

Surfwriters Newsletter

Vol. 50 Issue 9

March 2009

~~~ Announcements ~~~

SURFWRITERS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

Surfwriters Meeting

~~ Friday, March 27th, 10am-Noon ~~

Discussion: Poet Laureate for Surfwriters?

In January, members voted to create the position of Poet Laureate. The selection or election would correspond to Surfwriters' annual **Poetry and Music in the Gallery** event. This month, we shall discuss the function or duties, if any, of a Surfwriters Poet Laureate. We shall explore ways in which a Poet Laureate might be chosen.

See pages 3 and 4 for information on Poets Laureate.

*Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 W. Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes 90275
(310) 541-2479*

~~ Looking Ahead to April ~~

Surfwriters & La Mer Consort
present

Poetry and Music in the Gallery --Saturday, April 25, 2009

Malaga Cove Library, 2400 Via Campesina
Palos Verdes Estates 90274

~~ Other Weekend Activities ~~

The 14th Annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books will take place April 25-26, 2009.

◊Δ◊ -- Community Events -- ◊Δ◊

~~ Writing Workshops~~

(Free of Charge)

Millie Ames Writing Workshop

Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Peninsula Center Library

Conference Room (Main Level)

701 Silver Spur Road

Rolling Hills Estates 90274

Purpose: To help writers get published

Facilitator: Jean Shriver

Frequency: Meets Weekly

(no meeting the last week of the year)

Genre: Fiction and Non-Fiction

(no drama or poetry)

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~~ Writing Workshops~~

(Free of Charge)

Writing Workshop

Frequency: Meets Bi-weekly

Fridays 1:45-4:00 p.m.

Next meeting: March 20th

Palos Verdes Estates

Purpose: Explore voice, form, and style;

support/critique work;

share publishing opportunities.

Facilitator: Rotating

(Everyone who wishes may participate as facilitator!)

Questions? Contact kcjohnson@starnetdial.net.

Genre: Poetry/Short Prose

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~~ Coffee Cartel ~~

Guests and Open Mic Readings

No charge. Tuesdays 8:10 p.m. (Sign up for open mic at 7:45 p.m.)
Hosts Jim Doane, Larry Colker & Stephany Prodromides

Featured Readers in March 2009

March 3 Brendan Constantine
March 10 Cecilia Woloch
March 17 Hosts Night!
March 24 Deara Okonkwo
March 31 Andy Sell and Joseph Gárate

1820 So. Catalina Ave., Riviera Village
Redondo Beach 90277

For info, call (310) 548-5344
or visit www.redondopoets.com.

~~ Anthology Project Update~~

- Anthology cover design suggestions: Seven ideas were offered via e-mail and in person at the January meeting. From seven ideas submitted by authors, committee members unanimously selected the Surfwriters logo for the cover.
- Table of contents and index have been drafted.
- To be completed: review of authors' final changes, and addition of front matter for the volume.
- Latest in process: authors' bios.

~~ February Meeting News~~

Trading Spaces:**Ziggy & Richey's Adventures of a Year Abroad in Europe**

Guests and members thoroughly enjoyed Ziggy and Richey Novak's well-attended presentation, which took place on the PVAC patio. The Novaks enhanced their amusing, informative discussion with a display of oversized photographs, organized by country and city.

--Other Announcements--

Mary Vandever informs us that author LaVonne Taylor has launched a quarterly literary journal for prose and poetry. LaVonne is a member of National Writers Association, LA Chapter. Websites are www.nwala.org and www.nwalablog.org. E-mail Lavonne at lavonne.taylor@sbcglobal.net to request submission guidelines.

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More Literary Riches

Thanks to Mel Harter for this Palm Desert literary connection.

Prose and Pale Ale - A Pub of Literary Repast

www.proseandpaleale.com
Judy Joyce - Author

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Thanks again to Mel Harter for forwarding the **Santa Barbara Writers Conference (SBWC)** newsletter last week. Below, you'll find information from the **SBWC website**.

Special Workshops for 2009

"The March Weekend of Poetry and the June conference for 2009 have been placed on hiatus due to the difficult economic conditions in the country today. (See the executive director's note.) We are busy planning the conferences for March and June 2010 and in the meantime will hold a series of one-day workshops in poetry, plus workshops in fiction, memoir and marketing, this summer and fall."

SBWC's First Annual National Writing Contest

"We are pleased to announce our First Annual SBWC Writing Contest in Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry! Winners in each category will receive tuition scholarships to the June 2010 conference, and a grand prize winner will receive a scholarship and have an opportunity to have lunch with a top agent during the conference."

Santa Barbara Writers Conference
P.O. Box 6627 * Santa Barbara, CA 93160
info@sbwriters.com * (805) 964-0367
www.sbwriters.com

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~~ Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at UCLA ~~

Get ready for the Los Angeles Times Book Prizes (April 24) and the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books (April 25-26)!

<http://www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks/>

UCLA Main Campus, Westwood

