



poetrynow

November 2007

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

SPC's annual benefit

Wednesday, November 28, 6 to 8pm

at the home of Burnett and Mimi Miller

Poetry by

Victoria Dalkey and **Quinton Duval!**

Music by **The Swing State!**

(aka **Mary Zeppa** and **Bob Stanley**)

Food, drink and fellowship!

\$30 per person donation at the door

or RSVP to 979-9706

"Peaks, Fires & Spirits of Love and Loss"

**An Evening of Poetry and Prose with Pulitzer
Prize winning poet, Gary Snyder**

A benefit for the Yuba Watershed Institute

Thursday November 29th, 7:30pm

**The Center for the Arts, 314 West Main Street,
Downtown Grass Valley**

Gary Snyder joins musicians Ludi Hinrichs, Daniel Flanigan and Sean Kerrigan for a special "Mountains and Rivers" presentation. Admission is \$35.00 including dessert buffet and no host bar. Tickets may be purchased at 530-271-700 or on-line at thecenterforthearts.org. Information: Tania Carlone, Yuba Watershed Institute, 530-265-4459 or taniacarlone@sbcglobal.net

Man Driving

Quinton Duval

Driving south, he feels his foot
rise and fall on the pedal.
His fingers wrap the wheel –
is there enough room for blood,
he grips so tight?
He likes this road, a real road,
trees on either side
that lean in to touch
high in the canopy. Fields,
either side alfalfa new-mown
or rows of sugar beets,
safflower massed together.
The point is how the road
cuts through them in a ruler-
straight line to the end.
Other cars pass, turn off,
blinkers far ahead or behind.
Pickups outside the diner,
he's tired but doesn't stop.
There is a limit to this line,
this road, there is a place
where it will turn away.
His foot rises and falls. Water
turns silver in the furrows
as dusk descends. He can smell
the water, the wet soil, the heat
still rising from the blacktop.
No one knows anything, not
the owl flashed in the lights,
not the coyote out for a jog,
not the roadside shrine with
its all-weather flowers, not
this man, this wide-open,
unsteady, driving man.

**Quinton Duval reads
November 12 with
Lisa Dominguez Abraham
at HQ for the Arts
7:30pm**

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.

Please submit to 1719 25th Street, Sacramento CA 95814, or via email to: 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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Contact us at:

1719 25th Street ■ Sacramento, CA 95814
poetrynow@sacramentopoetrycenter.org
(916) 979-9706.

Visit our website:

www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org



president's message

If you missed Viola Weinberg's reading at The Space in October, you missed a great evening of verse. Viola read a rich selection from her new book "Letters to Pablo Neruda," and Chad Sweeney thrilled the crowd with his first Sacramento reading. It was a good place to be on a cool night. Thanks to Indigo Moor for putting together the event, Ray Tatar and AJ for letting us use the theater, and Tim and Frank for their help in setting up. It's always heartening to see people filling the chairs, buzzing before and after, and breaking into spontaneous applause. Let's do it again!

SPC has a lot on the schedule for in November. Art Mantecon continues his series on the 5th with Do Gentry and James DenBoer. On the week of the 12th, there are two readings — Quinton Duval and Lisa Dominguez Abraham at HQ for the Arts on Monday the 12th, and Kathleen Lynch and Josh McKinney at Carmichael Library on the 15th — our last Thursday reading for the year. Yes, go to both readings — compare and contrast. No, wait, forget the analysis — just enjoy. You'll have a chance to catch Quinton again, along with Victoria Dalkey, on Wednesday, November 28th, at the annual Poetry Center fundraiser at the Millers' home. Those will be shorter readings, we're too busy raising money and glasses in celebration. Come help nurture (and toast) SPC — 28 years and counting (the years).

On the 19th, come to HQ to celebrate the release of Sun Shadow Mountain, as Indigo Moor hosts a reading which will include Donald Anderson and Nikki Quismondo. The week after Thanksgiving, November 26th, Brad Buchanan brings his talented poets from Sac State to read at our midtown venue. Come and check out the next generation of Sacramento poets.

