

**October 2007**

*"Relax / I tell them / you're inside / poetry now"* —Julia Connor



## **Over The Rice Fields**

*Laverne Frith*

Watch as the shorebirds fly in formation,  
a white squadron wheeling in the wind.  
They bank right and dip as they shadow  
the targeted fields. So many decisions  
that follow will be independent, as if  
landing brings individual freedom  
for a spell their foragings taken  
at will protracted for as long  
as the grain will last. After all,  
this is not really about rice;  
this is not really about flight;  
this is not really about birds.

## **POEM FOR HAROLD NORSE**

*A.D. Winans*

Neeli and I visit the ancient warrior  
Praised by William Carlos Williams  
And other literary giants  
90 years old  
Early stages of dementia setting in  
Playing hide and seek inside  
His solitary room  
Now an old man trapped  
In death's shadow  
He reads us a poem from  
His collected works  
His voice still loud and clear  
Like Sunday Church Bells

He puts down the book becoming  
Frail and vulnerable again  
This rock of ages with peaked hat  
Walking slowly with us to the  
Cafe across the street  
Complaining about the loud music  
As Neeli orders him a cup of coffee  
"Make mine black", he says then  
Wants to know why I didn't put  
Milk in it  
This forgotten warrior

Walking back to the care facility  
Neeli shielding him with an umbrella  
To ward off the cold rain  
"That's my hotel the  
Beat Hotel"  
He says —  
Hotel Nirvana racing inside  
His blood

He stops says,  
"I can't go on"  
Out of breath  
As if the next step  
Might be his last  
He is like a bird  
His eyes nesting  
In my soul  
Feeding on poetry the  
Sum total of his life

**Poetry Now**, Sacramento's literary review and calendar, is published at least ten times a year by the Sacramento Poetry Center, and is funded in part with grants from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.

Submissions of poems, artwork, reviews, and other work of interest to the Sacramento poetry community are welcome. Work must be accompanied by a SASE for return. Note that work submitted to SPC's publications may appear on SPC's website as well: [www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org](http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org).

Please submit to 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento CA 95814, or via email to: [poetrynow@sacramentopoetrycenter.org](mailto:poetrynow@sacramentopoetrycenter.org).

*Poetry Now* is distributed in area bookshops, Sacramento County libraries, and by mail to SPC member-subscribers. If you are interested in receiving *Poetry Now*, or want multiple copies to share with others, please contact us at the above address.

**Editor:** Bob Stanley  
**Design:** Richard Hansen  
**Contributing Editor:** Tim Kahl  
**Poetry Editor:** Frank Graham



**The Poet Tree, Inc.**, also known as **The Sacramento Poetry Center**, is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing forums for local poets—including publications, workshops, and a reading series. SPC is entirely run by a volunteer board of directors.

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 (916) 979-9706.

**Visit our website:**

[www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org](http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org)



## president's message

If you're not writing as much as you'd like, check out Gail Godwin's brief essay "The Watcher at the Gates." It's a sharp reminder that the critic (the one that keeps us from working) is always lurking. You can find it easily online.

We had a great turnout for Laverne Frith's reading on Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, I overheard a visitor say "it feels like a family reunion!" I know the readers appreciate a good crowd, so come out and support the poets who make our community unique.

SPC's October line-up is full and varied — On Oct 1<sup>st</sup> **Art Mantecon** begins hosting a first Monday series at HQ for the Arts with three of the Six Sierra Poets — **Iven Lourie, Kirsten Casey, and Scott Young**. October 8<sup>th</sup> brings **Nina Lindsey** and **Helen Wickes** from the East Bay to HQ. **Indigo Moor** hosts **Viola Weinberg** Oct 15<sup>th</sup> at The Space (R and 25<sup>th</sup>). We also resume readings at the Carmichael Library on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> in Carmichael with **John Bell, Bill Peiper** and **Jill Stockinger**. Every Monday night this month we'll be presenting poets at HQ on 25<sup>th</sup> Street — see the calendar for details, or check the updated website [www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org](http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org). With all the other things he has to do, Tim Kahl is still working on improving the SPC site — but he posts pdf's of *Poetry Now*, and the online calendar as soon as I finish them.

