

Texas Institute of Letters Winter/Spring 2021 Newsletter



www.TexasInstituteofLetters.org

Prepared by TIL Secretary William Jack Sibley.

Dear TIL Members:



I personally feel so grateful for our literary community and how we keep communicating with each other in all sorts of ways, even through this COVID-19 pandemic. We are resilient, we keep working, and we keep focused on ways to keep connecting with each other with our writing.

Mark **Saturday, April 17th on your calendar, 3 PM (Central Time)**. That will be the date and time for our virtual annual meeting and awards presentation on Zoom. I will be sending the Zoom details to all TIL Members two weeks before the event. Get ready for an exciting *live* event, with readings from newly inducted Member Cristina Rivera Garza (a MacArthur Fellow), a speech from Benjamin Alire Sáenz, winner of our Lifetime Achievement Award, and more! As more details are confirmed, I will post them on our website, www.texasinstituteofletters.org. The annual meeting and awards presentation will be recorded for [TIL's YouTube Channel](#), the first in TIL's history.

Also, get ready to **celebrate our New Members in March**: Crystal Allen, Chris Barton, Raymond Caballero, Gail Caldwell, Allison Hedge Coke, Tony Diaz, David Samuel Levinson, Preston Lewis, Michael Martin Murphey, Kevin Prufer, Cristina Rivera Garza, George Saunders, Bryan Washington, and Scott Wiggerman.

Our Vice President Diana López will be holding a series of readings on Zoom every two weeks to give all of you a chance to appreciate the excellent work of our newly inducted Members. The readings will be grouped in threes and fours and will also be recorded for our YouTube Channel. Diana will be sending more Zoom details on how to attend these March readings soon.



Finally, we will meet *in person* on **April 22-23, 2022 in El Paso, Texas!** I know that will be a great gathering, once we have COVID-19 finally in the rearview mirror, and we can celebrate with each other, exchange real hugs, drink and philosophize together, and just enjoy each other's company. I know I will be counting the days until then.

As always, your suggestions and feedback about the TIL are welcome. You can contact me at: president@texasinstituteofletters.org.


Sergio Troncoso

TIL: Winter/Spring 2021 Newsletter - Member News

(Forty-Four updates from TIL Members, in the order received)

Bill Malone: Along with his wife, Bobbie, Bill C. Malone has written a book, "*Nashville's Songwriting Sweethearts: the Felice and Boudleaux Bryant Story*" (Oklahoma University Press, 2020).

Bill C. Malone was also a consultant, and talking head, for Ken Burns's popular PBS documentary on country music.

Greg Curtis: New memoir "*Paris Without Her*" will be published by Knopf in April.

David Lee: Has a book "*MINE TAILINGS*," 5 Sisters Press, and a chapbook "*ALLEGORY OF PERFECTION*," Sugar House Press, currently out.

Reginald Gibbons: My new book (my eleventh) of poems is about 2 weeks from being published. The title is *Renditions*, and the publisher is Four Way Books. In Texas---but only virtually---I'll be giving a poetry reading with other poets "at" Malvern Books in Austin on February 21. I'll also teach---also via Zoom---a writing workshop for writers of fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction for Gemini Ink in San Antonio on three consecutive Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8pm (Central time) on March 25, April 1, and April 8. This workshop is called "Inner Craft."

Susan Wittig Albert: Recently published *The Darling Dahlias and the Voodoo Lily* (#9 in the series, set in the 1930s South). Forthcoming in 2021: *Hemlock* (#28 in the China Bayles series), both under her imprint: Persevero Press.

James Crisp: Since February of 2020, I have been absorbed with the process of submitting, correcting, and making final additions to *Inside the Texas Revolution: The Enigmatic Memoir of Herman Ehrenberg*. I am expecting to receive the page proofs in the next few weeks of what will be a 600-page definitive edition of this enormously interesting but highly problematic document, first published in Leipzig in 1843. The Texas State Historical Association expects a publication date this spring.

In the meantime, I am excerpting bits and pieces of both Ehrenberg's views and my own observations for various virtual meetings that will take place through Zoom in this Age of Covid.

