



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.nfspi.com

April 2013

President's Message

Dear NFSPS Poets: Legacies

*Under my window a clean rasping sound
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:
My father, digging. . . .*

*The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft
Against the inside knee was levered firmly.
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep
To scatter new potatoes that we picked
Loving the cool hardness in our hands.*



Seamus Heaney's early "Digging," from the 1966 *Death of a Naturalist*, explores the work of poetry as a kind of inheritance from his father's and grandfather's work with the spade. His father's digging beneath the window shifts to his grandfather at work in the peat bog, shoveling peat for fuel, a man who *could cut more turf in a day / Than any other man on Toner's bog* . . .

*Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods
Over his shoulder, digging down and down
For the good turf. Digging.*

Seamus Heaney's earthy lines explore the power of parents' legacies in the life of a child, the way that the skill, patience, and persistence of agricultural labor transform into the skills and persistence of creative and scholarly "digging," of uncovering buried truths; inventing fuel for survival; preparing the soil for a season of new growth. These are the things that Heaney's father did all his life, shovel in hand, and a challenge that Heaney himself took up as a young man, half guilty and half delighted, realizing that his pen, too, could lay bare a history, investigate more deeply his own life and that of his people.

But I've no spade to follow men like them.

Between my finger and my thumb

*The squat pen rests.
I'll dig with it.*

These are legacies of practice, whether we learn them from our parents or from other mentors (as for Heaney, the ghosts of Yeats and Joyce haunt his words and poems as familiar spirits), or whether they are in turn the kind of hand-me-down practices that we ourselves pass on, rising at 4 a.m. to write, to meet a deadline, to finish the grading at the kitchen table, and greeting the sleepy-eyed children when they finally wake.

But the idea of the legacy, for poets, extends well beyond habits of thought and practice. Our words themselves, however we collect or publish them, form a kind of bulwark against time, a mark on the
(President's Message continued on page 8)

La Conferencia del Encanto

June 13 – 18, 2013 Albuquerque (ABQ), New Mexico

Program

Wednesday, June 12 Early Bards Arrival
1-6 PM Early Registration
6PM Short walking tour of Old Town Plaza (wheelchair accessible)
6:30PM Self-pay dinner on Plaza or in Hotel
Thursday, June 13
8AM-6PM Registration
9AM Tours to Acoma or Pueblo Feast Day
2:30PM Bus returns to hotel from Acoma
3:30-5:30PM NFSPS Board Meeting
6PM Group dinner at Church Street Cafe. Self-pay.
7-10PM Acoustic music jam, Pavilion, cash bar

Friday, June 14 (Flag Day)
7:30-8:45AM State Presidents' breakfast meeting
9-10:30AM First Plenary
10:45AM-Noon D. McQuaid "The Alchemical Heart"
12:30PM **Lunch** Welcome by ABQ mayor, Manningham Awards, Filming of Contest Awards (FCA)
3-5PM H. Bellamy "Fountain Pen of Youth"
5-6:15PM Music (Dog Star) in Pavilion. Cash bar.
6:30PM **Dinner** Student & University Awards, FCA
8:30PM Winners and Honorable Mentions (WHM), open readings follow

Saturday, June 15
7:30-8:45AM Breakfast seminar "Building SPS websites"
9-10:30AM A. Watson & M. Garner "The Learning Curve"
10:30-11:30AM Panel "Alternatives in Publishing"
11:30-Noon Q&A on Publishing Choices
12:30PM **Lunch** Convention Contest prizes, FCA
3-4:30PM V. Golos and B. Marcus "Poets of Witness"
6:30PM **Dinner** Stevens MS Winner, FCA
8:30PM WHM, open readings follow

Sunday, June 16 (Fathers' Day)
8:45-11AM "Haiku in the Garden" at ABQ BioPark
11:30AM-12:45PM 2nd Plenary, Special Awards
12:30PM Deadline to retrieve books from Bookstore

Sunday, June 16 (continued)
1PM **Lunch** (Plan B time, no FCA)
2:30-4:30PM New Mexican Voices "Writing from Place"
4:30-6PM "Presenters-Only" book signings and sales
5:30-6:45PM Reception, cash bar, music
7PM **Banquet** Keynote speaker, D. Levin, expanded FCA for Contests 1-3
9PM Book sales/signings by Dana Levin, open readings

MONDAY, June 17
8AM Taos (overnight)
8AM Allan Houser/Golondrinas
5PM Aerial Tram to dinner on Sandia Peak

TUESDAY, June 18
9AM Santa Fe by RailRunner (train)
12PM Meet-up in Santa Fe with Taos group

NFSPS CONVENTION POEMS

Subject is the Land of Enchantment. Any form but prose poem, up to 40 lines. Entry fee is \$10 for up to three poems. First Prize is \$100, 2nd is \$50, 3rd is \$25.

NFSPS INVOCATION POEMS

Subject is a poem of thanks, appreciation, or inspiration. No expression of denominational religious belief, please. Entry fee is \$5 per poem, no limit. Six winners will receive \$25 each.

Up to 10 lines, compiled from the following forms: couplet; haiku or tercet; quatrain; cinquain, limerick, or tanka; sestet or 6-line Fibonacci; septet or rime royal. You may mix and match, but please identify the form used in each verse.

