

§ Friendly Street news §

Issue 2, Volume 1

Friendly Street Poets Inc.

December 2007

Website upgrade

After many hours of transferring data and sorting out technical issues, the new Friendly Street website is up and running ahead of schedule. Most of the content has been transferred to the new site; however, work is still underway and should be finished by mid to late January. Please take some time to check out the new site, register, and send in some feedback.

To get the most out of the new site all members and friends of Friendly Street are urged to register on the new site. Becoming a member of the website will make it easier for us to keep in contact with you, and will enable you to participate in poetic discussions online.



Acknowledging the Kaurna people

As a sign of respect, many Friendly Street poets acknowledge the Kaurna people before reading poetry at the monthly readings. Previously the board has left this acknowledgment to individual poets; however, at November's board meeting a vote was taken, and as a result an acknowledgement will now be made at the beginning of each Friendly Street meeting. The acknowledgment will be based on the statement below:

'We would like to acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.'

Individual poets still wishing to make an acknowledgment themselves are invited to do so.

Special thanks to Erica Jolly for her vigilance.

Page 2	Denied a voice - Adelaide Pen
Page 2	Hard Boiled
Page 2	Japanese poetry
Page 3	Radio Adelaide
Page 3	Poetry and Otto Dix update
Page 3	Promising Poets update
Page 4	Page 17
Page 4	Launch of eleven poems

Wordy resurrection

Some of you may remember Thrifty Words, the group founded by John Siviour after asking Jo Dey to name three poets who might be talented, compatible and crazy enough to join John in producing a full-length theatricalised-poetry stage-show for the Fringe Festival.

The original line-up included: John Siviour, Graham Rowland, Ivan Rehorek (Avalanche), and Nigel Dey. And the resulting show was called 'Word Salad, Gristle and Laughs from the Menu,' which ran for six nights in the 1998 Fringe Festival, and was awarded three and a half stars – not far off the 'don't miss it' rating of four stars! Their success at the Fringe was followed by two years performing gigs, including two guest appearances at Friendly Street, and one more full length show last year.

After being asked to do a comeback performance they appeared at Friendly Street's December reading; however, only Nigel and Avalanche wished to be involved. So, instead of a comeback they asked their performance to be introduced as 'a one night resurrection'. The remaining two members, or 'Word' as they now call themselves, wowed the audience with their four-star performance entitled 'Kali and Av go festive'. Let's hope this isn't the last we see of Word!



*Kali and Av go festive
at Friendly Street's December meeting*



From left: Nigel Dey (keyboard), Avalanche (tub).





Denied a voice - Adelaide Pen

International Day of the Imprisoned Writer

By Jude Aqualina

Thursday 15th November 2007

Approximately 80 people gathered in front of the State Library to hear some of Adelaide's best authors and speakers on the subject of freedom of speech. An empty chair represented the writers around the world who are imprisoned, while PEN members and school students taped their mouths in recognition of those who are denied a voice. M.C. Dominique Wilson acknowledged Kaurna land, and explained the role International Pen, a non-profit organization that rallies for the release of imprisoned writers.

Speakers included: Professor Nicholas Jose, Chair of Creative Writing at Adelaide University, who dedicated the day to two persecuted writers: Hrank Dink and Father Ly; poet, Juan Garrido-Salgado who told how he was arrested and jailed by the secret police under the Pinochet regime; and Dominique Schwartz, ABC television presenter and foreign correspondent who feared that when researching stories on social injustice, there are repercussions for the people she speaks to.

Chika Anyanwu from Adelaide University spoke about the tragedy of Nigerian poet Ken Saro-Wiwa, executed 12 years ago to the day, and read his poem. Producer of ABC Radio National's Poetica, poet Mike Ladd, referred to the bloodshed in

Burma; and also to the plight of refugees in Australia who languish in detention centres. Nobel Laureate and keynote speaker J M Coetzee gave a brief history of PEN, saying that 'Once it was poets and novelist who bore the brunt of the State, now it is editors and journalists'.

Author Dylan Coleman referred to the 1967 referendum, which allowed Indigenous people to vote, then expressed disappointment that after 150 years there are still no Aboriginal people in South Australian Parliament. The Hon. Mark Parnell MLC, condemned the silencing of David Hicks and called for reforms in free speech laws. Sean Williams, author and Chair of the SA Writers' Centre concluded with pertinent quotes from writers around the world, for example, 'Remember that when another writer in another house is not free, no writer is free,' by Orhan Pamuk.

School students and adults danced to the beat of Sam Oshodi's African drums. A ripple of passion, empathy and respect emanated from the speakers and fanned out over the audience, showing on their faces as they listened. Congratulations Adelaide Pen, and in particular Lindy Warrell, for organising this important event.

Japanese poetry seminar

We start 2008 the year with a seminar by well know Japanese poetry expert and SA representative of the Haiku association, Martina Taeker. Martina is going to be focussing on Haiku, Haiku Sequence and Haibun.

