

Texas Institute of Letters



April/May/June 2016 Newsletter

Howdy Fellow TIL Members!

I hope everyone is enjoying their Summer!

It's hard to believe it is Newsletter time again.

What a wonderful time it was in Austin!

It was so good to see everyone! -- *karla k. morton, Secretary*



Paisano, Full Moon by Glenn Whitehead, 1990.

Communiqué from the President

Many years ago, as a young boy growing up in suburban Texas, I often dreamed of one day becoming President of the Texas Institute of Letters.

But never once, in any of my imagined scenarios, did I ever believe it could happen without a bloody coup.

So thank you all for this peaceful transition of power. And now, as I relax inside the presidential suite atop the TIL Corporate Tower in downtown San Marcos, I'm reminded of Lyndon Johnson's admonition regarding political power: "Now I do have that chance — and I'll let you in on a secret — I mean to use it."

And here's what I'm thinking: the TIL has a long and distinguished history, though we have often been, as Larry McMurtry once charged, "a pond full of satisfied frogs." The world has changed a lot since the TIL was founded in 1936, but the organization hasn't always kept up. The good news is that we have been making great strides in recent years, and my job now is simply to help keep our momentum going.

To that end, our council will meeting in September to discuss ways to continue evolving the TIL. We will be looking at making the annual banquet more fun and less boring (a controversial idea, I know, given our past), improving member retention, service opportunities for TIL members, fundraising, and publicity.

Also, the TIL has focused nearly exclusively on writers who publish books, but a new question is arising: should we also consider songwriters, screenwriters, and playwrights for TIL membership? The recent anthology, *Acting Up and Getting Down: Plays by African American Texans* showcases the abundant literary talent of contemporary writers in our state who continue to be overlooked by the TIL today.

LBJ said something else in that presidential message about using power. He added, "And I hope that you will use it with me."

So please: If you have thoughts on any of these topics, or any other suggestions that you think might be helpful to the TIL, send them to me. I will share all of the input with our council in advance of our next meeting.

A note on contest judges: We still have openings for two categories: best design of a trade book and the three children's book awards. If you're interested, please let me know. Or, if you'd like to put your name in the mix for next year's judging, let me know that, too.

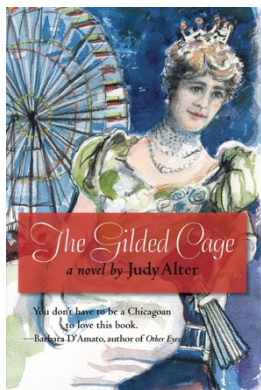
Thanks to all of you. The best part of being TIL president, by far, is the opportunity to interact with more of you on a regular basis. That's actually the real dream I had as a kid who grew up loving books and writers.

Viva El Paso 2017! Steve Davis

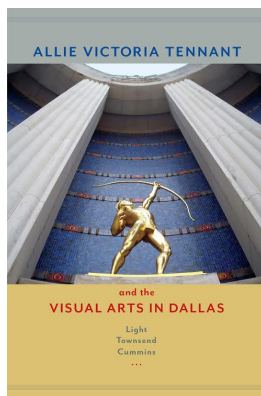
Member News

(These are listed in order of their arrival)

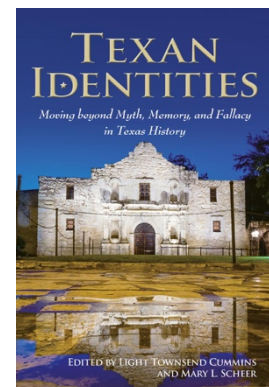
WILLIAM SIBLEY has been laboring high (altitude wise, not pharmaceutical) in the Colorado Rockies on the third novel in his "Texas Trilogy." His screenplay AMORCITO has been optioned by Symply Entertainment in L.A. and is currently in the throes of Hollywood development-hell. All prayers welcomed. Sibley's Manager of twenty years passed away last fall in L.A. - any leads on a decent literary, screenplay, theatrical Manager and/or Agent gratefully accepted. He says he has a terrific Entertainment Attorney he's worked with on several deals in the past that he can turn you on to, as well.



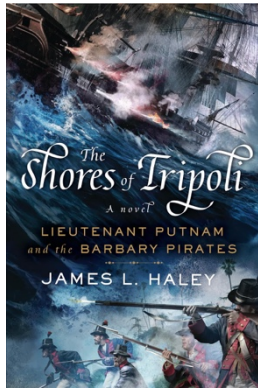
JUDY ALTER is sadly confined to quarters with a broken ankle/leg – but dodged the surgery bullet (but will be non-weight-bearing for some time), but is happy to announce her new historical fiction book, *The Gilded Cage*, with cover art by Barbara Whitehead.



LIGHT CUMMINS' recent Texas A&M University Press book *Allie Victoria Tennant and the Visual Arts in Dallas* has won the 2016 Liz Carpenter Award given by the Texas State Historical Association for the best publication dealing with a Texas woman. The art history group, the Center for the Study and Appreciation of Early Texas Art, has also given this book its 2016 publication award. Light has a new book coming out this October from the University of North Texas press entitled *Texan Identities: Moving Beyond Myth, Memory, and Fallacy in Texas History*. He and his wife Victoria are spending the summer of 2016 writing the manuscript of their current book project tentatively titled *Matrons to Modern Culture: Women and the Promotion of the Visual Arts in Texas, 1911-1942*.