Rules common to both contests:

- 1) No poet may win more than one prize in each contest and must attend convention to win.
- 2) Deadline for receipt is May 1, 2012.
- 3) Make checks for entry fees payable to **New Mexico SPS - Contest**.
- 4) Send 2 copies of each poem, one with name, address, phone, and email in upper right-hand corner, and the other with no identification of author to:

Jeanne Shannon
Convention Contest Chair
1217 Espejo St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112-5215

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.**

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

Honorary Chancellor: Natasha Tretthewey
(Appointment made July, 2012)

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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:

Paul Ford, *Strophes* Editor
10239 Hickory Pt. Dr., Sandy, UT 84092
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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. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a #10 SASE and \$1.00 per copy.

* Submission Deadlines

**NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS
(Presidential Advisors)**

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* Deceased

Keynote speaker, Dana Levin, will present “Writing the Interior Landscape.” Dana Levin has published three books of poetry, all of which have garnered critical acclaim. The first, *In the Surgical Theatre* (1999), received nearly every



award available to first books and emerging poets. *Wedding Day* (2005, Copper Canyon Press) drew praise from *Ploughshares*, the *Boston Review*, and the *Washington Post*. *The New Yorker* calls her latest book, the stunning *Sky Burial* “utterly riveting.” It was listed as one of the Best Books of Poetry 2011 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Library Journal*, and *Coldfront Magazine*.

Levin has won awards and fellowships from the NEA; Library of Congress; Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference; and from the Rona Jaffe, Witter Bynner, Lannan, Guggenheim, and Whiting Foundations. Her widely anthologized work has won several Pushcart Prizes.

Levin grew up in California’s Mojave Desert, earned a bachelor’s from Pitzer College and a master’s from New York University. She chairs the Creative Writing and Literature Department at Santa Fe University of Art and Design.

Dora E. McQuaid will present “The Alchemical Heart: Writing Into The Sacred.”



Dora McQuaid is an award-winning poet, activist, speaker, and teacher dedicated to addressing the issues of sexual and domestic violence.

Her efforts were recently honored when the artist who painted the Inspirations Mural in State College, PA, obliterated the image in the mural of former Penn State coach and convicted sex offender Jerry Sandusky and put an image of McQuaid in its place.

McQuaid performs, speaks, and teaches internationally. Her work has been published in anthologies, plays, and films. It is required course reading in certain judicial and law enforcement training in Pennsylvania.

Hakim Bellamy (and crew) will present “The Fountain Pen of Youth: Walk a Mile in Their Sneakers.” Hakim Bellamy named



Albuquerque’s first Poet Laureate in April 2012. He is both a performance and page poet. He has won many championships in slam poetry, including two national, two city, and three University of New Mexico LOBOSLAM titles.

Bellamy’s poetry has appeared in ABQ inner-city buses as a winner of the RouteWords Competition and in regional books, including the *Harwood Anthology*, *Earthships Anthology*, *Sin Fronteras Journal*, and *A Bigger Boat* (UNM Press). His work will appear in a forthcoming NM Centennial anthology to be published by UNM Press.

Bellamy has acted for both stage and screen and performs as a songwriter, emcee, and vocalist. He works with youth poets statewide. He served as Strategic Communications Director at the Media Literacy Project before recently launching his own business.

Andrea L. Watson and Madelyn Garner will present “5 x 5: The Learning Curve—What You Must Know To Publish In Today’s Market.”



A former New York book and magazine editor, Andrea L. Watson is founding publisher and editor of 3: A Taos Press, a multicultural and ethically voiced publishing house. She has designed and curated sixteen

ekphrasis events of poetry and art across the United States, including shows in Denver, San Francisco, Berkeley, and Memphis. Some of those shows have been featured in prestigious poetry reviews.

Watson is an award-winning poet whose own work has appeared in a dozen U.S. and international publications. She is one of the founding editors of the poetry journal, *Heartlodge: Honoring the House of the Poet*, a representative for the International Women’s Writing Guild, and a member of the Board of the Taos Arts Council.

Madelyn Garner is the sole educator to have received The Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities for her contributions to the arts in Colorado. *Scholastic Magazine* and the National Endowment for the Humanities have recognized her as one of the nation’s outstanding teachers of writing. Her poetry has appeared in numerous literary journals.



Garner has been the recipient of numerous fellowships and prizes for her writing, including the Aspen Writers’ Conference Fellowship, the D.H. Lawrence Award from the University of New Mexico, the Jackson Hole Writers Conference Poetry Prize for 2010, and the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Honorable Mention for 2011.

Veronica Golos and Bonnie Rose Marcus will present “Face to Face: Two Poets of Witness Face Death and Dying.”



Veronica Golos is the author of *Vocabulary of Silence* (Red Hen Press, 2011), which won the 2011 New Mexico Book Award for Poetry. She is also the author of *A Bell Buried Deep*

(Story Line Press), co-recipient of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize.

Golos has served as Poet in Residence at schools in Greenwich, CT, and Taos, NM, as well as at the Nassau Museum of Art. She has lectured at Columbia University and Colorado State College. Her work has been published in the U.S. and abroad, including London and Paris. Golos has performed in NYC at Lincoln Center’s Nuyorican Café and at Cornelia Street Café and in many venues in the Southwest. She lives with her husband, writer David Pérez, in Taos, where she is co-editor of the *Taos Journal of Poetry & Art*.

Bonnie Rose Marcus is a poet, theater artist, hospice volunteer, and Buddhist practitioner who has been writing since adolescence. Her poetry has been published in *Salon*, *Brooklyn*, and *Miss Fit’s Free Press*, a 1990s ‘zine she created. Her poems in *The Luminosity* (3: A Taos Press, 2013) are inspired and based on her work in hospice. She leads workshops in contemplative end-of-life care.



Georgia Santa-Maria and Merimee Moffitt will present “Haiku In The Garden.”

