



April 14 | April 21 | April 28, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Poetry in Motion® L.A. - 5th Annual Metro Readings during National Poetry Month

- **Poets to Stage Live Poetry Readings on Board Metro Rail for Rush-hour Commuters during National Poetry Month of April**

Poets on Board > go to [Press Release](#) / [Complete Schedule](#) / [Biographies](#)



PHOTO BY KYUNG KIM

Poets on Board> Kate Durbin, Gloria Vando, and Eitan Kadosh stage impromptu poetry reading at Hollywood/Highland Metro Rail Station for National Poetry Month rush-hour readings in 2004.

- [April 14](#) - Metro Red Line readings boarding at Union Station, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Poets: **Carlye Archibeque, Catherine Daly, Kate Soto, Keren Taylor, Steve Peterson, Antonieta Villamil, and Elena Karina Byrne.**
- [April 21](#) - Metro Blue Line readings boarding at 7th Street/Metro Center Station, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Poets: **Lynne Bronstein, Larry Jaffe, Lynne Thompson, Gloria Vando, and Elena Karina Byrne. Plus: Hip-Hop Emcees> SP.83 and Dumbfoundead.**
- [April 28](#) - Metro Gold Line Mission Station, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Poets: **Richard Beban, George Chacon, Michael C. Ford, Liz González, Kaaren Kitchell, Regina O'Melveny, and Elena Karina Byrne.**
- [Biographies](#)

Poets to board Metro Rail for Live Rush-hour Readings during National Poetry Month in April

In a month-long series of live poetry readings aboard Metro Rail during April, celebrated poet Elena Karina Byrne leads bands of poets in live readings at rush hour on the Metro Red Line subway on Thursday, April 14; on the Metro Blue Line trains on Thursday, April 21, and in the Metro Gold Line Mission Station plaza in South

Pasadena on Thursday, April 28.

Breaking through the rush-hour monotone, acclaimed 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 three Thursdays in April in celebration of National Poetry Month.

The rush-hour readings personify and extend the experience of *Poetry in Motion*® L.A., where the work of poets inscribed on placards placed aboard nearly 2,400 Metro buses brings poetry to more than one million bus riders a day.



Poet Elena Karina Byrne at Union Station, East Portal.

Poetry in Motion L.A. has staged rush-hour readings during National Poetry Month since its inception in 1999. The alternative space in the context of a transit system is a new platform for the spoken and written word, delivered to delighted audiences by published poets in great performances. Award-winning poet Gloria Vando, boarding the Metro Red Line on April 8 for the rush-hour reading on the subway, described her first on-board performance in 2003:

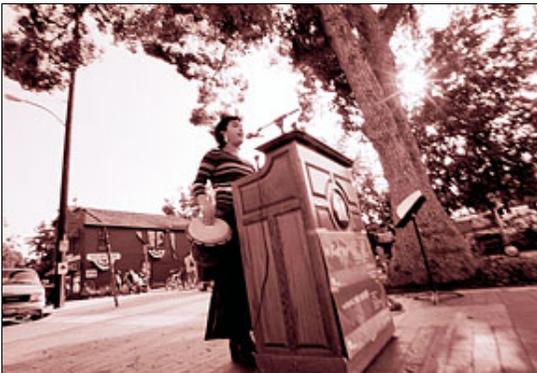


Poet Gloria Vando reads to patrons aboard Metro Red Line trains in 2004.

"On the train we introduced ourselves ("Hello, my name is Gloria Vando and I'll be your poet today"), explained our mission, handed out bookmarks inscribed with poems, and then read aloud. Then we talked about poetry. One high school girl had a poem she had written in school, and I asked Laurel (Poet Laurel Bogen) to read it aloud and she did. The girl was delighted." -- *Gloria Vando*

The month-long celebration of National Poetry Month will culminate in a staged reading on April 28 in the courtyard adjacent to the Metro Gold Line Mission Station in South Pasadena at 4 p.m. Poets **Richard Beban, George Chacon, Michael C. Ford, Liz González, Kaaren Kitchell, Regina O'Melveny, and Elena Karina Byrne** will read their work. Admission is free for all readings. Valid fare is required to board Metro.

