

Debra Bruce and Andrea Witzke Slot



Her Ex Sits Next to Her

It's far too soon for her to make a joke of it,
scuttle him away with a swish of wit,
This is a loveseat, isn't it?

but too late to reach across the child-size space
between them, or look directly at his face.

~ Debra Bruce

from *Survivors' Picnic*

Excerpt from "V-mail"

I gave up writing letters since
the day I read theirs. I learned that patience
was not a virtue I could easily afford.
I learned of speed in a throwaway world
and abbreviated means of goodbyes.

~ Andrea Witzke Slot

(from *To find a new beauty*, Gold Wake Press, 2012)

Upcoming Workshops:

October 17 at the Downers Grove Public Library (which is very close to the Downers Grove station on METRA's Aurora Line). Winning poems from our 2015 contest will be read, and Pamela Larson will help us awaken our muses by leading us in some writing games. This meeting is free and open to visitors; no poems are submitted in advance.

Poets & Patrons Annual Contests:

September 1 is the deadline for both the free Helen Schaible International Shakespearean / Petrarchan Sonnet Contest, and our 59th Annual Chicagoland Poetry Contest which has 12 categories and costs only \$15 (\$12 for members). Full rules for both at <http://poetsandpatrons.net/>.

Write! Chicago Workshop:

The next Write! Chicago Workshop will be announced soon.

Contact Caroline Johnson at twinkscat@aol.com or 708-839-1699 for more information.

August 22, 2015 – MUSICAL MATTERS: A CRITIQUING WORKSHOP

Led by Debra Bruce and Andrea Witzke Slot.

Whether in free verse or form, the words in your poems make some kind of music—sometimes with patches of poetic meter you aren't consciously aware of. This is what makes your poem "sound like you." Bruce and Slot will discuss these musical elements in their own writing, and lead a workshop focused on listening to the rhythmic and metrical music of poems submitted by participants.

Join us for this Poets & Patrons Workshop August 22, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 6N (on the third floor of the Harold Washington Library at 400 S. State Street.)

Some members will gather at Panera's on the southeast corner of State and Congress (diagonally across the street from the library) between 11:30 and noon, to eat lunch or drink a cup of coffee or tea and socialize before the meeting. You are welcome to join us there.

Debra Bruce is the author of four collections of poetry, *Survivor's Picnic*, *Pure Daughter* and *Sudden Hunger* (winner of the Carl Sandburg Award from the Chicago Public Library), and *What Wind Will Do*. Her work has been published widely in journals, including *The Atlantic*, *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*. She has received grants and prizes from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council, the Poetry Society of America, and *Poetry* magazine. Bruce is a professor emeritus at Northeastern Illinois University. Her web address is debrabrucepoe.com.

Andrea Witzke Slot writes poetry, fiction, academic work, and essays and is fascinated by the ways in which these genres mix. Author of the poetry collection *To find a new beauty* (Gold Wake Press 2012), Andrea's work has appeared in such places as *Mid-American Review*, *Southeast Review*, *Poetry East*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Bellevue Literary Review*. Her second book of poetry was a finalist for the Black Lawrence Press's Hudson Award. Her web address is <http://www.andreawitzkeslot.com>.

The optional assignment for August meeting: a poem at least part of which makes use of regular meter. Poems submitted in advance will be critiqued at the meeting, if the author is present. Members may mail their poems to Wilda Morris, 499 Falcon Ridge Way, Bolingbrook IL 60440, by **August 5**, or email them to wildamorris@ameritech.net by **August 5** (put P & P in the subject line). If mailing, send a check for \$5 per poem submitted (\$10 for non-members), made out to Poets & Patrons. (Non-members may attend a couple of meetings before deciding to join. Or send \$20 for 2015 membership and \$5 with a poem for critique). If you email your poem(s), pay at the workshop. E-mail questions (or late poems) to Wilda. If you do not get a reply to an e-mailed poem, call Wilda at 630/739-2983 to be sure your poem was received. You may send a maximum of two poems for critique; **the fee must be paid for each poem submitted, even if you do not attend the meeting (leader feedback will be mailed to you).**