The more important news at this point is that two friends from South Texas have just received Pulitzer Prizes--Caleb McDaniel of Rice University's History Department, and the versatile Benjamin Moser (formerly from Houston, now residing in Venice). McDaniel's history of the enslavement, freedom, re-enslavement, and final restitution for Henrietta Wood is beautifully written and prodigiously researched. *Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America* won the Prize for History. Ben Moser's writings on Houston, Texas literature and history, and a host of other topics have fascinated many of us for years -- his Prize for Biography was awarded for *Sontag: Her Life and Work*. Some of you may know Ben's parents, Bert and Jane Moser -- Jane was for many years associated with the Brazos Bookstore in Houston. The TIL should celebrate these talented and hard-working authors.

Fran Vick: I come in praise of Lee Jamison's book for which I wrote the Foreword: *Ode to East Texas: The Art of Lee Jamison*, in the Joe and Betty Moore Texas Art Series, William and Linda Reaves, General Editors, out of Texas A&M University Press. It is a unique book in many ways. The Introduction is by historian Carolina Castillo Crimm, writing a history that is generally overlooked. She explains: "Few Texans, save those who live in East Texas, have understood or captured the essence of this birthplace of Texas. This land, little noted and often dismissed, hidden behind the thick forest of the 'Pine Curtain,' holds a treasure of views and vistas. Texas history as we know it started in East Texas . . . It began in what we know as the Piney Woods and the Big Thicket, an area noted for its silent beauty, its dappled colors, its rich wildlife, its independent-minded settlers, and its inaccessibility. Carolina reminds us that it did not start at the Alamo and then goes on to prove her point. I was pleased and honored to write the Foreword for the book. Lee's paintings of East Texas are currently being displayed at the Tyler Museum of Art. The book is due out on February 26th after many delays because of the pandemic. Lee's prose describing his reason for each painting is as remarkable as the paintings. It is a book to savor and one that: brought to me the beauty of my heart's home.

Jan Jarboe Russell: My book entitled "*Eleanor in the Village*" is being published March 30, 2021 by Scribners. It is nice to have finished finally.

Sandra Scofield: Now living in Missoula, Montana, has done some teaching, online of course, during the pandemic; she is on the faculty of the Pine Manor Solstice Program in Boston, and the Iowa Summer Writing Festival. Her craft books *The Scene Book*, and *The Last Draft: A Novelist's Guide to Revision*, have become perennials for writers. In 2015, TTU Press published her *Mysteries of Love and Grief*, a book about her family. Her last book of fiction was *Swim: Stories of the Sixties*, and she reports that she has just finished a new novel. With so much time to fill, she has become an ardent oil painter, as well.

T. Lindsay Baker: and wife Julie in late February will mark a year being ensconced at the Baker Farm where they live in Hill County. This is T. Lindsay's great grandparents' farmstead. Their historic farmhouse is a half mile away from any neighbors. They have been emerging from the rural home to brave the pestilence once a week to pick up curbside delivery groceries at a supermarket fifteen miles away and have been going to a nearby small-town post office to pick up mail about every other day. Otherwise, T. Lindsay has been editing his latest book manuscript, "Eating up Route 66," on the foodways of roadside dining along old U.S. Highway 66 between Chicago and Los Angeles. He and Julie have been kitchen testing and redrafting in standard format twenty historic recipes from restaurants, diners, and cafes that served motorists traveling the Mother Road, which will appear as sidebars scattered the length of the book. The manuscript is due at the end of the spring at the University of Oklahoma Press. Baker also has been preparing a fourth large increment of his personal and professional papers for the Southwest Collection Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University, which already holds research files and literary remains from a number of his books. In the meantime Julie's extensive vegetable gardens have kept the Bakers' kitchen filled with produce, starting with asparagus in late winter followed in the warm months with zucchini, corn, tomatoes, peppers, blackberries, peaches, pears, apples, plums, black-eyed peas, patty pan squash, carrots, artichokes, and eggplants. Now the winter garden is supplying collard greens, cabbage, and leeks.

