

December 5, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 2

The Poetry Chronicles

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

Club Member News

Becky Ellisor has created a website for herself with the help of her daughter. Please check out her place at www.BeckyEllisor.com and leave a comment on one of her three blogs or just send an email and let her know what you think.

To a poet, silence is an acceptable response, even a flattering one.

—Colette, author
(1873-1954)

Check out this site when you feel like writing rhyming poetry.
www.RhymeZone.com



Margaret Yeager our volunteer proofreader will be returning home from Montana today, where she has been visiting her sister and family for three weeks.

When something happy, sad or eventful happens in your life, do us a favor and let the editor know so she can pass it on to all of us.



Happy Holidays

The Gulf Coast Poets, a chapter of the Texas Poetry Society will hold its December Meeting at Barnes and Noble, on Bay Area Blvd. at 10:30 AM Saturday December 8, 2007. Lynne Streeter will make the presentation and afterwards the club will have its annual Holiday Party at Becky's house around noon. No gifts please. Lynne Streeter, co-host, is making her famous Chili and Becky will throw together a salad. Sweets or snacks are welcome if you have a favorite one you make during the holidays.

Bring a Holiday poem to read. Please.

American Life in Poetry

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

Here's a holiday poem by Steven Schneider that I like very much for its light spirit and evocative sensory detail. Isn't this a party to which you'd like to be invited?

Chanukah Lights Tonight

Our annual prairie Chanukah party—
latkes, kugel, cherry blintzes.
Friends arrive from nearby towns
and dance the twist to "Chanukah Lights Tonight,"
spin like a dreidel to a klezmer hit.

The candles flicker in the window.
Outside, ponderosa pines are tied in red bows.
If you squint,
the neighbors' Christmas lights
look like the Omaha skyline.

The smell of oil is in the air.
We drift off to childhood
where we spent our gelt
on baseball cards and matinees,
cream sodas and potato knishes.

No delis in our neighborhood,
only the wind howling over the crushed corn stalks.
Inside, we try to sweep the darkness out,
waiting for the Messiah to knock,
wanting to know if he can join the party.



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Gulf Coast Poets Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 10, 2007



*...what is a poem but
a hazardous attempt
at self-understanding:
it is the deepest part
of autobiography.*

—Robert Penn Warren,
poet and novelist

- A. Call to Order - President Mary Margaret Carlisle called the meeting to order at 10:50 am and welcomed those in attendance.
- B. Minutes - (taken by Jill Haugen - Debbie Fairchild Recording Secretary absent.) Anyone interested in serving as backup secretary, please write to GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com.
- C. Reports -
 1. Vice President (Lynne Streeter - speaker possibilities)
 - a. December: Lisa Grable (Word Factory), Carolyn Florek (Mutabilis Press) or Dr. Sybil Estess
 - b. January: Scott Wiggerman (Dos Gatos Press)
 - c. April: Streeter requested suggestions and contacts for someone to discuss marketing.
 2. Treasurer (Carlisle reporting for Leo Waltz) GCP's bank account beginning balance: \$544.63; ending balance: \$583.66.
 3. President Carlisle announced the following:
 - a. New sponsors for ongoing poetry competitions are needed. Contact GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com.
 - b. Dues for all members wishing to renew for 2008 should be paid by Dec 31st
 - i. Founding Members (aka Charter Members, referring to our charter from the Poetry Society of Texas): Those who joined both the Gulf Coast Poets and the Poetry Society of Texas before the end of October 2006. Charter Members pay yearly dues of \$10 as long as they continue to renew their PST dues and GCP dues by December of each year. If they do not renew their PST dues, they automatically become Chapter Members.
 - ii. Chapter Members (aka Active Members): Those who became members after October 1st, 2005, even if a current member of PST. Chapter members currently pay dues of \$15.00 each year.
 - iii. Only those who renew their membership by December 31st may stand for office in the January elections.
 - iv. Nominations for officer candidates may be made at the December meeting or will be accepted by e-mail at GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com or through the Nominating Committee: Co-Chairs Barbara A. Carle <bacarle@comcast.net>, Adriana Babiak-Vázquez <borimex@swbell.net>. Lynne Streeter recommended nominators consider attendance records before nominating a candidate for an officer's position.
- D. Good News
 1. Lynne announced agent (Jody Logsdon) is looking at her work.
 2. Luis Vasquez gave a well-attended reading at Coffee Oasis.
 3. John Gorman, Stevie McHugh, and Mary Margaret Carlisle's poetry was accepted by Mutabilis Press.

Bay Area Poets to be featured at Woodlands Poets, Unleashed

Dan Rice of Poets Unleashed has invited the Gulf Coast Poets along with other Bay Area Poetry Groups to be the featured poets at the Woodlands Barnes and Noble at 1201 Lake Woodlands Drive. This Barnes and Noble overlooks the Turning Basin at the Woodlands Mall. We are invited to read on Saturday, December 15 at 7:00 PM.

Members need to sign up to be a featured Poet at this reading by contacting Mary Margaret Carlisle, SolEditor@Prodigy.net before that date. There will be an open microphone afterwards.

Officer Election at January Meeting

The January meeting of the Gulf Coast Poets will include the annual election of officers. All incumbents will be standing for re-election. To run for office your 2008 dues must be paid by December 31. Nominations for officer candidates will be taken at the December meeting. Interested candidates must provide a 50-word biography and a photograph for introduction at the meeting. Contact Barbara A. Carle (BACARLE@Comcast.net) or Adriana Babiak-Vazquez (Borimex@swbell.net) with your candidate.



Upcoming GCP 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 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

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

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GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com

OFFICERS:

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.gulfcoastpoets.info



Lynne Streeter Presents

At this month's meeting, one of our favorite gals, Lynne Streeter will speak to us about a surprise topic. Lynne is the emcee at the Barnes and Noble Monthly Poetry Readings. She does a wonderful job in that venue, so we can look forward to an interesting speech for the meeting.



From the Editor

In order to promote creativity amongst our members, I have included several interesting photos in the newsletter. If they inspire you to compose a poetic piece, then send it on to me at 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 great a newsletter as possible.

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

Submissions

Welcome to the second issue of the Gulf Coast Poets newsletter. Members are welcome to submit articles, poems, photographs and monthly columns for consideration.

Email the editor at newsletter@GulfCoastPoets.info or she@BeckyEllisor.com

The Gulf Coast Poets

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