

Texas Institute of Letters



Fall/Winter 2016

Newsletter



Shelby Hearon (1931-2016)

Past TIL President, Winner of the TIL's Tinkle Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Obituary:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/burlingtonfreepress/obituary.aspx?n=shelby-hearon&pid=183088331>

An excerpt from *Hug Dancing* in "Texas Classics" from the *Dallas Morning News*:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/arts/books/2014/07/12/texas-classics-shelby-hearon-goes-hug-dancing>

Communiqué from the President

We are saddened by the loss of our friend, **Shelby Hearon**. Those of you who met Shelby know that she was more than a magnificently talented writer; she was also a warm, wise, generous spirit, someone whose presence brought light and joy to others. She will be sorely missed. Thankfully, we will always hear her voice in her many wonderful books.

TIL Literary Contests. Our esteemed, hardworking judges are reviewing entries in twelve categories for a total of over \$20,000 in prizes. Contest deadline is January 3 and winners will be recognized at our annual meeting in El Paso. Check the TIL website for more details.

24 New Member Nominations. Council members and past presidents are currently reviewing a record number of new member nominations. We will meet at a secure undisclosed location in January to review the nominations as a group, then we will present our recommendations to the entire membership for your approval.



TIL in El Paso. Things are shaping up for the first-ever TIL meeting and awards banquet in El Paso. Because of construction at the Camino Real, we have moved to a new hotel, just a couple of blocks away-- the Doubletree by Hilton, which has a gorgeous Sky Lounge for receptions. The Saturday evening banquet will be at the famous Ardovino's Desert Crossing. We'll have our reception on the patio overlooking the mountains, followed by dinner inside the CCC-built Sunset Hall. If you haven't been to a TIL meeting in a while, this is a good time to reconnect with your friends and colleagues. We are planning more opportunities for mingling and socializing, and fewer hours of long, drawn-out awards ceremonies.

For Hotel Reservations at the special TIL rate (\$99/night):

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/E/ELPDWDT-TXI-20170407/index.jhtml>

Renew your TIL membership for 2017 (and purchase banquet tickets)- Now Online!

<http://www.texasinstituteofletters.org/payments/index.htm>

Thanks, everyone. See you in El Paso!

Steve Davis

Member News (41 updates)

Larry D. Thomas's *As If Light Actually Matters: New & Selected Poems* (Texas Review Press, 2015) received a 2015 Writers' League of Texas Book Awards Finalist citation. The book has garnered very positive reviews in several distinguished journals including *Louisiana Literature*, *Green Hills Literary Lantern*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Southwestern American Literature*, and *Texas Books in Review*.



Light Cummins continues to highlight his recently published book *Texan Identities: Getting Beyond Myth, Memory, and Fallacy in Texas History* (September 2016) by means of TV and radio interviews, along with book signings. He has also completed the manuscript for a chapter dealing with the history of sculpture for a volume edited by Ron Tyler on Texas art which will appear next year to mark the reopening of San Antonio's Witte Museum. He is also completing the final draft of his book entitled *Into the Vast and Beautiful Land: English Speaking Settlers in Spanish Louisiana and Mexican Texas, 1763-1836*.

Joe Holley says: This may be slightly premature, but Trinity University Press is publishing two of my books in the spring: "Quotable Texas," a collection of pithy quotes from Sam Houston, Molly Ivins, Lyle Lovett, Bum Phillips and dozens of other quotable Texans; and "Hometown Texas," a collection of my weekly 'Native Texan' columns from the Houston Chronicle.

Fran Vick sends this flyer about the Humanities Texas Holiday Book Fair. December 3 at the Byrne-Reed House. It seems several TIL Members attended!



