



**GULF COAST POETS CHAPTER  
OF THE  
POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS  
PRESENTS**

*Stephen Gros*  
**February 11, 2017**



**Stephen Gros** is a poet, spoken word performer, artist, and event producer from Texas. Stephen is a founding member of several Houston literary groups including Panhandler Publishing and the Art Institute of Houston's Poetry Club. He is also a founding member, host and organizer of the annual Word Around Town Tour (since 2006), FabriFaction 2012: A FotoFest Special Event (an ekphrastic showcase), he is the co-director of KerouacFest and was the curator and host of the popular ThoughtCrime Poetry Showcase.

Stephen has performed all over Texas, has toured Jamaica, and New York City and his work has appeared in several journals and anthologies including The Bayou Review, The Beatest State In The Union: An Anthology of Beat Texas Writers and The Austin International Poetry Festival Anthology, Di-Verse'-City.

## **I've never known you**

I've never known you  
In all likelihood, I never will  
Though the spectre of your misdeeds  
has cast it's shadow over my interactions

You've never known me  
And in all likelihood you never will  
I do not hate you  
I don't know how, without a face or a name  
You've managed to avoid my anger's roving searchlight

There was a beautiful young girl  
bright eyed and rebellious  
She was not yet a woman  
She was not yet a woman  
You thrust her womanhood on her, leaving bruises for the  
weight of it  
You took her childhood and left her something else  
A mass of tissue and guilt  
You left her me  
And in all likelihood, you will never know me

I can't seem to hate you  
But as I've grown and strived to learn and be  
I've slowly let go of you  
Separated myself from your spectral influence  
Doused my angry searchlight  
And taken solace in knowing  
I am not like you  
Father, you mean nothing to me

— Stephen Gros

## **Acadian Blues**

I'm a Cajun, a coon-ass, a bug-eating Bayou Wildman  
and I have a great storied history  
buried deep under  
the filthy oil slick surface  
of my swampy home.

I want to paint you a glorious portrait  
of a forgotten culture  
But my Acadian Blood  
Runs hot and red with anger  
It burns a channel deep and venomous  
All the long way down the miserable Mississippi  
And flows out in the red silt at its mouth

I can't tell my story in gentle tones  
For my people were not treated gently  
14,000 strong  
Burned from their homes in 1755

Have Mercy!

### *Le Grand Dérangement*

The Great Expulsion  
because they refused to take up arms against their French  
countrymen  
Only 3,000 made it to Louisiana  
That why this mud is so sacred to me  
My family names are LaPoint and LeBlanc  
2 of only 60 surnames to survive the ethnic cleansing  
But we made it

Have Mercy!

We thrived in an impossible wilderness  
Found peace and nourishment below sea level

Who is your mother?  
Are you a Catholic?  
Can you make a roux?

Community  
Faith  
And Culture

Have Mercy!

I'm a Cajun, a coon-ass, a bug-eating Bayou  
Wildman  
I'm also an Acadian  
Forever displaced from his home in the cold  
north  
Forever attached to the wet black mud of Loui-  
siana  
Above all, of this, I'm proud

Have Mercy!

Viens ici! I hear my momma calling  
The gumbo's ready and the water's rising in  
the cobbled streets  
The air smells raw, sticky and warm  
It smells like suffering and injustice  
Like untold stories  
And forgotten ancestry  
Hidden under Mardi Gras Masks  
It smells like home, hope and family

Have Mercy!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Poetry at Round Top — April 21-23, 2017.  
<http://poetryatroundtop.org/>*

*Gulf Coast Reading Series — February 17,  
2017 7:00 p.m.—The Gulf Coast reading se-  
ries presents the poetry and prose of UH grad-  
uate students, paired with prominent featured  
visiting writers, at Rudyard's Pub. Participat-  
ing students come from the MFA and PhD  
programs in Creative Writing. Gulf Coast also  
co-sponsors Pop-Up reading events at Brazos  
Bookstore, partnering student-readers with  
published authors traveling through Hou-  
ston. Rudyard's British Pub, 2010 Waugh  
Drive, Houston, TX 77006*

*Public Poetry — Saturday, March 4, 2017 | 2  
PM, Featuring David Glen-Smith, Vincent  
'BlackBluez' Johnson, Varsha Saraiya-Shah  
and Ronnie Yates. Morris Frank Library an  
HPL Express Location | 10103 Fondren,  
Brays Oaks Tower Building, 77096*

