

September 5, 2008

# Poetry Now

## The Sacramento Poetry Center's Monthly Newsletter Journal for Poetry



### President's Letter from Bob Stanley

Check out the new Poetry Venues of Northern California listing on the SPC website. It's listed under "Readings and Events," and has a wide range of listings around the Bay Area, as well as many Sacramento listings. Thanks to Jim Nolt for compiling this list – and take note – Jim will be the featured reader at SPC (Rebecca Morrison hosts) on September 15th.

We're already starting to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> year with new poetry projects for SPC in 2009. For our first ever annual poetry book contest – the Cathy Washington Prize – we're soliciting manuscripts of 48-70 pages, and the winner will receive \$1,000 plus 50 copies of the book. Visit the SPC website for details. We're also honored to be working with California community poets laureate again in 2009, this time to create an anthology of their po-

ems, with assistance from the California Arts Council. Our new publishing venture, SPC Press, will have a busy first year!

I want to welcome Cynthia Linville, who joins the Poetry Now staff as Poetry Editor. An accomplished poet and teacher, Cynthia brings her love of all things poetic to our publication, plus an astute critical viewpoint. To keep her busy, I beseech you, dear reader, to follow the advice of our ancient slogan, "send us your poetry now." Send hard copy to Cynthia c/o SPC, 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento 95816, and email submissions to her at [clinville@csus.edu](mailto:clinville@csus.edu).

Frank Graham and Emmanuel Sigauke are teaming up to put on a new free SPC poetry workshop at the South Natomas Community Center. It will be held the second and fourth Saturdays from 10 am to 11:30 in the Natomas Room at 2921 Truxel

Rd. These workshops will encourage writers of all backgrounds and experience levels to begin, continue or renew their poetry and improve their writing skills. Free to the public – bring a friend or two, and bring 10 copies of their one page poem for critique.

Susan Kelly-Dewitt will be presenting a poetry workshop beginning in October. Participants will have a chance to focus on new work as well as read the work of several notable local poets. The location is to be determined, and the class will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month (6:30-9:00). The goal of the workshop is to inspire your own new work through exploration of the fine work growing right here in our community. This program will be a great chance to develop your poetic skills! Contact Susan

Susan will also be reading at SPC on October 6<sup>th</sup> from her wonderful collection, *The Fortunate Islands*.

In addition to the events mentioned above, don't miss these September Readings at SPC's R25 home – Frank Graham hosts an evening of **Poetry and Comedy** on September 1<sup>st</sup>, Emmanuel Siguake presents **Terry O' Neal** on Sept 8, Tim Kahl hosts for **Robert Grossklau** and **Miles Miniacci** (with music by **Litany**) on the 22nd, and Frank Graham hosts for **Alan Williamson** and **Andrena Zawinski** on September 29. We're going on four years at 1719 25<sup>th</sup> Street, (25<sup>th</sup> and R) and 30 years in Sacramento. For more information – yes, the website – make it one of your "favorites" - and visit us often at

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

Readings at SPC: 9.8 Terry O'Neal; 9.15 Jim Nolt; 9.22 Robert Grossklaus & Miles Miniacci with musical guest Litany; 9.29 Alan Williamson & Adrena Zawinski with folk musician Jenn Rogar; 10.6 Susan Kelly-Dewitt; 10.20 Sixteen Rivers Press; 10.31 Halloween Poetry Bash

for information on location and cost by September 10th at [skellydewitt@gmail.com](mailto:skellydewitt@gmail.com). Poetry Now, Sacramento's literary review and calendar, is published 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. Note that work submitted to SPC may also appear on SPC's website as well: [sacramentopoetrycenter.org](http://sacramentopoetrycenter.org). or our blog at [sacramento-poetrycenter.blogspot.com](http://sacramento-poetrycenter.blogspot.com)

Please submit your poems to SPC, in text of email to [CLinville@CSUS.EDU](mailto:CLinville@CSUS.EDU) please include a brief bio. If you're unable to use a computer, you may snail your submission to 1719 25th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Send calendar items to:  
[aarondscrub@yahoo.com](mailto:aarondscrub@yahoo.com)

Editor: Frank Dixon Graham  
Poetry Editor: Cynthia Linville  
Contributing Editor: Tim Kahl  
Interviews: Lisa Jones  
Book Reviews: Emmanuel Sigauke  
Calendar Editor: Aaron Gerwer  
Distribution Assistants: David Iribarne, Carol Louise Moon and Dawn DiBartolo

The Poet Tree, also known as the Sacramento Poetry Center, is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing forums for local poets – including publications, (Poetry Now and Tule Review), workshops, special events, and an ongoing reading series. Funded primarily by members, SPC is entirely run by a volunteer board of directors. We welcome your input and your interest.

