

# Texas Institute of Letters



Jul/Aug/Sep 2013  
Newsletter

## Annual Meeting, Banquet Information Announced

TIL's annual meeting will be at the Embassy Suites San Marcos, Hotel, Spa, and Conference Center, in San Marcos, April 4-5. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 1-512-392-6450 or by dialing Embassy Suite's national reservation system at 1-800-560-7782. Be sure to mention Texas Institute of Letters when making your reservation to get the group rate, which is \$132 per night. This includes breakfast at no cost and free parking (although valet parking is available for \$12 per night for those desiring it). And, as you'll recall from last year's meeting, the hotel offers registered guests other special amenities, such as a no-charge happy hour.

To make your reservations online, go to Embassy Suites' Texas Institute of Letters' special page at this link:

<http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/S/SNMESES-TIL-20140404/index.jhtml>

Please note that the page may be a little slow in first loading. Click on the "Book A Room" button and the process is easy to follow.

To get the group rate, be sure to make your reservations by **March 6**.

PLEASE NOTE: We encourage you to make reservations as soon as possible. Rooms at the TIL rate went quickly last year. We were able to free up a few additional rooms, but not enough to accommodate everyone who desired one. So, please, make your reservations early!

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***Please use the form at the end of this newsletter to remit 2013-2014 dues and to make your reservations for the banquet.***

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As we mentioned in the last newsletter, this year's meeting will be dedicated to the memory of John Graves – a major literary figure, a long-time Council member, a TIL President, and a TIL Fellow. The Wittliff Collections at Texas State University holds Graves' archives; therefore, it is only fitting that we will return there for our reception on Friday, April 4. As was the case last year, our friends at the San

Marcos Convention & Visitors Bureau will provide transportation from the hotel to Albert B. Alkek Library on the Texas State campus, which is home to the Wittliff Collections. For more information, following this link:

<http://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/a-z/sanford.html>

We will have a brief program that night, as we did last year. More details will be forthcoming. The reception at the Wittliff Collections is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

The banquet on Saturday, April 5, will begin at 7 p.m., with a cocktail reception commencing in the hallway outside the banquet room at 6 p.m. During the afternoon of that Saturday, we will have the traditional readings by new members. The time for the readings will be announced in an upcoming newsletter. Also, the San Antonio Book Festival will be taking place on that Saturday, and we're hopeful members might be able to make the short drive there to take in some of the events during the day.

Here's a link you can follow for more information:

<http://www.saplf.org/events/category/san-antonio-book-festival/>

Again, we will have more information about all these events in an upcoming newsletter. We look forward to seeing you in San Marcos.

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## Jan Reid Named Winner of the Lon Tinkle Award

*By Steve Davis*

*TIL Secretary*

**Jan Reid** is the newest recipient of the Lon Tinkle Award. Jan will be presented the award at the TIL banquet, April 5, in San Marcos.

Jan is an award-winning journalist, novelist, and biographer. Born in Abilene, Texas on March 18, 1945, he grew up in Wichita Falls as part of a unique generation of writers who came of age in that time and place--including fellow TIL members **Jim Hoggard** and **William Hauptman**. Reid enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and served from 1964 to 1970. He received his BA from Midwestern University in 1968 and then went on to earn his MA from the University of Texas in 1972. Reid began his journalism career with the *Mt. Pleasant Tribune* but soon quit to join the *New Braunfels Herald* as sports editor in 1973.

Jan began writing for *Texas Monthly* soon after its founding in 1973, during which time he came under the tutelage of **William Broyles** and **Billy Lee Brammer**. His early *TM* article about the emerging country-hippie music scene in Austin spawned his first book, *The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock* (1974), which had as its publisher Jan's friend and long-time TIL member **David Lindsey**. Jan profiled stars like Willie Nelson and Jerry Jeff Walker during transformative times in their careers. The enduring appeal of Jan's book is evidenced by the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary republication of *The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock* in a revised and expanded edition in 2004.