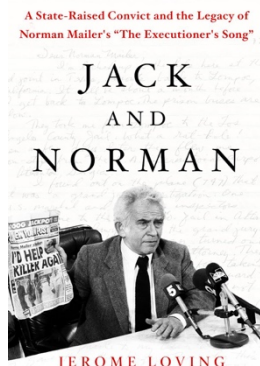


JERRY THOMPSON won the Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez Award (best scholarly book) from the Historical Society of New Mexico at a conference in Farmington, New Mexico for his book: *A Civil War History of the New Mexico Volunteers and Militia* (University of New Mexico Press, 2015).



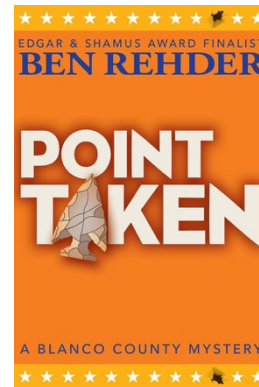
After a lifetime as a self-described boutique historian, **JAMES L. HALEY** (Sam Houston, Passionate Nation, Wolf, Captive Paradise) is finally making a bid for the A-List. On November 1, 2016, G. P. Putnam's Sons will publish *The Shores of Tripoli: Lieutenant Putnam and the Barbary Pirates*. Set in the Barbary War of 1801-1805, the 450-page novel is the first of a new series of naval adventure fiction set in the age of tall ships. The second book, in which the same characters age to the War of 1812, will follow. More about the series is on his website, www.jameslhaley.com, and much more about the Barbary War, the early U.S. Navy, and the art of historical fiction is on the book's Facebook page, https://www.facebook.com/James-L-Haley-187430191270074/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

JESSE SUBLETT III says: This has been my "Vaudeville" summer. I've labored many months with best pal Eddie Wilson, helping him tidy up and pull together his memoir of life as a Mississippi-expat in Austin, Texas, who basically helped invent the Austin of the 1970s by founding and running Armadillo World Headquarters. Eddie hopes to publish this highly detailed and personal, and "hugely" illustrated tome in late 2016 or early 2017. I've also been working on a book covering the 40 years of Esther's Follies, the vaudeville-political-satire institution and Sixth Street phenomenon founded by Shannon Sedwick, Michael Shelton and Doug Dyer in 1977. People ask me when I'm going to write more novels, but right now my office is stacked high with weird history that no fantasist could top.



JEROME LOVING, who will retire from Texas A&M University this December after 43 years of service, has new book coming out in February, 2017: "Jack and Norman: A State-Raised Convict and the Legacy of Norman Mailer's *The Executioner's Song*" (St. Martin's Press).

BEN REHDER says he has a new novel coming in the next few weeks—the 10th installment to his Blanco County mystery series.



EMILIO ZAMORA says: I'm traveling to France between June 22 and July 9 to follow the footsteps of José de la Luz Sáenz, the author of the WWI diary that I edited and translated for Texas A&M University Press in 2014. My purpose is to pen a book that engages Sáenz's early life and wartime journey from Realitos, Texas to the Verdun, St. Mihiel and Argonne offensives of the 90th Division, 360th Infantry.

JAY BRANDON'S new novel will be published in October, appropriately enough. In *THANKSGIVING EVE*, Jack Morris receives ambiguous but frightening news from his doctor. He goes home on Christmas Eve, sad and angry, to confront the tense, sullen atmosphere of his home. His wife, eight-year-old daughter, and fifteen-year-old son seem separate entities, not cohering into a family. Jack realizes he is the source of this atmosphere, and resolves to try to make things better in whatever time he has left. But as it turns out, he has none. He dies that evening. That's chapter 1, Jack is the main character, and the story is not told in flashbacks.

He has also written a play with my friend Becky McCarty that will have a staged reading August 28th at The Playhouse San Antonio. "Community Hearts" shows how the lives of a diverse group of friends who volunteer at a community center are changed by the sudden legalization of same-sex marriage. It's essentially an ensemble comedy, and says he has a great cast to read it. Reading August 28th, 6 p.m., The Playhouse. And it is Free!

ROBERT BONAZZI'S book, *OUTSIDE THE MARGINS*, a collection of literary commentaries, published in 2015 by Wings Press, received a rave review in *World Literature Today*. The most recent title, *AWAKENED BY SURPRISE*, a book of fictions published in Spring 2016 by Lamar University Literary Press, includes 4 collages by Maggi Miller of Austin. Her collages are also the cover art for both books.

LONN TAYLOR of Fort Davis is working with Tim Johnson, publisher and owner of the Marfa Book Company, to produce what Taylor describes as "a very special book about Marfa." "So many people come from all over the world to Marfa to see the minimalist art installations at the Chinati Foundation, and once there they want to know more about Marfa," Taylor says. "This book will tell them what they want to know and a lot more.." The book is tentatively titled *Marfa for Beginners* and should be out next year. Taylor is also presenting a paper at the 2017 meeting of the Texas State Historical Association in Houston (March 2-4) about his experiences writing a column for *Texas Monthly* about Texas historical artifacts in Texas museums. He says the paper will deal with the problems of historical writing for mass-circulation magazines.



DOMINIC SMITH'S novel *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos* was published in the US in April. Named an Amazon book of the month, it also became a *New York Times* Bestseller and a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. A recent bestseller in Smith's native Australia, the novel has also been published in the UK and is due out in seven other countries within the next twelve months.