Thanks to so many of you who responded to our spring fundraising drive — we've had dozens of members renew, and quite a few generous contributions — if your name's on the list below, you're helping SPC continue (in its 28<sup>th</sup> year), if you're not there, we trust you're doing your best in various ways.

Sometimes we get more than financial contributions. Along with his membership renewal, reader **Blair Allen** sent us a note commenting on the selection of poems, and this bit of advice for both individuals and communities in today's world: "*Keeping creative energy going is something that has to endure beyond trends or fads.*" Thanks, Blair, for your tonic — it's always nice to know people are out there reading, listening, and keeping the energy going.

—Bob Stanley  
 President

## Contributors to SPC – Summer 2007 Thanks to all of you!

<b>Blair Allen</b>	<b>Mimi and Burnett Miller</b>
<b>Jane Blue</b>	<b>Theresa McCourt</b>
<b>Gene Barnes</b>	<b>Rosalie and George McIlroy</b>
<b>Quinton Duval</b>	<b>Joyce Odam</b>
<b>Joey Garcia</b>	<b>Danyen Powell</b>
<b>Robert Grossklaus</b>	<b>Anne Rudin</b>
<b>Susan Kelly-Dewitt</b>	<b>Gordon Preston (Hardpan Journal of Poetry)</b>
<b>Mary Mackey</b>	

## poetry submissions to Poetry Now

Submit poems to poetry editor Frank Graham at: [grahampoe@aol.com](mailto:grahampoe@aol.com)

## Shadow Over Streets

Marie J. Ross

There is shadow over streets,  
moving dimly like ash in breeze,  
a complacent eye blinking gray  
over cement cracks and raunchy  
soil under cans.  
Shadows,  
brake chairs hammered by manicured  
nails and hands dipped in linseed oil.  
Shadow,  
stalks in the cold of night, soaking  
card board, sealing doors with loud  
haunting noises.  
He roams in mute slippers switching  
off light bulbs,  
and water heaters, he the master in night  
cap, and warm pajamas.  
How cruel he hovers,  
how skimpy his vital portions.  
Shadow is gray soot over flesh,  
over mind, a forgotten eye to worldly glisten.  
That fleck of gray  
living as conqueror  
on raunchy soils under cans.

## The Physics of Econometrics

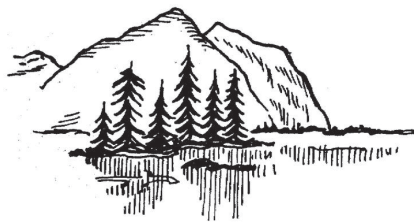
Jillian Benci-Woodward

I would like to do a linear regression  
In a regular fashion  
Slide softly down the sloping lanes  
Of memory

Omitted words on canvas  
Variable bias  
Leaches little letters off  
The page

Correlation does not imply  
Causation to the casual eye  
Adrift amongst alien art  
And gravity

I say heteroskedasticity  
To the extent that Pity  
Delivers down to my doorstep  
And retires.



## Thompson Peak Retreat

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## EFFORT

Joyce Odam

*The Desire to Become a Storm*  
—Arnando Roche Rabell

I push through barrier after barrier with my life  
which is crowded with intention and failure.  
I am huge—fit everywhere, for I am forceful.  
I am my own jungle of resistance.  
Trees crowd into me—  
challenge my right to be among them.  
I push them aside.  
As long as I am strong I can do this.  
At night I sleep among  
the sleeping trees.  
Each morning  
we begin again.