Larry D. Thomas: The featured poet in the February 2021 issue of the *Delta Poetry Review* (<https://deltapoetryreview.com/>). The feature included four of Thomas's poems, an interview, and a review of his poetry collection titled *In a Field of Cotton: Mississippi River Delta Poems*. Thomas's poems have also appeared in recent issues of *Canary: A Literary Journal of the Environmental Crisis*, *Grey Sparrow Journal*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *Concho River Review*, *Green Hills Literary Lantern*,

Review Americana, Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies, Louisiana Literature, Valley Voices: A Literary Review and San Pedro River Review.

Ann Weisgarber: A year ago, I'd never heard of Zoom. My first experience was the 2020 TIL Inductee Readings set up by our fearless leader, Sergio Troncoso. In spite of my trepidation to give that a try, I didn't break the computer. So, it was onward with Zoom and during the past year, I've met with book clubs in Australia, Italy, Britain, and points all over the United States. For some, I got up in the middle of the night to accommodate schedules, but it was worth it to meet readers. I have a feeling this Zoom thing is here to stay.

Bob Flynn: Routledge, UK, notified me that I would be included in their Europa Biographical Series, International Who's Who.

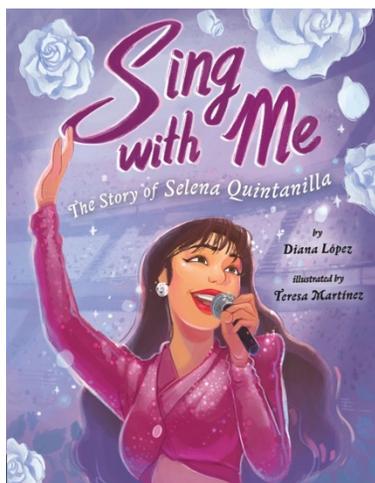
Naomi Shihab Nye: *Cast Away*, a book about trash, is now available in paperback. As one of the many books of 2020 which "came out into the void" she is happy to mention that students at Annunciation Orthodox School of Houston are thankfully quite keen on this book and have been writing their own spectacular trash poems lately. Even if we can't go anywhere, we can still clean up.



Carolyn Osborn: I'm doing what old writers do, revising an old novel, called *Carmen Now*, in hopes of finally making it work.

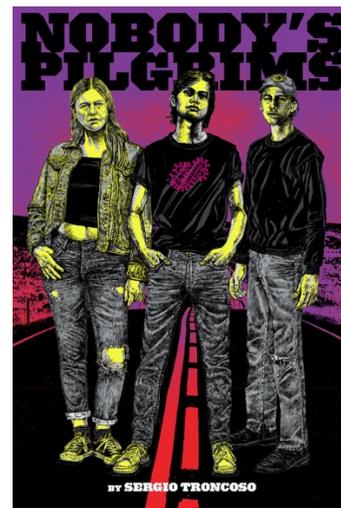
José Limón: On October 29, 2020 José E. Limón, the Mody C. Boatright Regents Professor of American Literature (emeritus) at UT-Austin, presented a (COVID) video-taped Distinguished Gary L. Nall Lecture for the Center for the Study of the American West at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, TX. Based on his book-in-progress, the lecture is entitled: *From the Streets of Laredo to the Palo Duro Canyon and other Texas Stories*. It discusses the famous cowboy ballad, *The Streets of Laredo*, in relation to its Anglo-Irish and American folkloristic history; the early 19th century Texas Irish colony at San Patricio/ Refugio; Laredo, TX as a Spanish/Mexican city; the Texas cattle drives; and the work of Larry McMurtry especially his unpublished screenplay featuring the Palo Duro Canyon. The forty-minute lecture may be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=584043092341899>. The cowboy ballad is sung at the beginning by none other than Curtis McMurtry, James' son and Larry's grandson. Make sure the volume is on in the lower right-hand corner in addition to your own volume control.

Diana López: I'm excited to share that my debut picture book biography, *SING WITH ME: THE STORY OF SELENA QUINTANILLA* (Penguin Random House), will be released on April 6, 2021 in celebration of what would have been Selena's 50th birthday. Many thanks to Teresa Martínez for the beautiful illustrations and to Carmen Tafolla for the Spanish translation. I have also retired after 28 years as an educator at both the middle school and college levels, but I'm still teaching by serving as a mentor for the Latinx in Publishing Mentorship Program.



