

# Poetry Now



November 2006



"relax / I tell them / you're inside / poetry now"

-Julia Connor

## spc poetry contest 2006

final judge: Sacramento poet laureate Julia connor

first prize \$100 / second prize \$50 / third prize \$25  
ten honorable mentions (\$10 gift certificates from barnes & noble)

deadline: december 15, 2006

winners will be notified in january, featured in poetrynow,  
and invited to read at a special reading at spc.

send one anonymous copy of each poem along with a cover sheet listing titles, first lines and contact information.

entry fee \$3 per poem  
send your poems to

spc 2006 contest / 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street / sacramento, ca 95816

## SPC's Annual Benefit Party

Poetry € Music € Refreshments € Silent Auction

At the home of Mimi and Burnett Miller

Thursday, November 30, 2006 6-8 pm

rsvp: [poetrynow@sacramentopoetrycenter.org](mailto:poetrynow@sacramentopoetrycenter.org)

or to Bob at 916-240-1897

**Two Poems by Jane Blue** – Jane reads at The Book Collector, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm  
to celebrate her new Rattlesnake Press chapbook *Turf Daisies and Dandelions*.



Jane Blue's poems have been published in *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Poetry International*, *Antigonish*, *The Louisville Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and numerous other journals and anthologies. Her most recent books of poetry are *The Persistence of Vision*, (Poets Corner Press), and *Now that I am in the Light I See*, (Konociti Books). A chapbook, *Turf Daisies and Dandelions* is due to be released by Rattlesnake Press on November 8, 2006. She has taught creative writing at women's centers, colleges and prisons, and privately. She lives in Sacramento with her husband, Peter Rodman.

## Tupelo

The tupelo outside my window turns red and yellow behind pink blinds.

If I were a painter I would paint only windows.

I'm thinking of the creamy stars I could see  
from my childhood bedroom, behind the homespun curtains.

All memory is fiction.

It has happened before, that the stars  
were occluded, the fogs were brown. In the Middle Ages

ice advanced into the civilized countries.

I'm thinking of migrations, changes in the weather, of the woman

on the bus yesterday, enunciating loudly, a formal  
declaration, how she was no longer obligated  
for so-and-so's debts,

black plastic garbage bags surrounding her demurely.  
The driver said you're upsetting me and everyone else. Get off.

And she did, in a huff, gathering her estate.

Once there was a bay tree outside the window.  
My neighbor tried to kill it, chiseling at the roots.

Then he died, old Roy. I'm thinking how everything changes.

Previously published in *Confluence*.

***Or Like a Broken Bone***

**Jane Blue**

I dreamed of a destroyed city  
that had been built up again stone by stone.  
Somehow this construction was wrong;  
the city was raised up on a foundation of sand,  
or like a broken bone set improperly  
it had to be re-broken painfully.  
The architects ordered it pulled down again  
this was long before the flood—I had  
no conscious thought of prophecy.  
There were no weakened levees, or indeed  
any levees at all; it was an ancient, ruined city,  
a desert, with no stunned neglected people—  
there were no people at all,  
as though even my dream had forgotten them.

*(Previously published as Poems-For-All/ no. 592, 24th St. Irregular Press)*

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***AFTER THE RAIN***

**-Dewell H. Byrd**

Silence  
hangs pale  
over the garden.  
Damp, fresh, clean  
Earth drinks its fill, sighs;  
picket fence releases strands of vapor.

Rainbows  
embrace the sky  
lush with early omen.  
Starlings skitter about, glean;  
wind and light tease each other.

Earth  
holds its breath  
for a milli-second.  
Grandma taps an egg  
on the rim of the cookie bowl,  
waits for the miracle to ooze out.

# Sacramento Literary Calendar for November 2006

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## Wednesday, November 1

*Mics and Moods* presents **Miss Ashleigh** (Happy 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday) at Capitol Garage, 1500 K Street. 10pm-midnight. Features and Open Mic hosted by Khiry Malik. Info: 492-9336 or [www.malikspeaks.com](http://www.malikspeaks.com) 21 and over/\$5cover.

