

Poetry Now/SPC Calendar

May/June 2006

Please accept our apologies, as The Sacramento Poetry Center has not printed *Poetry Now* since February. This issue is an attempt to update you on the calendar portion of our newsletter, and over the next few months, we hope to get back to a regular production schedule. A number of SPC members have offered to help with production, and we look forward to once again providing Sacramento's poetry community with a reliable event calendar, as well a journal for local poets. We welcome any suggestions or feedback you may have regarding *Poetry Now*. Thanks for your understanding!

The SPC Board

Special announcement: General Meeting of the SPC Board –
Open to all interested members
June 12, 2006 5:45 - 7:45 PM
HQ for the Arts – 1719 25th Street, Sacramento
Please attend so your voice may be heard – the board appreciates your
attendance and feedback!

Literary Calendar May 15- July 1, 2006

May 2006

15 Monday

Sacramento Poetry Center presents Lesley Gale; host: Indigo Moor. 7:30 p.m., SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25th (25th and R Sts.) Info: 451-5569. Free.

THINK POSTCARD! workshop at It's a Grind Coffee House, 2731 Del Paso Blvd, 6 p.m. Free.

16 Tuesday

SPC Poetry Workshop, 7:30pm, Hart Senior Center, 916 27th St. (27th & J). Bring 15 - 20 copies of your one-page poem. Info: Danyen, (530) 756-6228. Free. Workshop news, www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org, SPC Workshop News.

17 Wednesday

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

Moore time for Poetry: Terry Moore's Access Television Show, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 9pm, co-host Tyra Moore. Access Sacramento, Channel 17. updates: tvguide.com. (916) 208-7638.

Mahogany Urban Poetry Series, 9pm. Hosted by Khiry Malik and Rock Bottom. Sweet Fingers Jamaican Restaurant, 1704 Broadway. Info: www.malikspeaks.com or 492-9336. \$5 cover.

South Natomas Urban Voices presents Donald Sidney-Fryer. Hosted by B.L. Kennedy, 6:30 – 8 p.m. South Natomas Library, 2901 Truxel Rd. Free.

May 2006 continued

18 Thursday

The Nevada County Poetry Series presents James Lee Jobe, Laura Pendell, Brigit Truex. Off Center Stage (the Black Box theater) at the Center for the Arts, 314 W. Main Street, Grass Valley. 7:30 p.m. General, seniors and students: \$5, Under 18 \$1. Info: (530) 432-8196 or (530) 274-8384.

An Evening Of Poetry with Ms. La-Rue' featuring Juanita Mason aka Yoke Breaker & open mic. Gwen's Caribbean Cuisine, 2355 Arden Way at Bell St. next to Leatherbees. Doors open at 7pm, the show starts at 8pm. Dinner & drink specials and DJ Barney B. \$5. Info: 284-7831.

Poetry Unplugged presents: Donald Sydney-Fryer. Open mic before/after. Hosted by frank andrick. 8pm at Luna's Café, 1414 16th St. Info: 441-3931 or www.lunascafe.com. Free.

19 Friday

Chicano Poetry, the next generation: Jose Montoya and Luis Rodriguez; 7 p.m. Sutter Cancer Center – Buhler Building, 2800 L Street, Sacramento. Free. Info: www.sutterwriters.com

Laverne & Carol Frith, Joyce Odam will read at Our House Defines Art Gallery & Framing, 4510 Post Street, El Dorado Hills Town Center, 7 p.m. Free.

20 Saturday

Headquarters for the Arts 1 year Anniversary Celebration; J. Greenberg hosts. Enjoy performances by SPC President Mary Zeppa, Bob Stanley, Robert Grossklaus in addition to many other talents. HQ for the Arts, 1719-25th (25th and R Sts.)

Sacramento Underground Poetry Series presents Taylor Williams, Rob Anthony, Noah Hayes and open mic. 7-9pm, \$3.00. Underground Books, 2814 35th Street (35th and Broadway). Mother Rose is the bookstore manager and La-Rue' is the series host. If you would like to be a featured poet please contact Terry Moore at 455-POET.

22 Monday

Sacramento Poetry Center presents Sussurus; host: Tim Kahl. 7:30 p.m., SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25th (25th and R Sts.) Info: 451-5569. Free.

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25 Thursday

Poetry Unplugged presents: Joyce Jenkins and Richard Silberg. Open mic before/after. Hosted by B.L. Kennedy. 8pm at Luna's Café, 1414 16th St. Info: 441-3931 or www.lunascafe.com. Free.

May 2006 continued

27 Saturday

THE SHOW" Poetry Series. Every last Saturday of the month, featuring Prentice from Oakland K~~ (Poet), Shanine Ambercrombie, 34th Street Dance Company, 7 - 9 pm ,Wo'se Community Center (Off 35th and Broadway), 2863 35th Street, Sacramento; \$5.00. Info: T.Mo (916) 455-POET.

