

# **Gulf Coast Poets**

*Chapter of the Texas Poetry Society*



**January 9, 2016**  
**General Meeting**  
**Elna Petrova**

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### **Gulf Coast Poets Proudly Presents Elina Petrova**

Until 2007, **Elina Petrova** lived in Ukraine and worked in engineering management. She has many Russian and Ukrainian publication credits, and a book of Russian-language poems. Elina now works in a Houston law firm. Her poetry has been published in *Texas Review*, *Texas Poetry Calendars*, *FreeFall* (Canada), *Voices de la Luna*, *Harbinger Asylum*, *Illya's Honey*, *Melancholy Hyperbole*, *Panoply*, the anthologies of the Houston and Austin poetry festivals, "Untamable City" by Mutabilis Press, and "Southwest Persona" by Dos Gatos Press. She's a frequent reader at Rice Gallery's "Words & Art." Her first book of poetry in English, "**Aching Miracle**," had been released in September 2015.

## To Texas And Beyond

She laid down between the rails  
watching the vast train  
whistle by – high above –  
overloaded with cargo:  
a clash of compartments, fumes  
from the firebox of its sepia predecessor,  
Ry Cooder's blues  
with a knife pressed on the string,  
the smell of fodder.

She got on that train:  
a time traveler, peering  
into swishing prairies,  
the Tahoe-blue eyes of smudgy  
short-tempered settlers  
not yet sleekened into plankton  
in district courts.

She believed in self-defense.  
She believed in silence,  
horse whispering, shingles  
of southbound nomads  
more than in justice –  
gore at the sheepfold,  
dusted with snow  
labor camp landfills  
of her forefathers.

— *Elina Petrova*

## Flatland

*He was a poet; and they are never exactly grown-up.*

*~ J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*

Captain Hook, I fed your hand to a crocodile  
not out of malice, but for survival.  
This city is swollen with oil. Towers  
are eerie at night — gators never sleep.  
Your clocks tick away in the crocodile paunch.  
Birds guide the flyers.  
Even disheveled-grey *à la* Patti Smith,  
no one owns a watch in the Neverland.

I hover — a firefly way up over dim lofts, lounges —  
along a procession of headlights in a traffic trance,  
I steep-dive under the bridge to Chenevert Street  
where the hungry lost boys line up on Sundays:  
the ceaseless shrill of a highway junction,  
gapped teeth, macaroni & cheese I serve  
warm styrofoam in chapped hands.  
In the mornings I shoot upwards  
peering at people who peer at numbers,  
shove through cramped cubicles  
with hope for advancement  
like lobsters with the tied up claws  
in the aquarium of a seafood restaurant.

Everyone was a winged child. Everyone is ...  
This is my neighborhood: middle-aged,  
neatly mowed, no more anticipations —  
anxious doves at pink-ash dawns. Flatland.

Each day is the future —  
firm fresh fruit I make juice, pour  
into your glass on the glass table  
with a familiar sunray trembling.  
October air is brisk, intense. Judgments  
are softer, passions — tender, detached:  
embrace too much to claim possessions.  
Fairy tales ... Maples in flame send firebirds.  
*Fire, what have I done to you?*

—— *Elina Petrova*

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## ***Inprint First Fridays***

**February 5, 2016–Glynn Monroe Irby**

**March 4, 2016–Robin Davidson**

**April 1, 2016–Choonwha Moon**

**Readings begin at 8:30 pm Inprint House  
1520 West Main (two blocks south of The Menil  
Collection, 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, Webster, 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**

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## **CALLS FOR SUBMISSION**

**Texas Poetry Calendar 2017** : Deadline: January 15, 2016

- Submit 1–3 poems in a single document, each poem on a separate page. Do not submit more than one time.
- 35-line limit per poem, including title and spaces.
- We highly recommend that you submit at least one short poem — 10 lines or less, including title and spaces. We welcome haiku, tanka, and other short forms.
- We prefer poems with a Texas connection.
- We strongly prefer titled poems — except for haiku.
- Include a bio of 60–100 words providing specific information about your writing life and your previous publishing credits.
- Acceptance for publication conveys First North American Serial Rights, first-print publication rights, and the right to post work accepted for publication on the Dos Gatos Press website. Rights revert to the author upon publication. Payment is one contributor's copy of the calendar