Our Annual general board meeting will be on Monday November 12th – 6pm at HQ on 25th Street. Come and share your ideas about what a poetry center could or should do. Then stay for the reading. Thanks for your support, we hope to see you soon!

—Bob Stanley

poetry submissions to Poetry Now

Submit poems to poetry editor Frank Graham at: grahampoet@aol.com

SONNET #5

Brendan O'Brien

What do I seek to conquer?
The enveloping harmony of your eyes,
The spry felicity of your presence,
Possessed in my everyday? — what a blessing!
What a cause to bear this too fearful existence.
Or is that my purpose? To close this siege
By the smoldering effect of your kisses?
Am I so dark as to see but you,
Transcending each moment in the light of heaven?
I might rest in you like the sorrowful in the after,
But that I know you haven't such saintly warmth
But rather something greater, softer and true —
The inconstant notes of happiness — played in perfection
That makes the discordant chaos worth its sound
And lends you your moments of passion
Which you perform to the peak of expectation.
Such pauses in the struggle through time
Is what I yearn for in my unceasing chase;
To live with you through wanders and rhyme
And feed from you such moments of grace.

TELL ME/TELL YOU

Colette Jonopulos

Be still when you have nothing to say, when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say, and say it bot.

—D.H. Lawrence

Even window blinds reflect the red pillow, red picked up from pens, book spines. I am looking now for red on labels, half-empty bottles of Syrah, foil chocolate wrappers. Fresh loss can be red, as can anger. You tell me passion is always red, like a tongue, a nipple; you aren't holding back your thoughts, assume the bulk of them will convince me that immense feeling is enough to carry us beyond this tiredness of being. I will allow ten beats, there is no other way. On the count of ten, I'll take in one breath, then tell you that red is the color of my hands after a long walk, the taste of berries, what a neighbor painted her door; but passion is gray like the folded newspaper laid gently aside, the robe washed too many times, threadbare and right, like doves gathered before dusk, waiting.

PRUNER, LOPPER, CROSSCUT SAW

Taylor Graham

It came of walking where no one ever goes—land that's ours by title. But manzanita owns it, ceanothus, pine and cedar jostling each other before dropping off the ridge to a sly creek.

This morning I'm pushing through. Dead branches skir and break against me, the sun shoots eye-level over the opposite ridge turning everything antique-gold, a swirl of motes in motionless air.

And here:
a clearing made by the woods themselves, sweet as light among shadows, to no purpose I could think of.

Deer-brush drifts in simple daylight smiling. A ring of oaks just stands here breathing.

TAYLOR GRAHAM is a volunteer search-and-rescue dog handler in El Dorado County. Her poems have appeared in *Medusa's Kitchen*, *The Iowa Review*, *Rattlesnake Review*, *The New York Quarterly*, *Poet Lore*, *Poetry International*, and other journals. Her newest book, *The Downstairs Dance Floor*, won the Robert Phillips Poetry Chapbook Prize. Email her at piper@innercite.com or her website, <http://sometersunset.net/Poetry.html>

**Taylor Graham reads at The Book Collector
November 14, 7:30pm**



The Book Collector

Books for readers & collectors since 1995

1008 24th Street ↗ Midtown Sacramento
Between J & K Streets ↗ (916)442-9295
Monday to Saturday 10 to 6 ↗ Sunday 11 to 4

Featuring a large selection of local poetry & small press

**On a Postcard of a Painting of a Woman Reading in a Garden
By an Artist of the English School, c. 1920**

for C.A.E.

The page outshines her face. Impossible to see what she reads:
The Wild Swans at Coole, or The Cold Heaven on a warm day?
She paces as she reads, keeping time
with the lines, passiflora vines gone wild
in the garden, where the painter's hand
darts from blossom to shawl to chair
cushion in quick strokes jotted
like a note to a friend
who needs comfort
after losing
a soul mate who
scanned the swans
among the brimming stones,
parsed the blackbirds reeling
in their icy rook-delighting heaven.
At twilight trees catch fire before crows fly home.
Impossible to stop them on their way from feeding life to resting life.
When they go, they go as quickly as they can, as if blown by the wind.