Georgia Santa-Maria is a fifth-generation New Mexican from the rural north part of the state, where she often stays at her ancestors’ 1830s casa-corral homestead. She has worked as an artist, photographer, counselor, storekeeper, poet, and mom. Her work has been widely anthologized and appears on the web’s Duke City Fix, Sunday Poem, and Duke City Dime Stories’ Favorites. She has been a guest editor for *LummoX Magazine*. Her chapbooks include *Lichen Kisses*,

Ten Penny Tales, and *The Miami Hippie Mommy Cookbook*.

Merimee Moffitt is an Albuquerque writer and teacher. Her poetry has appeared in many anthologies. She served for several years as co-editor of *The Rag*, a *Poetry Broadside*, an ABQ institution. Her short stories have appeared on the web at Duke City Dime Stories' Favorites, which she helped found. Moffitt is working on a memoir about the counter-culture of the 1960s and 1970s in northern New Mexico. She has taught all grade levels in ABQ public schools and colleges.

PANEL: METHODS AND ALTERNATIVES OF PUBLISHING

The panel will include NMSPS members who are niche publishers, authors who have published their own eBooks, poets and songwriters who have negotiated the shoals of online publishing and recording services, even some who do their own desktop publishing. This interactive panel will include these "hands-on" veterans to help you explore a range of nontraditional publishing options. We hope as well to have Amazon and Apple experts on hand to explain the online publishing and marketing services they offer.

PANEL: NEW MEXICAN VOICES— WRITING FROM PLACE

A panel of accomplished New Mexican poets reflects the incredible diversity of this region's native and immigrant populations.

So far, panelists include Native American poet-potter Max Early; Latina poet Maria Leyba, whose work brings barrio life into vivid imagery; Gary Worth Moody, who worked cattle in Texas as a 10-year-old and now wrangles technology at Los Alamos; Damien Flores, a dynamic young man who can bring his audience to tears (of empathy or laughter) with his witty tributes to his feisty grandparents; Joanne Bodin, who grew up in a Jewish home, plunged into Berkeley's 1960s counter-culture movement while a student there, then followed a dream to New Mexico in 1985. Tony Mares, who grew up in the "low-rider" culture of rural northern New Mexico and has just returned from a speaking tour abroad, will participate as well.

EARLY BARDS OPEN HOUSE

NMSPS member, Jules Nyquist, founder of Jules' Poetry Playhouse, will hold a coffee and dessert open house at her home on Wednesday, June 12, 6-9 p.m. to welcome NFSPS conventioners. Her house at 1814 Old Town Road NW is only two blocks from the convention site. Directions will be available at the Convention's registration

desk, or you can call her at 505-252-9988.

CONVENTION TOURS: RESERVE NOW, PAY LATER

The price listed for the Annual Convention tours is the MOST you would pay. Prices will come down the more folks we sign up. We know you may not want to pay this far out, but we need to know how many are coming to get the best deals. If you think you will go on a tour but will wait until later to register and pay, please email our Registrar at NFSPSregistrar@nmpoetry.com. Include your name, email address, phone number, which tour(s), and the number of persons for each tour. This does not obligate you to take the tour. If you have questions about the tour itinerary or accommodations, please email our Tours and Transportation Chairman, Fil Peach at filsfoodfare@yahoo.com.

CONVENTION TRANSPORTATION

Major carriers and regional airlines serve Albuquerque (ABQ) International Sunport, which is about 8 miles from Hotel ABQ (HAbq). Free shuttles go to nearby car rental services. Alvarado Transportation Center downtown (about 2 miles from HAbq) is a major stop for Greyhound, Amtrak, and the NM Rail Runner Express. Ground transport includes taxis, limos, and ABQ Ride city buses.

Sunport Shuttle is your best choice, especially if you travel with others. Call them toll-free at 1-866-505-4966 or go online at www.sunportshuttle.com to take advantage of shared-ride discounts. Example: taxi fare one-way from airport to HAbq is about \$24; shuttle fare round-trip is \$28 for single rider, plus \$5 each way for each additional passenger in the same party. Planned pickup is best, but they also have a counter at the Sunport that can handle walk-ups.

Two Interstates make ABQ easy to get to and drive around in. Take I-40's Exit 157A and go south on Rio Grande Blvd. two blocks to the conference site. If you drive an RV and stay as a guest at HAbq, you can park your RV in their security lot for free. Parking is free in all of HAbq's 600 spaces.

BOOK ROOM INFORMATION

We have a flood of poets selling books this year. Good news: we will sell to the public, as well as to attendees; buyers can use credit cards, so sales should be brisk. Bad news: finite space and staff require limiting who can sell and how much we can handle in the Bookstore at one time. For details, go to www.NMpoetry.com and click on the "Convention" link. Here is a summary:

* Only registered **attendees**, NFSPS, and State societies can sell their items.

- * Except for NFSPS, sellers are limited to 5 items (books and CDs), 10 copies per item.
- * **By May 15** send a cover sheet listing all titles; no items will be accepted after then.
- * The cover sheet must give full contact info for the author, including the **payee name for the check** we will issue the seller; the full title, number of copies per title, and final price per copy (include any tax and round to a whole-dollar amount).
- * Authors and sale data will be printed in a catalog for attendees and displayed in the Bookstore.

A Bookstore Registration Form is on our website. You can fill it out and submit it online or print and mail it as hard copy to: Convention Registrar - Bookstore, PO Box 2669, Los Lunas, NM 87031. Provide SASE with mailed cover sheet, or give it to Bookstore Staff when you deliver the books/CDs.