Submit at: [dosgatospress.submittable.com/submit](http://dosgatospress.submittable.com/submit)

**Apex Books:  
Undead: A Poetry Anthology  
of Ghouls, Ghosts, and More  
Submissions open Jan 1-April 1, 2016**

**Editors Bianca Lynne Spriggs (Apex Magazine's poetry editor) and Katerina Stoykova-Klemer welcome your specters, apparitions, zombies, wraiths, phantoms, thought forms and anything (or anyone) animate but no longer living.**

**Apex Books Guidelines for This Anthology:**

**Email 1-3 poems to [undeadpoetryanthology@gmail.com](mailto:undeadpoetryanthology@gmail.com)**

**Submit each poem in a separate email.**

**Use standard manuscript format.\***

**Poems must be 200 lines or less.**

**Poems must be original.**

**Previously published work is eligible, as long as you own the rights.**

**Payment is \$5 per poem and one comp of the anthology.**

**di-vêrsé-city Anthology  
Submission Guidelines  
SUBMISSIONS ARE OPEN**

**Deadline: January 31, 2016**

**[Click here](#) to enter your submission for the di-vêrsé-city Anthology competition. You will be taken to the Submittable website.**

Enter one to three poems. Each poem may be entered either by downloading a file or by entering it into the text area.

Submit up to three separate poems individually.

No restrictions on subject matter or style except what is listed in these guidelines.

The editor has the right to classify material obscene and not suitable for publication.

No simultaneous submissions or previously published poems.

Special fonts, shape-poems, etc. cannot be accepted.

Printed poems must fit onto one 4-inch by 7-inch page \* Click on the following link if you would like a blank template <http://www.aipf.org/Document.asp?DocID=4200>

Poems should be primarily in English. Words from other languages may be interspersed. If a full English translation is used with the full text of another language, each language should fit onto one page for a total of two pages. The editor reserves the option to only use the English translation.

Published poets received on complimentary anthology.

Deadline to submit for the anthology is January 31, 2016.

<https://aipf.submittable.com/submit>



**Call for Submissions Has Opened!  
Boundless: The Rio Grande Valley Inter-  
national Poetry Festival Anthology 2013 is  
now accepting submissions!  
Deadline: Mailed payment postmarked by  
March 9, 2013  
Submissions: E-mail Submissions Only.**

Boundless will be published as a perfect bound edition with an ISBN and will be available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). As always, poets do not have to attend our festival or register for our festival in order to submit for publication. (While this may change in the future, our open policy remains generous.)

**GUIDELINES:**

E-mail Submissions... Only. Mailed Submissions Will NOT Be Accepted!

Submit up to three typewritten poems in a legible font.

Poems may be of any topic, any language. (We ask for a translation if it is not in English, however.)

Strict 35-line limit per poem, not including title and spaces.

E-mail Submissions Only. Mailed Submissions Will NOT Be Accepted!

E-mail submissions to [rgvipf@hotmail.com](mailto:rgvipf@hotmail.com)

No previously published poems, please, except from self-published chapbooks with limited distribution.

DO NOT place your name or other identifying information on the poems themselves.

Submit a cover letter that includes:

Your Name

Title of poem(s) or first line for an untitled poem

E-mail address AND phone number

A short bio – 50 words or less – focusing on your life as a writer

Include a check for \$8 payable to "Art That Heals, Inc."

You must supply an e-mail address for contact.

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## **UPCOMING GP FEATURED READERS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
January 9, 2016	Elina Petrova
February 13, 2016	Tria Wood
March 12, 2016	Eloisa Perez-Lozano
April 9, 2016	Lone Star College Poetry Superstars – Students from LSC campuses will join us to celebrate National Poetry Month
May 14, 2016	Kelly Ann Ellis
June 11, 2016	Gerald Cedillo
July 9, 2016	Word About Town Poets
August	No Meeting
September 10, 2016	Mutablis Press Presents <i>Untameable City</i>
October 8, 2016	Poetry Out of Bounds
November 12, 2016	Vanessa Zimmer-Powell
December 10, 2016	Holiday Luncheon