**Pat Schneider**, creator of the Amherst Writers' Method, speaks at Sutter Cancer Center, 2800 L Street, 1st floor. This event also features the art of Marlene Kidd. 6:30pm Art Walk and Reception, 7:30 Presentation, 8:30 Book Signing. Wine and refreshments. It should be a great evening. Free!

## Thursday, November 2

*Poetry Unplugged* presents **Kintessa Quintanar**. Open mic before/after. Hosted by Mario Ellis Hill. 8pm at Luna's Café, 1414 16th Street. Info: 441-3931 or [www.lunascafe.com](http://www.lunascafe.com). Free.

*Vibe Sessions* at Cobbler Inn, 3520 Stockton Blvd. (next to Colonial Theater) Hosted by Flo Real 8-11pm. \$5.00 All ages. Open Mic.

## Saturday, November 4

*First Saturday Poetry Series*, 7pm. Sojourner Truth Art Center, 2251 Florin Rd. Hosted by Noah Hayes and Felicia McGee. All ages / \$5.00. Come early for workshop. Info: [www.malikspeaks.com](http://www.malikspeaks.com)

*Escritores del Nuevo Sol's* writing workshop and potluck. 11am. at La Raza Galeria Posada, 1024 - 22nd Street, Sacramento. For info call Graciela Ramirez, 456-5323 or [joannpen@comcast.net](mailto:joannpen@comcast.net).

## Sunday, November 5

*PoemSpirits* presents **Joshua McKinney**. Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, 2425 Sierra Blvd. (2 blocks north of Fair Oaks Blvd, between Howe and Fulton), 6 PM.

## Monday, November 6

**Doug Rice** reads at the *Sacramento Poetry Center*. Hosted by Bob Stanley. 7:30 p.m. SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25<sup>th</sup> (25th and R) 451-5569. Free.

## Monday, November 6

*The Moody Blues Poetry Series* presents **Crystal Mitchell** and **Jim Lanier**  
At "A Taste of Laguna" Southern Cuisine  
9080 Laguna Main, Laguna  
8:00PM OPEN MIC \$5 cover  
Hosted by Ms. LaRue  
Music provided by DJ Barney B

## Tuesday, November 7

SPC Poetry Workshop, 7:30pm, Hart Senior Center, 27th & J. Bring 15 - 20 copies of your one-page poem. Info: Danyen, (530) 756-6228

## New series – at Bistro 33 in Davis

**Joe Wenderroth** reads from *Letters to Wendy's*. Readings begin at 8:30, feature reader at 8:50, Open Mic after.  
Bistro 33 in the Historic City Hall, 226 "F" Street, at 3rd and "F" Streets in Davis.

## Wednesday, November 8

*Mics and Moods* at Capitol Garage, 1500 K Street. 10pm to midnight. See Nov 1 for details

Dr. Andy's Poetry and Technology Hour, host Andy Jones, 5pm, KDVS-90.3 FM or subscribe to podcast at [www.kdvs.org](http://www.kdvs.org).

## Thursday, November 9

*Vibe Sessions* at Cobbler Inn, 3520 Stockton Blvd. (next to Colonial Theater) Hosted by Flo Real 8-11pm. See Nov 2 for details

*Poetry Unplugged* presents **Andy Jones** and special guests. Open mic before/after. Hosted by Geoffrey Neil. 8pm at Luna's Café, 1414 16th Street. Info: 441-3931. Free.

## Saturday, November 11

Patricity's Poetry "*In Spirit & Truth Series*" features "**Big Eazi E**" (Born to be Poet), and poetess-singer, "**Mouthpiece**" plus Open Mic. 3 to 5 p.m. at new location - 61 Yuence Smoked BBQ & Grill, 9657 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento (Off Bradshaw) 361-2014 Free.

*Poems-For-All* Second Saturday Series presents **Stephen Kessler**. 8pm.  
The Book Collector. 1008 24th Street. Free.  
916.442.9295

## Monday, November 13

SPC Board of Directors meets at HQ for the Arts - 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street – 5:45pm.