Reginald Gibbons says: My new book of poems, *LAST LAKE*, was published this fall by Univ. of Chicago Press, and a book of short fiction, *ORCHARD IN THE STREET*, is forthcoming in 2017 from BOA Editions. The American Writers Museum, with which I have been working for several years as a member of a curatorial committee, will open in Chicago in 2017. And with the Russian poet Ilya Kutik, I'm completing a book devoted to Boris Pasternak--an introduction to his unique accomplishments as a poet and about 40 poems in translation. I'm sorry the annual banquet has been out of reach for me because of other obligations. But I count myself as very loyal to the TIL and very very fortunate to have won several prizes over the years--in 1995 the Jesse Jones Award for my novel *SWEETBITTER*; in 2003 the poetry book award (it had a different name then, I think) for my book *IT'S TIME*; in 2009 the Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for my translations of Sophocles, *SELECTED POEMS: ODES AND FRAGMENTS*; and long long ago the short story prize (which also had a different name then) for a story that was first published in *Southwest Review*. Also, I'm very pleased and proud that the TIL continues to expand its membership.

Christopher Cook reports a bit of good news from his foreign publishers. In Italy, his short story "Lafayette Dugas, Bayou Desperado" is appearing in translation in a story anthology released by CasaSirio in December 2016. In France, a new edition of his novel *Voleurs* (published as *Robbers* in the USA) is being released in April 2017. Aside from some changes to the text, the new French edition will offer a preface describing the writing and publishing history of the novel. Otherwise, Christopher says, "I am still enjoying the hills west of Austin and buying an occasional lottery ticket to enrich some poor SOB somewhere, as this appears to be the only wealth redistribution program likely to survive the ongoing political juggernaut in the USA."

Robert Bonazzi's biography of John Howard Griffin has been accepted for early 2018 publication by TCU Press. *RELUCTANT ACTIVIST* is the authorized biography of Griffin's life--based on Griffin's Journals that go well beyond *BLACK LIKE ME*--including his photography (he made the authorized portrait of his friend, monk Thomas Merton), his musicology as an authority on Gregorian Chant, and his fiction, as author of 3 published novels and many short stories written during a decade of blindness (he recovered sight in 1957). Griffin's life was amazingly productive, especially considering that he died at the age of 60 (1920-1980). It's also the 300th anniversary of San Antonio, so *Reluctant Activist* and Bryce Milligan's anthology of SA, will both be out together.

Marian Schwartz says: In September, I attended a seminar for Tolstoy translators at Yasnaya Polyana, the Tolstoy estate, outside Tula (the picture shows the porch and



entrance of his home there), and then went on to Moscow for the International Congress of Translators, where you meet translators of Russian from all over the world, including translators who have translated the same books you have, but into other languages!

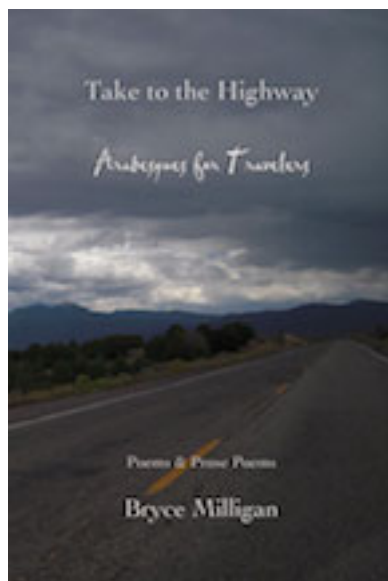
Also this fall, I was very happy to be invited to publish a story in the inaugural issue of a fine new literary magazine from one of our neighboring states, [*The Arkansas International*](#), which published my translation of a humorous short story by Victor Shenderovich, "Wind Over the Parade Ground." Earlier in the year, my translation of Olga Slavnikova's story "The Recluse" appeared in [*Ezra: An Online*](#)

[*Journal of Translation*](#). And last month I delivered the Marilyn Gaddis Rose lecture at the American Translators Association conference.