*Rattlesnake Press is proud to present*  
**THIRTEEN POEMS:**  
poetry & art  
from PATRICK GRIZZELL

.....  
**MUSINGS2:**  
**Vices,**  
**Virtues &**  
**Obsessions:**

**a new blank journal**  
from KATY BROWN

.....  
*Plus the latest issue of*  
Rattlesnake Review,  
*and a new littlesnake broadside (Wind Physics) from JORDAN REYNOLDS!*

Check out [rattlesnakepress.com](http://rattlesnakepress.com)  
and look for DAILY  
poetry/events/gossip on  
MEDUSA'S KITCHEN  
([medusaskitchen.blogspot.com](http://medusaskitchen.blogspot.com))



Artwork by Jennifer Pickering

Sacramento Poetry Center  
Board of Directors (as of Jan 2008)  
Bob Stanley, President  
Tim Kahl, Vice President  
Rebecca Morrison, Secretary  
Sandra Senne, Treasurer  
Frank Graham, Member at large  
Mary Zeppa, Member at large  
Stan Zumbiel, Member at large  
Brad Buchanan, Member at large  
Emmanuel Sigauke, Member at large

Contact:  
1719 25th Street, Sacramento CA 95816  
Email: [bobstanley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobstanley@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone: 916-979-9706



September Calendar  
compiled by Aaron Gerwer

Every Mon at 7:30 pm—Poetry Readings at the Sacramento Poetry Center, 1719 25th St., SAC

Wed, 9/3, 8pm Mahogany Poetry Series, and every Wed night at Queen Sheba restaurant @ 1704 Broadway, with Khiry Malik M., Slam, open.

Wed, 9/3 The Bistro, 3rd and F Streets in Davis, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Free.

530.756.4556 [ao-jones@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ao-jones@ucdavis.edu)

[http://www.bistro33.com/bistro33\\_davis](http://www.bistro33.com/bistro33_davis) for schedule

Thurs, 9/4 and every Thurs 8pm, Open Mike and featured poet at Lunas Café -- Feature TBA

Fri, 9/12, 7:00pm Second Friday Poetry Reading at The Vox (gallery & cafe) (gallery & cafe) 19th & X Street, Sacramento. Free & Family-Friendly Featuring Tim Kahl, Danyen Powell, Jordan Reynolds, Carol Louise Moon and Aaron Gerwer. Hosted by Cynthia Linville. Vegan meal pre- and post- show prepared by Caribbean Chef Kimba 6:00 -10:00 pm. \$10.

Tues, 9/23, 7:30 pm and every Tuesday: SPC Poets' Workshop @ Hart Cntr, 27th/J sts. Danyen@ 530-756-6228 FREE 15 copies of your one page poem.

Thursday, 9/25, 8p.m. open mic and featured poets Traci Gourdine and Rebecca Morrison, Luna's Cafe 1414 16th

Poem by Robert Cooperman, of Denver, CO

Street, Sac.

MEN

Men, you'd decided – after your divorce  
from one crazy as a dictator of a small,  
cowering country – who needed them?  
Of course, some were fun to talk to,  
but whenever one smiled as if you shared  
a special secret and leaned closer,  
you were a doe ready to run.

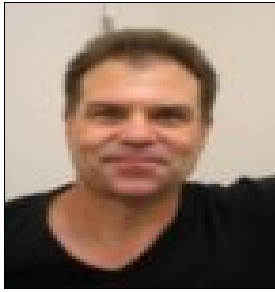
Until Emmett, who somehow snuck  
inside your defenses with his shy smile,  
his bad jokes, his helpless looks,  
who always called late and talked  
in murmurs and sighs.

When you got off the line, you couldn't  
remember a word he'd said,  
only that suddenly the room was hot  
and you longed to take off your oh  
so cumbersome and heavy clothes.

Finally, you invited him to dinner;  
over dessert wine your head spun:  
a satellite losing its orbit.  
Then his cell phone went off.  
“Damn,” he muttered. “Did you  
have to call now?” he demanded.  
“I'm still at this office meeting.”

You stood and pointed.  
“We can still be friends, right?”  
he pouted like a small boy.  
Alone, laughter poured like birdsong.  
“Men,” you shook your head,  
clearing the dishes, “so predictable.”

Poems by Brad Henderson



poet's bio:

Beau Hamel (Brad Henderson, Professor in Writing, UC Davis) is the great-great-grandson of Henry "Hartman" Hamel, one of California's premier pioneer cattlemen. Beau grew up riding horses, herding cattle, and bucking hay on ranches in the Sacramento and Modoc valleys. Hamel/Henderson is author of the dual chapbook of poetry, *Split Stock* (John Natsoulas Press 2006), and the novel, *Drums* (John Daniel/Fithian 1997). His poems, stories, and essays have appeared in a variety of journals and magazines including *Squaw Valley Review*, *Dominion Review*, the *Southern California Anthology*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *California Quarterly*, the *Great American Pinup* (online), and others.

