



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

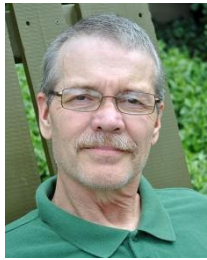
An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

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James (Jim) Barton
32nd NFSPS
President

Dear NFSPS Poets:

I am composing this letter to you, the heart and soul of NFSPS, after a long road trip through the heart of the Midwest. My wife and I shared driving duties as we passed through Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. It was my first visit to Minnesota, and it left a lasting, positive imprint. As I had expected, beauty and poetic inspiration are everywhere. One simply has to see things “with a different eye”. I can safely say that Minnesota’s poetry community is alive, well and kicking. It was a memorable stay in a beautiful setting surrounded by people in love with poetry.

As I begin my term serving you, I am struck by the fact that many of you reading these words are far more qualified for the job. Some of you have been writing poetry for more years than I have been alive. Some have served as presidents and leaders of organizations both professional and civic, non-profit and informal. Some of you are steeped in the details of Roberts’ Rules of Order and know how to run efficient, well-planned meetings. I feel like a haiku at an epic ode convention.

Let me tell you just a little about myself and my beliefs and vision for this wonderful organization. I have been a poet all my life, but did not realize it until I was nearly fifty years old, and I took a night class in creative writing at my local community college.

Shortly afterward, I began to read poetry and to try to imitate it in its varying rhythms and styles. My first attempts were terrible, but I saved them so I could measure my progress, if any.

As the years went by, I became more comfortable and more adventurous, branching out from rhymed quatrains into couplets, sonnets, free verse, blank verse and haiku. I joined my state poetry society, then started a branch in my area. I attended my first national convention in Memphis as the Arkansas State Convention Coordinator, sharing time with Mississippi and Tennessee. I had fallen in love with poetry and poets and I remain so today.

Our National Federation consists of thirty-one State societies. I would love nothing more than see it become a true United States of Poetry, with fifty-one members including D.C. To accomplish this, we all need to work together to promote our organization in any way we can. We must use both traditional and new technology to spread the word. We must embrace all forms and styles of poetry, all kinds of poets. We must take that next step into the ever-moving frontier of poetry, and we must do it together.

I encourage each of you who attended this year’s convention to blog about your experience, speak at your branch, chapter or state meetings about it, or write a synopsis in your state society’s newsletter. Let others in your group know what you learned and also what they missed by not being here.

In addition to adding new member societies, we need to look inwardly, as well. We need to revitalize state groups that have not so much dropped out as they have forgotten the joys and advantages of participating in NFSPS as ACTIVE entities. I have set as one of my goals to encourage and enable cross-border activities and events with the states that surround me: Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee and Mississippi, all NFSPS members. If each member state could do something similar, we might not only plant new seeds, but we might also revive old ones.

[continued on page 8]

NFSPS COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE POETRY (CUP) COMPETITION 2016 WINNERS

This year’s CUP winners are Anna Goodson for the Meudt Memorial Award and Michael Welch for the Kahn Memorial Award.

Each Award provides a \$500 prize, publication, and offer to read at the NFSPS Annual Convention. This year, Michael Welch was able to attend and gave us a lively and entertaining reading in Minneapolis from his winning chapbook, *But Sometimes I Remember*. Anna Goodson was unable to attend, but her chapbook, *Elegy for Your Eyes*, was sold in the book room, and the title poem from her chapbook was read at the convention by CUP Chair Shirley Blackwell. Both chapbooks are available on Amazon.com.

Michael Welch is a writer from Chicago, Illinois. A 2016 graduate from Marquette University in Milwaukee with a double major in Writing Intensive English and Public Relations, he served as the editor-in-chief of the *Marquette University Literary Review* (MULR), editorial intern at *Reader’s Digest* Association, and was a featured speaker at the annual Best of Undergraduate Writers reading in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This is his first book of poetry.



In *But Sometimes I Remember*, Michael Welch explores the narrative of memory—how it comforts and traumatizes us, how it shapes who we are, and how eventually it becomes fiction. These poems include characters driven by their desire to remember and be remembered, forget the pain that haunts them, and understand complex moments from their past. From larger-than-life childhood monuments, directions home through the old neighborhood, to a reimagining of Chicago from hometown to battleground, memories tie the past and present into a single story where the living and the forgotten meet.

Anna Goodson is a 2016 graduate of Michigan State University with a BA in English and Music. She has received awards for her undergraduate humanities research in music history, and has also pursued a concentration in oboe performance. Her poetry has been featured in publications such as *Crab Fat* and *Third Coast*. A National Young Arts alumni, she was a 2015 nominee for two Pushcart Prizes.



Goodson’s mentor at MSU, noted poet Diane Wakoski, commented on her work, “The poetry of Anna Goodson is spoken from a pressing voice that urgently needs to be heard. Through . . . the language of poetry, she finds healing and an attention to the senses that makes them all-compelling. Her work is musical in the sense that it is Mozart, Beethoven, the Rolling Stones, and David Bowie, all wrapped into quite a package. Yet throughout her virtuoso accomplishment, compassion and humility radiate the clear, human voice of a girl searching for impossible things.”

The CUP committee wishes to thank the judges for this contest: longtime NFSPS member, teacher, and first Meudt Award winner Coleen Ward, member of the Florida Poets Association; Karla Morton, 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate; and Missouri’s First Poet Laureate, Walter Bargaen.