Jan became a senior contributor at *Texas Monthly*, writing dozens of celebrated stories for the magazine over the years. He proved to be a very versatile writer, taking on subjects as diverse as busting out of jail in Mexico to the moving spiritual journeys of the Kickapoo Indians on the margins of Texas. During the

course of his long journalism career, Jan has also contributed to *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Slate*, *Men's Journal*, and *the New York Times*. His work has been anthologized in *Best American Sportswriting* and *The Slate Diaries*.

In 1977, on the strength of his novel-in-progress, *Deerinwater*, Jan received a Dobie-Paisano fellowship. *Deerinwater* was published in 1985 by Texas Monthly Press and in a mass paperback edition by Ballantine. In 1986, the late TIL member **Bill Shearer** published Jan's critically acclaimed study of Texas football, *Vain Glory*.

In 1998, Reid was visiting Mexico City with three friends from *Texas Monthly* when he was seriously wounded after being shot during a robbery attempt. Jan's many friends flocked to his aid, raising funds to help with his medical bills and praying for his recovery. Soon after, Jan began to write a book, *The Bullet Meant for Me* (2002), a memoir of his recovery from the near-fatal shooting, and a reflection on marriage, friendship, and boxing.

In 2000, Texas A&M University Press published *Close Calls: Jan Reid's Texas*, a collection of some of Jan's best-loved magazine pieces. *Close Calls* received sparkling reviews and was a finalist for a Texas Institute of Letters' Carr P. Collins Book Award.

Jan became incredibly prolific during the 2000s. He edited the well-received anthology, *Rio Grande* (2004), a compilation of choice writing and photography on the storied river, informed by his own keenly observed dispatches. An excerpt appearing in *Texas Monthly* won TIL's O Henry Award. With **Lou Dubose** he published *The Hammer Comes Down* (2004), documenting the political rise and fall of Congressman Tom DeLay. The two of them also published a book on George W. Bush's advisor, Karl Rove, titled *Boy Genius: Karl Rove, the Architect of George W. Bush's Remarkable Political Triumphs* (2005), written with Carl M. Cannon.

With **W.K. (Kip) Stratton** he edited *Splendor in the Short Grass* (2005) the collected work of the pioneering magazine writer Grover Lewis. In 2006, he published a book on the making of the classic album, *Layla and Other Assorted Long Songs*, by Eric Clapton and the star-crossed band Derek and the Dominos. In 2010 he published *Texas Tornado: The Times and Music of Doug Sahm*, which became an Oxford Magazine Music Book of the Year.

In 2011 Jan published his long anticipated novel, *Comanche Sundown*, honored as best fiction of 2011 by the Texas Institute of Letters. Last year's Lon Tinkle Award winner **Stephen Harrigan** wrote of Jan's novel: "This book represents a summoning of all of Jan Reid's remarkable powers. He writes with a scholar's reach, a novelist's depth, and a native son's intuitive grasp. He has long been one of the best Texas writers ever, and *Comanche Sundown* is his masterpiece."

Jan's 2012 biography, *Let the People In: The Life and Times of Ann Richards*, has won hurrahs from former President Bill Clinton and Dan Rather. The *Houston Chronicle* hailed it as one of the top ten nonfiction books of 2012. **Lawrence Wright** wrote: "Here is Ann Richards -- ribald, ferocious, vulnerable, and hilarious -- the last Texas liberal, well remembered by her friend, Jan Reid. A classic Texas character captured by a classic Texas writer." An excerpt of his novel-in-progress, *Sins of the Younger Sons*, recently appeared in *Northern Liberties Review*.

Jan has long been active in and supportive of the Texas Institute of Letters, serving on the council and frequently judging contests. Most recently he served as the Secretary for the TIL. He lives in Austin with

his wife, Dorothy Browne.