BETTY ADCOCK will a new collection of poems coming out from LSU Press in Fall, 2017. Titled : "Rough Fugue," it contains a poem inspired by Bill Wittliff's pin hole camera photography, which he calls "Tragaluz," Translation: drinking light. Betty will be honored the last week in July by the North Carolina Writers' Conference at a dinner and reading in Greensboro NC. Betty, a sixth generation Texan, has lived in North Carolina all her writing life, though much of her material comes from her Texas roots. Her 2001 volume "Intervale: New and Selected poems" won the Texas Institute of Letters Prize for Poetry. She has also received the North Carolina Governor's Award for Literature.

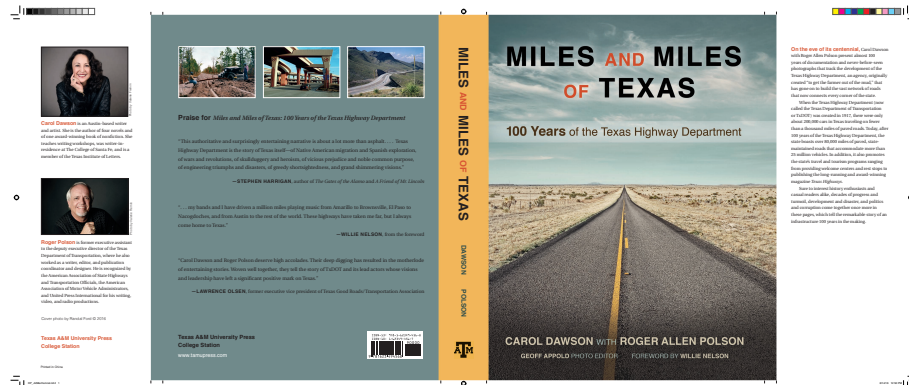
GREG GARRETT has spent the spring on sabbatical from Baylor working on his next nonfiction trade book for Oxford University Press, a book on tales of the Zombie Apocalypse called *Living with the Living Dead*. This spring he has lectured, taught, or read in Delaware, Washington, Mississippi, Wales, England, and France. Greg also spent the spring revising and reviewing proofs for a new edition of his book on faith and depression, *Crossing Myself*, which will appear this fall. A new Czech translation of his book on U2 (*We Get to Carry Each Other*) has been published by Biblion in Prague, to his great surprise. Greg

made an extended appearance on BBC Radio this spring, and got a stunningly good if stunningly late review of his Oxford UP book *Entertaining Judgment* from the Irish Times. And he and wife Jeanie bought a home in NW Austin this spring, moved, renovated, and hosted a housewarming, all of which felt like a full-time job. But he now has a great place to read and write, and a backyard where he can get his hands dirty after 16 years as a renter. Good things will grow out of this!

HUGH AYNESWORTH sends this in from The Press Club of Dallas: Hugh Aynesworth has been a journalist for more than 65 years, and a member of the Press Club of Dallas since 1960. He has worked at both The Dallas Morning News and Dallas Times Herald — as well as at Newsweek, The Washington Times, UPI, The Arkansas Gazette and ABC News' (20/20). He is the author of two books on the JFK assassination, co-author of 2 books on Ted Bundy as well as another 4 books on various crime scenarios. While Hugh has done far more than covering the Kennedy assassination, he is of course best-known for that. As Bob Schieffer said, "No one knows more about the assassination than Hugh Aynesworth. While others have peddled lies, spun conspiracy theories and offered outlandish speculation, Hugh has always stuck to the facts. Just the facts. He is the only journalist eyewitness to the three seminal events... the assassination, the arrest of Oswald, and the shooting of Oswald. He also uncovered the escape route, broke the story about Oswald's threatening letter to the FBI 10 days before the assassination and somehow slipped Oswald's Russian Diaries to Life Magazine. Hugh also is a 4 time Pulitzer Finalist and a winner of more than 90 local, state and national awards (including an Emmy last year for a documentary featuring 27 persons connected with the JFK assassination). He is a former president of the club and former president of the Texas chapter of Sigma Delta Chi. He and Paula Aynesworth, of KERA, have been married 29 years this month.

JERRY CRAVEN'S novel *The Jungle's Edge* was published by Angelina River Press in 2016. Set mostly in Malaysia where Craven taught for a couple of years, it is a hybrid mystery/literary novel in its dealing with crime and its thematic look at the practical function of artists. He has short stories accepted for fall, 2016, publication from *descant*, *RiverSedge*, and *The Langdon Review*. The Lamar University press he directs has made a slight change to its name. It is now Lamar University Literary Press., which suggests the concentration of the press upon new literary works: poetry, short stories, novels, creative nonfiction, and drama. The press has a new logo and a new web address: www.lamar.edu/literarypress. Jerry Craven continues to direct Ink Brush Press. Both presses are open to book proposals from TIL members. He can be contacted through the widget on his web page, www.jerrycraven.com.

CAROL DAWSON'S book *Miles and Miles of Texas* will be released on October 1, 2016 by Texas A&M Press. With superb production values by Roger Polson and an Introduction by Willie Nelson, Dawson's narrative covers more than four centuries of Texas history through the lens of road development and infrastructure, starting with neolithic game trails that have evolved into our major highways and Interstates, and focusing in particular on the 100-year history of the Texas Highway Department (now known as TxDOT). From its infant struggles through the snarls of political corruption, to the challenges facing its engineers as they tackled the largest and most difficult tracts of roadless territory in the lower forty-eight states, to the present day of conflict, controversy, and magnificent achievement, the Texas Highway Department has proven its integrity, ingenuity, and innovative intelligence on an international scale. The story of a civilization's roads is essentially the story of the civilization, and Texas is no exception.

