Famed poet gives reading at USD

Jean Valentine sheds light on her life and works at the IPJ

CHRIS BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Jean Valentine, the current state poet of New York and winner of the 2004 National Book Award for Poetry, kicked off the fifth Annual Lindsay Cropper Writers Series at the Joan Crock Institute for Peace and Justice last Friday, Oct. 10. The reading followed the recent publication of Valentine’s 11th book, “Small Boat.”

Valentine began her reading with “To the Bardo,” a poem originally written for a sick friend who was dying. She continued with other readings from her work including: “Once,” “The Coin,” “X” and “Your Number is Lift ing Off my Hand.” For each poem, Valentine told a brief background story and various humorous anecdotes which allowed the audience to gain a more complete understanding of each piece.

After finishing some of her shorter poems, Valentine continued the reading with, “Lacy,” a long multipart poem based upon the maternal figure of the oldest humanoid skeleton, an Austrolophithicine dubbed Lucy, written in two sittings.

Preceding a reading of some unfinished poems, Valentine said to the audience, “I like reading new things; I can hear them better if you’re all here.” This candid attitude towards her poems was present throughout the performance. After reading one of her new poems she wondered aloud, “I’m not sure if that one’s finished yet.”

During the question and answer period of the reading, Valentine answered questions regarding her writing style and what it was like to host workshops in prisons. In response to a question regarding her new job opportunities and coordinate interreligious dialogue.

Bangladesh, a country which gained independence in 1971 through a bloody civil war, has faced severe hardships including famine, military coups, and a construction expert will be needed to help with the many aspects of renovating the house. Some of the different changes to the front and backyard, an exterior designer will be on the job site making sure that everything is done properly. Rosalie. This is an opportunity for many students to complete community service hours while improving the life of a cancer survivor.

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The class is inviting students to go online to sandiego.edu/thanksgivinghouse.com to make donations. They are also holding a fundraiser at Fiji Yogurt today, Oct. 16th. The company will be donating a percentage of their sales to the project.

With several other funding plans in the works the Project Management class will no doubt have great success in their endeavors. They will be on site working during the first two weekends in November. Please contact Anna Minniti at anna_minniti-10@sandiego.edu if you want to get involved.

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As Shinjita Alam sat in the IPJ theater, her composed demeanor belied her personal drive to bring gender equality to her native Bangladesh. Alam, one of the featured speakers of the university’s Women PeaceMakers Program, gave a lecture last Thursday, where she discussed her work to empower impoverished women, set up job opportunities and coordinate interreligious dialogue.

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