Psychedelic

take one box of crayons & eliminate all but the principal colors--not pine, sea, or olive green--just green & collapse the z axis so everything is flat tweezed between an ordinate & abscissa then draw lines w/out a ruler plus no compass curves till all things are made of fat  
 licorice absorb the essence of life like an egg into a chicken no not a real one but pancake thin from the side so put it on a felt board w/ black tacks & stare at it from three no five feet back keep on the fix till the oil on your irises burps & you're in the square w/ your home-made  
 toons & it creeps you out that one of them is you--child crude cute & nude of all trappings like Adam? yeah, like Adam. cool.

Nature Poem

Point Reyes, California

i walk thru hills  
 dry & grizzled  
 as the backs of pigs

no valley oaks  
 near the sea  
 only tundra shrub-  
 bery, on a scape  
 scalped by brine

Danielle says  
 the tree tops  
 look like triangles  
 from Dr. Seuss

in the crooks  
 there are Tule Elk  
 beige as dormant grass  
 & still finches  
 spill on the bluffs

i think  
 how karma can draw heat  
 & Danielle says  
 did you know this place  
 it satisfies all five  
 senses  
 of my flesh



## Poet Marie Reynolds

### Bio:

Marie Reynolds was born in San Francisco. She lives in Sacramento and works as a registered nurse.

### Write the author:

marielizabeth@hotmail.com

### *Pop Goes Poetry*

What are your favorite movies or pop songs related to poetry? Poetry Now would like to know what pop culture things you enjoy related to poetry.

Email us at [grahampoet@aol.com](mailto:grahampoet@aol.com)

### The Immigrant *by Marie Reynolds*

It's all still here: the red soil, rusted windmill,  
the rock wall my grandfather built  
and the vineyard he planted and irrigated  
by hand with water he siphoned  
from a wooden cask. To work this land  
meant something to him. It meant something to me  
to stand beside him in the heat and the dust  
of an August day. We drank warm water  
from a metal flask, rode in the cab  
of a flat bed truck. He smelled of sulfur, sweat  
and tobacco. I could tell he knew about growing things  
by the way he handled the young green canes,  
lifting them up to reach the light.

After the harvest he cut back the vines,  
sliced off so much living wood  
it seemed to me an act of faith – impossible  
that anything could grow there again. He knew better.  
He never questioned his place on the earth.  
He knew how to sharpen a pruning knife  
and he made his cuts quick and clean.



Sacramento's new school of creative writing, ROOM TO WRITE is based at the home of the Sacramento Poetry Center at 25<sup>th</sup> and R Streets. If you want to give yourself time to write, or work on pieces in progress, the classes offered at Room to Write will give you the incentive to work, and a community of writers to work with.

**POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP – moves to Thursdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm**

*led by Bob Stanley*

This class offers in-class writing exercises, group work, and individual feedback. This weekly group provides a supportive forum for beginning poets as well as more advanced writers. **Drop-ins are welcome at \$30 per session.** To register, or for more information on **ROOM TO WRITE**, call Bob Stanley at 916-240-1897, or email Bob at [bobstanley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobstanley@sbcglobal.net)

# Poetry Now

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
AUTOCR  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 1956

Sacramento Poetry Center  
1719 25th St.

Visit us online at  
[www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org](http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org) and  
[sacramentopoetrycenter.blogspot.com](http://sacramentopoetrycenter.blogspot.com)

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

Poet Laureate Julia Connor

Every Monday night poetry  
reading at SPC HQ!

## **My Mother's Garden** by David Iribarne

Each weekend she would  
plow through dirt  
planting new seeds.

Soon the seeds  
sprouted into beautiful things  
to eat, to smell.

Carrots and squash  
red and yellow roses  
orange and cherry trees  
blossomed in the garden.

A storm drenched the stems  
and strong winds made  
the oranges and cherries

fall to the ground and rot.

In the winter of her life,  
she mustered up enough energy  
to plant new seeds,  
take out weeds,  
fill the dirt's mouth with water.

Steps out into the backyard  
sun beats down on her work.  
She looks at red and yellow roses  
curled up into little balls.

Kneels down slowly  
trying not to wake up  
the pain that is sleeping  
so soundly in her body.  
Picks a rose out of the ground  
drains the scent with her nose.

She looks around  
begins her gardening.  
Hoeing, she feels tightness  
in her legs and then she yelps  
out a moan as the pain  
yawns in her back.

She continues to work  
but the pain awakens  
and soon it starts its work.  
Feels the throbbing in her back  
and she know she will  
have to stop soon.  
She picks another rose  
smells it and right then  
she knows she can't quit gardening.