

November 10, 2007  
Volume 1, Issue 1

# The Poetry Chronicles

*The Gulf Coast Poets, a Chapter of the Texas Poetry Society*

## Club News

Rebecca Hatcher Travis won the "2007 Award for Poetry" given by the Native Writers Circle of the Americas, for her book, **Picked Apart the Bones**, scheduled for release in January or February of 2008.

John Gorman and Mary Margaret Carlisle were included in **The Weight of Addition: An Anthology of Texas Poetry**, soon to be released by Mutabilis Press.

Mary Margaret Carlisle, Rebecca Hatcher Travis, and Stevie McHugh were included in the **Texas Poetry Calendar 2008**.

Mary Margaret Carlisle and Ann Fogelman were included in **Night Whispers: A Poetry and Prose Anthology**.

Mary Margaret Carlisle and Ann Fogelman were included in **Sand, Sea, & Sail: A Poetry and Prose Anthology**.



## Happy Thanksgiving

The Gulf Coast Poets, a chapter of the Texas Poetry Society, was started by our current president, Mary Carlisle. It has grown to 38 members in just 14 months. Members meet monthly at Barnes and Noble on the second Saturday of the month at 10:30 to share friendship and ideas, enjoy a poetry presentation and carry on the business of the club. Members meet afterwards for lunch at a local restaurant chosen by those attending the meeting.

If you are interested in joining please contact Mary Margaret Carlisle at [GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com](mailto:GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com)

## American Life in Poetry

BY TED KOOSER,  
U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Here's a fine seasonal poem by Todd Davis, who lives and teaches in Pennsylvania. It's about the drowsiness that arrives with the early days of autumn. Can a bear imagine the future? Surely not as a human would, but perhaps it can sense that the world seems to be slowing toward slumber. Who knows?

### Sleep

On the ridge above Skelp Road  
bears binge on blackberries and apples,  
even grapes, knocking down  
the Petersens' arbor to satisfy the sweet  
hunger that consumes them. Just like us  
they know the day must come when  
the heart slows, when to take one  
more step would mean the end of things  
as they should be. Sleep is a drug;  
dreams its succor. How better to drift  
toward another world but with leaves  
falling, their warmth draping us,  
our stomachs full and fat with summer?

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) 2007 by Todd Davis. Reprinted from "Some Heaven," by Todd Davis, published by Michigan State University Press, 2007, by permission of the author and publisher. Introduction copyright (c) 2007 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.



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*One of the hardest things in  
life is having words in your  
heart that you can't utter.*

— James Earl Jones, actor

## Gulf Coast Poets Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2007 (with updated announcements)

1. President Mary Margaret Carlisle called the meeting to order at 10:45 am and welcomed those in attendance.
2. Leo Waltz took the Minutes. Our new Recording Secretary, Debi Fairchild, will take over duties in November. If you are interested in serving as backup Secretary, write to: [GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com](mailto:GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com)
3. President Carlisle reported that three GCP members attended the Poets Northwest workshop on Sept 8; she encouraged anyone interested to attend future workshops given by Poets Northwest.
4. Treasurer Leo Waltz reported that the GCP bank account balance, as of September, was \$544.63.
5. Membership Chair Becky Travis reported four new members this year; our newest members [Anne Taylor, Ivy Kaminsky] are welcomed.
6. Announcements (updated)
  - a. Good News
  - b. Becky Travis reports she was published in the *Chickasaw Times* and has a manuscript forthcoming in the *Chickasaw Press*.
  - c. Mary Carlisle reports several members submitted poems to the editor of Mutabilis Press, Carolyn Florek, for the *Texas Poetry Anthology*, to be published in December of 2007, guest editor, Randall Watson. FMI about Mutabilis Press, contact Carolyn Tourney Florek at ([ctrorigi@aol.com](mailto:ctrorigi@aol.com)).

### Chapter Announcements

- a. The October meeting was not at Barnes & Noble. Members met instead at the Houston Poetry Fest (HPF), Saturday, October 13th, featuring a lively Spoken Word Workshop by Marie Brown.
- b. Members voted to hold future meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the month [in 2007, on November 10, December 8,] so our meeting will not conflict with holidays or with the monthly TACCL workshops, which members are encouraged to attend. Meetings will continue to be held at the Webster Barnes & Noble, 10:30 am, in the business section.
- c. Our Vice President (Lynne Streeter) reports that her brother, Pete Hansen, is recovering well from emergency surgery.

