

The Poetry Society of South Carolina

2010-2011 Programs



All regular monthly programs and seminars are held at the Charleston Library Society, 164 King St., Charleston, SC, at 7:00 p.m., free and open to the public. A book signing and reception follow each program.



September 12: Sandra Beasley won the 2009 Barnard Women Poets Prize for *I Was the Jukebox*, and her first collection, *Theories of Falling*, won the 2007 New Issues Poetry Prize. Her poetry has appeared in *Poetry*, *Slate*, and *Best American Poetry 2010*. She has received the 2010 Univ. of Mississippi Summer Poetry Residency, a DCCAH Individual Artist Fellowship, and the Friends of Literature Prize from the Poetry Foundation. She is on the faculty of the Writer's Center in Washington, D.C.

September 13: Seminar with Sandra Beasley, "The Gyroscope of Form: Sestinas Past, Present, and Future." The sestina, with its pattern and repetition, is one of the most acrobatic and challenging of forms. Where did it come from, what makes it work, why is it popular today? We will read contemporary sestinas, discuss where the form is heading, and consider ways to honor the tradition in poems that are fresh, funny, and impassioned.



October 14: Landon Godfrey is a poet, artist, actress, and teacher. Chosen by David St. John for the Cider Press Review Book Award, *Second-Skin Rhinestone-Spangled Nude Soufflé Chiffon Gown* was published in 2011. Her work has been published in *The Southeast Review*, *Lyric*, *POOL*, *Cimarron Review*, *Best New Poets 2008*, featured by *Broadsided*, in Polish translation in *Studium*, and nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Born and raised in Washington D.C., she now lives in Black Mountain, NC.

October 15: Seminar with Landon Godfrey, "Imaginative Acts of Attention: Ekphrastic Poetry." How poets see and describe what they see, "translate" the visual into the aural and back, move beyond interpretation into generation, meditation, and exploration—ekphrasis has concerned poets ever since the ancient practice became a rhetorical device. We will think about ekphrastic strategies by considering poets' descriptions of rustic objects, art works, and the beloved.



November 11: Carol Ann Davis has recent or forthcoming work in *Volt*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *Denver Quarterly*. In 2007, Davis received an NEA Fellowship in Poetry, and *Psalm* was published by Tupelo Press; *Atlas Hour* is new from Tupelo. She directs the undergraduate creative writing program at The College of Charleston, where she edits *Crazyhorse* with her husband, Garrett Doherty.

November 12: Seminar with Carol Ann Davis, "Re-Vision: Ways of Putting Pressure on Process." What if, through new engagements with language and process, we wake ourselves up to new possibilities for existing poems, compose new poems differently, and then follow the thread of revision in some heretofore unseen way? In a seminar that's part craft lecture, part prompt, and part strategy session/workshop, we will aim toward putting pressure on our existing processes.

December 10: Holiday Party & Reading for members and their guests.



January 9: Open Mic with Ray McManus. Ray McManus has authored two collections of poetry: *Left Behind* (Stepping Stones Press) and *Driving through the country before you are born* (USC Press, 2007), winner of the SC Poetry Book Prize. His poetry has appeared in many journals throughout the United States and Canada. He is an Assistant Professor of English at USC Sumter.



February 10: Portuguese-American **Frank Gaspar** was born and raised in Provincetown, MA. He is Professor Emeritus at Long Beach City College, and teaches in the MFA Program at Antioch University, Los Angeles. He has four poetry collections, *Night of a Thousand Blossoms* (2004), *Field Guide to the Heavens* (1999 Brittingham Prize), *Mass for the Grace of a Happy Death* (1994 Anhinga Prize), and *The Holyoke* (1988 Morse Prize), and several novels. His awards include an NEA fellowship, *Best American Poetry*, and three Pushcart prizes.

February 11: Seminar with Frank Gaspar, "The Mouth, the Ear, and Other Useful Organs." Poetry bears up well under some heady aesthetic examination: formal plasticity, boundaries of subject, linguistic vagaries, rhetorical stances, and so on. We will revisit the poem's first magic—sound—how it has defined English poetry from its beginnings, how the ghosts of formal sound inhabit the most arresting examples of contemporary free verse, the kinetic energy that springs a poem forward and sets up vibrant patterns and movements within the poem's living body.



March 9: Gerard LaFimina has authored two collections of prose poems and six of poetry, including *Vanishing Horizon* (2011, Anhinga Press). His numerous awards include fellowships from the Irving Gilmore Foundation and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a Pushcart Prize, and the Bordighera Prize in Poetry. He directs the Frostburg Center for Creative Writing at Frostburg State Univ., where he is an Assoc. Professor of English.

March 10: Seminar with Gerard LaFimina, "Walking the Poetic Line." We will discuss line in relation to voice, content and tone, the complex relationship between the sentence and the line, how various contemporary free verse poets "use" the line, and how readers walk the line from the top of the poem to its final line.



April 13: Charlotte native and Los Angeles performance poet **Rich Ferguson** has appeared with Patti Smith, on *The Tonight Show*, and on NPR stations. His ecstatic delivery, more Pentecostal preacher than slam poet, juxtaposes personal and eternal in a sharply humorous way. He has presented at colleges throughout Southern California, and been published in the *LA Times*, *Sparring With Beatnik Ghosts*, and *The Moment*. He contributes to and is a poetry editor for the online journal *The Nervous Breakdown*.

April 14: Seminar with Rich Ferguson, "From the Page to the Stage." We'll look at the history of performance poetry, and search for our own voice within the genre. Bring a short poem to read as a performance piece. Musical accompaniment is welcome.



May 11: Lola Haskins's poetry advice book, *Not Feathers Yet: A Beginner's Guide to the Poetic Life*, appeared in 2007, as did a collection of fables with images by Maggie Taylor, entitled *Solutions Beginning with A*. Her most recent of eight poetry books is *Desire Lines: New and Selected Poems*. Haskins's awards include three Pulitzer nominations, two NEA fellowships, four Florida fellowships, the Iowa Poetry Prize, and The Emily Dickinson Award from the PSA. She retired in 2005 from teaching Computer Science at U. of Florida and teaches at the Rainier Writers Workshop.