—*Victoria Dalkey*

EDITOR'S NOTE: In our September issue, we published a version of this poem with incorrect line breaks. Here is the poem, Victoria Dalkey's tribute to Professor Clyde Enroth, in its correct format.

How to Build an Owl

Kathleen Lynch

1. Decide you must.
2. Develop deep respect
for feather, bone, claw.
3. Place your trembling thumb
where the heart will be:
for one hundred hours watch
so you will know
where to put the first feather.
4. Stay awake forever.
When the bird takes shape
gently pry open its beak
and whisper into it: mouse.
Let it go.

readings

**Victoria Dalkey reads
with Quinton Duval
at SPC's annual fundraising party
at the Millers' home.
November 28th.**

**Kathleen Lynch reads
at Carmichael Library
November 15, 7:30pm
with Joshua McKinney**



literary calendar

for the Sacramento region & beyond

NOVEMBER 2007

2 Friday

The Other Voice, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis presents **Susan Kelly-DeWitt**. Betty Vlack will be giving a presentation on our new Poet Laureate, Donald Hall. The reading is at 7:30 in the library of the church located at 27074 Patwin Road.

3 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. Website: www.escritoresdelnuevosol.com

5 Monday

SPC presents **Do Gentry** and **James DenBoer** at HQ for the Arts - 1719 25th Street. Hosted by Art Mantecon. 7:30pm.

6 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

8 Thursday

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

11 Sunday

The Pomo Literati radio program featuring selected pre-recorded poetic rarities from pre-beat to post modern and beyond. Live guest poet/authors. 2pm to 4pm. KUSF 90.3 fm in SF and/or www.kusf.edu follow the prompts. Hosted by frank andrick. This episode will feature performances by William S. Gainer, Chris Olander, Josh Fernandez and Neeli Cherkovski. Pre-recorded rare stuff from Philip Lamantia, Frank O'Hara, and Patti Smith (recorded on KUSF). Plus more collaborative works from The Germ and frank andrick, and Fari and friends. Spontaneous stuff.

12 Monday

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

Sacramento Poetry Center presents a reading by **Quinton Duval** and **Lisa Dominguez Abraham**. Bob Stanley hosts at HQ for the Arts - 1719 25th Street. 7:30pm

13 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.

14 Wednesday

Rattlesnake Press presents **Taylor Graham** at The Book Collector, 1008 24th St., Sacramento, 7:30-9 PM, to celebrate the release of her new chapbook, *Among Neighbors*. Also appearing: a littlesnake broadside, *Heaven is Where You Hang Your Wings*, from FRANK ANDRICK, plus a perpetual calendar featuring the poetry and photography of KATY BROWN. Refreshments and a read-around will follow; bring your own poems or somebody else's. More info: 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.

15 Thursday

SPC's fall reading series at the Carmichael Library culminates with a special event featuring readings by **Joshua McKinney** and **Kathleen Lynch**. 7:30 pm at Carmichael Library, Marconi Avenue between Garfield and Fair Oaks. Free.

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

17 Saturday

Jeff Knorr at The Book Collector, 1008 24th St., Sacramento, 7:30PM. 916.442-9295.

"Words, Music, and Motion" An evening of storytelling, spoken word, music and dance. Free family event at Café Refugio, 1901 Del Paso Blvd. 6:30pm

Underground Poetry Series presents **Aushanti Pierce**, plus a combined reading of Black Men Expressing Tour & Black Women Expressing Tour. plus open mic. 7-9pm, \$3.00. Underground Books, 2814 35th Street (35th and Broadway). Hosted by La-Rue' 916-737-3333

19 Monday

Sacramento Poetry Center presents a reading by **Donald Anderson**, **Nikki Quismondo** and others to celebrate the release of *Sun Shadow Mountain*, a collection of poetry, art and photography. Hosted by Indigo Moor at HQ for the Arts - 1719 25th Street. 7:30pm.