NFSPS 2016 CONTEST WINNERS**1. NFSPS FOUNDERS AWARD [to honor Mary B. Wall]** \$1000, \$500, \$250 (353 entries)

Judge: Mark Turcotte, Chicago, IL

1st David Bond, Carbondale, IL
"Trespass Vision"**2nd Lynn Farmer, Decatur, GA**

"Into Our Own Unfinished Night"

3rd Anthony (Tony) Fusco, West Haven, CT
"That Kind of Woman"

1HM Dave Harvey, Talent, OR

2HM Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

3HM Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN

4HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

5HM Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

6HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO

7HM Lisa Salinas, Spring, TX

2. WINNERS CIRCLE AWARD

\$500, \$300, \$200 (239 entries)

Judge: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

1st Valerie A Szarek, Louisville, CO

"Letters to an Unknown God"

2nd Sarah E. Morin, Fishers, IN

"Calling Hours"

3rd Liz Dolan, Rehoboth Beach, DE

"Early Sorrow"

1HM John McBride, Bettendorf, IA

2HM Sandy Bot-Miller, St. Cloud, MN

3HM Joyce Gregor, Westcliffe, CO

4HM Deborah Rasmussen, Duluth, MN

5HM K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA

6HM Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

7HM Irvin D. Milowe, Coral Gables, FL

3. PEACE AWARD \$500, \$300, \$200 (134 entries)

Judge: Florence M. Bruce, Memphis, TN

1st Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

"All in the Bread"

2nd J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX

"Bridge to Denmark"

3rd Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

"Christmahanukwanzaa"

1HM Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

2HM Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX

3HM Jay Schroder, Talent, OR

4HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

5HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

6HM Virginia Gilbert, Madison, AL

7HM Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO

4. THE BROWN-EYED GIRL POETRY**WRITING CONTEST** \$350, \$150, \$100 (85 entries)

Judge: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI

1st Vicki Wilke, Clarkston, MI

"Dear Mr. Morrison"

2nd Christine Beck, W. Hartford, CT

"Meet Me"

3rd Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX

"Old Love Letters Tied with Yellow Ribbon"

1HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

2HM Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN

3HM Christine Irving, Denton, TX

4HM Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL

5HM Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

6HM Doris DiSavino, Lancaster, PA

7HM David Bond, Carbondale, IL

5. THE MARGO AWARD \$225, \$125, \$75 (178 entries) Judge: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX**1st Brian Volz, Stuart, IA**

"Forgotten Windowpanes"

2nd Barbara Funke, St. George, UT

"Desire"

3rd Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO

"Thinking about Screaming"

1HM Laura Hansen, Little Falls, MN

2HM Roberta Marggraff, Waterbury, CT

3HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

4HM Mary Willette Hughes, Sartell, MN

5HM Madeline Petrikas, Reno, TX

6HM Dorothy Williams, Golden, CO

7HM Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR

***6. DONALD STODGHILL MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members only) \$200, \$100, \$50 (209 entries)

Judge: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

1st Renee Ramsey, Floral, AR

"Setting Sun"

2nd Doris DiSavino, Lancaster, PA

"Great-Uncles Water Chestnuts"

3rd Jeanette C. Maes, Lynn, MA

"In Memoriam"

1HM Lorraine Jeffery, Peachtree City, GA

2HM Judith Krum, Sanford, FL

3HM Sheri A. Sutton, Wichita Falls, TX

4HM Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX

5HM Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ

6HM Libby Falk Jones, Berea, KY

7HM Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO

7. THE NFSPS BOARD AWARD \$200, \$100, \$70

(239 entries) Judge: Linda J. Parks, Sarasota, FL

1st Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD

"Women who swim"

2nd Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN

"Shirts (and knot shirts)"

3rd Chet Taylor, Seguin, TX

"The Alzheimer Guy Goes Away"

1HM Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

2HM Lorraine Jeffery, Peachtree City, GA

3HM Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

4HM Shirley Elliott Cosby, Emory, TX

5HM Marcia Jones, Golden, CO

6HM Jamie Morewood Anderson, Cedar Crest, NM

7HM Donna K. Mackert, Bluffdale, UT

***8. GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD**

(*Members only) \$150, \$75, \$25 (99 entries)

Judge: Mary Elizabeth Pope, Louisville, KY

1st Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, ON, CA

"Sinkholes"

2nd Meg Eden Kuyatt, Severn, MD

"Mouse"

3rd Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

"Father in the Fields"

1HM Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX

2HM Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT

3HM Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX

4HM Coleen Ward, Melbourne, FL

5HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

6HM David Bond, Carbondale, IL

7HM Dian S. Barnett, Marietta, GA

***9. POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS AWARD**

(*Members only) \$125, \$50, \$25 (182 entries)

Judge: Dian S. Barnett, Marietta, GA

1st Marilyn Stacy, Dallas, TX

"Proximity"

2nd Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

"Sandcastle Days"

3rd Coleen Ward, Melbourne, FL

"An Intriguing Invitation:"

1HM Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD

2HM Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL

3HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

4HM Judith Krum, Sanford, FL

5HM Ann Gasser, West Reading, PA

6HM Lorraine Jeffery, Peachtree City, GA

7HM Patricia Lieb, Shady Hills, FL

10. UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

\$100, \$60, \$40 (155 entries)