On October 14, 2016, **José E. Limón** presented a lecture for the American Initiatives program at Georgetown University on the work of San Antonio, Texas painter, Jesse Treviño, entitled, "Class Culture and Politics in Mexican America: The Encompassing Life of Jesse Treviño." On November 11, 2016, he also delivered the keynote address at the Midwestern Modern Language Association meeting in St. Louis, MO. with the title: "American Women Writers, Border States and Republics: Laura Krey, Jovita González and Eve Raleigh." His most recent publication is "Sweet Birds of Youth: Coming of Age from *Bless me Ultima* to *The Faith Healer of Olive Avenue*," in *The Forked Juniper: Critical Perspectives on Rudolfo Anaya*. Ed. Roberto Cantú. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016. Pp. 73-97.

Alan Govenar's new musical "Texas in Paris" has been published by Dramatic Publishing and has been translated into French. The Festival de L'Imaginaire is producing the Paris premiere of the show in December 2016 with the original off-Broadway cast, starring Tony Award-winner Lillias White and Scott Wakefield. Praised in *The New York Times*, "Texas in Paris" is a "musical play that is as much about race relations in America as it is about the spirituals and cowboy songs that run through it ... the actors' performances are beautifully calibrated; [their] energy and skill irresistible."

Bryce Milligan's poem, "Radio Nights," was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Clover: A*



Literary Rag. His latest collection of poetry, *Take to the Highway: Arabesques for Travelers* (West End Press) was described as "extraordinary" by The Huffington Post, which wrote: "Milligan is a literary master, a linguist and luthier of ancient languages and songs, whose new work places him and his Texas landscape in the front ranks of our nation's most respected literary figures. *Take to the Highway: Arabesques for Travelers* travels multiple paths with a dazzling, earthy and original ferocity, brilliantly crafted and vast in range." Milligan's Wings Press is proud to be publishing in January the first-ever Latino/Latina collection of science fiction and fantasy, *Latin@ Rising*, which will debut at AWP with a panel and reading. Also coming out in January from Wings Press is David Lee's large collection of poetry, *Bluebonnets, Firewheels, and Brown-eyed Susans, or, Poems New and Used From the*

Bandera Rag and Bone Shop. Milligan says, "This is an intellectual hoot. Imagine Chaucer with a twang."

Frank de la Teja, director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest at Texas State University in San Marcos, had three major publications appear during 2016. He was the translator for *Actas del congreso constituyente de Coahuila y Texas de 1824 a 1827. Primera Constitución bilingüe / Proceedings of the Constituent Congress of Coahuila and Texas, 1824-1827: Mexico's Only Bilingual Constitution*, published by the Tribunal Electoral del Poder Judicial de la Federación de México. His work consisted of translating approximately 1,000 pages of the deliberations of the constitutional congress and providing an introductory essay focusing on the union of Coahuila and Texas under the Mexican federal constitution of 1824. Frank's second project was an edited volume, *Lone Star Unionism, Dissent, and Resistance: Other Sides of Civil War Texas*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Based on a symposium that Frank organized at Texas State in 2014, the volume includes essays on the experiences of Unionists, dissenters, and other aspects of resistance to the Confederacy and its legacy in Texas. Lastly, Frank published a collection of his articles, book chapters, and essays from the last 25 years on the history of San Antonio and early Texas. That book, *Face of Béxar: Early San Antonio and Texas*, published by Texas A&M University Press, just won the Sons of the Republic of Texas Presidio La Bahia Award "for outstanding contribution in the field of the Spanish Colonial Period of Texas History." The award was presented at a ceremony at the presidio in Goliad on December 3.

Miles Wilson says: My new and selected stories (1977-2017) is forthcoming from the University of New Mexico Press. Creative nonfiction from my collection in progress, "Westwork," has appeared in *Southwest Review* and is forthcoming in *Crazyhorse*. My literary papers have been acquired by the Wittliff Collections at Texas State University, which holds the papers of many other TIL members. I was recently named distinguished professor emeritus at Texas State University.

