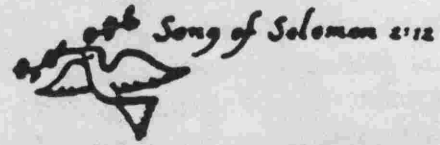




The Voice Of The Turtle



NOVEMBER 2007

NEXT MEETING

"Friends, poets, and countrymen, lend me your ears!"

November's meeting (on Friday, the 30th) will be an extra special meeting, indeed. (But, then again, aren't they all special?!) No, sorry, none of those outlandish rumors were true: The London Symphony Orchestra is not going to perform for us, The Rolling Stones aren't going to hold their farewell show at the Friends Meeting House, 60 Minutes isn't doing a story on us, and Marie Osmond isn't going to sing, dance, and faint for us.

But, it is true that on this fine, final day of the month, we will be "joining forces" with our good friends the Friends of Woodbury. Yes, some representatives of the wonderful Quaker Meeting House will be joining us this month. These fine folks provide us with our "home base;" we are grateful of that, and hope to have a strong Society showing to demonstrate our appreciation in the form of (what else) poetry.

Originally, we were thinking of a dinner/meeting, but the plan changed, eat beforehand, this is a meeting, only. No grub. There will, however, be a mini-workshop session conducted by Lynette Milanese.

Please note that our meeting time will be earlier than usual: **7 o'clock!**

The address is 124 North Broad Street (Route 45), across from Charlie Brown's.

So bring your best poems of thanks and peace, and try to be there by 7 PM.

Peace.



LAST MEETING

October's meeting was a "whiz-bang blast!" We had very cool special guests.

Society member Anthony Mohamed and his friend James Roane played a couple excellent instrumentals for us. (Anthony on drums and James on bass). Anthony always adds positive, spirited excitement to each meeting he attends, and James had a fascinating testimony he shared. He was a heart transplant recipient. His donor was an 18-year old Latin woman, and he has met his donor's family. (Wow, what a story!) It was jokingly suggested that, post-operation, his bass playing may have taken on a more salsa rhythm. Another interesting tidbit on James is that he resides on Curtis Avenue in Woodbury...the birth street of the Society for Poets.

Speaking of fascinating, talented musicians, we were also happy to have Wendy Stocker and Ashley Richmond on hand. Wendy is the Paulsboro High School band-leader who has graciously helped us out at our AMPD happenings by leading the PHS Jazz Band. She is a Gloucester County Teacher of the Year and is an excellent poet who leads the PHS literary group: The Gallery. She is quite a talented woman and her students love her.

One such student is Junior Society member Kenny Milanese; another such student is Ashley Richmond, Kenny's friend and band-mate, who is a Gallery poet. She writes great poetry. It was totally excellent to have another inspired teenage poet with us.

I'm sure I speak for our entire Society when I say I hope all of our guests (as well as other musicians and Gallery poets) join us again and again and again and again and again and again...

The King Street Espresso Bar in Gloucester City will have their next poetry reading on Friday, November 16th at 7:30. Arts coordinator Mary Lou Adams scheduled a feature poet (who could only make it that night), and, so, Lynette M.'s workshop has been postponed, for now.

They have nice readings on each month's third Friday. Try to get there, some time. Call (856) 456-4408 or via www.kingstreetespresso.com on that wacky web thingy.

\$ POET

Last month's \$ Poet (for having written the top vote-getter amongst poems in the fantastic, ground-breaking October edition of The Voice of the Turtle) was none other than yours truly (Mr. Newsletter Editor/Anthony M.), for my poem "For Kenny's 14th Birthday."

"Thank you, my friends."

I decided to choose a \$10 prize package of a \$5 Mosaic (Anthology IX), a \$3 Recurring Themes (by Georgia Wurster), and a \$2 Intense Intentions In Tents (by me).

Naw, just kidding...I already own all those excellent publications. (Do you?) And I also already have the beautiful, nifty SFPOSNJ pin, and so I opted for the \$10 check.

I want to thank Karen (the queen of generosity) Springer for her kind donation toward the \$ Poet fund, which doubles the prizes for all winners up until August 2008.

"Thanks, Karen! Thanks, everybody!"

HOPKINS HOUSE HAPPENING

In the "Last Meeting" story I told you how Society member Anthony Mohamed and his friend (and, now, *our* friend) James Roane entertained us. Well, they'll be doing an entire show at the Hopkins House on Saturday, December 1st!

Check 'em out! The Hopkins House is at 250 South Park Drive, Haddon Township. For more info, call (856) 858-0040, or visit www.camden.lib.nj.us.