Judge: John Sibley Williams, Milwaukee, OR

1st Mary Willette Hughes, Sartell, MN

"Maternal Aunties"

2nd Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN

"Dakota Montage"

3rd Lisa Salinas, Spring, TX

"At the Historical Society He Discovers How Our

Train Engineer Great-Grandfather Died"

1HM Maxine Bulechek, Iowa City, IA

2HM Evelyn Corry Appelbee, Henderson, TX

3HM Teena Shields, Powell Butte, OR

4HM Patricia A. Oplinger, Cherokee Village, AR

5HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

6HM Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

7HM Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR

***11. AL LASTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members only) \$100, \$50, \$25 (170 entries)

Judge: Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

1st Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN

"What the Photo Doesn't Show"

2nd Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX

"On Viewing Millet's L'Angelus"

3rd Jamie Morewood Anderson, Cedar Crest, NM

"Penny Postcard"

1HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

2HM Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

3HM Frances Brinkley Cowden, Cordova, TN

4HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

5HM Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN

6HM Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT

7HM Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI

12. FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOC. INC.**AWARD** \$100, \$50, \$25 (58 entries)

Judge: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

1st Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN

"Swimming the Cosmos"

2nd Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

"Scenic View Ahead"

3rd Jamie Morewood Anderson, Cedar Crest, NM

"Upon the Suwannee River"

1HM Jennifer Hernandez, New Hope, MN

2HM Julia George, Muskegon, MI

3HM Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

4HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

5HM Richard Hurzeler, Tyler, TX

6HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

7HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA

13. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY*AWARD** (*Members only) \$75, \$50, \$25 (168

entries) Judge: John K. Ottley JR., Alpharetta, GA

1st Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK

"The Quest"

2nd Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

"Rising Sun"

3rd Kaye Bache-Snyder, Longmont, CO

"April Dawn at Hedgebrook"

1HM Elaine Fowler Palencia, Champaign, IL

2HM B.J. Alligood, Port Orange, FL

3HM Jim Barton, Huttig, AR

4HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA

5HM Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD

6HM Marth P. Morriss, Roy, UT

7HM Christina M. Flaughner, Mapleton, MN

14. THE MARY SIMON MEMORIAL AWARD

\$75, \$50, \$25 (76 entries)

Judge: Amy Jo Zook, Mechanicsburg, OH

1st Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ

"Night Sky"

2nd Sarah E. Morin, Fishers, IN

"College Nights at the Planetarium"

3rd Charles K. Firmage, Boise, ID

"What Are You Thinking?"

1HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

5HM Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR
6HM Dory Maguire, Dillsburg, PA
7HM Chet Taylor, Seguin, TX

**28. CLAIRE VAN BREEMEN DOWNES
MEMORIAL AWARD** \$50, \$30, \$20 (113 entries)

Judge: Esther M. Leiper-Estabrooks, Gorham, NH

1st Jeani M. Picklesimer, Ashland, KY
"Genteel Touch"

2nd J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX
"A Poet Reaches for Eternity"

3rd Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
"Day's End"

1HM Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX
2HM Lisa E. Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
3HM Dian S. Barnett, Marietta, GA
4HM Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
5HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
6HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
7HM Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
Citation Laura J. Bobrow, Leesburg, VA

29. OHIO AWARD \$50, \$25, \$15 (198 entries)

Judge: Sandra J. Nantais, Crown Point, IN

1st Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR
"Namaste"

2nd Christine Valentine, Birney, MT
"Early morning haibun"

3rd Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
"Haying in June"

1HM Barbara Lewie Berry, Mansfield, TX
2HM Jacquelin Williams, Mesa, AZ
3HM Betsy M. Hughes, Dayton, OH
4HM Tanya Pilumeli, Geneva, OH
5HM Juanita B. Watts, Layton, UT
6HM Brennan DeFrisco, Oakland, CA
7HM Laura J. Bobrow, Leesburg, VA

30. ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

AWARD \$40, \$30, \$20 (160 entries)

Judge: Toni Hanner, Eugene, OR

1st Elaine Fowler Palencia, Champaign, IL
"Beethoven on the Car Radio in Fleming County,
Kentucky"

2nd Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
"No Sound"

3rd David Bond, Carbondale, IL
"Concerts"

1HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
2HM Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR
3HM Shirley Kobar, Loveland, CO
4HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
5HM Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD
6HM Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX
7HM Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN

***31. MINUTE AWARD** (*Members only)
\$35, \$25, \$15 (80 entries)

Judge: Henry Hughes, Monmouth, OR

1st Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
"While Slicing Cabbage"

2nd Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN
"The Chain Holding Home to Havoc"

3rd Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, UT
"Moody Weather"

1HM Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
2HM Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI
3HM Madelyn Eastlund, Beverly Hills, FL
4HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
5HM Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO
6HM Alexandra Moss Zannis, Fort Wayne, IN
7HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

32. POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN AWARD

\$35, \$25, \$15 (184 entries)

Judge: Audrey Friedman, East Greenwich, RI

1st David Bond, Carbondale, IL

"Angler"

2nd Jamie Morewood Anderson, Cedar Crest, NM
"Lumbricids"

3rd Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
"Where Do Ghosts Go?"

