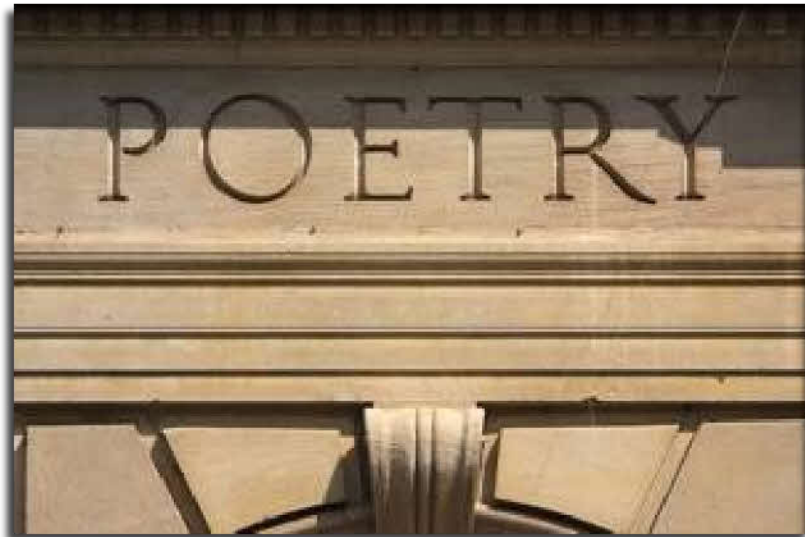


Sol Magazine Projects

January 2009
WRITE NOW Winners



S.J. Baldock
Margaret Ellis Hill
Mona Follis

Tyger Schonholzer
Mary Kimmel
June P. LaVernway

FIRST PLACE

cranes descend
tadpole smorgasbord
frogs lament

frogs lament
tadpole smorgasbord
cranes ascend

SJ Baldock, Red Oak, TX

SECOND PLACE - TIE

Writing A Poem

The mind travels like a bee, buzzing
over pastures and street corners looking
for pollen to fill a comb of holes, to find
a never ending supply of words ready
to retrieve. Sounds and symbols
fit into a maze of place together--
thick as yellow, thin as orange,
long as lavender,
short as red and black.
Ready for the harvest, words rest
in their own small spaces and wait
to be found, before the inks runs out.

Margaret Ellis Hill, Wilton, CA

SECOND PLACE – TIE

Write Brain, Left Brain

I vacuum up words, file them away
in the dustbin of my mind. Then when I try
to retrieve them, to write them down, the chaos
disgorges a whirled tangle of empty folders
swirled together with pages of mental notes,
motes in the shaft of my enlightened,
inspired foray. It's the subtext that eludes
me – the decision to make revisions
based on illusive chains in my psyche.
Or did I think that my left brain left alone
would automatically alphabetize the labels
of language under "Logical Links?"
Meanwhile my hand carries on without me,
making a remarkable *lapsus calami* no doubt,
but it's a moot point because my pen is dry.

Mona Follis, Houston, TX

THIRD PLACE

Words

They run amuck and fall
Down my throat into my aching belly
They climb from rib to rib
And pound wild against my chest
They fill my lungs and choke me
And burn
My eyes also burn
When I stare at these blank pages
And in my fist a pen
Useless and now broken from my rage
Words ache to leap onto these pages
But the ink well is dry
Now they hold me hostage
Until my spine is broken
And my heart ripped asunder

Tyger Schonholzer, Mineola, TX

HONORABLE MENTION

Inarticulate

There are no poems left inside of me
All the words have vanished
Shut behind an iron door, my heart
Like a fist held against the world
Once I flung myself into life with abandon
Joyous in my innocence, untarnished
Love and trust flowed freely as did words
I felt my spirit eloquent
Now my soul hides, afraid
No longer willing to be open
Almost yearning to be empty
Empty; what good is empty
The body that holds this frozen heart
Is as useless as a pen
Run out of ink

Mary Kimmel, Dickinson, TX

HONORABLE MENTION

Perfect Harmony

The setting sun blinded my eyes, momentarily causing me to lose sight of my quarry. Perched on the hood of my car, binoculars in hand, I awaited the arrival of the yearly influx of cranes that call the Southwest home during the winter. Each day at dawn they rise into the air like a squadron of airplanes taking off on a mission. Where they go or what they do during the daylight hours is unknown to me but almost magically they reappear at sunset, whooping and looping in perfect harmony as they glide down into the fields, gracefully thrusting their feet forward for an easy landing. As the last ray of sunshine bounces off the rows of grain, the majestic birds are ready to rest.

June Patricia LaVernway, Mobile, AL

ABOUT THE POETS

SJ Baldock discovered Sol Magazine in 2000 or 2001. She has continued to participate in the various projects resulting from that publication, such as "Write Now."

Mona Follis is a self-styled poet and quilt artist, sometimes writes poems that echo the quilt. Her philosophy of writing is: it's necessary, like breathing.

Margaret Ellis Hill is an avid reader, poet and student. Her work can be found in many magazines and anthologies both on and off line.

Mary Kimmel, a member of the Gulf Coast Poets Society, Galveston Poets Roundtable and The Arts Alliance of Clear Lake, is a poet, essayist and photographer.

June Patricia LaVernway writes poetry, is a photographer and works part time as Youth Director for a non profit agency in Mobile, AL.

Tyger Schonholzer is a respiratory therapist and writer who lives in East Texas. She writes fiction, poetry, and articles on current topics. She blogs at Blogspot.

In the late 80's, a group of poets met weekly with a "Round Robin" of poems written to topics suggested by various members. Mary Margaret Carlisle offered a prize for the favorite poem, and created a newsletter with the results. A staff of editors gathered and called the resulting publication Sol Magazine. In 1998 Leo Waltz created a website for the poems. Because of the large number of ongoing submissions, the cost of providing prizes, and lack of regular sponsorship, Sol stopped offering regular contests, and went to a quarterly. The Project Director now runs all projects with the help of panel readers. The website is hundreds of pages long; managed by Leo Waltz, it hosts the websites of the Houston Poetry Fest, the Gulf Coast Poets, as well as Sol Magazine Projects which consists of the following:

A. Journals

1. Sol Magazine (quarterly, online)
2. Ampersand Poetry Journal (quarterly, online)
3. Texas Stars (annual, online, invitational-only)

B. Aplomado Falcon Literary News

C. Texas Poetry Events Page (website)

D. Poetry Works

a. Workshops

1. Famous Poets & Poets Laureate
2. Chapbook Workshops
3. Writing Competition Poetry

b. Critique Group

c. Traveling Seminars (offered at conferences, colleges, universities)

1. Haiku in Brief
2. List Poems - A Good Place to Start
3. Jump-Start for Poets
4. Poetry Postcards
5. Short Forms for Poets

d. Poetry Works Online

e. WRITE NOW

Sol Magazine Projects is a Not-for-profit group. While many programs are still free, annual membership and program fees are now requested from those attending workshops. Sol's Webmaster and Project Director remain unpaid volunteers.

Annual Membership is \$10.00 and runs from January through December. To become a member and help support ongoing speaker programs and WRITE NOW competition prizes, make a check out to Mary Margaret Carlisle, put PWW in the memo line. Send to P.O. Box 580037, Houston, Texas, 77258-0037. Please include an e-mail address in your request. Your gifts are appreciated.

www.Sol-Magazine-Projects.org