

February 1, 2008
Volume 2, Issue 2

The Poetry Chronicles

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

Club Member News

Lynne Streeter reports that her newest granddaughter, Virginia Christine Bridges arrived on Saturday, January 19 and weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. Her Mama, Charity, Daddy, Sam and Big Sister, Suzanna are very excited. You can send a card c/o Lynne Streeter, Po Box 611, Seabrook, 77586. Thanks for all the kind prayers, thoughts and wishes.



From Kate

Sanger: Just got awesome news in the mail today – I won first place in *Byline's* "Autumn Poem" contest with "Subtropical Fall". They gave me some comments on the poem, too, to help make it even better. Now I guess I should go ahead and subscribe like I'd been planning to....

Seabrook Coffee Oasis Reading Series
First Mondays, NASA Parkway at Kirby, 7:00 pm. Contact Luis Vázquez: borimex@swbell.net

Feb 4 Oscar Peña and Sam Collins

March 3 Marie Delgado Travis



Happy Valentines

The Gulf Coast Poets, a chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas, will hold its February meeting at Barnes and Noble on Bay Area Blvd. at 10:30 AM Saturday, February 9, 2008. **Steven Fromholz, Texas Poet Laureate for 2007-2008 is our speaker** at this meeting. An article about Mr. Fromholz is on page 4. This is not the meeting to miss. The March Speaker will be **Scott Wiggerman**. April still to be announced, May meeting presenter will be **Dr. Sybil Estess**. **Mary M. Carlisle** will be the presenter at the Webster Barnes & Noble open mic on February 26 and **Lynne Streeter** will present at the March Open Mic. **Adriana Babiak Vasquez** is ill and will not be attending Open Mics at Seabrook Coffee Oasis for a few months. We all wish her well.

American Life in Poetry

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

I've written about the pleasures of poetry that offer us vivid scenes but which lets us draw our own conclusions about the implications of what we're being shown. The poet can steer us a little by the selection of details, but a lot of the effect of the poem is in what is not said, in what we deduce. Lee McCarthy is a California poet, and here is something seen from across the street, something quite ordinary yet packed with life.

Santa Paula

***There's a woman kissing a cowboy
across the street. His eight-year-old son
watches from the bus stop bench.***

***She's really planting one on him,
his Stetson in danger.***

It must have been some weekend.

***Seeing no room in that embrace for himself,
the boy measures his future, legs
straight out in front of him.***

***Both hands hold onto a suitcase handle,
thin arms ready to prove themselves.***

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (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) 1992 by Lee McCarthy, whose most recent book of poetry is "Good Girl," Story Line Press, 2002. Reprinted from "Combing Hair with a Seashell," by Lee McCarthy, Ion Books, 1992, 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. We do not accept unsolicited poems.

Gulf Coast Poets Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January 12, 2008 Meeting



Poetry is like painting: one piece takes your fancy if you stand close to it, another if you keep at some distance.

—Horace, *Ars Poetica* (13-18 B.C.)



The courage of the poet is to keep ajar the door that leads into madness.

Christopher Morley, *Inward Ho!* (1923)

Call to Order: President Mary Margaret Carlisle called the meeting to order at 10:40 am and welcomed four guests and fifteen members in attendance. (Minutes taken by Recording Secretary Debi Fairchild.)

Treasurer's Report: (M. Carlisle reporting for Leo Waltz). Beginning balance: \$821.66; ending balance \$1,202.23.

Nominations Committee: Co-Chair Barbara Carle announced the nominees. Oscar Peña made a motion to keep the officers from 2007 stating that there were no other nominees, and Barbara Carle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Lifetime and Founding members were recognized. Door Prizes (books) were won by guest Kay Cox (*Editing Sky*) and Oscar Peña (*Time Slice*.)

December's Poetry Contest winner, Ivy Kaminisky, read her poem "Traveling Blues". To read her biography and see her poem, visit the Gulf Coast Poets Website.

Membership Certificates were given to all Chapter, Founding, and new Lifetime members. If you did not receive yours at the January meeting, contact Mary M. Carlisle who will bring it to the next meeting.

Announcements:

Visit <http://GulfCoastPoets.info> for details of Gulf Coast Poets news.

Visit <http://TexasPoetryEvents.info> for details of other event news.

Tracking Money: The President requests that in the future all members use checks instead of cash for dues or contests so the treasurer may more easily track the money.

Critique Group: Contact Kate Sanger if you wish to attend the critique group which meets at the Coffee Oasis on the fourth Monday of every month.

Upcoming Guest Speaker: February 9, 2008, the 2007-2008 Texas Laureate, Steven Fromholz, will be our speaker.

Becky Ellisor's new chapbook, *No Rhyme or Reason*, is out. Contact her if you wish a copy.

