

THE OFFICIAL ZINE OF THE BOSTON POETRY SLAM AT THE CANTAB LOUNGE, FEATURING CONTENT BY OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS. OUR WEEKLY SHOW HAPPENS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT, STARTING AT 8 PM.

Wednesday Memorabilia

Some Recent Open Mic Highlights!

“Centuries of flotsam drifting in the aether / and my entire life tethered to an ember / blotted out by a raincloud” - *Hyder*

“The Teslas are sunning themselves like albino lizards” - *Sramana*

“I’ve been stranded from her / as a fish is from an island” - *D. Donna*

“My mind is an unfinished poem” - *Paige S.*

“What is a tunnel but a bridge to another entrance?” - *Ryan Phung*

“There is no word for the happiness of strangers” - *Jade Kleiner*

“I find that I am sometimes too accepting of mysteries” - *Eddy Martinez*

Katya Zinn’s poem “Child Protective Services pays a visit to the Charmin Toilet Paper Bears”

Oliver’s Poem “Rot Is A Natural Process Only So Long As It Does Not Affect Me”

“I am in love and it’s an eyesore” - *Kat Anderson*

“But that even if my body is my house / I don’t have to be home all the time.” - *Alex Kist*

“99% of my poems are trying to kill my secrets” - *March Penn*



Writing Prompt

Sam Cha
samcha.info

- 1. Take a deep breath. Hold it. As you hold it, think about who you were a [year/decade/lifetime] ago. Remember being that person. Who were they? What did they feel like? What surrounded them? What music were they listening to? What pictures were hanging on their walls? What did they eat? Let it out.
- 2. What has changed? List 2-5 things that have changed. Either within you, or without.
- 3. Edit the list down to a single line.
- 4. Repeat, 14 times.
- 5. That’s a 14 line draft of a poem, which means it’s basically a sonnet. A sonnet about change, on the scale of a year, decade, or lifetime.

Anagrams

Michael F. Gill
[bbtp.net]

Using the context clues, unscramble the capitalized letters at the end of each sentence to answer each whimsical question. Each answer is one or two words long, and enumerations for the answer are given in parentheses.

Example: What poetic form invented by Terrance Hayes HELD OVEN LOGS? (6,6)
Answer: Golden Shovel

- 1. What do you call the distinct aura that comes from POEM HATERS? (10)
- 2. In what U.S. city in the Mid-Atlantic would you find a RATMOBILE? (9)
- 3. What verbal competition provides an AMPLE STORY? (6,4)
- 4. What Beatles song could be played at a PRIDE PARTY? (3, 7)
- 5. What poetic form sneaks up to you from the left and right and gives you a NOCTURNAL TAP? (12)



photographer: Chris Rye

New Shit / Fresh Vegetables / Gorgeous Garlic

Crème Brûlée on a Rooftop in Seaport
Amy Argentar [insta: @airplane_poems]

As you entered my tastebuds with the sickly-sweet vapidty of a republican fundraiser, you made me hate you.

Extravagant and torched to imperfection, a blessing, reminding me that bigger is not always better, that the thrill of breaking someone’s shell can still lead to the most simple of disappointments, that nothing we create on this Earth can ever be as perfect as the picture, or the fire.

And it is powerful to defy expectations in this way –

Sour when we have been told to be sweet

Unknown when we have been told to be familiar

When I cracked you open, I knew it was wrong - A folded-over math test of a dessert, you were wrong, dear crème brûlée.

Is this your silent fractured rebellion? Should we all behave this way when we are told to be delicious?

Cryptid
Alex Kist [insta: @alex.aimee.kist]

I’m told I am inherently unnatural
thus, I’ve decided I am a miracle —
the cornflower brimstone of my eye
the liquid fire in my veins
crusted porcelain skin
some haunted thing
like angels
or bedsheets
unrecognizable
after the first coming
when I have landed
from wingless flight
upon too-wide feet
and flexing limb
some awkward, beautiful thing
waiting for someone to guess my name

Of Magdalena Bread & Bike Rides
Kat Gunther [insta: @katguntherdesign]

Magdalena bread—
Guatemalan delicacy eaten mid bike ride.
Air like a stolen moment, condensed, seized, and rapidly released.

Joy consumed by opening mouth,
letting the great rush within,
air being rapidly taken up in lungs and replaced.
Sky took back its luster today, aching in its own true color.

I was never as young as I was today
The concept is: an arrival.

There is no greater joy that Vorfreude.
The Germans love structure, so obviously they would find a way to engineer a precise euphoria, one that can be lifted up, again, and again and be seen from every angle before actually consumed.

