



Writing Ourselves True

A Poetry Writing and Teaching Symposium

California Poets in the Schools

9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Workshops

Blake More The Anti-Ode. Rife with exuberance, sarcasm and common language, the anti-ode degrades the ode one step further—into the realm of the humorous and profane. Using the ode form to make a social statement, against nametags, TV, deforestation, war or to something more personal, such as poison oak or a broken arm. Calling upon humor, comparisons, and the five senses, we will use the ode form to rail against any peeve that is close to your heart. Youth love this exercise! Mendocino County AC and poet teacher, Blake More has many creative voices and expressions, including poetry, performance, radio, costume design and painting. For more visit www.snakelyone.com.

Shadab Zeest Hashmi The Challenge of the Modern Ghazal. The ghazal is a form whose aesthetics allow it to make a grand gesture in merely two lines. How does a successful ghazal string these “independent, epigrammatic” couplets without sounding archaic or sentimental? In this workshop, we’ll take a brief look at the rich tradition of the ghazal in Urdu and explore some well-crafted ghazals by contemporary American poets. Shadab has an MFA from Warren Wilson and is the author of *Baker of Tarifa*. Originally from Pakistan, she now lives in San Diego.

Shelley Savren Demystifying the CPITS Program. This workshop will provide new poet teachers with information they need to become a poet-teacher. It will include training, selling the program, filling out paperwork, information on Poetry Out Loud and an overview of the organization. Each poet will receive some sample lesson plans for different grade levels. Shelley Savren has taught with CPITS over 30 years. She is a full time English Professor with Oxnard College and her book *Common Fire* was published in 2004 by Red Hen Press.

10:30 to 12:00 p.m. Workshops

Joan Gelfand Building Your Writer’s Resume. How do writers find their way into the top literary magazines and publications? One way is by submitting an eye-catching ‘resume’ along with your well-crafted works. Learn strategies for winning a coveted list of publication credits that are an editor’s dream – and win sought after acceptances. Joan Gelfand’s letters, essays, reviews, poems and stories have appeared in the *Huffington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times Magazine* and over a hundred magazines and anthologies. She is a San Francisco based poet-teacher.

Seretta Martin Invent a New Form. Have you written a *Sonic Sonnet* or *Haiphrastric*? Probably not, they were invented this Spring. Maybe *Terminal* or *Flarf*? These were invented late 20th & early 21st century. Originate a new form? Let’s do it! We’ll consider new & traditional forms as we create new. Seretta Martin is a San Diego artist, translator and poet-teacher and coordinates the Border Voices Poetry Project.

Melinda Palacio Folsom Lockdown Poetry Project. This workshop will focus on how to turn painful memories into powerful poems. Her poetry chapbook, *Folsom Lockdown* will serve as a springboard to craft your stories into poems. Discover the human and humorous aspects of painful and taboo subjects, such as domestic violence and visiting a father in prison. Melinda Palacio is a Santa Barbara poet teacher and the author of *Folsom Lockdown*, *Ocotillo Dreams* and *How Fire is a Storm Waiting*.

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. California Poets in the Schools General Business Meeting.

2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Workshops

Jill Moses In the Frame of Light and Shadow. Many writers have been compelled to write about photographs, whether from a family photograph or a photograph from a well-known photographer such as Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, Duane Michaels, and Diane Arbus or from a postcard or magazine. We will explore this magical realm where time seems to stop in a frame of light and shadow. Jill Moses is the CPITS Area Coordinator of San Diego, a Board Member and poet teacher.

Karen Lewis and Phyllis Meshulam Panel: Digging for Treasure—Where to Find Funding. The money is out there, but how do we get started? This panel will explore methods of funding and offer basic tools for grant writing, including examples, handouts, and resources for you to bump up your grant-getting and planning skills, no matter where in California you live & work. Karen has received foundation grants, local Rotary grants, and County Office of Education grants, and a 4-time recipient of CAC - AIS (Artists in Schools) awards. Phyllis has been Area Coordinator of Sonoma County since 2004. She’s written successful grants from the Community Foundation of Sonoma County, Starbucks Foundation and the Rotary Club.

Claudia Poquoc and Gwynn O’Gara Poetry Performance Made Easier. Learn how to transform dead words on the page into living language that captures and enraptures the audience. By expanding your vocal abilities and tonal expressions, and flexing your memory and musicality, you’ll deliver your poems with greater heart, soul and clarity. You can also apply these skills to your Poetry Out Loud students’ recitations. Discover how words on the page are just the beginning of communication, instead of the end. Gwynn O’Gara, Sonoma County Poet Laureate 2010-2011, has been with CPITS over twenty years. Claudia Poquoc is a poet, drummer, singer-songwriter who has had extensive experience in public speaking as well as certified in *Speaking Presence*.

3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Workshops

Daryl Chinn Book Making. We’ll explore beginning bookmaking techniques that beginners can use to make more complex and advanced books. Along the way, we’ll explore ways to use bookmaking in the classroom or to produce your own books, with or without words and graphics. Limited to twelve people. Tools and materials included. Daryl Ngee Chinn serves as president of the Board of Directors of CPITS and writes and makes books about tango, food, relationships, love, and death.

Fernando D. Castro Writing from the Queer Heart/An LGBT Youth-Oriented Workshop. I will share my experience conducting LGBT youth workshops, present engaging literary excerpts, writing exercises, breaking taboos and creating a safe writing community environment. Fernando D. Castro is a Colombian-American residing in Los Angeles. He is the author of *Fernando’s Café*, *The Nightlife of Saints*, and *Redeemable Air Mileage*. He is the winner of the 2010 City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs COLA Fellowship in Literature.

Phyllis Meshulam From Abstraction to Image and Music. How can we bring these strands – what Pound would call “image magic” and “music magic” – together in our poems? Can we find ways to help our students integrate them in theirs? I have learned and discovered a few techniques and would be pleased to share them with you. Phyllis Meshulam is the Area Coordinator for Sonoma County. Also a peacenik and flash-mobster, she is the author of three chapbooks of poetry.

California Poets in the Schools (CPITS) cordially invites you to join us on **Saturday, September 10, 2011** for a full day of workshops and writing at the beautiful **La Casa de Maria in Santa Barbara**.

Participants may choose four workshops, from an offering of twelve workshops, conducted by veteran poet-teachers who bring their talents and experience to this yearly gathering. This is your local opportunity to work with widely published poets from throughout California. Lunch is included (vegetarian and vegan dishes will be available). Enrollment is limited so please register early.

For registration information and questions please contact California Poets in the Schools at (415) 221-4201 or Tina@CPITS.org.

Total cost for four workshops and lunch: **\$150**. Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m.

La Casa de Maria
800 El Bosque Rd., Santa Barbara, 93108
www.lacasademaria.org

Registration

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cash, checks, credit cards accepted. _____

checks payable to CPITS/credit card below.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

exp: ____ / ____

VISA or MC (please circle)



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