One of our Guests, Paul Boor, announced that his book *The Blood Notes of Peter Mallow*, has just been released. The Gulf Coast Poets had intended to attend his book-signing at Borders, but the signing was cancelled due to the books not arriving in time. Other signings have been scheduled.

Mary M. Carlisle's latest Write Now project (write a fifteen-minute poem every day for a month) begins on February 1, 2008. Contact her for prompts and instructions.

Oscar Peña announced he will be to be the featured poet for the January Webster Barnes and Noble Poetry Reading and Open Mic (meets every fourth Tuesday) in January, and again with Sam Collins at the February Coffee Oasis Poetry Reading Series in Seabrook (meets every first Monday).

Minutes continued

The Lucidity Poetry Conference meets from April 1-3 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

The Summer Conference of The Poetry Society of Texas will be hosted in Houston by the Poets Northwest Chapter from July 10-12. The Gulf Coast Poets Executive Board will discuss taking a field trip to the conference at its next meeting.

Guest Speaker: Gilbert Benton, poet, and educator, teaches at Alvin Community College. The college sponsors a Writing Workshop every April and a Poetry Workshop every Fall. One of the points he mentioned was knowing your market; another was that anyone can start a poem, but it takes a real craftsman to end a poem. He also read some of his wonderful poetry to us. If there had been more time, he would also have played his guitar.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm. Many members and a few guests attended lunch at Zios with our guest speaker, and brought poems for the Read Around.

Presidents Notes

Please write to GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com to contact any member, Officer, Committee Chair, or one of our Volunteers. To send in an article, poem or photo to be considered for the Poetry Chronicles, please contact the Editor, Becky Ellisor <she@beckyellisor.com>

Officers: President - Mary M. Carlisle, Vice President - Lynne Streeter, Treasurer - Leo F. Waltz, Secretary - Debi Fairchild.

Committees: Membership Chair - Becky Travis, Hospitality Chair - Ann Fogelman, By-laws Chair - Oscar Peña, Finance Chair – Leo F. Waltz, Election Committee Co-Chairs – Barbara Carle, and Adriana Babiak Vázquez.

Other Volunteers: Newsletter Editor - Becky Ellisor, Critique Group Leader - Kate Sanger, Webmaster - Leo F. Waltz, Historian and Judge/Critic - Mary M. Carlisle, Presidential Proofreader – Bill Turner.

Executive Board: Chair -Mary M. Carlisle, Board Members - Lynne Streeter, Leo F. Waltz, Debi Fairchild, Becky Travis, Alternate Board Members – Oscar Peña, Ann Fogelman, Donny Wankan.

When I think of Wolves – Three

When I think of wolves, I think of two lone Mexican wolves
residing at the Houston zoo
who sleep most of the day among the
East Texas pines
Every few hours they wake to stretch their legs,
trot the perimeter of their compound
and return again to the shelter where they sleep at night
along well-trodden paw paths
that snake through their tiny acre of woods
Occasionally they stop to make eye contact with a human standing
at the fence before their enclosure
She's been standing there for hours
quietly waiting
to see them up close
strategically whispering to other human passersby that
"The wolves never come out"
or "The exhibit is being renovated and the wolves are somewhere else right now"
so that she can have the wolves all to herself

by Ivy Kaminsky

Written to the wolf picture on last month's front page.

THE GULF COAST POETS

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Secretary: Debi Fairchild
Treasurer: Leo Waltz

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.gulfcoastpoets.info

February Speaker Steven Fromholz

Steven Fromholz was born in Temple, Texas in 1945. Most people know him as a singer and songwriter. As a child, he had polio, which affected his arms, so his parents gave him guitar lessons. The State of Texas named him Poet Laureate in 2007. Fromholz began performing while he was serving in the Navy.



Afterwards, he teamed with Dan McCrimmon to create the group Frummox and he also played with Stephen Stills and Rick Roberts before going solo. In 2003, Fromholz suffered a stroke while visiting his sister in Bosque County, Texas, requiring a three-year hiatus, as he says, "to reinvent myself." During that time, he again learned to walk, talk, play guitar, sing and adjust. Today, embracing a more user friendly schedule, he's writing new tunes, establishing new guitar styles and has returned to performing. Over the years, many respected musicians have recorded songs written by Fromholz. Most notable among these are Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett, John Denver and Jerry Jeff Walker. In addition to singing and songwriting, Fromholz has dabbled in acting, playwriting, poetry, record producing, narrating, advertising jingle-writing and white-water river guiding. He is always approachable, unorthodox, outrageous, and truthful.



Submissions

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

Write a poem about any photograph in this newsletter and I will print the best, if you get it to me before the next deadline: the 20th of each month..

Email the editor at she@BeckyEllisor.com

