



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America

Strophes

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www.nfspd.com

January 2010

President's Message



Dear Members of NFSPS ~ A New Year presents a new slate to write upon, new opportunities to achieve desired goals. Aside from taking positive steps for the betterment of our personal lives, we should, also, take some positive steps for the betterment of our poetic lives. We need to not only provide ourselves with more

time and ways to hone our talents, we need to, also, consider sharing our time, talents and appreciation of the art of poetry with others, poets and those who are not practicing poets. This can be accomplished in a number of ways on the chapter, state and national level. A rewarding "bonus" of getting involved is the garnering of lifelong friendships and lasting memories.

This year, each of us can enrich our own lives and the lives of others by supporting and participating in the programs and events of our state poetry societies, as well as those of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.-- and, there is that "bonus," too! ~ Sincerely,

Nancy Baass, 28th President of NFSPS

P.S. to Pat Stodghill, 19th President of NFSPS: Thank you and Don, for furnishing me with many memorable moments resulting from our involvement with both our state society, the Poetry Society of Texas, and NFSPS.

The above "P.S." was composed prior to the sudden death in December of Don R. Stodghill, NFSPS Co-Legal Advisor. Don had served for many years as Legal Advisor for both NFSPS and the Poetry Society of Texas, also serving as PST's 14th President. He will be missed by all who were fortunate to be his friends. Condolences and prayers are extended to his family.

Let us take the time to remember all NFSPS members who have died in the past year, as well as members of their families. I wish to make note of the December death of the mother of NFSPS Legal Advisor Michaud L. Lamrouex, to whom sympathy and prayers are extended.

~ A Note From the NFSPS President ~

Sue Ranglack, College/University Competition Chairman appointee for 2009-2010, recently asked to leave the Appointive Board due to a health related reason, and she is wished well. Helen Keith Beaman has accepted appointment to the vacated position and is warmly welcomed to the NFSPS team. (Helen's contact information can be found on pages 2 and 5 of *Strophes*.)

"Heart of the South Convention" June 10-13, 2010 ~ Memphis, Tennessee

Program

Wednesday, June 9, 2010		8:00 p.m. Break - Book Room open	
7:00 p.m.	Early Bird Cocktail Party at the home of Sarah Hull Gurley	8:30 p.m. NFSPS Annual Contests Winners	
Thursday, June 10, 2010		10:00 p.m. "Ozark Nights" Poetry Read-Around	
9:00 a.m.	Registration Table opens	MISSISSIPPI DAY	
9:00 a.m.	Book Room opens for set-up	Saturday June 12, 2010	
10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Graceland Tour	7:00 a.m.	"Magnolia State" Poetry Read-Around
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	NFSPS Board Meeting	8:00 a.m.	Book Room open
3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Book Room open	9:00 a.m.	(Program Topic TBA) ~ Dr. Randy Smith
6:30 p.m.	Buses leave for Central Barbecue	10:00 a.m.	Break - Book Room open
7:00 p.m.	Barbecue Dinner. (A Welcoming Program will follow at either Central Barbecue or the Holiday Inn.)	10:30 a.m.	(Program Topic TBA) ~ Dr. Jonathan Randle
9:30 p.m.	"Heart of the South" Poetry Read-Around	11:30 a.m.	Break - Book Room open
ARKANSAS DAY		12:00 Noon	Lunch, Invocational Poem Winner
Friday, June 11, 2010		1:00 p.m.	NFSPS Annual Contests Winners
7:00 a.m.	"Natural State" Poetry Read-Around	2:00 p.m.	"Poetry Power" ~ Faye Williams-Jones
8:00 a.m.	State Presidents' Meeting	3:00 p.m.	Break - Book Room open
8:00 a.m.	Book Room open	3:30 p.m.	"How to Win Contests in Only 853 Steps" ~ Jim Barton
8:30 a.m.	Registration Table opens	4:00 p.m.	(Speaker/Program Topic TBA)
9:00 a.m.	1st NFSPS Plenary Session	5:00 p.m.	Break - Social Time
10:30 a.m.	"A Night Visitor" ~ Harding Stedler	6:30 p.m.	Dinner, Invocational Poem Winner
11:00 a.m.	Break - Book Room open	7:30 p.m.	Stevens Manuscript Winner
11:30 a.m.	"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Poetry" ~ Cathy Moran	8:00 p.m.	NFSPS Annual Contests Winners
12:00 Noon	Lunch, Invocational Poem Winner & Manningham Winners	10:00 p.m.	"Southern Belle" Poetry Read-Around
1:00 p.m.	NFSPS Annual Contests Winners	TENNESSEE DAY	
2:00 p.m.	Break - Book Room open	Sunday, June 13, 2010	
2:30 p.m.	"The Music of Poetry" ~ John W. Crawford	7:00 a.m.	"Tennessee Mockingbird" Poetry Read-Around
3:15 p.m.	Announcements	8:00 a.m.	Book Room open
3:30 p.m.	Break - Book Room open	9:00 a.m.	2nd NFSPS Plenary Session
4:00 p.m.	"A Natural State of Poetry" ~ Peggy Vining	10:30 a.m.	Break - Book Room open
4:45 p.m.	Break - Book Room open	11:00 a.m.	NFSPS Board Meeting
5:30 p.m.	Social Time	12:00 Noon	Lunch, Invocational Poem Winner
6:30 p.m.	Dinner, Invocational Poem Winner	1:00 p.m.	NFSPS Annual Contests Winners
7:30 p.m.	College/University Winners	2:15 p.m.	Break - Book Room open
		2:45 p.m.	(Program Topic TBA) ~ Lola Haskins

