



December 2006 Poetry and Performance News from San Diego

Edited by [Michael Klam](#)



Santa's coming, but don't worry. Here's the secret: Santa likes the naughty ones, too. So be true to your fetish(es), and spread good cheer. And if you believe in La Befana, Basboushka, Julinisse...don't fret, they're freaks, too.

At the very end of last month, columnist/poet [Edwin Decker](#) read from his new book of poetry, *Barzilla and other Psalms*, in the [Museum of the Living Artist](#). The evening included beer and a Christian heckler (an all around good sport) whose sins Decker absolved in the name of tolerance and high weirdness. The crowd ate it up like sheep on Jesus wafers. They especially enjoyed his column, *Armageddon of Queer*, and a poem in three parts about women who have kicked his ass. [Pruitt Igoe](#) teamed up with Zuri waters in an extemporaneous collaboration of controlled demolition and saxophone. April Ordoñez and Ginger Placek brought fashion and design, and [Blackbirdz](#) rocked the house. There were only a few on the open mic. [Tony Cuban](#) took us back to his youth in poetry and paintings, and [Ted Washington](#) of Pruitt Igoe came back to close the night.

In early November, [Collective Purpose](#) threw a one-year anniversary party for 300 people. [Elevated](#) has since gone weekly. The collective surges the every Thursday format means more support and opportunities for local performers. They will continue to feature the nation's top poets, and the open mic is for all.

In December, [The Psalmist Hour](#) will host their 3rd Annual Christmas Benefit Show. This show benefits a family in need during the holidays. They ask that guests bring monetary donations and non-perishable goods, which will be donated to a family in need. They describe their events as "the place to be for live entertainment and a great time. It is a great place to meet new people, enjoy phenomenal performers, or just chill out." The Arts & Entertainment Center, 3026 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92104, 866.815.6550.

[Aztec Gold's](#) *A Very Lucha X-mas* is coming to Calacalandia on Sunday, December 10. Lou Chalibre says, "This tasty holiday treat can best be described as Bing Crosby meets David Bowie meets David Crosby meets Jim Bowie. Don't miss it!" Email calacalpress@cox.net.

Words to Nudge the World a Little is a compilation of posthumous poems by Howard Equitz, an old friend of the San Diego poetry scene. The collection was put together by his wife Kathryn Parker, in loving memory, and includes letters that the two wrote to each other. The book is a love story told in notes and poems. Kathryn says in the introduction: "We had a unique and wonderful partnership. I know that I am fortunate to have had him in my life for the time that I did, but I still miss him terribly... Because of the invasion of the cancer to his brain, and the chaos of those last several weeks, he was unable to speak to me the good-byes I had hoped for. It is his writings that speak to me now, as I hope they will speak to those of you who read this." If you would like to receive a copy of the book, please [contact me](#), and I will get you in touch with Kathryn. Also, look for upcoming info about ordering the book.

[Damn Good Writing](#) is looking for your poems and artwork for online and print publication: The editors of Damn Good Writing "invite submissions of fiction, poetry, short plays, literary nonfiction, and art in traditional and experimental styles. Writers and artists who currently live in San Diego County comprise half of what is published. First serial rights only. We respond promptly, but do not comment or offer suggestions. We pay in copies. [Please check out full submission guidelines.](#)"

Head over to The Other Side Coffee House on Wednesday nights, 4096 30th St., San Diego, CA 92104 - (619) 521-0533, Say What? Open mic @ 8:45 pm.

Kimberly Dark, supreme ruler of the universe and all around epic poet/mom/friend, has a new [Web site](#).

[The Vessel](#) is an open mic in San Marcos California held the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month with the vision to bring the Artist closer to the People and bring the People closer to the Artist. Every 1st and 3rd Friday night there is a gathering held at the Canvas Cafe that has a featured artist, food, drinks, DJ, live band and open mic.

Don't miss [Ant Black](#), [Collective Purpose](#) and [Elevated](#) in 2006 and 2007 at the Arts & Entertainment Center in North Park. Come get elevated every Thursday of every month. For open mic sign-up arrive before 7:30pm; 5-minute set; musicians welcome. Doors open at 7:30 pm. \$5 at the door.

Collective Purpose poets: Chris Wilson, Rudy Francisco, Ant Black, and Kendrick Dial present [CRACK MUSIC](#).

Browse Extensive Catalog of Artists, Albums, and Genres. Preview the Songs Not Played on the Radio. Download Individual Songs or Complete Albums. Preview what Chris, Rudy, Ant & Kendrick are Listening To.

What is CRACK Music?

Purchase today's hottest music or search for your favorite songs from any genre. Our BurnLounge music store is easy to use, with downloads of the highest quality. With individual songs priced at \$.99 and albums priced at \$9.99, you're just a few clicks away from your favorite music. Or, simply visit our music store to find out what Chris, Rudy, Ant, and Kendrick are listening to by checking out our group & individual playlist.

Check [San Diego City Works Press](#) for local writing links, new publications and submission requirements to publish your own work.