PHOTO BY KYUNG KIM



Poet Antonieta Villamil at reading staged in the courtyard of the Metro Gold Line Mission Station in 2004.

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Poetry in Motion® L.A. EVENTS Schedule

- **April 14** > Metro Red Line / Thursday, 4 p.m to 6 p.m.

Poets: Carlye Archibeque, Catherine Daly, Kate Soto, Keren Taylor, Steve Peterson, Antonieta Villamil, and Elena Karina Byrne

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.

- **April 21** > Metro Blue Line / Thursday, 4 p.m to 6 p.m.

Poets: Lynne Bronstein, Larry Jaffe, Lynne Thompson, Gloria Vando, and Elena Karina Byrne, Plus: Hip-Hop Emcees> SP.83 and Dumbfoundead

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

- **April 28** > Staged Reading
Metro Gold Line Mission Station courtyard/ Thursday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Poets: Richard Beban, George Chacon, Michael C. Ford, Liz González, Kaaren Kitchell, Regina O'Melveny, and Elena Karina Byrne

Poets read their published works and selected poems at podium in courtyard setting adjacent to Metro Gold Line Mission Station in South Pasadena. **Location:** Courtyard adjacent to Mission Station, 905 Meridian Ave., South Pasadena

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BIOGRAPHIES

April 14 . [E.C. "Carlye" Archibeque](#), [Catherine Daly](#), [Steve Peterson](#), [Kate Soto](#), [Keren Taylor](#), [Antonieta Villamil](#), and [Elena Karina Byrne](#).

April 21 . [Lynne Bronstein](#), [Larry Jaffe](#), [Lynne Thompson](#), [Gloria Vando](#), and [Elena Karina Byrne](#). Plus: Hip-Hop Emcees SP.83 and Dumbfoundead.

April 28 . [Richard Beban](#), [George Chacon](#), [Michael C. Ford](#), [Liz González](#), [Kaaren Kitchell](#), [Regina O'Melveny](#), and [Elena Karina Byrne](#).

E.C. "Carlye" Archibeque was born and raised in Los Angeles. She currently hosts the long running poetry series Poets on the Half Shell at Beyond Baroque (recently moved from the 13th District Offices). With fellow poet Michelle Ben-Hur she published 51% an anthology of femme centric poetry. Her publication credits include: Blue Satellite; Black Cross; Social Anarchy; So Luminous the Wildflowers: An Anthology of California Writers; Scream While You Burn: A Caffeine Anthology; Diversecity: The Austin International Poetry Anthology; and Spillway. In her time on Earth she's held many jobs that provided inspiration for a career in poetry: weapons and tactics trainer for the Navy, casino waitress, fry cook, postal carrier and visual effects coordinator for Spider-man 2 to name a few. On her good days she has a bad attitude and on her bad days she just stays home and writes.

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.

Lynne Bronstein has shared her poetry with the books *Astray From Normalcy*, *Roughage*, *Thirsty In The Ocean*, and *Border Crossings*. Her poems and short stories have appeared in an assortment of small magazines and literary web sites, including *Caffeine*, *OnTarget*, *Subtletea.com* and the *Manic D Press* anthology *It's All Good*. As a journalist, she has written for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Entertainment Today*, and the *Santa Monica Mirror*, and for an



award-winning news show on public access cable. She's also been a cartoonist, a songwriter who's performed at McCabe's and the Improv, and she designs homemade dolls .

Poet Richard Beban on the Metro Green Line in 2003.

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Poet Elena Karina Byrne

Elena Karina Byrne is a teacher, visual artist, Poetry Moderator and Consultant for *The Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, the West Hollywood Book Fair, and former 12-year Regional Director of the Poetry Society of America. She has served as Poetry Consultant to the Getty Research Institute (GRI) and curated a poetry reading series at the Chateau Marmont and The J. Paul Getty Center. She now runs the reading series for University of Southern California's Doheny Memorial Library, and The Ruskin Art Club with Red Hen Press. With Stephen Yenser, she is the 2004-2005 Poetry Co-Editor for *The Los Angeles Review*. Her many recent publications, among others, include, *The Yale Review*, *Chelsea*, *Verse*, *The Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Colorado Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Volt*, *TriQuarterly*, *Hotel Amerika*, *The*