(Program continued on page 3)

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder

Honorary Chancellor: Lewis Turco
(Appointment made June, 2008)

EXECUTIVE BOARD ~ 2008-2010

Elected, NFSPS Convention ~ Layton, UT, June, 2008

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NFSPS MEMBER STATE SOCIETIES AND PRESIDENTS

ALABAMA: Alabama State Poetry Society
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ARIZONA: Arizona State Poetry Society
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85284 ~ artiste@cox.net

ARKANSAS: Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas
Betty Heidelberger, President ~ 4371 Hwy. 316 N.,
Lexa, AR 72355 ~ bettypoet@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA: California State Poetry Society
Kate Ozborn, President ~ 4781 Briarhill Dr., Yorba
Linda, CA 92886 ~ kateozborn@yahoo.com

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Julie Cummings, President ~ 5128 S. Sicily St., Aurora,
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Tony Fusco, President ~ 311 Shingle Hill Rd., West
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FLORIDA: Florida State Poets Association
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Wesley Chapel, FL 33543 ~ ba_whitney@juno.com

GEORGIA: Georgia Poetry Society
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ILLINOIS: Illinois State Poetry Society
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Evanston, IL 60202 ~ stm48@hotmail.com

INDIANA: Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs
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46016 ~ poetgglee@sbcglobal.net

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Jerry Ferrell, President ~ 2801 61st St., Des Moines, IA
50322 ~ ferrell45@msn.com

KENTUCKY: Kentucky State Poetry Society
Tony Sexton, President ~ P.O. Box 521, Harrodsburg,
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LOUISIANA: Louisiana State Poetry Society
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~ moimarta@comcast.net (Marta's e-mail address)

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01905 ~ msp.jcmaes@comcast.net

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MISSOURI: Missouri State Poetry Society
Billy Adams, President ~ 12600 McKinstry Rd.,
DeSoto, MO 63020 ~ bja54@fayeadam.com

NEBRASKA: Nebraska State Poetry Society
Mary L. Maas, President ~ 601 Ivy St., Stanton, NE
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NEVADA: Nevada Poetry Society
Sam Wood, President ~ P.O. Box 7014, Reno, NV
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NEW JERSEY: New Jersey Poetry Society
Edith Kaltovich, President ~ 12 Rydal Dr.,
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 ~ luciakalt@aol.com

NEW MEXICO: New Mexico State Poetry Society
Bonnie Ruboco, President ~ 7505 Mc Nerney Ave. N.E.,
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NEW YORK: New York Poetry Forum
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NY 11234 ~ dfernandezparnassianplays@hotmail.com

OHIO: Ohio Poetry Association

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Rob Burgess, President ~ 10608 N. Council Rd., #13,
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STROPHES

Strophes, the newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., is published four times a year: August (*June 25th) ~ October (*August 25th) ~ January (*November 25th) ~ April (*February 25th). News items and information on contests may be sent via regular mail or e-mail, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

NFSPS President Nancy Baass, *Strophes* Editor
2306 N. De Leon St., Victoria, TX 77901-4812
nbaass@earthlink.net

Strophes is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$5.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. Single copies to individuals, who must specify which issue is ordered, are \$1.00 and a #10 SASE should be supplied.

* Submission Deadlines

~ Notes from the *Strophes* Editor ~

Human and computer error can happen. Notification about needed corrections is appreciated. Compliments are welcome, too. This is my third issue of *Strophes!*

Research shows that errors have appeared over the years on the *Strophes* masthead regarding Volume & Issue numbering. For historical accuracy, the correct numbering was determined for the August 2009 issue. That numbering continues with this issue and future ones.

NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS (Presidential Advisors)

*Cecilia Parsons Miller	*Jack Murphy
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Glenn Swetman	Madelyn Eastlund
*Carl Morton	Budd Powell Mahan
*Alice Briley	Doris Stengel
*Waneta Hackleman	

* Deceased

(Program continued from page 1)

- 4:00 p.m. Book Signing for Lola Haskins
 4:00 p.m. Book Room closes
 5:30 p.m. Reception and Cash Bar
 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Invocational Poem Winner
 7:30 p.m. Installation of 2010-2012 NFSPS Executive Board
 7:40 p.m. Lola Haskins, Keynote Speaker
 8:10 p.m. Break
 8:25 p.m. NFSPS Annual Contests Winners

Fifteen minutes after finish:

“Volunteer State” Poetry Read-Around

Monday, June 14, 2010

- 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. “Mississippi Valley” Poetry Read-Around
 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. City Tour

CONVENTION BOOK ROOM

For Book Room information, contact:
 Russell H. Strauss, Convention Chairman
 18 S. Rembert Street, Memphis, TN 38104
 RSTRpoet@cs.com

{Note: A display of photography/poetry by Faye Williams-Jones and Bob Jones will be on display in the Book Room when open during Breaks throughout the Convention.}

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

FRIDAY ~ ARKANSAS DAY

Harding Stedler retired from teaching at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio after 34 years in the classroom. Now living in Maumelle, Arkansas, he is a member of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas and the River Market Poets in Little Rock. He founded the Frontier Poets at the Maumelle Arts Center, where he volunteers tirelessly. He is the author of seven collections of poetry and recently won the Arkansas Senior Poet Honor Scroll Award. Besides his accomplishments in poetry, he is a veteran actor and performer.



