

Poetry in Motion® L.A. poets get on board MTA Metro Rail Trains for Live Readings during National Poetry Month in April

- In this third in a series of live poetry readings aboard Metro Rail trains staged in observance of National Poetry Month in April, celebrated L.A.-based poets **Richard Beban** and **Kaaren Kitchell**, **Laurel Ann Bogen**, **Elena Karina Byrne**, **Larry Jaffe**, **Gloria Vando**, and **Bruce Williams** will depart from the Imperial/Wilmington/Rosa Parks Station aboard **Metro Green Line** to read selected poems from the *Poetry In Motion*® series on **Thursday, April 24, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**
- [Schedule of readings](#): **Friday April 11** **Friday April 18** **Thursday April 24**
- [Bios](#): Participating poets

Breaking through the rush hour monotone, acclaimed L.A.-based poets will be riding the rails, lifting the heart, and inviting Metro Rail riders to cherish the moment in celebration of National Poetry Month in April. The poets are staging live readings of poetry in the Metro Rail system at rush hour from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on board the Metro Red Line, Blue Line and Green Line on April 11, April 18 and April 24.

Co-sponsored by MTA and the Poetry Society of America, the readings personify and extend the experience of *Poetry in Motion*® L.A. Over the life of the 2001-2002 series, more than 26,000 bus cards are inscribed with the works of 24 locally and internationally recognized poets and bring poetry to more than one million bus riders a day aboard some 2,258 Metro Buses.

The literary arts program is supplemented by live readings during April and the distribution of some 120,000 bookmarks that replicate 11 of the poetry bus cards. The bookmarks are distributed on Metro Buses and Metro Rail trains and are available at Los Angeles County Libraries.

In the first of the series of live poetry readings aboard Metro Rail trains, poets **Elena Karina Byrne**, event coordinator and regional director of the Poetry Society of America, **Briony Bax**, **Elizabeth Chatterton**, **Danielle Cohn** and **Dina Hardy** boarded **Metro Red Line** at Union Station to read selected poems from the *Poetry In Motion*® series on Friday, April 11, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

In the second in a series of live poetry readings aboard Metro Rail trains, poets **francEyE**, **Thea Iberall**, **Charlotte Innes**, **R. Sky Palkowitz** and **Glory Vernon** boarded **Metro Blue Line** at the 7th Street/Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station to read selected poems from the *Poetry In Motion*® series on Friday, April 18, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The readings are a collaborative effort of the Poetry Society of America and MTA as part of the current *Poetry in Motion*® L.A. literary arts program on board Metro Rail and Metro Buses. Admission is free, although valid fare is required to travel on Metro Rail for the rush hour readings scheduled for April 11, 18, and 24.

The complete schedule of readings is as follows:

- **Metro Red Line / Friday, April 11, 4 p.m to 6 p.m.**
Poets: •Briony Bax •Elena Karina Byrne •Elizabeth Chatterton •Danielle Cohn •Dina Hardy Departing from Union Station at 4 p.m., poets will wander the

stations and trains of the Metro Red Line to read selected poems from the *Poetry In Motion*® series until 6 p.m. **Location:** Departure from Gateway Transit Center, East Portal, 801 Vignes St., downtown Los Angeles.

• **Metro Blue Line / Friday, April 18, 4 p.m to 6 p.m.**

Poets: •francEyE •Thea Iberall •Charlotte Innes •R. Sky Palkowitz •Glory Vernon Departing from the 7th Street/Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station at 4p.m., poets will wander the stations and trains of the Metro Blue Line to read selected poems from the *Poetry In Motion*® series until 6 p.m. **Location:** Departure from 7th Street/Metro Center/Julian Dixon Station, 696 W. 7th St., downtown Los Angeles

• **Metro Green Line / Thursday, April 24, 4 p.m to 6 p.m.**

Poets: •Richard Beban and Kaaren Kitchell •Laurel Ann Bogen •Elena Karina Byrne •Larry Jaffe •Gloria Vando •Bruce Williams Departing from the Imperial/Wilmington/Rosa Parks Station at 4p.m., poets will wander the stations and trains of the Metro Green Line to read selected poems from the *Poetry In Motion*® series until 6 p.m. **Location:** Departure from Imperial/Wilmington/Rosa Parks Station, 11611 Willowbrook Ave., Los Angeles

INFORMATION: www.mta.net/press/pressroom **MTA Metro Art** (213) 922-7695.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Fourteen poets will participate in poetry readings presented by the Poetry Society of America at various points aboard Metro Rail during rush hour from 4 to 6 p.m. Unauthorized biographies of participating poets are included here.

Poetry in Motion® L.A. Bios

Live Poetry Readings aboard Metro Rail, April 11th, 18th, 24th 2003 from 4-6 p.m.