For ongoing events also visit [San Diego Writers Ink](#). And register for *The Prose Poem - Investigation & Discovery, Saturday, December 9 - 10 am - 4 pm*, Semi-Permanent Ink Spot • 710 13th St. Studio 210, \$60 SDW, Ink members/\$72 nonmembers. From the Web site: "The prose poem is the child of associative & colorful prose. A bastard at best. Taking the economy of poetry and marrying it with the random experience of "story." It can define a momentary, captivating glimpse at some encounter, a dream &/or any fragment that allows the reader to impose him or herself in or on that prose poem form allows greater latitude than strict "poetic" form where the line breaks must be of design. The prose poem is less formal, more given to risk & open-ended. A classic example of a renegade. For this day we'll explore some prose poems & write some of our own, using as material our discussions, dreams & improvisation. Workshop leader Roger Aplon says, "This is an experiment as all prose experiments. I'm looking forward to the investigation." We're delighted to host a publication party and reading featuring Aplon's newest book, *Intimacies*, a collection of prose poems stories. The free event will be held Sunday, December 10, at The Rubber Rose Gallery, 3812 Ray St., in North Park." [Register online](#). [Roger Aplon](#) has published five books of poetry including *Stiletto, By Dawn's Early Light at 120, Mother's Day, Barcelona Diary*, and, most recently, *The Man with His Back to the Room*.

I'm headed up to [The Ugly Mug](#) on December 6 to read poems with Chelsea Kurnick. Visit their [Web site](#) to find out more about The Ugly Mug and Two Idiots Peddling Poetry—Steve Ramirez and Ben Trigg.

Here's what's coming up in December. If I missed your event, let me know right away. Love each other. Emma, Hank (Boneless) and Jennifer, kisses. Wo ai ne.

Events Calendar & News

On Monday, December 4, Full Moon Poets poetry and prose open mic, each full moon of the month, 101 Artists' Colony, 818 South Coast Highway 101, Encinitas, (760) 944-6027.

On Tuesday, December 5 (at 6:30 p.m.), San Diego Mesa College's 2006 Poetry and Short Fiction Awards, in the College Library "Media Room" (LRC 435). "Selected students will read from their award-winning work and receive prizes (cash and certificates)." Free, and food.

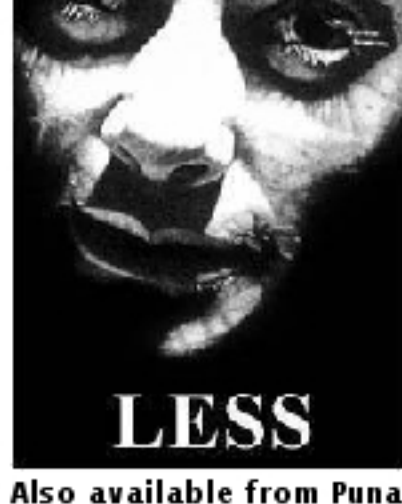
On Tuesday, December 5, 11 a.m., in L-238 at Southwestern College (900 Otay Lakes Road), Pulitzer Prize Poetry Nominee Beverly J. Hudson will read from *Love Has Everything to Do With It* and *Agape Love Feast*. 619-421-6700. Free.

On Wednesday, December 6, 5 p.m., Poetry Unlimited features Josh Seligman, Rose Anderson, Dana Porter, Billekai Boughtor, Johnnie Renee, Cloe Hanson, Andrew Barbolita. Florence Riford Library (7555 Draper Avenue). Open readings also. 858-552-1657. Free.

On Wed., Dec. 6, Los Bilingual Writers releases "El Broche de Oro," anthology of prose, poems of Los Jovenes, Los Abuelitos, and Los Escritores, screening of *Barrio Logan: Youth Voices, Community Stories* by Teen Producers Project. Our Lady of Angels Parish Hall (635 22nd Street). 619-230-1938 x102 or 619-384-7144. Donation: \$10 per family.

On Wednesday, December 6 at 7 p.m., Magee Park Poets present a Poetry Publication Party, Schulman Auditorium, Carlsbad City Library (1775 Dove Lane). Poets included in 2007 read from their work. Cookies. 760-602-2026. Free.

[Puna Press](#) is proud to announce the release of *BARZILLA* by [Edwin Decker](#). Edwin Decker is the author of the column "Sordid Tales", a staple of San Diego CityBeat, and has contributed to Modern Drunkard Magazine, The Stranger (Seattle, WA), Tucson Weekly, Cleveland Scene and other national publications. Mr. Decker has tended bar in San Diego for more than fifteen years at many notable music venues including the legendary Bacchanal and these experiences flavor his book *BARZILLA*.



Also available from Puna Press: *Less* by Ted Washington.

First Fridays

[San Diego Writers Ink](#)

Grove (Books, Yarns, Art, Clothing & Home Furnishings)
3010 Juniper Street (at 30th Street) in South Park, San Diego

A monthly open mic for prose writers on the first Friday of every month. Bring three minutes of prose — a piece of a short story or a novel or a stand alone piece of flash fiction, and read your work aloud to your peers and future readers in a supportive, relaxed atmosphere. Three minutes may not sound like much, but it's best to keep your audience wanting more! And there will be more as First Friday readings will be held every month at The Grove. Hosted by Amy Wallen. [Amy Wallen](#) has published her short stories in several anthologies and literary journals. She won the Tennessee Writers Alliance Award for *Juju, Dead Bodies and Beggars*. She is currently working on her second novel. Questions? Call (619) 284-7684 or email [Grove](#).

