



POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS
GULF COAST POETS CHAPTER
SEPTEMBER 2009
FEATURED POET: KEN JONES

We welcome Patricia Dixon, our newest Lifetime Member!

Scheduled Meetings - Scheduled Field Trips

September Poetry Competitions

Treasurer's Report

Gulf Coast Poets Lifetime Members

Honorary Lifetime Members

Nominees for 2010 Honorary Lifetime Member

Texas State Poet Laureate Websites

September Speaker Biography

December Holiday Luncheon Speaker Announcement

Friendswood Public Library "Another Evening of Poetry"

Read Around

Scheduled Meetings

September 12, Speaker - Ken Jones
December 12, Holiday Luncheon - Speakers
Alan Birkelbach - 2005 Texas Poet Laureate
Larry Thomas - 2008 Texas Poet Laureate
Paul Ruffin - 2009 Texas Poet Laureate

Scheduled Field Trips

October 10: Houston Poetry Fest, Houston, TX
November 21: Poetry Workshop, Alvin, Texas

September Poetry Competitions

Open to everyone, including non-members. Poets may enter all contests each month, except for those they sponsor. Winners may win more than one second or third place, but are limited to one first place win per month, except members of the Gulf Coast Poets are permitted to also enter the Member Contest. Limit: Entry of up to 5 poems (all in one category, or divided among the categories) during September. If you do not include the fee, your entry will not be eligible for prize or place. All entries should be secular rather than religious, non-partisan rather than political in nature. E-mail with questions. Read guidelines at the website before entry.

CONTEST TWENTY-SEVEN - SEPTEMBER TOPICS

- 1. Summer's Gifts (Sponsor: Richard Peake).**
- 2. From a Distance (Sponsor: Mary Carlisle).**
- 3. From Home to Here (Sponsor: Richard Peake).**
- 4. My Heart is an Ocean (Sponsor: Mary Carlisle).**
- 5. Member Contest (no fee, no prize except publication).**

DUE DATE: Entries must be postmarked no later than Monday, **September 21, 2009** and arrive within 4 days of the final due date. Contests 1-3 have a \$10.00 first place prize. Contest 4 has a \$25.00 first place prize. Read guidelines at the website before entry.

gulfcoastpoets@gmail.com

<http://GulfCoastPoets.info>

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Treasurer Report for September 12, 2009 General Meeting

Report Period: June 1- August 31, 2009

This report covers 3 months

Cash Flow June 1 – August 31, 2009

Contests.....		30.00
Entry Fees	20.00	
Prizes	-55.00	
Sponsorships	65.00	
Dues.....		60.00
Lifetime	0	
Founding	0	
Chapter (4)	60.00	
Speaker Expense.....		-64.98
Honorarium	-50.00	
Speaker Lunch	-14.98	
Donations.....		0.00
Honorarium	0	
Interest/Dividend.....		2.22
Net Cash flow, June 1 – Aug. 31		27.24

Account Balances June 1 – August 31, 2009

Checking		
Beginning		1628.53
Transferred from Cash	230.00	
Checks written (5)	-105.00	
Debit card (1)	-14.98	
Dividend	2.19	
Ending		1740.74
Cash (undeposited checks, cash)		
Beginning		85.00
Received	145.00	
Transferred to Checking	-230.00	
Ending		.00
Savings (int. posted quarterly)		
Beginning		5.29
Ending		5.32
All accounts		
Beginning (6/1/2009)		1718.82
Ending (8/31/2009)		1746.06

Treasurer Reports will end on the last day of the month preceding the meeting.

GULF COAST POETS LIFETIME MEMBERS

Diana Dettling Buckely
Mary Margaret Carlisle
David Cowan
Patricia Dixon
Ann Fogelman
David Hicks
Richard Peake

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Robert Clark (2009)
John Gorman (2007)
Peggy Z. Lynch (2006)
Larry D. Thomas (2008)

Nominees for Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Gulf Coast Poets must have made a significant contribution to the cause of poetry within the state of Texas to be eligible. Only one may be chosen in any year.

Honorary Lifetime Member Nominees for 2010:
Paul D. Ruffin, Karla K. Morton

Are you a Poetry Buff? Why not follow the doings of our state poets laureate?

2008-2009 Texas Poet Laureate
Lifetime GCP Member - Larry D. Thomas
Visit his website here: <http://LarryDThomas.com>

2009-2010 Texas Poet Laureate
Paul D. Ruffin
Visit his website here: <http://PaulDRuffin.com>

2010-2011 Texas Poet Laureate
Karla K. Morton
Visit her website here: <http://kkmorton.com>



Ken Jones has been a published poet for over 20 years in anthologies, academic and underground journals, magazines, on websites and in other forums. He has given readings of his original work since college at bars, bookstores, coffeehouses, conferences, and other venues. He earned an MA in English/Creative Writing from the University of Texas at Austin and is a full-time faculty member at the Art Institute of Houston, teaching Creative Writing among other subjects. His collection, *Unutterable Blunders and Palace Disasters* (PlainViewPress 2006), was a Finalist for the 2008 West Chester Poet's Prize. His latest book was *Ceaseless Greasepaint in Combat Stance* (Slough Press 2007).