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## President's Message

As we head toward the end of 2013, I'm thinking about the upcoming spring banquet in San Marcos and looking forward the great time we'll have there. But I'm also reminded that one particular element of joy will be missing from our celebration. For as long as I've been involved with TIL and attending banquets (which actually predates my becoming a member), one of the brightest faces in the crowd was that of **Jean Flynn**. She was so much a part of these events that I, like many others, just assumed she was a member. As one of our best authors of children's books, she certainly merited membership. So it surprised me and several others to learn that she had not been inducted. To rectify this, few of us either independently or acting with others planned to propose her for membership this year.

But, alas, before we had the opportunity to submit her name, Jean died from injuries suffered in a traffic accident earlier this year. At the Council meeting this fall at Paisano, we took two steps to remember her and to show how important we believed she was to TIL. First, we took the extraordinary step of inducting her into our membership posthumously. She will go on our historical list of members as joining the organization in 2013.

And, we voted to renamed our award for the kind of book that she specialized in to the HEB/Jean Flynn Best Children's Book prize.

It seemed the least we could do for this remarkable woman that has meant so much to us over the years.

– W.K. (Kip) Stratton, TIL President

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## Member News

**Lawrence Wright**, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for *The Looming Tower*, was a National Book Award finalist for his new book, *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief*.

**Kathi Appelt** is another National Book Award finalist. Her novel *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp*, (Atheneum), made the short list for the Young People's Literature. Kathi received starred reviews in *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, *Publisher's Weekly* and *School Library Journal*. The audio-book edition was narrated by Lyle Lovett.

**Tino Villanueva** has published a new volume of poetry, *So Spoke Penelope* (Cambridge: Grolier Poetry Press, 2013). Tino writes: "Yes, Penelope of Greek mythology fame, who, according to Homer, waits 20 years for her husband Odysseus to return to Ithaca from the Trojan War. Her patience, her moments of longing, her inner turmoil, and, in general, her compelling psycho-drama sparked my imagination over several years, and has been the inspiration behind this collection of 32 poems. I attempt as well to give Penelope her due as a "worker in wool," for she's a weaver, an artist, let's say; thus her references to her craft from time to time."

**Michael Mewshaw** reports from Rome that he is finishing a book about Gore Vidal, which is under contract to Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

**Alwyn Barr** reports that since the last TIL newsletter two essays of his have appeared. "Black Cowboys: Background and Roles in Texas," *West Texas Historical Association Year Book*, v. 88 (2012): 8-17; and "African-American Housing and Health Patterns in Southwestern Cities, 1865-1900," in Richard McCaslin, Donald E. Chipman, and Andrew J. Torget, eds., *This Corner of Canaan: Essays on Texas in Honor of Randolph B. Campbell* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2013): 265-291.

**Wendy Barker's** poem "Books, Bath Towels, and Beyond" is included in *Best American Poetry 2013*.

**John Taliaferro's** new book, *All the Great Prizes: The Life of John Hay, from Lincoln to Roosevelt* (Simon & Schuster, 2013), has just been awarded the Douglas Dillon Prize from the American Academy of Diplomacy for "distinguished writing about U.S. diplomatic efforts and achievements."

**Leslie Ullman's** new book of poetry, her fourth collection, is *Progress on the Subject of Immensity*, published by the University of New Mexico Press. Leslie retired from UTEP eight years ago and now lives in Taos, New Mexico, where she teaches in the low-residency MFA Program at Vermont College of the Fine Art. In the winters she also teaches skiing at Taos Ski Valley.

**Jim Sanderson** will have a collection of short stories, *Trashy Behavior*, from Lamar University Press in 2013; a novel tentatively titled *Nothing to Lose*, from TCU Press in early 2014; and another novel from Livingston Press, *Hill Country Property*, in late 2014 or early 2015.

**Steve Davis** and **Bill Minutaglio** report that their book *Dallas 1963* has made several "Best of 2013" lists, including Amazon, *Kirkus*, *The New Republic*, *The Washington Post's* "The Fix," *The Seattle Times*, *The Kansas City Star*. They anxiously check their mailboxes every day to see if there's a letter from Stockholm.