*Sacramento Poetry Center* presents a reading by "The Board of Directors" hosted by Bob Stanley.  
**Special time 7:00 p.m.** HQ for the Arts, 1719-25<sup>th</sup> (25th and R) 451-5569.

*The Moody Blues Poetry Series* presents **One Tough Poet**. Hosted by Ms. LaRue.  
see Nov 6 for details

**Tuesday, November 14**

SPC Poetry Workshop, 7:30pm, See October 3 for details

**Wednesday, November 15**

*Urban Voices* presents **Kathryn Hohlwein** and **Pat Grizzell**. Hosted by B.L. Kennedy, 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
South Natomas Library, 2901 Truxel Rd.

*Mics and Moods* at Capitol Garage, 1500 K Street.  
10pm to midnight. Features and Open Mic hosted by Khiry Malik. Details: see Nov 1.

*Moore time for Poetry*: Terry Moore's Access Television Show, 9pm, co-host Tyra Moore. Access Sacramento, Channel 17. updates: [tvguide.com](http://tvguide.com). (916) 208-7638.

**Thursday, November 16**

*Vibe Sessions* at Cobbler Inn, 3520 Stockton Blvd. (next to Colonial Theater) Hosted by Flo Real 8-11pm. \$5.00 All ages. Open Mic.

*Poetry Unplugged* at Luna's Café. 8pm  
**Poems-For-All free for all**. An evening celebrating **Richard Hansen**, publisher of the Poems-For-All mini-chap series. Selected poets will read from their works published via the series. hosted by frank andrick. Free.

**Saturday, November 18**

Underground Poetry Series features **Crawdadd Nelson, Brett Freeman, Laura Cook, and Juanita "Yoke Breaker" Mason** plus open mic. 7-9pm, \$3.00. Underground Books, 2814 35th Street (35th and Broadway). La-Rue' is the series host.

**Monday, November 20**

*Sacramento Poetry Center: no reading*

*The Moody Blues Poetry Series* in Laguna presents **Royal**. Hosted by Ms. LaRue.  
see Nov 6 for details

**Tuesday, November 21**

SPC Poetry Workshop, 7:30pm, (see November 7 for details)

**Wednesday, November 22**

Dr. Andy's Poetry and Technology Hour, 5pm,  
KDVS-90.3 FM or [www.kdvs.org](http://www.kdvs.org).

*Mics and Moods* at Capitol Garage, 1500 K Street.  
10pm to midnight. Features and Open Mic hosted by Khiry Malik. Details: See Nov 1.

**Thursday, November 23 (Thanksgiving)**

*Poetry Unplugged* no reading

**Saturday, November 25**

"The Show" Poetry Series features **Divine** (from Phoenix, Arizona), **Talaam Acey** from Baltimore, and LSB (Live Band Jam Session) -  
*The Show* is from 7-9 pm Wo'se Community Center (Off 35th and Broadway), 2863 35th Street, Sac; \$5.00. Info: T.Mo at (916) 455-POET.

**Monday, November 27**

*The Moody Blues Poetry Series* in Laguna presents **Alta Raye**. Hosted by Ms. LaRue.  
See Nov 6 for details.

**New Date** Tuesday, November 28 **New Date**  
Sacramento Poetry Center presents members of **The Great American Pinup** blog. Reading in person: **Shawn Pittard, David Koehn, Geraldine Kim, and Victor Schnickelfritz**. There will also be recorded readings by **Matthew Schmeer** and **Richard Jeffrey Newman** Tim Kahl hosts – 7:30pm. SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Wednesday, November 29**

*Mics and Moods* at Capitol Garage, presents **Chas** (from LA Slam). 1500 K Street. 10pm to midnight.  
Details: See Nov 1.

**Thursday, November 30**

SPC Annual fundraising party at the home of Mimi and Burnett Miller. \$25 for SPC Members.  
rsvp: [poetrynow@sacramentopoetrycenter.org](mailto:poetrynow@sacramentopoetrycenter.org)

*Poetry Unplugged* 8pm at Luna's Café. Hosted by frank andrick. **Neeli Cherkovski, Anne Menebroker, and William S. Gainer**.