Briony Bax is a British native living in Los Angeles. Her poetry has been published in *Ambit Magazine* and she was a participant in the Poetry in Motion readings on the L.A. Metro System in 2002.

Richard Beban's poetry or essays have appeared since 1994 in 35 periodicals and journals and 15 national anthologies. The editors of *Beyond the Valley of the Contemporary Poets* nominated him for a Pushcart Prize. His latest chapbook, one of the Pudding House Press "Greatest Hits" series, containing a dozen poems, was published in September 2002. He and his wife, Kaaren Kitchell, as Playa Poets, run a monthly series of poetry workshops, and are organizing the Ecopoetry Celebration to be held at Ballona Wetlands on April 19.

Laurel Ann Bogen is the author of ten books of poetry and short fiction including *Fission; The Last Girl in the Land of the Butterflies; The Burning; Do Iguanas Dance, Under the Moonlight?* and *Rag Tag We Kiss*. In 2003, Red Hen Press will publish her new collection of poetry, *Washing a Language*. From 1996 until 2002 she was literary curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, where she coordinated the Writers in Focus poetry series, and is currently co-director of the Los Angeles Poetry Festival. She has been an instructor of poetry and performance for the UCLA Extension Writers' Program since 1990 and has also taught poetry and literature at Whittier College and Cal State Long Beach. Well known for her lively readings, Bogen was selected "Best Female Poet/Performer" by the *L.A. Weekly* in their Best of L.A. issue and is a founding member of the acclaimed poetry performance troupe, Nearly Fatal Women, which has performed in venues as diverse as Cornell University, The Knitting Factory (NYC), Beyond Baroque Literary/Arts Center, The DA Center for the Arts, The Cast

Theater and LACE. The recipient of the Curtis Zahn Poetry Prize from the Pacificus Foundation and two awards from the Academy of American Poets, her work has appeared in over 100 literary magazines and anthologies including *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry*, *Stand-Up Poetry: The Anthology*, *The Maverick Poets*, *Poetry Loves Poetry*, *Grand Passion*, *Rattapallax*, *Pearl*, *Solo*, *Bakunin*, *Yellow Silk*, *Mississippi Mud*, *Jacaranda Review*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Chiron Review*.

Elizabeth Chatterton is a poet earning her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing under the Dean's Fellowship at the University of California at Riverside, where she earned her BA in Creative Writing. She is also a contributor to the Riverside Underground Poetry Organizations readings and recordings.

Danielle Cohn is a freelance writer, teacher, and translator. She has written for theme park projects and museum exhibits, and has been published in the journal *Poetry*, the anthology *Mischief, Caprice and Other Poetic Strategies*, and *Free 2 Wheel* magazine.

francEyE, the bearded witch of Ocean Park, was born Frances Elizabeth Dean in San Rafael, California, on St. Joseph's Day, 1922. Without consulting her, her parents whisked her off to the East Coast where she grew up, beginning to publish in the 1930s in school newspapers and *Scholastic*. She studied verse writing with Grace Hazard Conkling at Smith College in 1941, had a villanelle published by William Rose Benét in his column *The Conning Tower* in the *Saturday Review of Literature* in 1942, but then wrote little and published nothing until about 1963, when she finally returned to California. She has been writing, attending poetry workshops, and publishing here and there ever since. Her work has been included in *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry*, in *L.A. Woman* (published in Germany), in two British periodicals, in *The Chiron Review*, among many others and will be included in the forthcoming anthology of California poets to be published by Tebot Bach next month. Her book of poems, *Snaggletooth in Ocean Park*, was published in 1996 by The Sacred Beverage Press. *Pearl #25* contains a 21-poem sequence called "*Why Steal Fire? Blue Satellite*" Final Issue contains a 27-poem sequence called *The Asteroid Poems*

Dina Hardy is the author and illustrator of the small book *Grocery Shopping with Roy Lichtenstein* (Spout Graphics Press). Her work has been published in *Runes*, *Beyond the Valley of the Contemporary Poets 2001 Anthology* and *Inscape 2002*. She has also been accepted into an anthology of paradelles and *Runes and Mischief, Caprice and Other Poetic Strategies* (Red Hen Press). Dina has been featured at many venues, including the Coffee Cartel in Redondo Beach and the legendary Beyond Baroque in Venice.

Thea Iberall is a poet, playwright, scientist, and magician. She has a Master's Degree in Poetry from USC and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts. Her poetry and fiction has been published in *Rattle*, *Spillway*, *Southern California Anthology*, *Common Lives/Lesbian Lives*, *Peregrine XVI*, and *ONTHEBUS*. She has been a semifinalist in the Atlanta Review International Poetry Competition. Thea's chapbook *Be Ye Love* (Inevitable Press, 1997) is part of the Laguna Poets reading series. Her one-act play "*When I Was Called Tony*" was produced last fall at the OUT Theatre in Long Beach. As a performance poet, Thea represented Los Angeles at the 1998 National Poetry Slam Competition (took third out of 45 cities). Thea has also performed as a clown, juggler, and magician for over 20 years around the country, and has found a way to combine her poetry and magic through her "*Word Manipulations and Illusions*" show.

