Due to technical difficulties, the December 2008 issue of Voices de la Luna was unable to be electronically archived.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

Please enjoy our other archived issues.
Voices de la Luna
A Quarterly Poetry and Arts Magazine

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About Voices de la Luna
James Brandenburg
Co-Editor, Voices de la Luna

Welcome to the third edition of Voices de la Luna: A Quarterly Poetry and Arts Magazine. We officially achieved tax-exempt status in December 2008; now we are proceeding with our fundraising efforts. The Board of Directors has decided to publish future issues in a ‘Publish on Demand’ version, that will permit any reader to print their own issue, if they wish to obtain a hard copy version.

Dr. Mo Saidi and I are excited to welcome Salome Sailer back to Voices de la Luna as Marketing Director. Mo, Salome, and I share the common vision to take poetry and arts into the community, to transform lives with our work, and to improve our city’s quality of life. We are witnessing the healing effects of poetry and art in our community, as we bring various groups of people together. I see very clearly in my poetry support groups at Clark High School and with my journaling students at San Antonio College how young lives are transformed, improved.

In the third digital edition we are interviewing and publishing poetry by Josie Mixon, who, abused as a child and an adolescent, found ‘hope amid the abuse’ in her confessional poetry. Through the healing effects of writing, she was able to deal with her painful past experiences, and is now sharing them with the community. We are also publishing works by poets suffering from mental illnesses, by students who cut themselves to deal with their pain, and by poets who have experienced various kinds of trauma and tragedies in their lives.

Our staff includes the following: Mary Virginia Pittman-Waller, wildlife photographer and scientific conservation researcher, who photographs animals in Kenya, East Africa and also spearheads The Wounded Warrior Project, Carol Hoorman, who teaches Art and Reading at an alternative high school in Garland, Texas and is piloting a program for at-risk students, Maripat Munley, art therapist, Luis Valderas, art teacher at Clark, and Al Drymala, therapist and dream analyst in San Antonio.

As only the second poetry therapist in the region, we are sharing the journey of healing community members through the arts.

A Featured Poem

The Terrorist. He’s Watching
The bomb in the bar will explode at thirteen twenty.
Now it’s just thirteen sixteen.
There’s still time for some to go in, and some to come out.

The terrorist has already crossed the street.
The distance keeps him out of danger, and what a view -- just like the movies.

A woman in a yellow jacket, she’s going in.
A man in dark glasses, he’s coming out.
Teen-agers in jeans, they’re talking.
Thirteen seventeen and four seconds.
The short one, he’s lucky, he’s getting on a scooter,
but the tall one, he’s going in.

Thirteen seventeen and forty seconds.
That girl, she’s walking along with a green ribbon in her hair.
But then a bus suddenly pulls in front of her.

Thirteen eighteen.
Was she that dumb, did she go in or not, we’ll see when they carry them out.

Thirteen nineteen.
Somehow, no one’s going in.

Thirteen twenty.
No, not yet.
We’ll see when they carry them out.

Thirteen twenty exact.
Yes, now.
Thirteen twenty exactly.
The waiting, it’s taking forever.

Any second now.
No, not yet.
Yes, now.
The bomb, it explodes.

Wislawa Szymborska is a Polish Poet, Essayist, and translator. She was awarded the 1996 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Our Mission

Our goal is to publish a quarterly poetry and arts magazine with international flavor and a commitment to inspiring, educating, and healing community members through the arts.

State of Texas to become certified, I work with organizations such as the Rape Crisis Center, the Children’s Bereavement Center and the V.A. Hospital and offer my insights to therapists, teachers and students in other institutional settings. I continue to present workshops on university campuses and consult with professors on the healing effects of art and writing.

We invite you to become a part of one of the most innovative projects in the country, where poetry and arts are used as venues to heal wound, by supporting or joining our projects at Voices de la Luna: A Quarterly Poetry and Arts Magazine and our various activities.

Spoken Word and Performance Poetry

Spoken word is a form of literary art or artistic performance in which lyrics, poetry, or stories are spoken rather than sung. Spoken word is often performed with a musical background, but emphasis is kept on the speaker. A frequently seen version is performance poetry, where a poet either reads previously-published poems, or poems specifically written to be performed aloud. Another kind that has gained popularity in recent years is political and social commentary; done in such a way that it is still prose, yet somewhat more artistic than regular speech. Spoken word artists are often poets and musicians. Spoken word gained notoriety in the late 1980s and early 1990s through the emergence of "poetry slams," where spoken word artists would square off in cabaret-style duels.
The First Stanza
from To You by Walt Whitman

STRANGER! if you, passing, meet me,
and desire to speak to me, why should
you
not speak to me?
And why should I not speak to you?

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