

The Texas Poets' Corner introduces



*A Virtual Evening with
Jenny Lind Porter*

Featured Reader



*2021 Poet Laureate of Texas,
Professor Cyrus Cassells*

Program

Welcome.....	Shawna Kennedy-Witthar
	<i>Director of Information and Library Resources</i>
	<i>WTAMU Cornette Library</i>
Bio of Jenny Lind Porter.....	Dr. Marty Kuhlman
	<i>Jenny Lind Porter Professor of History</i>
Introduction of Cyrus Cassells.....	Shawna Kennedy-Witthar
In the Beginning When Green Came on the Pasture	
The Vinegar Hymn	
Within an Hour	
Ho, Self! There is a Lake Before This Life	
The Cliffs of Darkness	
Introduction of Julia Alexander.....	Shawna Kennedy-Witthar
Bitter Meed	
Borrowed Skins	
There Was a Certain Jackal Mid the Throng	
Introduction of David Craig.....	Shawna Kennedy-Witthar
Sonnets I through V	
Introduction of Pat Tyrer.....	Shawna Kennedy-Witthar
The Personalist	
The Topless Towers	
The Lantern of Diogenes	
Closing & Thanks.....	Shawna Kennedy-Witthar

Cassells photo credit: Rachel Eliza Griffiths

Biographies

Jenny Lind Porter

Jenny Lind Porter had a remarkable career as a professor of English covering 38 years between 1959 and 1996. She was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on September 3, 1927 and received a bachelor's and master's degree from Texas Christian University and a doctorate from the University of Texas. She poured her heart into her teaching and had many achievements such as establishing a creative writing program at Huston-Tillotson, where she spent the majority of her career, and being named a Piper Professor, one of the top ten professors in Texas, for 1976. Her numerous publications of poetry earned recognition and awards. Governor John Conally named her Texas Poet Laureate in 1964. She was the youngest person to hold that honor. In 1985 Porter was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and the Texas Institute of Letters in 2000. Jenny Lind Porter taught at West Texas State College from 1959 through 1961 and her generosity has established the Texas Poets' Corner at West Texas A&M University.

Cyrus Cassells

Cyrus Cassells is the 2021 Texas State Artist-Poet Laureate. Among his honors: a Guggenheim fellowship, the National Poetry Series, a Lambda Literary Award, and Lannan Literary Award. His 2018 collection, *The Gospel according to Wild Indigo*, was an NAACP Image Award finalist. *Still Life with Children: Selected Poems of Francesc Parcerisas*, translated from the Catalan, was awarded the Texas Institute of Letters' Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translated Book of 2018 and 2019. His eighth volume, *The World That the Shooter Left Us*, will be published by Four Way Books in February 2022.

David Craig

David Craig has been writing poetry intermittently since he was ten years old. He became interested in formal poetry about fifteen years ago. He teaches physics and astronomy at West Texas A&M University. When he has time away from teaching he writes poetry and works with colleagues studying distant galaxies with radio and optical telescopes, among other things. His latest publications are included in *Pandemic Poems* by Panhandle Poets, published this past September.

Pat Tyrer

Pat Tyrer is the Jenny Lind Porter Endowed Professor of English at West Texas A&M University. Her creative work has appeared in *Readers' Digest*, *Quiet Mountain*, *Front Porch Review*, and *Plum Tree Tavern* and includes two books of poetry, *Creative Hearts* and *Western Spaces, Western Places*. She is a founding partner of the High Plains Poetry Project.

Julia Alexander

Julia Alexander is in her final semester pursuing a Master of Arts in English. Her research interests include the political influence of art on politics, intertextuality between classic literature and popular media, and the economics of artistic production. In her spare time, she enjoys reading medieval mystery novels and playing guitar very badly. Plans include securing a position teaching entry-level English courses to underprepared college freshmen and renovating her kitchen. Julia was born in Aiken, South Carolina but calls Friona, Texas home.