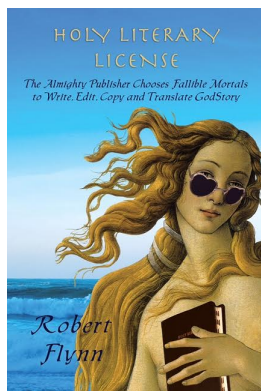


LARRY D. THOMAS reports that his new poetry chapbook, *El Padre* was published online in May by Nodding Onion, the new chapbook imprint of the Virtual Artists Collective, Chicago, and is available at Google Play. Thomas also has poems in recent or current issues of *Callaloo*, *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, *Review Americana*, *Louisiana Literature*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Green Hills Literary Lantern*, and *Boston Literary Magazine*.



DARWIN PAYNE reports that his latest project--completed after five years--is a 591-page history of Southern Methodist University entitled *One Hundred Years on the Hilltop: The Centennial History of Southern Methodist University*. It was released Friday, April 15, as the University celebrated the beginning of its second century since opening in 1915. Payne spent more than five years researching and writing the book. On April 30 he was honored with the 2016 SMU Literari Award. It honors individuals who have "used the written word to advance the ideals of creativity, conviction, innovation and scholarship and who have had a significant impact on culture and the community through their work." Previous TIL members receiving the award are Marshall Terry and Willard Spiegelman.

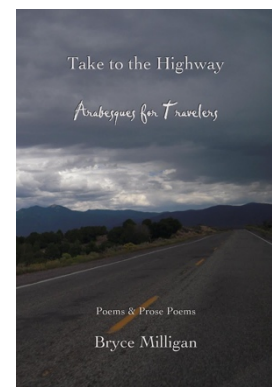
ELIZABETH CROOK says her novel *The Which Way Tree* is due out in early 2018 and she's over the moon to be working with a truly terrific editor, Ben George at Little, Brown. Maverick Films LLC has purchased the film rights with Robert Duvall to star and produce, and she is co-writing the screenplay. The story is about a young mixed-race girl in 1860's Texas who sets out to avenge her mother's death by tracking and killing the panther that killed her.



BOB FLYNN has a new nonfiction book titled *Holy Literary License: The Almighty Publisher Chooses Fallible Mortals to Write, Edit, Copy and Translate Godstory* is scheduled for October. Below is one possible cover:

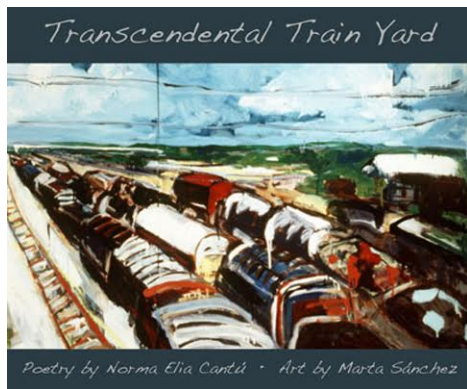
BRYCE MILLIGAN'S new new collection of poetry, *Take to the Highway: Arabesques for Travelers* (West End Press) comes out in September. *Kirkus* wrote: "Most poets work well in one mode, either economy or abandon. Milligan can do both with grace." On the back of the book, Jane Hirshfield praises it for "poems of distinction and evocative power," and Steve Harrigan calls it a "great pleasure."

In May, the Southwest School of Art's School by the River Press released a letterpress broadside, on handmade paper, of one of Milligan's poems. The release coincided with the conclusion of an exhibit celebrating 20 years of Milligan's book designs and 40 years of Wings



Press. The exhibit, curated by UTSA rare books librarian Agnes Czeblakow, featured readings by Wings Press authors, a panel on book design and independent publishing, and a performance by Milligan (which you can find on YouTube).

Wings Press slowed its prodigious output to ten new titles this year. Upcoming this fall is Robert Flynn's long-anticipated *Holy Literary License: The Almighty Publisher Chooses Fallible Mortals to write, edit, select, reject, copy and translate GodStory*. Keep an eye out for it -- Flynn's provocative text is wrapped in a cover pretty much guaranteed to stop traffic in some quarters.

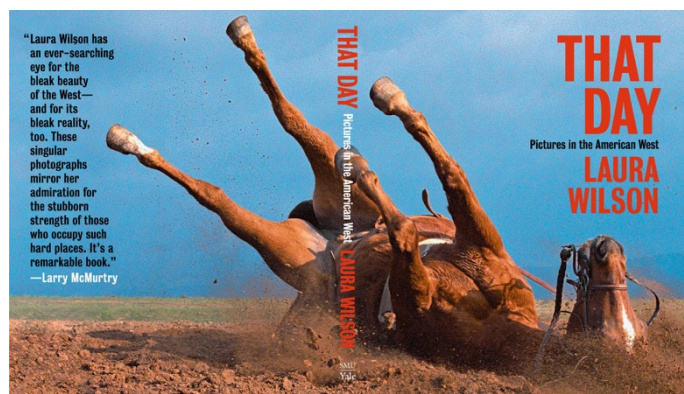


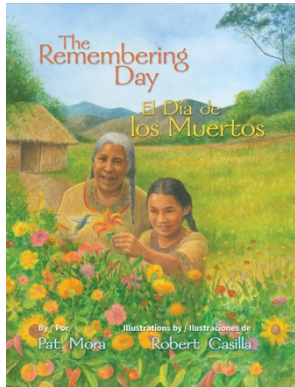
NORMA CANTU says she will be coming back to San Antonio, and will be the Norene R. and T. Frank Murchison Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Trinity University starting fall 2016. Also, she says: Here is a photo of a the book cover for a recent publication--it is a collaboration between the graphic artist Marta Sanchez and myself...we printed a suite of 10 prints at Coronado Studios in Austin and then Wings Press published a book with my poetry and her

art work.