Cathy Moran taught English for many years, and she now works in an office, which gives her more time to read and write poetry. She enjoys entering contests and has won more awards than can be easily counted. Her work has been published in such magazines and journals as *Atlanta Review*, *The Bitter Oleander*, *Kansas City Voices* and *Mid-America Poetry Review*. She is the author of the poetry collection *Discovering Pigs*.



John W. Crawford is Professor Emeritus at Henderson State University. He has authored three books of poetry: *Making the Connection* (1989, Mellen Press), *I Have Become Familiar With the Rain* (1995, Mellen Press) and *French Quarter at Eight* (2008, Publish Now Press). He has won numerous awards including the Sybil Nash Abrams Award twice, the Arkansas Haiku Award and the International Society of Poets Grand Prize Award, along with a \$10,000 book publishing grant. John has read at venues nationwide and is a longstanding actor and musician.



Peggy Vining has won many awards for her poetry, including the Sybil Nash Abrams Award for her sonnet sequence “Arkansas, the Natural State.” She has been a member of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas since 1963, serving as President three times. She has been Director of the Ozarks Creative Writers' Conference and the Arkansas Writers' Conference, as well as President of Arkansas Pen-women and Arkansas Songwriters' Association. She was appointed Poet Laureate of Arkansas in 2003, and is compiling a collection of her poetry titled *Tethered to the Moment*. She received a Point of Light Award from President Bush and was recognized by the Arkansas General Assembly with a special House Resolution.



SATURDAY ~ MISSISSIPPI DAY

Randy Smith is an Associate Professor of English and Director of the Creative Writing Program at Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi, where he has taught since 2001. He earned a Ph.D. in American Literature from the University of South Carolina. Previously, he taught for five years at Nyack College in Nyack, New York. Randy has published poems in *Sandhills*, *The Best of Sandhills*, *Yemassee*, *Ruminate*, and *Rock and Sling*. His scholarly work has appeared in *The Creative Spirit*, *The James Dickey Newsletter*, and in *The Way We Read James Dickey*, a collection of critical essays published by the University of South Carolina Press. Randy and his wife, Laura, have three children and a new daughter-in-law: Benjamin and Caitlin (22), Nathanael (9), and Flannery (6).



Jonathan Randle, born in 1972 in New Orleans, grew up in Oxford, Mississippi, where he enjoyed a rural childhood. He attended Mississippi College as a National Merit Scholar in the early nineties, where he double-majored in English and History. Numerous study tours in the United Kingdom during his undergraduate career prompted him to pursue graduate work at the University of Cambridge, where he studied in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, eventually earning his Ph.D. in Old English language and literature. He returned to the United States and to his alma mater in 1999, where for the past decade he has been teaching medieval literature, analysis of poetry, and graduate seminars in epic and romance, while also serving as the faculty advisor for *The Arrowhead*, the college's literary and fine arts magazine. Randle lives in Jackson with his wife and their two children.



Faye Williams-Jones collaborates with Bob Jones, her husband, to create framed poetry and photography exhibits. *Erasing People* is her first poetry chapbook. She frequently wins awards, and her poetry appears in over fifty anthologies or journals. As Faye enters her second decade of living with cancer, she feels the creativity of poetry contributes to her excellent quality of life.



Jim Barton has poetry appearing in over one hundred twenty-five journals and e-zines in twenty-seven states and Great Britain. He has won nearly two hundred poetry awards, including the Sybil Nash Abrams Award, since his first win in 2006. He is the author of the full-length collection, *Animals Who Missed the Ark* (Plain View Press) and two chapbooks. *At the Bird Museum* won the Morris Chapbook Competition from the Alabama State Poetry Society. *Music* was published by Finishing Line Press. He is President of South Arkansas Poets of the Pines and a member of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas and the Poetry Society of Virginia.



(Convention Speaker information continued on page 4)

Convention Speaker information
continued from page 3)

SUNDAY ~ TENNESSEE DAY

~ KEYNOTE SPEAKER ~

Lola Haskins has published eight collections of poetry, most recently *Desire Lines: New and*



Selected Poems (BOA Editions, 2004), *The Rim Benders* (Anhinga, 2001), and *Extranjera* (Story Line, 1998). She gathered a wealth of sage advice for new poets in *Not Feath-*

ers Yet: A Beginner's Guide to the Poetic Life (Backwaters, 2007), and a ninth collection, *Still the Mountain*, is forthcoming in 2010, from Paper Kite Press.

Ms. Haskins has been featured on PBS in the United States and on BBC in England. Her awards include two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, multiple individual artist fellowships from the State of Florida, the Iowa Poetry Prize, and the Emily Dickinson/*Writer Magazine* Award from the Poetry Society of America. Her work has appeared in print and online in numerous offerings, in *Atlantic Monthly*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The London Review of Books*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Georgia Review*, *Southern Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Ploughshares*, and elsewhere.

Ms. Haskins enjoys collaborating with artists from other disciplines. Favorite past ventures include a commission from Dance Alive National Ballet to write and perform monologues inspired by Cindy Sherman photographs. She has played "the speaking Mata Hari," a part she wrote for a ballet of that title. She has performed *Forty-Four Ambitions for the Piano*, with composer James Paul Sain and pianist Kevin Sharpe, and collaborated with Paul Richards on a song cycle based on the book. Her work has been interpreted by painter Ruth Harley, printmaker Ken Kerslake, and photographer Diane Farris. Ms. Haskins also has a particular love of radio, and does as much as she can on her local NPR station, WUFT-FM.

Lola Haskins teaches poetry in Pacific Lutheran University's low-residency MFA program. She lives in a house she built with her husband on land outside Gainesville, where residents include possums, armadillos, deer, and Florida black bear.

