



**Texas Institute of Letters
Summer/Fall 2022 Newsletter**



Compiled by Kathryn Jones, TIL Secretary

thetil.org

Greetings from the President

Dear TIL Members:

I am so excited to be serving as your new president. I have some big shoes to fill. During **Sergio Troncoso**'s term, TIL celebrated an increase in dues-paying membership, record-breaking numbers of contest entries, and a banquet in El Paso that brought us together once again in a weekend filled with literature, art, and friendship.

I have been hard at work planning our next banquet and will be sharing more details soon. For now, please save the date of April 28-29, 2023, for the first ever TIL banquet in my hometown of Corpus Christi, the sparkling city by the sea. We will be walking distance from the downtown beach, the T-heads, Selena's Mirador de la Flor, and a two-story Whataburger! Corpus Christi also has the distinction of being named the "Birdiest City in America."

This year, Sergio did a wonderful job of bringing TIL to the community of El Paso, and I hope to do the same for my hometown. I have already reached out to the community, and they are very excited. The children's awards event will be open to the public and held at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History because it falls on Día de los Niños / Día de los Libros, which is celebrated nationally thanks to the efforts of TIL member and winner of the Lon Tinkle Award for Lifetime Achievement, **Pat Mora**.

We are just a few months from announcing the details of our literary contests. When we do, please share the news with publishers and fellow writers so that we can continue to have a strong pool of entries. If you are in Austin for the Texas Book Festival this year, please support our 2021 contest winners **Heath Dollar**, **Lise Olsen**, and **César L. de León** as they participate in our panel, Texas Institute of Letters Presents.

I would also like to introduce our new council members: **Kathi Appelt**, **Chris Barton**, **Daniel Chacón**, and **Wes Ferguson**. We will be meeting in September and welcome your comments and suggestions. I can be reached at: president@texasinstituteofletters.org. Your TIL Officers and Council Members volunteer their energy and time to make sure that our organization continues to move forward as we celebrate the best of Texas literature.

Many thanks to all who have renewed your membership. If you haven't had a chance, you can still do so by visiting: <https://www.texasinstituteofletters.org/payments/index.htm>.

Wishing all of you a fun and productive summer!

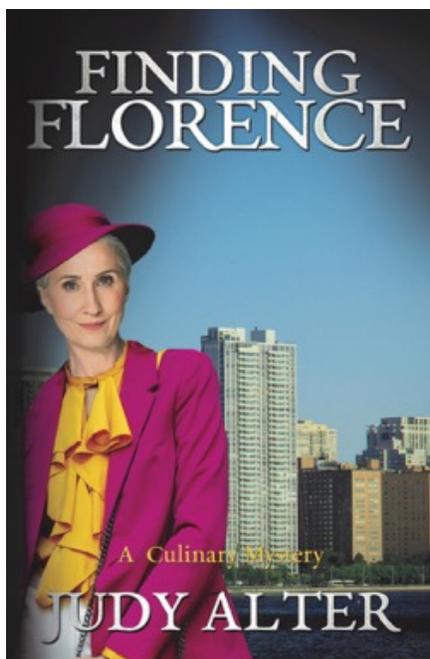
Diana López
President of Texas Institute of Letters



TIL Summer/Fall 2022 Newsletter – Member News

(Compiled in the order received – thank you!)

Judy Alter published the third in her Irene in Chicago Culinary Mystery series, *Finding Florence*, in early July. She is at work on a book about Helen Corbitt, doyenne of food service at Neiman-Marcus.

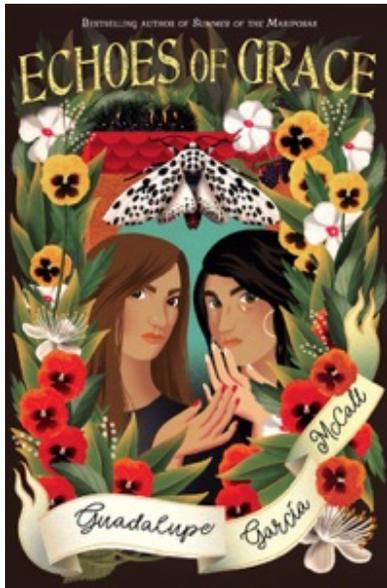


Larry D. Thomas's poem, "Cholla," has been accepted for publication in the *New Mexico Poetry Anthology, Volume 1*. Co-edited by New Mexico Poet Laureate Levi Romero and Albuquerque Poet Laureate Emerita Michelle Otero, the anthology will be published in 2022 by the Museum of New Mexico Press. Thomas also has an electronic poetry chapbook, *Simple Arithmetic*, forthcoming from *Right Hand Pointing*.

Wes Ferguson released the Audible edition of his first book, *Running the River: Secrets of the Sabine*, in May. The book was first published by Texas A&M University Press in 2014.

Chris Ellery: I am an avid reader of and frequent contributor to Laurence Musgrove's Texas Poetry Assignment (www.texaspoetryassignment.org). This worthy project includes monthly online readings by contributors and supports hunger relief through the Feeding Texas network. Three of my poems are included in *Lone Star Poetry*, an anthology drawn from the first year of submissions to TPA, published by Kallisto Gaia Press. My poems have also appeared recently in *American Journal of Poetry*, *The Sufi Journal*, *Christian Century*, and *Speckled Trout Review* and are forthcoming in *The Power of the Pause* anthology and *A Fire to Light Our Tongues*.

Guadalupe McCall's new book, *Echoes of Grace*, a YA Gothic Novel, is dropping on August 16. It has already received starred reviews from *Kirkus* and *Publisher's Weekly*. She will be at both the Texas Book Festival and the South Texas Book Festival this fall.



Ben Fountain is chairing this year's jury for the National Book Award in fiction. He and his fellow judges are considering over 400 novels and short story collections.

Shelley Armitage has a residency at Writing Workshops in Greece (Crete) for two weeks in July where she will work on her poetry manuscript, *A Habit of Landscape*. She will appear on High Plains Public Radio Readers Book Club, a PBS affiliate, in June.

Joe Holley: I'm assuming this is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, so I don't feel too self-conscious about mentioning the Pulitzer Prize three of my *Houston Chronicle* editorial-writing colleagues and I won a couple of weeks ago. The award recognized a year-long series of editorials on "The Big Lie."



The Pulitzer Prizes

About ▾ Prize Winners Pulitzer Stories News Events How to Enter

PRIZE WINNERS

The 2022 Pulitzer Prize Winner in Editorial Writing

For distinguished editorial writing, the test of excellence being clearness of style, moral purpose, sound reasoning, and power to influence public opinion in what the writer conceives to be the right direction, using any available journalistic tool. Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).

Lisa Falkenberg, Michael Lindenberger, Joe Holley and Luis Carrasco of the Houston Chronicle

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For a campaign that, with original reporting, revealed voter suppression tactics, rejected the myth of widespread voter fraud and argued for sensible voting reforms.

Steven G. Kellman: I am editing a special issue of the *American Book Review* devoted to rejections, and TIL members are very welcome to contribute.

Rejection is the universe's way of affirming one's existence. It is an unavoidable – and tonic – part of life. The only way never to be turned down is never to turn up. The literary life, in particular, often seems a recurrent ritual of submission and rejection. Agents cannot possibly take on all the would-be writers clamoring for representation, and, to keep from drowning in slush, editing is an exercise in waste disposal. Yet editorial decisions are not always sagacious; Joseph Heller received 22 rejection letters before he found a publisher for *Catch-22*. When William Golding tried to get *Lord of the Flies* into print, he was rebuffed 21 times.

For a special issue of the *American Book Review* devoted to the theme of rejections, literary essays of 1,500-1,750 words each are sought. Essays can reflect on the struggles of their authors to gain acceptance for their efforts, including anecdotal accounts of how long manuscripts were held and how rejection letters were phrased. Or they can recount the experience of agents and editors faced with the delicate responsibility of informing writers that their work is just not wanted.

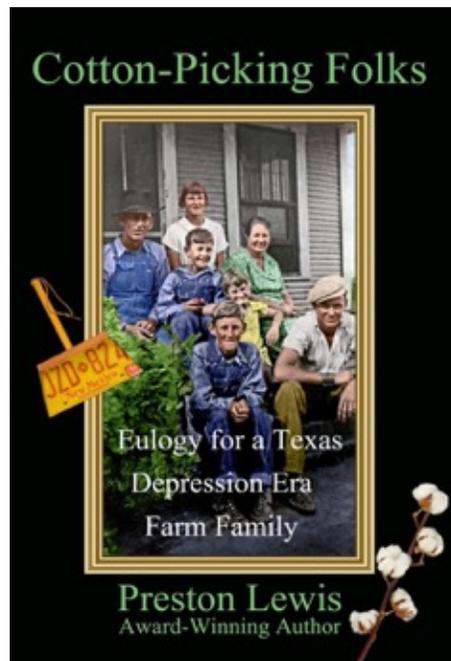
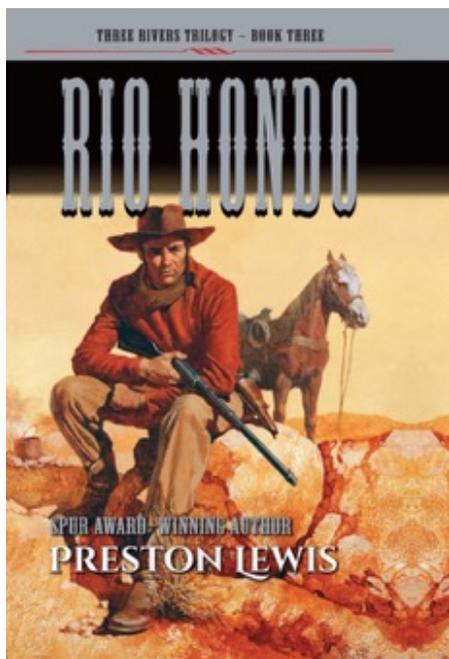
The deadline is Sept. 1, 2022. For submission and/or further information, please contact Steven G. Kellman at steven.kellman@utsa.edu.