CAROLYN BANKS has a poem, "Aria da Capo," in the recently published THE GREAT AMERICAN WISE ASS POETRY ANTHOLOGY(Lamar University Press). For the past year, she has been writing a weekly humor column called "Piece of Mind" for the BASTROP ADVERTISER, which is picked up by the online version of the AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN.

After a successful exhibition of photographs from **LAURA WILSON'S** newest book, *That Day: Pictures in the American West*, at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, the exhibition will be traveling over the next couple of years. *That Day* will be on view at the Whitney Museum in Cody, Wyoming; the Briscoe Museum in San Antonio, Texas; and the Booth Museum in Cartersville, Georgia.

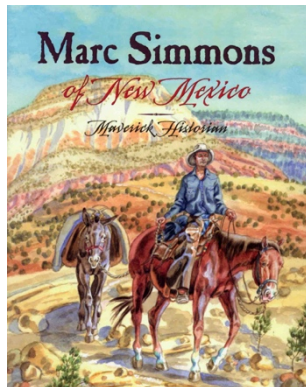




Renowned children's book author **PAT MORA** was the recipient of the Skipping Stones Honor Award for her newest bilingual picture book, *The Remembering Day / El día de los muertos* (October 31, 2015).



TIL member **MARC SIMMONS** is the subject of a new exhibition at the Wittliff Collections:



Marc Simmons: Southwestern Treasures from the Maverick Historian August 15 through December 16, 2016

This new exhibition showcases key treasures from the Simmons archive: vintage pottery from Southwestern Indian tribes, a surviving Spanish curry comb from the conquistador era, a private tintype album of General George Custer that includes locks of the general's reddish-gold hair. Also featured

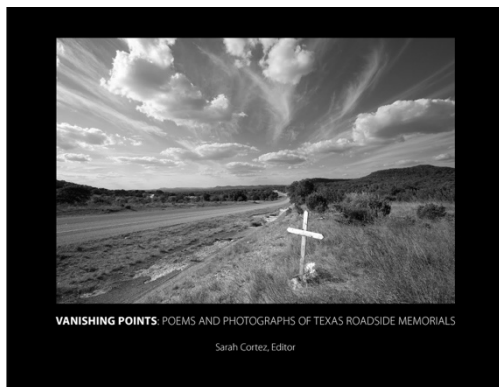
are religious santos, artifacts from the Santa Fe Trail, original paintings from artists such as José Cisneros, and a cabinet card featuring a little known photograph of Apache leader Geronimo. Rare items from Simmons' extraordinary research library, estimated at some 12,000 volumes, help round out the display.



With the Royal Sanction of Spain's King Felipe VI, Arte Público Press founder and director **NICOLÁS KANELLOS** was awarded the "Cruz de la Orden de Isabel la Católica" medal and rank for his contribution to the knowledge and dissemination of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture in the United States. Here's a link to the UH press release for more information: <http://www.uh.edu/news-events/stories/2016/April/429KanellosSpain.php>

WENDY BARKER has spent much of the spring traveling with her new books--*One Blackbird at a Time*, winner of the John Ciardi Prize (BkMk Press, 2015), *Far Out: Poems of the '60s* (co-edited with Dave Parsons, Wings Press, 2016), and her newest chapbook, *From the Moon, Earth is Blue* (Wings Press, 2015). In addition to chairing a panel at AWP in Los Angeles and participating in another panel as well as in two off-site events, she's given readings in Houston, The Woodlands, Denver, Berkeley, Davis, San Luis Obispo, Madison, and New York, and is finally relishing having time at home in San Antonio. She has new poems forthcoming in *Southern Review* and *Plume*, among other publications.

On *Texas Monthly's* website **JAN REID** published a tribute to the late Dr. James "Red" Duke, who died last August at 86. At the start of a long career as a trauma surgeon Red was the first doctor to receive President Kennedy after the assassination in Dallas. He likely saved Governor John Connally's life the same day. On a Life Flight, a program that Red founded, he received Jan as a patient in Houston following his misadventure in Mexico City. They remained friends the rest of Red's life.



SARAH CORTEZ just returned from teaching poetic forms at the West Chester University Poetry Conference, the nation's largest and most academically rigorous poetry conference. Recent and upcoming publications include: *Voices de la Luna*, *Cenizo Journal*, *RiverSedge*, *Texas Books in Review*, *Stone Renga*, *The Great Wise Ass Poetry* anthology, *Houston's Nature* anthology. This fall will bring two books of poetry into print: *Against*

Sky's Warm Belly: New & Selected (Texas Review Press), and *Vanishing Points: Poems and Photographs of Texas Roadside Memorials* (Texas Review Press) which will feature stunning B&W photographs by Dan Streck and poems by Larry D. Thomas, Jack B. Bedell, Loueva Smith, and Sarah Cortez (contributor and editor).