CONVENTION SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Wednesday Night: 7 p.m. Free Early Bird Cocktail Party at the home of Sarah Hull Gurley. Transportation will be provided. Food and drinks will be served.

Thursday Night: 7 p.m. Dinner at Central Barbecue, one of Memphis' leading barbecue restaurants, serving Memphis' famous pork barbecue. The cost for the Dinner at Central Barbecue is \$12.50 for those who have their own transportation. For those who need to go to Central Barbecue by bus, the price is an additional \$10.00. A Welcoming Program may be at the restaurant or may be back at the Holiday Inn, after Dinner at the restaurant, depending on attendance.

2010 NFSPS Convention Invocational Poem Contest Guidelines

Invocational poems will be read by winners at the beginning of Convention meals. The paramount consideration is poetic value, not religious orthodoxy. The poem must be, first of all, a poem, and should be suited to a religiously diverse membership, and should use gender-inclusive, contemporary language. Six poems will be chosen for a \$25.00 award each. These six poems will not be ranked. They may be any form and should not exceed 20 lines in length. The contest is open to all poets and must be the original work of the poet, unpublished, not submitted elsewhere for publication, and not a previous host-contest winning poem. It should be typed or computer generated. Poets will pay \$2.00 a poem with a limit of three poems. Checks must be made payable to: Poets Roundtable of Arkansas. Send entries after January 1, 2010. Entries should be postmarked no later than March 1, 2010. Winners will be notified in April, 2010. We place a high value on your reading your own poem, but a substitute reader will be provided if you cannot be present at the Convention. Send two copies, both with the name of the contest in the upper left corner. One copy only should have your name and address in the upper right hand corner. Poems will not be returned. The Poets Roundtable of Arkansas receives the right to have this poem read at this Convention. You retain all other rights. Mail entries to:

Jim Barton
P.O. Box 263
Huttig, AR 71747

TOURS

Thursday Morning: Optional Graceland Tour. Tour the second most visited house in the United States, the Graceland mansion, home of Elvis Presley, the King of Rock and Roll. See the Music Room, the Jungle Room, the Trophy Room, the Meditation Garden, and other features of this extraordinary mansion. The tour will depart at 10:00 a.m. and return around 1:30 p.m. Time is allowed for you to purchase your own lunch snack. Price per person: \$30.00.

Monday Morning: Optional City Tour. This tour includes the Mississippi River, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Sun Studios, Beale Street, the famous Peabody Hotel ducks and many other sights of downtown Memphis, which has become a major tourist city. Plan a later flight as the tour, which departs at 10:00 a.m., will not return until around 3:00 p.m. This gives those who go on the tour time to have lunch on their own on world famous Beale Street. (The tour cannot be planned earlier in the morning as the march of the Peabody Hotel ducks occurs precisely at 11:00 a.m.) Price per person: \$28.00.

2010 NFSPS Convention Poetry Contest Guidelines

First Place: \$200.00, Second Place: \$100.00, Third Place: \$50.00. Deadline: Saturday, May 1, 2010. Entrants must be members of an NFSPS-affiliated state poetry society. Awards will be announced and the top ten poems read during Thursday evening's activities. Theme: Poet's Choice. Style or Form: Poet's Choice. Line limit: 40 lines. Entries may be published or unpublished and may or may not have placed in contests elsewhere. Entries must, however, be titled. Winners need not be present to win. Send two copies of each poem on white paper, 8.5"x11". Please use 12-point standard font. On one copy, provide poem only. Second copy should include entrant's name, address, phone number, and state poetry society in upper left corner. Limit per entrant: 3 poems. Entry fee: \$5.00 - one poem; \$10.00 - up to three poems per entrant. Make check payable to: Poetry Society of Tennessee. Mail entries to: Christina Foster
709 N. Avalon
Memphis, Tennessee 38107
(Mark envelope: NFSPS 2010)

NFSPS College/University Level Poetry Competition - 2010

All freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors of an accredited university or college are eligible to enter the NFSPS College/University Level Poetry Competition. Two students will receive an award of \$500 each, one as the Edna Meudt Memorial Award and the other as the Florence Kahn Memorial Award.

Recipients shall be selected on the following basis:

1. Submission of a completed NFSPS official 2010 application that has been duly notarized.
2. Submission of a manuscript of ten (10) original poems. Send four copies of the manuscript.
3. Manuscript must be titled.
4. Manuscript must have a cover page with name, address, phone number in upper left corner and the title of the manuscript in center of the page.
5. One poem to each page, single-spaced, and each poem must be titled.
6. Each poem must be no more than 46 lines (includes the spaces between stanzas)
7. Each poem must have no more than 50 characters per line (includes spaces between words and punctuation).
8. No identification on any page other than the cover page.
9. A dedication page may be included.
10. No entry should be mailed prior to January 1, 2010.

Notarized applications and manuscript must be received (in hand) on or before February 1, 2010. First Class Mail only. No special deliveries. No e-mail submissions since manuscript must be received with notarized application. Candidates will be disqualified if any of the above requirements are not followed. Mail complete package to:

Helen Keith Beaman, Chairman
1305 S. Alpine Loop
Provo, UT 84606

E-mail: helzzpoet@live.com

Recipients will be selected on or before March 31, 2010, and announced after April 15, 2010. Each recipient's state poetry society will be notified. Award manuscripts will be published by NFSPS, and each recipient will receive 75 copies of the published manuscript in addition to the cash award. Recipients will be invited to read from their work at the June, 2010 NFSPS Convention to be held in Memphis, TN. NFSPS will provide an additional \$300 travel stipend to be presented at the Convention to those recipients attending the Convention. Winners are responsible for balance of costs at the Convention (such as room reservations).