Journal, *Nimrod*, *Best American Poetry 2005*, *Poetry Daily: 366 Poems from the World's Most Popular Poetry Website* and *The Anthology of Magazine Verse & Yearbook of American Poetry*. Elena is an eight-time Pushcart Prize nominee who has won awards from the Academy of American Poets, The Chester H. Jones Foundation and the Kudzu Poetry Prize. Her first book, *The Flammable Bird* is available from Zoo Press. She has just completed another, *Masque* and is working on a collection of essays on poetry and contemporary culture entitled, *Poetry and Insignificance*. Elena was recently filmed for the National Endowment for the Art's *Shakespeare In American Communities* and is working with Red Car Studios designing a Poetry Clip/Motion Picture Project: "Face Value."

George Chacon is a first-generation Costa-Rican American, and native of Los Angeles. Most recently, his work has appeared in *The Los Angeles Review* (2005) and has been anthologized in *Mischief, Caprice & Other Poetic Strategies* (Red Hen Press, 2004), as well as the online journal of poetry, *The Kenwood Review*. His poetry has also been featured as poem of the month at the *Writers at Work* website. He has read on-air on the San Diego web-based radio station: *radioactive*. He is a repeat participant of the Poetry Society of America's *Poetry in Motion (Los Angeles)* program. Emigrating from Los Angeles, he now finds himself calling the foggy city (San Francisco) home.

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Catherine Daly is a local poet and teacher who runs several local reading series (UCLA Hammer museum, B&N Westwood, B&N Glendale); Daly has written a great deal of poetry about the freeways and public transit in NY and LA, in addition to new media poems in her new book of poetry, *DaDaDa* (Salt Publishing, 2003) and her forthcoming book *LOCKET* (Tupelo Press, 2004).

Michael C. Ford was born on the Illinois side of Lake Michigan. His debut spoken word recording *Language Commando* earned a Grammy nomination in 1986. His book of selected poems *Emergency Exits* was honored with a 1998 nomination for the Pulitzer Prize. His most recent volume of work is entitled *Nursery Rhyme Assassin*, and his newest CD is titled *Fire Escapes*



Poet Liz González leads poetry reading on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at the Hollywood/Highland Station

Liz González grew up in Rialto, California, a suburb about 60 miles east of Los Angeles. She lived in Los Angeles from 1990 until 1996 when she moved to Oakland where she earned an MFA in English and Creative Writing at Mills College. Then she was awarded the 1999/2000 Writer in Residence at the Phoenix College Creative Writing Program, and she lived in Phoenix for eleven months. *Beneath Bone*, a volume of her poetry, was published by Manifest Press in

2000. Her poetry, fiction, and memoirs have appeared in numerous publications, including *Heliotrope*, *Comet*, *So Luminous The Wildflowers: An Anthology of California Poets*, *ARTLIFE*, *Luna*, *Brújula* <> *Compass*, and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. She was recently awarded a grant from The Elizabeth George Foundation and a residency at Hedgebrook: A Retreat for Women Writers. Since 1993, Liz has taught creative writing and presented her poems and stories in colleges, libraries, high schools, community centers and other venues throughout Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Phoenix. She is the editor of *In Review*, a book review column on Poetix.net, and she serves on the *Los Angeles Poetry Festival* organizing committee. She teaches writing at the Long Beach City College Pacific Coast Campus Writing and Reading Center and creative writing at the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, at UCR Extension and private workshops. Currently, Liz lives in Long Beach with her husband and is writing a novel.

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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*.



Poet Larry Jaffe

Playa del Rey resident **Kaaren Kitchell**, 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.

Regina O'Melveny is a writer, assemblage artist, and teacher who has lived in southern California for most of her life, with the exception of years spent in India, Mexico and Italy. Her prize-winning poetry and prose have been anthologized and widely published in literary magazines such as *Solo*, *Yellow Silk*, *Passages North*, *Barrow Street*, *Poetry/LA*, *The Sun*, *The LA Weekly*, and the *Wild Duck Review*. Her work has been performed on radio, KUSC FM Los Angeles, as well as choreographed and performed by the San Pedro City Ballet at the Western Regional Dance Conference in Washington. Her manuscript *Blue Wolves*, a collection of poems with reproductions of her assemblages, won the Bright Hill Press poetry book award in New York and was published in 1997. She has read her work throughout the Los Angeles area and in venues as diverse as the Genovese Castle on the island of Lesbos and the Instituto de Bellas Artes in San Miguel de Allende.

