

The Poetry Chronicles

March 2, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 3

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

Club Member News



Steven Fromholz and Lynn Streeter at February Meeting.

From Ivy Kaminsky:

I am happy to announce the release of my new book **"every poem has a punchline"**

This book is only available at www.lulu.com/content/1889127

Seabrook Coffee Oasis Reading Series

First Mondays

NASA Parkway at Kirby Dr., 7:00 pm.
Contact Luis Vázquez: borimex@swbell.net

March 3
Marie Delgado Travis + The Serrano's Theatre Group

April 7
Gilbert Benton and his students

May 5
Barbara Youngblood Carr

June 2
Donny Wankan



Happy St. Pat's

The Gulf Coast Poets, a chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas, will hold its March meeting at Barnes and Noble on Bay Area Blvd. at 10:30 AM Saturday March 8, 2008. The featured Speaker will be Scott Wiggerman, editor of the annual Texas Poetry Calendar and co-owner of Dos Gatos Press. Mr. Wiggerman will be accepting applications for this coming year's Poetry Calendar. So get your applications together if you have a poem ready to enter. See the rules at www.dosgatospress.org/submissions.html This should be an excellent meeting. The April Meeting is cancelled. The May meeting presentation will be by Dr. Sybil Estess. Lynne Streeter will be the featured poet at the March Open Mic on Tuesday, March 25.

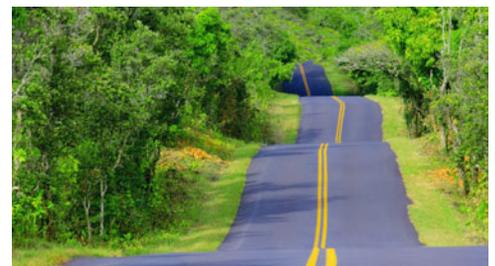
American Life in Poetry

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

Thirty, forty years ago, there were lots of hitchhikers, college students, bent old men and old women, and none of them seemed fearful of being out there on the highways at the mercy of strangers. All that's changed, and nobody wants to get in a car with a stranger. Below, Steven Huff of New York tells us about a memorable ride.

Safe

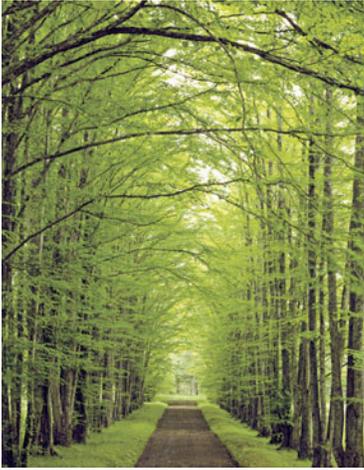
You used to be able to flag a ride in this country. Impossible now--everyone is afraid of strangers. Well, there was fear then too, and it was mutual: drivers versus hitchhikers. And we rode without seat belts, insurance or beliefs. People would see me far ahead on a hill like a seedling, watch me grow in the windshield and not know they were going to stop until they got right up to me. Maybe they wanted company or thought I'd give them some excitement. It was the age of impulse, of lonesome knee jerks. An old woman stopped, blew smoke in my face and after I was already in her car she asked me if I wanted a ride. I'm telling you. Late one night a construction boss pulled over. One of his crew had been hit by the mob, he said as he drove, distraught and needing to talk to someone. We rode around for a long time. He said, I never wore a gun to a funeral before, but they've gotta be after me too. Then he looked at me and patted the bulge in his coat. Don't worry, he said, you're safe.



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) 2007 by Steven Huff, whose latest book of poetry is "More Daring Escapes," Red Hen Press, 2007. Reprinted from the "Chataqua Literary Journal," Issue 4, 2007, by permission of the author. Introduction copyright (c) 2008 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 manuscripts.

Gulf Coast Poets Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 9, 2008



The world is so great and rich,
and life so full of variety, that you
can never lack occasions for
poems.