Many people will already be familiar with Martina's practical yet highly informative style of teaching and her ability to ensure that everyone enjoys themselves. Hopefully a yummy afternoon tea will also

help the process along! Following her session on Saturday 16th February (2 - 4.30pm) we will be running a competition in all three categories with some great prizes.

Full details are on the website at:

<http://friendlystreetpoets.org.au/?cat=4>

Hard Boiled

Café La Bohème, 36 Grote Street, is the chosen venue of Hard Boiled – a poetry and spoken word event in the city. If you're looking to diversify your reading experience then Hard Boiled may be what the doctor ordered. In fact, Dr Benway

'Hard Boiled may be what the doctor ordered.'

(Matt Smith), one of the founding members of Hard Boiled, is giving away booby prizes and prize money to encourage new readers. It's a great venue with lots of character – and characters! So, come along and tell all of your friends about it.

Hard Boiled will be beginning again in early 2008, so keep an eye on the Friendly Street website for updates.



Café La Bohème, before Hard Boiled last month.



Friendly Street's Avalanche tries his luck at Hard Boiled.

Editor and Publisher:

Raphael Sabu. www.raphaelsabu.com

Published for:

Friendly Street Poets Inc.

Contributors:

Maggie Emmett.
Jude Aqualina.
Nigel Dey.
Avalanche.
Gaetano Aiello
Erica Jolly
Raphael Sabu



Government of South Australia

Arts SA





Radio Adelaide



Friendly St Poets are starting work on our own radio access program at Radio Adelaide. Radio Adelaide (once known as 5UV) is a community radio station with over 75,000 listeners every week. It broadcasts on 101.5 FM. It also broadcasts on line and reaches audiences overseas and nationally.

We are establishing a collective to help research, plan and produce the programs. It will feature SA Poets reading their work; information about events, seminars, publishing and competitions; and interviews about how we write, why we write and how we can do it better.

We plan to select two people each year for three years (ARTS SA funding permitting) to train as Radio Operators at Radio Adelaide. This means paying for their volunteer fees & training. The trainees in turn will agree to work for the Friendly St Access program for at least two years after their training.

From February - June 2008 we will begin producing an archive of some Friendly St poets which will include them reading several poems, engaging in a biographical interview and a general discussion of their work. In exchange for the playing rights to this material, we will provide the poets with their own CD and information (where possible) of when the material is played.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in being:

- a featured poet
- a member of the RA Collective (beginning March 2008)
- a trainee this year, or in future years

Please register your interest by contacting Radio Adelaide Co-ordinator, Maggie Emmett

Email: magicpoet01@gmail.com
Or ring: 8362 8704

*Also please email any suggestions for a program name.

Poetry and Otto Dix

In conjunction with the Art Gallery of South Australia, Friendly Street poets prepared a half-hour of poetry in response to the works of Otto Dix. The reading was held inside the gallery (December 2nd) surrounded by the poignant works of Dix, and was attended by approximately thirty people.

The audience responded well to the moving poems read by Friendly Street members, Gaetano Aiello, David Bailes, Lyn Arden, Maggie Emmett, Belinda Broughton, Raphael Sabu and Alice Sladdin.

The first part of the presentation featured poems by some of the 'great' First World War Poets such as Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and Isaac Rosenberg. And the second half Friendly Street members read their own work written in direct response to the confronting work of Dix.

Many thanks to the poets and Maggie Emmett for her hard work in preparation for this event, and to Art Gallery of South Australia for giving Friendly Street this great opportunity.



The Otto Dix rehearsal.



On the day: Gaetano Aiello, David Bailes, Lyn Arden, Maggie Emmett, Belinda Broughton, Raph Sabu, Alice Sladdin.

Promising poets update

The Friendly Street Poets Board has begun our new program to encourage the development of SA poets from within the Friendly Street membership. The outgoing editors of Reader 32, Gaetano Aiello and Maggie Emmett, have identified six poets who show great promise in their work, but who could benefit from receiving advice, skills development and encouragement in a mentoring process.

Each Promising Poet has been asked to identify someone from the Friendly St community that they would like to work with and become their Mentor. We thought it was important the Promising Poets make their selection, so they can feel comfortable about the process.

The editors will approach the person requested as Mentor. The Mentor is asked to agree to meet their assigned Promising Poet, at a mutually agreed time, for six hours over the course of 2008. Each meeting should be at least an hour in duration. We ask the mentor to encourage the development of the poet's work; develop and refine their editing skills; advise them on publishing

opportunities and help their work reach a publishable standard.

We hope it will be a positive experience for both parties. At the end of the year we will ask both parties to fill out a feedback sheet to enable us to assess how effective the process has been. Depending on those results the Board will decide whether to continue with the program.

The first six Promising Poets in reverse alphabetical order are:

Sarah Wauchope, Debra Sainato-Zuks, Dane Neilson, Adam Klimkiewicz, Andrew Ellery and David Bailes. Only one Mentor is confirmed at this stage. The other Mentors will be announced at the February meeting.