2010 MANNINGHAM TRUST STUDENT POETRY COMPETITION

CONTEST INFORMATION/RULES (for NFSPS member state's Manningham Youth Chairs):

1. There are two Divisions: Grades 6-8 [Junior Division] and Grades 9-12 [Senior Division]. Each state's Manningham Youth Chair may submit ten [10] top poems in each Division. Poems may have been printed and/or have won previous awards. Contests held at state level may have occurred anytime within 2009.
2. The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6 - 12 including public, private and parochial schools. Member states are listed at www.NFSPS.com.
3. Send two copies of each poem. On both copies, place Division entered [Junior or Senior] in upper left corner. One copy must have student's ID in upper right corner (student name, school name and address, and student grade level. Second copy must not have ID information. Place Division entered [Junior or Senior] in upper left corner. Do not send copy with any other marks – there should be no indication of prior award granted by the state.
4. Each poem must be neatly typed or computer-generated and no more than 50 lines. If the poem continues on more than one page, staple pages together. Do not staple the two copies of poem together. No handwritten poems will be accepted. Identification must be on the front page of the ID copy. Identification must be complete and legible. It is suggested you keep a 3rd copy for your records.
5. No large or unusual (fancy) fonts and no illustrations. Best are Times New Roman or Arial (or similar simple font). Font size should be no larger than 12 point. Winning poems are scanned for the award anthology and these will not scan.
6. Student ID copy only: student must certify that his/her work is original and has not been copied in whole or in part from any other author's work, including poems posted on the internet. Statement may be typed (and signed) at the bottom of the poem, or may be on another sheet of paper and affixed to the poem. If the statement is affixed to the poem it should also contain the title of the poem submitted. This Statement is an absolute and must be included to qualify the poem for entry. The form below is acceptable:

Statement of Originality

I certify that this poem (title) is my original work, and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poems, including poems posted on the internet.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

7. Please, separate poems into respective Divisions. Within each Division separate the ID copy from the anonymous copy. Please include a cover letter with the name and address of the state's Manningham Youth Chair to whom the winners report should be sent.

8. Deadline for entries: March 1, 2010 postmark.

Send entries to: Madelyn Eastlund, Manningham Trust Student Poetry Competition Chair
310 S. Adams Street,
Beverly Hills, Florida 34465

Ten prizes will be awarded in each Division: First Place - \$75, Second Place - \$50, Third Place - \$40, Fourth Place - \$35, Fifth Place - \$30, and five Honorable Mentions - \$10 each. All winning poems will be published in the *Manningham Trust Poetry Student Award Anthology*. Winners will receive complimentary copies. The schools of each winning student will receive a complimentary copy for the school library. Notice of winners report will be sent to the state's Manningham Youth Chair by May 5, 2009. Awards (certificates, checks, anthologies) will also be mailed to the state's Chair for the state to distribute. Top winning poems will be read to NFSPS members at the 2010 NFSPS Convention held in Memphis, Tennessee, June, 2010.

NOTE: If there is a student who wishes to participate in this competition in a state not affiliated with NFSPS or a state affiliated with NFSPS without an active Manningham Youth Chair, applicable rules should be observed. Entries should NOT be sent to Manningham Trust Student Poetry Competition Chair Madelyn Eastlund (rule 8). Instead they should be sent to: Steven Concert, NFSPS Youth Awards Chairman

6 Kitchen Avenue
Harvey's Lake, PA 18618

and a February 15, 2010 postmark deadline observed so they can be processed properly and records kept before he forwards them to the Manningham Trust Student Poetry Competition Chair, Madelyn Eastlund.

**2009 ENCORE
COVER ART CONTEST**

Each year NFSPS publishes an anthology containing the prize-winning poems of the fifty NFSPS Annual Contests. This book is presented to each person who attends the NFSPS Annual Convention in the year of its publication, but the books are also available to other members of NFSPS and to the general public.

The contest for the cover of the 2009 *Encore* is open to all NFSPS members. Please submit either original art or photos to be considered to:

Valerie Martin Bailey, *Encore* Editor
2207 Parhaven Dr.,
San Antonio, TX 78232

**Deadline: Submissions must be
received by March 15, 2010**

If you want your entry returned, please send a stamped envelope with enough postage for the return. Unless you request the submission be returned, the Editor likes to keep submissions on file for those years when few entries are sent as they may be reconsidered for future editions.

Art or photos must not be larger than 8.5" x 11" so it will fit the scanner. Or you may send it as a digital file to vbailey@satx.rr.com. Please send subject matter that is suitable for the *Encore*. Horizontal layouts are preferred in order to do a wrap cover; however, some vertical formats can be used. Remember the focal part of the art or photo must be on the right hand side so it will appear on the front of the book. Be sure to send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address along with the following information about the art or photo: A title for the work, where it was taken (if photo) and medium used (if art).

