

TIL Newsletter for September-October-November-December 2006

Mark your calendars now

For April banquet in Dallas

TIL president Fran Vick has announced arrangements for our April 13-14, 2007, annual meeting in Dallas.

Rooms with special rates have been set aside at the Hilton Park Cities Hotel (5954 Luther Lane, Dallas 75225, 214 368-0400). Precise reservation details will follow in the next newsletter.

Plans include a reception on Friday evening, April 13, at the same site where TIL was founded in 1936—the Hall of State at Fair Park; a Saturday morning bus tour that will include interesting and historic sites in Dallas hosted by Darwin Payne (if interest warrants it); a lunch for officers from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the hotel; readings by new members from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the hotel; and a cocktail party followed by the banquet on Saturday evening.

The hotel is a fine one with a wonderful restaurant. It is located in the Preston/Northwest Highway complex boasting of fine restaurants and shops.

It promises to be a rousing, fun-filled weekend, so please mark your calendars to be there.

Dobie-Paisano applications

deadline is January 26

Applications for Dobie-Paisano writing fellowships, sponsored by the Texas Institute of Letters and the University of Texas at Austin, are due Jan. 26, 2007.

The fellowships offer six months in residence at the late J. Frank Dobie's ranch 14 miles west of Austin on Barton Creek.

Two fellowships will be awarded for 2007-2008. The first begins Sept. 1, 2007, and the second on March 1, 2008. Each provides a living allowance of \$2,000 monthly during residence.

At the time of application one of the following requirements must be met: (1) the applicant must be a native Texan, (2) must have lived in Texas at some time for at least three years, or (3) must have published writing that has a Texas subject.

Criteria for making the awards include quality of work, character of the proposed project, and suitability of the applicant for life at Paisano. Applicants must submit examples of their work in triplicate. Application fee is \$10. Winners are announced in early May.

The form, "Application for Fellowship at Paisano—2007-2008," may be obtained from www.utexas.edu/ogs/Paisano. Three copies of this application must be submitted with the rest of the entry and mailed in a single package.

Information about the fellowships and the application also may be obtained via mail by writing Dobie-Paisano Project, J. Frank Dobie House, 702 East Dean Keeton St., Austin, Texas 78705; Fax: 512-471-9997; or email: aslate@mail.utexas.edu.

The fellowships are known as the Ralph A. Johnston Memorial Fellowship and the Jesse H. Jones Writing Fellowship. The living stipend is provided by the Johnston Foundation, the Houston Endowment, the Susan Vaughan Foundation and from donations from TIL members and former Paisano fellows.

Our New Website Location

Thanks to yeoman service from **C.W. Smith**, the TIL website has a new address. Here it is: http://www.smu.edu/english/creativewriting/The_Texas_Institute_of_Letters.htm.

You can get there through Google, even if indirectly at the moment.

News of Members and Others

A nice thing has just happened in Austin for **Larry L. King**—a theater was named for him. The old Austin Playhouse's Second Stage, enlarged and refurbished, was dedicated on October 26 as The Larry L. King Theatre. Larry was there that night as about 160 invited guests saw scenes from a number of his plays. Don Toner, managing director of Austin Playhouse, said The Larry L. King Theatre will annually host the Texas New Plays Festival. As for his playwriting, Larry is best known as co-author of the hit musical, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, based on a magazine article he wrote for Playboy concerning the "chicken ranch" in LaGrange. But in addition to other plays, Larry is author of fourteen books, several TV documentaries and literally hundreds of magazine articles and essays. He is the only writer to have been nominated for a Broadway Tony, a National Book Award, and a TV Emmy.

Our husband and wife team of **L.C.** and **LaVerne Harrell Clark** presented readings from their fiction at the annual conference of the Texas Teachers of Creative Writing for Angelo State University in early October. LaVerne read a chapter from a novel she is now working on that will be a sequel to her *Keepers of the Earth*. As for L.D., he also has a book in progress—title unrevealed to us—and it'll be his fourteenth. The Clarks, who live in

Smithville, both became members of TIL in 2001. Very busy are the Clarks, they're giving a series of readings across the state during these last months of the year.