## 2 poems by Kate Wells

### TELL ALL THE PEOPLE

The cicada in my bedroom sends two dream—  
splitting calls to start my day.  
You're already up.  
Last night's argument simmers on the stove  
but our two children are hungry  
so we wait.  
You boil water, measure oatmeal,  
set out their favorite bowls, raisins, walnuts,  
cinnamon, honey.  
What if no one could fight  
till all children were fed?

### RELICS

I cleaned the dust off my parents' photos,  
stacked old books and their opinions  
in boxes to give away. Black rosary beads.  
The cross that hung in the hall—my mother  
wove palm leaves through it once a year.  
St. Christopher medals, a statue of Mary—  
her mantle the only blue in my mother's room—  
I'd slide my fingers across the raised flowers,  
reading what I could in cool porcelain.  
Mary, I could understand.

After receiving a degree in Anthropology, **KATE WELLS** moved to California to become a raft guide. Seven professions later, she now teaches high school English and lives along the South Fork of the American River. She reads at the Book Collector on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Wordsworth — the mouse who loves poetry



*Books by Frances H. Kakugawa*

**Wordsworth the Poet** Wordsworth writes poetry — about rainbows made of butterflies and castles in the clouds. But all the other mice make fun of Wordsworth and his “silly” poems, until the day the sun disappears, and the sky rumbles, and the rain begins to fall and fall. That’s when Wordsworth takes pen in hand and shows the others how poetry can save the day.

**Wordsworth Dances the Waltz** Wordsworth doesn’t understand why Grandma has changed so much since she came to live with his family. She doesn’t even remember his name. He finds comfort in writing poems, which also help his family understand what’s going on with Grandma.

Frances Kakugawa is also the author of **Mosaic Moon: Caregiving Through Poetry**, a unique resource for anyone with a loved one suffering from Alzheimer’s disease or other long-term illness. Created from poetry workshops conducted by the Alzheimer’s Association Aloha Chapter, this writing tool for non-writers is brimming with ideas and techniques for finding solace in journaling and poetry.

*All titles available from Watermark Publishing [www.bookshawaii.net](http://www.bookshawaii.net) or (toll-free) 866-900-BOOK*

**OCTOBER 2007**



## 1 Monday

Art Mantecon hosts at SPC – **Iven Lourie, Kirsten Casey** and **Scott Young** — three of the Six Sierra Poets who have published Yuba Flows, a new anthology from Hip Pocket Press. 7:30pm.

## 2 Tuesday

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

## 3 Wednesday

*Poems-For-All* is pleased to present **James DenBoer** reading from his book "Stonework: Selected Poems" published this month (Sept. 2007) by Sandy McPherson's Swan Scythe Press. *Poems-For-All* Chaplettes of Mr. DenBoer's work will be dispensed. 7:30pm. The Book Collector, 1008 24th Street (between J & K Streets.) 442-9295. [www.poems-for-all.com](http://www.poems-for-all.com)

## 4 Thursday

*Poetry Unplugged*. Luna's Café. Hosted by Mario Ellis Hill. Festivities begin at 8pm and there will be an open mic as well.

## 6 Saturday

All are invited to *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). Website: [www.escritoresdelnuevosol.com](http://www.escritoresdelnuevosol.com)

## 8 Monday

General meeting of the SPC Board of Directors meets at HQ for the Arts - 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street - 6:00pm. All members or interested parties are invited to attend.

Readings by **Nina Lindsey** and **Helen Wickes**. Bob Stanley hosts at HQ for the Arts, 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street. 7:30pm

## 9 Tuesday

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

Bistro 33 Poetry Series. 8:30 pm Open Mic after. Bistro 33 in Historic Davis City Hall, 226 "F" Street, 3rd and "F" Streets in Davis.

