

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. 2015 Annual Convention



Discover the Treasure — Poetry's Place in the Sun



Hosted by the
Florida State Poets Association, Inc
at the
Hilton Bayfront Hotel
St. Petersburg, Florida
June 25 - 28, 2015

A Greeting from the President of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

For many years, first as a student, later as a college teacher, I thought of summer as the season for poetry—vacation time to write poetry of my own, enough free time to write my one long poem of the year. Now, I begin the summer with the NFSPS Convention. What better way to start off a season of poetry? The convention gives the opportunity to talk shop with poets from all over the country, to hear them perform their work, and to get copies of their books.

At this 2015 NFSPS Convention, the members of the Florida State Poets Association invite us to “Discover the Treasure.” They have worked extraordinarily hard to gather poetic treasure that all of us attending can discover for ourselves. I hope you will leave “Poetry’s Place in the Sun” with a trove of summer reading from the bookroom, of poem starts and poetic strategies from the workshops, of inspiration from the open mic and prize poem readings.

I hope, too, that you will carry home to your state society a trove of program ideas from the plenary sessions and (if you’re a state president) from the state presidents meeting. I hope especially that you will find the treasure of fellowship with poets from all over the country and that you will carry back to your desk a trove of memories that keep you connected throughout the year with the new and old poet friends whom you meet here in St. Petersburg.

Eleanor Berry

A Greeting from the President of the Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

Poets and friends,

Welcome to Florida, to the 2015 NFSPS Convention and to the sunny and culturally endowed city of St Petersburg. Florida is a dynamic place. Dated stereotypes are only partially true today. A growing and diverse new crowd of affluent immigrants are helping recreate the cultural life of our state. Florida was recently recognized as the third most populous state in the U.S. Culture and art are flourishing, and an educated group of residents is fostering growth in the arts as well as physically developing this opulent tropical landscape.

We poets are a part of that equation “recording the emotional history of the world” as our friend, mentor, and co-chair of this convention Peter Meinke says of our humble craft. We are proud and happy to welcome you to our state, our homes, and our hearts.

Enjoy the treasure of renewing old friendships, of making new friends, of writing and sharing your thoughts and your poetry. You are welcome here. We have turned the light on for you and hope that you have a memorable, creative, poetic adventure with us.

Best,

Joe Cavanaugh

Thursday , June 25, 2015

- 3:30-5:30 pm** NFSPS Board Meeting (Hilton Training Center - HTC #3)
- 6:30 pm** Welcome Reception (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
Welcome to Florida by Florida State Poets Association President Joe Cavanaugh
Welcome to the Annual Convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies by NFSPS President Eleanor Berry
Welcome to St. Petersburg by St. Petersburg Poet Laureate Peter Meinke
- 7:00 pm** Dinner on your own
- 5:00-8:00 pm** Open House at the Dali Museum
- 8:30 pm - closing** Late Night Open Poetry Readings Hosted by Natalie Warrick (Williams Room)

Friday, June 26, 2015

- 8:00-8:45 am** Open Poetry Readings (Williams Room)
- 9:00-10:30 am** First Plenary Session (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
- 10:30 am** "Florida's Literary and Poetic Heritage" Dr. Maurice O'Sullivan (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
- 11:15 am** Lola Haskins: Reading her work and speaking of being a Florida Poet (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
- 12:30-2:30 pm** Lunch (Grand Bay North Ballroom)
NFSPS Program
Presentations: Manningham Trust Awards, Contest Awards
- 3:00 - 4:30 pm** "Florida's Roots, The Poetry of Cow Hunting in the Hammocks" (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
Presenters: Sean Sexton and Doyle Rigdon, Poetry Reading
Poetry Writing Workshop: Elaine Person
- 5:00 pm** Friday Night Reception (Lobby near the Grand Bay North Ballroom)
Nautical Music by Jen Shumliak
- 5:30 pm** Joe Cavanaugh: Welcome and Introduction to Program (Grand Bay North Ballroom)
A program presented by Janet Watson
"Gifts from the Sea"
- 6:30 pm** Dinner (Grand Bay North Ballroom)
NFSPS Presentations
College/University Awards; Contest Awards
- 8:00 pm** Performance Poetry: Individual Competition (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
- 10:00 pm** Late Night Open Poetry Readings (Williams Room)

Saturday, June 27, 2015

- 8:00-8:45am** Open Poetry Readings (Williams Room)
- 9:00 -10:30 am** "Our Heritage Speaks: Culture and Ethnicity in Poetry" (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
Presenters: Silvia Curbelo and Mary Elizabeth "Bettie" Perez, Poetry Readings
Ethnic Heritage Workshop: Janet Watson
- 10:45 -12:00 pm** The Poetry of Florida from Coast to Coast with Orlando in the Middle (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
Introductions: Joe Cavanaugh
Presenters: Greg Byrd, Jeff Karon, Curtis X. Meyer, Bob Calabrese, Rosemary Volz
- 12:30 pm Lunch** (Grand Bay North Ballroom)
FSPA Announcement of Convention Poetry Contest Winners
NFSPS Program
Youth Awards/Poetry Day/Poetry Month/Contest Awards

- 3:00-4:30 pm** Panel Discussion: "The Power Of Partnership" (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
Panelists: Peter and Jeanne Meinke, Mac Miller and Melanie Hubbard,
Joe and Shirley Cavanaugh, Randy and Judy Krum
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm** State Presidents Meeting (Hilton Training Center - HTC #3)
- 6:00 pm** Dinner (Grand Bay North Ballroom)
NFSPS Program
Stevens Manuscript Winner, Contest Awards
- 8:00 pm** Florida State Poetry Slam Team Competition (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
- 10:00 pm** Late Night Poetry Open Reading: Last Poet Standing (Williams Room)