Janice Shefelman: I have three projects going, all at different stages. First is *Village Without Men*, now in the formatting stage at the publisher. The story is about the senselessness of war – the Civil War specifically – and is a sequel to my earlier novel, *Sophie's War*.

Second, my sons Karl and Daniel and I are putting together an art book about my husband Tom's legacy. We're calling it *INSIDE AND OUTSIDE: The Art and Architecture of Tom Shefelman*. And finally, my novel in progress, *Once Upon a Time in Athens*, is coming along nicely, thanks to my writing partners.

For more check our website: shefelmanbooks.com

Preston Lewis: *Rio Hondo*, the third Western in Lewis's "Three Rivers Trilogy" on the Lincoln County War, was released in May by Five Star. His *Cat Tales of the Old West: Poems, Puns & Perspectives on Frontier Felines*, published in December by Bariso Press, was named a finalist for a Will Rogers Medallion Award for written western humor to be presented in October. It was his fourth nomination in the category. Additionally, Bariso Press will release Lewis's memoir *Cotton-Picking Folks: Eulogy for a Texas Depression Era Farm Family* in September.

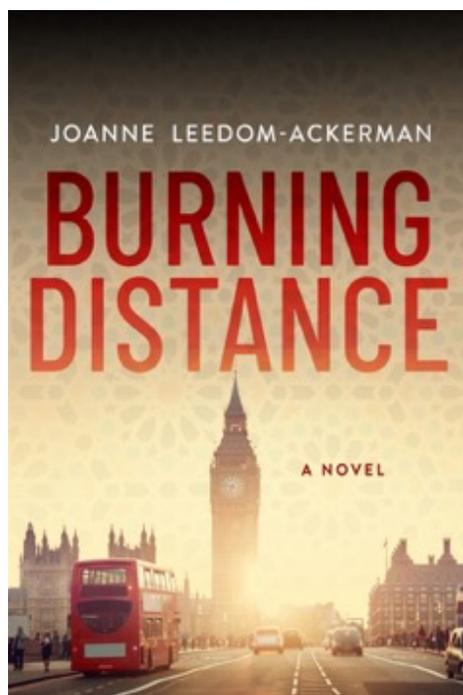


Frank de la Teja: The July 2022 issue of the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* will include my article "The Treason Case of Erasmo Seguín: A Story of Texas's First War of Independence." The piece consists of an introduction and a complete, annotated translation of the dossier. Erasmo is much less known than his son Juan, but he is no less important in the story of Texas from the last decade of Spanish rule to the early days of the Republic. What makes his case all the more interesting is that he was an avowed royalist who went on to represent Texas in the constituent congress that issued the Constitution of 1824. I will be presenting a paper on his role in the constituent congress at the Sixteenth Meeting of International Historians of Mexico to be held at UT-Austin in October 2022. These pieces are part of my long-term biographical project on Erasmo.

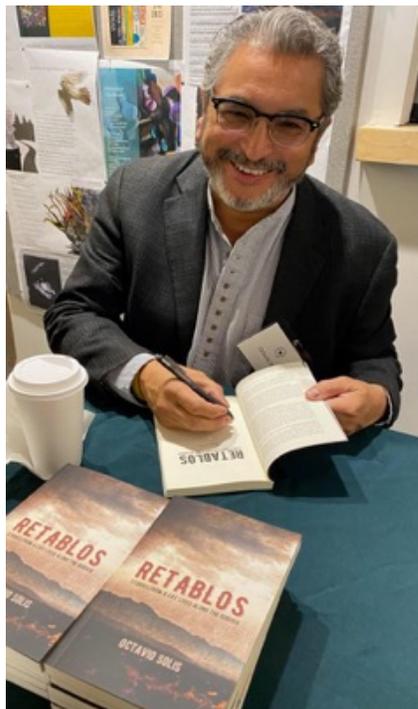
In addition, I rewrote the *Handbook of Texas* entries for Ramón Músquiz, who served as Jefe Político of Texas in the early 1830s, and Juan José Manuel Zambrano, a leading royalist during the Mexican War of Independence. I also wrote a new entry on María Francisca Castañeda, Músquiz's wife, and I am in the process of preparing three others.

Nicolás Kanellos: The Molina Family Latino Gallery, the first physical presence of the National Museum of the American Latino, opened at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., on June 18, 2022. Established by Congress in December 2020, the new National Museum of the American Latino will feature documents and artifacts from the University of Houston's Recovering the US Hispanic Literary Heritage project (Recovery), directed by Dr. Nicolás Kanellos, the Brown Foundation Professor of Hispanic Studies and founder/director of Arte Público Press. Dr. Kanellos was a consultant for the gallery, which will feature periodicals, photos, documents and books related to his research on the history of Latino printing presses and newspapers, dating back to the late eighteenth century in areas that became part of the United States.

Joanne Leedom-Ackerman: Very happy to announce the publication of my novel *Burning Distance* due out March 7, 2023, from Oceanview Publishing. "A modern-day Romeo and Juliet set against the backdrop of deadly weapons smuggling in the Middle East...Jane Austen meets John Le Carré..." David Ignatius, novelist and *Washington Post* columnist, noted: "*Burning Distance* is a double helix of a book, carefully plotted and beautifully told. It's a spy story interwoven with a love story, and the strands fit together in a way that moves the reader effortlessly from chapter to chapter. While fiction, its narrative of the CIA and the Middle East arms trade are very close to fact. Joanne Leedom-Ackerman observes the world of American spies and Arab fixers...A subtle and satisfying novel." The book has been decades in the researching, writing, and publishing. I hope you'll read, enjoy, and help me celebrate. I'm available for readings, interviews, book clubs.



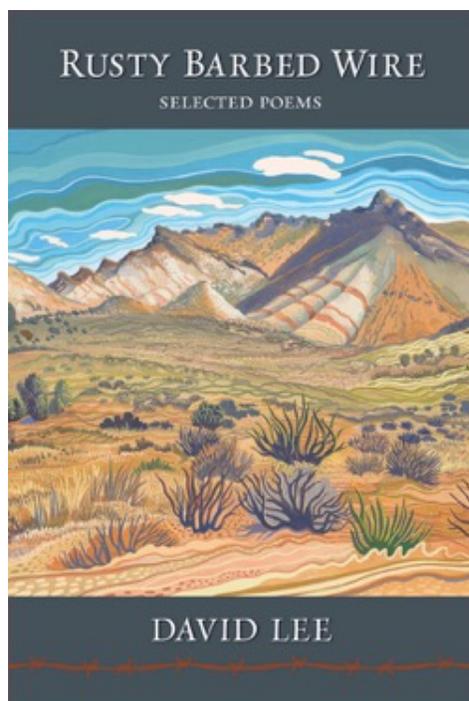
Octavio Solis: Mother Road, produced at PCPA Theatre, Santa Maria, CA March 10-27, 2022;
Lydia, produced at Festival of Ideas, University of Texas at Arlington, April 2022;
Quixote Nuevo, produced at Denver Center for the Performing Arts, May 13-June 12, 2022;
The Orcas Island Literary Festival, Washington. Featured writer and reader. June 3-4, 2022;
Scene with Cranes, world premiere at REDCAT Theatre, Los Angeles, as a commissioned play
for California Institute for the Arts, September 2022.



From **Quixote Nuevo**, Denver Center for the Performing Arts



David Lee has a new book of poetry, *Rusty Barbed Wire: Selected Poems*, published in April by Samara Press. From Amazon.com: “David Lee is a major figure in American letters: the author of fifteen books of poetry, a celebrated teacher, a legendary reader in classrooms, bookstores, and taverns; and the first poet laureate of Utah. His work is full of the most various qualities: soul-crushing tragedy, lyrical celebration, high comedy, storytelling ebullience. *Rusty Barbed Wire: Selected Poems*, now with us at last, brings to the community of readers raw power and radical beauty.”



Reginald Gibbons' Texas novel *Sweetbitter*, which won the Jesse H. Jones novel award from TIL in 1995 and the Anisfield-Wolf Award, will be reissued in a new paperback later this year by the growing JackLeg Press (<https://jacklegpress.org/jlp-authors>).