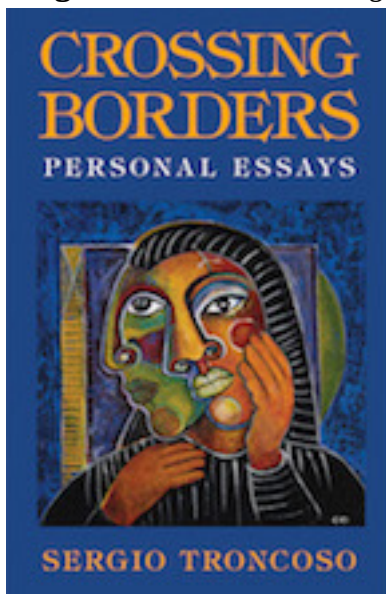
W.K. (Kip) Stratton recently read from his book of verse in progress, tentatively entitled *COLO—STATE—PEN: 18456*, at Malvern Books in Austin in November. The title is taken from his grandfather's serial number when he was a prisoner at the Colorado State Penitentiary in Cañon City. The book will be the third volume in a projected five-volume cycle of poems. Earlier in the month, he joined TIL members Ann Weisgarber, Steve Davis, and Lonn Taylor in reading at Dobie Dichos in Oakville. The event was hosted by TIL's William Jack Sibley. In February, he'll take part in the Writers in Performance Series at Lone Star College--Montgomery in Conroe. Meanwhile, Stratton is working toward a spring manuscript delivery deadline for his nonfiction book, tentatively entitled *Beyond Our Guns*, which concerns Sam Peckinpah and *The Wild Bunch*. The book is under contract to Bloomsbury Publishing.

Rolando Hinojosa's work is being reissued in a new edition as Arté Público Press publishes *From Klail City to Korea with Love*, two volumes from Rolando Hinojosa's acclaimed Klail City Death Trip Series—*Rites and Witnesses* and *Korean Love Songs*. *From Klail City to Korea with Love* brings together and makes available two important books in Hinojosa's lauded series that has frequently been compared to the work of William Faulkner and Gabriel García Márquez.

Nicolás Kanellos has written his first children's picture book, *El torneo de las trabalenguas* / *The Tongue Twister Tournament*, which was published October 31, 2016.



Sergio Troncoso's *Crossing Borders: Personal Essays* was chosen for Housatonic Community College's program: One Book, One College.



Joyce Roach says: November was filled with some good things happening for me. And it's especially nice to be recognized for something when you're 80 years old. I was awarded a gold medal from the *Will Rogers Medallion Award Honoring Excellence in Western Media*.



The award was for *Land of Rain Shadow: Horned Toad, Texas*, a short story collection about West Texas. Judy Alter took a silver medal for her delightful cookbook and folklore on Texas Chili. Publisher was Texas Tech Press. Then a few days later on November 4th I was inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame given by the Fort Worth Friends of the Library; and so was Carmen Tafolla, perhaps a familiar TIL name. Thinking I ought to get involved with LinkedIn and Facebook I was surprised with job offers that I couldn't possibly do at my age and information about

degrees I could get but knew I would probably be dead before finishing. Hearing about the TIL meeting in El Paso next year from Carmen, I vowed to be more active, pay my dues and get to the Border rather than go back to work or get another degree.

Pictured at right is Fran, Jim Lee and Joyce at interview session with Kay Arnold and Lori Navajar for TFS meeting last April. Will Rogers Medallion.



Bob Flynn says: Years in the making! A cast of thousands! Robert Flynn's long awaited (by him) "Holy Literary License; The Almighty Chooses Fallible Mortals to Write GodStory." However, the cover art is a knock-off of a world famous artist and the back cover blurbs are wonderful, written by people who in other circumstances are considered reliable, even honest.

Alwyn Barr reports: the San Jacinto Symposium in Houston on April 9, 2016 I spoke on "Slavery, Slaves, and Free African Americans in the Texas Revolution and Republic." As part of a session during the Western History Association meeting on October 22, 2016 I made a presentation on "The Civil Rights Movement in Texas." From the summer of 2015 to the summer of 2016 I served as president of the Museum of Texas Tech University Association, a non-profit support group for the university museum.