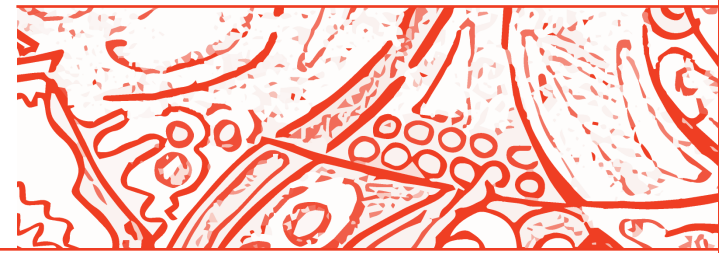
Vorfreude. The joy of anticipation.
The green thrum of summer could not be ignored as the weeds reclaimed each cracked moment of pavement.
And I was not bound to the endless passage:
I was Vorfreude-ing.

Cantab Contrapuntal
compiled by Michael F. Gill [bbtp.net]

The left side is made up of the first lines of poems from the BPS open mic on August 9th, 2023. The right side is made up of the last lines of poems from the BPS open mic on August 9th, 2023.

it’s 10 o’clock
love is everywhere, by which i mean
blink, breathe,
please don’t throw away spring
time, it’s growing through your eyes

i can no longer look away
i might get hit by a car
it will not stop me
make me whole
you don’t need to be
hopeful, just curious



Haiku Exchange

On 10/11/ 2023, we had a 13-person haiku tournament at the Boston Poetry Slam. Here are Haiku from our 2 finalists!

March Penn [insta: @pennmarch]

To love is to build
an invisible castle
and say you see it

Elevator sex
All the buttons glow
as your moans quiver, great on
so many levels

Millennial Haiku
Midlife crisis?
My whole life has been a crisis.
There is no midpoint.

Nonbinary shit
A sweater dressed like
a patterned sock, dick pics of
strap-ons, one earring

2 Period Haiku
A red eel slips out
from between my legs, swims through
bath water ALIVE

“I am life and death
creation and destruction,”
declares the red eel.

Kinds Of Orgasm Series
Am I fidgeting
or beginning to quiver
Ambivalent warmth
The one that gets hot
with many tremoring rings
and floats up like foam
The one that squeezes
from within, quakes a tight butt
to scattered marbles
The Tower Card- here
I come all falling down, hard
cry, tears of rubble
The one that sprints and
stops to chat, hovering
over “almost” then BAM
I start like a trunk
lightning BOOM and then I go
into many rooms

“Not there” says Body
Today I want my armpit
full with finger fucks
Aparna Paul

sorry i don’t have
a dirty haiku some of
us get laid instead
sometimes i worry
that’s the whole thing i
have anxiety
the introspection
beauty of the cinema
Minions: Rise of Gru
a broken window:
what destruction. what chill. but
it lets the light in

after March Penn
Mardi Gras: I lost
my goddamn mind but i found
the king cake baby
[CONTINUED...]



PennCILs

Illustrator: March Penn
[insta: @pennmarch]

Writer: Michael F. Gill

Deconstructing the idea of the octopus: Where do the tentacles begin and end? How many circles of thought do we all contain? Oh, the multiplicity of bodies within ourselves! I can't count all the sea creatures I could be, but I'll rorschach my existence for art, for the sake of infinity.

Haiku Exchange

[CONTINUED: the Haiku of Aparna Paul]

after Hallie

not all beautiful
things belong to me. not that
crunchwrap supreme. yet.
i can have it all!
all: mental breakdown in the
taco bell bathroom

october 1st

awoke this morning
September fucking ended
it's still a Green Day

two haiku after women in my family

#1

i talk to myself
i don't kill myself. i'm my
own Scheherazade.

#2

baiku after my mother on the day
before her 60th birthday

not that i would shoot
myself then no one would get
the life insurance

the cat Toota considers the roof

she thinks she can get
up there, if she jumps high
enough. idiot cat

on having diarrhea in the penn
station moynihan train hall

it's not poetic
not everything needs to be
memorialized

The Athletic Octopus: Humans don't realize how easy it is to go to the gym with fewer than five limbs. Do you know how long it takes to develop eight biceps equally? Think about how many socks I need to buy when I want to wear shoes! Or how many weights I need to pick up and put down for a single deadlift!

This life just isn't made for a muscle-bound socktopus like me.

Rejected Cantab Theme nights

By The Cantab Staff [...but mainly Jimmy and Michael]

Gong Show Night: A gong is struck when poems on the open mic go over 3 minutes. If the poem continues, the open mic-er will be haunted by a human dressed up in a clock costume that says "4 minutes" on it. Also: for every minute the featured poet goes over time, we deduct \$5 from their pay.

Weight List Night: Poet weightlifters lift weights at certain times during the open mic, and underneath those weights are the names of people on the weight/waitlist. Each spot on the weight/waitlist is labeled with the percentage of a successful deadlift for that weight amount. People on the weight/waitlist continue to read until a failed lift happens.