Susan Wittig Albert: The latest publications (under my imprint, Persevero Press): *Hemlock*, #28 in the China Bayles series (September 2021) and *The Darling Dahlias and the Red Hot Poker* #10 in a series of 1930s Southern mysteries (June 2022). Submitted to other publishers last month, a novel in my “Hidden Women” series: *Someone Always Nearby: Georgia O’Keeffe and Maria Chabot*. It’s set in New Mexico, where the two women were engaged in a tumultuous friendship during the 1940s and beyond. The series includes books about Rose Wilder Lane and Laura Ingalls Wilder, Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt, and Kay Summersby, Mamie Eisenhower, and (well, yes) Ike. I’m also coordinating (for the 11th year) the Sarton Book Awards for Story Circle Network.
www.susanalbert.com

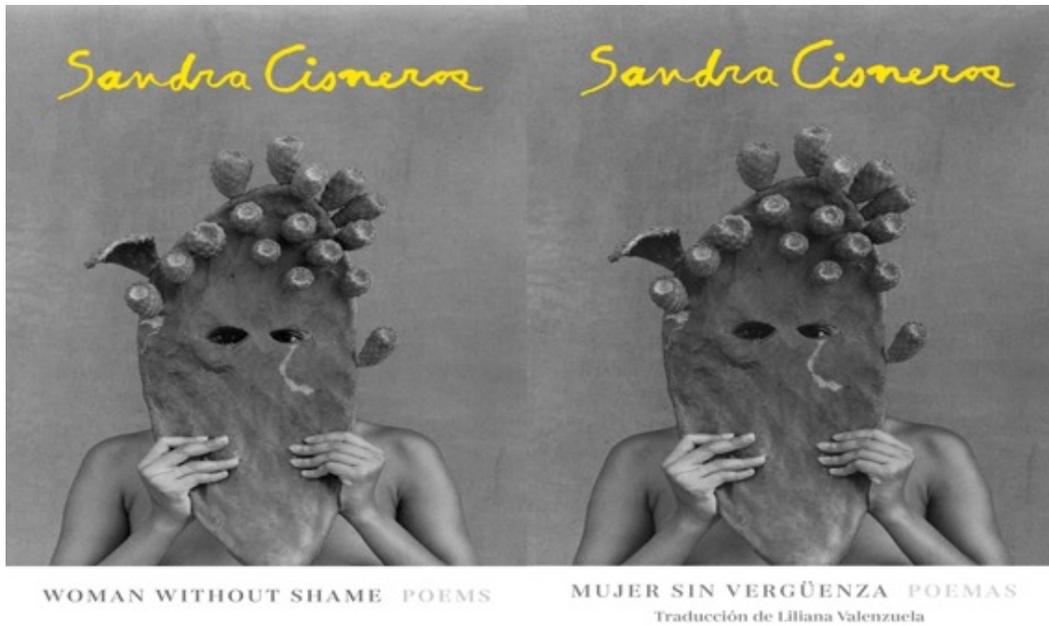
Allison Hedge Coke's new book, *Look at This Blue*, was released this past spring by Coffee House Press. The collection of poems reflects over 40 years of experience living in California, reflecting the state's beauty, but also holding it accountable for the genocide to its original peoples.



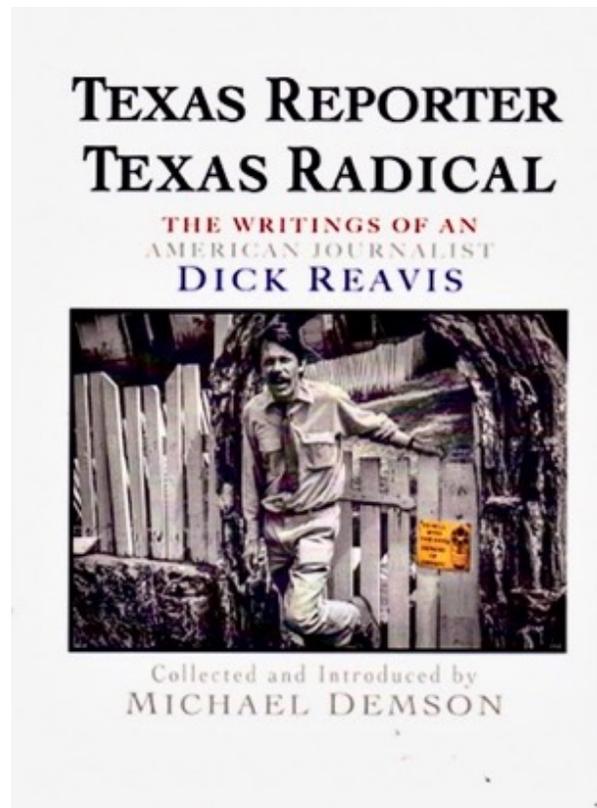
The UC Riverside Distinguished Professor also has been named a Legacy Fellow by the California Arts Council, awarding her the 2021 Individual Artist Fellowship. Hedge Coke is one of 182 recipients — the first cohort of individual artists the California Arts Council awards in 19 years. She is one of 21 legacy fellows, the highest recognition for well-established artists with more than 10 years of artistic practice. The award comes with a \$50,000 grant.

Hedge Coke also is a resident fellow at the Center for Ideas and Society in creative writing, Mellon Dean's Professorship, working on a full-length project exploring climate change experience through first-person histories.

Sandra Cisneros: Twenty-eight years after her last volume of poetry was published, Sandra Cisneros' new poetry collection will be released September 13 by Knopf and Vintage Español. With more than a dozen new poems, *Woman Without Shame* is a moving collection of songs, elegies, and declarations that chronicle her pilgrimage toward rebirth and that tell her fight to live as a woman artist. These bluntly honest and often humorous meditations on memory, desire, and the essential nature of love blaze a path toward self-awareness. For Cisneros, *Woman Without Shame* is the culmination of her search for home—in the Mexico of her ancestors and in her own heart. Cisneros will tour the United States in September, October, and November. Her website, sandracisneros.com, and her Instagram, [@officialsandracisneros](https://www.instagram.com/officialsandracisneros), will have more details as they become available.



Dick J. Reavis: This anthology is out from the Texas Review Press. I am mostly known for my contributions to *Texas Monthly*, but this book includes stories from some 14 other publications (several of them, now defunct!). The book's editor, Michael Demson, is an English professor at Sam Houston State University. [Texas Reporter](#), [Texas Radical](#)

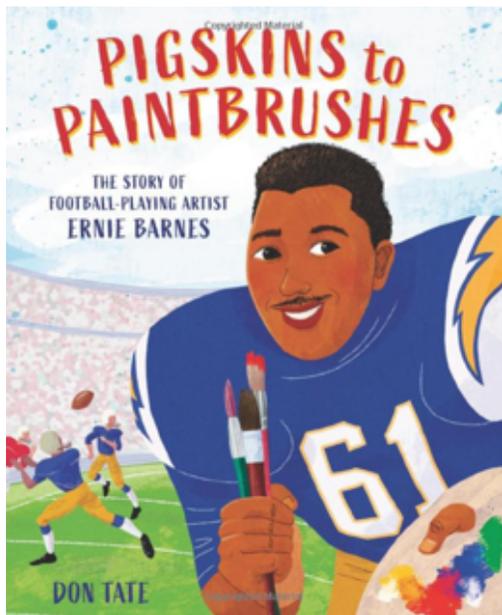


Ron Tyler has finally finished his book on Texas lithographs of the nineteenth century, a project that he began with an exhibition at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art as a sesquicentennial exhibition in 1986. The University of Texas Press has provided a handsome design for the book, which will be published in February 2023 as *Texas Lithographs: A Century of History in Images*. Tyler says, “This is the most complete collection of its kind—and quite possibly the most complete visual record of nineteenth-century Texas, period—Texas Lithographs is a gateway to the history of the Lone Star State in its most formative and iconic century.”



TEXAS LITHOGRAPHS
A CENTURY OF HISTORY IN IMAGES • RON TYLER

Don Tate's book *Pigskins to Paintbrushes* has been selected to receive a Christopher Award in the Books for Young People category, for works published in 2012. The award salutes media that affirm the highest values of the human spirit and reflect the Christopher motto, “It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” Throughout the summer, Don will continue to present to young readers at public libraries, and neighborhood parks. In June, Don presented storytime programs at Garrison Park, sponsored by Austin Parks Foundation and the Texas Book Festival, and at Round Rock Public Library. He also presented at the Austin African American Book Festival. Don is in the process of writing a new nonfiction picture book that combines the topics of World War II, airplane pilots, and meteorologists.



Don Tate signs books at Garrison Park.