Sunday, June 28, 2015

- 8:00 - 8:45 am** Open Poetry Readings (Williams Room)
- 9:00 - 11:00 am** NFSPS Board Meeting (Hilton Training Center - HTC #3)
- 9:00-12:00 pm** Poets are asked to collect books from bookstore.
- 11:30-12:45 pm** Second Plenary Session (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
- 12:00 pm** Book Store Closes
- 1:00 pm** Lunch (Grand Bay North Ballroom)
NFSPS Program
Special Awards, Contest Awards
- 2:30 - 4:30pm** Surrealism Poetry Workshop at the Dali Museum
Presented by the Florida State Poetry Association and the Dali Museum
Presenters: Melanie Hubbard and Dan Pels
- 5:00-6:45 pm** Reception, Cash Bar, Book Signings, Silent Auction Winners (Grand Bay South Ballroom)
- 7:00 pm** Gala Banquet (Grand Bay North Ballroom)
NFSPS Program
Presentations, Contest Awards
Keynote Speaker Peter Meinke
- 9:00 pm** Book Signings and Open Poetry Readings (Williams Room)

About Our Convention Table Decorations

As the coordinator for the creation of all the table decorations, I would like to tell you a little about them. This year's Convention theme is "Discover the Treasure - Poetry's Place in the Sun." With such a great theme it was my idea that each table decoration should represent our FSPA members and our beautiful state. So I began gathering information from each of our ten chapters and from our many Members-at-Large, that would tell us about the region of Florida where they each live. Part of my request to all the members was that they send me items that represent their locale. Once I received the information, I began creating each centerpiece with the interesting array of items, poetry, trinkets, books, and other things that our members had donated. You will find that each table has a different region of Florida represented.

Each center piece has been created as a "GIFT" to you our guests at this wonderful event. At our Gala Banquet on Sunday night we would like all of you to take a piece of Florida home with you. In other words, please pick out some treasures from the center piece at your table and take them as gifts from us to you. There are trinkets, books, post-cards, and many other items, so please take whatever you would like from the centerpieces and enjoy these treasures from Florida to remember our beautiful state.

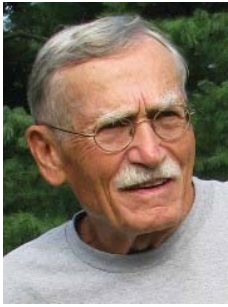
Thank you for attending,

Shirley Cavanaugh
Table Decorations Coordinator

An **accessible, lift-equipped van** is available to persons needing transportation to the Dali Museum or to other locations in downtown St. Petersburg. Please inquire at the hotel desk to make arrangements.

Our **Sponsors, Presenters, and Staff** are cordially invited to enjoy Florida hospitality in the **Demens Room**. The Demens Room is next to the Williams Room on the corridor behind the Grand Bay South Ballroom. **This room will also serve as the Convention Office.**

NFSPS 2015 Convention Speakers and Presenters



Peter Meinke, St. Petersburg Poet Laureate, Honorary Chairman and Keynote Speaker

In *The Shape of Poetry*, Peter Meinke writes that "I think those in the profession — the calling — of writing poetry should be knowledgeable and skilled as any carpenter, passionate and dignified as any priest. I believe those who are able to spend large stretches of their lives engaged in this activity are the luckiest people in the world."

Peter Meinke has published 8 books of poems in the prestigious Pitt Poetry Series, the most recent being *Lucky Bones* (2014). His first book of short stories, *The Piano Tuner* (U. of Georgia Press, 1986), received the Flannery O'Connor Award; his second, *Unheard Music*, was published in 2007 by Jefferson Press. In the last few years, the University of Tampa has published *Lines from Neuchâtel: 35th Anniversary Edition* (2009), *The Shape of Poetry: A Practical Guide to Writing & Reading Poems* (2012) new and revised edition, and *Truth and Affection: The 'Poet's Notebook' Columns from Creative Loafing* (2013), all illustrated by his wife Jeanne Meinke, along with a collection of Jeanne's drawings from *The New Yorker* and other publications, *Lines from Wildwood Lane* (2010).

Other books of poetry include *The Contracted World*, *Zinc Fingers, Scars*, and *Liquid Paper*. *Unheard Music*, a collection of short stories, came out in 2007. His poetry and fiction have received many awards, including two NEA Fellowships and three prizes from the Poetry Society of America. He directed the Writing Workshop at Eckerd College for many years, and the College recently established The Peter Meinke Endowed Professorship in Creative Writing. In addition, Peter has published two children's books, a monograph on the poet Howard Nemerov, and eight poetry chapbooks. A bilingual collection of poems, *Maples & Orange Trees*, was published in St. Petersburg, Russia (2005).

His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker* and dozens of literary magazines; and has received numerous awards, two O'Henry Awards, and many others. He directed the Writing Workshop at Eckerd College for several decades, taking early retirement in 1993. Before and since then, he has been writer-in-residence at Hamilton College, Davidson College, the University of Hawaii, the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, Old Dominion University, the University of South Florida, Wichita State University, Converse College, and other institutions, most recently with the University of Tampa's new MFA Program in Creative Writing.