**Chas** from LA Slam at *Vibe Sessions* Cobbler Inn, 3520 Stockton Blvd. (next to Colonial Theater) Hosted by Flo Real 8-11pm. \$5.00 Open Mic.

**and mark your calendars for these early December events****Friday, December 1**

Sacramento's own **Terry Moore** opens for Brian McKnight at Memorial Auditorium. Also featured is LaToya London. 1401 J St, Sacramento, 7 p.m. For ticket information: [www.isoundtracks.net](http://www.isoundtracks.net)

**Monday, December 4**

*Sacramento Poetry Center* presents "Celtic Women: **Brigit Truex, Jeanine Stevens, Charlene Ungstad and Rebecca Morrison**. Serving up "some Celtic chic, dishes, libations, music, poetry, broadsides, and photos." Bring Celtic poetry-stories-goodies to share (anything from Northern Europe qualifies).

**Wednesday, December 6**

Film event – 7pm at the Crest Theater –  
Premiere Screening of "**I Began to Speak**"  
The History of Poetry in Sacramento  
by BL Kennedy and Linda Thorell.  
Advance tickets available from the Crest!

## Poetry Venues for your consideration

an update from Jim Nolt - October 8, 2006

Most, if not all, of these venues operate with no allowance for the typical "Poet Time", which is 30 - 45 minutes late.

So, please respect the mic, the host and the on-time poets and show up on time yourself.

1. Come enjoy yourself at Mother Rose's Underground Books right off of 35th and Broadway (next to Starbucks). The series times are 7-9 pm Admission \$3.00. Lots of open mic too! 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month.
2. Poem Spirits', The Unitarian Universalist Society @916-481-3312 The lounge/foyer, 2425 Sierra Blvd, north of Fair Oaks between Howe and Fulton Avenues. 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays, 6-8pm. Lots of open mic too!
3. Patricity's Poetry "In Spirit & Truth" Series - 61 Yuenice Smoked BBQ & Grill 9657 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento, California 95728 (off of Bradshaw) 916-361-2014. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month. 3-5pm . Lots of open mic too!
4. The Moody Blues Poetry Series w/ Ms. La-Rue \$5 every Monday at A Taste of Laguna, 9080 Laguna Main , Elk Grove CA from 8-10pm! DJ Barney B will be in the house! For more details contact me at lduncanfowler@yahoo.com or home: 916-482-8103 or cell: 916-284-7831.
5. Hidden Passage Poetry reading from 6-7pm 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays each month at Hidden Passage Books, 352 Main St. in Placerville. It's an open-mike read-around, so bring your own poems or those of a favorite poet to share, or just come to listen. We hope to see you there!
6. "The Show" Poetry Series \$5, LSB band too. Wo'se Community Center - 2863 35th Street, Sacramento, CA. Terry Moore (T-Mo) Contact: 916-455-7638 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays each month, 7-9pm. Lots of open mic too!
7. Vibe Sessions Neo-Soul Lounge w/ Flo-Real at The Cobbler Inn Restaurant (next to Colonial Theater ), 3520 Stockton Blvd, Sac, CA 95820, \$5.00 Cover charge. All ages welcome. More info at [www.myspace.com/floreal](http://www.myspace.com/floreal), [www.malikspeaks.com](http://www.malikspeaks.com), [www.sacculturalhub.com](http://www.sacculturalhub.com). Every Thursday, 8-11pm, Lots of open mic too!
8. Poetry Unplugged at Luna's Cafe 916-441-3931 - 1414 16th St (between N & O), Sacramento, Every Thursday, 810pm, Lots of open mic too!
9. Poetry at the Stockton Empire Theater (Pink Bldg), 1825 Pacific Ave, Stockton, w/Alan Satow 209-463-6058 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays each month, 7-9pm., Lots of open mic too!
10. Poetry from Escritores del Nuevo Sol. Hosted by Felicia Martinez, Open Mic follows. Sponsored by Writers of the New Sun / Escritores del Nuevo Sol Location: La Raza Galeria Posada; 1024 - 22nd St., Sacramento. Cost: \$5 or as you can afford. For info: Call Graciela, 916-456-5323. or: <http://escritoresdelnuevosol.com>. Schedule and location varies so check web page.
11. Lincoln Poets Club - Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays, but dates, times and places vary. Contact Sue Clark by phone at 916-434-9226 or e-mail at <[sjclark@psyber.com](mailto:sjclark@psyber.com)> for the latest details and/or to be added to her mail list.
12. Our House Defines Art Gallery & Framing poetry reading 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays, 7-8 p.m. Featured readers vary. Open mic follows at 4510 Post St. in El Dorado Hills Town Center (SE corner of Hwy 50 & Latrobe Rd). Free admission.
13. Poetry Night at Bistro 33 in Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 8pm with a feature and then open mic at 226 F Street, Davis, CA (Historic City Hall at Third and F Street) Phone 530-756-4556
14. Mics & Moods Poetry every Wednesday, Capital Garage, 1500 K St, Sacramento (at 15 916-444-3633 \$5 cover Khiry Malik Moore and DJ Rock Bottom.