NO Pre-mailing of items unless you arrange to pick them up in NM. Hotel Albuquerque will not accept delivery, nor will the Registrar. Any books mailed to the Registrar or NMSPS **will incur a \$50 handling fee**. Best to bring them with you. Also best to register online.

LETTER(WO)MAN'S TOP 10 REASONS TO REGISTER/RESERVE ROOMS FOR THE CONVENTION RIGHT NOW!

10. You hear readings will be virtually nonstop—in the Hotel. Face it, you really want to read your poetry, not just sit back and applaud the celebrities. NMSPS will try to provide you multiple venues around the hotel (besides the scheduled open readings) to strut your stuff. Jukebox poetry, anyone?

9. You hate last-minute logjams. If you have a registration question on April 1st, you have time to get an answer. If you wait until April 30th to ask it, 15 others may be ahead of you.

8. You guard your money. PayPal and credit card purchases through the NMSPS PayPal account are swift, secure, and digitally documented. The "shopping cart" application makes registration easy.

7. You can always get your money back, even if you change your plans. If you pay online at www.nmpoetry.com using a credit card or PayPal, refunds for registration, meals, and tours can be made immediately. Paper still works, but it will take longer and it is not as secure in transit.

6. You don't trust leftovers. Unless you choose your meal entrees early, you may have to settle for what's left in the kitchen. This is the first year that folks know what is ahead concerning the Convention menu; you can change your selection up until June 10th.

Remember, all vegetarian meals are also gluten-free.

5. You don't want to miss the tour to Acoma/Sky City. As if Sky City were not already a spectacular prelude to our Convention, you learn the director of Acoma's Cultural Center is arranging a special presentation for NMSPS. But you are told that the tour bus company requires advance reservations.

4. You up your chances to lower your tour costs. Some tours, e.g., Taos, will be arranged to fit the number of people signed up by May 1st. When we get a good headcount, we'll start looking for deals to reduce the cost per person. You don't want to be passenger 15 in a 14-person van.

3. You are an art buff, and you just found out the tour to Taos (wheelchair accessible once in Taos) will include a plein air painting lesson in the lovely courtyard of the Blumenschein Museum, and that the lesson will be conducted by docent Nancy Delpero exclusively for NFSPS. But the tour could be canceled if no one signs up by May 1st.

2. If you snooze, you lose (the discounts, that is). You must reserve and pay by May 1st to get the meal plan discounts. After then, you will incur a surcharge.

1. If you lose (track of time), **you snooze** (elsewhere). Reserve your room at www.HotelABQ.com by May 22nd or you may miss out on the special discount rate and risk finding no room at this inn. On that date, our block of 70 rooms goes up for grabs by other groups. By mid-February, NFSPS members had already reserved 25 rooms. The Hotel will guarantee you a room—somewhere in town—at our discount rate if you sign up by May 22nd. Wouldn't you rather ensure you get to stay at Hotel ABQ?

ARTICLE: WHY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IS IMPORTANT

By Jim Barton, Huttig, Arkansas
4th Vice President, NFSPS
National Convention Coordinator

Writing is a lonely business. Writing poetry is even lonelier. We, as poets, spend inordinate amounts of time alone, thinking, composing, toying with phrase and line. Of course we have our social and work lives, and we have poetry groups on the local level. We meet with other poets once or twice a year at the state level. I believe we need more than that. I believe the national gathering is one of the most important events we can attend as poets. Attendance has been slipping of late, interest has declined some, and it has become more and more difficult to recruit hosts for the convention.

Some of this is due to the economy. During hard times, we cut back. Travel and hotel stays are expensive. Meals have become overpriced for many of us. Some of the decline has come simply because we, as a group, are aging, and travel is more difficult, if not outright impractical. These are valid reasons, and I truly understand them.

However, if we are to continue as a vital, living voice for good quality poetry in this country, we must not only support our local and state groups, but we must give of ourselves to the national organization. The national convention is important for several reasons.

First, it gives us a chance to interact and share with poets from across the country, to participate in the give and take that only poets can fully appreciate. Impromptu readings, roundtable discussions, lunch talks and poetry walks all help weave our poetry states into a cohesive poetry nation.

Secondly, we grow as poets when we hear poetry from other places. We help other poets grow when they hear our poetry. It is this poetic conversation, this ambassadorship of poets which gives us strength as an organization. As a southerner, I love hearing the voices of talented poets from Minnesota, from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Mexico, and other far-flung places which otherwise would be just points on a map. By hearing their voices, I can visit these places and taste just a bit of their flavor.

Thirdly, poets learn their craft from experts in seminars, lectures, workshops, Q&A sessions and demonstrations. By moving the convention yearly to different parts of our great country, we reap the benefits of countless teachers we might never have known about. We gather priceless tips and bits of advice that help us to be better poets.

Finally, what better audience could a poet have than other poets? What better friends could a poet make than other poets? It is at the national convention that we can come out of our shells and create lasting friendships with talented poets from all over the country. As a side benefit, we also get to see and experience parts of the country that can inspire new poetry, spark new ideas, and give us a broader view of our world.

In closing, I ask you to support our NFSPS conventions, starting with the 2013 gathering in Albuquerque, which is shaping up to be truly enchanting. We have so much to gain by continuing to back these conventions, and so much to lose if they die from lack of interest. Writing is a lonely business, but we don't have to be alone. Attend, support, advertise, host the national convention. Be an active voice for good poetry.

STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT AWARD 2013

Lisa Amplelman of Cincinnati, OH, a doctoral candidate at the University of Cincinnati, has recently been named the 20th winner of the Stevens contest, which offers a \$1,000 prize and publication of her book, *Full Cry*.