Born in Flatbush, Brooklyn, NY in 1932, Meinke moved in 1944 to New Jersey and Mountain Lakes High School, where his graduation yearbook read "Wants to be: Writer; Probably will be: Censored." He graduated from Hamilton College (English Prize) in 1955, and after two years in the Army, mostly in Würzburg, Germany, married artist Jeanne Clark in 1957, and they soon had four children: Perrie, Peter, Gretchen, and Timothy. He taught high school English for two years at Mountain Lakes, then went to the University of Michigan, receiving his M.A. in Literature in 1961. The next five years he spent teaching at Hamline University, and finished his Ph.D. in English Literature in 1965 at the University of Minnesota, writing his thesis on poet Howard Nemerov, published in the *Minnesota Pamphlet Series on American Writers* (1968). Moving to St. Petersburg, Meinke began his long and storied career teaching at Florida Presbyterian College, now Eckerd College. Meinke directed the Writing Workshop there for 27 years, taking early retirement in 1993. In 1990, Eckerd College gave him the Robert A. Staub Distinguished Teacher Award, and in 2004 appointed him a Founding Member of the Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; and in 2007 the College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters for his "long and distinguished service as a teacher, mentor, and writer." In 2008 Eckerd

College established the Peter Meinke Chair in Creative Writing, with novelist Sterling Watson its first holder. In 2009 he was appointed the first Poet Laureate of St. Petersburg, Florida, where he has lived with his wife Jeanne since 1966.

Maurice J. O'Sullivan is a literary scholar and historian who specializes in the history of Florida. As the Kenneth Curry Professor of Literature at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, Professor O'Sullivan has lectured and published extensively on the state's art and history, religion and politics, literature and culture. He and Rollins History Professor Jack Lane have been recognized as founders of the interdisciplinary Florida Studies movement with their book *The Florida Reader* (Pineapple Press), 1991, the first comprehensive collection of writings about Florida, and through teachers' workshops for the Florida Endowment for the Humanities and the Florida Humanities Council. As a part of the complete Florida Poets Project, Maurice O'Sullivan in collaboration with Bill Dudley, the Angel Alley Press, and the Central Florida English Speaking Union, created a film and book bringing to life the works of twenty-eight Florida poets.



Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Professor O'Sullivan attended St. Peter's Preparatory School before receiving his Bachelor's degree from Fairfield University (1966) and his Master's and Doctoral degrees from Case Western Reserve University (1967, 1969). After several years at Ohio State, he joined the Rollins faculty in 1975. At Rollins he has served as President of the Faculty and Chair of the English Department and Humanities Division. Director of the Florida Center for Shakespeare Studies, in 2005, he became publisher of the Angel Alley Press at Rollins. In 2002, the Rollins Trustees awarded him the William Fremont Blackman Award for distinguished service. While at Rollins, he received two silver medals in the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education National Teacher of the Year Program, the Bornstein Award for Scholarship, the Arthur Vining Davis Award, the Hamilton Holt Teaching Award, and two Hugh McKean Awards.

He has written extensively on literature, Florida, popular culture, Shakespeare, religion, Irish culture, education, and current events. A former teamster and jail guard, the executive producer of educational films on teaching Shakespeare (*Finding Lear*, *Finding Ourselves* and *Romeo and Juliet 4.0*), and a founding partner of Dan McGuinness Irish Pubs in Nashville, Professor O'Sullivan currently lives in Orlando.



Lola Haskins has published ten collections of poetry. Her work has appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The London Review of Books*, *Southern Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Beloit Poetry Review*, *Georgia Review* and elsewhere. She has collaborated often with musicians and other artists. Most recently, she wrote the libretto for a ballet about Mata Hari, in which she participated as "the speaking Mata Hari." Ms. Haskins lives on a farm outside Gainesville, Florida, and has

taught Computer Science at the University of Florida since the late 1970s. She teaches in Pacific Lutheran University's low residency MFA program.

Ms. Haskins' tenth book of poems is *The Grace to Leave* (Anhinga, 2012). Her ninth, *Still, the Mountain* (Paper Kite Press), won the Silver Medal for Poetry in the 2010 Florida Book Awards. In-print collections include *Desire Lines*, *New and Selected Poems* (BOA Editions, 2004), *Extranjera* (Story Line, 1998) and *The Rim Benders* (Anhinga, 2001). *Hunger* (University of Iowa Press, 1993; winner of the Iowa Poetry Prize), *Forty-Four Ambitions for the Piano* (University Press of Florida, 1990).

Ms. Haskins' prose writings include *Fifteen Florida Cemeteries, Strange Tales Unearthed* (University Press of Florida, 2011), an advice book for people interested in poetry, *Not Feathers Yet: A Beginner's Guide to the Poetic Life* (Backwaters, 2007) and *Solutions Beginning with A*, fables about women, illustrated by Maggie Taylor (Modernbook, 2007).

The past ten or fifteen years have seen ventures into the natural world. A first effort, an essay introducing a book of photographs, *Visions of Florida* was followed by an essay in *Wild Heart of Florida*, (proceeds to Nature Conservancy), both from the University Press of Florida. Her poem "Prayer for the Everglades" ends the otherwise prose *Book of the Everglades* (Milkweed). Ms. Haskins' most recent effort in this direction is a poetry MS about the Florida natural world, called *How Small, Confronting Morning*.

Ms. Haskins relishes collaboration. Her most recent theater piece was *Swan Song* at the Hippodrome State Theater in Gainesville, with seven dancers, an actor, and a violinist. Favorite past ventures include a 2008 performance with dance and cello called *Of Air and the Water, also at the Hipp*. She has worked with visual artists such as collagist Derek Gores, photographer Diane Farris, painter Ruth Harley, and printmaker Kenneth Kerslake. Brevard Art Museum published *Transformations* in April 2010, documenting the Gores collaboration as well as the collaborations of eleven other paired writers and artists.