GERALD DUFF reports that two of his novels which were out of print have been republished within the last year. *MEMPHIS RIBS*, first published by Salvo Press in 1999, has been newly published by Brash Books, and *THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MAMA: The Unauthorized Life of Elvis's twin*, first published by Baskerville in 1995, has been published anew in 2016 by Devault-Graves.

LISA SANDLIN says: My news is that the novel I published in October 2015, "The Do-Right," has been short-listed for both the Hammett Award and the Shamus Award. I've been doing readings/Q&A here and there--my fave, Austin's Book People, last week. I'm at work on a sequel.

SERGIO TRONCOSO: I just finished judging the 2016 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, as one of three national judges. We read a record 493 books in about nine months! An



exhausting, but terrific experience. We announced our four finalists and winner in April. A few weeks later, one of our finalists won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, so at the Folger Shakespeare Library award ceremony in May we had both the PEN/Faulkner award-winner, James Hannaham, and the Pulitzer-prize winner, Viet Thanh Nguyen. The other finalists of this extraordinary group were Elizabeth Tallent, Luis Alberto Urrea and Julie Iromuanya.

MARIAN SCHWARTZ says: This year I'm organizing a not-to-be-missed celebration of International Translators Day—7pm Friday, September 30--at one of Austin's favorite indie bookstores, Malvern Books. TIL's own Kurt Heinzelman will be one of three featured translators, along with Liliana Valenzuela (translator of Sandra Cisneros, among others, into Spanish) and nationally acclaimed Russian translator Jamey Gambrell. Save the date!



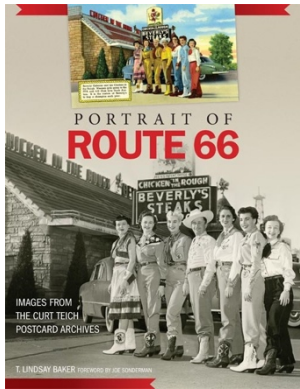
CHITRA DIVAKARUNI, who teaches Creative Writing at the Univ. of Houston received the Premio Scanno award (also known as the Italian Nobel) in fall 2015 for her novel *Oleander Girl*. Her novel-in-stories, *Before We Visit the Goddess*, published in April 2016, received glowing national and international reviews and became an international bestseller. She received the Rhetorician of the Year award from the Young



Rhetoricians Organization. A play based on her book *Arranged Marriage* premiered in Toronto in summer 2016. Her youngest son graduated from college this spring, so she is a happy mom!

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE has received the Secondary Reader Book Award for Best Children's Literature on Aging (in recognition of positive portrayal of an older adult) from The Association for Gerontology in Higher Education for **THE TURTLE OF OMAN**, just out in paperback from HarperCollins.

TIL member **T. LINDSAY BAKER** has been as busy as ever. Four years ago he spent a week in suburban Chicago working in the production files of the old Curt Teich and Company postcard publishing house. Teich was the largest postcard publisher in the United States



and issued hundreds of thousands of postcards from the turn of the twentieth century through the 1970s. It is best known for having popularized "linen surface" postcards, which had an embossed texture that replicated that of linen fabric. In the archives Baker sought out black-and-white original photographs that customers submitted to Teich for the production of color postcards during the decades before the invention of color photography. He found a treasure trove of these "lost" images. He used the original Teich company finding aids to examine the production files for postcards printed for communities the entire length of former U.S. Highway

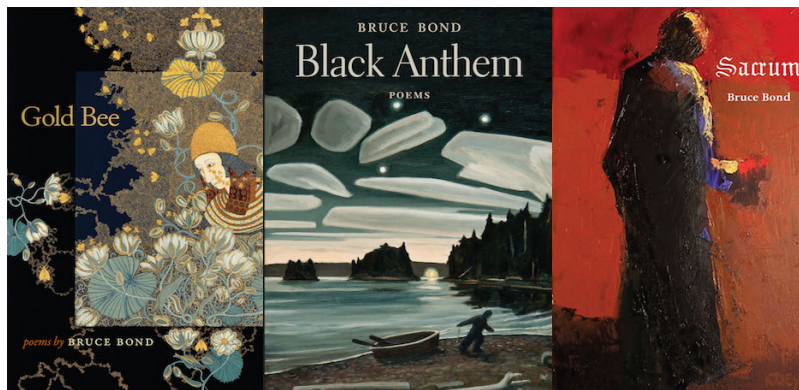
66, the fabled thoroughfare that starting in 1926 connected Chicago with Los Angeles. From hundreds of images, he and his editors at the University of Oklahoma Press selected about 150 photographs (and the postcards they inspired) to create *Portrait of Route 66: Images from the Curt Teich Postcard Archives*, which is scheduled for release in September 2016.

T. Lindsay remains a faculty member in history at Tarleton State University and directs its W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History of Texas. He teaches at the Stephenville campus and administers the museum at the Thurber ghost town on I-20 midway between Fort Worth and Abilene.

Baker's next two book projects are "Eating Up Route 66," a study of the foodways of roadside dining along former U. S. Highway 66, for the University of Oklahoma Press, and a popular guide to the historic architecture of Glen Rose in Somervell County, Texas, co-authored with photographer Paul Chaplo, for the Texas A&M University Press. In July 2016 T. Lindsay spent three weeks on an extended research trip to Flagstaff and Kingman in Arizona and to Needles, Goffs, Victorville, Pasadena, Pomona, and Los Angeles in California to complete major library and archival research for the foodways book. Part of the work included visiting and sampling dishes at surviving historic eateries; this means that the investigations by necessity required multiple visits to roadside bars, cafes, restaurants, and roadhouses for both food and impromptu oral-history interviews.