**Katherine L. Hester** had stories in the spring issues of *Crazyhorse* and *The Massachusetts Review* and poetry in the spring issue of *Ruminate*.

**James Hoggard's** new book is *The Devil's Fingers & Other Personal Essays*, which is out from Wings Press in San Antonio. The more than two dozen essays range from travel pieces about Havana and Iraq to a wry observations on a Saturday gathering at a West Texas DQ.

**William Virgil Davis** mentions that he was commissioned by the Dallas Museum of Art to write two poems on the work of Jim Hodges and to premiere them, together with a lecture on Hodges' work, at the Museum during a special Late Night celebration focused on Hodges and featuring the two new DMA Hodges' acquisitions, October 18, 2013. Bill also has recent poems in a flurry of places, including the *Gettysburg*, *Hopkins*, *Southwest*, *Southern*, and *Sewanee reviews*.

**Karla K. Morton** has had three recent poetry books: *8 Voices: Contemporary Poetry from the American Southwest* (Baskerville Publishers), which she describes as "a collaboration with seven other amazing poets: Alan Birkelbach, Gary Swaim, Ron Moore, Nathan Brown, Elizabeth Raby, Tony Mares and Jeffrey DeLotto." Also: *Passion, Art, Community: Denton, Texas*, in *Word and Image* (The City of Denton, Texas), which Karla says is "a ground-breaking book of Public Art, which won the North Texas Book Festival Book Award, and was a finalist in the National Indie Book Award and the Eric Hoffer Book

Award. The city of Denton asked me to write the history of the town in poetry form, then held a call for artists, and matched up each poem with a local artist. The result is a beautiful, full-color hard-bound book. Karla's third book this year is *Hometown, Texas: Young Poets and Artists Celebrate Their Roots* (TCU Press). She spent three years touring smaller Texas towns under-served in the Arts, paying special attention to the middle schools and high schools. She asked that the schools hold a poetry and an art contest about their town. "I wrote a poem about each place, then selected the kids' winning poetry and art, and put them together in this book -- this way, kids from all across Texas have a chance to be published. And, as we all know, nothing inspires future writers and artists more than seeing their name and work in print!"

**Ann McCutchan** has been staying busy, signing with TAMU Press for her Florida space age memoir, *Where's the Moon*. She's also received "a generous foundation grant to write a biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings." She'll be on leave from the University of North Texas during 2014-2015 to work on this new book full-time.

**Kurt Heinzelman's** fourth book of poems, *Intimacies & Other Devices*, was just published by Pinyon Publishing. Kurt reports, "I will be in Swansea, Wales for the annual Dylan Thomas Prize in November, for which I am a judge. The DTP is for any English-language writer in any genre who is under 30 years of age. The prize is 30,000 pounds."

**Clay Reynolds'** collection of personal essays on such subjects as coffee, urban legends, children's literature, and, of course, writing, *Of Snakes and Sex and Playing in the Rain*, has been reissued in e-book format by Baen publishers. The volume marks the completion of republication of all his original book-length work in electronic editions.

**Larry D. Thomas's** latest poetry collection, *The Lobsterman's Dream (Poems of the Coast of Maine)* is currently in press at El Grito del Lobo Press (Fulton, MO), and is scheduled for release in Spring 2014. It will be brought out in a handset letterpress edition with original woodcut illustrations by the publisher, Clarence Wolfshohl. The book will be Larry's third poetry collection published by the press.

**Mike Lieberman** announces that Texas Review Press has just released his new book of poems, *Bonfire of the Verities*. He adds, "Stay tuned: it seems somewhere along the line I have morphed into a fiction writer as well. In 2014 I have two new novels coming out, *The Lobsterman's Daughter* and *The Women of Harvard Square, A Novel in Short Stories*."

Finally, **L.D. Clark** writes to say that **LaVerne Harrell Clark's** novel *Keepers of the Earth* was honored in 2012 in a special exhibit at the Bullock Museum, chosen as one of 16 works by Texas women that contributed greatly to the image of Texas in the 20th century. LaVerne passed away in 2008.