Silvia Curbelo was born in Matanzas, Cuba, and as a child emigrated to the U.S. with her parents. Her numerous awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cintas Foundation, and the Florida Arts Council, and an Atlantic Center for the Arts Cultural Exchange Fellowship to La Napoule Arts Foundation in France. Her poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Tampa Review*, and many other publications. She is the recipient of a James Wright Award for Poetry from *Mid-American Review*, an Escape to Create Fellowship from the Seaside Institute, and the 1996 Jessica Nobel-Maxwell Memorial Prize from the *American Poetry Review*. Silvia lives in Tampa, Florida, and works as an editor for *Organica Quarterly*. Her *The Secret History of Water* is the inaugural volume in the Anhinga Press Van K. Brock Florida Poetry Series.



Mary Elizabeth "Bettie" Perez has just celebrated her 90th birthday as well as having her first book of poetry, *How Old Is Fresh*, nationally published by Finishing Line Press. Bettie says that her heritage is Spanish as she is the granddaughter of the founder of the first newspaper in Ybor City, Florida. Her father was a strawberry farmer, a Florida Cracker, and her mother was a writer and musician. She attended a Senior program at the University of South Florida for three years

and took every poetry course that was offered. She won an emerging poet award at USF, and one of her teachers suggested she apply for the Hillsborough County Arts Council's emerging artist award. She applied, and she won funding enough to allow her to attend the Iowa Summer Writing Program for two weeks. That is when she met poet William Stafford who gave her a little book about writing that encouraged her to keep writing and to "listen to herself." And now she says that "Poetry is mostly listening. You pick up on what other people say. You make notes. You're always eavesdropping." She writes lines on backs of envelopes and whatever is around. And she has a million notebooks. And folders full of things she thinks are going to be a poem someday. But the poem doesn't come until she gets something sent to her — she calls it inspiration — right out of the air. "Maybe I'll have a lot of lines and then I'll hear something that brings it all together."



Doyle James Rigdon is a sixth generation Floridian and a fifth generation cow-hunter. The term "cowhunter" is used because, traditionally, that is what Florida cowboys were called, although the term 'cowboy' is used today. Cow work is still commonly called "cowhunting." His g-g-g grandfather came to Florida from Sweden in 1862. His son, and subsequent generations have all been or are cowboys.

Listening to stories told by his grandfather and uncles instilled in Doyle the desire to follow in their footsteps, or rather their boots. His grandfather is 70 years old and still works full time for Lykes Brothers Ranch in Brighton, Florida, and is still breaking colts. Doyle wrote his first poem at age 13, about how much better horses were than women. In high school he wrote poems trying to woo women, which although it usually didn't work, still got high praise. He started writing cowboy poetry just a few years ago and writes cowboy poetry pretty much exclusively now. Doyle now does day work and breaks horses on area ranches. Sadly, he sees the land becoming more valuable for malls and subdivisions than for cattle. Doyle continues to write cowboy poetry and perform at trail rides, agricultural associations and where ever an audience wants to hear his work. Doyle and his work were discovered through the Poets Project at Rollins College several years ago.



Sean Sexton was born in Indian River County and grew up on his family's Treasure Hammock Ranch, eight miles west of Vero Beach, Florida. He divides his time between taking care of a 600 acre cow-calf and seedstock operation and painting and writing. He is married to artist Sharon Sexton, and they live on the ranch with their two children in a house they built with their hands. His book *Blood Writing* was published by Anhinga Press in 2010. There's

a lot of blood, both human and animal, in Sean Sexton's stirring, first book of poetry. His poems, which include several rare and passionate longer poems, evoke the violence and beauty of life on a Florida cattle farm with clear-eyed eloquence, and their gritty details. They make Robert Frost seem like a New England gentleman farmer. 'If you would love, learn / the power of life' Sexton writes, and BLOOD WRITING is a mature and Whitmanesque embrace of a fully realized world. (Peter Meinke) Sean has kept journal-sketch books drawn from his life since 1973 and was awarded an Individual Artist's Fellowship from the State of Florida in 2000-2001. He is the author of *Waldo's Mountain, Brief History of a Small Elevation* (Waterview Press, 2001) about his grandfather, Waldo Sexton.

Sean Sexton is a painter as well as a poet. His chapbook *The Empty Tomb* was published November 14, 2013, by Slash Pine Press at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.



Melanie Hubbard received her Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University and was awarded an NEH Research Fellowship in 2006 to pursue her research on Emily Dickinson's manuscripts and their contexts, a project which has increasingly focused on Dickinson's philosophical education and commitments. Hubbard also maintains a lively scholarly

interest in and creative involvement with contemporary experimental poetry and poetics; her poetry collection, *We Have With Us Your Sky* (Subito 2012), marks both a practical and a theoretical engagement. Her teaching interests include American Poetry from the 19th to the 21st Centuries, British Romantics, Victorian Aesthetic Theory, Experimental

Prose, and Poetics. Melanie Hubbard lives in a small town on the west coast of Florida with her husband Dr. Arthur McA."Mac" Miller (Lt. Col. Arthur McArthur Miller, US Army Reserve (retired), Ph.D.) She has taught at New College of Florida, Eckerd College, and the University of Tampa. Poems, reviews, scholarly articles, and personal essays have appeared in a variety of periodicals. A chapbook, *Gilbi Winco Swags*, was published by Cannibal Books in 2008.