1HM Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, ON, CA
2HM Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN
3HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO
4HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
5HM Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR
6HM Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX
7HM Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

33. MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

\$35, \$25, \$15 (93 entries)

Judge: Judith Krum, Sanford, FL

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
"In the Summer of '36"

2nd Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
"Boulevard"

3rd Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO
"Little Lie"

1HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
2HM Lisa E. Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
3HM Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX
4HM Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
5HM J. Pomford (Pete) Harris, Memphis, TN
6HM Jeani M. Picklesimer, Ashland, KY
7HM Juanita Watts, Layton, UT

***34. JESSE STUART MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members only) \$25, \$20, \$15 (157 entries)

Judge: Colette Tennant, Salem, OR

1st Carol Brockfield, Medford, OR
"Just Ask Her"

2nd M. B. LaWent, Ishpeming, MI
"When She Runs"

3rd Meg Eden Kuyatt, Severn, MD
"The Pianist"

1HM Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
2HM Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, ON, CA
3HM Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
4HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
5HM S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
6HM Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
7HM Margaret Gleave, Ainsdale, Southport, UK

***35. HUMOROUS POETRY AWARD**

(*Members only) \$25, \$20, \$15 (138 entries)

Judge: Beth Staas, La Grange Park, IL

1st Juanita B. Watts, Layton, UT
"Picture Time"

2nd Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX
"A Gerrymandered Jeremiad"

3rd Gloria Klinger, Grand Haven, MI
"It's Raining for Teachers"

1HM Dian S. Barnett, Marietta, GA
2HM Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
3HM Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL
4HM Susan Randall, Orem, UT
5HM Becky Alexander, Cambridge, ON, CA
6HM Doris DiSavino, Lancaster, PA
7HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

36. BARBARA STEVENS MEMORIAL AWARD

\$25, \$20, \$15 (218 entries)

Judge: Steven R. Vogel, Rochester, MN

1st Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
"Confession"

2nd Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
"Jungle Domestic"

3rd P. Adrienne Pamplin, Longview, TX
"Conjoined"

1HM Chet Taylor, Seguin, TX
2HM Myra Ward Barra, Pell City, AL
3HM Juanita Watts, Layton, UT

4HM Meg Eden Kuyatt, Severn, MD
5HM Joyce P. Wilson, Centennial, CO
6HM Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
7HM Carol Brockfield, Medford, OR

***37. ALICE MAKENZIE SWAIM MEMORIAL
AWARD** \$25, \$20, \$15 (79 entries)

Judge: Judith H. Montgomery, Bend, OR

1st Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
"After-Words"

2nd Lynn D. Gilbert, Ann Arbor, MI
"Single Parent"

3rd Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
"Fortune Cookie"

1HM Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
2HM Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
3HM Anita Jepson-Gilbert, Westminster, CO
4HM John McBride, Bettendorf, IA
5HM Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
6HM Carol Dee Meeke, Tulsa, OK
7HM Libby Falk Jones, Berea, KY

***38. POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA**

AWARD \$25, \$20, \$15 (104 entries)

Judge: Sr. Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN

1st Steven R. Vogel, Rochester, MN
"Bermuda Sundown"

2nd Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
"Footprints"

3rd Carie Juettner, Austin, TX
"The Footprints"

1HM Lisa E. Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
2HM Vicki Wilke, Clarkson, MI
3HM Debra Kuss, Corbin, KY
4HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
5HM Christina M. Flaughner, Mapleton, MN
6HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
7HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

39. SAVE OUR EARTH AWARD \$25, \$20, \$15
(113 entries) Judge: Art Elser, Denver, CO

1st Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
"Four Moons"

2nd Jim Barton, Huttig, AR
"The Abyss"

3rd Peggy Markham, Evergreen, CO
"And Then There Were None"

1HM Philip P. McDonald, Fairfield, PA
2HM Coleen Ward, Melbourne, FL
3HM Jerry Lang, Muskegon, MI
4HM Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX
5HM Delia Ralston, Waterloo, IA
6HM Christine Irving, Denton, TX
7HM Linda K. Moore, Bogart, GA

40. MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY

SOCIETY AWARD \$25, \$20, \$15 (159 entries)

Judge: Ann Kuykendall Gillespie, Cleveland, GA

1st Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR
"Laurels for Barlteby"

2nd Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield, TX
"Somehow I thought this wouldn't happen, but..."

3rd Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
"Soul Searching"

1HM Helen Sina, Lihue, HI
2HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
3HM Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
4HM Francie Smith Rountree, Marana, AZ
5HM Lynne Elise Benson, Taylorsville, UT
6HM Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO
7HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

***41. POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE
AWARD** (*Members only) \$25, \$20, \$15 (54 entries)

Judge: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

1st Cristie Cook, Sandy, UT
"Wild Nights"

2nd Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

"Cruelty of Time"

3rd Dian S. Barnett, Marietta, GA

"An Uneven Performance"

- 1HM Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, UT
 2HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 3HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
 4HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 5HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 6HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
 7HM Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO

42. IOWA POETRY ASSOCIATION AWARD

\$25, \$20, \$15 (134 entries)

Judge: Marilyn J. Baszczynski, Earlham, IA

1st Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA

"The Biggest Sneeze"

2nd Christine Irving, Denton, TX

"After Visiting the Butterfly Farm"

3rd Lisa Salinas, Spring, TX

"Butterfly Goodbye"

- 1HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 2HM P. Adrienne Pamplin, Longview, TX
 3HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 4HM Donna K. Mackert, Bluffdale, UT
 5HM Barbara Lewie Berry, Mansfield, TX
 6HM Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL
 7HM Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT

43. WYOPOETS AWARD \$25, \$20, \$15 (160 entries)

Judge: Brenda B. Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

"Elk Lake: Summer 1966"

2nd Jon Sebba, Murray, TX

"Flash Flood"

3rd Marilyn Stacy, Dallas, TX

"When Solutions are Not Simple"

- 1HM Coleen Ward, Melbourne, FL
 2HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 3HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
 4HM Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
 5HM M.P.A. Sheaffer, New York, NY
 6HM Christine Valentine, Birney, MT
 7HM Francie Smith Rountree, Marana, AZ

44. GINGERBREAD POETS AWARD \$30, \$20,

\$10 (63 entries) Judge: Rose Ann Spaith, Columbus, OH

1st Florence M. Bruce, Memphis, TN

"Flirtation"

2nd Peggy Markham, Evergreen, CO

"Bird tattoo on girl's..."