Adam Klimkiewicz was desperate to select his Mentor before anyone else snaffled him up. Adam was absolutely certain who he wanted. He chose this person because he was in Adam's words 'the greatest living performance poet' whom Adam unreservedly admired and thought he would make a fantastic Mentor. Adam has chosen the amazing Nigel Dey.





Launch of 11 poems

September 1973 by Juan Garrido-Salgado

Thursday September 27th 2007

By Erica Jolly

At the weekend the greatest mime artist the world has known since Chaplin died. His name is Marcel Marceau. Explaining his role in life to English-speakers, he said, 'We think too much. We feel too little.'

It is with those words of his in mind, I now approach Eleven Poems, September 1973, by Juan Garrido Salgado, translated for English-speakers by Stuart Cooke and published by Picaro Press. Poetry has the power to take us to places we have never been, to feel what others feel, to leave our comfort zone behind, to enter the lives of others, to enter the essence – the essential in what makes us human, the quality of the human spirit.

To read the full article follow the link below:

- <http://friendlystreetpoets.org.au/?cat=12>

Page 17

By M.L. Emmett

Thursday December 6th was a horrible, hot, uncomfortable day. By early evening those delightful south westerly winds were driving the heat away. Big splatter summer rain began falling, as I was making my way to the launch of the latest edition of Page Seventeen, Issue 5. The event was held upstairs at the Jah'z Lounge in Cinema Place, East End. Jude Aquilina had kindly booked the event for editor Tiggy Johnson, over in SA on a family holiday. Friendly Street poets had the opportunity to meet Tiggy at the December meeting, where she participated as a reader and announced publicity for her event at half time.

At the event, SA short story writers such as, Samantha Bond and David Gibb; and poets like Heather Taylor Johnson & Jude Aquilina – all published in Page Seventeen – read from their recent work. After a short break, there was the opportunity for SA poets unpublished in the magazine to read to the receptive and interested crowd. Alice Sladdin practiced her 'Poetry Slam' poems and was warmly received. Courtney Black, the youngest performer of the night and a Friendly St New Poets 13 Poet, read: English as a Second Language one of the poems from the original Black Magic manuscript. Graham Rowlands came along and offered his usual witty commentary, encouragement and support; but was unable to read due to the poor lighting.

Page Seventeen was started by Tiggy and her friend Katherine Duncan in 2005. Katherine's four year old daughter, Sarah, supplied the unusual title. The goal of the publication was to 'offer writers a new magazine for their work to appear in'. They accepted submissions (in English) from anyone; though they wanted 'the bulk of the content' to be Australian. They tried particularly to ensure that 'a substantial portion of work' was 'from new writers/artists in every issue'. The magazine includes not only poetry but also short stories, black and white photographs and drawings. They also encourage colour photographers to send in work for the front and back covers in an annual competition.

The submission dates are from April 1st to June 30th 2008. You can look for more details about submission guidelines on the website: www.pageseventeen.com.au or make direct enquiries by email: enquiries@pageseventeen.com.au

Reading at Friendly street

We ask all poets to read for only 4 minutes. Try timing your poems at home, and make note how long each poem takes you. Remember, reading time includes any introduction, title and the poem. It is unfair to other readers if you exceed this time, and long winded introductions can irritate the audience, so if you want to introduce your work be succinct – it's often better to let the poem speak for itself.

Please remember to bring 2 copies of each poem so that both editors have a copy of your work. If you forget on the night you can always send copies by mail to Friendly Street's mailing address with Attention: Reader Editors on the front. The poems will remain in the box until your second copy arrives. Only poems read at Friendly Street meetings are eligible to be considered for inclusion in the Reader.

You can also enter their Short Story / Poetry or Cover Image competitions. You can send SSAE to PO Box 566, Cockatoo, Victoria 3781.

Tiggy is now the lone editor of this excellent journal which has published many SA poets including: Graham Rowlands, Rory Harris, Jude Aquilina, Martin R. Johnson, Amelia Walker and David Cookson. The number of submissions and entries allow Tiggy to maintain a very high level of quality and diversity in the magazine. I strongly encourage SA poets to consider sending submissions and competition entries. I also urge you to support this interesting and well edited magazine by buying it. Each edition costs \$19.95 (including postage) and back copies are \$10. Cheques or Postal Orders are payable to Page Seventeen. Unless we support magazines of this quality, they will not survive and we will lose valuable publishing opportunities.

February guest

In February, we have a fantastic treat in store for the Friendly Street meeting. The first Guest Reader will be that amazing, dazzlingly brilliant poet: Amelia Walker. She will be returning from a long sojourn in Melbourne, and a recent holiday in India, when she comes home on that first Tuesday in February. What surprises will she have for us?

Holiday wishes

The Friendly Street Board wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2008!

Don't forget, there is no reading in January. See all 5th of Feb!

If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter please contact Raphael at raph@spannerfile.com

We need articles, poetry, artworks, interviews, photos, information about upcoming events, and more! Your contributions will make this newsletter work.