Arthur McA. ("Mac") Miller, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at New College of Florida, LTC USAR ADA Ret. A longtime member of the Ruskin Chamber of Commerce, he operated Ruskin House Bed and Breakfast for 10 years. His grandparents and extended family helped found the Ruskin Commongood Society and Ruskin College in Florida. The father of six, Mac is active on boards supporting regional arts, history, and education, as well those dedicated to sustainable business and residential development.



Mac is a graduate of Princeton and Duke and the US Army Command and General Staff College. Professor Emeritus of Literature at New College of Florida, he was for 30 years General Editor of the nationally distributed literary-art publication *New CollAge Magazine*. His poems have appeared in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Poets On*., and other national publications; his work has been anthologized in Florida in *Poetry and The Art of Survival*. His grandparents and extended family helped found the Ruskin Commongood Society and Ruskin College in Florida.

A long-standing member of the Ruskin Chamber of Commerce and the Coordinating Council of Literary Magazines, Mac tries to attend various local boards and activities, including the Ruskin Community Development Foundation, the South Shore Arts Council, the Camp Bayou Advisory Board, the South Shore Writers Group, and the Friends of the South Shore Center of Hillsborough Community College.



Dan Pels was born near the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France in 1944. He immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 14. He is fluent in French and English and a bilingual poet. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam as an Intelligence Officer. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education with a minor in English and a Master's Degree in French Literature, both degrees from Syracuse University. There, he was influenced by the surrealist poets due especially to the late, well known professor, J. H. Matthews, who has written numerous books on surrealism. Dan Pels has published five books: *Untying Woodknots*, *Afternoon After Midnight*, *Never is Over*, *Use the Other Door*, and *Stop Making Sense*.

He has helped spark an interest in poetry in his granddaughter, Ava Roulrier, from the age of 5. Now at 9 years of age, she's the youngest traditionally-published poet in the U.S. with her 2014 book, *With Cherries on Top* published by Taylor and Seale Publishing, LLC.

Dan currently hosts monthly Poetry Shows combining poetry, music, and visual art to mirror the French Salons of the 18th and 19th centuries. He also produces a bi-monthly story telling/poetry *Tell-Tale Show* in the Daytona Beach area. Surrealism is important to Dan because it offers him, and others, more opportunities to create new images and responses to life's many experiences.

Greg Byrd earned his Ph.D. in 2001 in American and Nineteenth Century British Literature, at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the M.A. in Creative Writing in 1990 from Florida State University, and the B.A. in Literature and Creative Writing from Eckerd College in 1987.

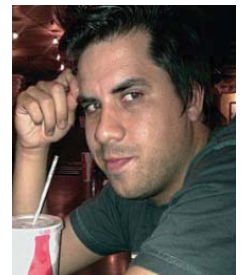


His work has earned him a number of prizes and fellowships. In 2011, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Tirana, Albania, studying Creative Writing for English Majors. In 2009, he was a Finalist for the Snake Nation Prize, Pinyon Press Prize and in 2008, a finalist for the National Poetry Series. In 1999, he won a Carnegie-Mellon Grant: Professional Balance. In 1998, he earned a Pushcart Prize nomination, *Tampa Review*, for poetry. In 1989, Dr. Byrd won First Place for the Academy of American Poets Award at Florida State University.

Greg Byrd's poetry has been published in many journals and reviews, including *The Eckerd Review*, *Apalachee Review*, *Cortland Review*, *Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Journal of Florida Literature*, *Snake Nation Review*, *The Rambler*, *Gulf Stream*, *Ekphrasis*, *Tampa Review*, *Poet Lore*, and *The Siren*. Dr. Byrd's books include *Salt and Iron* (poetry), Snake Nation Press, 2014, *At Penuel* (poetry chapbook) Split Oak Press, 2011, and *Florida Straits* (poetry chapbook), Yellow Jacket Press, 2005.

A native Floridian, Dr. Byrd is an avid Clearwater commuter cyclist, riding about four miles to work as Professor of Communications at the Clearwater Campus of St. Petersburg College. He works on and modifies his own bicycles which have included a 1963 Rudge Sports, a Raleigh Twenty folding bike, a Trek 800 Sport mountain bike, and a copy of a Pashley Guv'nor.

Curtis X. Meyer is currently a 6-time participant at The National Poetry Slam as a member of Team Orlando. He is the 2007 and 2008 Broken Speech Poetry Slam Grand Slam champion and the 2009 Broken Speech Poetry Slam Grand Slam runner-up.

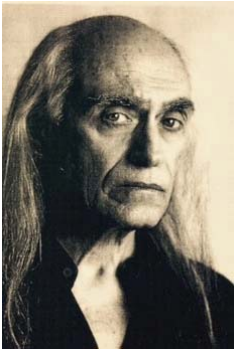


Curtis is an accomplished poet, beatboxer, event host and coordinator, author, journalist, essayist, satirist, and performance artist. He lives in Winter Park, Florida. His works have appeared in various publications and clips of his Spoken Word performances can be seen on YouTube.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, **Rosemary Volz** attended Queens College where she graduated with a double major in creative writing and journalism. While at Queens, she won numerous awards, including the Sandra Schor Writing Award and the Norman Silverstein Memorial Prize.



Her short stories have been published in *Blueline*, *Event*, and *Another Chicago Magazine*. Her poetry has appeared in *Evening Street Review*, *Reader's Choice*, *Earth's Daughter*, *Write Wing Publishing*, *Conversations Across Borders*, *Baseball Bard*, *Hospital Drive*, *Pinyon*, *Third Wednesday*, and others. She has won the Flagler County Art League Prize for Poetry. She lives in Ponce Inlet, Florida.