The November elections are over, but another slate comes into focus: the four elected offices of the Society for Poets of SNJ. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions are all elected annually. Do you have what it takes? Do you have the desire and the drive? Do you have a funny name like "Nutter?" Then, perhaps you'd like to be a Society officer.

All of our current officers have said they are willing to remain at their posts. But all member are more than willing to "toss their hats in the ring."

We will need a nominations contact person determined by November's meeting. If you aren't "running for office," but would like this very easy assignment, please call Lynette (423-3762), or tell us at the Nov. meeting.

Think about it.

**DUES**

Like it or not, this year is winding down quicker than our available national funding for the creative arts (but, of course, there's always a blank check available for the war...ugh...don't get me started).

As 2007 evaporates into a memory, 2008 becomes visible on the horizon. It's like a new breath...a new opportunity to make your life, the lives of those around you, and the entire world better.

A new calendar year also indicates a new fiscal year for the Society for Poets of SNJ. For only \$15, you can have membership in the hippest band in the land ...a band of poets, friends, and all-around swell folks. It's a small price for such a valuable passage to happiness.

You can mail your dues to Treasurer Anthony M. (address is newsletter's return address) or pay at any Society function. You'll be glad you did.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"You don't spread democracy with the barrel of a gun." - Helen Thomas
(former White House Bureau Chief and columnist)



**NOTHING'S BETTER
THAN A NICE LETTER**

The Society thanks Pat Collins, Children's Librarian at the Gloucester County Library in Mullica Hill for her nice letter (photo-copied below). She graciously thanked Lynette and our group for the Laugh Out Loud with Poetry workshop that Lynette coordinated, and, in which, some of us participated.

It was our pleasure, Pat. Thank you.

BIRTHDAY BARDS

Like a lone flower in the desert, Vice President Vern Rose was our only November birthday. He sang and clapped his hands on the 11th.

Cindy Steinberg (who, David told us, is scheduled to sing with her choir for the Pope) blows the candles out on December 4th. Carolyn Furio notches another orbit around the sun on Dec. 26th.

Happy birthday, poets! Have fun.

GCLS

Gloucester County Library System

October 29, 2007

Ms. Lynette Milanese
433 Thomson Avenue
Paulsboro, NJ 08066



Dear Lynette,

Thank you so much for sharing your family, friend, and remarkable literary skills with the poets to be of GCLS. Everyone seemed to be amazed at what they produced with your guidance. The poems you sent were like a breath of fresh air: an extra delight when remembering the evening. I just hope I can see Eileen when she reads them. I don't know Ivory, so I'll have to be on the lookout for him when I work for Phyllis next week. Please tell Vern that we enjoyed his presence and his poems. We'll have to do this again sometime!

Good luck in all your endeavors!


Pat Collins

PHS POETRY, ART, AND COFFEE

In the "Last Meeting" story, I told you about Paulsboro High School teacher Wendy Stocker and student Ashley Richmond; well, you'll get to meet our friends, and several other talented young writers and performers on Tuesday, November 20th at 7 PM. At October's meeting, Wendy was nice enough to invite us to a coffeehouse-type of poetry reading/arts fest in the band room, which is in the basement floor of the high school at 662 North Delaware Street.

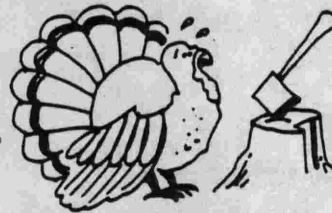
From Interstate 295, take exit 18. Coming **south**, exit 18 is divided, take the first right to Paulsboro. It'll loop clockwise a bit to a light, where you make a left onto North 667 (Delaware Street). Go through another traffic light (it is, however, suggested that you stop if the light is red), and you'll see the school 5 or 6 blocks up on the left. Coming **north**, the exit ramp comes to a light (facing a McDonalds), go straight through to another light, make a left, and go through two lights and look for the school on your left.

DOCSTERPOET READING

She is a gifted educator, a wonderful SFPOSNJ member, a very prolific poet, and our most gracious benefactor; she is Dr. Karen Springer, and she is giving a poetry reading on Monday, December 17th for the Salem County Art League at the Friends Village at Woodstown, 1150 Route 40 in Pilesgrove at the John Fenwick Commons Auditorium.

There will be a social time and mini-workshops from 6:30 till 7:00. An art critique, Karen's 20-minute reading, and other festivities will happen between 7:00 and 9:00.

For directions or further info, or just to say "Hi," contact "the good doctor" via docsterpoet@comcast.net.