This is not an all inclusive list. These are just the venues I know about and attend from time to time. You are welcome to share with me info about your venue.

**Selected Poems**  
**by**  
**Anatole Taràs Lubovich**

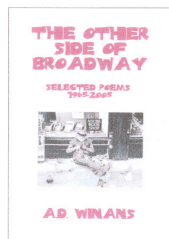
Published by members of the Foothill Bibliophile Society. Edited with an introduction by Do Gentry.  
Live Oak Press (Palo Alto), 2006. 144 pages, hardcover. \$20.00

Available at The Book Collector,  
1008 24th Street, Sacramento,  
(916) 442-9295.

**Venue Notes:**

**Patricity's *In Truth and Spirit* Series** has temporarily moved to new location:  
61 YUENCE SMOKED BBQ & GRILL / 9657 Folsom Blvd / Sacramento  
Great line-up - Second Saturday afternoons from 3 to 5 pm

***Bistro 33 Tuesday night series*** has begun in Davis – 3<sup>rd</sup> and F Streets in the historic city hall.  
Open-mic signup begins at 8, the warm-up readers (Jones and Henderson) begin at about 8:30,  
and the Feature begins around 8:50. Open mic afterward, with perhaps a musical interlude.



**The Other  
Side of  
Broadway**  
Selected Poems 1965-2005

**A. D. Winans**

ISBN: 0-9772524-5-0; 132 pgs; pp; **\$12.00 (US)**

71 poems selected by the author, at the age of 70. Winans' work has an elegant simplicity & clarity. His poems are heartfelt expressions of a wise observer, powerfully honest & uncompromised by literary fashion.

*"Here is a word-slinger, A.D. Winans, a poet of clarity, an artful man who makes it all seem easy. He remains a captive within his home port, San Francisco, a voice nailed onto the soil of his native land, writing as he speaks."*

- Neeli Cherkovski

*"A.D. Winans is a man in search of his soul. He has great heart and compassion for people and his native city, San Francisco. I like his uncompromising spirit. He pulls no punches."*

- Jack Micheline

*"A.D. Winans is one of the few writers I have met (and I've met too God Damned many of them) who doesn't act like a writer or think of himself continually as a writer, and maybe that is why he writes better than they do. I always prefer a poet I can tolerate for more than ten minutes, that's rare, and so is A.D."*

- Charles Bukowski

*"I admire A.D. Winans' great powers and acute perception."*

-Lawrence Ferlinghetti

*"He seems to me, quite simply, a natural writer of extraordinary talent. By this, I mean that everything I read by him fills me with pleasure because of a beautifully natural and easy use of language."*

- Colin Wilson

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***Breaking the Fever***, poems by Mary Mackey,  
Marsh Hawk Press, \$15.