Her award will be presented at the annual convention of NFSPS in June.

Amplelman is the author of *I've Been Collecting This to Tell You* (Kent State 2012), winner of the 2010 Wick Poetry Award. She has poems in *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, *Cave Wall*, *Cimarron Review*, *Court Green*, and *Notre Dame Review* among other publications. She has a BA from Beloit College, MFA from George Mason University, and will complete her PhD at the University of Cincinnati in spring, 2013.

The judge was Maggie Anderson, recently retired from Kent State University and for the past several years, director of the Wick awards. She also named two other manuscripts, those by P. Ivan Young of Salisbury, MD and by Susan Thomas of Marshfield, VT as runners-up.

The Stevens competition opens each year in August and runs to October 15. Full rules are found on the NFSPS website: www.nfsp.com. ~ Amy Jo Zook, *Stevens Manuscript Competition Chair*

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY will hold its first joint meeting with the Georgia Poetry Society on Saturday, April 20 in Carrollton, GA, featuring U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey. ASPS has recently revamped its meetings to include a formal midwinter meeting, held this year on February 23 in Huntsville and expanded fall and spring meetings in locations around the state. The Society is embarking on outreach programs to increase membership and encourage members of other NFSPS states to participate in contests and programs.

~ Barry S. Marks, Reporter

ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY'S big news is that Arizona will be selecting our first State Poet Laureate. Our state president, Christy White, is excited to be serving on the selection committee with five other influential poets/people from around the state. They meet to interview candidates and choose at least three hopefuls to send on to Governor Jan Brewer for final selection. As a tribute to our quality poets, we will be

printing an anthology of members' poems this summer. Member Rhonda Brown had a touching interview printed in the *Barrow Neurological* magazine (vol. 24, issue 2, 2012) and included several poems that helped her through recovery from a serious brain tumor. These brave poems included descriptions of the sounds of MRIs and finally surviving the disease and treatments. So many of us also know that poetry can get us through a lot of hard times. Popular local poet Pauline Mounsey continues to teach weekly poetry classes at the Scottsdale Senior Center as she has for over ten years. Many of her pupils are winter visitors from all over the country. She has worked with and influenced many promising poets and also brought them into our organization. Her workshops usually start with an article, prompt, a discussion of a poet's work or a "how to," and after a break the real writing begins. Saturday, April 27th, has been set for our Arizona Spring Festival in Scottsdale at the Mustang Library. Details to follow at azpoetry.webs.com. Hopefully, we will all meet in Albuquerque in June. ~ *Molly Saty, Reporter*

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

May 17-18 are the dates for PRA's Annual Lily Peter Luncheon. Friday, May 17, supper and open mic in downtown El Dorado at PJs featuring Justin Booth as the main poet. Events on Saturday, May 18, will be near downtown, within walking distance of the several restaurants on the square. Lunch will be on your own at one of those nearby eateries. Poets will be offered coffee, juice, water, and Spudnuts for the early morning arrivals. Justin will be our speaker and critic. Participants can send up to 2 poems via e-mail for critique to jbob214@yahoo.com by April 1. If no e-mail access, mail them to Jim Barton, P.O. Box 263 Huttig, AR 71747. Fresh-made 2013 crop mayhaw jelly and copies of *Between the Lines* literary journal will be given to out-of-towners as door prizes. PRA (founded in 1931) is working on the printing of its Anniversary Anthology, *Poems by Poets of the Roundtable*. Marcia Camp is working with author Marck Beggs (editor) and the Butler Center on the project. Poetry Day 2013 contests will be announced in March. For more information, please check our newly designed website: www.poetsroundtable.web.com.

~ *Laura Loughridge, Reporter*

COLUMBINE POETS on Sept. 22, 2012, gathered at the Community College of Aurora, just east of Denver, for their annual Poets Fest. The day started off at 10:30 a.m. with an open reading, followed by lunch and a workshop by poet and presenter Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. The workshop, "Moving Toward the Voice of Water," focused on the work of Rumi, a Sufi poet. We read his work aloud in small groups, savoring the words, the tone, and their multi-layered meaning. After a break, we were ready to celebrate the winner of our 2012

Chapbook Contest, Benita Volk from Denver, who treated us to several poems from her book, *Leaning Toward the Invisible*. The final event of the Fest was a reading by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, who shared poems from *The Miracle Already Happening: Everyday Life with Rumi*, her recent collection of meditations on the words of Rumi. Once again Columbine Poets had traveled from all parts of Colorado to share with other members their love for poetry and for the artistic community we have all worked to create over the past 30+ years.