3rd Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO

"Before I waken..."

- 1HM Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI
 2HM Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX
 3HM Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 4HM Esther M. Leiper-Estabrooks, Gorham, NH
 5HM Linda R. Payne, Defiance, OH
 6HM Micki Blenkush, St Cloud, MN
 7HM Joan Terry, Dallas, GA

45. SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION*AWARD** (*Members only) \$25, \$20, \$15 (52 entries)

Judge: Marlene Million, Noblesville, IN

1st Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT"My Flag is Called Old Glory, But To Me
It's Stars And Stripes"**2nd Mary A. Couch, Noblesville, IN**

"Skirmish at the North Bridge"

3rd Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

"July the Fourth"

- 1HM Don Crowson, Benton, AR
 2HM Lucille Morgan Wilso, Des Moines, IA
 3HM Margaret D. Anderegg, Odessa, TX
 4HM Nancy LaChance, Lebanon, MO
 5HM Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, UT

6HM Jeani M. Picklesimer, Ashland, KY

7HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

46. MAINE POETS SOCIETY AWARD

\$25, \$20, \$15 (140 entries)

Judge: Jenene Raveslout, Chicago, IL

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

"The Swimmer"

2nd Joy Gresham Adams, Breckenridge, TX

"Unchanging"

3rd Angie M. Goin, Fort Worth, TX

"From Pink Sands to Eternity"

- 1HM Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR
 2HM Lorraine Jeffery, Peachtree City, GA
 3HM Janice Hornburg, Johnson City, TN
 4HM Lynn D. Gilbert, Ann Arbor, MI
 5HM John McBride, Bettendorf, IA
 6HM Jim Brosnan, Assonet, MA
 7HM Donna K. Mackert, Bluffdale, UT

***47 MIRIAM S. STRAUSS MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members only) \$25, \$20, \$15 (123 entries)

Judge: Ann Applegarth, Roswell, NM

1st Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

"KV62"

2nd Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

"A Walk with Father Tiber"

3rd Anita Jepson-Gilbert, Westminster, CO

"The Trek to Shantivanam"

- 1HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
 2HM Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
 3HM Barbara Funke, St George, UT
 4HM Milton J. Bates, Marquette, MI
 5HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO
 6HM Ann Gasser, West Reading, PA
 7HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

***48. THE POETS NORTHWEST AWARD**

(* Members only) \$25, \$20, \$15 (153 entries)

Judge: Susan McMillan, Rochester, MN

1st Meg Eden Kuyatt, Severn, MD"I Ask My Mother What It's Like, Living at the
Bottom of the Ocean"**2nd Francie Smith Rountree, Marana, AZ**

"Baby's Breath"

3rd Rosemary Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO

"Poem Not Really About Leaves"

- 1HM Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 2HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 3HM Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 4HM Carie Juettner, Austin, TX
 5HM Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 6HM M.B. LaWent, Ishpeming, MI
 7HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

49. JESSICA C. SAUNDERS MEMORIAL**AWARD** \$25, \$20, \$15 (105 entries)

Judge: Sam Wood, Reno, NV

1st Jamie Morewood Anderson, Cedar Crest, NM

"How a Farm Girl Keeps Her Man"

2nd Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL

"Bravo, Villains!"

3rd Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

"Stroll Garden"

- 1HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 2HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 3HM Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK
 4HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 5HM Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
 6HM Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA
 7HM Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ

50. STUDENT AWARD \$50, \$30, \$20, & \$5 for each HM (213 entries)

Judge: Julie George, Muskegon, MI

1st Amadea Natanya Katz, Colorado Springs, CO

"Will You Have This Dance?"

2nd Calab Holder, Council Bluffs, IA

"Odysseus's Ithaca"

3rd Anna Sudderth, Fort Worth, TX

"Harvesting"

- 1HM Elliot Smith, West Des Moines, IA
 2HM Yeshumenesh Zegeye, Wylie, TX
 3HM Julianna Keller, Fort Worth, TX
 4HM Sarah Bowell, Plano, TX
 5HM Trinity Naile, Dallas, TX
 6HM Sophie Dawson, Dallas, TX
 7HM Amber Wittrock, Humboldt, IA

2016 STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION**Awarding \$1,000 + Publication + 50 Books****Check the complete manuscript submission guidelines:** nfsps.com/stevens1.htm**Deadline:** Submissions of 48-70 pages will be accepted only between NOVEMBER 1 and midnight PT, NOVEMBER 30, 2016. The Submittable online system will be accessible only during this time. Hard-copy submissions must be postmarked during this period. No early or late submissions.**Online Submissions.** We strongly encourage using NFSPS' Submittable page:nfsps.submittable.com/submit**Mailed Submissions.** If you are unable to make an online submission, mail your manuscript to:

Wilda Morris, NFSPS Stevens Poetry
 Manuscript Competition Chair
 499 Falcon Ridge Way
 Bolingbrook, IL 60440-2242

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS' Hot Springs Poets will host the annual 2016 Poetry Day conference on Saturday, October 22, from 8:30 AM to 3 PM at the Comfort Inn, 3627 Central Avenue in Hot Springs. A Friday night event is planned as well. See the Poetry Day contest brochure posted on PRA's website (poetsroundtableofarkansas.org). Send contest entries with payment in one envelope between June 1 and August 15, 2016 to Pat Laster, 7433 Samples Rd., Benton, AR 72019. Past PRA State President Betty Heidelberger of Lexa, Arkansas died suddenly in a vehicle accident March 6. She was a published poet, president of the Delta Poets (a PRA branch), and member of both the River Market Poets of Little Rock and the Poets' Society of Tennessee. "Betty will be sorely missed by all those who knew her," stated PRA President Dennis Patton. Submissions due July 1-Aug 27 for Memorial contests in honor of Betty. Awards are \$25/\$15/\$10/\$5/\$5/\$5. Contests are: (1) Free Verse, Subject-Any, Line limit - 30 (2) Rhyming, Subject-Any, Line limit - 20; (3) Any form, Line limit - 30. See PRA's web site for details. Winners to be announced by October 1 on PRA's website. Contact Dennis Patton for more details at patton_dr@hotmail.com. ~ *Laura Loughridge, Secretary*

CONNECTICUT POETRY SOCIETY's P.O.P. (Poets on Poetry) is a monthly program we sponsor that runs from September through May. A recent session featured John Stanizzi sharing information on, and poetry by, Edna St. Vincent Millay. This program was well-attended and inspired a good deal of conversation. The Manchester chapter of

CPS celebrated National "Poem in Your Pocket Day" by sharing members' original poems. Baskets of poems were placed in area businesses, libraries, senior centers, and the town hall. At the annual CPS POETRY BLAST, David Epstein presented a fascinating session on "Re-visioning Emily Dickinson: Comparing Her First and Final Drafts." Members of the Connecticut Coalition of Poets Laureate (CCPL) shared poems on the theme of "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles." A book fair and an open mic were part of the festivities. 15 towns in Connecticut have appointed local poets laureate. Some of these poets, along with state poet laureate Rennie McQuilkin, shared their work at Elizabeth Park's Rose Weekend in June, followed by readings from two poets sponsored by the Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens (another Connecticut poetry-oriented organization). Connecticut Poetry Society's annual summer poetry picnic will be held on Sunday, August 14th ~ *Ginny Connors, Newsletter Editor*

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION

held our annual April Spring Fling Convention in Orlando. Hosted by the Orlando Area Poets, the theme was "Found In Translation – An International Journey". One of Rosie O'Grady's Pipers, Reginald Lyle, in full regalia, piped his way into the meeting room. Along with the music he treated us all to an explanation of his bag pipes and his attire. He turned our hotel meeting room into a pub by performing poems and stories by Scottish poets. Workshops included "From French To English—The Challenge of Translation" led by John Foster and Al Rocheleau; "Why Living Abroad Can Help Your Writing" remarks by Peter Meinke; "Café or Coffee? Choosing the Right Word" presented by Dan Pels and Joe Cavanaugh, and finally "Silk and Steel: Inside the Villanelle" given by Al Rocheleau and Peter Meinke. We continued with an open mic, lunch and a business meeting where next year's officers were nominated. To top it off we hosted the second annual Florida State Performance Poetry Team Competition run by Noir Jente (Kevin Campbell) and emceed by Joe XO (Joe Snyder). ~ *Mary-Ann Westbrook, Secretary*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY held an open mic for members and the public at the Oak Brook Public Library. Two rounds of reading and light refreshments were offered at this afternoon event. Our monthly reading at Brewed Awakening on June 26 was devoted to celebrating the life of recently deceased and long-time member John Mahoney. His poetry was read by various members. Three Illinois resident ISPS members plus two at-large members participated in the NFSPS convention hosted by Minnesota in June. June 30 is the end of this past year's membership, and July 1 begins another year. Renewed members are invited to submit four poems for the third volume of our anthology, *Distilled Lives Volume 3*. ISPS is also in the midst of planning a November state gathering in Park Ridge. The day will consist of a continental breakfast, presentations, lunch, interactive events, and readings from our next anthology. Please check our website illinoispoets.org for our forthcoming annual poetry contest. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF POETRY CLUBS' annual Spring Meet

was held

May 14 at Fox Island County Park in Fort Wayne, Indiana. NI Poets hosted with the theme "Gemstones of Poetry and History." Though it was quite cool, ISFPC member, Deborah Petersen opened the doors to the outside and introduced 'en plein air' poetry ('in the open air'). Keynote Speaker Curtis Crisler spoke about provocative word images and ekphrastic poetry. Tom Barnes entertained with his poetic 'Big Boy Ballads' and representatives from the Fort Wayne Allen County Historical Center brought artifacts and stories about Fort Wayne's remarkable history. Elections were held for 1st and 2nd VP. ISFPC welcomes Deborah Petersen our new 1st VP, and she also accepted appointment as the ISFPC Annual Contest Chair. David Allen was elected 2nd VP and Linda Eaton was appointed Mannigham Chair. We extend much thanks and gratitude to our outgoing officers, Caroline Dewey and Evan Walters. They showed great dedication and commitment to poetry and ISFPC, especially in the past year with several hurdles to clear. ~ *Sandra J. Nantais, President*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