P. O. Box 206, East Rockaway, NY 11518-0206  
[www.marshhawkpress.org](http://www.marshhawkpress.org)

Reviewed by Mary Zeppa

Like most of us over a certain age, my memory for dates (never good) keeps right on slip-slidin' away. Yet I can state with absolute certainty that I have known novelist, poet, screen-writer and teacher Mary Mackey since at least 1977. For that was the year the mini-series *Roots* first appeared on TV and that was the year I was a student in Mary's biography/autobiography class *Grandmother, Mother and Me*. And we knew people in common. Over time, we got to know each other. By now, we've probably been reading and listening to each other's poems for more than 20 years. We go back. We are friends.

And so I came to Mary's new book from Marsh Hawk Press not unbiased but with expectations. I expected wit, humor, imaginative leaps, lyrical and sensuous language and the kind of wisdom that can only come from a poet who has put in some time as a keen observer on and of this planet. *Breaking the Fever* does not disappoint.

"Turkeys," a rich and vivid poem about what I can't resist calling a "turkey drive," elicited my first crow of delight. Here's the second, absolutely-must-be-read-aloud stanza:

*I like to think  
of the sound of  
two hundred turkey feet  
running across to Illinois  
on their way  
to the platter  
the scrape of their nails  
and my great uncles  
in their homespun leggings  
calling out gee and haw and git  
to them as if they  
were mules*

Then there's the beautifully paced opening of "My Methodist Grandmother Said":

*My Methodist  
grandmother said  
dancing  
was adultery  
set to music*  
  
*how right she was*

And this tiny glimpse into the intoxicating sway of “Samba”:

*in the high grass  
the crickets  
are singing  
samba  
and the quail  
are in a circle  
stamping  
their feet*

*the cabbage moths  
samba  
and the yellowjackets  
samba  
and even the snails samba  
(very very slowly)*

And so much more: the serious, yearning beauty of “Lynchberg” and “Witness” and “The Mayans Take Back Yucatan,” the grief-drenched wisdom of “When We Were Your Age”. I find myself unable to extract representative lines or stanzas from these poems in which the imagery and power builds and intertwines.

But I want Mary Mackey to have the last word. Here, in its tender and painful entirety, is

*The Visit*

*like tiny wrinkled  
children  
the parents arrive  
turn their faces  
to the sun  
and toddle forward  
to be hugged*

*they move awkwardly  
testing the grey linoleum  
as if it were a bog*

*she stumbles  
and he catches her  
and steadies her  
with a tender grace*

*love has tumbled them  
together  
like old shoes  
and nothing short of death  
can sort them out*

*Carriage, Return*

*Two Poems by Tom Goff*

And yet you never shall;  
never again grind back on weary circuit  
so like Old Sacramento's clippety-clop,  
tourists-strung-along-for-the-haul old Dobbins.  
Gone with the Olivetti, your zippety stop-  
and-electraglide fro and to. Such dustbinned bobbins  
\_prone to remind cartoon-smiths (Warner Bros.)  
of plowline toothtracks across a corny cob\_  
once spooled out completion of each line of prose:  
that shivering whirr recapped with each clingy ding!  
\_ah, dinky bellhop. And one more kleine dinge:  
You're typecast. Jammed as a bent tab-stop, stuck spell-  
bound like warped QWERTY keys, o prop now forfeit  
to laws no machine can, sunk in rust, defy.  
To the margins, go! There's nothing to justify.

*Glad Day*

*(the painting by William Blake)*

Erect is how the glad man stands,  
his incandescent lungs and heart  
suffusing lampshade limbs in white,  
and yet: his chest of scant expanse,

bred breathing \_grime and poverty?  
Long legs dance resurrection dance.  
Such limbs underpin the craftsman stance:  
Blake, copperplating fine poetry.

This man we witness triumphant  
outthrusts one leg to toe dark rock  
that seems part slime, part cobalt shock.  
The human, supple, elegant

of line, transfigured \_suffering?  
Is this the immortal naked God  
poured into skin of worms and sod?  
We know not what we're capturing

when captivated by such joy  
as splits our meek and milkdrunk frames,  
moon satin cloud on dawn's drawn blade.  
This human doll, is he a toy?

Or figurine of the attainable?  
His hair, of gold; his eyes, dolls' eyes.  
His lips make laughter without smiles:  
Can flameless fires like these be real?

