Distinguished women showed the poetic side of Pasadena

By Sid Cally, Correspondent

April is National Poetry Month. Here are some local poets, all deceased, that appealed to us.

Jean Burden of Altadena was poetry editor of "Yankee" magazine for many years. She wrote "Journey Toward Poetry," and was mentor to other poets.

California State University, Los Angeles, hosts the annual Jean Burden Poetry Reading.

Hildegarde Flanner lived in Altadena surrounded by her beloved plants, until she and her artist husband, Frederick Morhoff, moved to Calistoga.

Her book of poems, "In Native Light," is illustrated with her husband's engravings.

Celeste Turner Wright grew up on North Los Robles Avenue and began writing poetry when at Pasadena High School.

She became the first tenured woman professor at UC Davis where The Celeste Turner Wright Poetry Prize, sponsored by the Academy of American Poets, is awarded each year.

Pictured here in a photo by staff photographer Walt Mancini from the Pasadena-Star News collection at the Pasadena Museum of History is Paula Randall of Sierra Madre, then 87, is shown here in a photo from the collection in the Pasadena Museum of History, taken by Walt Mancini, Pasadena Star-News.

After retirement she studied art and produced prizewinning sculptures and metal jewelry.

Paula Randall joined a Jean Burden poetry workshop and published her poems. Composer Thomas Yeake wrote a choral song piece around her poems called "The Greening of Will." Here is one of them, called "Small Ritual."
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Golden Eagle · Cal State LA

The 28th Annual Joan Burden Poetry Reading will be held Thu., May 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Golden Eagle Ballroom on the Cal State L.A. campus.

Speaker: Wanda Coleman is recognized as "the unofficial poet laureate of Los Angeles." Ms. Coleman's most recent awards are the George Drury Smith Award from Beyond Baroque Literary Center (2012) and the Shelley Memorial Award from The Poetry Society of America (2012). Since its inception in 1986, the Joan Burden Poetry Readings have brought to CSULA many prominent contemporary poets. Refreshments served at 5:45 p.m. (Refreshments will be served, and the reading will be followed by book sales and signing.)

For info, go to http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/dburden.php or call the CSULA English Dept. at (323) 343-4140. Free to the public.

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