The Poetry Bench in Balboa Park

Monthly poetry reading at the [Poetry Bench](#). Quince and 6th av. in the park. Visit www.poetrybench.com for pics and info. This is the brainchild of Candy Vanderhoff, inspired by Code Pink.

Drunk Poets Society

At 5:30 p.m. every Monday, bartender extraordinaire Ola Hadi hosts an open forum for spoken word poetry. Ola buys the first ten poets who sign up a shot! Winston's Beach Club, 1921 Bacon St., Ocean Beach, 619-222-6822

The Other Side Coffee House

Say What? Wednesday open mic @ 8:45
4096 30th St. San Diego, CA 92104
(619) 521-0533

San Diego Poetry Slam

Second and fourth Mondays at [Voz Alta](#)

Dec. 11th and 25th

The San Diego Poetry Slam is a bi-monthly spoken word celebration and tournament that features locally renowned poets, brand new slammers, and everyone in between. Slam is no ordinary, sedate open mic. The audience participates. If you're a poet and you want feedback on your work, you'll get it here. If you want to get paid for your words, slam will give you a chance. Slam has an open sign up (poets: get there at 8:00 p.m. to sign up for a spot) \$5.00 fee for competitors - free for everyone else. Winner takes all! Judges are picked at random out of the audience so you never know what kind of poetry will win on any given week! Check out the [San Diego Slam website](#) for descriptions and details. The slam is open to all to come and enjoy the show or to compete for cash prizes. Come unload your philosophies and re-create yourself.

Poetry and More at Rebecca's Coffee House

Every Thursday, 8:00 pm
Open Mic Night and Family Jam
Open 24 hours Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Twiggs

Second and fourth Mondays at 8:15 pm

December 11th and 25th

Twiggs Coffeehouse
4590 Park Blvd., University Heights
619-296-0616

Open mic, sign-up at 7:45 pm
Free

Bring a copy of a poem for publication consideration.

DG Wills Books

7461 Girard Avenue, La Jolla Ca. 92037 (858)456-1800
HOURS: Monday-Saturday 10am-7pm; Sunday 11am-6pm
La Jolla's largest collection of new and scholarly books; and home of the La Jolla Cultural Society

POR AMOR OF WRITING

Second and fourth Wednesdays

Dec. 13th and 27th

6:30 pm-8:00 pm
921 25th Street (two doors from the fire station)
Golden Hill, San Diego

Come write con sabor Latino
Bilingual Writing Classes focuses on how to write un relato, cuento or just write. [Email](#) or call 619.384.7144.

Fridays @ Kadan and the Rebirth of Cool

Join DJ Sachamo and DJ mike2bless from the illfonix crew with live performances from local musicians, poets, emcees and many other guests TBA.

Kadan is located at the corner of 30th and Adams in North Park (SD)

Doors open at 9:00
Call 619-501-9837

ILLFONIX

Wednesdays at 11:00
88.3 KSDS
Monday nights: Jazz 88.3

Brujas y Bellas

Second and fourth Tuesdays

Brujas y Bellas is a collective of women supporting one another in finding and refining their creative voice. Empowering women through writing. All genres welcome!! This is a bilingual workshop. All genres welcome.

Dec. 12th and 26th

PoeticWorks

E.Michele Paul
Get Involved!
Com MonUnitY Poetry
Ask me how: info@poeticworks.com, (949) 547-9935

The Psalmist Hour

December 10, 11:00 am

Barnes & Nobles Poetry Events

Barnes & Noble, Hazard Center, Friars Road, Mission Valley, San Diego
To get on the mailing list for events, [click here](#).

VIBES

Every Saturday night 9-11 pm
"Coffee House on Broadway"
2991 Broadway San Diego

The San Diego Poetry Meetup

Los Able Minded Poets

More Poetry Links and Weekly Event Listings

Links to some coffee houses:

[The Espresso](#) San Diego's coffeehouse & café newspaper since 1992. Articles and events listings and venues http://wwwhere2eat.com/coffee_house.htm

<http://sdam.com/stringbeans/StringBeans/favoritejava.html>

<http://cityguide.aol.com/sandiego/bestcoffeehouses/>

<http://www.cafe976.com/>

Poets & Writers

[Poetry International](#)
www.radioactiveradio.org
[R Spot Barbershop and Bookstore](#)

[San Diego Blog](#)

[San Diego Poetry Guild](#)

[Meatling Grace House Concerts](#)

[Malcolm X Library](#)

[Alfred Howard](#)

[Coffee House Press](#)

[101 Artists Colony](#)

[Resist Much](#)

[Lestat's](#)

www.warwicks.com

[Aaron Ishaiek](#)

[Judah Israel](#)

[Kimberly Dark](#)

To submit events, contact [Michael Klam](#).