—GOETHE



*March is a tomboy with tousled
hair, a mischievous smile, mud on
her shoes and a laugh in her
voice.*

-- Hal Borland

Order: President Mary Margaret Carlisle called the meeting to order at 10:40 am and welcomed guest and members in attendance. The minutes were taken by Recording Secretary Debi Fairchild.

Lynne Streeter made a motion to approve the January minutes and John Gorman seconded the motion.

Hospitality Report-Ann Fogelman introduced two new members, Kay Cox and Penelope McFadin, and two guests: Kathy Harland, who writes articles for Change magazine and Maxine Giles, visiting from Georgetown, Texas.

Membership Chair's Report-Becky Travis reported that we now have 39 members, including 7 lifetime members. Eighteen were in attendance, plus two guests. Kay Cox joined at the meeting.

Vice-President's Report-Lynne Streeter talked about upcoming speakers. Scott Wiggerman from Dos Gatos Press (the publisher of the Texas Poetry Calendar) will be March 8th's featured speaker. Contact Lynne with any speaker suggestions.

Treasurer's Report-Leo Waltz reported a beginning balance of \$1,202.23, and an ending balance of \$1,221.31. The group discussed forming an Audit Committee to review financial statements.

Announcements were listed in the newsletter and handout passed to each member and guest, of which this is an abbreviated synopsis: Mary Margaret Carlisle will be a featured poet at the Webster Barnes & Noble poetry reading on the 4th Tuesday of February, and Lynne Streeter (emcee of that venue) will be featured on the 4th Tuesday of March. Four field trips were proposed 1) April - Alvin Community College Writers Workshop (2nd Saturday); 2) July - Poetry Society of Texas Summer Conference (hosted by Poets Northwest in Houston); 3) October - Houston Poetry Fest (usually held the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the 2nd week); 4) November - Alvin Community College Poetry Workshop (most probably the 2nd Saturday). Mary Margaret Carlisle will present at the April and July workshops, and John Gorman will present at the November workshop.

Guest Speaker: Texas Poet Laureate Steven Fromholz, a native Texan, entertained us with his poetry. A noted composer and singer, he woke up one morning with a massive stroke about 4 years ago and had to relearn everything. Steven mentioned that great poets are journalists, and that his blessing in life was the fact that he's still breathing. He pays attention to everything around him, and finds that Texas inspires him. Steven has a wonderful book out about his family history and three wonderful poem/songs called Texas Trilogy; for more information on how to get a copy, please visit his website at stevenfromholz.com.

Two of the January Poetry Contest Winners, both Gulf Coast Poets members, read their poems: Ivy Kaminsky (To the Ocean); Penelope McFadin - (What is Now?). The third winning poet was Carol Dee Meeks of New Mexico, *Wires Slow Their Lives* was read by our President.

The Poetry Read Around was well received. These member poets read: Kelly Ellis (Just Beyond Jazz Age Somewhere Else); Becky Travis (Greet the Day); Mary Margaret Carlisle (Witness); Lynne Streeter (Ode to Verandas and Young Hearts); Kay Cox (Bird on a Wire); Barbara Carle (I am a Photograph in an Album); Donny Wankan (Moffitt Balloons); John Gorman (Survival of Galveston). Our speaker remarked that those who read were talented poets.

Five door prizes were donated by Sol Magazine. Winners were: Penelope McFadin, Kay Cox, Bill Turner, Becky Travis, and Edith Escalante.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am. After a brief networking session, nine members attended lunch at Zios with our guest speaker, Steven Fromholz.

President's Notes

All four proposed field trips were overwhelmingly approved by member e-mail vote (17 voted for all four workshops, as opposed to 1 vote for the Alvin workshops), so the Gulf Coast Poets will not hold meetings during April, July, October or November so members may be guilt-free to attend the workshops mentioned in the February Minutes. For more information about the workshops, contact Mary Margaret Carlisle at her email address. GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com

National Poetry Month is April. This year the Academy of American Poets celebrates with its nationwide Poem in Your Pocket Day. Find out how you can participate at poets.org/pocket. If you are a teacher, librarian, or bookseller and wish to receive a free poster from the Academy, sign up at this address: <http://www.poets.org/posterRequest.php>

Gulf Coast Poets Upcoming Contests

Contest Fourteen) March's choice of topics: 1. "Ever Yours." 2. "Walking With the Wind." Must be postmarked between March 1-24, 2008, but no earlier; poems must arrive no later than March 31, 2008. March \$10.00 prizes sponsored by William Turner. Poets may win only one prize per month.