To order past prize poems anthologies, make checks payable to NFSPS, Inc. and send to:

Valerie Martin Bailey, *Encore* Editor
2207 Parhaven Dr.,
San Antonio, TX 78232

No books may be returned. Add to the price of the book(s) mailing costs of \$2.75 for one book and add \$.75 for each additional book. Here are the books that are available:

2008 <i>Encore</i> - \$15	2002 <i>Encore</i> - \$6
2007 <i>Encore</i> - \$10	2001 <i>Encore</i> - \$6
2006 <i>Encore</i> - \$10	2000 <i>Encore</i> - \$4
2005 <i>Encore</i> - \$10	1999 <i>Encore</i> - \$2
2004 <i>Encore</i> - \$8	1998 <i>Encore</i> - \$2
2003 <i>Encore</i> - \$8	

**NEWS
from NFSPS Member State Societies**

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS celebrated Poetry Day 2009, October 16-17, in Conway and Little Rock. On Friday evening, members toured the Arkansas Education Television Network Studios and listened to poetry. The Saturday meeting was held at the Cox Building of the Central Arkansas Library System. PRA is pleased to work with AETN and CALS to promote student poetry contests. The speaker, H.K. Stewart, led an informative critique session. Freeda Baker Nichols was selected as the 2009 Merit Award Winner. The winners' list for Poetry Day, October 17, 2009, can be viewed on www.poetsroundtable.com. The Spring Luncheon will be held May 2-10 in Benton, AR, and will be hosted by the Saline Country Branch. The Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs will host Poetry Day in October 2010 in Hot Springs. We look forward to planning and coordinating with the Mississippi Poetry Society and the Poetry Society of Tennessee the 2010 NFSPS Convention. We hope to see and meet lots of poets in Memphis, TN, June 10-13, 2010.

~ *Kathy Helmer, Secretary*

CALIFORNIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY is always accepting poems for consideration for California Quarterly (CQ), and CSPA Poetry Letter & Literary Review (PL&LR) Editor C. Bryce is looking for previously published and contest winning poems (venue must be given), chapbooks for review, and poetry articles (350-450 words only). Sample issues of *PL&LR* are \$1 + 61-cent SASE. *CQ* sample copy is \$7 ppd. For information on membership: Pearl Karrer, CSPA Membership Chair, 570 Kinglsey Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301. For further correspondence, orders, or inquiries, please write CSPA, P.O. Box 7126, Orange, CA 92863, or e-mail Kate Ozbirn, CSPA President at kateozbirn@yahoo.com.

~ *Kate Ozbirn, President*

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY and its guests, the Pine Mountain Poets, convened at the Mountain Creek Conference Center in Callaway Gardens for their October quarterly meeting. Highlights from the meeting included a showcase of the Pine Mountain Poets: Rachael Elliot and Dr. David Johnson, member readings both morning and afternoon, additional readings from GPS Vice-President, Robert Simon, and a warm and talented presentation from featured poet, Lynn Pedersen. In the afternoon, Georgia poets who received

recognition in the NFSPS Annual Contests read their winning poems. Emery Campbell won an Honorable Mention, Ron Self received three Honorable Mentions, while Larry Hand took home two First Place and three Second Place awards. Scott Wilkerson of Kennesaw State University closed the program with an energetic, fascinating and very encouraging apology for poets' mistakes and celebration of failures - great stuff!

~ *Francie Smith-Rountree, Reporter*

INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF POETRY CLUBS met October 23-25, 2009, at Spring Mill State Park to celebrate poetry. Due to one death, several illnesses and other extenuating circumstances, there were only about 28 in attendance, but we consider it a complete success. Norbert Krapf, Indiana State Poet Laureate gave the Keynote Address and was very well accepted. Workshops were presented by Amy Jo Zook and Michael Erdelen, door prizes were presented, and those who won in the NFSPS Annual Contests read their poems. We had three Round Robin Readings and the winners in the Annual Fall Poets Rendezvous Contest were announced. The first three places were read by the winners if present and by readers if not. We are proud to say that out of 168 available prizes, 93 were won by our Indiana Poets. Jeanne Losey who has attended many NFSPS Conventions, placed in 14 out of 24 contests. The spring meeting, held in May, will be sponsored by the Northwest Indiana Poetry Society of Lowell, Indiana. At this meeting a new President, Contest Director and Manningham Chair will be elected. The Treasurer and Secretary are elected in uneven years. ~ *Glenna Glee, President*

LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY gathered in Baton Rouge for their 56th Fall celebration of National Poetry Day on October 11, 2009, at Runnymede Clubhouse with Suellen Lamb its Hostess Chairman - Theme: "On The Threshold Of A Dream." President Pat Sipes Juelg presided at the morning business meeting, followed by Chapter Reports, and a Read-Around of poets. After dinner, Charles Egedy announced the "On The Spot Contest" winners, and as Contest Chairman, he announced the winners of the Poetry Contest. Winners who were present read their poems. Liz Ferguson led the Poetry Critique Workshop. 22 poets from five chapters enjoyed the festivity. ~ *Genevieve Didier DeWitt*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY members gathered at the environmentally "green" Maple Hill

Farm Inn for our September meeting where member Ruth Bookey discussed poems about "Work" of all forms before judging the contest entries on the same subject, and reading from her new book, *Life Class*. After lunch (and a cake celebrating Lorna Starbird's 90 years - member since 1947!), Megan Grumbling, guest judge, presented others' poems in Blank Verse, then her own which had won her the coveted Ruth Lilly Prize, and critiqued ours. Next meeting: February 20th at the Dyer Library, Saco. Member Herb Coursen will judge the Dramatic Monologue, and guest Tom Carper, the Sonnet. Registration begins 9:30 a.m. and a reading-in-the-round around 3:00 p.m. Guests are welcome. For additional information contact Co-President, Marta Finch at: moimarta@comcast.net. For membership information, contact: Anne Hammond, Maine Poets Society, 1 Grove Street, Bath ME 04530. ~ *Marta Finch, Co-President*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY members, numbering 16, met on October 17, 2009, at the Winthrop Public Library. The CREW Chapter presented a multimedia program on Jazz Poetry, wherein a poet responds to and writes about jazz. Following that program, President Jeanette Maes shared her experiences with channeling, when the poet feels inspiration from a paranormal source. Lastly, in observation of National Poetry Day, members read their poems, including some of the prize winners in the NFSPS Annual Contests. ~ *Roberta Hung*

~ The following edited news item was submitted for the January 2009 *Strophes* and was inadvertently omitted from that issue due to computer error during submission.

