



Valley Byliners Newsletter

Harlingen, TX

November 07, 2010

NOTES FROM THE October 09, 2010 Meeting

Don started the October meeting by attempting to set up the readings that the Byliners had in both Brownsville, and Edinburg. After several people in the group committed to one, the other, or both readings, Don moved the meeting forward with a promise to see if he could get more to join the effort using an email invitation. From what I understand, the readings were a success, and thanks go out to those who participated.

There were three entries in Jack's writing contest for the month of October. The entries were titled **How I Long for Thee America** (by Rudy Garcia), **The Mists of the Haunted Passion** (by Frank Cortazo) and **Aliens** (by Edna Ratliff). It was Frank's story that won the most votes. Congratulations, Frank Cortazo!

Our Guest speaker for October was a charismatic speaker named Irma Guadarrama. Irma is a singer, songwriter, poetess and author. She is a professor of education at one of the local universities here in the Valley. Irma writes poetry and prose in English, but prefers to sing in Spanish. She said that the reasons she sings in Spanish is that she thinks it adds more feeling to her singing. Irma performed several songs and recited some of her poetry for the group before taking questions about her creative processes. She seemed to focus on social issues, the issues of immigration, and the challenges that women and children face in life. Her singing was lively, and her poetry was touching. The tips she gave regarding the creative processes were inciteful. We would like to thank her for sharing her knowledge with the group and for the wonderful entertainment that she provided.

Our next guest speaker will be Kamala Platt. At of the time of the publication of this newsletter, no information is known about the guest or her subject matter.

Jack invited members of the group to join him at another group called "The Rhinos." The Rhinos are a discussion group that cover various topics and issues. The group is called "The Rhinos" because anyone who belongs must have thick skin. This month's topic for the group is "What is life?" Each person has a total of 10 minutes to cover the topic, and discussion can frequently get lively. For more information contact Jack King.

Notes from Don:

Coming up on December 09 is the book signing at the Quinta Mazatlan Birding Center in McAllen.

Thanks to all who participated in the back to back book signings in Brownsville and Edinburg during the weekend of 23-24 October. Rihannon Cizon and [Kate Moore](#) hosted us at the Brownsville Historical Complex and Vanessa Mata took over the old kitchen in the Stillman House Museum and demonstrated the making of sugar skulls used to honor the departed during the [Day of the Dead](#) on November 2. A fascinating custom! Judy Strickland and museum staff treated us well at the Museum of South Texas History. All in all everyone seemed to have a good time and enjoyed the readings.

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<http://www.donclifford.webs.com>

There will be a [book signing on December 2, 6:00pm](#) at the Storybook Garden in Weslaco, hosted by one of our honorary members, Sarah Quadra. Location is in the old Cortez Hotel complex, 260 S. Texas Blvd, Suite 106.

You might contact B.G. (Vivian) Weber for info re her book club meeting [on Monday, November 15](#).
Metaphors be with you!

Don