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## **Paisano Update**

By Michael Adams

Dobie Paisano Fellowship Director

I don't have any good news to report concerning the trespassing onto and destruction of that acre and a quarter of our land. My understanding is that the UT System lawyers intend to settle, but settle for what I know not. I want to sincerely thank all of you who rushed to me with helpful words during this ordeal. We have had another intrusion, someone busting our locks and making a visit to the old log

cabin. Only a fence partially torn down that we quickly repaired. Everything else is going well. Help from the William A. and Madeline Welder Smith Foundation remains an invaluable contribution to both our program and my management of the ranch. The Ralph A. Johnston Foundation's increased stipend for the Johnston Fellowship is already demonstrating its value in the number and quality of our early applicants. Our application process has just begun.

Now for some good news, with my apologies to any fellow who either didn't get my request for information or didn't make the deadline.

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**Mary Helen Specht's** novel *Migratory Animals* (partly set at the Paisano Ranch) has just been accepted by Harper Perennial (due out 2015).

**Lowell Mick White's** novel *Professed* was just released. Available already on Amazon. Should be a hoot of a read.

**Sarah Bird's** latest novel *Above the East China Sea* will be out May of 2014. Another best seller.

**Scott Blackwood's** latest novel, *See How Small*, was bought by Little Brown after a bidding war between Harper Collins and Little Brown. The editor is Pat Strachan, who edited Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping*. Due out November 2014.

A second book by Scott (creative/narrative non-fiction) came out this October: *The Rise and Fall of Paramount Records*, which was the greatest of the 'Race Music' Labels. This book is Scott's contribution to a joint project with his brother Dean. The project can be summed up as "The Cabinet of Wonder," a hand-crafted wooden case (yes, each one is unique) that contains amazing musical wonders. Accompanying this huge book are: a set of six vinyl-pressed albums (jazz, blues, vaudeville from 1917-1932); such collectibles as newsprint circulars of sheet music and catalogues; a flash drive loaded with 800 MP3s, which contains what the L.A. Times called "the DNA of the American Sound." The flash drive is designed in the shape of an old phonograph needle. Scott has interviewed with NPR's Weekend Edition and the NY Times, reading from the book on the NPR spot. He and his co-creator, Dean, took the book and set on Charlie Rose and The Colbert Report in November and held a release party at the NY public library. For great reviews, see the Rolling Stone and the L.A. Times.

**Sam Taylor's** second book of poetry, *Nude Descending an Empire*, will be published in 2014 from Pitt Poetry Series. Sam worked on this book at the ranch.

*Let the People In*, **Jan Reid's** 2012 biography of Ann Richards, won the book of the year award from Texas State Historical Association and was co-winner of its award for best research of history of women. It was *ForeWord Review's* runner-up for best biography published in the United States that year, and the *Houston Chronicle* honored it as one of the year's ten best nonfiction books. Another significant book of the year award will be announced after the first of the year.

**Philipp Meyer's** blockbuster, best-seller *The Son* has garnered way too many awards to list here. I'll just mentioned that it has been selected as a best book of the year by *The Observer*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Washington Post*, *The New Statesman*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *New York Times*, and many more. It's on its way to the big screen.

**Lee Bryd** (Paisano Fellow 1997) and her husband **Bobby** are the owners and publishers of the distinguished Cinco Puntos publishing company. Lee let me know that a book they published and that she edited (*Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club*, by **Benjamin Alire Saenz**) won the

PEN/Faulkner last year. And this was the first time that a Mexican American had won the award and the first time in 15 years that a small press had won the award. Very proud of them.

**Tom McNeely** won the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gival Press Novel Award for his novel *Ghost Horse*. Awarded \$3000, his novel will be published in 2014.

**Michael Erard** won the Maine Literary Award in Nonfiction by the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance. His book *Babel No More* has received great reviews everywhere: *New York Times Book Review*, *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, *the Times Literary Supplement*, etc.