~ *Strophes* Editor, 2009-10

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY held its summer outdoor meeting on August 1, 2009 at the national historic site, the Saugus Ironworks. Twenty attended from various parts of the state. President Jeanette Maes led a sentient workshop, "Color with your Senses," followed by a reading of individual creations. After a relaxing potluck lunch, poets read three original poems. ~ *Roberta Hung*

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN fall meeting was held October 24, in Holt, Michigan with about thirty members and guests attending. The agenda included a program by Andy Christ on an explication of John Ashbery's poem "As One Put Drunk into the Packet-Boat." Original poems were read by members, with the Traveling Trophy awarded

to Polly Opsahl for the best poem read. Among reports read was one given by Mono D'Angelo, Chair of the committee preparing to host the NFSPS Convention to be held in June of 2011. Officers elected to serve PSM for 2010 included: President: James Ahearn, Vice President: Mono D'Angelo, Recording Secretary: Julie George, Corresponding Secretary: Anita Walters. Harry Spenny will continue as Treasurer, and Polly Opsahl as Newsletter Editor. ~ *Inge Logenburg Kyler, Historian*

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS celebrated their 75th Anniversary on October 16, 2009, with a reception and recognition program at Open Book in Minneapolis. A display of books published early in League history, and other books published more recently by the League and individual members, was enjoyed by those present. Angela Foster gave a brief synopsis of League history. Charmaine Pappas Donovan, LOMP President, recognized members whose contributions to the League have been appreciated over the years. Doris Stengel distributed Minnesota memorabilia gifts provided by Joan Wiesner, Brainerd. Afterwards Susan Stevens Chambers presented the winners of the 25th Annual LOMP Contest. Many poems were read by the winners and others in attendance from all 18 categories. On the following day the annual Fall LOMP Meeting was held at Hotel Aloft-Minneapolis. Norita Dittberner-Jax presented a program "Poetry: One Poet's Source." Dittberner-Jax also critiqued previously submitted LOMP members' poems in an afternoon seminar. League members look forward to Blizzard Poetry Retreat in Good Thunder, MN, from January 28 - 30. This retreat is hosted annually by LOMP member, Susan Stevens Chambers.

~ *Charmaine Pappas Donovan, President*

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY celebrated its Fall Mini-Festival at Belhaven College in Jackson, MS, on October 17. Ann Carolyn Cates, 2009 Poet of the Year, presented selections from her new chapbook, *Life Map*. Tommy Little was named Poet of the Year for 2010. Nelda Broom of MPS South Branch received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Russell H. Strauss, Ann Carolyn Cates and Emory Jones rallied forces to gear up for the NFSPS Convention in Memphis, TN. Winners in the 2009 Fall Contest were announced by Dierdre Payne, Contest Coordinator. The MPS Spring Festival will be held April 17-18, 2010, in Jackson, MS.

~ *Jeanne Kelly, Corresponding Secretary*

OREGON STATE POETRY ASSOCIATION reports that the past several months have been very busy ones. A day-long retreat for board members, unit chairs, and other members with major volunteer roles, which was held in late August, generated such far-ranging discussion of the Association's purpose and goals that it was decided to have a special committee explore and resolve the questions raised in another day-long gathering early in December. Meanwhile, OSPA had a booth at Wordstock, Oregon's largest literary fair, held October 10-11 in Portland. The professionally designed booth, donated by an area company and staffed by OSPA volunteers, attracted much attention. Interested people found plenty of activities and information. About 40 young people and adults wrote poems, drawing inspiration from a pail of poetry prompts. Many took a packet containing a membership brochure, newsletter, bookmark, and other materials. Fliers for OSPA's 2010 Oregon Student Poetry Contest were also distributed at Wordstock. The next weekend, October 16-18, OSPA's fall conference was held in Newport on the Oregon coast, with Friday evening activities at Rogue's Brewery and Saturday workshops and awards presentations at the brand-new campus of Oregon Coast Community College. Featured at the conference were OSPA member and much-awarded poet Judith Montgomery and South Carolina poet Laurel Blossom, who was in Newport to read in the Nye Beach Writers' Series, along with OSPA member and past president, Marianne Klekacz. Judith Montgomery gave a reading Friday night and then on Saturday conducted a workshop called "Jump/Start," on ways of moving from strong feelings elicited by personal experience or public events to poems that convey those feelings to readers. Laurel Blossom, whose most recent book, *Degrees of Latitude*, is a single long poem, led a workshop discussing various types of long poem. Conference attendees then had the opportunity to attend her Saturday evening reading with Marianne Klekacz at the Newport Visual Arts Center. ~ *Eleanor Berry*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS 53rd Annual Awards Banquet was held in the Bistro Room of the Crowne Plaza Suites - Dallas Park Central on November 14th. The theme was "Chillin' with Really Cool Poetry." Mildred Vorpahl Baass and Nancy Baass were Co-Chairmen of the event and welcomed attendees. After the meal was served, President Jeannette L. Strother made introductions and

gave the President's Award to J. Paul Holcomb. NFSPS President Nancy Baass brought greetings from NFSPS. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award, announced that Pat Stodghill was the 2009 recipient. Nancy Baass, Chairman of the 2009 PST Annual Contests, gave her report. Vice President Catherine L'Herisson and President Jeannette L. Strother announced the names of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners. 1st Place winners who were present read their winning poems. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the 2009 Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award, announced that the winner was Beverly Monestier. 2nd Place went to Alan Birkelbach and 3rd Place went to Lynn Lewis. ~ Nancy Baass

~ The following news item was submitted for the January 2009 *Strophes* and was inadvertently omitted from that issue and subsequent issues.