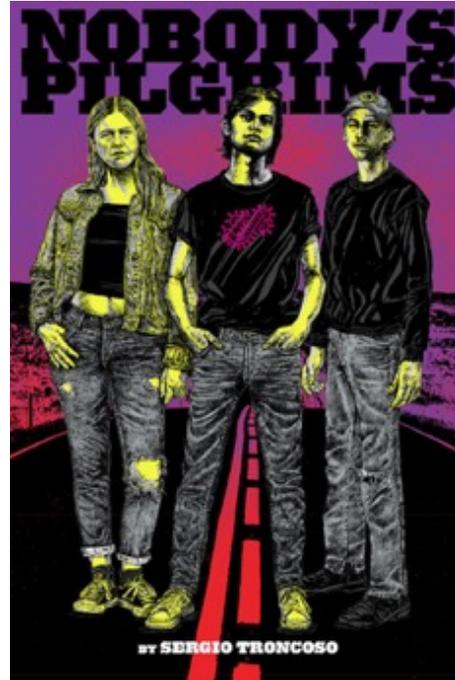
Melissa Studdard: Since mid-May I've been hopping from city to city to Zoom call to city, giving readings for my new poetry collection, *Dear Selection Committee*. A group of my poems, which were set by Christopher Theofanidis as the musical composition, *Door Out of the Fire*, will be recorded by Exigence Vocal Ensemble this summer and performed by The Washington Chorus this October. Another piece, commissioned by Eugene Rogers, The Washington Chorus, and Wolf Trap, will be set by composer Reena Esmail and performed in September by a consortium of choirs (8,000 singers!). Individual poems are forthcoming in various magazines and features. In our spare time, my boyfriend and I are reading TIL members' books aloud to each other. So far we've read and loved Cliff Hudder's *Splinterville* and Sergio Troncoso's *Nobody's Pilgrims*.

Stephen Harrigan: My latest novel, *The Leopard is Loose*, was published by Knopf in February. I'm working on a new non-fiction book, also for Knopf, called *Sorrowful Mysteries*, a hard-to-describe memoir/historical narrative centered around the story of the three shepherd children who claimed to have seen the Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. **Elizabeth Crook** and I co-wrote the screenplay of her novel *The Which Way Tree*, and we're also part of the producing team that is hoping to start production on the movie in late 2022 or early 2023. Alberto Arvelo (*The Liberator*) is directing, and Robert Duvall is executive producer. Also on the film front, **Bill Broyles** and I co-wrote a treatment for a western set in Reconstruction Texas that has been sold to Sony, and we're hard at work on another project together. In the meantime I continue to write articles for *Texas Monthly*, something I've been doing for fifty years.

Sergio Troncoso is finally getting some sleep after turning over the TIL President's magic bottle of Jack Daniel's to Diana López. He wants to thank all of the TIL members who attended our great annual gathering in El Paso on April 22-23, and none more than Robert Flynn, who continues to inspire Sergio with his dapper style.



TIL's beloved man of letters, style, and manners
Robert Flynn at the annual gathering in El Paso.



Sergio's new novel, *Nobody's Pilgrims*, was published in May of 2022. Three seventeen-year-olds, Turi, Molly, and Arnulfo, are on the run from evil and unwittingly carrying even a greater menace in their stolen truck. The border goes beyond the border in a story about who belongs in the United States and how finding your place in this world is about finding the right person to be with you. A literary novel with the propulsion of a thriller, *Nobody's Pilgrims* both offers and questions the possibility of escape in America -- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* meets *No Country for Old Men* (Lee & Low Books: Cinco Puntos Press). Sergio also taught a Fiction Workshop at the Yale Writers' Workshop in June, and he can't wait to get together with friends in Texas in the fall.

Ito Romo: I was in Barcelona for the 12th International Conference on Chicano Literature and Latino Studies, June 20 – 22, 2022. The biennial conference had been postponed for two years because of the pandemic. This year's conference topic was "The Ethics of Hospitality and the Commitment to the Other in Chicano Literature and Latino Studies"; hence, the topic of my talk – "Pasada Libre: Cuando El Puente Internacional en Laredo, Texas, se abrió por un día a nuestros hermanos del lado Mexicano (sin documentos)," or, "when the International Bridge in Laredo, Texas, would open for one day to our brothers and sisters from the Mexican side (without documents)." I'm in Madrid now, conducting research for my never-ending next novel *Filth Eaters*.

William Sibley: My latest novel *Here We Go Loop De Loop*:

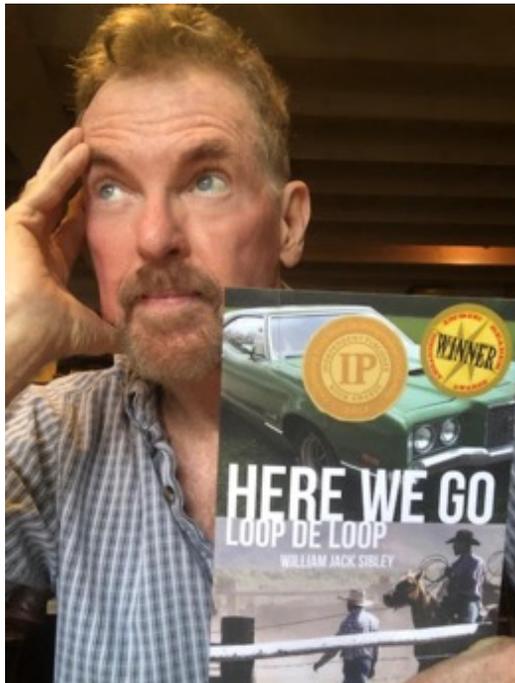
WINNER/FIRST PLACE, “INDIE-READER DISCOVERY AWARD,” Best Book of Humor, 2022.

WINNER/ GOLD MEDAL, “IPPY” for Humor Book of the Year, 2022, (**INDEPENDENT PUBLISHER BOOK AWARDS, “IPPY Awards,”** are intended to bring increased recognition to the thousands of exemplary independent and university books released each year.”)

Selected, "10 Best Books by San Antonio Authors, 2021" -- *San Antonio Express-News*

Selected, “THE TOP 10 LGBTQ+ BOOKS TO READ THIS PRIDE MONTH” – *Indiereader*, June 16, 2022.

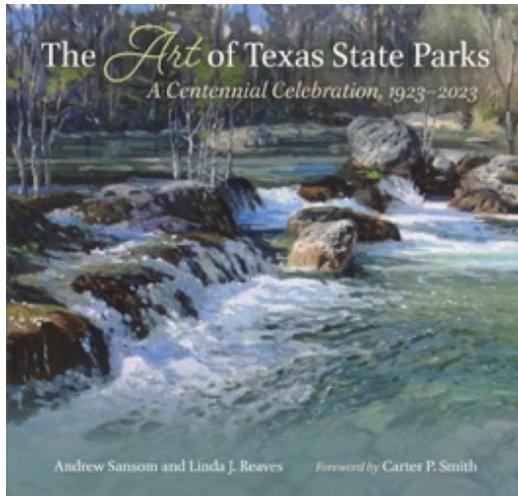
Honored to be in San Marcos and the May launch party of Steve Davis’ magnificent *Viva Texas Rivers* anthology. Honored again to participate (twice) at the San Antonio Book Festival for my above novel and *Viva Texas Rivers*. Toiling earnestly on next novel – send inspiration!



Terry Dalrymple's short story "Our Vast and Present Moment" will be published in *The Power of the Pause* anthology from Wising Up Press. Dalrymple also collaborated on a book of art, short fiction, and poetry, *Magic, Mystery, and Madness*, with **Jerry Craven** and **Andrew Geyer**. The book is forthcoming from Angelina River Press.

Andrew Sansom: This fall in commemoration of the centennial of the Texas State Park System, Texas A&M Press will release *The Art of Texas State Parks* co-authored by TIL Member Andrew Sansom and Linda Reaves, a noted authority on Texas artists. The book will feature the work of 30 Texas contemporary artists, each of whom created paintings of at least two Texas state parks. The publication of the book will be accompanied by a series of exhibitions of the

original paintings throughout 2023, the centennial year. The yearlong celebration will open in January at the Bullock State History Museum and followed by events at the Witte in San Antonio and the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

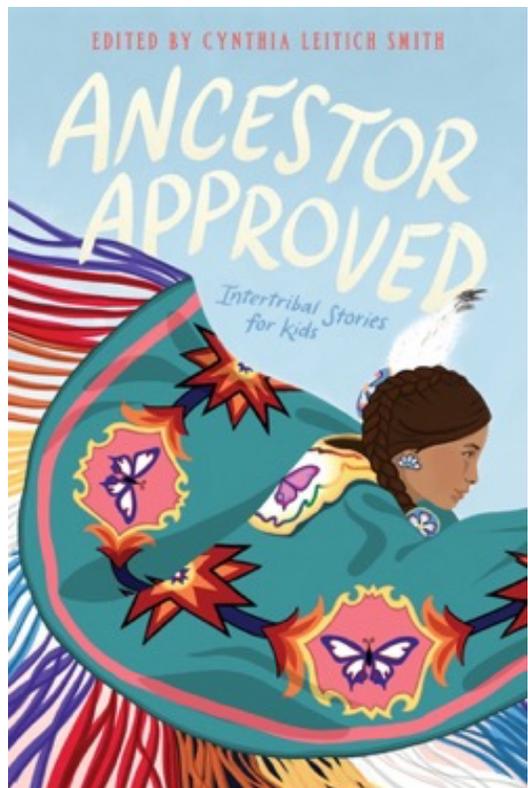


Steven Schneider, professor in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of Texas Rio Grande, is an invited presenter at the 15th International D.H. Lawrence Conference in Taos, New Mexico, in July 2022. Steven, in his invited talk, will be discussing the poems Lawrence wrote at the ranch just outside of Taos that were published in the D.H. Lawrence collection *Birds, Beasts and Flowers*. Steven will place the work in a cultural context and show artwork related to the Taos poems and Lawrence residences in Taos. Steven also had his own poem “Chachalacas at La Quinta Mazatlan” selected and displayed this past spring as part of the juried exhibit “RGV X Art for Change” at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Daniel Chacón: I have a story called “The Last Philosopher in Texas” forthcoming in the fall 2022 issue of *New Letters: A Magazine of Writing and Art*. I also finished a new book of stories, *The Last Philosopher in Texas: Stories and Superstitions*, which I will be sending to a publisher this summer.