Poetry Corner

A VISUAL AFFIRMATION

by Esther Penny Bilsky
(from Flowers in a Crannied Wall/
Anthology VI)

Oh! Elegant trees of Wisconsin!
How you sparkle in the autumn sun!
Each leaf as iridescent
As a shimmering, glimmering jewel.
Your majestic splendor
Uplifts all weathered hearts.
A visual affirmation
Of God's eternal
Beneficence.



A CHILD'S EYE-VIEW

by Barbara Perlmutter
(from We the Poets/Anthology V)

In my new soft-spun world, a stranger peers,
His eyes are like the brilliant sunlight,
Other objects fall into place,
Like pieces from a jigsaw puzzle,
Now life sings, vibrant with energy,
I glare over top of my fleecy blanket
that surrounds me,
and see that not one but two strangers peer.
Reassured, I stop my fussing and screaming and
kicking and go quietly back to sleep.

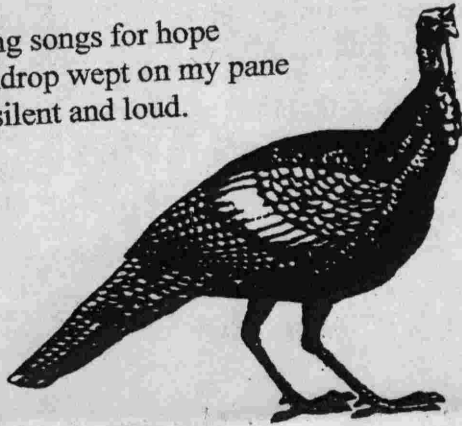


Poetry Corner

Haiku

by Helene Layton

Hearing songs for hope
A raindrop wept on my pane
Both silent and loud.



THE SOUL OF A HOME

by David Steinberg

(from Flowers in a Crannied Wall/Anthology VI)

Abandoned and boarded up in disrepair.
Neglected by all and no one to care.
The once trimmed lawns now grown with weeds.
Broken porch caused by terrible deeds.

In silence, I strain to hear its soul.
Chards and slivers that once were whole.
Shattered and damaged beyond all repair.
Forgotten memories of those who lived there.



Who could possibly want to destroy
All of this laughter--all of this joy?
Once echoing within its walls,
Voices from the past that quietly appalls.

I didn't want to take a look
At this long-forgotten book
Waiting for me to open its pages
Giving glimpses of forgotten ages.

A trace of sadness pervades my brain
Looking at the old homestead again.
Recalling events makes me meek
At the stories, if only it would speak.



MAJOR STEPS IN LIFE

by Dr. P. Raghavan

Baby tries to breathe soon after birth
Baby learns to crawl first on its hands
Speaking is an art picking up slowly
Walking is a skill starting in an year.

Learning alphabets indeed a great step
Swimming is learnt with stunning guts
Cycling is done with a great fun & joy
Driving a four-wheeler next in the line.

Choosing a bride is a god's gift indeed
A good partner in life in the form of wife
A pleasant journey starts in actual terms
A baby in hand makes the parents proud.

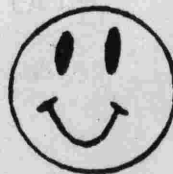
A career in society gives economic means
A person enjoys the animal comforts in all
He and she become the grand parents soon
They are to retire and settle down till death.

THE LIFE-TUNER

by Lynette Milanese

(from We the Poets)

One lone chord
Vibrates dull --
Disappears...
The Tuner
Turns His ear,
Bends low, strums,
Tuning notes,
Playing chords --
Making them
Harmonize
Each other.
Two lone notes --
Together --
Added to,
Makes a chord,
Makes a song,
Makes a soul.
A living
Breathing thing
That touches
Singing Life.
Intertwines
With a note --
Makes new songs,
Makes new souls.

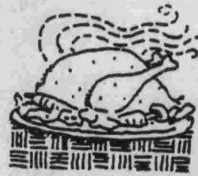


TEARS by Linda Murphy
(from VIIIB/Anthology VIII)

Why are tears crystal clear?
Why not colors to cover?

Perhaps they should be
of mud
of blood
of oceanblue.
To tint the occasion for which they flow.

For each a color,
Distinct from the other
Relating how they grow.



NIGHT WIND IN NOVEMBER

by Karen R. Springer

Outside my bedroom window,
It bends bare oak and willow.
It creeps into my curtains
And makes them softly billow.
I hear its moaning breath
Seeping through the lace.
I feel its frosty fingers
On my body and my face.
I tremble as it touches
My summer soul, now numb.
I writhe within its clutches.
Will April ever come?

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Photocopier courtesy of the Logan Library. "Thanks!"

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(Hey, it's only fair.)*



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