Sergio Troncoso: has a new novel, *Nobody's Pilgrims* (Cinco Puntos Press), forthcoming in June of 2021. Ben Fountain: "In this superb novel, Sergio Troncoso gives us a fresh take not only on the great American road trip, but on the American Dream itself in all its glorious and increasingly fragile promise."

Also, Troncoso is the editor of *Nepantla Familias: An Anthology of Mexican American Literature on Families in Between Worlds* (Texas A&M Press and The Wittliff Collections), forthcoming in April of 2021, which includes mostly unpublished work on the theme of living on the borders of languages, psychologies, and cultures. *Nepantla Familias* received a starred review from *Kirkus Reviews*: "A deeply meaningful collection that navigates important nuances of identity."



Finally, Troncoso donated his literary archive to The Wittliff Collections in San Marcos, Texas. An exhibit of Troncoso's work and the anthology is currently open to the public.

Alan Wier: The Monroeville Literary Festival and the Truman Capote Prize Committee are pleased to announce that Allen Wier has been selected as the recipient of the 6th annual Truman Capote Prize for Distinguished Work in Literary Non-Fiction or the Short Story. I have a new story, "Restless," forthcoming in *Narrative* that is currently featured in *Narrative Backstage* (online). I have an essay forthcoming in a volume, *As We Were Saying: Sewanee Writers on Writing*, forthcoming from LSU Press.

Patrick Cox: Ph.D. of Wimberley, Texas will become President of the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) as the state's oldest learned society begins its 125th year on March 2, 2021. The TSHA founders brought lay and professional historians together to document and celebrate the state's complex and

diverse history. Today, TSHA follows the course laid out by its founders, fostering research, preservation, publications and knowledge to share Texas history with individuals across the state, nation, and globe. Dr. Cox is serving as Chair of the Texas State University College of Liberal Arts Advisory Council. He is a Distinguished Alumni of Texas State University and the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Cox is co-chair of the Wimberley Area Writers, a new organization formed to represent the many talented area residents. More than 50 fiction, nonfiction, science fiction and children's authors, poets, songwriters, screenplay writers and playwrights, journalists and editors are now participating in the Wimberley Area Writers.

Bill Wright: eagerly awaits the Texas A&M Press summer publication of *Across The Border and Back; Music in the Big Bend*. Written by Marcia Daudistel, the book features Wright's photographs of the musicians and locales.



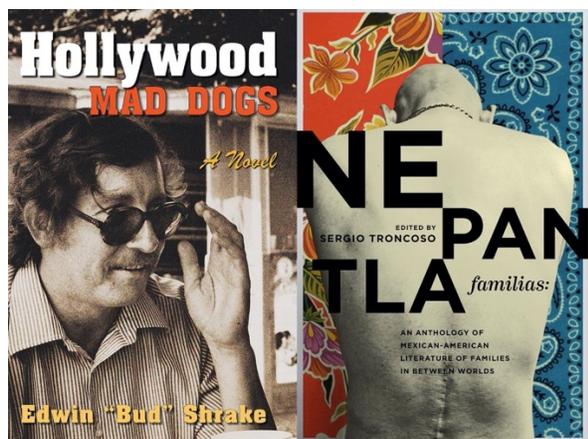
Marcia Hatfield Daudistel: *ACROSS THE BORDER AND BACK; MUSIC IN THE BIG BEND* by Marcia Hatfield Daudistel, with photographs by Bill Wright, will be released from Texas A&M University Press in July of 2021. The book features interviews with musicians from the U.S. Side of the border and with musicians in Ojinaga, Mexico who created the unique "Ojinaga Sound" and have never been interviewed before. The book reveals the passion the musicians have for their music that blends sounds from both sides of the border and their love for the rugged and beautiful land. *ACROSS THE BORDER AND BACK* is the most recent addition to the Texas Experience Series.