Jan Reid's third novel, *Sins of the Younger Sons*, is entering production at TCU Press. Another of his decades-long gestations, it concerns a ranch-raised Texan's love affair and intrigue among Basque separatists in the north of Spain. He has essays in fine new anthologies: "Cosmic Aggies" (Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen) in *Pickers & Poets: The Ruthlessly Poetic Singer-Songwriters of Texas*, edited by Craig D. Hillis and Craig Clifford (Texas A&M) and "Big Bend" in *Río: A Photographic Journey Down the Old Río Grande*, edited by Melissa Savage (University of New Mexico). Blending matters of faith, boxing, and rock and roll, Jan has another novel almost done, tentatively titled *The Song Leader*. And the movie rights of a *Texas Monthly* article about a jailbreak, "Busting Out of Mexico," have been optioned by the Gotham Group producers and a screenwriting team that includes Josh Olson, an Academy Award nominee for *A History of Violence*. The story was published in September 1976, a few months before Jan began his stay at Paisano, and has snoozed without notice for these forty years. Steve Harrigan remarks, "It's the Wittliff doctrine: nothing's ever dead."



Jerry Craven says: TIL members Drew Geyer, Terry Dalrymple and I are in the final stages of writing a short story cycle that explores many of the same characters, themes, and settings in assorted places in Texas. We have all placed stories from the cycle in literary magazines. One of mine appeared in *descant* 2016, one in *The Langdon Review*, another in the latest issue of *RiverSedge*, and a third in the upcoming *Writing Texas*. Angelina River Press (Fort Worth) published *The Jungle's Edge* in 2016. It is my sixth novel. I continue to direct Lamar University Literary Press and am currently looking for novels and collections of short stories for 2017. TIL members can contact me directly to submit.

Lisa Sandlin says: My 2015 book "The Do-Right" made the Top Ten Debut Crime Novels from Booklist, and won the Shamus Award from the Private Eye Writers of America and the Hammett Prize from the International Association of Crime Writers. It will be published in Germany in 2017.

Lonn Taylor reports that he and Tim Johnson of the Marfa Book Company in Marfa, Texas are working on a new book, *Marfa for the Perplexed*. Taylor has completed the manuscript and Johnson will design and produce the book. Taylor says the book is intended to explain Marfa to the thousands of visitors who come from all over the world to see the Chinati Foundation's art installations and visit the galleries and performance venues that have opened in this far West Texas town of 2200 people in the past ten years. "If you are in Marfa and don't know what a calf roping or a brisket burrito is or why one is served at the other this is the book for you," Taylor says.

Debbie Nathan says: As of November, I have moved to Brownsville, TX to work as the ACLU Texas affiliate's investigative reporter for immigration issues. I started work exactly two days before the election, and on November 9 realized I could not be in a better place to be doing work. If anyone wants to see a sample, here:

<https://www.aclutx.org/en/news/one-undocumented-mothers-post-election-talk-her-5-year-old>

Also, I'm working now in print, audio (including the past two or three years for NPR e.g. This American Life and Latino USA as an independent producer/reporter). Now doing same for ACLU Texas, on their staff. Hope to see folks in El Paso in the spring.

Chris Ellery says: Elder Tree, Chris Ellery's fourth collection of poetry, was published in September by Lamar University Literary Press. Steeped in Celtic spirituality, both pre-Christian and Christian, Elder Tree transplants the mystic elder, thirteenth tree in the Celtic tree calendar, to the hills and plains of Texas. Chris continues to write poems and essays about Syria. "Sparkler," a long poem set in besieged Aleppo, is forthcoming from The Timberline Review. And, congrats to Chris on the immanent birth of his first grand baby, Parker Frank Woods, due 12/19!