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Steve Petersen made his solo debut opening for Eric Burdon and The Animals on New Year's Eve 2002 at The Coach House in San Juan Capistrano California. Since then he has performed in venues such as the Wells Fargo Bank penthouse in downtown Los Angeles, the Trump 29 Casino in Indio CA, the Marriott Spa/Resort in Palm Desert, the Black Box Theatre in Palm Springs, for the "Welcome Home The Troops" event in 29 Palms, the Laguna Beach Sawdust Arts and Winter Festivals and many more. Most recently he opened for John Waite at The Coach House. Steve Petersen is also creator of "The Poet Tree"* and Poet Laureate at the artist center in Palm Springs. There, in the garden at Palapas, is where Steve's poems hang framed and tied to a huge olive tree. This past year, Steve has expanded his talents appearing in the critically acclaimed cult musical, "Bat Bay the Musical," in Palm Springs from January to March, 2004. Other projects include; "The West Wing", Papa Roach Music Video, "Getting Away With Murder", Film Festival Project, "Five Minutes Alone", feature films, "Phat Girlz", "Truth Seekers", and a Fox Project to be announced. In October of 2004 Steve's first novel, "HEALER" was released from Publish America.

Kate Soto is a poet, writer, and editorial assistant living in Los Angeles. She has a B.A. in Literature & Italian from UC Santa Cruz and is working on an MFA from Antioch University. Her poetry & essays have appeared in various on-line and print journals, and are forthcoming in *Poetic Diversity* and *Museum of Amazons*. She works in the editorial department of Taschen, an international art book publisher.

Keren Taylor is a songwriter, vocalist, poet, visual artist, event producer and arts educator. She is Executive Director of WriteGirl (writegirl.org) a creative writing and mentoring program for girls in Los Angeles. Passionate about inspiring others to cultivate their creative ideas, Keren has conducted more than 150 songwriting, poetry and "Art & Words" workshops in New York and Los Angeles for both children and adults. Keren has performed her original music across the country in concert halls, theatres, clubs and festivals with her acapella vocal group, The Trembles, and as a solo artist. She has opened for such acts as Blood, Sweat & Tears, Marvin Hamlisch, Dana Carvey, Frank Sinatra Jr. and Gladys Knight. She spent a year in Las Vegas as one of the featured performers in "Madhattan" a musical production of New York street musicians at the New York New York Hotel & Casino. Her poetry appears in *The San*

Gabriel Valley Poetry Review, Wavelength and So Luminous the Wildflowers - An Anthology of California Poetry from Tebot Bach Press. Her art has been exhibited at the Barnsdall Art Center, Rock Rose Gallery, Gallery 727 and is in personal collections.

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Lynne Thompson's work has recently appeared in *Poetry International*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *PMS*, *Pearl* and other literary journals as well as the anthology *Mischief, Caprice & Other Poetic Strategies*. Her chapbook, *We Arrive By Accumulation*, was published by SeaMoon Press in 2002.

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 and the 2003 Latino Literary Awards Best Poetry Book; *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 coeditor of *Chance of A Ghost* (forthcoming anthology) and *Spud Songs, An Anthology of Potato Poems* (to benefit Hunger Relief). Vando is founding publisher and editor of Helicon Nine Editions, a 28-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.

Antonieta Villamil author of seven books, born in Colombia in 1962, is an international award winning bilingual poet, narrator, editor, translator and activist. Included in the documentary film "Poetry In War Time", her work focuses on the forgotten ones and honors them with a voice. Villamil edits and translates the collection *Poetry Solos/Solos de Poesía*, directs the poetry workshop and the press Casa de Poesía/House of Poetry, the poetry review *Moradalsur* and, a Spanish language radio show for www.kpfc.org 90.7FM Los Angeles, on contemporary poets. International poetry prize Gastón Baquero 2001 with her book "Cliff of dream" published in Madrid, Spain by Verbum press and Prose Poems Project Prize 2001, for "Migration fields". Her page is www.AntonietaVillamil.com

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