~ *Strophes* Editor, 2009-10

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS 52nd Annual Awards Banquet was held in the Bistro Room of the Crowne Plaza Suites - Dallas Park Central on November 8th. The theme was "Wide World of Poetry." Mildred Vorpahl Baass and Nancy Baass were Co-Chairmen of the event and welcomed attendees. After the meal was served, President Jeannette L. Strother made introductions. NFSPS President Nancy Baass brought greetings from NFSPS. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award, announced that Freeda Murphy was the 2008 recipient. Nancy Baass, Chairman of the 2008 PST Annual Contests, gave her report and she and President Jeannette L. Strother announced the names of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners. 1st Place winners who were present read their winning poems. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the 2008 Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award, announced that the winner was Charlotte Renk. 2nd Place went to Scott Wiggerman and 3rd Place went to Alan Birkelbach. ~ Nancy Baass

WYOPETS spring workshop will be held in Casper at the Hilton Garden Inn on April 24, 2010, with poet/vocalist/flamenco dance teacher Sophia Puccini, of Saratoga, WY, as presenter. ~ Linda Ruhle, *News Reporter*

CONTESTS

CALIFORNIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY - 2009 & 2010 MONTHLY CONTESTS ~ For information, send a SASE to: CSPS, Monthly Contests, P.O. Box 7126, Orange, CA 92863 or e-mail Kate Ozborn, CSPS President at kateozborn@yahoo.com.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY - OF THEE I SING CONTEST

~ Deadline: January 15, 2010. Subject: Some-one-Someplace-Something (human, vegetable, animal, mineral, flora, etc.) Form: Poet's Choice. 40 line limit. Prizes: \$50, \$25, \$10. Poems must not have been published or won any prize. Poets may enter as many poems as they wish, but only one prize may be won by any poet. Entry Fee is \$3.00 per poem, checks payable to MSPS. Send two copies of each poem, one with name and address, one with no ID. SASE for Winners' List. Send entries to Gertrude Callis, Contest Chair, 10 Pleasant Street, Apt. 106, Lynn, MA 01902. Mark name of contest on envelope.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY - THE GERTRUDE DOLE MEMORIAL AWARD

~ Deadline: March 15, 2010. Subject and Form: Poet's Choice. 40 line limit. Prizes: \$25, \$15, \$10. Poems must not have been published or won any prize. Poets may enter as many poems as they wish, but only one prize may be won by any poet. Entry Fee is \$3.00 per poem, checks payable to MSPS. Send two copies of each poem, one with name and address, one with no ID. SASE for Winners' List. Send entries to Gertrude Callis, Contest Chair, 10 Pleasant Street, Apt. 106, Lynn, MA 01902. Mark name of contest on envelope.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY - AMBASSADOR OF POETRY AWARD

~ Deadline: April 15, 2010. Subject and Form: Poet's Choice. 40 line limit. Prizes: \$50, \$30, \$20. Poems must not have been published or won any prize. Poets may enter as many poems as they wish, but only one prize may be won by any poet. Entry Fee is \$3.00 per poem, checks payable to MSPS. Send two copies of each poem, one with name and ad-

dress, one with no ID. SASE for Winners' List. Send entries to Gertrude Callis, Contest Chair, 10 Pleasant Street, Apt. 106, Lynn, MA 01902. Mark name of contest on envelope.

OREGON STATE POETRY ASSOCIATION SPRING 2010 CONTEST. Deadline:

March 1, 2010 (postmark). Six categories. Poet's Choice, 80-line max., any form, any subject; prizes of \$100, \$50, \$30, and \$20, plus HMs; Free Verse, 40-line max., any free form, any subject, prizes of \$50, \$30, and \$20, plus HMs; Traditional Verse, 40-line max., any traditional form, any subject, prizes of \$50, \$30, and \$20, plus HMs; New Poets, 30-line max., any form, any subject, prizes of \$50, \$30, and \$20, plus HMs; Members Only, 6-12 lines, any form, any subject, prizes of \$50, \$30, and \$20, plus HMs; Theme: Frogs and/or Toads, 40-line max., any form, prizes of \$50, \$30, and \$20, plus HMs. Cash winners published in *Verseweavers*, annual anthology. Fees: OSPA members, \$5 flat rate for contest; non-members, \$4 per poem. Poems must be original, unpublished, not prior cash winners. No more than one poem per category, with no duplication. For all categories, two copies, one with category, line count, name, address, phone, and e-mail in upper right, the other with category and line count only. Persons submitting in the New Poets category must sign a statement, "I have never won a cash prize for a poem." Mail entries to Karen Clausel, OSPA Contest Chair, 655 Goodpasture Island Rd., #167, Eugene, OR 97401. For complete guidelines and membership information, see the OSPA Website, www.oregonpoets.org.

UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY POETRY COMPETITION

~ Check the USPS website, www.utahpoets.com, for information. Deadline: February 2, 2010.