Wordcrafters Chapter under Director Bev Barne has been presenting engaging, innovative programs at the State Meetings this year. In March the group was startled when a knock at the door revealed Emily Dickins garbed in her usual white gown and bearing a resemblance to Gwen Carr. Kudos to Roberta Hung who arranged things in Bev's absence. The May program at Peabody West library was a potpourri of poems and subjects all under the Pumbrella of "People and Places." Prior to that we had our creative poetic minds honed by President Jeanette's workshop "What would you do?" Congratulations to Louise Brogan Chapter of MSPS and Mary Ellen LeTarte, founder and Director, on the publication of their first book, *Sudden Marigolds*. A handsome book, it is professionally designed and accompanied by excellent artwork. Waterfront Crew Poets presented a historic program at the Winthrop Public Library in April. The original poems were inspired by artifacts in the Winthrop Public Library's Museum collection. Next MSPS meeting is a picnic August 6 at historic Saugus Iron Works, 11 AM to 2:30 PM. Bring poems, pen & paper, guest(s), and something for the food table. ~ *Patricia Bruen Tacelli, Reporter*

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

President Polly Opsahl presided as thirty members and guests attended our spring meeting in Grand Rapids at Great Lakes Commonwealth of Letters. Dr. Anton Andersen, Vice President of the Society, presented a program on "A Celebration of Robert Browning" in honor of National Poetry Month. During the business meeting there was discussion regarding the upcoming PSM anthology edited by Ed Morin. The anthology is expected to be ready for release this fall and will contain around one hundred ninety-five pages of poems by members. Discussion was also held regarding financing for the Society's magazine, *Peninsula Poets*. Ed Morin volunteered to look into outside advertising. Two rounds of original poetry were read by members. Jane Mayes of Port Austin, MI was awarded the Traveling Trophy for her poem, "A Cowboy's Sonnet." Elizabeth Kerlikowske led a workshop on "concrete words." The fall meeting will be held in Cadillac, MI. ~ *Inge Logenburg Kyler, Historian*

OHIO POETRY ASSOCIATION sponsored readings at the Serpent Mound Summer Solstice Celebration, which took place on a gorgeous late spring day. July features the annual OPA picnic where we welcome some of OPA's all-star poets and contest winners. The picnic also serves as a major fundraising event for the organization with raffles and book sales. In August we sponsor a special workshop, "The Poetry of Food." Attendees will get hands-on with bread making and writing poetry in the setting of the beautiful sustainable farm of the Glass Rooster Cannery. We will soon publish an ekphrastic poetry anthology. Look for it before the end of the year. For a fifth straight year we have been granted funding from The Columbus Foundation Community Arts Fund. These funds continue to sustain our programming efforts and help us keep our membership fees low. More details are available on the OPA blog: ohiopoetryassn.blogspot.com. ~ *Chuck Salmons, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA

held its annual Spring Banquet with many enthusiastic members and guests in attendance. It was a day of awards with presentations to winners of our PSO Annual contest. An Easter lunch was served. Congratulations to Karen Kay Bailey, 2016 PSO Poet Laureate. In May we hosted an all-day workshop at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City. We had two guest speakers: Savannah Thorne, a DePaul University graduate whose poetry has appeared in over thirty literary journals; and Dr. Todd Fuller, Poet and Associate Director for Research Development, University of Oklahoma. It was a very informative and educational day. July will see PSO hosting an in-house workshop along with results of the Poetry Workshop Contest. We will soon be getting ready for our annual National Poetry Day Contest October on 1st. 2016 has been designated to be "*The year of GROWTH*" for PSO. We have already gained five new members and three previous ones rejoined! Efforts are being made to let people know more about PSO. It is with a sad heart that we announce the passing of Billie Menifee (PSO President 1982-1983) in December and Vera Long (a long-time member of PSO) in February. ~ *Patti Koch, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE

on October 1st will hold the Mid-South Poetry Festival at the University of Memphis Holiday Inn—our 60th annual celebration of poetry. The contest brochure offering 31 challenges is available on poetrysocietytn.org. The author of the overall best poem, chosen from all the first place winners, will be awarded \$250.00 for "Best of the Fest." The postmark deadline for entries is Saturday, August 20, 2016. If you have questions contact JoAn Howerton (joan0620@att.net) or Florence Bruce (fbruce1@att.net). We recently elected officers: Russell H. Strauss, President; Leslie Blakeburn, VP & Membership Chair; Sarah Hull Gurley, Treasurer; Llewellyn Brawner, Recording Secretary; Florence Bruce, Corresponding Secretary; and JoAn Howerton and Frances Cowden, Directors. Our fiscal year runs September through May. The only summer meeting is a reading in August, when our summer contest will be announced. Criteria are any form, 40 lines; deadline postmark July 1. Dues are \$25/year, to include a copy of *Tennessee Voices*, in which

President's Message from page 1

I love tradition. I love Shakespeare and I love Frost, Whitman, Dickinson and Homer. I love newer poets such as Billy Collins, Natasha Trethewey, Rita Dove, Sandy Longhorn and Shel Silverstein. I write sonnets, haiku, tweeku (Twitter poems), rhymed and free verse, and one-line poems. I have read at open mics, at libraries, on street corners, balconies and even a bait shop. No opportunity to share poetry and the benefits of belonging to a poetry group should be passed up. Each of us is the face of poetry. Each of us is on the front line of NFSPS, of our state groups, of our local organizations. Each of us shares the leadership and the responsibility to educate, to encourage and to applaud poets and their work everywhere.