This summer in June, I presented a paper in Barcelona at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra at the XII Congreso Internacional Sobre Literatura Chicana y Estudios latinos. My subject was the Walmart shooting in El Paso. I also gave a reading of my fiction in Madrid at the Escuela Escritores.

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids, edited by **Cynthia Leitch Smith** (Heartdrum, 2022) has won the Reading the West (Young Readers) Award from the Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association. Cynthia also was on the keynote panel for the Children's Institute of the American Booksellers Association in June in Phoenix.



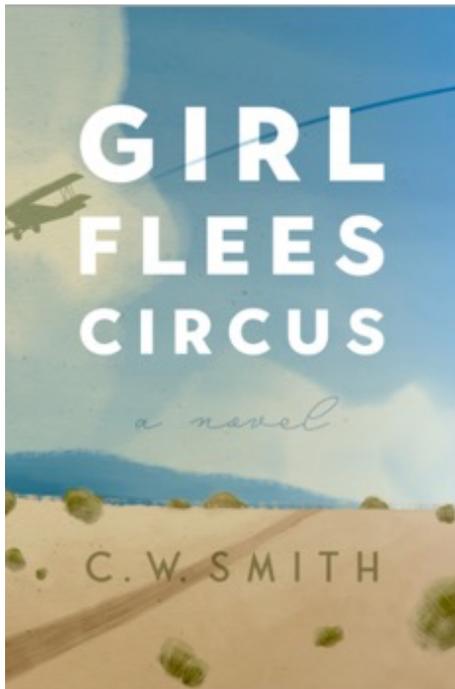
Xavier Garza: I am an author/ illustrator/artist and will be doing an art exhibit/book reading and signing at Centro Cultural Aztlan on July 15, 2022. I am enclosing a postcard invite for the event.



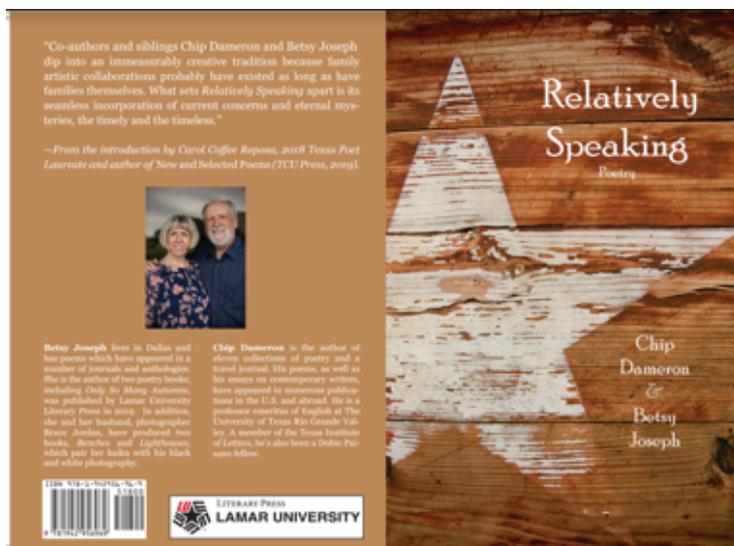
Centro Cultural Aztlan
1800 Fredericksburg Road, Suite 102
San Antonio, TX 78201
www.centrocultural.org 210-432-1816

These exhibits and performances are made possible by the support of the City of San Antonio: Department of Arts and Culture, Texas Commission on the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts, AER Foundation, San Antonio Area Foundation, The Jefferson Woodlawn Lake Community Development Corporation, and the many friends of Centro Cultural Aztlan.

C.W. Smith: Everyone who reads this newsletter knows full well the stage I'm arriving at. I did my job by writing the darn thing, but now it seems I have still another job: pimping it, taking it on the road, bally-hooing it hither and yon. My new novel *Girl Flees Circus* will arrive Sept. 1 from the University of New Mexico Press and will inaugurate a new series there, the Lynn and Lynda Miller Southwest Fiction Series. I'll have a launch at Dallas's DEEP VELLUM BOOKSTORE on Wednesday, Sept 14, and will be in "in conversation with" longtime *Dallas Morning News* metro columnist Steve Blow. I will also appear a bit later on Wednesday, Oct. 5, at Dallas's INTERABANG BOOKS for a reading and signing.
<https://cwsmiththeauthor.com>



Chip Dameron's latest book of poetry, *Relatively Speaking*, is a two-poet collection that includes poems by Betsy Joseph. Chip's poems have recently appeared in *Texas Poetry Calendar 2022* and *Texas Poetry Assignment*, and one of his poems is included in *Viva Texas Rivers!*, a handsome anthology coedited by TIL veteran Steven Davis.



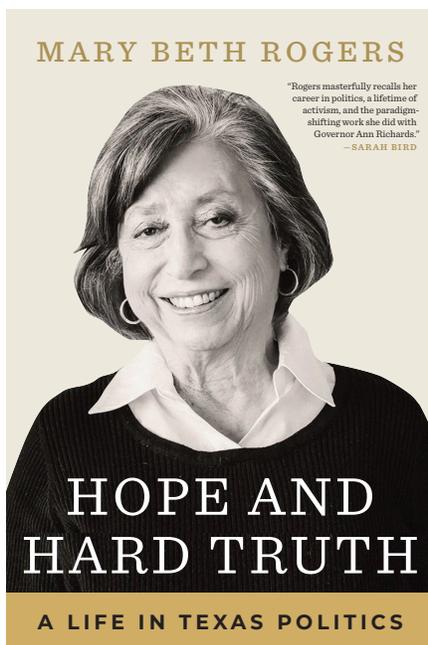
W.K. (Kip) Stratton's "Fight or Flight," a *Texas Highways* article about rodeo bullfighters and clowns, was part of a three-article package that was a finalist for a National Magazine Award for works appearing in 2021. The other two articles were "The Original Cowboys" by Katie Gutierrez and "The Evolution of the Texas Cowgirl" by Sarah Hepola. Magazine writers, editors, and publishers consider the National Magazine Award to be their equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize. "I was lucky to be a part of a package that included excellent pieces by Katie and Sarah, who are both terrific writers," Kip says. "Among the other finalists in our category were entries from legendary magazines like *New York* and the *New Yorker*. It was awesome to be in company of that caliber. We didn't win. But just being a finalist blew me away. I'm grateful to *Texas Highways* for allowing me to be a regular contributor."

In March, Kip traveled to Ely, Nevada, to introduce Sam Peckinpah's *The Wild Bunch* at the first-ever Ely film festival. In early July, he is going to Prescott, Arizona, to be part of a three-day commemoration of the release of Peckinpah's *Junior Bonner*, which starred Steve McQueen and was shot in the town as cinema verite (sort of) during its annual rodeo. Among other activities, he'll speak about the film at the Sharlot Hall Museum and ride as a VIP in the town's annual rodeo parade. "I've never been a VIP of anything before," Kip says. "I hope it doesn't ruin my reputation. But it will be great to be back in Prescott and hanging with some of the people who worked on *Junior Bonner*."

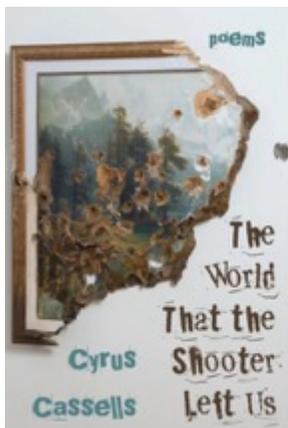


Mary Beth Rogers: The book, *Hope and Hard Truth, A Life in Texas Politics*, will be out in September. Published by UT Press, we have several book-release events on the books, including:

- * September 15 at Interabang Books in Dallas
- * September 20 at Brazos Books in Houston
- * September 28 at Austin Public Library



Cyrus Cassells' new poetry collection, *The World That the Shooter Left Us*, was published by Four Way Books in February. <https://sightlinesmag.org/channeling-the-chaos-cyrus-cassells-the-world-that-the-shooter-left-us>



Channeling the chaos: Cyrus Cassells' 'The World That the Shooter Left Us'

Perhaps above all else, Cyrus Cassells is a listener. In "The World That the Shooter Left Us," his most recent book (of many), the poet, who lives in Austin and teaches in the MFA program at Texas State, has his antenna raised high to beam in voices, news and songs from near and far, and to document them in his poems. In a recent email, Cassells commented that "this book was written in ...