Robert Calabrese was born and raised in New York City, where he went on to earn a BFA from Pratt Institute in 1958. Diploma in hand, he launched a career as a "Mad Man" in Madison Avenue's advertising world. During his 35 challenging years as an Art Director/ Creative Director, traveling far and wide and working with a gamut of talented professionals, Bob also developed an interest in trading in Native American art, and continues to add to his extensive library on the subject since his retirement to New Smyrna Beach, Florida, in 1996.

With some confidence in his writing skills from advertising, and looking for a creative outlet, Bob joined several local poetry workshops in 2002, and continues to write with The Poet's Corner poetry workshop of New Smyrna Beach, which he now leads. He created the theme "Wham, Bam, Poetry Slam" for the Atlantic Center For The Arts, and designed the graphics for the event, now in its tenth season. When not writing or performing his brand of irreverent poetry, Bob enjoys exploring highly personal variations on cooking pasta and seafood. He has lately taken up the challenge of mastering watercolor painting during breaks from editing material for his first book of poetry.

Jeanne Meinke, artist and illustrator and poet husband Peter Meinke have published their latest book of poetry, *Lines from Neuchatel*, a family retrospective in verse of an idyllic year abroad.



Lines from Wildwood Lane, is a collection of Jeanne's drawings. Her work has appeared in magazines and newspapers such as The New Yorker, Gourmet, Bon Appetite, The St. Petersburg Times, and Tampa Review, among others.



Tampa resident **Dr. Jeff Karon** is a former English professor with a versatile background in literature ranging from technical writing to philosophy and critical thinking to creative writing. He is a practicing martial artist and writer becoming well known for his haikus. Graduating from New College of Florida with a B.A. in Philosophy Karon went on to achieve a Ph.D. in English (Rhetoric and Composition) from the University of South Florida. Karon is committed to a belief in the clarity and importance of language

clearly illustrated by his powerful poetry. An active poet and essayist, he currently serves as a board member and webmaster of a non-profit poetry publisher. Dr. Karon is the founder of The Honorable Classroom, a tutoring and training service dedicated to helping young writers improve their style and delivery while maintaining a code of ethics.



Joe Cavanaugh's journey to find an enlightened path to life, took a dramatic turn when he moved away from his friends and busy career in Monterey, California, to help take care of his 89 year old father in Ormond Beach, Florida. Suddenly a retiree, he wanted to fully utilize his new freedom and environment to consciously create a rewarding new life. Over the next ten

years, he realized he had the time to practice his skills as a writer and rediscovered his love of poetry. He joined the Daytona Live Poets Society, and started writing poetry regularly.

His first book of poetry, *Poetry Jam With Toast and Tea, Collected Poetry From 1964 -2010* was published in 2011 and a second edition was published by Writer's Ink Press the following year. His collection of poems about Carmel, California, entitled *California Dreamin'* was published by the Creative Happiness Institute in 2012. His new book of poems, *Love Happens, a Target On My Chest* was published in 2014 by Create Space and is available on Amazon.com.

Joe graduated from Georgetown University in 1963 and in 1964, he followed John Kennedy's vision of public service by joining the Peace Corps, working in East Africa as a teacher and community development worker. A writer, poet and journalist from an early age, he authored his first published book, *The Peace Dividend, Defense Conversion through Higher Education* in 2000. Supported by the Ford Foundation, he documented the conversion of the Fort Ord Army Base to an international model for military base closure and reuse as a center for education, environmental conservation, and sustainable economic development.

In addition to his professional writing and personal journaling, he worked as a reporter for the *East African Standard* in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He also wrote a controversial Masters Thesis on Bargaining Tactics in the Vietnamese Conflict, a short history of the Cavanaugh Family, and won a New York Times Writing Award. Now President of the Florida State Poets Association, Joe and his wife Shirley live in Ormond Beach, Florida.

Shirley Cavanaugh writes: From the time I was a child I knew my life would be filled with great creative and artistic adventures. I graduated from North Texas State University in 1972 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. I specialized in the Studio Arts: Drawing, Painting and Sculpture. The 70's were the beginning of the early women's liberation movement, and I felt so determined as an artist because of the changing times. But women in the Studio Arts were not fully supported or recognized in the 60's and 70's. I quickly learned to adapt my creative abilities in order to further my creative career. Through the early years I worked extensively in the Fashion Industry. Later on I found a great creative life working with Interior Designers.



In my personal art I still continue to pursue classic art forms such as sculpture and painting. I am currently in the "early stages" of working on a theme for a future one woman show. This will combine different forms of expression like ceramic sculpture, painting, poetry, and also some fabric art. My poetic musing and creative writing has been in the past mainly a very personal form of expression. But now I am working on trying to incorporate poetry into my paintings. I am a member of FSPA and married to FSPA President Joe Cavanaugh.



A Member-at-Large of the Florida State Poets Association, **Randall Krum** has been the editor of the Florida State Poets newsletter *Of Poets and Poetry* and is the organization's Webmaster.

Randy was born and raised in New York state. Upon graduation from high school, he entered the Peabody Conservatory of

Music in Baltimore, Maryland where he earned the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Organ Performance and Church Music. Following graduation he served as music teacher and music curriculum developer for the Baltimore City Public Schools. Concurrently he served as organist and choir director for several churches in Baltimore, living there until 1973. Career highlights have included his selection as an American Delegate to the International Congress of Organists in Cambridge, England, summer organ study in Paris, and participation in the Summer Session of the Royal School of Church Music at St. John University, York, England.