# Gulf Coast Poets

Treasurer Report for Jan 9, 2016 General Meeting  
 Report Period: Nov 1 – Dec 31, 2015 -- with 2015 totals  
 This report covers the two month period since last report

Cash Flow: Nov 1 – Dec 31, 2015	2015 Totals.	
Contests.....	.00	-.00
Dues.....Note 4 .....	680.00	845.00
Speaker Expense.....	-302.50	-519.22
Honorarium	-225.00	
Speaker Lunch/Dinners	-20.00	
Lodging (Note 1)	-57.50	
Donations.....	.00	30.00
Interest/Dividend.....	.22	1.10
Officer Travel.....	-20.00	-90.00
PST Summer Conf. Regis. (2) ..	-0.00	-50.00
Luncheon (see detailed report)	-1060.60	-345.60
Other (Web Expenses).....	-.00	-19.00
<b>Net Cash flow, Nov 1 – Dec 31</b>	<b>-702.88</b>	Jan 1-Dec 31 <b>-147.72</b>

Account Activity: Nov 1 – Dec 31, 2015 –	2015 Final	
Checking Ledger		<i>Jan 1, 2015</i>
<i>Beginning</i>	2636.43	2056.27
Checks written (4)	-260.00	
Debit Card	-1633.10	
Deposits	1170.00	
Dividend	.22	
Ending	1913.55	1913.55
<i>Outstanding checks (4)</i>	65.00	<i>Bank chk bal=1978.55</i>
Cash (undeposited checks, cash)		
<i>Beginning</i>	15.00	40.00
Inflow	1287.50	
Outflow	-1267.50	
Ending	35.00	35.00
Savings (seldom changes)		
<i>Beginning</i>	10.33	10.33
Ending	10.33	10.33
<b>All accounts</b>		<i>Jan 1/Dec 31</i>
<b>Beginning</b>	<b>11/1/2015</b>	<b>2661.76</b>
<b>Ending</b>	<b>12/31/2015</b>	<b>1958.88</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.

- Notes: 1. Lodging was reduced 50% by donation.  
 2. Luncheon Speaker expenses are not part of the Luncheon expenses.  
 3. Most luncheon income was in the previous report. The far right column above is true reflection of the cost of the food.  
 4. Dues in the 2015 Totals column include dues paid at the beginning of the year.

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## **2016 Gulf Coast Poets Chapter Membership**

<p><i><b>Honorary lifetime members</b></i></p> <p>2007 John Gorman 2008 Larry D. Thomas 2009 Robert Clark 2010 Alan Lee Birkelbach 2011 Ted O. Badger 2012 Erica Lehrer 2013 Dave Parsons 2014 Glynn Monroe Irby 2015 Karla Morton 2016 Jan Seale</p> <p><i><b>Lifetime members</b></i></p> <p>Nancy Bertoncej Diana Dettling Buckley Mary Margaret Carlisle Daniel Carrington Jane Chance David Cowen Kay L. Cox Jane Creighton Winston Derden Susan Ellis Lauran Perry English Ann Fogelman Jerry Dean Frick Fulton Fry Mary Ann Goodwin Susan K. Musch Bernard Patten Richard Peake Oscar Peña Laura Peña Gary Rosin Lynne Streeter Martha M Tamez Leo Waltz</p> <p><i><b>In Memoriam</b></i></p> <p>2006 Peggy Z. Lynch - 1st Member - Honorary Lifetime Member David Hicks - 2nd Member - Lifetime Member</p>	<p><i><b>2016 Chapter Members</b></i></p> <p>Adriana Babiak-Vázquez Stella Brice Penny Clark Carolyn Dahl Robin Davidson Anya Ezhevskaya Dede Fox Priscilla Frake Richard Gamez Cindy Huyser Carmen Erna Jacobsen Chris Juravich Jean D. Mahavier Leila Merrill John Milkereit Terry Miller Choonwha Moon Jonathan Peckham Eloisa Perez-Lozano Matthew Riley Katherine Sanger Emily Seay Sandi Stromberg William Turner Luis Vázquez Weasel Chuck Wemple Mary Wemple Jane Wenninger Charles Williams Dory Williams Chris Wise Vanessa Zimmer-Powell Dom Zuccone C. Lynn Carden Debi Fairchild Susan Beall Summers Carol Peña</p>
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