

METER MAGIC SPIRAL MUSELETTER

Introduction by Annie Finch

Welcome to the first issue of Meter Magic Spiral Museletter, a compilation of news and doings from Meter Magic Spiral edited by our dear Spiral Keeper Kim Malinowski. This Museletter will be a place for us to celebrate the personal and professional achievements and doings of our magical members and to share Spiral-related news and opportunities. This month, the Spiral focuses on the magical Amphibrach— meter of Spirit, Intuition, and the element of Matrix (otherwise known as prana, mojo, kundalini, chi, etc.). The whole Spiral feels full of intuitive joy while Spiralers post their explorations into this a-mazing Meter and share the experiences they are having in the Gatherings. As I dip into the Spiral and read what Spiralers are posting there, I keep enjoying that familiar amphibrachic tremble in my spine; if you've read the essay "My Affair With the Amphibrach" in my book *The Body of Poetry*, you'll know what I'm talking about!

The Spiral is always my dearest online home. But for those who want to learn meter more intensively with me in the setting of a multi-week class—either before joining the Spiral or in conjunction with it—there are two opportunities available this Spring:

February 20, 2024 6:30 pm - February 21, 2024 9:30 am – Online

BLANK VERSE WORKSHOP 6:30 ET

6:30-9:30 pm, Four Tuesdays from Feb 20-March 19

[Register Through Brooklyn Poets](#)

April 2, 2024 – Online

HOW TO SCAN A POEM: DIGGING INTO THE POWER OF TROCHEES

2:00-4:00 pm, Four Tuesdays from April 2-23

[Register Through Politics & Prose Bookstore](#)



Schedule for March 2024: Cretics

Sat March 2, 5pm PST/ 8pm EST: Introductory Cretic Writing Circle

Wed March 6 5pm / 8pm Est Members Invocation Circle: Cretics

Sunday March 10 9am PST/ 12pm EST: Annie's Meter Lab

Wednesday March 13 5pm PST/8pm EST: The Magic of Scansion Circle

Wednesday March 20 5pm PST /8 pm EST: Generative Writing Circle:

March 27 Metical Thanking (a collaborative poem woven by Joanne Godly

Circle News

From Autumn:

February got off to a bang with our Introduction to Amphibrachs Circle! We discussed the basics and read amazing contemporary amphibrachic poems. We decided to write amphibrachic poems about birth. We did some deep scansion of an amphibrachic poem that Sam shared. We learned. We listened. We shared. We debated. We laughed. We proved that the art of scansion is joyous and profound. I look forward to more metrical conversations at the Magic of Scansion Circle on the 14th.

Bio:

Autumn Newman's poems have recently appeared, or are forthcoming, in Cider Press Review, Pratik, Rise Up Review, The Orchards Poetry Journal, The Tiger Moth Review, The Rising Phoenix Review, and River Heron Review. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and her chapbook, *This Is My Body, A Flower Burst Open*, is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press. You can find her Instagram, which is dedicated to poetry and disability, here [@autumnnewman36](#).



Member News

Events

Diane Lee Moomey

Diane will be Zoom-featuring at Carmine Street Metrics on Sunday, March 3, from 3:00 to 5:00 Eastern Time. This is a group curated by Wendy Sloan, part of our larger PWC group and Formal Feeling Workshops alum! If interested in attending, message in PWC for the link.

Publications, Awards, Nominations

Autumn Newman

Sapphic poem, “Shame,” has found a home at River Heron Review. If you visit their website, check out Kathy Nelson’s excellent poem!

[Issue 7.1 — River Heron Review](#)

Richelle Lee Slota (placed so far)

January 2024

“Macy’s”: engine(idling

“I Live the Life I Choose”: Yellow Mama

“Death House”: Yellow Mama

“Some Things I Learned in the Army”: Yellow Mama”

“Free—a triolet”: Ode to Dionysus

February 2024

“Robert Dale Seegee, Arsonist”: Quarter Press.

Ursula Shepherd

“Portrait of the Queen” was just published in Ekphrastic Review. It was chosen for the bi-weekly challenge and based on a great piece of art by Noah Jayne Andrews. [Blog Archives - The Ekphrastic Review](#)

Patricia Brody

Dangerous to Know Salmon Poetry 2013

<https://www.salmonpoetry.com/details.php?ID=280&a=232>

My Blazing World Salmon Poetry 2023

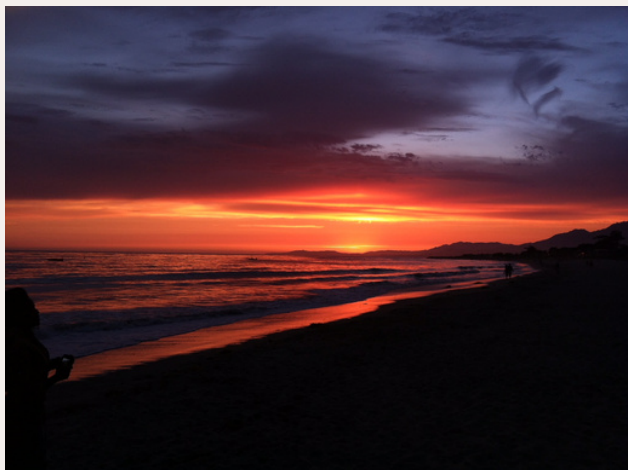
[Shttps://www.salmonpoetry.com/details.php?ID=593&a=232](https://www.salmonpoetry.com/details.php?ID=593&a=232)