Charlotte Innes is a writer living in Los Angeles. She has written for *The Nation*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Newsday*, and other newspapers and periodicals. She wrote the foreword to *Old Floating Cloud* by Chinese writer Can Xue (Northwestern University Press). Her essays on British novelists Jeanette Winterson and Kazuo Ishiguro were anthologized in *Contemporary Literary Criticism* (Vols. 64 and 110). Writers she has interviewed include Michael Cunningham, Dana Gioia, Doris Lessing, Toni Morrison, and Edmund White. She is currently working on a long interview with poet Dana Gioia which will appear in a book to be published by *Between the Lines*, a British publisher. She also has taught journalism as a part-time lecturer at Columbia University, New York and the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. She

currently teaches English, journalism, and creative writing at Brentwood School, Los Angeles. She was born in England where she received her B.A. from London University (Bedford College) in Latin with Greek in 1972. She obtained a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in 1978.

Larry Jaffe is the International Readings Coordinator for the United Nations Dialogue among Civilizations through Poetry undertaking, Co-Founder of Poets for Peace/United Poets Coalition and is the Poet-in-Residence/Director of Writer's Voice for the Los Angeles Ketchum Downtown YMCA. He has been featured at numerous readings and poetry festivals throughout the United States and abroad. Jaffe's work can be found in a variety of publications and anthologies. He has 5 books: Jewish Soulfood, Unprotected Poetry (CD and book), Greatest Hits, Lying Half-Naked in the Doorway and L. A. Rhapsody.

Kaaren Kitchell, a Playa del Rey resident who is one of the Playa Poets and a founder of the Hyperpoets reading series, writes poetry and fiction. Her first poetry book, "The Minotaur Dance," was just released by Crane Dance Books. Her poems have been published in the journals *Spillway*, *rivertalk*, *51%*, and *Urban Spaghetti*, and one of her poems won a cash prize in the Poetry in the Windows IV contest held in Los Angeles.

Gloria Vando's books include *Shadows and Supposes* (2002, Arte Público Press, University of Houston), which won the Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award; *Promesas: Geography of the Impossible* (1993, Arte Público Press), a Walt Whitman finalist and 1994 Thorpe Menn Book Award winner; and a chapbook, *Caprichos* (Stiletto 1989, Howling Dog Press, Denver). Other awards include River Styx International Poetry Prize; two Billee Murray Denny Poetry Prizes; Barbara Deming Memorial Fund grant; a Poetry Fellowship from the Kansas Arts Commission; and the Governor's Arts Award (KS). Her work has been included in many magazines, anthologies, and textbooks, and has been presented in theatrical productions in New York City. She is editor of *The Helicon Nine Reader* and co-editor of *Spud Songs, An Anthology of Potato Poems* (to benefit Hunger Relief). Vando is founding publisher and editor of Helicon Nine Editions, a 25-year-old independent non-profit literary press. Born and reared in New York City, Vando was educated in Amsterdam, Paris, and Texas (A&M, BA in comparative literature/philosophy). In 1992, she and her husband, Bill Hickok, co-founded The Writers Place, a literary center in Kansas City.

Bruce Williams, a recovering English teacher and poet who has been active in the Los Angeles poetry world for some time. He has published three chapbooks: *Holistic Dressing*, from *Pudding House Press*, *Stratification from the Inevitable Press*, and *Everyone in My Support Group Feels More Grateful When I Share*, also from *Inevitable*. Bruce's poetry mixes humor with despair, or perhaps the other way around. He lives in San Dimas, thirty miles east of Los Angeles, with his family and two dissatisfied cats. Bruce teaches writing at Mt. San Antonio College. In his spare time he worries. He does not believe the age of irony is dead.

EVENT COORDINATOR: Elena Karina Byrne is a teacher, visual artist and Regional Director of the Poetry Society of America. She has served as Poetry Consultant to the Getty Research Institute and currently runs the poetry reading series at The Getty Center. Elena is also Poetry Moderator and Consultant for the LA Times Festival of Books. Her many recent publications include *The Yale Review*, *Verse*, *The Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Colorado Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Volt*, *The Journal* and *Nimrod*. She has been nominated seven times for a Pushcart Prize. Her first book, The Flammable Bird, is available from Zoo Press. She is completing another, Masque, and a collection of essays entitled *Poetry and Insignificance*. Elena is working with Red Car Studios on a Poetry Clip/Motion Picture Project: "Face Value."

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