**Join us at our annual December Holiday Luncheon
Featured: Three Texas State Poets Laureate**



Alan Birkelbach



Larry Thomas



Paul Ruffin

FMI gulfcoastpoets@gmail.com

Friendswood Public Library presents
Another Evening of Poetry
Wednesday, September 23rd at 7pm
Friendswood Library Activity Room

Gulf Coast Poet Member, **Oscar C. Pena** was born and raised in Kingsville, Texas and resides in League City. His work reflects a love of family; growing up in a small town gave him a belief that joy, sorrow and laughter are meant to be shared. Oscar has been a featured poet at Barnes and Noble, and the Seabrook Coffee Oasis. He is the host of the Barnes & Noble Fourth Tuesday Poetry Series in Webster, Texas. His work appears in the *2007 Houston Poetry Fest Anthology*; Rio Grande Valley International Poetry Festival Anthology *Boundless*; 2009 and 2010 *Texas Poetry Calendars* and San Antonio Poetry Fair Anthology *Voices Along the River*.



Gulf Coast Poet Member, **Rebecca Hatcher Travis**, a Friendswood resident, is a native Texan and an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation. Her first book of poetry, *Picked Apart the Bones*, won the 2006 First Book Award for Poetry by the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas. Published in 2008, the poems draw from the author's Chickasaw heritage and the beauty of our natural world. She's published in literary journals, anthologies, 2008 Texas Poetry Calendar and the Chickasaw Times. She is a member of Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, Bay Area Writers League, Gulf Coast Poets, and the Poetry Society of Texas.

Friend of the Gulf Coast Poets, **Brian Kenneth Swain**, author of three novels, writes short stories and poetry, and has been a juried poet at the Houston Poetry Fest, and the Austin International Poetry Festival, and featured at First Friday, the Gulf Coast Poets, Webster Barnes & Noble, and Houston Borders, as well as reading on Pacifica and NPR radio. He is author of the poetry collections *Secret Places* and *My America*, and his work has appeared in *Di-Verse-ity*, *Ampersand*, *Bayou Review*, *Edgar Literary Magazine*, *Free Press Houston*, *Mutabilis Press*, *Pebble Lake Review*, *Spiky Palm*, and *The Texas Poetry Calendar*. He is a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee. Brian is an engineer and businessperson. He is originally from Maine.



Lifetime Gulf Coast Poet Member, **Mary Margaret Carlisle** is a native Texan. Published in literary journals, magazines, and anthologies, she is a member of many writing groups, and is the founder of the Gulf Coast Poets which meets in Webster, Texas; the group leader of Poetry Works Workshop, which meets in Seabrook; and is director of Sol Magazine Projects. Her latest book of poems, *Toss Me to the Waiting Sky*, was recently released by Poetry in the Arts.

Friendswood Public Library, 416 S Friendswood Drive, Friendswood, TX 77546. From I-45, take FM 2351/Hastings Friendswood Rd. Continue to follow FM-2351. Turn left at FM-518/N Friendswood Dr. The Friendswood Public Library is at the corner of Friendswood Drive and Spreading Oaks. FMI: 281-482-7135

GULF COAST POETS CRITIQUE GROUP

This group usually meets on the 4th Monday of each month, from 6:45 (sign-in) until 8:30 pm, at Seabrook Coffee Oasis, 4650 NASA Parkway at Kirby in the Arlan Shopping Center (aka NASA 1 Center). Bring paper and a pencil for a short timed writing before the critique. (Works written in class are not commented upon by the group until refined at home by the poet.)

Upcoming meeting: Monday, September 28, 2009.

Although sponsored by the Poetry Society of Texas - Gulf Coast Poets Chapter, this meeting is open to the public. While membership is not required for attendance, poets must RSVP in advance so they know how many copies of a titled one-sided one-page poem to bring to the meeting. We use positive critique with a focus on the poem and the good use of poetic tools rather than on the poet.

Please include your name and e-mail address on your poem. While you are welcome to bring your laptop, only hardcover poems receive feedback.

NOTE: This meeting's usual moderator, Kate Sanger, will be on sabbatical for some months as she begins a new teaching job that meets on Mondays. In the mean time, the meeting will be temporarily moderated by the President of the Gulf Coast Poets, Mary Margaret Carlisle.

On the Monday morning of the meeting, if you have sent in an RSVP, you will be sent a reminder and told the number of copies of your poem to bring. If you RSVP but do not receive a confirmation, call 281-316-2255. (Usually 8-10 copies are sufficient, so if your call goes unanswered, bring that many copies.)

Our distribution list is updated yearly. To receive Critique Group notices, send a request with your full name and preferred e-mail address to: Gulf Coast Poets <gulfcoastpoets@gmail.com>

For more information about the Gulf Coast Poets meetings and field trips, visit our website: <http://GulfCoastPoets.info>