off the page poetry series presents Poets in the Loop on Wednesday, September 17 at 7pm. Poets in the Loop is a Houston area poetry critique group with published and award winning poets. Join us for an evening of creative and insightful poetry

Austin International Poetry Festival — Anthology Call for Submissions. Deadline January 1, 2015. [http://www.aipf.org/aipf/](http://www.aipf.org/aipf/CALL_FOR_SUBMISSIONS.asp)
CALL_FOR_SUBMISSIONS.asp

Spoken Word Poetry Slam, Saturday, October 25, 2014 @ 4:00 p.m.
Fallbrook Church - 12512 Walters Rd., Houston, TX 77014. For more info see: <http://www.nationalblackbookfestival.com/eventtickets.htm>

ARTlines 2 Ekphrastic Poetry Competition – Sept 8- Nov 30 PUBLIC
POETRY & MFAH are again co-sponsoring this competition which will be based on writing ekphrastic poetry inspired by 5 pre-chosen works of art at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, JURORS: Robert Pinsky, David M Parsons, Patricia Smith, Mary Szybist, Roberto Tejada, Grand Prize \$1000; Guidelines: <http://www.ARTlines2.net>

Friday, September 26, 2014 Saint Julian Press - Presents an Evening of Poetry and Music featuring Melissa Studdard - Donna McKenzie - John Hardesty - Ron Starbuck. From 7- 9 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman Street at Main, Houston, Texas 77004

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UPCOMING GCP FEATURED READERS

Date	Speaker
October 4, 2014	Poetry Out of Bounds
November 8, 2014	Karla Morton
December 13, 2014	Holiday Luncheon – TBD
January 10, 2015	Billie Hill
February 14, 2015	Yong-Ae Kim
March 14, 2015	Peter Hyland
April 11, 2015	Sybil and Ted Estess
May 9, 2015	Robin Davidson

GCP Treasurer's Report

	Cash Flow: July 1 – Aug. 31, 2014	2014 Totals
Contests.....	*-5.00	-5.00
Dues.....	0.00	120.00
Speaker Expense.....	-39.61	-107.96
Honorarium	-10.00	
Speaker Lunch/Dinners	-29.61	
Donations.....	.00	.00
Interest/Dividend.....	.18	.76
Officer Travel.....	*-60.00	-70.00
Anthology.....	-8.66	-8.66
Other	18.00	2.00
Web Domain	-17.00	
Ledger Adjustment	* 35.00	
Net Cashflow, July 1–Aug. 31	*-95.09	-68.86

	Account Balances: July 1 – Aug. 31, 2014 –	2014 year
Checking Ledger		
<i>Beginning</i>	2149.17	2152.94
Ledger Adj. Void 3 checks	* 35.00	(1/1/2014)
Checks written (3)	*-50.00	
Debit Card	-55.27	
Dividend	.18	
Ending	2079.08	2079.08
<i>Outstanding checks (3)</i>	70.00	Bank chk bal=2149.08
Cash (undeposited checks, cash)		
<i>Beginning</i>	30.00	.00
Inflow	* 20.00	
Outflow	*-45.00	
Ending	5.00	5.00
Savings (seldom changes)		
<i>Beginning</i>	5.33	5.33
Ending	5.33	5.33
All accounts		(1/1/2014)
Beginning	7/1/2014	2184.50
Ending	8/31/2014	2089.41

NOTES:

- **** Entries include \$35 total cash payments to members who "lost" checks, and a \$35 ledger adjustment to credit the voiding of the original checks.** Cash Flow categories reflect the original reasons for the checks, but moved to the current report since the voiding zeroed them out. Reports generated for the months when the checks were written will show incorrect balances. The number of outstanding checks is now 3 (was 6) for a total of \$70 (was \$105).
- Treasurer Reports will normally end on the last day of the month preceding the meeting and cover the month(s) since the previous report.

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2014 Regular and Lifetime Members

Carolyn Adams
Kay Beggs
Diana Buckley - Lifetime Member
Mary Carlisle - Membership Chair and Lifetime Member
Daniel Carrington - Lifetime Member
Jane Chance - Lifetime Member
David Cowen - President and Lifetime Member
Kay Cox
Winston Derden - Lifetime Member
Pat Dixon - Lifetime member
Susan Ellis - Lifetime Member
Lauran English
Ann Fogelman - Lifetime Member
Richard Gamez
Mary Ann Goodwin
Glynn Irby
Carmen Jacobsen
Yong-Ae Kim
Jean Mahavier
John Milkereit
Terry Miller
Jonathon Moody
Susan Musch — Vice President and Lifetime Member
Deandra Newcomb
Larry Patterson, (aka Weasel)
Richard Peake - Lifetime Member
Jonathon Peckham
Oscar Peña - Lifetime Member
Laura Peña - Secretary and Lifetime Member
Dustin Pickering
Amy Leigh Sasser
Lynne Streeter - Lifetime Member
Sandi Stromberg
William Turner
Leo Waltz—Treasurer
Dory Williams

Honorary Members

Ted Badger - Honorary Lifetime Member - 2011
Alan Birkelbach - Honorary Lifetime Member – 2010
Robert Clark - Honorary Lifetime Member – 2009
John Gorman - Honorary Lifetime Member – 2007
Erica Lehrer - Honorary Lifetime Member - 2012
Dave Parsons - Honorary Lifetime Member – 2013
Larry Thomas - Honorary Lifetime Member - 2008