Dominic Smith's *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos* was named a best book of 2016 by Amazon, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Slate* (audiobook) and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Scheduled to be published in more than ten countries in 2017, the novel has also been optioned by Aquarius Films.

karla k. morton says she is having big fun promoting her eleventh book *Accidental Origami: New and Selected* (Texas Review Press). Also big fun is her *Words of Preservation: Poets Laureate National Parks Tour* that she is doing with fellow Texas Poet Laureate Alan Birkelbach to mark the Parks' next 100 Years! They are actively seeking patrons and funding, and will be visiting 50 of the 59 National Parks, and writing poetry and taking pictures. A percentage of the sales from the forthcoming book will go back to the National Parks System. Their Tour began in June in Yellowstone, then The Grand Tetons, The Great Sand Dunes and Mesa Verde. In January, they will visit the Channel Islands and Joshua Tree!

Chip Dameron has spent the fall at the Paisano Ranch in Austin as the Dobie Paisano Fellow and writes that he has not encountered Nan Cuba's house snake. His latest two books came out in December: *China Sketchbook*, from Purple Flag, and *At Paisano Ranch*, a microchapbook from Origami Poems Project. Recent poems have appeared in *San Pedro River Review*, *Texas Weather*, *Voices de la Luna*, *Writing Texas*, *Cha: an Asian Literary Journal*, *Texas Poetry Calendar*, *An Amazing Eclectic Anthology*, *The Great American Wise Ass Poetry Anthology*, and *Prosopisia*.

William Virgil Davis has new poems out in *The Dalhousie Review*, *Christianity and Literature*, *Agni*, *San Pedro River Review*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Scintilla*, *The Texas Review*, *Borderlands*, *Valparaiso Poetry Review* (as Featured Poet), *Hotel Amerika*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, and *Concho River Review*, as well as poems in several anthologies: *Writing Texas*, *The Great American Wise Ass Poetry Anthology*, *An Amazing Eclectic Anthology*, and *Texas Weather*. His story, "Jury Duty," has appeared in *Agni*. He has been nominated for his sixth Pushcart Prize, and has just returned from Vienna, Austria, where he lectured on Wallace Stevens and George Santayana. He also has an essay, "R. S. Thomas's Pilgrimages," published in *Pilgrim Paths: Journeys of Transformation* (Inter-Disciplinary P, Oxford, UK).

Here is a pix of the cover of his recent book:



Current poems by **Carol Coffee Reposa** appear or are forthcoming in *Amarillo Bay*, *Blue Hole*, *Honoring Women*, *The San Antonio Express-News*, *The Great American Wise Ass Poetry Anthology*, *Texas Weather*, and *An Amazing Eclectic Poetry Anthology*. She continues to do poetry editing for *Voices de la Luna* and over the departing year has served as a judge for the The San Antonio Poetry On The Move Contest and given presentations at the Elmer Kelton Conference (San Angelo), Gemini Ink Writer's Conference (San Antonio), and the Lyn Belisle Art Studio (San Antonio). A nine-day sojourn in Venice, however, proved the benchmark of 2016, a spell-binding interlude that generated poems and numerous rapturous journal entries, all of which she hopes will find their way into print someday. Meanwhile, back at the metaphoric ranch, she slogs on with her fifth collection of poems.



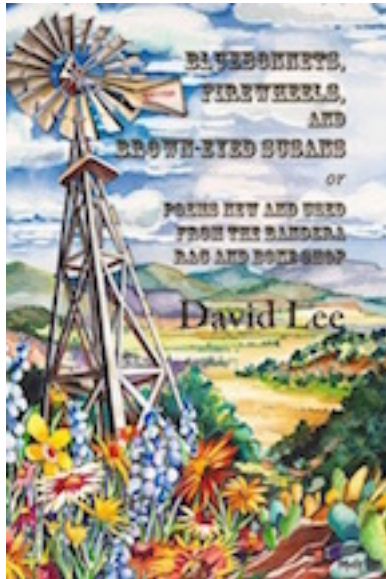
AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF TEXAS ROADSIDE MEMORIALS
and AGAINST SKY'S WARM BELLY: NEW & SELECTED
POEMS.