Our very best wishes are going out to **Tom Zigal**, who, as you may know, experienced a brain hemorrhage in August. "Nothing major," he says with such modesty! He was hoping to parlay his mishap with a leave of absence from UT-Austin so he can complete a novel.

Jerry W. Bradley, dean of graduate studies at Lamar University, reports that Nov. 15 is the deadline for the creative writing readings to be held at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association conference on Feb. 14-17, 2007, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Full details are on the SWPCA/ACA website at <http://www.h-net.org/~swpca/>.

Lou Rodenberger's biography, *Jane Gilmore Rushing: A West Texas Writer and Her Work*, will be published in December by Texas Tech University Press. Lou has been busy this year. She published an essay in *Roundup Magazine* (August) entitled "Tom Lea, Novelist: The Eyes of an Artist, the Ears of a Writer," and an essay on the early-day San Angelo cow woman, Alma Eliza Bailey Miles, in *Texas Women on the Cattle Trails* (Texas A&M University Press).

John Rechy was presented with the inaugural ONE Culture Hero Award in Los Angeles on Oct. 28 at the organization's annual fund-raising banquet. El Paso-born Rechy, who has lived in Los Angeles for many years, was recognized for his work as a writer, teacher, and activist in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Rechy broke onto the national literary scene in 1963 with the publication of his first novel, *City of Light*, a panorama of gay life in numerous American cities, particularly Los Angeles. He currently teaches literature and film courses in the graduate division of the University of Southern California.

Carlton Lake, curator of the French Collection at UT's Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, died on May 5, 2006, at the age of 90. Lake wrote widely about art and was the author of *In Quest of Dali* (1969), *Confessions of a Literary Archaeologist* (1990), and co-author of *Life With Picasso* (1964). From 1950 to 1965 he was Paris art critic for the *Christian Science Monitor*, and from 1950 to 1975 he was a resident of Paris.

Lawrence Wright is gaining all sorts of kudos for his important new book, *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* (Knopf). Lead review in NY Times Book Review; appearance on Diane Riehm's public radio show; etc., etc. All sorts of favorable comments, all well-deserved because of unusually thorough research on a topic that would have seemed to be impenetrable. Wright provides wonderful insights into this subject of vital importance.

Allen Wier's epic novel of the Western frontier, *Tejano* (SMU Press), was praised in the *Dallas Morning News* as a book that "may well be the Great Texas Novel or as close to that abstraction as any writer has come."

You already know that **Marshall Terry** is an institution at SMU as well at the Texas Institute of Letters, and—as we've reported in this newsletter previously—SMU will honor him this spring. Now more details are available. The three-day affair, to be held in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the SMU Literary Festival, will be from Thursday, March 29, through Saturday, March 31. It's called "Marshall Terry: 50 Years of Vision." There will be readings from his novels and short stories, readings from works by his former students, and a panel discussion about Marsh's career. Some of the presenters already lined up include **Joe Coomer**, **Tracy Daugherty**, **James Hoggard**, **David Searcy**, Lewis Shiner, **Jack Myers**, and **C.W. Smith**. Registration for it begins on Nov. 17. More details are available at <http://www.smu.edu/english/Events/marshterry/index.htm>.

Poetry Award Prize Increased;

Judge's Address Corrected

On an entirely pleasant note, the prize to be awarded for the Helen C. Smith memorial Award for Best Book of Poetry has been increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200.

In the last newsletter's list of judges for the TIL literary competition, the address of Greg Glazner, a poetry judge, was incomplete. The full address should be: Greg Glazner, c/o Creative Writing Department, College of Santa Fe, 1600 St. Michael's Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Looking for New Addresses

Some of our recent mailings have been returned because of address changes. Do you know of the new addresses of any of these members? **Ai**, formerly at Texas State University; **Joan Burditt**; **A.G. Mojtabai**, **Pat Mora**, **Joan Nixon**, and **Roland Sodowsky**.