Admission is free. Parking is \$8. Tickets are required for indoor panel and speaker sessions. Click above link for information.

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~~ Peninsula Friends of the Library Books for Troops ~~

A \$15 donation will provide 40 books for our troops around the world.

To donate, contact Malaga Cove Library, 2400 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates 90274, (310) 377-9584 x553.

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~~ Members in the News~~

Here's the latest from **Gabrielle**: "Any of you flying out of Ontario airport, take a look at my most recent curatorial job - as guest curator for the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs - eight cases in Terminal 4, four cases in Terminal 2 - Art2Wear Accoutrements. Up now, and through the end of September.Am working on my next chapbook and always thinking I'll make a meeting!"

And **Marcia Reed** writes, "Sorry I can't be there to tell you about my January press trip to the Mexican Riviera--30 writers, and we had seminars on blogging, setting up websites, etc. A super trip, and certainly tax-deductible for writers! It was sponsored by IFWTWA (International Food, Wine & Travel Writers Association). The IFWTWA is looking for new members, in case anyone is interested. More info if you want. They have an online magazine, *Global Writes*, which gives you some idea, & a website too, I think."

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ABOUT THE POSITION OF POET LAUREATE

What is a Poet Laureate? What are the duties?

The Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (more commonly known as Poet Laureate of the United States) promotes a greater appreciation of poetry by overseeing an ongoing series of poetry readings and lectures at the Library. The Laureate gives an annual lecture and reading of his or her poetry and usually introduces poets in the Library's poetry series, the oldest in the Washington area and among the oldest in the United States. This annual series of public poetry and fiction readings, lectures, symposia, and occasional dramatic performances began in the 1940s. Collectively the Laureates have brought more than 2,000 poets and authors to the Library to read for the Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature.

Each consultant has emphasized a different literary focus --creating poetry workshops for women at the Library of Congress, providing poetry in airports, supermarkets and hotel rooms, exploring the African diaspora through the eyes of its artists, organizing a conference of noted novelists, poets and storytellers who discussed writing, nature and community. Often the focus has been youth --meeting with elementary school students to encourage them to write poetry, founding an international children's poetry and art contest, and initiating the Favorite Poem Project.

How is a Poet Laureate chosen?

The Poet Laureate is appointed annually by the Librarian of Congress and serves from October to May. In making the appointment, the Librarian consults with former appointees, the current Laureate and distinguished poetry critics. The position has existed under two separate titles: from 1937 to 1986 as "Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress" and from 1986 forward as "Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry." The name was changed by an act of Congress in 1985. The Laureate receives a \$35,000 annual stipend funded by a gift from Archer M. Huntington.

How and when was the position created?

The U.S. position was modeled on that of the Poet Laureate of England. In 1936, Archer M. Huntington created an endowment which established an annual stipend for a Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. In 1937, the Library appointed its first Consultant, Joseph Auslander, who served until 1941.

Who is the current Poet Laureate of the United States?

On June 17, 2008, the Library of Congress announced **Kay Ryan** as the country's sixteenth Poet Laureate.

Other Poets Laureate

United Kingdom - In the United Kingdom, the term has for centuries been the title of the official poet of the monarch, appointed for life since the time of Charles II. Andrew Motion is the present Poet Laureate of Great Britain. There is also a Children's Laureate.

California - California was the first state to establish the position of Poet Laureate, with the appointment of Ina Donna Coolbrith in 1915. Initially, it was an unofficial position, conferred as a lifetime appointment. Since that time, five persons have held the honorary title of Poet Laureate. In 2001, Governor Gray Davis signed Assembly Bill 113, which established the official position. State Poets Laureate are now appointed by the Governor for a two-year term. California's current Laureate, Carol Muske-Dukes, was appointed November 13, 2008.



Poets Laureate are appointed by many states and countries. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poet_Laureate and http://www.loc.gov/poetry/about_laureate.html for more information.



Wishing best of good health to all our members in 2009!

Please send newsletter announcements to Editor-Publisher, KC Johnson: kcjohnson@starnetdial.net.

Read the monthly newsletter online at the Surfwriters website: www.palosverdes.com/surfwriters/newsletters.htm

Welcome to Surfwriters
Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 West Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