Sarah Cortez's tenth and eleventh books have been published this fall/winter by Texas Review Press. They are **VANISHING POINTS: POEMS**



Ron Tyler just had an essay, "Frederic Remington's Vision of 'The Men with the Bark On'" published in *Frederic Remington: A Catalogue Raisonné*, edited by Peter H. Hassrick (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016). He is currently working to finish a history of 19th century lithographs relating to Texas.

Naomi Shihab Nye says: I have just returned from the Sharjah International Book Fair in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, which hosted 2.31 million visitors in 10 days. The Fair also did tremendous outreach in local schools (the very fun Indian and Australian elementary schools, and the glamorous American University were my venues) - all the billboards around the city said READ MORE - showing a beautiful image of a pencil with a light bulb beaming from its tip.



David Lee's new book, BLUEBONNETS, FIREWHEELS, AND BROWNEYED SUSANS: new and used poems from the Bandera Rag and Bone Shop, will be out from WINGS PRESS, San Antonio early in 2017. This fall Dave came out of retirement and taught in the MFA program at the University of Nevada/Reno, a major bucket list item.

Dan Jenkins has a new novel coming out in January from Tyrus Books, now owned by Simon & Schuster. The title is STICK A FORK IN ME. Typical Jenkins. A comic romp through the life and times of an athletic director at a top-tier university. Fiction, of course, if not safely and happily.

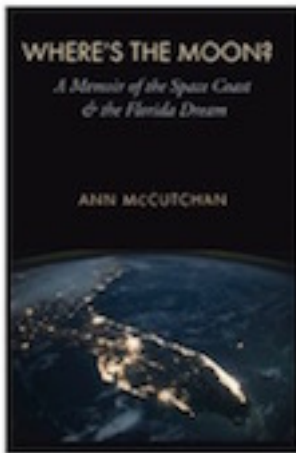
Robin Doughty says: With Rob Fergus, just published, *The Purple Martin: How Citizen Scientists and Colony Landlords Are Saving a Favorite American Bird* (Newark, Ohio: MacDonald & Woodward Publishing Co.) 175 p.

Greg Garrett has spent the summer and fall finishing his next nonfiction book for Oxford University Press, *Living with the Living Dead*, an extended essay which will be a lead trade title for the Press next year. The 10th anniversary edition of Greg's memoir on faith and depression, *Crossing Myself*, appeared from Morehouse Press this fall, and a Portuguese translation of his novel *The Prodigal* was published in Sao Paulo. This summer and fall he has lectured, taught, or read in Washington, Colorado, Virginia, Wales, England, France, and

Central Texas. Greg appeared on BBC Radio this summer and moderated five sessions for the Austin Film Festival in October. A highlight of the year was a day in November with Sarah Bird, who drove with Greg up to Baylor to meet with classes, give a fiction reading, and celebrate after. Author Happy Hour is never a bad idea!

Terry Dalrymple and his colleague Laurence Musgrove edited *Texas Weather: An Anthology of Poetry, Fiction, and Non-fiction*, published by Lamar University Literary Press, which is operated by TIL member **Jerry Craven**. An anthology focusing on the power and beauty of weather in the Lone Star State, *Texas Weather* includes the work of over fifty writers, including TIL members **Sarah Cortez, Chip Dameron, William Virgil Davis, Chris Ellery, Robert Flynn, James Hoggard, Karla Morton, Carol Reposa, Paul Ruffin (R.I.P.), Jan Seale, Kip Stratton, and Steve Wilson**.

Ann McCutchan's fifth book, *Where's the Moon? A Memoir of the Space Coast and the Florida Dream*, was published by TAMU Press in September.



She was recently awarded a spring residency at the Ucross Foundation, to work on an opera with composer Andrew Rudin. *Purewater*, an adaptation of a novella by André Gide, will be premiered by the Center for Contemporary Opera in New York next fall.