## Wednesday 10

*Rattlesnake Press* will celebrate Sacramento Poetry Month by presenting Placerville poet Kate Wells at The Book Collector, 1008 24th St., Sacramento, from 7:30-9 PM to celebrate the release of her new chapbook, *Spiral*. Also released: a broadside from Mary Field, plus #5 in the new Rattlesnake Interview Series featuring **Julia Connor**, as well as the first of the new interview anthologies. Refreshments and a read-around will follow; bring your own poems or somebody else's. More info: [kathykieth@hotmail.com](mailto:kathykieth@hotmail.com)

*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)

## 11 Thursday

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

## 12 Friday

*The Escritores del Nuevo Sol/Writers of the New Sun*, join with the *Zapatista Coalition on el Dia de la Raza*, for the annual remembrance of Chicano poet **Phil Goldvarg**. 6 pm contact Graciela Ramirez, 916-456-5323. [www.escritoresdelnuevosol.com](http://www.escritoresdelnuevosol.com)

## 15 Monday

*Sacramento Poetry Center* presents **Viola Weinberg** at The Space—25th & R Streets. Indigo Moor hosts.

## 16 Tuesday

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

## 17 Wednesday

*Moore time for Poetry*: Terry Moore's Access Television Show, 9pm, co-host Tyra Moore. Access Sacramento, Channel 17

## 18 Thursday

SPC's reading series at the Carmichael Library resumes with **Bill Pieper, John Bell, and Jill Stockinger**. 7:30 pm at Carmichael Library, Marconi Avenue between Garfield and Fair Oaks. Free.

*Poetry Unplugged* at Luna's Café. 8pm. hosted by Frank Andrick. Free.

## 20 Saturday

*Underground Poetry Series* presents **Lori Jean Robinson, Random Abiladeaze, and Taifa Jamari**, plus open mic. 7-9pm, \$3.00. Underground Books, 2814 35th Street (35th and Broadway). Hosted by La-Rue'

## 22 Monday

*Sacramento Poetry Center* presents **Phoebe Wayne, Francisco Reinking** and other UC Davis creative writing grads. Tim Kahl hosts. HQ for the Arts, 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street. 7:30pm

## 23 Tuesday

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

## 24 Wednesday

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).

## 25 Thursday

*Poetry Unplugged* at Luna's Café. 8pm. Free.

## 26 Friday

**Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead** *The Escritores del Nuevo Sol/Writers of the New Sun* offer poetry and music for this annual Mexican-originated celebration, brought to the US by the Chicano movement, and which has become a meaningful time of remembrance for people of many backgrounds to honor with joy those who have passed from their earthly life. This is one of a week's full of activities coordinated by La Raza Galeria Posada. Cost: \$5 or free-will donation as you can afford. 7:30 pm contact Graciela Ramirez, 916-456-5323. [www.escritoresdelnuevosol.com](http://www.escritoresdelnuevosol.com)

## 27 Saturday

"The Show" Poetry Series: International Slam Champion **Talaam Acey** — [www.talaamacey.com](http://www.talaamacey.com) — comes to town from Baltimore. 7 to 9pm. All ages are welcome. \$5.00 *Note*: This event will be held at the Guild Theater - 2828 35<sup>th</sup> Street (at Broadway) not at Wose Community Center! Contact: (916) 208-POET.

## 29 Monday

Frank Graham hosts a Halloween reading at HQ for the Arts with the Ghastly Ghouls of SPC's Tuesday Night Workshop. 7:30pm

## 30 Tuesday

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



## The Rainbow and the Tumbleweed

G. Thomas Edwards

The rainbow cascades headlong  
from massive thundering cumuli  
to dance with golden sage and grass  
upon the valley's floor  
while time capitulates to watch  
in awe of what's before.  
Repeating shapes and muted tones  
a plethora of form  
A solitary tumbleweed  
tumbles through this score.  
The only movement visible  
timed in metronomic Tachyons...  
Ah one, ah two... ah three, ah four  
The harmony of what we see  
vibrate within these strings  
and make appear all that is...  
all that is before  
The Thunder cracks, and  
Timpani Kettledrums pound out  
the rolling rhythm's change.  
Crescendos near, you hear it now?  
Immeasurable the time that's passed  
light years in terms of relativity  
depends on where you stand,  
a planet circling Epsilon or from the valley floor...  
Ah one, ah two... ah three, ah four

## Where Are You, Flower Child?

Cleo Fellers Kocol

We drank that year,  
high school fading into  
Viet Nam, beer and  
sex ushering in little dawns,  
draft cards adding smoke  
to foul air.