After marrying Judy and moving to Vermont, Randy became intensely involved with computer technology. He gained certification to teach computer and was engaged to teach Information Technology at Southern Vermont College in Bennington, Vermont. Randy retired from Southern Vermont College and moved to Florida in 2010. He is now employed as organist-choirmaster at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lake Mary, FL.



Judith Krum received the BA in English from Marietta College (Ohio) where she studied with Dr. Harold Dean and others. She received the M.ED.in Counseling from McDaniel College (Maryland), in 1972. An extensive teaching career along with a role as disability rights advocate have shaped much of her professional background. She was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 1985.

Judy is a Member-at-Large of the Florida State Poets Association and is currently Treasurer and Membership Registrar of the organization. She has received many awards for her poetry and has had her work published in a number of journals and anthologies, including *The Berkshire Review*, *Kaleidoscope*, *Breath and Shadow*, *Wordgathering*, *Sandcutters*, *Lifting Women's Voices*, and *the Episcopal Church and The Visual Arts*. Judy is also the author of *In the Crayon Box, There is Peace: Poems*, and *Gossamer Threads to Catch the Soul: Spiritual Reflections for the Church Year*, both available on Amazon.com (paperback and Kindle).

A member of the Florida State Poets Association since New River Poets was chartered as a chapter in 2000, **Janet Watson** has served several terms as president of New River and is currently FSPA's Youth Chair and facilitator of FSPA's annual Student Poetry Contest. "FSPA and New River have been wonderful organizations for sharing poetry, meeting talented poets, and introducing me to friends with a common interest. They have also provided me with an ongoing education of all things poetic," she says.



Much of what Janet has observed and experienced in the fullness of everyday life finds a place in her poetry. CHB Media recently published her full length-book of poetry. *Eyes Open, Listening* is available online through Amazon or Barnes & Noble in both paperback and e-book formats. Although her poetry has won many awards and has appeared in many anthologies, she is pleased that a collection of her own work is now available.

Born and raised in Ohio, Janet and her husband, Will, moved to Florida when their two oldest children were small. All four of their children are now grown, and Janet and Will live on five rural acres in Wesley Chapel, Florida, where she has worked for her local school district and as a journalist. Janet's experiences as a writing workshop facilitator are well-known through the FSPA network.

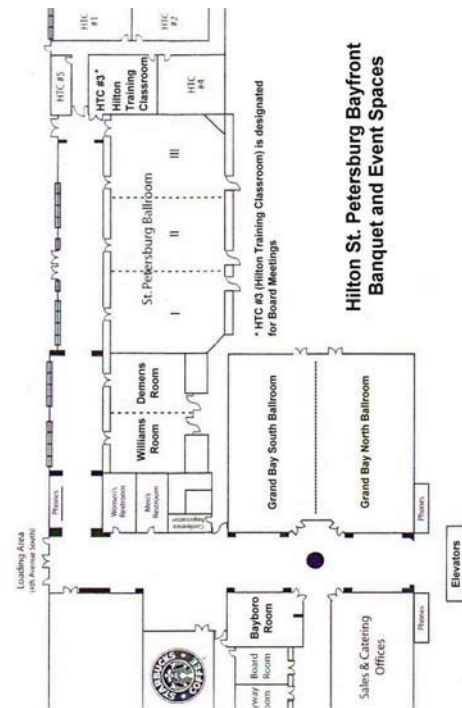


Elaine Person writes and performs poetry and short stories, and appears as emcee and performance poet for the Poetry Ensemble of Orlando. She entertains at coffee and tea houses, libraries, churches, assisted living homes, and private parties. Head-to-Head Haiku is her favorite competition. She facilitates a variety of writing workshops. Elaine won prizes for performances at Betty's Birthday poetry contest, and the Writers One Flight Up, Flights of Fantasy, St. Patrick's Day 2011 event.

Elaine writes "Person"alized poems and stories for gifts. She was on the editorial board of her college's humor magazine *Galumph*. Her parody *King Arthur* appeared in Random House's *A Century of College Humor*. Florida Writers Association included her humorous story *I'm A Person* in their first annual collection titled *From Our Family to Yours* and her tale *Glossed Over* in their second annual anthology, *Slices of Life*.

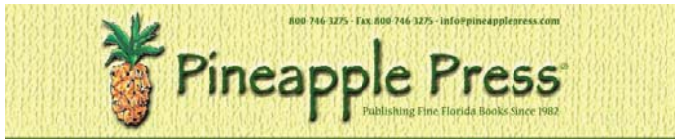
Elaine's poetry is included in the book *Central Florida Poets, Volume Two, Love and Other Passions*. She also created two poetry chapbooks. Elaine is a member of the Florida State Poets Association and is co-editor of the FSPA Anthology for 2014 and 2015. She lives in Orlando and is in demand as facilitator of writing workshops.

The Convention Area of the Main Floor is located directly behind the elevators. Rooms that are labeled in bold type are designated for Convention Events.



The officers and members of the Florida State Poets Association, Inc. express their appreciation for the generosity of the sponsors who have helped to make this convention such an enriching and memorable event. Their names, business or personal logos and levels of donation (platinum plus, platinum, gold and silver) are listed below.

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Yellow Jacket Press (Silver Level)
<http://www.yellowjacketpress.org/>



Yellow Jacket Press supports emerging and established poets in Florida with an annual chapbook contest, chapbook publications, and public readings. YellowJacket Press creates a means for poets to share and promote their work and nurtures a sense of community among poets and audiences across the state.

Yellow Jacket Press has become known for publishing superior quality poetry in simple, yet beautiful, individually designed chapbooks. *Yellow Jacket Press* currently publishes two books a year and sponsors readings statewide for its poets.