### Other Events

- a. Mary Carlisle reported that Poetry Works Workshops offers a monthly workshop and poetry critique group on 1st Sundays in Seabrook at Coffee Oasis. FMI: [Sol.Editor@prodigy.net](mailto:Sol.Editor@prodigy.net)
  - b. Hospitality Chair Ann Fogelman reported that Alvin Community College will hold workshops in November and in April, 2008. FMI: [GBenton@alvincollege.edu](mailto:GBenton@alvincollege.edu)
  - c. President Carlisle distributed (as Director of Sol Magazine Projects) scholarships to several attendees who expressed an interest in attending the HPF workshop. HPF events listing and directions were distributed.
  - d. Directions to a poetry party, later in the afternoon, at Brian Swain's house, were handed out.
  - e. Members are encouraged to attend Galveston Poets' Roundtable, which meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month Denny's on the Seawall at 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - f. Some members attended the Galveston Poets' Roundtable event, the *Heat and Hurricane Expulsion Reading* held September 30th at MOD Coffee House in Galveston.
7. The GCP competitions for September through November were announced. Recent winners are Joel Ontiberoz (July), (August), and K.B. Eckhert (September). Joel's winning poem "A Marine's Battle," was read by Mary Carlisle. Sandi read her winning poem "Poetry Matters."



## Minutes Cont'd

### ATTENDEES

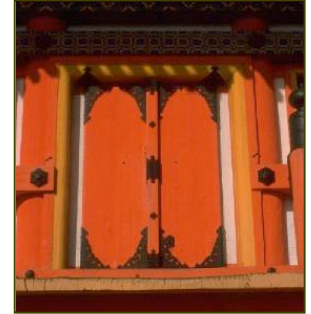
Officers: President Mary Margaret Carlisle  
Vice-President Lynne Streeter  
Treasurer Leo F. Waltz

Chairs and volunteers:  
Membership Chair Becky Travis  
Publicity Chair Jill Haugen  
Newsletter Editor Becky Ellisor  
Hospitality Chair Ann Fogelman

Members: Lauran Perry English  
Diana Dettling Buckley  
Donny Wonkan  
Debi Fairchild  
John Gorman  
Luis Vazquez  
Edith Escalante

Guests: Sandi Stromberg, Bill Turner, Ethan Batson

***Many thanks to Barnes & Noble for sponsoring our space, for making our members and guests comfortable; in particular, our gratitude goes to Ethan Batson, who not only makes meeting at the store convenient, but also makes it pleasant.***



What's behind the red doors?

## Upcoming Contests

*Support the Gulf Coast Poets by entering one of our competitions. Open to all. Fees allow us to offer a small honorarium to our speakers and to take them out to lunch after our monthly meeting. We are looking for new sponsors so we may offer prizes to our winners. Donors may judge the contest they sponsor, if wished. Many thanks to our previous sponsor Leo F. Waltz, webmaster for the Gulf Coast Poets.*

### Contest Ten

November's choice of topics:

1. "The Last Leaf on the Tree"
2. "Thanksgiving Snow"
3. "Remembering those who Serve"
4. "Bring them Home Alive"

Due date: Must be postmarked between November 1-30, 2007, but no earlier; poems must arrive no later than December 5, 2007.

("Thanksgiving Snow" features a \$10.00 prize sponsored by Mary Margaret Carlisle.)

### Contest Eleven

December's choice of topics:

1. "On the Bus"
2. "Songs My Father Never Sang"
3. "Ace of Cakes"
4. "Ring in the New"

Must be postmarked between December 1-24, 2007, but no earlier; poems must arrive no later than December 31, 2007.

(The best overall poem will be awarded a \$10.00 prize sponsored by Mary Margaret Carlisle.) For more information see [www.gulfcoastpoets.info](http://www.gulfcoastpoets.info)

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*Be sure to use snail mail to send in your entries. No emails accepted.*

**The Gulf Coast  
Poets, a Chapter  
of the Texas  
Poetry Society**

**ADDRESS:**

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**E-MAIL:**

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**OFFICERS:**

*President: Mary Carlisle  
V.President: Lynne Streeter  
Secretary: Debi Fairchild  
Treasurer: Leo Waltz*

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**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

**[www.gulfcoastpoets.info](http://www.gulfcoastpoets.info)**

## Grace Schulman, poetess

At this month's meeting, Becky Ellisor will speak about a wonderful poetess who has a long and esteemed life in the world of poetry. She is a native New Yorker who grew up walking the same streets as Walt Whitman as she likes to say. The very same streets her immigrant grandfather walked when he came to the city. She is a professor at CUNY and was the poetry editor for *The Nation* for over 30 years. Come to the meeting and hear more about her. Becky will read some of her poems.



## From the Editor

In order to promote creativity amongst our members, I have included several interesting photos in the newsletter. If they do inspire you to compose a poetic piece, then send it on to me at [newsletter@GulfCoastPoets.info](mailto:newsletter@GulfCoastPoets.info) and we will choose one to post in the next newsletter. Publication will be your sole gratification.

If there are other great ideas out there please let me know. I am ready, willing and able to make this as good a newsletter as possible.

I take responsibility for content but Margaret Yeager, volunteer proofreader is the one to speak to about typos.

## Submissions

Welcome to the first issue of the Gulf Coast Poets newsletter. Members are welcome to submit articles, poems and monthly columns for consideration. Email the editor at [newsletter@GulfCoastPoets.info](mailto:newsletter@GulfCoastPoets.info)

### **The Gulf Coast Poets**

P.O. Box 580037  
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