



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

**Bucky Rea
June 10, 2017**

BUCKY REA is founder at Invisible Lines, a troupe of poets who put other people's poetry on stage. Shows to date have featured the works of Debra Mathes, Salvador Macias, Samira Noorali, Alice Alsup, and Edgar Allan Poe. He graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 1989 and embarked on a series of meaningless jobs. He won't talk about that; only the poetry matters. Well, poetry and art. And love. And puppies. In the 1990s he published a few chap books for Houston performing poets to highlight the written and visual wordcraft of writers who prefer to reach their audiences through the ear. He has served as Events Coordinator for the Houston Poetry Fest since 2012. In 2015 he was selected to serve on Frenetic Theater's year-long Artist Board program.

Entering Agatha

I remember a scar there though time
erases it with novelties.
But I can still dig it up from under the surface
when I need, pluck the sincerity
from my chest, hold my heart
on a silver platter. Like John's head
it scowls long after it forgets
why you made the cut.

I love to suffer. It redeems me; it calls me
home. It gets me up the accessibility ramp
when the steps are too steep,
or when the scars cheat and heal in my sleep.

Years that once cluttered themselves fat
with promises and triptychs to a better Europe
are now a brown solid briefcase, half filled
with expense vouchers, business cards, travel plans
in state, and half filled with air.

An old watch rattles in my pocket, not measuring
the time I've lost. Its hour hand swivels
freely when I shake it. I have lost track
of time, though I can still steady the hand
at 12, at 12, at 12, like a car game
that keeps the young ones amused
in the back seat.

The highway to Europe is getting wet, but I refuse
to pull over and ask for directions. When the car stalls out
in the Bay of Biscay, my constant companion sighs heavily
and mutters "I knew this would happen.
We always get lost."

I ignore the remark like Dad would, unfolding
the map while the green Atlantic laps at my tires.
I make like I didn't hear it. She may rip
the flesh from my ears,
but I will not give up the scar.

Extremes

I can't be so afraid of compromise I don't risk success
he said, drawing his last millimeters of breath from the cigarette logo.
Those dollars flew, little pilgrims, to the Mecca of North Carolina
tobacco-fueled think tanks, to the Canterburies of greed,
to the Medjugorjes of product placement ads, bought and sold,
the proceeds going to someone who loves or hates capitalism,
or arguably his father who left him when he was 13
with a broken nose and a mother who cried and terrorized the man
she saw in him. This is how communists are born, not in Cuba
but one family sized betrayal at a time.

Karl Marx yearned for a son and hated his daughters and hated his wife
who never gave him one, but never acknowledged the son
the family maid gave him, before they both died
penniless, mother and son, in the snow.
But his daughters would not be victims, like homely old Gretel,
so picked their own exits—one by pills and one by a razor to her own throat
in a suicide pact with her philandering husband, who might have changed
his mind the moment before he should have died too, but probably changed it
the week before, when he suggested the exit,
or the day after that, when he got his mistress
to take out life insurance on Karl Marx's daughter,
the pretty one, there, on the bathroom floor, letting the Red out
and hoping daddy was in the heaven he never acknowledged.

True believers always wear the red, like blood, like flowers, like cardinals mumbling
a slow pace into St Peter's enclave until smoke turns white, like blood
to the face, flushed and guilty, when the words strike truths
the mouth won't form, or like the glans, swollen with expectation
and blind to the touch of womb or palm. It won't matter tomorrow.
He flies away too, from the shame or the commitment; he takes the Red Eye
to Washington, watches the Redskins, sips a burgundy
at night and guzzles a RedBull in the morning to get going again.

The point is: get going again, don't stop, don't slow down, gather
no moss, eat healthier, go to the gym, only the strong can take it,

only the angry survive, cross the line, stay focused on the target,
dig in your heels, stip the razorcut, swallow the lump, don't answer
the blinking red light when you know it's her calling
and she still smells like yesterday. Get out of the road,
suckers, I ain't got time to swerve.

Shakespeare's head snapped back like a Dealy Plaza goat test
and he threw the switch. It was the Hot Line
and the Commissioner needed help. Urgent. Red alert.
They went down in the poles and emerged
in the dank cave below in red and blew
past the twinkling computer to the car, roaring, waiting,
like an ideology of automatic vengeance. He never thought
about the past anymore. He never mentioned his parents
or the demons that pushed him to this life. He was geared up
only to do what was right, what was perfectly armed against a sea
of wicked compromise.

You can be perfect if you don't care about people.

Zap! Pow! Ka-bang!! And the president's skull splattered
all over the limo's trunk. Back and to the left, back and to the left
Jackie scrambled to pull the brain matter that loved her so
back into the passenger seat. They sent her roses that morning,
lovely unfolding Tyler roses and she wanted them—
she wanted them all—
to see what they had done. Whoever "they" were,
they were true believers too.