Contest Fifteen) April's choice of topics: 1. "Singing Your Name." 2. "Hold On For One More Day." Must be postmarked between April 1-23, 2008, but no earlier; poems must arrive no later than April 30, 2008. April's \$10.00 prizes sponsored by Adriana and Luis Vazquez. Poets may win only one prize per month.

Other Guidelines: Open to all, but poets under 18 years of age must include parental permission. Poetry must be original, unpublished and to the topic provided. No SASE's, please. If, in the opinion of the judge(s), no poem is worthy of winning, no winner will be declared. We cannot guarantee on-time delivery by the post office. No fees returned.

To Enter

1. Send all entries for each month in the same envelope, with up to five titled poems per topic, each poem on a separate page. Do not title with the name of the topic.
2. Submit one copy only of each poem (one poem per page) typed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, which should include only the topic (at the top) and the titled poem, not your name.
3. Send a single cover letter that includes the first topic (at the top) then the titles of the poems submitted in that topic; then, the second topic, and titles of poems in that topic, etc. Include full name, mailing address, e-mail address and phone number. Be prepared to send the poem by e-mail if you win.
4. Also include a third-person autobiography written in 50 words or fewer.
5. Font: Easy to read, 12 point or larger. No script fonts, colored ink or illustrations.
6. Justification: Fully left justified or centered, one column, please.
7. The entry fee is \$5.00 for up to five poems. Add \$1.00 for every poem beyond five. Include a check made out to Gulf Coast Poets. No coins or bills; check only.
8. Mail to: Gulf Coast Poets, c/o Carlisle, P.O. Box 580037, Houston, Texas 77258-0037
9. Five-day grace period for receipt of an entry, but only if an envelope has the correct postmark.
10. First prizes may be offered in each monthly contest, but poets may win only one prize per month.

Questions? GulfCoastPoets@yahoo.com

Poets are invited to read their winning poem at the next meeting after winners are posted (unless there is no meeting that month); winning poems will be posted at the Gulf Coast Poets' Website along with a brief biography of the poet. <http://GulfCoastPoets.info> Once posted at the Gulf Coast Poet's Website, all rights return to the poet.

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THE GULF COAST POETS

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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



*An old home at Roundtop,
Texas taken in the springtime
when Bluebonnets and Indian
Paintbrush are in bloom.*

by Jan Bernstein

2008 Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowships

Five *Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowships* in the amount of \$15,000 will be awarded to young poets through a national competition sponsored by the Poetry Foundation, publisher of **Poetry**. Established in 1989 by the Indianapolis philanthropist Ruth Lilly, the fellowships are intended to encourage the further study and writing of poetry. Applicants must be U.S. citizens between the age of twenty-one and thirty-one as of March 31, 2008.

Applicants should submit:

Completed application form

Ten pages of poems, double-spaced

One paragraph explaining how the fellowship would aid the applicant's work

A publication list (optional)

Do not include any additional material at this time (cover letter, references, etc.). If you wish to be notified of receipt of your application, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard. Application materials will not be returned. Applications must be postmarked during the month of March 2008. Electronic submissions will not be considered. Finalists will be announced on August 1, 2008, at poetryfoundation.org. Winners to be announced by September 1, 2008.

DOWNLOAD 2008 RUTH LILLY FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION FORM HERE

http://www.poetryfoundation.org/programs/prizes_fellowship.html

Submissions

Welcome to the sixth 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 submit it by March 20 to editor at she@BeckyEllisor.com. The best poem will be included in the April newsletter.

