

LITERATURE

## KORE PRESS

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### Protesting War with Poetry Payloads

## Arizona is Abuzz Over *Coming in Hot*

**NEW RELEASE:** *Love and the Eye*, by Laura Newbern

### Inspiration & Vexation on Persephone Speaks

Tucson, AZ Reacts to *Coming in Hot*



Last week *Coming in Hot: The Civil Discourse Tour* wrapped up its 21 performances in Tucson, AZ and prepares to hit the road. [Persephone Speaks](#) shares a collection of reflections from post-show audience free-writes, open forums, and facilitated discussions. Last month, *Coming in Hot* took the stage and filled classrooms at six area high schools, Pima Community College, the University of Arizona Poetry Center, a Veterans in Higher Education conference, and a few local living rooms. The diverse locales and audiences sparked powerful conversations around S Arizona. We look forward to hearing what folks in other parts of the country have to say. See [Persephone Speaks](#) this month to catch highlights from the local tour or visit the [Coming in Hot Civil Discourse blog](#) for complete coverage.

*"[I am] thunderstruck by the experiences these women had. Never, ever in my life have I heard*

### *Coming in Hot* The Civil Discourse Tour



***Coming in Hot* is readying to heat up stages and classrooms over the next two months in LA, Seattle, Sacramento, Memphis, Reno, Portland & Missoula. The Civil Discourse Tour has stirred up controversy in the media, inspired debate, and fueled emotions among audiences. Check out the recent coverage in *The Aztec Press*, *The Tucson Sentinel*, *The Arizona Daily Star*, *The Arizona Daily Wildcat*, and *The Tucson Weekly*. Visit the [website](#) and [blog](#) to read more reviews and articles, view**

*firsthand tellings of what it is like to be a woman in the military. I feel somewhat heartbroken by what they witnessed."*

## Bombing Berlin with Poetry

An Anti-War Project from a Chilean Art Collective



Photo Credit: bookhaven.stanford.edu

Thousands of people gathered at Berlin's Lustgarten August 31st with their eyes cast upward, waiting anxiously for tiny poetry payloads to be dropped from above. "Poetry rained from the skies" that night in Berlin as **100,000 bookmarks** printed with a poem from one of 80 German and Chilean poets were dropped city-wide by a helicopter as part of a protest against war and a message of peace. The event was the fifth installment of a "poetry rain" project from Chilean art collective Casagrande. The Berlin event marked the 200th anniversary of the independence of Chile and was followed by readings and performances by Latin American artists at Lustgarten. Previous poetry "bombings" arranged by Casagrande have been held in Santiago, Dubrovnik, Gernika, and Warsaw - all strategically selected cities that have suffered the wrath of aerial bombings in wartime. **"Organizers say that just as wartime bombings were intended to 'break the morale' of the inhabitants of a city, so poetry bombing 'builds a new city by giving new meaning to events of her tragic past..."** Read more about the Berlin event and the Chilean Art Collective from [The Guardian](#).

## Poets for Living Waters

Heidi Lynn Staples and Amy King



It has been an agonizing six months of watching and waiting, since the Deep-water Horizon oil-drilling rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico. For many of us, getting involved in the resolution of such a tragedy seem daunting, but using the power of poetry, Heidi

**tour dates, and get ticket info.**

**Here's a taste of the buzz from Arizona audiences so far:**

*". . . these women are brave because they willfully joined the boy's club, willfully entered the smoking parlor where they knew they would face closed doors at best, violation at worst."* -- audience member from University of Arizona Veterans in Higher Education conference

*"After watching Coming in Hot my perspective on the US military in general is that it has betrayed the idea/reputation of the American people - women soldiers have a far more difficult road than men and the way they are treated is horrible. Changes must be made / voices must be heard. Before we change the world, we need to change ourselves."* -- student from Catalina Foothills High School

*"I can't see why people would want to go to war just to fill the gas tanks of American cars. . . War is a human invention: terrible and destructive like our pollution. It breaks a person."* -- student from Tucson High School

*"I am moved because this performance gives me such a visceral, immediate connection to women whose lives may at first seem so different than mine. The words spoken here make me know these women are not different from me. They are my sisters."* -- audience member from a salon performance