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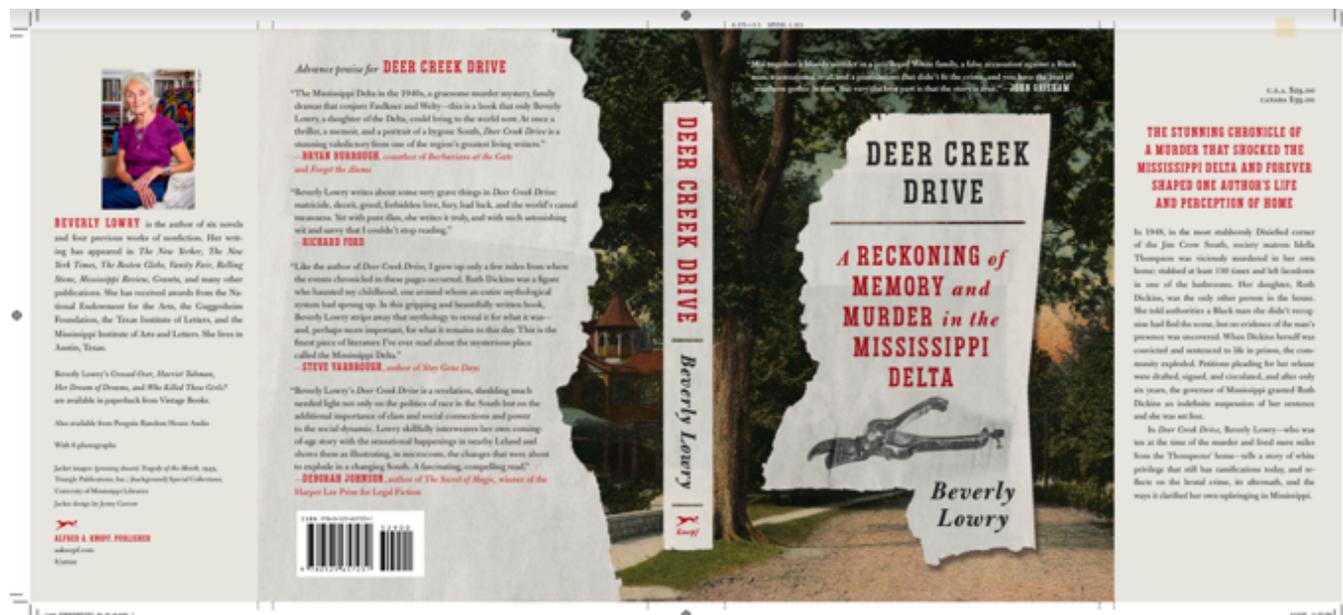
His next book, *To the Cypress Again and Again: Tribute to Salvador Espriu*, will be published by Stephen F. Austin University Press in spring 2023.

Jesse Sublett: Well, my 13th book is out: *Last Gangster in Austin: Frank Smith, Ronnie Earle, and the End of a Junkyard Mafia*. The reviews have been enthusiastic—in a good way, that is! We've done interviews with Texas Tribune, the *Austin Chronicle*, and the *Austin American-Statesman*, with positive reviews in *Kirkus*, *Alcalde*, *MySA* and the *Austin Chronicle* to date. We're in the middle of our year-long sabbatical in Los Angeles, but will be back for promotional events, starting with my High Noon Talk at the Bullock on July 6 (believe it or not, some folks have asked what time the event will take place, so if you are confused, try the link: <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/visit/calendar/education/high-noon-talk-20220706>) and the official launch at BookPeople in Austin on July 7 at 7 p.m., featuring a reading and interview by TIL heavyweight author **W.K. "Kip" Stratton**. Friends can always find more links and details on my website: <https://jessesublett.com/author/>. Finally, the book is dedicated to Lois, my wife, and Elizabeth, my mother, who passed away on June 20. A major source of joy, strength, and inspiration in my life, she was 91, and lived a very full and productive life.



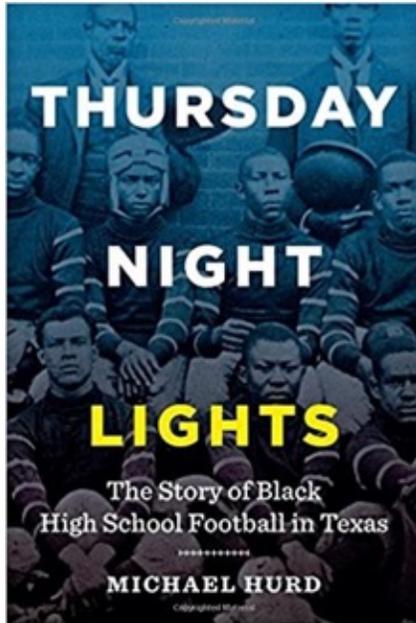
Photo by Rocky Schenck

Beverly Lowry's new book, *Deer Creek Drive: A Reckoning of Memory and Murder in the Mississippi Delta*, will be issued by Alfred A. Knopf on August 2. She will be signing books at Book People in Austin on August 5.



The Bryan Museum in Galveston has asked **Michael Hurd** to guest curate an exhibit based on his book *Thursday Night Lights, the Story of Black High School Football in Texas*. The exhibit will run from April to July next year. "I'm honored to be working with award-winning public artist Reginald C. Adams, who last year completed the awesome Juneteenth mural, 'Absolute Equality,' at The Strand in Galveston," Michael says. "Thanks to Bryan curator Eric Broussard for this wonderful opportunity and UT Press for their continued support." *Thursday Night Lights* was listed on the *Texas Observer's* "30 Best Texas Books of the (2010-2019) Decade," and the *Houston Chronicle's* "30 Most Essential Books About Texas."

<https://thebryanmuseum.org/>
<https://www.reginaldadams.com/>

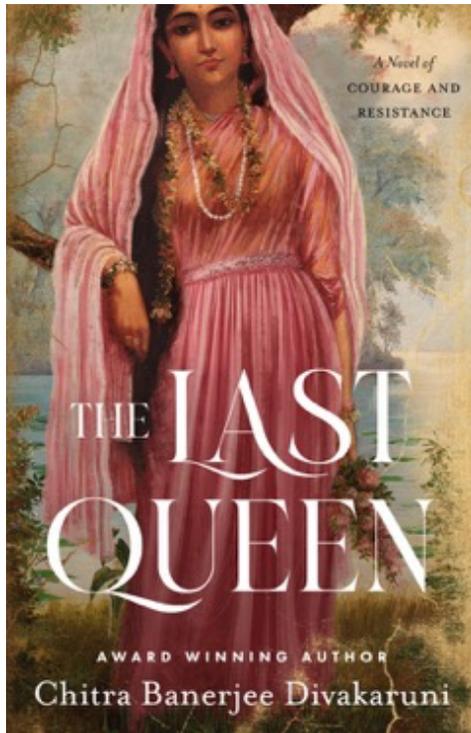


Conroe native and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **Annette Gordon-Reed** gave a presentation about her 2021 book *On Juneteenth* at the Heritage Museum of Montgomery County in June. Gordon-Reed currently is the Carl M. Loeb University Professor of History at Harvard Law School. An elementary school named after Gordon-Reed will open this August in Conroe.

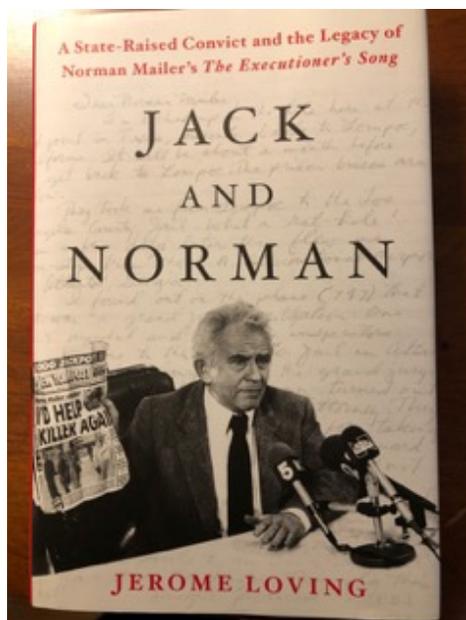


Chitra Divakaruni's new novel, *The Last Queen*, was published in May by William Morrow/HarperCollins. *The Last Queen* is a historical novel set in the 1800s in India and spotlights the amazing yet largely forgotten Maharani Jindan Kaur, the youngest wife of the great king of Punjab, Maharajah Ranjit Singh. The daughter of a kennel keeper at the Lahore Qila, the beautiful, intelligent, and high-spirited Jindan became Ranjit Singh's favorite (and last) wife. Widowed at an early age, she fought with great courage against her own courtiers and against the British to preserve the kingdom for her infant son. Her adventures form the tale

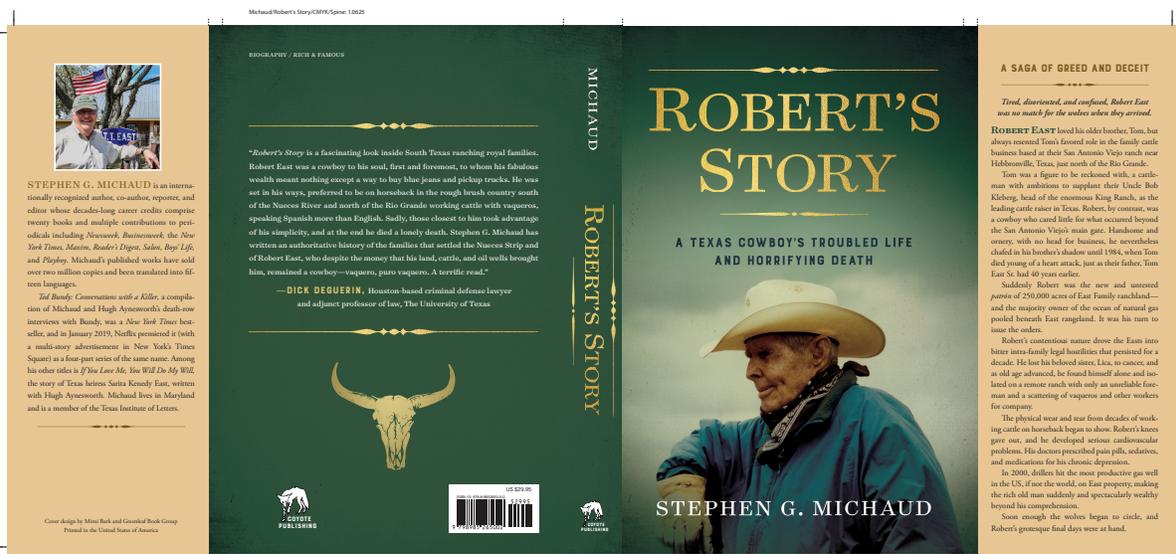
of *The Last Queen*. The book won two international awards, the 2022 International Association of Working Women Award and The Times of India Best Fiction Award, and was longlisted for the Dublin Literary Award.