Kim Malinowski

Rhysling Award Nomination for “Robin Hood’s Larder’s Torn Roots.” [Kim Malinowski’s Robin Hood Poem Nominated \(fairytalemagazine.com\)](#)

Mary Elliot/ MB Gangeness

The Village Poets is planning an anthology reading of "Crystal Fire" on Sunday, March 24, 2024 at Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga, CA. Her work in the anthology was published under her old married name, Mary Elliott, and now she is rebranding as MB Gangeness and trying to learn more about the craft and reading meter. One of the poems, “Seasons,” that appears in the anthology was also published in California Quarterly, Autumn 2022, Vol. 28, #3: <https://www.californiastatepoetrysociety.com/p/cq-2018.html>



Photograph by MB Gangeness



Jennifer Schomburg Kanke

Change Seven- “Ambrosia,” “Losing It”

<https://changesevenmag.com/ambrosia-and-losing-it-by-jennifer-schomburg-kanke/>

American sonnets

Nonbinary Review’s Alphanumeric Podcast- “Sopchoppy Worm Gruntin”
trochaic pentameter

will also appear in the Old Friends issue of Nonbinary Review coming later

<https://www.zoeticpress.com/alphanumeric/2024/2/5/sopchoppy-worm-gruntin>

The Meter Cute Interviews on the YouTube channel, Meter&Mayhem, began as a way to bring attention to Brandi George’s new book *The Nameless*, which has a strong foundation in meter. The series has since expanded to writers of both prose and poetry. When you have a book coming out, there’s pressure to do as many interviews as possible. Often, the same questions get asked over and over. This series tries to shake it up a bit and gives writers a place to geek out about their favorite writers, as well as giving a little advice to other writers in the process. There are also plans for an upcoming short run series on the channel of poets who had books out at least a decade ago, but have not published a full collection since.

In addition to Brandi George, other PWC members who have been featured in the interviews are Kim Malinowski, Lisa St. John, and Cheryl Fish. Upcoming interviews are planned with PWC members Annie Finch, Sheli Keyes, Patricia Brody, Diane Lee Moomey, and Autumn Newman. The series is now complemented by a Substack that gives writing prompts and a suggested enrhythming poem based on the interview. You can subscribe to the channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@meterandmayhem> and you can subscribe to the writing prompts at <https://meterandmayhem.substack.com>.

Any writers with books coming out in 2024 or 2025 or those whose last book was at least a decade ago who would like to be interviewed should contact JSK at meterandmayhem@gmail.com.



Metrical Thanking Collaborative Poem: Dactyls

At the end of each month Spiralers are invited to share our thoughts in/to/for the Meter of the Month, thanking the Meter for how it has inspired, intrigued, or supported us, and saying goodbye until the Spiral comes around again in six months. Here is Meter Mentor Joanne Godley's magical weaving of the Dactylic lines into our monthly collaborative poem. Enjoy!

Homage to Queen Dactyl

1

After a lifetime, done being this broken-down
being, this seeing ever inside me,
this itch, tickle, taste, this dark, dark secret,
finally piercing who might I be.

2

To find my rhythm on days of compression.
To find my rhythm when midnights are shuttered.
To find my rhythm when days are unbending.
To open my fist to the flux of forgiveness.

3

Voice of the river, you sing to my cells,
Crashing and murmuring a song that is home.
Come to the temple of rhythmic verse,
Listen to dactyls cascading down.

4

Dactyls, come heal my heart, soothe late-nights' shadows, who
Plead to be, need to be witnessed and cherished,
Like famous pop stars demanding love, too!
Be not afraid to open a valve.



5

Thanks be to dactyls with sounds that fall.
Thanks be to scansion with notes to parse all.
This is my thanks to the flow of the water.
Meter me far from home, keep me I pray.

6

Waterfalls breaking on slippery rocks
When the time darkens, I crash to soft pillows
See the road—how it gleams in the night.
Morning brings sunlight: dactyl, dear dactyl!

7

Frost blinds the field, etching white lace-light.
Here's winter's solstice, bright like no other.
Be not afraid, to open a valve.
Tend to the ash in your fire.

Contributors:

Susan Touchstone, Arlene Dollard, Kim M, Shanta Lee,
Miranda Hayden, Garuda Joy, Richelle Slota, Autumn Newman,
Pratibha Kelapure, Ursula Shepard, Lisa St John, Patricia Brody

A NOTE FROM ANNIE ABOUT METER MAGIC SPIRAL

In Meter Magic Spiral, poets, witches, and everyone in between enchant and enrich our lives and words through practicing the art and craft of poetic Meter. The Spiral evokes matriarchal community through our exclusively women and gender-nonconforming membership; it focuses on Metrical Diversity rather than privileging one meter; and it teaches holistically through a cyclical dance combining creative writing and scansion.

The Spiral is non-hierarchical and each gathering is open to all. Founder Annie Finch, the Meter Mentors, Spiral Keeper Kim Malinowski, and all the Spiralers are available in the Spiral Discussion or in our private Chat to answer questions or offer guidance. You are warmly, joyfully invited to join the Magic!



Autumn and her kitty!