~ *Anita Jepsen-Gilbert, Reporter*

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY's quarterly meeting was hosted by Kennesaw State University, January 21, 2013. Jill Jennings was selected as the featured member, reading from her book, *Dead Man's Flower* (Yawn's Publishing). Her poems have won awards from the Georgia Poetry Society and the Atlanta Writers Club. As well, Jill's poetry has been published annually in the GPS anthology, *Reach of Song*, in the national anthology, *Encore*, and Kennesaw State University's *Poetry of the Golden Age*. Following the installation of officers, past GPS presidents were welcomed and honored with introductions by Jean Gray. The morning speaker, Beth Gylys, currently a professor at Georgia State University, read from her chapbook, *Matchbook, A Sonnet Sequence* (La Vita Poetica Press 2007). Ms. Gylys has published two award winning poetry collections, *Spot in the Dark* (Ohio State UP 2004) and *Bodies that Hum* (1999 Silverfish Review Press). In addition she also has a chapbook, *Balloon Heart* (Wind Press 1998). Awarded fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, The University of Cincinnati, and Syracuse University, she has been published in many journals including *Paris Review*, *Antioch Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Boston Review*, and *The Southern Review*. The afternoon speaker, Christopher Martin, is the author of the poetry chapbook, *A Conference of Birds* (New Native Press 2012). His poetry and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in *Shambhala Sun*, *Ruminate Magazine*, *Thrush Poetry Journal*, *Drafthorse*, *Still: The Journal*, *Buddhist Poetry Review*, the *Southern Poetry Anthology*, and *Volume V: Georgia*. Chris was recently the featured poet for Town Creek Poetry, and his poem "Marcescence," was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His poetry collection, *Starting from Kennesaw*, was named a finalist in the Texas Review Press Breakthrough Prize: Georgia. GPS member, Lynn Farmer, won First Place in the 6th Annual Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference National Poetry Contest, for her poem "Listening to Mahler's No. 8." Paul Samuels won the 2012 Georgia Honor Scroll Award with his poem, "Two Views from the Foot of the 59th Street Bridge." Rupert Fike won the Finalist Award (2nd place) in the 48th annual Georgia Author of the Year Awards in the poetry category for his collection, *Lotus*

Buffet (Brick Road Poetry Press, 2011). Guest speaker for upcoming meeting April 20, 2013, is Natasha Trethewey, U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, followed by a workshop featuring Gregory Fraser and Chad Davidson, University of West Georgia professors of literature and creative writing.

~ *DuAnne Royall Kaiser, Reporter*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY hosted a poetry reading by members and public open mic on February 2 at the Northbrook Public Library. The monthly ISPS-sponsored members' readings continue to take place on the fourth Sunday at Brewed Awakening in Westmont. Several libraries throughout the state will be displaying members' poems during National Poetry Month in April.

~ *Susan T. Moss (past president of ISPS)*

INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF POETRY CLUBS' verbs are active!

Our Spring meet will be on Saturday, May 11th. It will be hosted by the Northeast Indiana Poets of Ft. Wayne, at the Fox Island facility in Ft. Wayne. We have a new poetry group that has formed in the university town of Valparaiso. Led by Gail Galvin, this once-a-month group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Public Library. Many of us are looking forward to the National convention once again this year. ~ *Tom Spencer, President*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY's February meeting had to be postponed because of a ferocious blizzard. The next meeting will be held at the University of Maine at Augusta on Saturday, May 18th. Registration begins 9:30 a.m. There is a \$12 registration fee which includes lunch. Non-members are welcome and may stay to participate in a reading-in-the-round at about 3 p.m. The contests will be those held over from February and no additional submissions will be accepted. Those contests are poems not to exceed 24 lines, on the subject of "Running Away" and short couplet poems, which are a series of rhymed couplets in either iambic or trochaic tetrameter, also not to exceed 24 lines. Judge for the subject poems will be Anne Britting Oleson, who has been published widely in the US, UK, and Canada. She earned her MFA at the Stonecoast program of USM. She has published two chapbooks, *The Church of St. Materiana* (2007) and *The Beauty of It* (2010). Judge for the short couplets will be Bruce Spang, poet laureate of Portland. Bruce is the author of one previous book of poems, *The Knot* (2006), as well as two chapbooks, *The End of Time* (2005) and *Once The First Berries Dissolve* (2003). He is Reviews Editor for the "Cafe Review" in Portland, ME, and an associate editor for "Hunger Mountain." For details see www.mainepoetssociety.com or call our Membership Chair Cynthia Brackett-Vincent at 207-778-0467. ~ *Sally Joy, Publicity Chair*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY is happily enjoying increased membership of late. Luckily, MSPS has no events planned this weekend as we are experiencing a full-fledged blizzard comparable to that of 1978 as I write this report! President Jeanette Maes is especially pleased with four very active MSPS Chapters spread across the state. Wordcrafters Chapter meets on the last Saturday of the month at the Peabody Branch of the Peabody Institute Library. A recent intensive Walt Whitman discussion was led by Harvard Professor, Dr. Theo Theohatis. The Chapter will present a program for the MSPS March 2nd meeting entitled "Noah Webster and Words." Roberta Hung will chair the event due to Director Bev Barnes jimbev4@comcast.net enjoying a winter sojourn in California. Cathryn O'Hare ckohare@gmail.com, Director of North Shore Poets Forum Chapter, reports the first meeting of 2013 was conducted on January 18 at their home base of Beverley Public Library. Waterfront CREW Poets Chapter meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings, year round, at Winthrop Public Library. Director Patricia Tacelli patta5@yahoo.com, reports that the group plans to present a new program at the MSPS October meeting (as they have for over fifteen years). The Louise Brogan Chapter, MSPS' newest chapter, has committed to an ambitious program for this year. They enjoyed a Potluck supper and Yankee Swap at the home of Director Mary Ellen LeTarte meletarte@yahoo.com. The Chapter's January meeting featured an elegy writing exercise. Next meeting will be held at the Lunenburg Library. A Chapter Chapbook is in the planning stage as well as a series of poetry lectures and discussions that will be offered to the community as well as members.
~ Patricia Bruen Tacelli, Reporter