20 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

21 Wednesday

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

22 Thursday

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

24 Saturday

"The Show" Poetry Series: Neo-soul artist **Kevin Sandbloom** comes to town from Los Angeles. Check out his website at www.kevinsandbloom.com. 7:00 to 9:00pm All ages are welcome. Cost: \$5.00 Note: The Show is back at Wose Community Center! Contact: (916) 208-POET. Saturday,

26 Monday

Sacramento Poetry Center presents Brad Buchanan's CSUS Creative Writing Class. Tim Kahl hosts. HQ for the Arts - 1719 25th Street. 7:30pm

27 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

28 Wednesday

SPC's annual benefit at the home of Mimi and Burnett Miller. Food, poetry, music, and good cheer. Readings by Victoria Dalkey and Quinton Duval. \$30 per person donation to attend. RSVP 979-9706 or come and pay at the door.

Dr. Andy's Poetry and Technology Hour, host Andy Jones, 5pm, KDVS-90.3 FM or subscribe to podcast at www.kdvs.org.

29 Thursday

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

29 Thursday

A benefit for the Yuba Watershed Institute: "Peaks, Fires & Spirits of Love and Loss," An Evening with Pulitzer Prize winning poet, **Gary Snyder**. The Center for the Arts, 314 West Main St. Grass Valley, 7:30pm.

Admission is \$35.00 including dessert buffet and no host bar. for tickets call 530-271-700 or thecenterforthearts.org. For info contact Tania Carlone, Yuba Watershed Institute, 530-265-4459 or taniacarlone@sbcglobal.net

The Criminal Angel / Le Ange Criminal

frank andrick

I awoke three times
Twice with tears in my eyes
The third w/blood in my mouth
Rinsed myself clean
Till the water ran clear
Images of Fabrice and Hashish
St. Jean d'Angelly
Templar knight rolling his bones
Browned and blackened, crumble to ash
The dice of futurity, the taste of futility

The morass that beckons, emanating from
'La Virege du St Sulpice'
When I am lost I am found, Petite Agneau Perdu
Same as 'le porte d'enfer' au Palo Alto
Same as Musee d'Orsay - the abyss
The hold of the holy
3 times the cock crowed
3 times the tears at Orsay
At first - Cinque fois la Larmes du Orsay
And then 7 - but no more
7 seals - 7 circles - 7 rays

Baptisme' au St. Sulpice
Water and Champagne, Notre Dame du Montreal
Enfant / Infini
The blessed waters, the call of champagne
Curse of sensation
Two in one, all for one
The Criminal Angel - le Ange Criminal
I am ready - I regret nothing

Have seen both sides of the curtain
Prefer none over the other
Have friends on both sides of the line
Find solace in the sun
Contentment in the moon
Stroll of time from Egyptian antiquities
Thru the ages to Orsay
The love of art - from Sekmet to Sabatier
J'ne pas coneé' Dora Mara
Her voicing, sharp gaze and multiform eyes
Inform my dreams haunt my eyes
Alone I am with many
With many I am alone
The solitude ... in and of the herd
By need I am and walk alone
I am the criminal angel - le ange criminal
I regret nothing

Judge not by lie but by creation
I am what I am not what I have
Created to create in the spirit of creation
In the in crowd - the way opened up
This fracture of light is becoming
The view on high
Sacre' Couer - Jeanne d'Arc
Vision on high - what I see when I close my eyes

Inner landscape - Wilde times - Balloon ride from the mount
Fisherman and his Soul Fisherman of Souls
Will the Grail be mine to behold
Stations of the Cross in abstraction - Cathedra
Universal - Catholic means universal

Take 56 (Templars all)
Tie them, manacle them, torture them
Lead them to wagons and straw
Burn them
Ashes to ashes - dust to dust
Show your love - lose your life
Freedom in flame, pursuant to pain
Spit and piss on the abyss - burn in hell
I hurt, I heal, I am ready to leave again
I am the criminal angel - le ange criminal
I regret nothing