And from the litany of  
lost equations, we put our youth on a line  
no one had crossed before.  
And life tasted like a fresh  
mold, a new shape.

But the shape bulged  
in the wrong places.  
The gates were pad-  
locked, the end written  
without our knowledge, our  
input a noble fantasy — a post-  
script in the present world.

## TO SEE ME, YES

John C. Reiger

The words she pens  
first seem so clear,  
But later words  
are not so dear.  
To see me? Yes!  
She writes to say,  
But cannot seem  
to pick a day,  
Why oh why, this  
indecision?  
Do I offend  
or cause derision?  
Is she confused,  
or just too busy?  
Do I send her  
into a tizzy?  
Her words are sweet;  
her action's tardy.  
My patience needs  
to be quite hardy.  
I write and write,  
to say, I too,  
Would like to spend  
some time with you.  
Again her note  
is imprecise.  
How soon before  
my interest dies?  
"To see you, yes!"  
I wish she'd say.  
"I'll be at home  
this very day."



## The Book Collector

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## Reading Rexroth

*William Ludington*

He had passion for Sacco and Vanzetti  
for a future when all were free, authority broken—  
Nietzsche-like, he felt more alive as he hiked  
rocky trails, back-packing through blooming meadows  
camping at abandoned ranches where all that remained  
were blooming apple trees and a broken wall

Even more than Eliot  
he distrusted the future,  
the movement toward the lowest  
average cultural plateau,  
his outrage at the death of Dylan  
was more focused than the howling  
of Ginsberg  
He tells us  
we're still there,

America hasn't gotten any better,  
the bombs are still exploding  
and we still wonder what the point of poetry is  
while trying to write it.

## Native Spirit

*Richard Bunch*

(after Lakota, Navajo and Paiute singers)

The singing men beat the drum.  
They are praying to the creator.

All four winds descend and the trout dance.

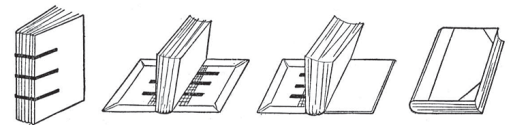
The singing women chant a dream song.  
Their voices ascend like eagles.

Both the raven and the bear greet the boom in thunder.

The children hum a dream song.  
To the creator, they are praying.

Birds of fire shake the lizard-blue mountains.

The singing men pound the drum.  
Their voices ride upon a whirlwind.



## COLLECTIONS WANTED

James DenBoer/Paperwork Books  
is again buying collections (not single  
copies) of first edition books of modern/  
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Richard Bunch  
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William Ludington  
G. Thomas Edwards  
Jillian Benci-Woodward

**The Poet Tree, Inc.**  
1719 25th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816

# October 2007

Readings at SPC/  
HQ for the Arts  
(Mondays, 7:30pm)

## Oct 1

Six Sierra Poets

## Oct 8

Nina Lindsey  
and Helen Wickes

## Oct 15

Viola Weinberg  
(at *The Space*)

## Oct 22

UC Davis creative  
writing grads

## Oct 29

"Ghastly Ghouls" —  
Hallowe'en reading

## Thurs, Oct 18

at Carmichael Library —  
John Bell, Bill Pieper,  
Jill Stockinger

spc blog: [www.sacramentopoetrycenter.blogspot.com](http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.blogspot.com)

# Tuesdays

## SPC Poetry Workshop

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

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