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY's Spring Festival, hosted by the South Branch, will be held April 13-14, 2013 at Gulf Hills Resort and Hotel in Ocean Springs, with a pre-festival party on Friday evening, April 12, at the home of Elva Avara in Pascagoula. The featured speaker for the festival will be Lenny Emmanuel, an internationally published poet, essayist, and editor. He is also an associate faculty member of the University of Southern Mississippi (the Gulf Coast Campus). Contest Coordinator Dierdra Payne will present the winners of the Spring Festival contests with their awards, and winners will read their poems. A business meeting will be conducted by President Brenda Finnegan during which new officers will be elected. Our 2013 Poet of the Year, Patricia Butkovich, will debut her new book, *A Long-Stemmed Rose*. We are saddened by the recent loss of our dear friend and amazing poet Pat Jordan, 2012 MPS Poet of the Year. Pat's indomitable attitude during her fight with cancer remains an inspiration to us. "So we hold tight our heart/ as we step onto life's final/ carnival ride, understanding/ more deeply

than any poem/ ever told us that/ rain is tears.../ and vice versa," from Pat's final book and true gift to us, *The Tender Gift*.
~ Wynne H. Alexander, MPS Secretary

OHIO POETRY ASSOCIATION is producing a major anthology planned for publication in March, 2013. Poet Steve Abbott, retired professor from Columbus State Community College, will edit this collection. See ohiopoetryassociation.org for more information and ordering details.
~ Mark Hersman, President

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA celebrated National Poetry Day on October 13, 2012 with a football theme and celebrated our All-Stars. Our All-Stars included PSO Poet Laureate, Carol L. Snow, Oklahoma Senior Poet Laureate, Vivian R. Stewart, and Oklahoma State Poet Laureate, Eddie Wilcoxon. We also celebrated with Marsha Kay Oldham the release of her new poetry book, *My Loves*. We handed out poetry awards for our four National Poetry Day categories and conducted an annual business meeting. We lost two precious members who passed away: in November 2012, Hazel Bell Nicholas, and then in February 2013 we lost centenarian, Maxine Austin, who was 102 years old. On a celebratory note, one of our members, Nathan Brown, was named Oklahoma State Poet Laureate for 2013 and 2014. ~ Rob Burgess, President

OREGON POETRY ASSOCIATION's Spring Conference will be held April 12-14 in conjunction with the Silverton Poetry Association (SPA) at the Oregon Garden Resort, in Silverton. On Friday evening at the White Steeple Gallery, our workshop leaders, Oregon poets Don Colburn and Jennifer Richter, will give readings followed by an open-mic session. Saturday's activities will include workshops by Don and Jennifer. As always during our Spring Conference, we have our annual Members Meeting before lunch. The day's activities will be followed by a panel discussion in the evening, by Don and Jennifer and our four consulting poets on "Poetic Self-Renewal," with an open-mic session to follow. We also plan Sunday morning consultations for individual poets by four poets who hail from the central Willamette Valley: Chris Anderson, Barbara Drake, Donna Henderson, and Lex Runciman. We will hold coffee klatches that morning as well. SPA will invite us all to a "Feast of Poets" on Sunday afternoon. The Student Poetry Contest chair, Tiel Ansari, reported 668 entries from schools all over Oregon. Our new Contest Chair, Amy Miller, reports the beginnings of a good turnout for OPA's Spring Contests by member and non-member poets. Our quarterly newsletter, under the editorship of Kathryn Ridall, has now gone almost all-electronic, with paper copies still being mailed to a small number of OPA

members. Our website, under Cathy McGuire, has overcome glitches which had been interfering with members' access. Cathy stepped down in February, and Katie Eberhart took over, promptly posting notices and other items sent to her. Our Facebook page, administered by Board member Kathy Pyle, is again up and running. At the Fall Conference in Medford, Retired Poet Laureate Lawson Inada challenged us to submit poems about Medford. Carol Brockfield has begun gathering submissions to this project from all over the state, and a reading and perhaps a chapbook are in the works. The presentation is set for April 27. Eleanor Berry, twice our President and a long-time member of the Board of Directors, will step down in April, promising to devote more of her energies to *VERSEWEAVERS*, our annual compendium of poems which have won prizes in the adult contests. ~ Dave Harvey, OPA Secretary

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS' meetings are presently held September through May on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library in Dallas (exception: the Annual Awards Banquet, held at a Dallas hotel, takes the place of a November meeting). In June, attendance at the NFSPS Convention is encouraged. In July, the 3-day PST Summer Conference is held at different sites around the state. The 2012-13 Executive Board is comprised of: President Jimmie Inez Sessions, Vice President Catherine L'Herisson, Corresponding Secretary Jessica Gonsoulin, Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks, Treasurer Amy Sandberg, and Directors, David Knape, Lynn Lewis, and Beth Turner Ayers.
~ Nancy Baass

WYOPOETS kicked off 2013 with another of our photograph challenges. Two of our talented photographers, Christine Valentine and Tom Hamm, submitted a series of color photos and newsletter editor, Shelagh Wisdom, published three of the "Sunset Poems" sent by members. Our membership finds this exercise to be a challenge, creating an interesting and informal way to introduce our members to each other. Poems by Eugene Gagliano, Sandra England, and Lee Ann Siebken were featured in the first newsletter of the year. Aaron Holst's poem, "When Your Mind's On Other Things," is the recipient of an honorable mention by the San Antonio Poetry Fair National Contest and Arthur Elser had three of his poems published in *Open Window Review*, issue 4. Their work also appears in the January issue of *WyoPoets Newsletter*. In April, National Poetry Month, we will welcome Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, Katharine Coles, to keynote our Spring Workshop; local poetry societies will celebrate with poetry readings, contests, and publishing events. Our annual meeting will be held in Casper, WY on Saturday, April 20 at the Hilton Garden Inn. ~ Lee Ann Siebken, Reporter

CONTESTS

POETS ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS has a monthly poetry contest for members with the exception of May and October. May is the annual Lily Peters luncheon with three special prizes. The month of October holds the annual Poetry Day event with an estimated 24-36 contests. See www.poetsroundtable.com for deadlines and rules.

