



Spilt Ink Poetry Newsletter: Issue # 3

“WE ALL BLEED THE SAME!”

Welcome to our third official newsletter. This Special Edition issue will honor the legacy of our founder of Spilt Ink Poetry, Charles Banks, Jr.

Poets contributing to this newsletter! Include Shauniece Croudip, Jenuine Poetess, and David Pointer

Respectfully,
Spilt Ink Poetry

- Publishing
- Advice
- Poetry
- Diversity

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About the Author: David S. Pointer has recent work included in "Beyond the Thirteenth Chime" anthology. David has been writing social justice/political poetry in the underground for a long time. Currently, he serves on the advisory panel at "Writing for Peace."

Please tell us briefly about yourself; how long have you known Charles Banks, Jr., and how you came to know each other?

Hello. My name is David S. Pointer. I've been publishing in the small press for 25 years. I saw an online post for "We All Bleed the Same" and soon met Charles Banks Jr. through our email correspondence.

Charles founded Spilt Ink Poetry in March 2013. How has his effort and achievements at Spilt Ink been beneficial to the Poetry community?

Charles was immediately accepted and celebrated by the online creative flock. He joined the international community of creative writers, publishers and started contributing high quality works of art in print, audio and online. He "joined the ongoing dialogue" as they say in the writing community.

What do the brand, Spilt Ink Poetry Press and the motto, "WE ALL BLEED THE SAME!" mean to you?

I guess right now, I am just saddened and feeling grief over his early passing. The name "Spilt Ink Poetry," symbolizes the fragility of the human experience for me. Nobody is guaranteed a certain amount of heartbeats. Time is too valuable to squander or be taken for granted.

How has Charles contributed to your achievements as a writer?

Charles published some of my work and encouraged me to contribute in the future. On a deeper level, I've internalized his ongoing desire to create a better world through creative writing, and added it to my own inner spirit dreams. My life is definitely richer for having crossed paths with Charles Banks Jr. When I checked on his press the last time I discovered that he had passed away. His memory and life's work was being honored by his sister in that the press was being carried forward in a loving, respectful way.

What have you learned from Charles as a result of his influence in the Poetry community? What do you value about Charles and will carry forward?

Charles had posted previously about his medical condition. He was determined to maximize his remaining time by helping other writers and completing more work of his own.

How would you describe Charles' pen names, Black Angel and Curiosity? Which one of his pseudonyms do you like the most and why?

These pen names take on increased meaning with Charles' early departure. I picture the "Black Angel" uploading his spirit into cyberspace and continuing on with spiritual and/or celestial matters pertaining to ink slinging poetry and writing. "Curiosity" sums up the creative process of ongoing exploration while putting one word next to a new word forever building creativity into something new for readers to experience.

What is your favorite Charles Banks, Jr. poem? Why?

I very much enjoyed hearing Charles on Blog Talk Radio on the Asylum Radio Show. "The Mirror" poem stayed with me more after hearing Charles say he looked in the mirror and it was no longer himself that he was seeing.



Eternal Splash of
Spilt Ink

-Dedicated to Charles Banks
Jr. in Memoriam

Charles was a young poet
lodged

between an

ambulance

bay and

another big deck of tarot
cards

rising faster than
an animal balloon
embracing
his earthly time left
lifted up by the literature
experience

assisting
others emerging or established
on the pen scene
to fold back a full measure of
celestial silence to
a better forever emitted by the
ink splash to come

- David Pointer

[Lament for a Poet]

By Jenuine Poetess

*for Charles E. Banks, Jr.
founder of Spilt Ink Poetry
January 17, 1989 - April 16, 2015*

*we never met
except through the wonders of
cyber space and facebook*

*but our words
exchanged
posted poems and
creative dialogue
challenging
inspiring
each
the other*

*there is much I never knew
of him
but about this
at least
i'm sure:
we are a little less
for his loss
yet so much more
for his life*

*he was not a poet for himself
he was a poet for community
creating opportunity
for others
publishing
editing
shining lights on poets far and wide
encouraging our emerging voices
empowering with his words*

*cancer ravaged his young body
cruel and unforgiving disease
but his soul
not a thing could cripple his spirit
his passion
for poetry*

*may he live on
ever shining
in the words
he spilled onto every page*

*may we remember
this man
his light
snuffed out
far too soon*

*rest in power
brother
rest in peace*

*rest in relief
no more pain*

*rest in poetry
brother
we'll take up this work
continuing in your honor
© by Jenuine Poetess*



Jenuine Poetess is the director of ITWOW International, a grass-roots project she founded in 2010 which empowers womyn world-wide, through local writing circles, to give sound to our story and volume to our voice. She writes, organizes, and creates rooted in the fierce conviction that holding intentional space, access, and opportunity for all people to foster their creative health is a matter of justice and is a vital asset to the sustainable thriving of communities. She currently lives and poems in Central Texas where she enjoys finding new ways to disrupt the homeostasis of her city.

“A Poet’s Legacy”

By Shauniece Croudip

*He did what he adored
with his pen handy
placing words, words, and more words
while trying to stay at peace
with his condition*

*He wrote until he wrote no more
Through his words and works
he touched us all
In the middle of his trials
there were smiles*

*In the face of his celebration of life
some of us left hurting
thus far deliberating
what could’ve become of this ambitious, but talented one
whom we all have come to love
if he would’ve been with us longer*

*Even though he expired
his words will never go out of style*

© by Shauniece Croudip



Shauniece Croudip began writing short stories as a child and poetry while in college. She currently holds a Bachelors degree in Liberal Studies with a Special Option in History, and two Masters degrees in Curriculum and Instruction: Reading and Professional Counseling. Aside from writing, Shauniece enjoys reading, listening to music, watching movies and sports, researching, and spending time with her son. Currently, she resides in Long Beach, California with her son. Shauniece is working on a poetry book and children’s book that is due to come out this year.

Thank you for your Memorial Donation
to the Banks Family!

Anonymous

Justin

Shauncia Cherry

Larry Davis

Lanisha Easter

David Gilmore

LeAnne Hunt

Teo Jones

Kathie Kong

Pedro Lozano

Robert Villanueva

Patrice Spencer

April Purnell



Spilt Ink Poetry
"We all bleed the same!"

Spilt Ink Poetry would like to thank everyone responsible for the creation of our 3rd newsletter.

To David Pointer for taking the time to answer my questionnaire and submit a tribute poem to Charles.

To Jenuine Poetess for submitting the tribute poem, "Lament for a Poet".

To Shauniece Croudip for submitting the tribute poem, "A Poet's Legacy".

Respectfully, *Spilt Ink Poetry*

DONATIONS:

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