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Artsbridge/River Poets Writers Gallery

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Meeting Format

- Bring copies of your work to distribute for reading (12-15 copies)
- Initial thirty minutes for beverage selection/preparation and discussion of upcoming literary magazine submissions, handouts and events.
- Readings begin counter-clockwise from any beginning point. Group turns reader's copies face down until reader begins to read.
- After each writer completes reading, reader waits until all group

responses are completed before responding to critiques. Brief critiques and responses are encouraged depending on size of the group.

Publications

For viewing your Art/Photography in this newsletter, your publication updates, Art exhibits, scheduled readings or events, e-mail or call me in time for each month's newsletter within a day or two following the writers group meetings. The Artsbridge web site is updated once a month. If the newsletter update deadline is missed for your event, email me to forward to the members.

"Shad Festival"



"Ghandi and Abdul Ghaffar Khan"



Oil paintings by Elaine Restifo

**Next meeting of Artsbridge/River Poets:
December 10, 2005**

**Lambertville Public Library, The Peggy Lewis Gallery, 2nd Floor
1:00 - 4:00 PM**

Welcome New Members:

Pat Metzler
Catherine Signorello
Rashi Gupta
Margaret Richie

Submissions for 2006-2007 Anthology

Email or snail mail entries for the 2006-2007 Annual Literary Anthology. Call me for mailing address. Submissions will be accepted through August 31, 2006. Seeking volunteers for an anthology committee in reference to publication/content/format, artwork, editing, etc. What is your expertise?

Artsbridge is a registered 503C non-profit organization, comprised of painters, sculptors, photographers, writers, actors, musicians and filmmakers in the Delaware Valley dedicated to improving the public understanding of the arts in all the creative disciplines. The group supports local, state and regional arts and artists through its sponsorship of events focused on education, exhibition and performance.

Nov. 12, 2005 meeting

What a terrific writer's group

meeting we had this month. Bob Muller kicked off the meeting with his "Chicken Little" story invitation for each of us to continue the plot. After several rounds, Gretchen Keer nailed the ending in her succinct fashion when she killed off "Chicken Little" in one gulp to our amazed delight.

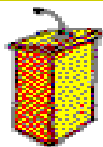
As usual the writing was excellent and very difficult to choose for this month's newsletter. And it appears as if we will need more tables and chairs soon with the excellent attendance. For those members who have not been able to make it, we hope to see you in the coming months.

For myself, the monthly meeting deadline forces me to break away from my busy schedule, sit down, take a deep breath and write. Often what I bring to the meeting is better than what I would have been doing left to my own devices. With each meeting I am more inspired by the quality of the writing.

Upcoming Group Members' Reading

Coming in Spring of 2006

Artsbridge/River Poets - special event readings by our Writers' Group members.



*Author Event
Reading*

NOT TO MISS!

**JANUARY 12th, 2006 AT
"THE FULL MOON CAFÉ"
IN LAMBERTVILLE, NJ**

David Harris-Ebenbach, the winner of the 2005 Drue Heinz Literature Prize for his book of short stories, "Between Camelots" will be appearing January 12, 2006, 7:00 - 9:00 PM for a reading/discussion/book signing at "The Full Moon Café," in Lambertville, NJ.

Great Quotes

"One of the ridiculous aspects of being a poet is the huge gulf between how seriously we take ourselves and how generally we are ignored by everybody else."

Billy Collins in the New York Times

"All fiction is largely autobiographical and much autobiography is, of course, fiction."

P D James

Artists Among Us

ARTSBRIDGE WRITERS GALLERY MEMBER D.J. HASLETT - EXHIBITING ARTIST IN AREA SHOW - D.J. Haslett presents "Perspectives" an eclectic collection of Photography and Artwork at the Eagle Diner, 6522 York Road, New Hope, PA November 5 through December. For Info call: 215-862-5575

Haiku/Senryu - Submissions requested

blue skies this morning
sparrows squabble at close range
the cat salivates

© Judith A. Lawrence

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Gretchen Keer for traveling some distance to attend our writer's meeting. We hope to see you again.

And thanks as usual to Joe Treceno and Bob Muller for helping me keep on track at the meeting.





Writers Work - November 12, 2005 Meeting

In response to my email request for ghost stories, here is
Kathe L. Palka's ghostly goose bumps submission:

Ghost

The wind spoke through the gap
the old cow path wound between barns.
On a fair day, a low moan, before a storm
building to a keen which swelled
within that narrow space then rushed out.
Its presence filled the barnyard.
My big sister told me it was a ghost
to whom the wind lent its voice,
a spirit, tethered to old rafters,
to our farm, a real farm no longer,
just rented out fields and empty barns,
the livestock sold before I was born,
a place steeped in memories,
almost a ghost itself.

She had seen it, a wisp of white
that dropped silent from the eaves at night
if you watched and waited, it's cold breath
would brush you as it passed. After dark
it did not need the wind to speak.
I questioned only who it might be.
A former owner who couldn't bring himself to leave?
Or some disbelieving hired hand
caught in this world by the suddenness
of a grisly death - - fallen from the hayloft
onto a pitchfork or stomped by a bull?
Or a soul even older?
A spirit buried there like ancient
arrowheads and coins plows furrowed
out of soft earth through the years.
I knew its voice, each time the wind
rounded the cornerstones and called
into the yard, I thought I heard my name.

One autumn, after a day of kite flying,
my courage rose with the full moon
and I forced the rusted hinges
on the cow-barn door, then squeezed through.
I stood inside, blind at first in the low light,
and listened to my heart. Waiting
among the rusted milk cans,
as the cob-webbed stanchions
took on form in that dim world,
I heard it rustle then grunt high
in the rafters; a questioning sound
then a cry of recognition.
I felt the air stir as it flew down
from the eaves, so close
in that moment I learned its name.

Moonlight caught in dark eyes
set wide in a white face as shadows formed
by out-stretched talons raked the walls.
No careless farmhand, no past lover of the land,
but a creature older still and part legend.
Spirit-ghost, night's familiar, pale hunter,
eater-of-small-lives, it swallows each meal whole
and lines its nest with fur and bones.
The barn owl turned her head
to face me and as she rose again I saw
the mouse wriggle in her grasp,
then turned to bolt back through the door.

© Kathe L. Palka

LIMA BEANS

in your first photograph
you are

negative
double-exposed

you are two
small

too quick

developing

i put your pictures
on the internet

live!
nude!
fetuses!

we are hypnotized
by your toes
by your two
-ness

how you float quietly
in the middle
of chaos

the world is
inky and small

you are pressing outward

learn to take up space early
newspaper headlines, supermarket queues,
seats on the bus
in the rain when the crush is pushing you

down

© Gretchen Keer

Ghost Picture submitted by Mason Loika



Nokomis - Many Crows at Spring

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**Bring your Seasonal/Holiday
Prose/Poems for a magical
reading to close the
2005 Writers Gallery year!**

**Holiday Punch, canapés, and
cookies will be served!**

“Emily” # 15 - 2005 - Note Card Series by Judith A. Lawrence



**May you have a
Joyous
Thanksgiving
filled with love,
peace, family,
good food,
and good health!**

Warm regards,

Judith Lawrence