Gene Fowler: Next book, *Metro Music -- Celebrating a Century of the Trinity River Groove*, will be published in March by TCU Press. He cooked the book in collaboration with musician William Williams, a friend since about '63 or '64. (In partnership with Hal Horton, radio host of "Cornbread Matinee" and "Hillbilly Hit Parade," Gene's father operated a short-lived publishing company called Metro Music in the late 1940s, which published some of Hank Thompson's early songs.)

Ellen Temple: Although I don't have the exact date, my and Nancy Schiesari's new documentary film "*Citizens at Last: Texas Women Fight for the Vote*" will broadcast on PBS in late March.

Steve Davis: I'm proud to announce that the Wittliff Collections Literary Series has published two more excellent books: A final novel by Bud Shrake, *Hollywood Mad Dogs*, based on Shrake's real-life

adventures as Steve McQueen's screenwriter in the 1970s. And also *Nepantla Familias*, a cool new literary anthology edited by Sergio Troncoso. In my spare time, I'm plugging away on my next book – am about two years into it and have a couple more to go.

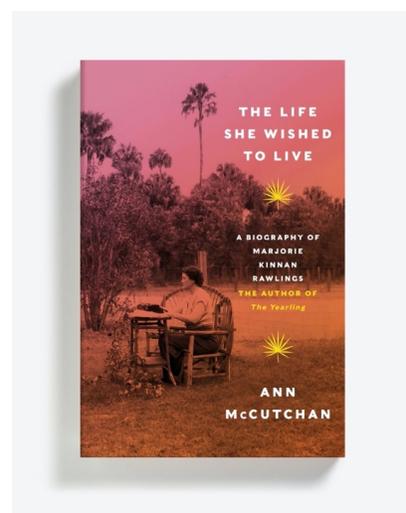


Stephen Harrigan: My new novel, "*The Leopard is Loose*," will be published by Knopf in Jan. 2022. I've co-written with Elizabeth Crook and adaptation of her novel "*The Which Way Tree*," which we are hoping to get into production this summer, funding and pandemic permitting. I'm also co-writing two other movie projects with my friend and fellow TIL member Bill Broyles.

Michael Adams: I'm still working on the possible Paisano sale. All I can say at this point is that the storm has passed. Things look good but there are still a few tributaries that we must go down. Thanks for your patience and understanding. I'm dealing with confidential matters as well, so forgive me for the ambiguity. It won't be long, and I will give you a full report.

Mike Mewshaw: Fortunately, despite the isolation and trauma of the Covid virus, I've continued to travel, spending last summer in Maine, the fall in Rome, Italy, and now in Key West for the winter. I've just signed a contract to do a memoir about my friendship with Graham Greene, much like the ones I did most recently on Gore Vidal and Pat Conroy.

Ann McCutchan: My new book *The Life She Wished to Live: A Biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, Author of "The Yearling"* (W.W. Norton) will be released April 27. A virtual launch is set for Wednesday, May 12, 7 PM EST, through Books & Books in Miami. Early reviews and endorsements have been terrific. They, along with other events, can be found at www.annmccutchan.com.



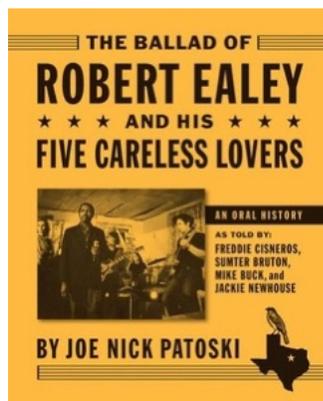
Joe Nick Patoski: I've been trying to utilize my Covid time constructively. With the help of Nancy McMillen, I published this last September about a seminal Fort Worth blues band in the 1970s. Nice review here, from *Bentley's Bandstand*: "If there were ever to be a State Writer of Texas Music, let it be Joe Nick Patoski. He's done several doozies, including Stevie Ray Vaughan, Willie Nelson and Selena books that wonderfully define their subjects. This unique creation, an oral history with incredible visuals, is all about blues maven Robert Ealey and the wild and wacky world of Ft. Worth sounds that sprang up around Ealey starting in the early 1970s. It is an inspired