Compacting around him, yet still in flow,  
time clockwork, albeit uncontained.  
The hourglass bursts yet takes on sand,  
the broken rise in pain and glow.

*For Chip Spann and the Sutterwriters*

*rhyme for river city*

*-Bob Stanley*

I think it's time to write a rhyme for Sacramento poetry  
to thank the folks who read and write and take the time to grow this tree -  
an art that long has been around, for those that dare to make a sound  
makes something they believe in and the causes that are truly free.

Let's start with this year's marathon put on by BL Kennedy  
an awesome undertaking that was filled with such amenity  
that frank and bari day and night were making sure the open mic  
was always ringing out unto the valley's sweet serenity.

There's lots of venues in this town deserving of our melody  
The Book Collector's near the top, a spot of rare fidelity  
and Luna's is the Thursday spot and Underground is really hot  
and Monday nights provide a slot of readings down at SPC.

At State and City colleges, Cosumnes and at ARC  
there's writers young and old who are composing academically  
I bet if you reviewed the crew, you'd find a modicum are true  
and like the rest of us there'd be a few to weed systemically.

Montoya and Montoya and Chochezi and Staajabu and  
Buchanan and McKinney and Garcia and Romero, also  
Crawdad, Connor, Morrison, and Doctor Jones and Henderson  
and Finkleman and Dennis Schmitz and Frith and Frith and Schnicklefritz.

There's groups around this burg where writers seem to love to share their work  
Critiquing on into the night in case they find a phrase that works  
There's Friday Night and SutterWriters, Tupelo, and Tuesday-nighters  
whittling like nail-biters every weak cliché that lurks.

There's Poems-for-all and Boot Camp and there's Rattlesnake and Littlesnake  
and babysnake and mamasnake (for punctuation: commaSnake)  
if everyone were reading one of kathy's books on Southwest, one could  
call it "Snakes On a Plane" but it was only poetry.

So here's to Zeppa, Zumbiel, and Robert Grossklaus, editor  
and Luke and Pat and Jeff and Gene, and every poet's creditor  
a thousand poets in the sun, until the rain hits everyone  
and then the writers in the rain are targets for some predator.

So sing a song of river and of mountains and of tule fog  
and maybe for a moment we'll become much more than just a cog  
and go to hear a poet read, and if a word could plant a seed  
we'd celebrate each other needs like Dickinson's admiring bog.

If Gary Snyder's somewhere up there listening on San Juan Ridge,  
he'd smile to know that in the flats, above the humming of the fridge  
there's still a zen mentality, within this principality  
between the rivers flowing and the golden state's legality.

Of course if you aren't on the list it doesn't mean you have no wit  
I'm sure your poems would sing as well as those of Susan K-DeWitt  
It's just that I need names that fit, the primary parameter  
until I get a chance to quit this bloody fool octameter.

So here's to Sacramento and to all the folks that write a poem  
There's plenty of us out there and there's many more to come along,  
with wordsmiths filling up the town, we're fortunate to be around  
and celebrate Thanksgiving for the poets that have come and gone.

November 2006

# Poetry Now

A publication of the Sacramento Poetry Center

This Month at SPC

November 6<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm **Doug Rice**

November 13<sup>th</sup> (Special time: 7:00pm)  
**“The Board of Directors” round table reading**

November 27<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm  
**Members of *The Great American Pin-up blog***

Inside this issue of *Poetry Now*:

PN Review: Mary Mackey’s Breaking the Fever  
Poems by Jane Blue, Dewell H. Byrd, Tom Goff.

Join us for SPC’s annual holiday fundraising party at the Millers’.  
Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm.

Poetry: *Laverne and Carol Frith*  
Music: *Swing State (Zeppa & Stanley)*  
Food, Refreshments, silent auction & raffle

\$25 per person donation. rsvp to Bob at 240-1897  
or to poetrynow@sacramentopoetrycenter.org

Join the Sacramento Poetry Center

Help us support poets and poetry venues in the Sacramento region. Your annual dues of \$25 will give you **Poetry Now** every month, plus two issues of **Tule Review**. Send your check to **SPC membership, 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento CA 95814**

## The Poet Tree

1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816