

Poetry of Witness

A DAY TO EXPLORE THE ART AND THE CRAFT OF POETRY

Poetry is more than pretty words and comforting thoughts. It is also a voice, an occasion to speak up and speak out. Akira Kurosawa, the Japanese film director, says, “to be an artist means never to avert one’s eyes.” Poetry of witness is poetry that doesn’t avert its eyes. It is poetry that sees and speaks, giving a voice to those who would otherwise have none.

Poetry of witness is poetry that reflects on the large social issues of its time: war, racial injustice, social injustice, poverty, immigration . . . It looks at the human condition and bears witness. It does not offer solutions, it merely speaks what it sees.

In this day devoted to Poetry of Witness we will read and discuss poems by many different contemporary poets, looking not only at what they are saying but at their craft: how they use the tools of poetry to further their content. We will also have an opportunity to write either our own poems or journal entries that reflect on issues that have meaning to us, discovering our own opportunity for witness.

This is a day for poets and non-poets alike. It is a day to explore the art of poetry, as well as the idea of witness.

The day will be led by **Dorothy Howe Brooks**, a local writer of poetry and fiction. Over the years, Dorothy’s work has appeared in numerous literary journals, including *Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Poem*, *Windhover*, *Louisiana Literature*, and *Alabama Literary Review*, as well as the anthology, *If I Had My Life To Live Over I Would Pick More Daisies*, published by Papier-Mache Press. Her poetry chapbook, *Simple Fracture*, was published in 1996 by New Spirit Press, and her 2nd poetry chapbook, *Interstices*, was published in 2009 by Finishing Line Press.

When: Saturday, February 11, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (bring a bag lunch)

Where: Mother of God House of Prayer
17880 Cypress Creek Rd
Alva, FL 33920

For more information:
info@moghop.com
www.moghop.com
\$25.00 for the day

To register, call 239-728-3614