JOYCE ROACH says: she took part as a symposium speaker in connection with the Lonesome Dove 25th Reunion in Fort Worth in April. Tommy Lee Joes and Robert Duval were there, but I didn't see them and they didn't see me. My part had to do with cowgirls and their double image from the frontier to the footlights. Two books out: *Short Call: Snippets from the smallest places in Texas* (Texas Folklore Society, UNT Press), and *Land of Rain Shadow: Horned Toad, Texas*, a collection of short stories about West Texas, TTU Press.

BRUCE BOND sent in these images for two books forthcoming this year: *Black Anthem* (Tampa Review Prize, U. of Tampa Press) and *Gold Bee* (Crab Orchard Award, University of Southern Illinois Press), and the third image of is *Sacrum* (Four Way Books) forthcoming in 2017.

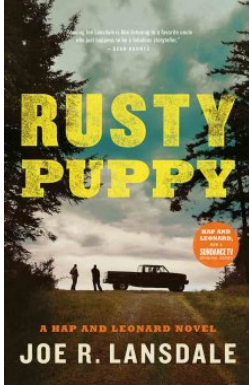


ALLEN WIER writes: as a Texpatiate, I'm not always aware of literary events taking place back home in Texas, so I appreciate the Newsletter! I retired from the University of Tennessee last year and live on a lake in North Alabama, but I've accepted the Watkins Endowed Visiting Writer position at Murray State University in Kentucky beginning this fall (2016). I have a new book of short stories, tentatively called LATE NIGHT, EARLY MORNING forthcoming in summer of 2017.

ALAN BIRKELBACH, 2005 Texas State Poet Laureate, is teaming up with karla k. morton, 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate, on a tour to celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service. They hope to visit 50 parks total and generate books of poetry about the experience. What better way to celebrate the natural beauty of the U.S. than with poetry! They started their tour with a trip to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone! Along the way they both had interviews with the NPR station in Wyoming (to be broadcast sometime this fall.) Also, they both attended the annual conference of The Western Writer's of America in Cheyenne, Wyoming the latter part of June. Beautiful country! (Just for fun, ask karla about the rattlesnake in Gladstone, New Mexico!)

JOE LANSDALE sends this in about his forthcoming book:

Hap and Leonard investigate a racially motivated murder that threatens to tear apart their East Texas town.



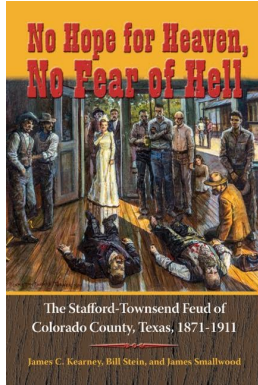
While Hap, a former 60s activist and self-proclaimed white trash rebel, is recovering from a life-threatening stab wound, Louise Elton comes into Hap and Leonard's PI office to tell him that the police have killed her son, Jamar. Months earlier, a bully cop pulled over and sexually harassed Jamar's sister, Charm. The officer followed Charm over the course of the next couple of months, leading Jamar to videotape and take notes on the cop and his partner. The next thing Louise hears, Jamar got in a fight and is killed in the projects by local hoods. It doesn't add up: he was a straight A student, destined for better things, until he began to ask too many questions about the racist police force.

Leonard, a tough black gay Vietnam vet and Republican, joins Hap in the investigation, and they stumble upon the racial divides that have shaped their Eastern Texas town. But if anyone can navigate these pitfalls and bring the killers to justice, it's Hap and Leonard.

Filled with Lansdale's trademark whip-smart dialogue, colorful characters, and relentless pacing, *Rusty Puppy* is Joe Lansdale at his page-turning best.

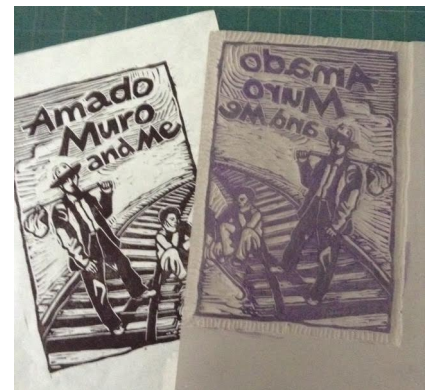
Joe R. Lansdale is the author of nearly four dozen novels, including *Honky Tonk Samurai*, the Edgar Award-winning *The Bottoms*, *Sunset and Sawdust*, and *Leather Maiden*. He has received nine Bram Stoker Awards, the American Mystery Award, the British Fantasy Award, the Grinzane Cavour Prize for Literature. He lives with his family in Nacogdoches, Texas.

JOSÉ E. LIMÓN, TIL member and the former Mody C. Boatright Regents Professor of American Literature at UT-Austin, has retired to Long Beach, CA. after serving his final five years in academia at the University of Notre Dame as the Notre Dame Foundation Professor of American Literature. He is now Professor Emeritus at both institutions. In retirement he continues to work on his next book, Neither Friends, Nor Strangers: Anglos and Mexicans in the Literary Making of Texas. Chapters of the book have already appeared as: "Nations and Critical Regions in Mid-Nineteenth Century Texas: History in On the Long Tide and Caballero," *Amerikastudien: Journal of the German American Studies Association*. 53 (2008) 97-111, and "Critical Regionalism and the Literature of Texas: The Comparative Case of Rolando Hinojosa and Larry McMurtry," In *Rolando Hinojosa's Klail City Death Trip Series: A Retrospective, New Directions*. Eds. Stephen Miller and José Villalobos. Houston: Arte Público Press, 2014. Pp. 124-143.