**Steve Harrigan's** latest book *Eye of the Mammoth* came out this spring. It's a collection of some the best of Steve's nonfiction, all of which are beautifully written and deeply engaging. Steve was honored this year as a recipient of the Texas Book festival's Texas Writers Award and the Lon Tinkle Award for lifetime achievement from the Texas Institute of Letters. He was also inducted into the Texas literary Hall of Fame.

**Alison Moore** and her husband **Phil Lancaster** are true modern troubadours. Their passion for years has been keeping alive one of the most important unknown stories in American history—the “placing out” of 250,000 orphan children from 1854-1929, which means boarding them on trains in New York City and literally giving them away at rail stations across the country. In song and multi-media presentations Alison and Phil spend most of their time traveling the roads that follow this sad odyssey. Alison's novel *Riders on the Orphan Train*, which chronicles this journey, is still drawing valuable attention.

Alison and Phil have just recently presented their program at the newly restored Union Depot in St. Paul to sold-out crowds of 250 for two performances. Moreover, Alison received Honorable Mention in the Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction. Publication in Fall 2013 of *Nimrod Magazine*. And Alison and Phil's multi-media program "Riders on the Orphan Train" will be the keynote presentation for the National Federation of Genealogical Societies in San Antonio, August 28, 2014. And, finally, Alison has received a grant from the Ayres Family Foundation of Texas to document an oral history of the Texas riders.

What a wonderful experience it is to turn the pages of **Jim Bones'** new book *A Long View Southwest* (Goathead Press). With text by **J. Frank Dobie** and gorgeous photographs by Jim, this book is destined to be a classic. Jim has been one of Paisano's most ardent and generous supporters since the first day I assumed the directorship. As most of you know, Jim has donated numerous beautiful prints of the Texas Hill Country for our use in fundraising (see our website) and he has been at my side through every travail. Now he has sent me four copies of his hard-to-get classic book *Texas Heartland*—to serve as gifts for those outside our family who have made valuable contributions to our program or those who “need” to know about this special place. This act of kindness has already been a blessing, as has been Jim.

**Alan Pogue** for fifty years has been a documenter for “people oppressed by poverty, war, or political violence.” His photographs have enlightened, instructed, and advocated—advocated for those not strong enough to advocate for themselves. Iraqi war survivors, migrant farm workers, displaced Katrina survivors, prisoners in Israel and Palestine, and on and on Alan goes, giving us the magnificent faces of those most of the world never sees—or cares about. For a powerful experience, see “Alan Pogue, Retrospective,” at La Peña, Austin, through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Great news from **Terry Galloway**. For those few of you who may not know, Terry (at the ranch in 1984) was born into a deafening world—to which she responded with a defiant humor, an obsession with language, and a passion for performance—a passion that led her to pursue a career in theatre, even

after (and probably in spite of) the University of Texas Department of Theatre and Dance denying her admission to its acting program. Not long ago she sent us the news that a cochlear implant had give birth to a new world. Her memoir *Mean Little deaf Queer* is a powerful read. I encourage you to visit Terry's website to read the story of an incredible life. I was so moved by her reply to my request for news that I decided to let her words to the talking:

*My newest solo show You Are My Sunshine made its debut at Cornell University in April of last year. It's a funny and profane look at my life after I got the cochlear implant that gave me back the hearing world I had lost. It will soon be touring different universities around the nation including Emerson, LSU, University of Illinois, and Chicago.*

*After I got my cochlear I wrote a musical. The Ugly Girl: A Musical Tragedy in Burlesque will make its debut in Liverpool as part of the DaDa Fest in October of 2014. From there it will embark on a five-city tour from Belfast to London.*

*My group, The Mickee Faust Club, one of only five theaters in the world that integrates disability into its cabarets, was invited to perform at three national conferences and was the keynote at two of them - ATHE (Association of Theatre In Higher Education) and the UDC (Union for Democratic Communications).*