Take communion with every breathe
Walk in the steps
I used to do onto others as others did to me
Now I will do onto them as I would have them do
Paid my dues in blue, as the blue beckons
Aureole of snakes and sun
Beginning and the end in one
Tarot - Rota
Wheel of Paris - wheel of life
The city in cards at my feat
City of trees - city of light
I watched birds land in her hand
In the shadows of Notre Dame
The empress pecks her breasts for blood
To feed the hungry
Legions of the poor only wanting peace from the body
Flight for the soul
I would give you wings
I am the criminal angel - le ange criminal

I can hear the talk of ghosts in tears
Judged by art not artifice
In the company of the unknown saint
See you with the blind eye
Revered, reveled, and revealed Trinity of words
In Paris there are lions everywhere
In the company of wolves
The she wolf feeds Rome
Lions punctuate this city of life
Lionheart - the cross was red before the blood
I bleed in my hearts of hearts for you
The journey from the cut to the wound
To the scab to the scar to healed
Is a long one . But mine
I am the criminal angel - le ange criminal
I regret nothing
Non, je ne regrette rien
No, I regret nothing
I am the criminal angel - Le ange criminal

Pilgrimage to Duncan's Landing

C. Linville

Lush pastures roll out
Wildflower-patch quilts
As eye soothing sheep flow
Past my window,
The eucalyptus and manure scented air
Blows in,
And then
(I'm almost there)
Misty brine,
And the guilt and loss I carry
Tastes like sand in wine.

At the overlook
Salt-laced wind slaps my face
As the tide's thunderous rage
Chews the cliff scape
Inch by inch
Into new shapes,
As the years have chewed
My inner landscape
I climb down barefoot
To pace a gentler beach:
This briny repository of secrets

I've doled out slowly over the years –
A lover in jail
The death of a friend
The beginning of an affair
The end of an end –
These resilient waves never fail to soothe me
With their sibilant liturgy:
Pardon
 And peace
Pardon
 And peace.

At night the sharp stars
Sting
Like grit in my eye
And the surf's soft caress
Sounds like your absence –
Breathing in
Breathing out
Breathing in –
While the cant of foghorn
Absolves me
Of every sin.

Impetus

Kathleen Lynch

You must change your life.

—Rilke

Begin anywhere: sleep
on the other side of the bed tonight.
Tomorrow walk as though your head
is filled with helium & your spine
the string that holds it to the earth.
Fill a gallery with something
you have not yet made.
Name your show I Promise.
Buy a large piece of blue
paper. The shade should be vast
and deep and remind you
of nothing. Roll it carefully
and carry it home on the bus
cradled in your arm.
Try not to pretend
it is your child.
Don't cry, but if you must
don't stop. Tears
are only water and salt.
You felt this way once before
when you first moved
from fluid into air.
It is no one's fault
you are more than halfway there.
Surely you know that and are grateful
to have come so far. Just go.
Just keep going.

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NOV 28 – SPC ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AT THE MILLERS’ – SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS!

poetrynow

sacramento's literary calendar & review



A PUBLICATION OF THE SACRAMENTO POETRY CENTER

poems inside from

QUINTON

DUVAL

BRENDAN

O'BRIEN

TAYLOR

GRAHAM

COLETTE

JONOPULOS

KATHLEEN

LYNCH

FRANK

ANDRICK

C.

LINVILLE



Gary Snyder

A benefit for the Yuba Watershed Institute

Thursday
November 29th
7:30pm

**The Center for the Arts
Grass Valley**

photo credit: K. Lorenz

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

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

Nov 5
Do Gentry
James DenBoer

Nov 12
Quinton Duval
Lisa Dominguez Abraham

Nov 22
Donald Anderson
Nikki Quismondo

Nov 29
Brad Buchanan's
Creative Writing Class

Thurs, Nov 15
at Carmichael Library:
Joshua McKinney
Kathleen Lynch.

spc blog: www.sacramentopoetrycenter.blogspot.com

Tuesdays

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7:30pm, Hart Senior Center, 27th & J

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