The movie version of **Jerome Loving's** *Jack and Norman: A State-Raised Convict and the Legacy of Norman Mailer's "The Executioner's Song"* (St. Martin's, 2017) is being directed by Andrew Haigh. It will star Colin Farrell and should be produced by the fall of 2023, the centennial of the birth of Norman Mailer. The book was optioned through the Gersh Agency by the Village Roadshow Entertainment Group in Los Angeles in 2019.

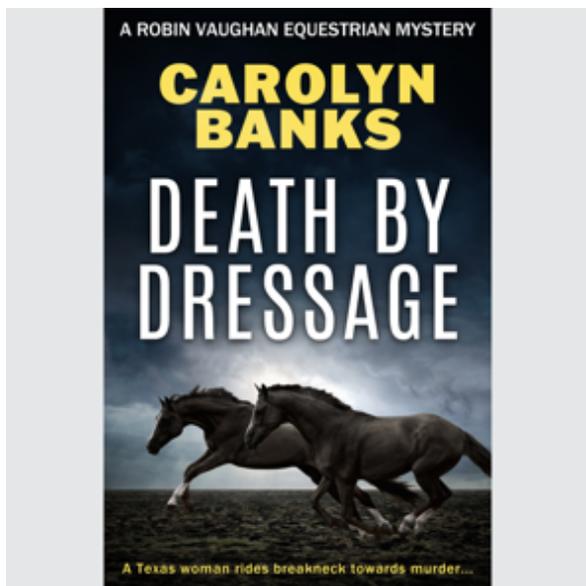


Stephen Michaud: In September Coyote Publishing will release my 21st book. Title: *Robert's Story: A Texas Cowboy's Troubled Life and Horrifying Death*.

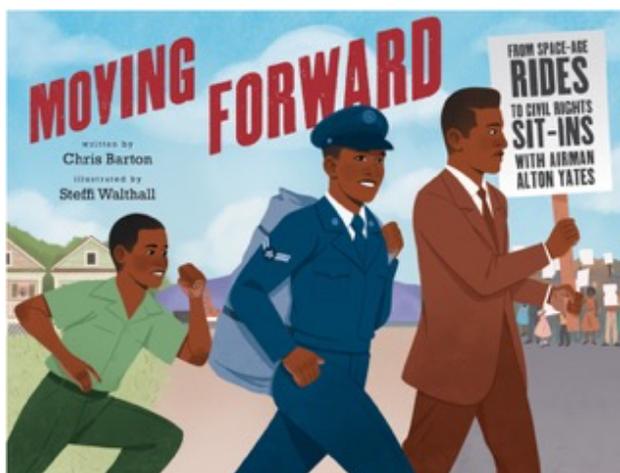


Carolyn Banks: From 1993 to 1996 I wrote five comic mysteries set in the equestrian world. In July they are being republished by Sapere Books in England. This is my first experience in the new world of publishing. They'll be sold on Amazon as print-on-demand (POD) books. I don't know if there's a separate British Amazon or not. Anyway, the books all feature Robin Vaughan, who blunders into trouble in *Death by Dressage*. In *Groomed for Death*, Robin finds herself in New York City. *Death on the Diagonal* takes place in a small Texas town. *Murder Well Bred*,

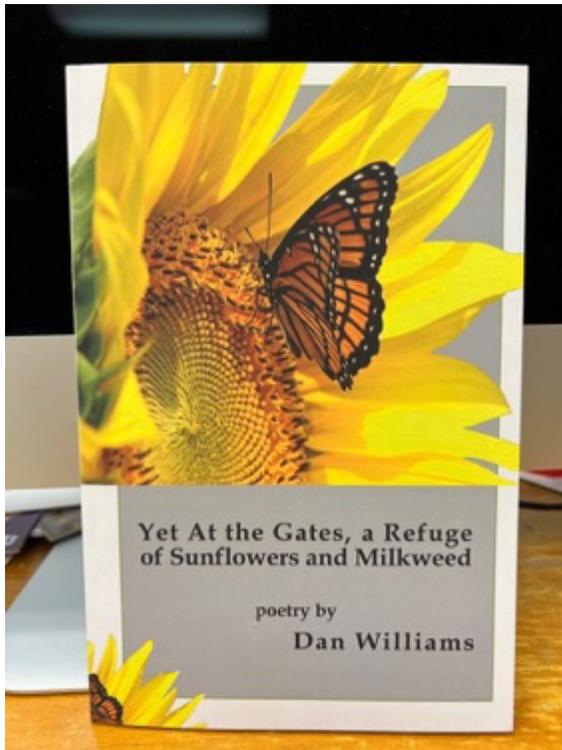
the last in the series, Robin's back home in Texas. I recently reread all five of these books and they are still fun. There are anachronisms given when they first came out, but even those are amusing (pay phones, VHS tapes, etc.). Sapere calls all five of the books part of the "Robin Vaughan Equestrian Series." You can check out Sapere at saperebooks.com.



After encountering pressure in a Texas school district to not share with students his new book *Moving Forward: From Space-Age Rides to Civil Right Sit-Ins with Airman Alton Yates*, **Chris Barton** responded with [a Soapbox essay published in the May 16 issue of Publishers Weekly](#). "I see far too little demonstrated support for the people who keep our schools and libraries going," he wrote. "And if teachers, librarians, and the people who work with them—including administrators and public officials—don't get a sense of that support from the broader population, what exactly is going to reinforce their resolve to do the democracy-minded thing when they're under pressure from the aggressive and all-too-visible reactionary fringe?"



Dan Williams' poetry collection, *Yet At the Gates, a Refuge of Sunflowers and Milkweed*, published in the late fall of 2021 by Lamar University Literary Press.



Frederick Luis Aldama (aka Professor Latinx) published *Latinx TV in the Twenty-First Century* and his bilingual children's book, *Con Papá / With Papá*. His co-created animation short *Carlitos Chupacabra* is on a world film fest tour that includes Cine Festival San Antonio 2022.



Carmen Tafolla: Lots of action from books at different stages right now. (I feel like a parent with six kids!) My 2021 children's book *The Last Butterfly* (co-authored with Regina Moya) has been announced as a finalist for the Gold or Silver Award (will receive one, not sure which) for Most Inspirational Children's Book at the International Latino Book Awards, to be announced at the ceremony in August in LA. The new coffee table book *Arte del Pueblo: The Outdoor Public Art of San Antonio* will be launched in downtown SA Sept. 23rd with a welcome from the Mayor. The new novel in verse coming from Penguin in 2023 (*Warrior Girl*) is finalizing cover art. And I am at work on finishing the full uncensored adult biography of Emma Tenayuca. Took a break in May to head to Jordan, where my fave shots were in Petra, and camel-ing through the Wadi Rum.

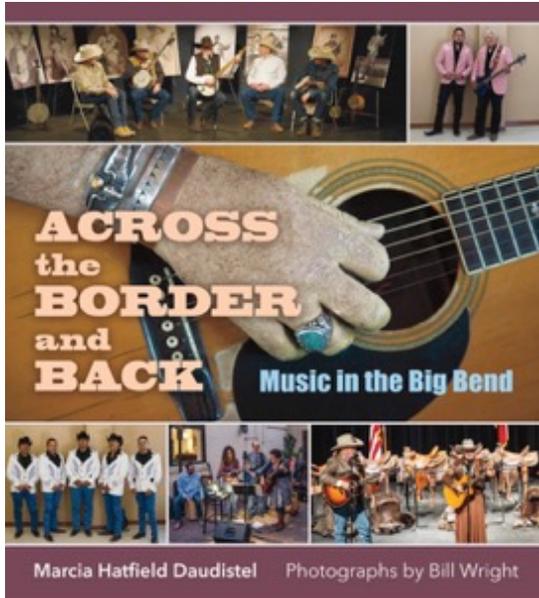


Carmen (right, front) camel-ing



Bill Wright: Texas A&M Press recently published *Across the Border and Back: Music in the Big Bend* written by **Marcia Hatfield Daudistel** with photographs by **Bill Wright**. Book signings for the author and photographer ran through the spring. Sales are good!