deep dive that includes revealing interviews with all the major players—and then some. Ft. Worth was a funky place, and this story shows the walls of segregation starting to fall as white musicians began crossing the color lines to discover the three-dimensional world of Black music. Singer-drummer Robert Ealey was the kingpin of the Ft. Worth world then. All the musicians' memories of the bars, juke joints, diners, pizza parlors and beyond that played host to the music being made is told in such an exciting and revealing way that the book becomes more than just being about that. It's really about how life happens, and what those unmatched journeys become. It's instantly obvious from all the interviews that these years were an explosion of experience for everyone involved, and like many early endeavors, are never really equaled. Book designer Nancy McMillen's use of never-seen photographs, an endless array of early posters and other mesmerizing ephemera heightens this trip to another time, one that surely won't happen again. As an inside entry to a world of sonic wonder, start right here. Sometimes a left-field gift like this book seems to fall out of outer space, and once it lands in the right hands the bright lights flash on to remind us just how mind-blowing it all can be. A hidden treasure."

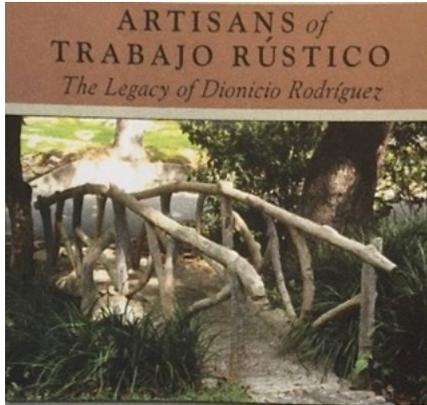
And I've continued to do my Writer-At-Large thing for Texas Highways, generating lots of reader response for my stories on the Westside Sound of San Antonio <https://texashighways.com/culture/art-music/60-years-ago-san-antonio-teenagers-invented-the-westside-sound/>, the Cajuns of Southeast Texas <https://texashighways.com/culture/people/cajun-culture-flourishes-texas-golden-triangle/> and the Nueces River <https://texashighways.com/things-to-do/on-the-water/rivers/shhh-this-just-might-be-the-prettiest-body-of-water-in-texas/>

But no story stirred up reaction like my Rainbow Bridge online story. <https://texashighways.com/travel-news/the-rainbow-bridge-of-southeast-texas-making-drivers-think-twice-since-1936/>

I was also part of the team headed by John Spong that ranked and discussed all 143 Willie Nelson albums for Texas Monthly. <https://www.texasmonthly.com/interactive/big-list-willie-nelson-albums-ranked/>

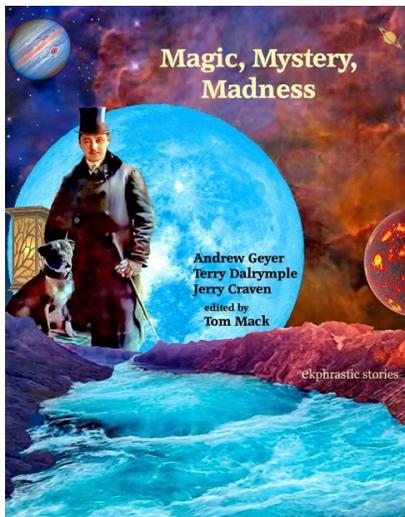


Barbara Mathews Whitehead: I have been working on the design of a handsomely illustrated book that will come out this summer from TAMU Press—*Artisans of Trabajo Rustico: The Legacy of Dionicio Rodriguez*. The book explores the tradition of artisans using concrete to create park benches, footbridges and other structures in a style known as *faux bois* or *trabajo rustico*. This is the second book that I have designed on this subject by Patsy Pittman Light and TAMU press.



Jim Sanderson: Brash Books has re-published SAFE DELIVERY as an e-book and paperback novel. Brash has also published SAFE DELIVERY, EL CAMINO DEL RIO, and LA MORDIDA as a collected e-book series, titled MESSING WITH TEXAS. Additionally, Moonshine Cove Publisher will publish a novel tentatively titled, BOOMS.