Port Orange Piano Lessons by Jeanette Pels (Silver Level)



Glenn R. Swetman (Gold Level), former president of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, was born in Biloxi, Mississippi. A professor at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA, he is a writer, teacher and actor with a Ph.D. from Tulane University. He has received numerous awards and prizes. His work has appeared in hundreds of journals, supplements and reviews. He has served with numerous organizations that promulgate modern poetry. He is the author of 11 volumes of poetry and has appeared in several movies. He is an ecologist and is a licensed alligator hunter.

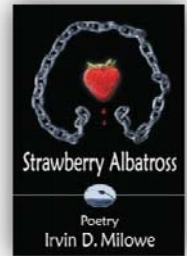
Rosemary Volz (Gold Level)

Mary Lou Deeley (Silver Level)

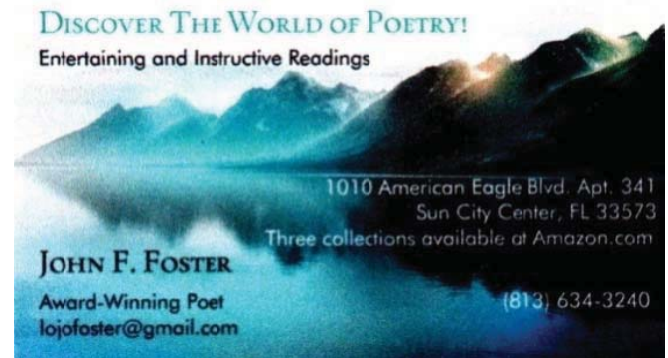
Brian Capley (Silver Level)

I.D. Milowe, M.D. (Gold Level)

Dr. Irvin Milowe is a Professor of Psychiatry. His book of 100 poems, *Strawberry Albatross*, was published in 2013, and is available through Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.



John Foster (Gold Level)



JoAn Howerton, (Silver Level; in memory of Jerry Robbins, former President of NFSPS, December 10, 1940 - July 30, 1997) Jerry Robbins became a member of the Poetry Society of Tennessee in the mid-'70's when he and his family lived in Memphis where he was a writer for the Memphis Press Scimitar.

When the paper closed in 1984, he moved to Lexington, Kentucky and was employed by the Agriculture Department at the University of Kentucky where he pursued his writing talents. He served as President of the Poetry Society of Tennessee from 1977-1979 when NFSPS held the annual convention in Memphis.

He served as Vice-President of the NFSPS and then as President. Jerry enjoyed attending NFSPS events for over 15 years. Jerry and his wife formed many bonds with poets across the United States some of whom are still here to testify to his legacy. Unfortunately, Jerry died of cancer in 1997 after attending his last NSFPS convention in Biloxi, Mississippi.

He is survived by his wife, JoAn Robbins Howerton, five children, and 9 grandchildren. His children carry on his legacy of a love of poetry. His oldest daughter, Crystal Robbins Czerwinski, who teaches at Santa Monica College in California, was honored to be a guest speaker at the Poetry Society of Tennessee in 2013 and credits him for her love of poetry. One grandson has written his own book of poetry and graduated this year from the University of Kentucky. In Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2014 we learned that Jerry was the President who signed the office Charter of the NFSPS which is located in a library in Texas. Jerry Robbins, besides his love for his children, was dedicated to building recognition for the NFSPS. He relished the friendship of everyone he knew in this organization.

Orlando Area Poets Chapter of FSPA, Peter Gordon,
President (Gold Level)

"People Providing for People" (the charity of the *Krewe of Blackbeard's Revenge*) (Gold Level)

New River Poets Chapter of FSPA, Janet Watson, President
(Gold Level; names tags, welcome bags)

CHB Media, Publishing, New Smyrna Beach, Florida, Gary Broughman, Executive Director (Gold Level; Book Room Sponsor)



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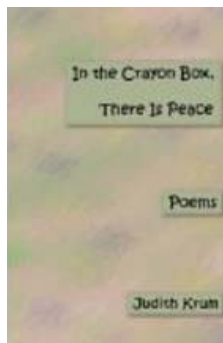
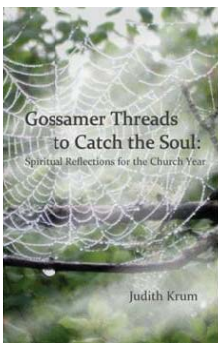
Pedestrian route from the hotel to the Dali Museum



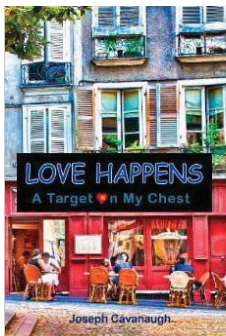
Hilton Bayfront Hotel,
St. Petersburg, FL

(Platinum Level; Welcome Reception)

Judith and Randall Krum (Gold Level)



Books available on amazon.com



Joe and Shirley Cavanaugh (Gold Level)

Available on amazon.com

Plenary Sessions (Grand Bay South Ballroom)

Friday, 9:00 - 10:30am
Sunday, 11:30am - 12:45pm

Open Poetry Readings (Williams Room)

Thursday, 8:30 pm to closing
Friday, 8:00 - 8:45 am; 10:00 pm to closing
Saturday, 8:00 - 8:45 am; 10:00 pm to closing
Sunday, 8:00 - 8:45 am; 9:00 pm (including book signings)

Book Store Hours (Bayboro Room)

Thursday, June 25 - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday, June 26 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday, June 27 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday, June 28 - 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon (Closing)