## Upcoming Performances

**Los Angeles, CA: October 9**  
Benefit for No More Victims  
at Arena Stage of the Theater Arts

**Seattle, WA: October 15 & 16**  
North Seattle Community College

**Sacramento, CA: October 17 (two shows)**  
4pm & 7pm at California Stage

**Memphis, TN: October 22-24**  
2010 Gandhi-King Conference on  
Peacemaking: "Experiments with Truth"

**Reno, NV: October 27 & 29**  
Rainshadow Charter High School

## **NEW Grrls Civic Action Workshop & Mentoring Program** Now Accepting Applications



**Empowering GRRLS to Change the World**  
Kore is looking for Grrls who want to write one-on-one with writers from the Tucson community in the **mentoring program** AND Grrls

Lynn Staples and Amy King have developed a simple way to help mobilize communities for the cause. Last spring, Staples and King launched [Poets for Living Waters](#), a collaborative online forum where anyone can submit original work written in response



to the gulf disaster. "We wanted to respond in a way that wasn't situating us - as poets - as impotent witnesses in front of the TV or the radio...**Poems really can do a lot of different things: They can lament, ask for help, talk politics, cry out, and bear witness from perspectives you don't normally get from**

**the mainstream media,"** King says. In June, the dynamic duo launched an "Action" component, organizing readings across the country where contributors to the site could seize the opportunity to read their work aloud to gathering audiences. Ever since then, Staples and King have been arranging reading tours, getting well-known poets on the road for the cause, and inspiring communities across the nation to write, speak, and act. "Self expression, listening, and distributing ideas are all indeed actions....One typically may not think of them as such because they are quite minature in scale.

**A Poem is more like plankton than like a vigilante. Whoever thinks of plankton as particularly active? But did you know that within plankton are the seeds of the clouds? Poets are cultivating new climates for change."** -- Heidi Lynn Staples



[Read the full article from Poets & Writers here.](#)

Photo Credits: [poetsgulfoast.wordpress.com](#), [amyking.wordpress.com](#), [heidilynnstaples.com](#)

### 2011 Kore Press Short Fiction Award

Judged by Antonya Nelson

**Mark your calendars: the October 31st deadline is approaching!** This year's judge, [Antonya Nelson](#), was recently named by *The New Yorker* as one of the "twenty young fiction writers for the new millenium." Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Harpers*, *Redbook* and other magazines, as well as in anthologies such as *Prize Stories*, the *O. Henry Awards*, and *Best American Short Stories*. Her books have been *New York Times* notable books in 1992, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002. Visit the [submissions page](#), on the Kore website, for full contest guidelines and instructions for [submitting](#) your manuscript online by **October 31st**.



(Sophomore or Junior female and trans youth) for the new, 2011 creative **Civic Action Workshop**. Grrls will write creatively together, engage in various art-making practices, take action and learn about democracy by interviewing those who resist, challenge and work within it in order to bring about change. Grrls will work with artists, journalists, politicians, judges, citizens, activists, meditators, fabric artists, writers. Each and every one of us *IS* our democracy. Meet people who create change, **make YOUR voice heard: change history!** Stipends awarded to grrls who complete the program. Applications are [here](#), for more info contact Miki: [grrls@korepress.org](mailto:grrls@korepress.org).

### Kore Women Make Waves

Laura Newbern, Tiphonie Yanique & Holly Iglesias



**Love and the Eye, by Laura Newbern is now available for purchase on the Kore website!** Click [here](#) or email us at [kore@korepress.org](mailto:kore@korepress.org) to order your copy of the 2010 First Book Award winner selected by Claudia Rankine. [Laura Newbern](#) and fellow Kore author [Tiphonie Yanique](#) were both recipients of the prestigious [Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award](#) this year and

were recognized at the official ceremony on September 23rd, in NYC.



**Tiphonie Yanique** nabbed another big prize this month as one of the [National Book Foundations 5 Under 35](#). Tiphonie was selected as an honoree for her recently released work, *How to Escape from a Leper Colony* (Graywolf, 2010). The NBA's 5 Under 35 is in its fifth year of celebrating young fiction

writers, selected by National Book Award winners and finalists, and will host a celebration at powerHouse Arena in Brooklyn, NY in November.

*Angles of Approach* (White Pine Press 2010) is the latest collection of poetry released from **Holly Iglesias**, author of *Souvenirs of a Shruken World*. "Her eye and ear for the quotidian result in the characters pulling us from one remarkable incident to another as if they had physically taken us by the elbow, whispering urgently." --Marie Harris



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