Jerry Craven: TIL members Terry Dalrymple, Andrew Geyer, and I are writing *Magic, Mystery, Madness*, a collection of stories each based in some way on a work of my unusual graphic art that I have labeled “magic realism.” The editors of *Windward Review* have accepted for their next issue several stories from the collection along with the accompanying artwork for each. Tom Mack, the editor of our previous collection of fiction, *Dancing on Barbed Wire*, will edit and introduce the book, to be completed in the fall of 2021.



Kathleen Pierce: My new book of poems, *Lion's Paw* (Miami University Press) launched on Feb. 2, 2021. From a Publishers Weekly starred review: "In this gratifyingly dense and philosophically ambitious sixth collection, Peirce considers the relationship between perception and the lyric imagination. ...This is an impressive addition to Peirce's distinguished body of work."



Chip Dameron: His poems have recently appeared in *Texas Poetry Calendar 2021* and the *San Antonio Express-News*, as well as in two anthologies: *Odes and Elegies: Gulf Coast Anthology* (Lamar Literary University Press) and *Hearthbeat* (Hidden Books Press, Canada). He also received a Top Honors award in the Friendswood Public Library's ekphrastic poetry contest.

Celeste Bedford Walker: November, 48th Annual AUDELCO, Award, New York. *Sassy Mamas Best Ensemble*. May, *Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed* will be presented in Tulsa Oklahoma at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center May 8,9,15,16 by the Theatre North Tulsa company for the Centennial Anniversary of the Greenwood massacre. Currently, I am writing the commissioned play adaptation of the book *Sistas in Zion* about two Civil Rights activists, Dr. Joyce Ladner, black, and Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, white, whose extraordinary lives and friendship bridge the racial divide. This play will be presented at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters in Dallas Texas. Dates to be announced.



W.K. (Kip) Stratton: Most recent work for *Texas Monthly* includes an essay about Texas literary legend and TIL lifetime achievement award winner Edwin "Bud" Shrake's last novel, *Hollywood Mad Dogs* (<https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/bud-shrake-last-novel/>); a remembrance of Kip's close friend and longtime TIL member Jan Reid (<https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/remembering-jan-reid-a-defining-magazine-journalist-and-voice-in-texas-literature/>); an elegy for Threadgill's, the legendary Austin restaurant and music venue that fell prey to the pandemic (<https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/final-elegy-threadgills-number-1/>); and an article about what really occurred at the so-called Battle of Pease River (<https://www.texasmonthly.com/being-texan/pease-river-battle/>). "It's an exciting time to be doing work for the magazine," Kip said. "I'm gratified to have the opportunity."

Carol Reposa: Recent work by 2018 Texas Poet Laureate Carol Coffee Reposa appears in *Writing Texas 7*, *Tejasovido*, *Langdon Review*, *Texas Poetry Ballots*, *C.20--An international Journal*, *Odes and Elegies*, *Eco-poetry from the Texas Gulf Coast*, and *Valley Voices* (Mississippi Valley State University). Although Covid constraints have kept her close to home, she has given a few Zoom presentations over the last few months in addition to judging the *Ocotillo Review* Chapbook Contest and the *Voices de la Luna* Harold Rodinsky Contest. To frost this pandemic cake, her newly completed manuscript *Sailing West* is now under review, and she has received a fifth Pushcart Prize

nomination for her poem "Refinery," which appears in *Odes and Elegies*. She's crossing her fingers on both counts.

Barbara Ras: My new collection of poems, *The Blues of Heaven*, is out this March (2021) from the Pitt Poetry Series. Individual poems have been published or will appear in the *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Five Points*, *Massachusetts Review*, and *Plume*. "You Can't Have It All," a poem from my first book, *Bite Every Sorrow*, was made into a special episode of Julie K. Rose's podcast "Love What You Love" (<https://www.lovewhatyoulovepod.com/podcast/episode/22f7d839/you-cant-have-it-all-by-barbara-ras>). Rose will host me as a guest on "Love What You Love" in March to talk about loving poetry. The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum picked up my poem "A Wife Explains Why She Likes Country (from *One Hidden Stuff*)" to be read as an audio track on their annual retrospective video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93BzT9yfQZg&feature=emblogo&ab_channel=CountryMusicHallOfFameandMuseum). A selection of my poems, also from *One Hidden Stuff*, will appear in Italian translation, by Stefano Bottero, in the online "Officina poesia." Lastly, please allow me to invite anyone interested to click into a virtual reading I will be doing with the terrific poets Barbara Hamby and Denise Duhamel, on **Saturday, April 24 at 7 pm EST** hosted by White Whale Books (<https://whitewhalebookstore.com>).