*That's it for me! I hope to get another cochlear this coming year.*

The prolific **C. W. Smith** doesn't have a new book out, surprisingly, but during the past year a good many of his old titles have become available in epub editions: *Country Music, Buffalo Nickel, The Vestal Virgin Room, Letters From the Horse Latitudes, and Hunter's Trap.*

Photographer **Frank Armstrong** has had a number of showings and other doings: *[PHOTO]gogues, New England*, Flash Forward Boston -- portfolio exhibition of New England photo teachers, May 2013; Reviewer for New England Portfolio reviews, June 2013; Workshop "*Making images, not just taking pictures*" for the New Hampshire Society of Photographic Artists, September 2013; *From the Corner of My Eye*, Higgins Center for the Humanities, Clark University, Worcester, October 2013; He is still teaching at Clark University. Of course, his fine photography is always at work in museums around the country, including the Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of American Art, the Amon Carter Museum, and the Carnegie Museum of Art, and the University of Texas at Austin.

**John Christian's** work was part of an exhibition at the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University. From the brochure: "The exhibition celebrates the beauty of Mexico as seen through both native and foreign eyes. Presenting more than 100 photographs drawn from the Wittliff's permanent collection, *Mexico Lindo* explores subjects that illuminate the diversity of the country's landscapes, speak to the dignity of the individual, and reveal the importance of family, community, tradition, and faith." For years, John has documented the life and culture of the Huichol Indians in Mexico. His intimate and beautiful work has taken him to the Huastecan geographic area of eastern Mexico, and his photographs include numerous regions across the states of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila and through "the Chihuahuan Desert, one of the most sacred places of the Huichol cosmological world." Other exhibits this year have included "From the Texas Series," at Texas Folk Life and "A Sacred Space," sponsored by the Fototeca of Zactcas and featured at the Foto Fest in San Luis Potosi.

**Ben Fountain**, current fellow, is still causing a stir with *Billy Lynn's Long Half-Time Walk*. As you may know, Ben was honored as a finalist for the National Book Award in 2012, along with a National Book Critics Circle Award and many others. This year the novel was runner-up for the Dayton Literary Prize

and was shortlisted for the Chautauqua Prize.

Our next fellow at the ranch, arriving February 2014 is **Antonio Ruiz-Camacho**. I sent a bio of him in a previous newsletter. His first published short story, "Barefoot Dogs," has appeared recently in Amazon's *Day One*. It's a fairly new online weekly literary journal that features short stories and poems by debut writers, beautifully illustrated by emerging graphic artists. His story can be found at this link: <http://www.amazon.com/dayone>

As you can see, the legacy of the Dobie Paisano Program continues.

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**TIL OFFICERS**

**President**, W.K. (Kip) Stratton, Austin

**Vice President**, Andrés Tijerina, Austin

**Secretary**, Steve Davis, San Marcos

**Treasurer**, James Hoggard, Wichita Falls

**Recording Secretary**, Betty Wiesepape, Richardson

**TIL COUNCILORS**

Rico Ainslie, Austin, first term ends April 2014

Robert Compton, Garland, second term ends April 2014

Rolando Hinojosa-Smith, Austin, first term ends April 2014

Kate Lehrer, Washington, D.C., second term ends April 2014

Ann McCutchan, Denton, first term ends in April 2014

Karla Morton, Denton, first term ends April 2015

Jan Reid, Austin, second term ends April 2015

Carmen Tafolla, San Antonio, second term ends April 2015

<http://www.texasinstituteofletters.org/>

Send news for the next TIL Newsletter to Steve Davis. You may send items to admin at [texasinstituteofletters.org](mailto:admin@texasinstituteofletters.org). Substitute the symbol @ for the word "at".

# 2013-14 Dues Form, Banquet Reservation Form

Please print this form and send it with a check for your 2012-13 dues to the address below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

TIL dues for fiscal year 2013-14 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00

Paisano Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Fred Whitehead Memorial Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarly Book Award Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_

**April 5 Banquet Tickets, \$50 per person** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to **Texas Institute of Letters** and send with this form to:*

**James Hoggard, Dept. of English, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.**

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