29 Monday

Memorial Day - Sacramento Poetry Center Open Mic hosted by Bob Stanley, HQ for the Arts, 1719 25th St.

Mahogany Urban Poetry Series, 9pm. Hosted by Khiry Malik and Rock Bottom. Sweet Fingers Jamaican Restaurant, 1704 Broadway. Info: www.malikspeaks.com or 492-9336. \$5 cover.

June 2006

1 Thursday

Poetry Unplugged presents: TBA. Open mic before/after. Hosted by Mario Ellis Hill. 8pm at Luna's Café, 1414 16th St. Info: 441-3931 or www.lunascafe.com. Free.

3 Saturday

Escritores del Nuevo Sol's writing workshop and potluck on 1st Saturdays. 11am, second floor at La Raza Galeria Posada, 1421 R st. (15th & R). Info: Graciela Ramirez, 456-5323 or joannpen@comcast.net.

5 Monday

Sacramento Poetry Center presents Kathleen Lynch, reading to celebrate the release of her first full collection *Hinge*, winner of the Black Zinnias Poetry Book Award; host: Rhony Bhopla. 7:30 p.m., SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25th (25th and R Sts.) Info: 451-5569. Free.

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Moore time for Poetry: Terry Moore's Access Television Show, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 9pm, co-host Tyra Moore. Access Sacramento, Channel 17. updates: tvguide.com. (916) 208-7638.

8 Thursday

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

10 Saturday

THINK POSTCARD! Mail art workshop commissioned by the Poet Laureate to inspire collaboration between writers and artists. Hosts: Mary Zeppa and Claudia Smith. 6:30 to 8pm, The Book Collector, 1008 24th Street, 916.442.9295.

June 2006 continued

11 Sunday

Poet's Corner Presents Ope N. Mike. Barnes & Noble, Stockton's Weberstown Mall. 7:00 pm
www.poetscornerpress.com.

12 Monday

SPC Annual General Board Meeting. 5:45 pm SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25th (25th and R Sts.)

Sacramento Poetry Center presents Danny Romero and Michael Wily; host Bob Stanley. 7:30 p.m., SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25th (25th and R Sts.) Info: 451-5569. Free.

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The Book Collector and Rattlesnake Press present B.L. Kennedy, 7:30 pm., 1008 24th Street. Celebrate the release of his new chapbook, *Setich Manor Poems*. Also premiering will be littlesnake broadside, *A Conversation with B.L. Kennedy*, an interview by Gene Avery. Refreshments and read-around will follow; bring your own poems or somebody else's.

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Poetry Unplugged presents: Larry Maurice. Open mic before/after. Hosted by frank andrick. 8pm at Luna's Café, 1414 16th St. Info: 441-3931 or www.lunascafe.com. Free.

16 Friday

Mary Zeppa and James Lee Jobe will read at Our House Defines Art Gallery, 7pm, 4510 Post St., Ste. 330 El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. Free, with open mic. Info (916) 933-4278.

17 Saturday

Sacramento Underground Poetry Series presents Born 2B Poets, Franklin & Kika Jason Banks and open mic. 7-9pm, \$3.00. Underground Books, 2814 35th Street (35th and Broadway). Mother Rose is the bookstore manager and La-Rue' is the series host. If you would like to be a featured poet please contact Terry Moore at 455-POET.

19 Monday

Sacramento Poetry Center presents David Humphreys—founder of Poets Corner Press, Nancy Wahl—winner of PCP's 2006 chapbook competition, Julia Connor—Sacramento Poet Laureate and friends; host: Indigo Moor. 7:30 p.m., SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25th (25th and R Sts.). Info: 451-5569. Free.

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22 Thursday

Poetry Unplugged presents: Julie Varlin and Dan Hoagland. Open mic before/after. Hosted by B.L. Kennedy. 8pm at Luna's Café, 1414 16th St. Info: 441-3931 or www.lunascafe.com. Free.

23 Friday

Dynamic Women in a Double Feature: *Las Manas*, Bay area women of varied ages and ethnicities, perform poetry. 7:30 p.m. Also, Escritores poet, Be Herrera, will lead a Circle of Friends reading. Host: Felicia Martinez, open mic follows. La Raza Galeria Posada; 1421 'R' Street, Sac. \$5.00/what you can afford. Graciela (916) 456-5323, ww.escritoresdelnuevosol.com.

24 Saturday

THE SHOW" Poetry Series. Every last Saturday of the month, featuring Brett "B-Free" Freeman, Twa'Lea Randolph, Heather Christian, Love Jones, 7-9 pm, Wo'se Community Center (Off 35th and Broadway), 2863 35th Street, Sacramento; \$5.00. Info: T.Mo at (916) 455-POET.