*Slam Events — [https://www.eventbrite.com/d/  
tx--houston/poetry-slam/](https://www.eventbrite.com/d/tx--houston/poetry-slam/)*

*Readings and Poetry Nights — [https://  
www.eventbrite.com/d/tx--houston/poetry/](https://www.eventbrite.com/d/tx--houston/poetry/)*

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

*2017 di-vêrsé-city Anthology Submission.* Austin International Poetry Festival. Deadline: **February 14, 2017.** <https://aipf.submittable.com/submit/70385/2017-di-verse-city-anthology-submission>

**Rio Grande Valley International Poetry Festival — Boundless: The Rio Grande Valley International Poetry Festival Anthology 2017 is now accepting submissions! Deadline March 25, 2017.** <http://www.valleypoetryfest.org/boundless-anthology/>

*Weasel Press — Degenerates.* Seeking submissions for themed volumes:

May 20, 2017 - Domestic Violence

Aug 20, 2017 - Bullying

Nov 20, 2017 - Homelessness

<http://hitchingpoets.wix.com/degenerates>

*Matador Review* - The Matador Review is an online literature and art quarterly. We publish poetry, fiction, flash fiction, creative non-fiction, and visual art. We call ourselves an "alternative" magazine; that is to say: our purpose is to promote work that is thought-provoking and unconventional; we want the controversial and the radical, the unhinged and the bizarre; we want the obsessive, the compulsive, the pervasive, the combative, and the seductive. We are currently accepting work for our third issue, the Spring 2017 publication. Deadline: February 28, 2017.

*More Calls for Submission Daily at [https://www.facebook.com/groups/156020074604805/?multi\\_permalinks=642553865951421&notif\\_t=group\\_activity&notif\\_id=1484029471219249](https://www.facebook.com/groups/156020074604805/?multi_permalinks=642553865951421&notif_t=group_activity&notif_id=1484029471219249)*

**Gulf Coast Poets Website — A Useful Tool for Members**  
(Crafted by GCP Webmaster Leo Waltz)

**OR — WHY YOU NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP (SEE  
LAST PAGE)**

URL: <http://gulfcoastpoets.info/>

Membership Application -- <http://gulfcoastpoets.info/membership.html>

Past Programs, Minutes and Meeting Handouts from March 2009 to  
Present -- <http://gulfcoastpoets.info/documents.html> —

Archives Including Meeting Newsletters Back to November 2007 --  
<http://gulfcoastpoets.info/archives.html>

Proposed Bylaws and Constitution (never adopted) -- [http://sol-  
magazine-projects.org/gcp/2008JuneProposedBylaws.pdf](http://sol-magazine-projects.org/gcp/2008JuneProposedBylaws.pdf) **Links to Call  
for Submissions:**

**Useful Links**

**Pro-Paying Speculative Fiction Poetry Markets** -- [http://  
fiendlover.blogspot.com/p/pro-paying-speculative-fiction-  
poetry.html](http://fiendlover.blogspot.com/p/pro-paying-speculative-fiction-poetry.html)

**New Pages – Calls for Submission** -- [http://www.newpages.com/  
classifieds/calls-for-submissions?referer=artdeadlineslist.com](http://www.newpages.com/classifieds/calls-for-submissions?referer=artdeadlineslist.com)

**Texas Book Lover** -- <http://www.texasbooklover.com/>

**Submittable Blog for September** -- [http://  
blog.submittable.com/2016/07/submission-opportunities-july-29-  
august-5/](http://blog.submittable.com/2016/07/submission-opportunities-july-29-august-5/)

As always be sure to check Billie Duncan's roll-  
ing calendar at <http://billieduncan.com/Houston%>



## **Gulf Coast Poets-Meeting Minutes January 14, 2017**

Announcements: GCP membership dues are now being accepted as well as renewing memberships

Laura Peña will be the featured reader at First Friday on February 3

Gabrielle Langley will be the featured poet at this year's Houston Poetry Fest

Friendswood Public Library Off the Page Poetry reading will feature Varsha Shah, Eloisa Perez-Lozano, and Choonwha Moon.