Allen Wier says: I retired from the writing program at the Univ. of Tennessee and am Professor Emeritus there. Last summer, I taught for Mississippi University for Women in their low-residency MFA Program. This fall, I accepted the Rayburn and Nancy Spann Watkins Endowed Visiting Professorship in Creative Writing (a 3 year position) in the writing program at Murray State Univ. in Kentucky, where I am enjoying being the nonfiction editor of the

literary magazine, *New Madrid*. Next fall--Oct. 2017--I have a new collection of short stories called LATE NIGHT, EARLY MORNING forthcoming from the Univ. of Tennessee Press, and I'm pleased that my artist wife, Donnie, did a pastel painting the press will use for the book's cover. And, I'm at work on a new novel and several essays.

Laura Wilson's exhibit, [That Day: Laura Wilson, Pictures in the American West, will be on view at Phillips in New York from January 3- February 9, 2017](#). The exhibition of 82 photographs chronicles her decades long exploration of the western United States and will travel to locations in Wyoming, Texas, and Georgia in the coming months.



Mark your calendars for the 2017 TIL annual meeting:

April 7-8, El Paso

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/E/ELPDWDT-TXI-20170407/index.jhtml>

Friday, April 7

Opening reception and poetry awards (Sky Lounge at the Doubletree/Hilton)

Saturday morning and afternoon, April 8

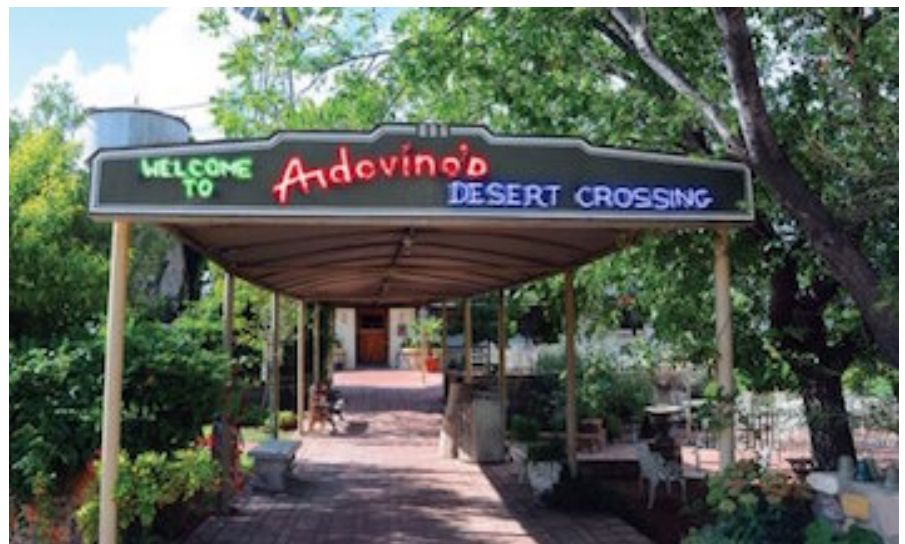
Children's Book awards, New Member reception and readings (Sky Lounge at the Doubletree/Hilton)



Saturday evening, April 8

***Ardovino's
Desert Crossing***

Reception on the patio, overlooking the mountains, followed by awards banquet inside the CCC-built Sunset Hall.



Renew your TIL membership for 2017 (and purchase banquet tickets)- Now Online!

<http://www.texasinstituteofletters.org/payments/index.htm>



Texas Institute of Letters

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Christine Granados, Fredericksburg, first term ends April 2018

Kurt Heinzelman, Austin, first term ends April 2018

Diana Lopez, Victoria, first term ends April 2018

Russell Martin, Dallas, second term ends April 2018

Jerry Thompson, Laredo, first term ends April 2018

Sergio Troncoso, New York/El Paso, first term ends April 2017

Ann Weisgarber, Sugar Land, first term ends April 2017