JAMES C. KEARNEY says his new book, *No Hope for Heaven; No Fear of Hell: The Stafford/Townsend Feud*, is due for release in August by University of North Texas Press.

BARBARA WHITEHEAD says: I have been designing a book for TCU Press which will come out this fall titled *Amado Muro and Me: A Tale of Honesty and Deception* by Robert L. Seltzer. Below is the image for the cover that I have cut in linoleum.



CAROL COFFEE REPOSA is (slowly) completing a fifth manuscript, with individual poems appearing in *Amarillo Bay*, *Writing Texas*, *Honoring Women*, the Texas Weather Anthology project, *The Southern Poetry Anthology*, Vol. VIII, and *The Great American Wise Ass Anthology*. She also continues to serve as poetry editor for *Voices de la Luna* and plans to give presentations later this summer at the Gemini Ink Literary Conference (San Antonio) and the Langdon Conference (Granbury). The rest of her time goes to grandchildren and swimming in the neighborhood pool. (In a previous life she was a polar bear.)

JAN SEALE says: In Sept. I'll be flying to Portland, Oregon to speak to the Caregivers' Summit of the National Parkinson Foundation. They are purchasing 100 of my /The Parkinson Poems /for distribution at the summit. A persona poem on Madam Candelaria appeared in the new volume /Bearing the Mask/: /Southwestern Persona Poems /out from Dos Gatos Press. My poem "Song for Obscure Women" leads off a coffee table book of art and poetry published by the Gentileschi Aegis Gallery Association. In recent months, I've traveled to Houston to present poetry readings at Lone Star College-University Center, Sam

Houston State University-Woodlands Center, and to The Gulf Coast Poets Society. Valley poetry readings include those at the McAllen Library, Edinburg Sekula Library, and Museum of South Texas History. Also, I have guest-lectured, done a reading, and served on a publishing panel at the new Univ. of Texas-RGV.

MICHAEL ADAMS says all is quiet on the Paisano front, though our fellow was marooned for almost two months due to flooding, and he received a call from Nan one morning saying a large snake was loose in the house!

NAN CUBA reports that she now holds the record for being stranded at Paisano. Which was in a way good, because she was able to get a lot of work done. But she could have lived without the morning she found a snake in the house...

STEVE DAVIS writes: **BILL MINUTAGLIO** and I are finishing the follow-up to our PEN-USA winning *Dallas 1963*. Our new book is: *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Timothy Leary, Richard Nixon and the Hunt for the Fugitive King of LSD*.



The story opens in 1970 as the ex-Harvard professor and godfather of the Psychedelic Sixties is running against Ronald Reagan for Governor of California, armed with a campaign song written for him by John Lennon. Leary is arrested and sentenced to ten years for possessing two marijuana cigarettes. He breaks out of prison with the help of Bill Ayers and the Weather Underground, then flees to the Black Panther embassy in Algeria, where Eldridge Cleaver has set up a government-in-exile. Leary spends much of the next two years being chased around the globe by Nixon's henchmen on the personal orders of the madman president--who is succumbing to criminal paranoia in his attempt to crush all enemies.

KARLA K. MORTON thanks everyone for their eternal patience as she tackles the newsletter, and is busy traveling, celebrating her brand new book from Texas Review Press *Accidental Origami: New and Selected Works*. Karla and fellow Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach also began their National Parks Tour to celebrate the Parks' 100th Anniversary. They are just back from Yellowstone, and Karla still has stars in her eyes, and a keepsake rattler cut off a coon-tail rattlesnake.

Other News

Gemini Ink <http://geminiink.org/writers-conference/> reminds everyone of its upcoming conference in San Antonio: *State of the Book*, July 21-24, 2016.

Check out the **TIL's new website** (thanks to Sergio Troncoso and Kip Stratton) www.texasinstituteofletters.org You can now check your membership status online to see if you're "active." You can also download a form to send in your dues.

Nominations for new TIL members will be accepted beginning this fall. Stay tuned for details.

**Mark your calendars for the 2017 TIL member meeting:
April 7-8, El Paso**



Friday, April 7.

Reception and poetry awards in the Dome Restaurant inside the Camino Real Hotel.

Saturday, April 8

Reception on the patio, overlooking the mountains (or perhaps a dust storm-- either way it'll be memorable) followed by awards banquet at Ardovino's Desert Crossing.



Texas Institute of Letters



Officers

President, Steve Davis, San Marcos
Vice President, Carmen Tafolla, San Antonio
Secretary, Karla Morton, Fort Worth
Treasurer, W.K. (Kip) Stratton, Austin
Recording Secretary, Joe Holley, Houston

Council Members

Sarah Cortez, Houston, first term ends April 2018
Christine Granados, Fredericksburg, first term ends April 2018
Kurt Heinzelman, Austin, first term ends April 2018
Diana Lopez, Victoria, first term ends April 2018
Russell Martin, Dallas, first term ends April 2018
Jerry Thompson, Laredo, first term ends April 2018
Sergio Troncoso, New York/El Paso, first term ends April 2017
Ann Weisgarber, Sugar Land, first term ends April 2017