26 Monday

Sacramento Poetry Center presents: A Night of Translation: James Den Boer reading works translated from Latin, Arturo Mantecon reading from Spanish, Nguyen Do from Vietnamese; host: Tim Kahl. 7:30 p.m., SPC/HQ for the Arts, 1719-25th (25th and R Sts.) Info: 451-5569. Free.

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29 Thursday

Poetry Unplugged presents: Joshua Fernandez & Darrell Glenn. Open mic before/after. Hosted by frank andrick. 8pm at Luna's Café, 1414 16th St. Info: 441-3931 or www.lunascafe.com. Free.

PN Review: *What God Said When She Finally Answered Me*

Poems by James Lee Jobe, Rattlesnake Press 2006, \$5.

Available at The Book Collector, 1008 -24th St., Sacramento, CA
or directly from Rattlesnake Press, 4708 Tree Shadow Place, Fair Oaks, CA 95628.

Reviewed by Mary Zeppa

Jim Jobe is a man of many parts: fine and well-published poet (three previous chapbooks *Dark Like My Father*, *Red Skelton's Ghost*, *7 Days in Yolo*), generous and discriminating publisher (Clan of the Dog and One Dog Press), blogger extraordinaire (Putah Creek), inveterate and meditative hiker, remarkable friend, amazed and tender husband and father—not even to mention long-time radio producer. Jim is my friend and has been my publisher; I declare this with pleasure and pride and with a wish to acknowledge that I do not, cannot, come to *What God Said..* unbiased.

Nor would I wish to. Settling down with this small and mighty book, gazing into the eyes of the charming and quizzical God (with her wry smile and multi-leafed headdress) who adorns its cover, * is like settling down for a warm and wide-ranging conversation with my friend. It's my turn to listen and, as poem after poem asserts itself on the page, I am increasingly happy to be spending my time with a poet so alert to, so alive in, the world. Here, for example, is a very wide-awake Jim Jobe on his way to work:

*The wind blowing wet and cold up the swollen Delta lifts
the floating egret over the morning causeway laden with traffic.*

*Wings spread, the long, wide bird banks north, and lands
in the flooded field to wait silently for some edible treat to pass by.*

“Delta Wind, Mid-Winter”

The language of the poem lifts as the egret does; its long lines, like the long bird, soar above the humans mired in commute traffic.

We join Jim on the road again, in a very different frame of mind, in “January at the Crocker”:

*I drive unseen to the river, and on the radio
I hear a Demon say that the United States is well-versed
in the Art of War. What kind of art is that?
A sculpture of bone and blood? A painting of heartache?*

Hear the intensity rising, the ante being upped, in that masterful triad of rhetorical questions?

* Cover art by Susan Kelly-DeWitt.

Then there's “Let It Rain”. With a sudden, expansive leap of mind, Jim takes us on another kind of ride:

Heaven, clean this earth, let it rain.

*Mohammed's horse was so excited by the truth
that he ascended into Heaven, too! Let it rain
truth, one word in each raindrop that falls.*

I want to close this review with the whole of "Fifth Night Awake". Not only is the poem one of the best pro-insomnia arguments in my lexicon, it is also so generous-hearted, so beautifully inclusive of all the facets (well, maybe not the radio producer) that make Jim Jobe the man and the poet he is:

Fifth Night Awake

*Just before dawn, rain comes
to bathe the valley. On tip-toes
so I won't wake my family,
I slip outside to the garden.
The rain is soft and steady
on our tomatoes, our beans.
Drink, drink, little friends,
I'm here to watch you grow.*

*A wide red streak dresses
the eastern sky. The rain eases
off into the breeze-borne mist,
kissing the upraised arms
of the early corn. I raise
my arms, too, to the sky.
Drink, drink, James,
I'm here to watch you grow.*

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May/June 2006

Printed by the Sacramento Poetry Center
The Poet Tree, Inc.
1719 25th St,
Sacramento, CA 95816

www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org

a poem by Michael Wyly – who will be reading June 12 at SPC/HQ for the Arts – 8:00 p.m.

study of line

for christine and cypress

connecting clavicle to curve of breast (two-tone
lips tightly pressed, the sway of her jaw,
airing pulse of flared nose—slight-sigh,
slight-sigh—milky in its newness to the sun) to sleep-
pressed curls that cast black against the afternoon window.

i trace it in only a glance, too modest
to study further, mother and daughter, simple
paradox of stillness and movement, one and two.
how is it that i cannot name my own
approximate? the failing of my language?

her body tended in the parabola of your slender arm.
gracile fingers dimple your skin—shadowed cups
each enclosing a print beneath which
seed ferments. again and again i think
on Rodin, how he would capture this phrase:

your hands, he would have molded them huge,
knuckles knobby as river rocks, not fierce
but fiercely grasping for your tenderness
is a story of motion carriage across
contours lip meeting nipple shared consumption.