Ekphrases

Every poem is ekphrastic, conversing
with God's art of sea tides,
sunsets,
flowers, emotions, or the evil
he puts in our hearts.

Every song is ekphrastic, celebrating
the artifice of sex,
the sculpture of seduction,
the architecture of orgasm,
the tie-dyed skies in the morning after the storm, or
the wars God uses to paint the canvas of earth
with nations, glory, and mud.

Every painting is ekphrastic, capturing
the improvisation of time as
it consumes
my sunlight,
the symphony of creaks
and pops in my aging knees,
and the ballet of violence
these laugh lines
carve on my face.

Upcoming Events

Inprint First Fridays — Readings begin at 8:30 pm, Inprint House, 1520 West Main (two blocks south of The Menil Collection, one block east of Mandell):

July 7, 2017—42nd Anniversary of First Friday – Craig Butterworth

August 2, 2017—2016 Pushcart Prize Winner Daniel Peña

September 8, 2017—John Pluecker

November 3, 2017—Michael Sofranko

December 1, 2017—Jeremy Eugene

Write About Now - Every Wednesday at 7:30pm

Avante Garden

411 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77006

NOKturne Poetry Reading Series - Every 1st Monday of the month at 7:30pm, Hosted by Z.M. Wise

NOKturne

17062 Saturn Ln, Houston, TX 77058

Barnes & Noble Poetry Reading Series - Every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, Hosted by Z.M. Wise

Barnes & Noble

1029 Bay Area Blvd, Webster, TX 77598

Slam Events — <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/tx--houston/poetry-slam/>

Readings and Poetry Nights — <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/tx--houston/poetry/>

Call for Poetry Submissions

Weasel Press — Vagabonds: Anthology of the Mad Ones

-No poems longer than 2 pages

-All styles and forms accepted

-Beat themed project

<http://www.vagabondsink.com>

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

100-Word Southwest Poems

Editors Scott Wiggerman and David Meischen are accepting submissions for the third book in the “Poetry of the American Southwest” series. This one has two requirements: 1) poems that demonstrate a connection to persons, places, geography, flora/fauna, and/or culture of the American Southwest, and 2) the poem must be exactly 100 words, no more, no less. Poetry is a language of precision, and the constriction of 100 words will put your mastery of language to the test. A variety of styles and topics is encouraged, including prose poems, haiku sequences, and haibun. Start counting, poets! Submissions Window: March 21–July 4, 2017.

<http://dosgatospress.org/how-to-submit>

Speculative Poetry (Paying) Market List:

<http://fiendlover.blogspot.com/p/pro-paying-speculative-fiction-poetry.html>

More Calls for Submission Daily at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/156020074604805/>

The 2017 Art of Peace - Tyler poetry anthology

The theme is Building Bridges - Making Peace. Each poet may submit one poem of 28 lines or less through Submittable. Submissions may be previously published, as long as rights have returned to the poet. Please note the original publication with

your submission.

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

Deadline July 31, 2017

Ginosko Literary Journal

Accepting short fiction, **poetry**, creative nonfiction, social justice, literary insights for Ginosko Literary Journal. Editorial lead time 1-2 months; accept simultaneous submissions & reprints; length flexible, accept excerpts. Receives postal and email submissions—prefer email submissions as attachments in .wps, .doc, .rtf. —or by Submittable <https://ginosko.submittable.com/submit/> or email to: GinoskoEditor@aol.com

Sediments Literary-Arts Journal

Accepts poetry, short stories, and art. Accepted work for the quarterly issue will be published to the homepage every Sunday at 11AM EST. <https://sedimentslit.com/submit/>

Wolf Warriors 4: Light and Shadows

Submission Deadline: June 15th

Anything 3 to 200 lines.

Format: 12pt Times New Roman

You may submit up to three poems.

Cover letter not necessary, but it certainly can't hurt either.

Email Microsoft Word file with subject "SUBMISSIONS WOLF WARRIORS" to Sherayah at

Sherayah.thurstonhowlpub@gmail.com.

Theme: WOLVES OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS

<https://www.thurstonhowlpublications.com/anthologies>

Friendswood Public Library's 2017 Ekphrastic Poetry Contest

Deadline: July 1, 2017

Identify the specific work of art that your poem(s) addresses.

Poets can submit 1-3 original ekphrastic poems to Matt Riley, mriley@friendswood.com

Five2One Magazine

Currently accepting Visual and written poetry, 120 words or more.

Seeks work that “explodes with Emotions,” as well as Strange, Weird, Daft—Think David Bowie!

Seeks submissions for print and online publication.