Houston Poet Laureate is open for submissions; deadline is February 5

Weasel Press is open for submissions for themed anthologies

Mary Margaret Carlisle will have a Poetry Works Workshop on January 22; the next anthology will be open for submissions soon

BAWL will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month/3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month write-in meets at Café Express

11:05: This month's featured reader is Gabrielle Langley

Narcissus

Winter Solstice

Beirut, 13 November 2013, After a Bomb Goes Off in Paris

Berlin, May 1945, for Lotte & Louise

Katyn Forest, March 5, 1940

Two-Party Politics

11:35: Open Mic

Gary – Cry

Mary Ann Goodwin – After Reading Ocean Vyoung

Laura Peña – No Sunglasses

Mechanics of Disintegration

Choonwha Moon – An Apoplonsis

Matthew Riley – No Face

Jonathan Peckham – Eloquence Reigns

The Safe Room

Emily Seay – Working Hands

Glynn Irby – Suddenly Rising

Reading aloud in a Room Alone

Mary Margaret Carlisle – Dark Sky

12:00 Meeting Adjourned: Lunch at Café Express

# Gulf Coast Poets

## Treasurer Report for Feb 11, 2017 General Meeting Report Period: Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2017 -- with 2017 totals

*This report covers the one month period since last report plus the 2017 summary*

### Cash Flow: Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2017

**2017**

Contests.....	.00	- .00
Dues.....	55.00	55.00
Speaker Expense.....	-30.00	-30.00
Honorarium	-30.00	
Speaker Lunch/Dinners	-.00	
Donations.....	30.00	30.00
Interest/Dividend.....	.13	.13
Officer Travel.....	-0.00	-0.00
PST Sponsor Contest (note 1) ....	-	
<b>Net Cash flow, Jan 1 – Jan 31</b>	<b>55.13</b>	Jan 1-Jan 31 <b>55.13</b>

### Account Activity: Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2017 –

**2017**

Checking Ledger		Jan 1, 2017
<i>Beginning</i>		2298.14
Checks written (1)	-30.00	
Debit Card	-.00	
Deposits	35.00	
Dividend	.13	
Ending		2303.27
<i>Outstanding checks (6)</i>	150.00	Bank chk bal=2453.27
Cash (undeposited checks, cash)		
<i>Beginning</i>		85.00
Inflow	85.00	
Outflow	-35.00	
Ending		135.00
Savings (seldom changes)		
<i>Beginning</i>		10.33
Ending		10.33
<b>All accounts</b>		Jan 1/Jan 31
<b>Beginning</b>	<b>1/1/2017</b>	<b>2393.47</b>
<b>Ending</b>	<b>1/31/2017</b>	<b>2448.60</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. Donation was the speaker's honorarium given back to us.

2. The Year to Date column has reset to Jan 1, so it and the current report period column are equal/

## UPCOMING GCP FEATURED READERS

Date	Speaker
March 11, 2017	Stacy Nigliazzo
April 8, 2017	Cedric Avery
May 14, 2017	Carrie Kornacki
June 11, 2017	Bucky Rea
July 8, 2017	Mike Alexander
August 2017	NO MEETING
September 9, 2017	Weasel Press Presents
October 7, 2017	Poetry Out of Bounds
November 11, 2017	TBD
December 9, 2017	Annual Holiday Luncheon – Featured Poet to be Announced

*2017 Gulf Coast Poets Chapter Membership*

<i>Honorary lifetime members</i>	<i>2017 Chapter Members</i>
2007 John Gorman 2008 Larry D. Thomas 2009 Robert Clark 2010 Alan Lee Birkelbach 2011 Ted O. Badger 2012 Erica Lehrner 2013 Dave Parsons 2014 Glynn Monroe Irby 2015 Leo Waltz 2015 Karla Morton 2016 Jan Seale 2017 Gwendolyn Zepeda	Anya Ezhevskaya Dede Fox Priscilla Frake Deandra Newcomb Leila Merrill John Milkereit Jonathan Peckham Emily Seay Sandi Stromberg William Turner Richard Gamez Michael Galko Gabrielle Langley Matthew Riley Choonwa Moon Jean Mahavier Stephen Gros
<i>Lifetime members</i>	PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!
Ann Fogelman Nancy Bertoncelj Diana Dettling Buckley Mary Margaret Carlisle Daniel Carrington Jane Chance David Cowen Kay L. Cox Jane Creighton Winston Derden Susan Ellis Lauran Perry English 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 Sharman Speed Joyce Zongrone Luis Vázquez Adriana Babiak-Vázquez Carmen Erna Jacobsen Stella Brice Gary Borkowski	<i>In Memoriam</i> 2006 Peggy Z. Lynch - 1st Member - Honorary Lifetime Member David Hicks - 2nd Member - Lifetime Member