Names of Judges and Addresses

There's still time to submit entries for our annual TIL literary contests. Deadline: Jan. 7, 2007. Submissions should be sent to each judge. We repeat below the names and addresses of the judges. Eligibility details are in the previous newsletter and on the website, http://www.smu.edu/english/creativewriting/The_Texas_Institute_of_Letters.htm.

Carr P. Collins Award for Best Book of Nonfiction (\$5,000)

Ricardo Ainslie, chair

3208 Gilbert St.

Austin, Texas 78703

Betty Wiesepape

1706 N. Cheyenne

Richardson, TX 75080

Nate Blakeslee

3011 S. 5th St.

Austin, TX 78704

Jesse Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction (\$6,000)

Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction (\$1,000)

Cheryl Chapman, chair

P.O. Box 143434

Anchorage, Alaska 99514-3434

Ruth McAdams

5301 Campus Drive

Fort Worth, TX 76119

Campbell Geeslin

209 Davis Ave.

White Plains, N.Y. 10605

TIL Award for Most Significant Scholarly Book (\$2,500)

Clay Reynolds, chair

625 Meadow Dr.

McKinney, TX 75069

Paul H. Carlson

Dept. of History

Texas Tech University

Lubbock, TX 79409

Russell L. Martin III

Director, DeGolyer Library

Southern Methodist University

Dallas, TX 75275-0396

Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story (\$750)

Jan Seale, chair

400 Sycamore

McAllen, TX 78501

William Hauptman

240 Warren St., Apt. 5

Brooklyn, NY 11201

Claire Osborne

1406 Windsor, Apt. 205

Austin, TX 78703

Helen C. Smith Memorial Award for Best Book of Poetry (\$1,200)

Frances E. Neidhardt, chair

321 N. Grand Ave.

Sherman, TX 75090

Greg Glazner

Creative Writing Department

College of Santa Fe

1600 St. Michael's Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87505

H. Palmer Hall

Box AL

1 Camino Santa Maria

San Antonio, TX 78228

Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book (\$1,000)

Lynn Hoggard, chair

111 Pembroke Lane

Wichita Falls, TX 76301

Harvey Yunis

Department of Classics, MS 150

Rice University

6100 Main St.

Houston, TX 77005-1827

Dennis Kratz

Dean, Arts and Humanities

University of Texas at Dallas

Richardson, TX 75080

O. Henry Award for Best Work of Magazine Journalism (\$1,000)

Ben Fountain, chair

5307 Preston Haven Drive

Dallas, Texas 75229-3042

Tom Huang

Features Editor

The Dallas Morning News

508 Young St.

Dallas, Texas 75202

Jeff Guinn

3704 Westcliff Road South

Fort Worth, TX 76109

Friends of the Austin Public Library Award for Best Children's Book (\$500)

And Best Young Adult Book (\$500)

Joyce Roach, chair

P.O. Box 143

Keller, TX 76244

Jeanne Williams

P.O. Box 16335

Portal, AZ 85632

Mary D. Wade

17522 Brushy River Ct.

Houston, TX 77095

Fred Whitehead Award for Best Design of a Trade Book (\$750)

Dick Holland, chair

309 Moore Blvd.

Austin, TX 78705

Kay Cattarulla

5825 Overdowns Dr.

Dallas, TX 75230

Gerald Saxon

3409 Sheffield

Arlington, TX 76013

Stanley Walker Award for Best Work of Newspaper Journalism Appearing in Newspaper or Sunday Supplement (\$1,000)

W.K. Stratton, chair

P.O. Box 609

Round Rock, TX 78680

Robert Compton

3205 S. Glenbrook Dr.

Garland, TX 75041-4404

Carolyn Barta

6902 Hillpark Dr.

Dallas, TX 75230