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION'S 2013 Annual Poetry Contest: Poets are invited to submit their original, unpublished poetry for a chance to win cash prizes of \$100, \$75, \$50, and below. Submitted poems must not have won more than \$10 in any contest. First, second, and third place winners will be awarded cash and Honorable Mentions given a Certificate of Merit Award. Entries accepted until the "postmarked by" deadline of July 15, 2013. Contest rules and additional information available by sending a SASE to: Ms. B.J. Allgood, 688 Branch Drive, Port Orange, FL 32127. See the Contests page at: www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org.

LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY'S Fall Contest: "It's About Poetry." Deadline for submissions: May 15th. For contest guidelines, send SASE to: Pat S. Juelg, 12972 Arlingford Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70815

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY holds two contests each year, Spring and Fall, in conjunction with our festivals. For rules and information write to Jeanne S. Kelly, 315 Church St., Madison, MS 39110. Email: jskelly04@gmail.com (put "Contest Information" in the subject line), or consult the MPS website: www.misspoetry.net.

MISSOURI STATE POETRY SOCIETY'S summer contest deadline: Postmark August 1, 2013. Two copies of each entry, category number and name in upper left corner of both copies, poet's name and address in upper right corner of one copy. If member, put "Missouri State Poetry Society" below your address, otherwise put "non-member". 40 or fewer lines. May be previously published if poet retains the rights to the poem; may enter each category as many times as poet wishes. Categories: 1) rhymed verse or blank verse, 2) free verse, 3) humorous verse, 4) any form, winter subject, 5) poet's choice, members only (any form, any subject). Members pay \$1 per entry in categories 1-4 and \$2 per entry in category 5. Non-members pay \$2 per entry. Payable to MSPS. Send poems and fees to Nancy LaChance, 14940 Hwy 64, Lebanon, MO 65536. Include a SASE for a list of the winners, or check the October issue of Spare Mule Online: www.nfspd.com/mo/sparemuleonline.htm.

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS' Annual Contests deadline: August 15, 2013 (Postmark). The brochure listing all contests, procedures, and rules are on: www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org, or by mailing a SASE to: PST Annual Contests Chairman Nancy Baass, 408 E. Warren Ave., Victoria, TX 77901-4847.

President's Message continued from page 1: world that reminds us, reminds our children, our readers: *I was here; I witnessed this; I felt this way; I wrote.* Our love of the book, our lust to publish that glossy individually-authored little thing, is rooted I think in that desire for legacy, whether we buy one signed by its author, or sign one of our own for an eager reader. Our poems are material and verbal legacies of art that, in some small way, intensify our own lover's quarrels with the world. (As poets, I suppose we tend to see this half with irony; our names tend to go up in lights only for small, selected audiences; we look at fame with suspicion as well as desire.)

And finally, there is that other kind of legacy, exemplified in so much of the work of NFSPS and its member societies: Legacies of connection, legacies of encouragement, legacies that help this enchanted world of poetry keep going and growing for others. Hosting our conventions and conferences to bring people together; teaching our workshops to lead others forward in their writing; sponsoring contests that will cajole a response from others, even in their busy, non-writing lives. (*I may not be writing much in these busy months, but even I can pen at least one little poem about chocolate, about bridges, about fear, before the children wake.*) This is a legacy in service and support, perhaps one we undervalue as young poets (when it's all about me, me, me). Our state societies and NFSPS, though, let us build and support a community of poets, a community that will move on even after we have gone. The opportunities for this kind of legacy are all around us, in the names of our contests, in the donated time, effort, and money of our society officers, in the work of our presenters.

So, circling back to Seamus Heaney, I hope you will think about what you value in the world, what you value in poetry, and what legacies—whether of practice, of art, or of service—you want to build. And dig deep.
Jeremy M. Downes ~ 30th NFSPS President

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE ENCORE EDITOR

The annual contest brochure lists guidelines for contest submissions, but there is one guideline that few are following and it is urgent that contestants adhere to this rule. Guideline #11-c states: "On **second copy only**, name, address, **phone number and email address** of poet, state society membership or 'non-member NFSPS' in upper right hand corner. If a poem is more than one page, number pages also on upper right corner (both copies)."

The part of this guideline that is NOT being followed is the listing of e-mail address and phone number. This information is vital for the *Encore* editor. No one will give out your phone and e-mail address. This is only for use if information is needed about your poem. When the editor typesets your poem, there are often questions that need to be answered. Perhaps a line or a word is in question, and the editor has no way to reach you to confirm what you meant to write. The editor has the choice of making a correction without your permission or leaving it as is with a possible error in it. The editor wants your poem to appear as you intended it to be and sometimes what you intended is not what you typed. Please, please include your e-mail and your phone number on the second copy of the poems you submit.

ANOTHER POSTAGE INCREASE FOR MAILING ENCORE

On Sunday, January 24, the Post Office once again increased the price of postage. For media mail, the increase was 6¢. In order to keep *Encore* within its budget, it is necessary to keep pace with the Post Office. The cost of mailing one *Encore* has been \$3.20. Effective immediately the cost for mailing one *Encore* is \$3.26, and add \$.50 for each additional book up to 3 books. Books can be mailed in packages of three. After which, the postage cycle must be repeated for each package mailed. For instance: a package of two books would be the price of the books, plus \$3.76 for postage and handling, while a package of three books would be the price of the books, plus \$4.26 for postage and handling.