Contrapuntal Group Piece Night: Everyone does a group piece contrapuntal, with one person/ group reading the left side, the other person/group doing the right side, and everyone doing the combined part in unison.

YouTube Apology Slam: Poems must be read off a phone note. It must begin with a deep sigh, and then "Hey guys...I never thought I'd have to write this poem." Score is based on how much the apology would make in ad revenue. There will be a representative from Hello Fresh in the audience that will rank each poem on how willing they'd be to sponsor it.

Submit to the Cantabernacle!
Guidelines: 1) Your submission is not too long 2) You frequent our Wednesday night show.
Send submissions of your work to: michael@bostonpoetryslam.com.

Tarot Horoscope

Tips from the Tarot for deepening your relationships this fall from March Penn [atpennmarch]

Aries: (Devil Card & Nine of Pentacles) You've worked hard to gather your desires together and find the patterns in them. Now you can sit back and find the ease of expression. Delight in your abundance, for this is your moment to feel the deep connection that exists in structures you've already created.

Sagittarius: (Seven of Pentacles & Reversed Six of Pentacles) This is a grounded season for you where your ability to support others will deepen your community. Be careful of sneaky hierarchies that threaten to undercut intimacy. It's okay to be lazy and talk about what you've already accomplished.

Leo: (Devil Card & Nine of Pentacles) The tarot offers you the same cards as Aries so be sure to check out that reading. However, note that for Leo, the Devil card in this reading also serves as a warning that people may try to influence you without it being clear why. The spirit of October may twist up your soul but it brings a whole harvest of dramatic energies your way.

Taurus: (Reversed King of Pentacles & Queen of Cups) Although your home environment is important for relationship building, consider also the ways that stability undercuts

authenticity. How can you learn from things that are inherently unstable without losing your footing?

Virgo: (Page of Pentacles & Wheel of Fortune) Peeling back the layers of your life where you seek control will expose a unique wall underneath. The barriers to connection that you hold are hard to reach but you can get there this fall with a fresh perspective as everything changes around you.

Capricorn: (King of Swords & Reversed Justice): Your relationships deepen as you fight for the rights of your friends to come together. You make important decisions that help others stand up for themselves. You're deep in the struggle and need to connect with other signs to take a break before you become overly fatigued.

Gemini: (Five of Pentacles & Judgement) Fall is a time of inwardness when you think about times in your life when you've struggled. Your depth comes from self-awareness creating curiosity in the minds of others. Let yourself be known this fall!

Libra: (High Priestess & Nine of Wands) Fall is a good time to unleash your analytical skills on the behaviors of

others. You provide insight, even bizarre observations, that make others curious about you.

Aquarius: (Reversed Justice & Wheel of Fortune) Your connection with others is deeply intuitive. Let yourself fall into conversations. Paying attention to your dreams/nightmares will be an important topic this season.

Cancer: (Reversed Seven of Pentacles & Reversed Temperance) Let yourself be impatient and feel the relationship between impatience and desire. You are emerging and shouldn't have to be bound to balance.

Scorpio: (Hermit & Seven of Pentacles) This is your season, Scorpio, so let you delight in your own energy. You have a mesmerizing effect and are the shiny aura that people need when dealing with difficult stuff.

Pisces: (Six of Swords & The Fool) This season may remind you of loss and major life transitions. Use the moodiness to see your connections from a new perspective. This time of year is like a new year for you as you embark on journeys with others.

Poetography & Comics

This Poem Will Self Destruct Before It Is Read
Michael F. Gill [bbtp.net]
In this exhibit, the artist wants to bring us face to face with our own disposable consumerism by letting us view an impossible artifact: a piece of art that has been destroyed before it even exists.

Proletariat Pleasures | M-ZILLA

"Aaah! Bakunin! You're home early"

Mom's Spaghetti
Kat Anderson [insta: @blue_razzzz]
After Eminem
5/18/23

Crossword
Ben Tolkin [nautiluspuz.com]
Clues:
Across
1. ___ Moines
4. "Dang!" classically
7. Kitchen flippers
10. Dull
11. Soda opener
12. Chimney coating
13. Refrains
17. "We're out of here!"
18. Period
19. Cage, familiarly
Down
1. Summer hours, for short
2. Legendary
3. Florida city in the Gulf Coast
4. Continues unbothered, like Modest Mouse
5. Common foot
6. Language ender
8. Mid-ranges
9. Major series of readings
13. Cavs, on scoreboards
14. 2013 film with a virtual assistant voiced by Scarlett Johansson
15. "Ugly" actor Wallach
16. Utah capital, for short

The Cantabernacle is put together by the staff at the Boston Poetry Slam. It is edited and compiled by Michael F. Gill, with graphic design and layout by Kat Gunther. All work is the copyright of the authors. Past issues are on our website, including answers to the puzzles.