<http://five2onemagazine.com/submission-guidelines/>

Houston Poetry Fest

-Deadline: July 15, 2017

-Submission fee: \$18 via Submittable

-Submit up to five original poems that total no more than three 8½X11 pages, single column, in Times New Roman, 11 point font.

-Combine the poems in your submission into a single Word file in .doc or .docx format.

-The pages in the anthology will have a maximum line width of 3.83 inches. Format your poem so that your lines, including indented lines, fit within that width.

-Each poem must have a title. If a poem does not have a title, use its first line as the title.

-Previously published poems are acceptable, if the rights have reverted to you.

<http://houstonpoetryfest.info/page15.html>

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

Helpful Resources

<http://www.duotrope.com>

<http://www.newpages.com>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/35517751475/>

GCP Meeting Notes - 05/13/17

10:47 Meeting called to order

Announcements: First Friday reading series check website for upcoming readers.

Houston Poetry Fest submissions are now open; deadline to submit is July 15th

Friendswood Public Library is having an ekphrastic poetry reading and contest; deadline to submit is July 1st.

Weasel Press has extended deadlines for submitting to their themed anthologies

Next month's featured reader is Bucky Rea

10:50 Featured poet – Carrie Kornacki

1. Ei's Farm
2. Naming Haiti: Tattered American Heirloom
3. Josie's Flowers
4. Hunger
5. The Dresser of Madeline Murray O'Hare
6. Making Barbie Human
7. The Bandit of Burkina Faso (Land of the Upright People)
8. Fist
9. The Branch in the Postage Stamp Room

11:15 Open Mic

1. Mary Margaret Carlisle – I Need a Place
2. Laura Peña – Anchors on Dry Land
3. Lynne Streeeter – The Park
4. Ann Fogelman – Sounds of the Night
5. Mary Ann Goodwin – Reclamation
6. Jonathan Peckham – Sealy Posture-Pedic Wasteland
7. Glynn Irby – Sharing Ribs with Ms. O'Hare
8. Marie Alvarez Calderon – The Gardener's Path
9. Bob Craig – Fairytale
10. John Gorman – A Bardic Semi-Interlude at the Coffeehouse
11. Matt Riley – Hollow Bones
12. Luis Vazquez – Words
13. Kelly Ann Ellis – Shells Spatter the Beach

12:00 Meeting adjourned – lunch at Café Express

Gulf Coast Poets

Treasurer Report for June 10, 2017 General Meeting

Report Period: May 1 – May 31, 2017 -- with 2017 totals

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

Cash Flow: May 1 – May 31, 2017

2017

Contests.....	.00	-.00
Dues.....	.00	180.00
Speaker Expense.....	-20.00	-85.00
Honorarium	-10.00	
Speaker Lunch/Dinners	-10.00	
Donations.....	.00	30.00
Interest/Dividend.....	.10	.54
Officer Travel.....	-10.00	-50.00
PST Sponsor Contest.....	-	
Net Cash flow, May 1 – May 31	-29.90	Jan 1-May 31 75.54

Account Activity: May 1 – May 31, 2017 –

2017

Checking Ledger		<i>Jan 1, 2017</i>
<i>Beginning</i>	2418.58	2298.14
Checks written (0)	-.00	
Debit Card	-.00	
Deposits or Void (*Note 1)	30.00	
Dividend	.10	
Ending	2448.68	2448.68
<i>Outstanding checks (4)</i>	100.00 <i>Bank chk bal=2548.68</i>	
Cash (undeposited checks, cash)		
<i>Beginning</i>	70.00	85.00
Inflow	.00	
Outflow (*Note 1)	-60.00	
Ending	10.00	10.00
Savings (seldom changes)		
<i>Beginning</i>	10.33	10.33
Ending	10.33	10.33
All accounts		<i>Jan 1/May 31</i>
Beginning	5/1/2017	2498.91
Ending	5/31/2017	2393.47
		2469.01

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. A previously written check that was endorsed back to us as a donation was held in cash. That \$30 was moved back into the checking balance and voids the check, but keeping its amount as an expense and a donation. See February report for original entries. This also reduces the outstanding check count and total.

Upcoming GCP Featured Readers

Date	Reader
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	Michelle Hartman
December 9, 2017	Annual Holiday Luncheon – Featured Poet: Robin Davidson
January 13, 2018	Outspoken Bean

Honorary lifetime members

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 Leo Waltz
2015 Karla Morton
2016 Jan Seale
2017 Gwendolyn Zepeda

Lifetime members

Ann Fogelman
Nancy Bertoneclj
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
Weasel Patterson

2017 Chapter Members

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
Stacey Nigliazzo
Lupe Mendez
Tria Wood

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

In Memoriam

2006 Peggy Z. Lynch - 1st Member - Honorary Lifetime Member
David Hicks - 2nd Member - Lifetime Member