Sandra Cisneros: Her new book *Martita, I Remember You/Martita, te recuerdo* is forthcoming (September 2021). She is a recipient of the Fuller award. "The Fuller" is awarded by the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame to a Chicago author who has made an outstanding lifetime contribution to literature. The award was inspired by the literary contributions of Henry Blake Fuller, one of Chicago's earliest novelists and author of *The Cliff-Dwellers* and *With the Procession*. Lastly, *The House on Mango Street* has been selected by the NEA for its Big Read program.

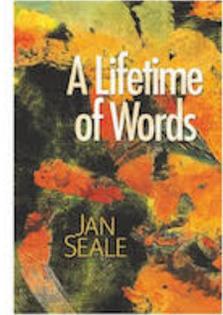
C.M. Mayo: Translation of Mexican writer Ignacio Solares' short story "The Orders" appears in the new issue of *Gargoyle*. On March 10th she will be giving a talk via Zoom in Spanish for the Centro de Estudios de Historia de México (CEHM) about the research for her book, *Metaphysical Odyssey into the Mexican Revolution: Francisco I. Madero and His Secret Book, Spiritist Manual*. (Her translation of this 1911 book by the leader of Mexico's 1910 Revolution is the first into English and, of note, the CEHM holds Madero's private library.) For the Zoom link please email cmmayo@cmmayo.com. Also, last fall she gave a talk for the Women Writing the West Virtual Conference on "Poetic Techniques to Power Up Your Fiction and Narrative Nonfiction." She continues working on her memoir / portrait of Far West Texas. (PS: Not my news: I hope you might be able to mention TIL member Lonny Taylor's memoir, *Child of the Sun: Memories of a Philippine Boyhood*. It is really, really wonderful.)

James L. Haley: Tall-ship naval adventure series for G. P. Putnam's Sons has introduced American history and characters into this traditionally British, Napoleonic genre. His fourth installment brings the stories home to Texas with Captain Putnam for the Republic of Texas, and goes on sale on Independence Day, March 2.

Bruce Bond: Published four books recently: *Words Written Against the Walls of the City* (LSU, 2019), *Scar* (Etruscan Press, 2020), *Behemoth* (New Criterion Prize, Criterion Books, 2021), and *The Calling* (Parlor Press, 2021). Three books are forthcoming: *Patmos* (Juniper Prize, UMass), *Choreomania* (Plume Editions, MadHat), and *Invention of the Wilderness* (LSU).

Jan Seale: I have a new book out, *A Lifetime of Words*, published by Lamar University Literary Press. It's filled with how-to's, essays, presentations, articles, and poems about the art of writing based on my six

decades of enjoying words. A book of poems, *Particulars: poems of smallness* also published by LULP, will be out soon. The poems here are based on objects no bigger than can be held in the hand. My son Ansen Seale, San Antonio's 2020 Artist of the Year, provided the whimsical, stylized illustrations. I've recently participated in the Texas Poetry Assignment with poems about the election and the inauguration.



Officers

President, Sergio Troncoso, El Paso

Vice President, Diana Lopez, Corpus Christi

Secretary, William J. Sibley, San Antonio

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Recording Secretary, Kurt Heinzelman, Austin



Council Members

David Bowles, Rio Grande Valley, second term ends 2022

Cary Clack, San Antonio, second term ends 2021

Marcia Hatfield Daudistel, El Paso, first term ends 2021

Ben Fountain, Dallas, first term ends 2021

Cliff Hudder, The Woodlands, first term ends 2022

Kathryn Jones, Walnut Springs, second term ends 2022

Mary Beth Rogers, Dallas, first term ends 2022

Celeste Bedford Walker, Houston, second term ends 2022