In May we learned that TCU Press has an opening on their Spring 2023 list for a book tentatively titled *Celia Hill's Headin' West to a Remote Canyon Paradise*. This intriguing first-person narrative tells the story of the largest mercury mine and one of the earliest ranchers in the Big Bend.



Severo Perez: On Saturday September 17, 2022, the award-winning film, *...and the earth did not swallow him*, an adaptation of the classic Chicano novel by Dr. Tomas Rivera, will screen at the historic (1915) Fillmore Town Theatre in Fillmore, California. Tentatively, screenings are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 pm. A reception will be held at a restaurant across the street. Attending will be the Director, Severo Perez, and several of the film's principal performers.



Norma Cantú: I received the [Galrdon Luis Leal](#) from the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares (UAH) and the Instituto Franklin. The award recognizes a literary scholar who has contributed to the development of Chicana Literature. HISPAUSA is an international organization based at the UAH. As such, I delivered the Keynote Address at the Congreso de Literatura Chicana in Barcelona on June 20, 2022. My talk was titled: "Paso a paso se va muy lejos: Doing Work that Matters in the 21st Century."

My article in Julia 's book *The Many Voices of the Los Angeles Novel* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing) appeared in April 2022. The book has essays "which give an innovative look at recent Los Angeles novels which have become multi-national. For decades Lationos/a have written critical novels of resistance against racism in L.A., and in the 1970s their novels came of age. Women have written innovative novels dealing with Hollywood, detectives, and science fiction. Men's novels have explored 20th century men who built the bricks that built L.A. and the class conflicts between workers and owners" My article is on Chicana authors Reyna Grande and Felicia Luna Lemus.

James L. Haley: I was given the opportunity to deliver a few farewell thoughts on Texas history, on San Jacinto Day at the Monument. (It is a temporary farewell, I trust.) I am now on station as the Writer in Residence at The Pines Ranch, at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Westcliffe, Colorado. Here, I will be managing ranch publications, hosting a local writers' group, working with re-energizing local history organizations, and finishing up a couple of Texas books before turning my focus to the Western Expansion. After many years as a dude ranch, The Pines now provides rest and retreats for those in our society who serve others for not much reward -- nurses, teachers, first responders, and foster families. (There is probably a heck of a book in this story, also.)



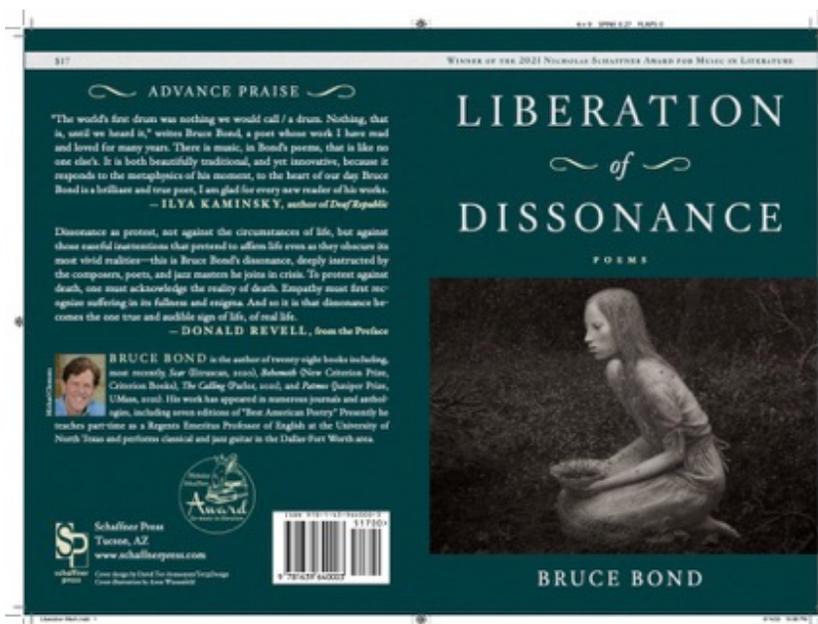
San Jacinto Day at the monument



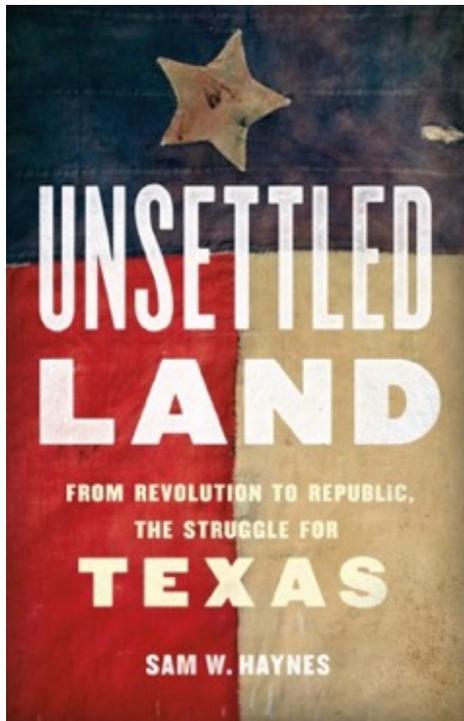
The Pines Ranch in Colorado

Celeste Bedford Walker: Past event: My military drama "Camp Logan" ran at a theatre in Upstate New York in early June. Work in progress: I finished a draft as commissioned head writer on documentary about Academy Award nominee Juanita Moore (*Imitation of Life*) Upcoming: An article on my career and my Lon Tinkle Lifetime Achievement Award will be featured in *Mask Magazine* in the October 22 edition.

Bruce Bond: My new book of poems, *Liberation of Dissonance*, winner of the Nicholas Schaffner Award for Literature in Music, is now available from Schaffner Press. The judge for the contest was the press's editor, Tim Schaffner, H.D.'s grandson and the former head of the Schaffner Literary Agency.

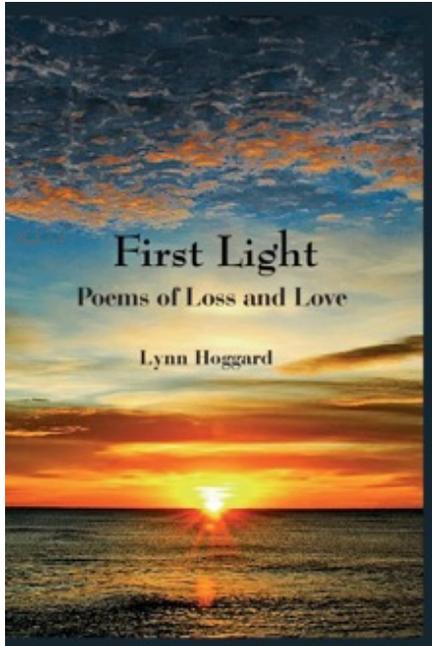


Sam Haynes held book signings at Half Price Books (Dallas) and the Brazos Bookstore (Houston) to promote *Unfinished Land: From Revolution to Republic, the Struggle for Texas* (Basic Books). A long overdue reinterpretation of the birth of modern Texas, *Unsettled Land* departs from the familiar narrative of Anglo alpha male heroics to tell the story of one of the most racially diverse regions of North America in the early decades of the nineteenth century.



George Getschow: On June 11, at the annual Archer City Writers Workshop, George Getschow and other members of the workshop read their stories and books in progress before a live audience at the Royal Theater in Archer City, Larry McMurtry's hometown. Getschow read excerpts from a narrative nonfiction book he's been working on about the shattered dreams of a South Texas cattle baroness who sought to give her fortune to the misérables of Latin America. The book will be published by Henry Holt.

Lynn Hoggard's new book, *First Light*, is by Lamar University Literary Press and narrates the poetic journey of husband Jim's years of struggle with Parkinson's, the soaring love as well as the sorrow.



Kathryn Jones finished her biography of Ben Johnson – the only person in the world to win an Academy Award (best supporting actor for his role as Sam the Lion in *The Last Picture Show*) AND a world rodeo championship. The manuscript in the hands of several readers before publication by the University Press of Mississippi as part of its “Hollywood Legends” series. This year Kathryn also contributed to a forthcoming book of essays about Larry McMurtry edited by TIL’s **George Getschow**. Four of her poems will be published in the *Lone Star Poetry* anthology coming out in early 2023 from Kallisto Gaia Press. She is a frequent contributor to the online literary journal Texas Poetry Assignment (www.texaspoetryassignment.org). Also, Kathryn’s essay “Will Uvalde Be Enough?” was published on the *Texas Observer* website in May, as well as a subsequent article about raising the age for assault rifle ownership. She continues to freelance for other publications, including *Texas Highways* magazine, and is working on a poetry collection tentatively titled *The Shelter of Place*.

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POLITICS

WILL UVALDE BE ENOUGH?

The body count linked to Texas' lax gun laws continues to mount—this time in an elementary school.

by **KATHRYN JONER**
MAY 26, 2022, 10:43 AM, CDT 



AP PHOTO/JAE C. HONG

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The news that a shooter opened fire Tuesday at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, killing at least 19 children and two teachers, took me back to an October day in 1991.



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