



The Lantern

Spring, 2015

The Newsletter of Blind Beggar Press, Inc.
A Non-profit publisher.

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THIRTY SEVEN YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!

After celebrating our 35th anniversary in two states for the past two years, Blind Beggar Press continues to move forward. Celebrations in New York and North Carolina were all very successful and we are grateful for the support of our friends and supporters.

In addition, we embarked on a crowd funding opportunity which also brought in some much-needed funding which will help us continue to be productive. Again, we thank our contributors; **we will be hosting a special reception for those contributors in the near future.**

We've published new books and our near future plans include a poetry/dance collaborative with a professional dance company. **STAY TUNED.**



Some poets from our 35th Anniversary anthology taken during one of the celebrations at Bronx Community College. (L-R) Tony Mitchelson, Kamemebti Mer Amon, Atiba Kwabena, Angela Kinamore, C.D. Grant (Co-founder), Layding Kaliba, Mercy Tullis-Bukhari, Jose Angel Figueroa, Lorraine Currelley, Gary Johnston (Co-fonder), Carmen D. Lucca and Esther Louise.



Mercy Tullis-Bukhari's new book **Smoke**, is her debut collection of poetry and it is most certainly a marvelous representation of her talent as a writer. Her poems are startlingly original and pithy and cover a wide range of emotions. There is parthos, humor and tributes to such luminaries as Celia Cruz and Billie Holiday among others. Her prose is filled with passion and a sincerity that is uniquely hers. Based on this first effort we can expect even more as she continues to expand and produce more of her wonderful material.

BBP Co-founder, **Gary Johnston** is constantly creating, but only recently has begun to share his work in book form. His frequent readings are outstanding and those of us familiar with his material eagerly await his publications. **Tears of Answered Prayer** brings together some of his more romantic offerings and gives homage to some of his favorite writers, including Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Aeschylus. This small chapbook is not to be missed. We understand that more work will be published soon.



Gary has outdone himself with **Good Work for a Season**. He uses the voices of such well-known biblical characters as John the Baptist, Judas, Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate, Mary Magdalene, and others to express how they may have felt about Jesus Christ. His insight into the Bible along with his uncanny rendering of their thoughts will make one wonder if he has a deeper understanding of the biblical personas that most of us lack. It is not so much a religious book as a quasi-psychological interpretation that humanizes these people from so long ago.

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