Poetry is nothing without an audience. Poetry is both oral and aural, written and read, quiet and unassuming, LOUD & PROUD.

*A world without poetry
is a world in need;
a world without poets
is dark indeed.*

As we begin this year together, let us try our best to take poetry to the next level, the next stage, the next evolution. Let us continue our solid traditions while opening our arms, our hearts, our minds to new ways of looking at poetry. Let us work as one to bring light to a world grown dark. Let us be the poets we were meant to be.

As I begin my first year as president, I ask for your help, your input, your knowledge, and most of all, your patience and friendship. Only when we succeed can I succeed, because it is all of us who make this group a Federation.

Live. Love. Laugh. Write (and read) poetry.

James (Jim) Barton ~ 32nd NFSPS President

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS continued

(Poetry Society of Tennessee from page 7)

winning poems of the preceding year are published. We offer our members a lot of challenges. We'd love to have you! ~ *Florence Bruce, Corresponding Secretary*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS' Student Awards Festival was held April 16, 2016, at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas with Poetry in the Schools Chairman Budd Powell Mahan officiating. Prior to the event, certificates were mailed to students winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place in the Student Contests. Those attending the event read their winning poems. Upon arrival, they were given the anthology containing the 1st Place poems, as well as the names only of the 2nd through 5th Place winners, along with the names of all their teachers and schools. Assisting at the event were L.D. Carter, President Catherine L'Herisson, Director Beth Turner Ayers and her husband, Mark Ayers, and Director Susan Maxwell Campbell. The 170-seat auditorium was filled to capacity. ~ *Nancy Baass*

UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY was busy this spring with activities in both Southern and Northern Utah. Poetry in the Park and the Redrock Writers Conference in Southern Utah provided opportunities for members of UTSPS, students and teachers from the area and others to

benefit from workshops and participate as names of the winners of their contest were announced. A chapbook of the winning poems was produced. The April Festival offered workshops and opportunities to ask questions. Those who entered the poetry contest were rewarded for their efforts. Our new Poetry Laureate, Duane (Dee) Rygh, won the book category with *My Bright Red Scream*. His reading will take place in October. We also reinstated our youth program, mostly through the efforts of Justin Kennington. We thank him and are pleased with the resulting chapbook, *Standing Tall*. Many participants expressed their hope that we will continue to offer this opportunity to students. We also want to express our appreciation to last year's Laureate, Candy Lish Fowler, for her talent and the time she donated to UTSPS. The promotion of her book, *On A Road That Knows Me*, resulted in a record breaking number of books sold. ~ *Dawnell Griffin, President*

CONTESTS

Poets & Patrons 60th Annual CHICAGOLAND Poetry Contest with 12 of the 13 categories open to non-members. Deadline: September 1, 2016. For guidelines, see the Contests page on poetsandpatrons.net.

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS Betty Heidelberger Memorial Contests is sponsored by Saline County Branch of PRA. Deadline: August 27. For guidelines, go to poetsroundtableofarkansas.org and click on the Contests tab. Contact Dennis Patton for more details at patton_dr@hotmail.com.

Redrock Writers' Chaparral Poetry Contest entries postmarked Sept. 1 through Dec. 1, 2016. Chair: Marie Tollstrup marieet@infowest.com. Guidelines at redrockwriters.org.

NFSPS SOCIAL MEDIA HASHTAGS

NFSPS has a Facebook page and Twitter is coming soon. Anything you post electronically that has the ability to use #hashtags, please make it a habit to add #NFSPS, #nationalfederationofstatepoetrysocieties, and #nfps to your posts. In addition, if your state society wants to post directly to the Facebook page, contact Julie Cummings (jcummings3@gmail.com), NFSPS Publicity Chair, Electronic Media.

COME TO THE LONE STAR STATE 2017 NFSPS CONVENTION

The Poetry Society of Texas invites you to Fort Worth, where the West begins, where cowboys and culture coexist, as we celebrate *The Art and Soul of Poetry*, Texas-style, June 29-July 2, 2017. Come early before the convention, or stay after, but come! There's lots to do in Fort Worth! Check out the Stockyards for an authentic cowboy experience. Visit the many art galleries in the area as well as the thriving entertainment scene at Sundance Square—within walking distance of our convention hotel, Hilton Fort Worth—to enjoy outdoor concerts and popular restaurants. The Hilton's downtown location is close to the Fort Worth Convention Center, Fort Worth Water Gardens, and Bass Performance Hall. There's so much more just a bus or trolley ride away. (Don't miss Billy Bob's for music, dancing, dining, and bull-riding!) Experience 'a moment in time, a place in history' at Hilton Fort Worth, the scene of 35th President John F. Kennedy's final address on the morning of November 22, 1963. The hotel was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Images of President Kennedy's visit are located on the 2nd floor. The JFK Tribute is right outside the hotel's entrance. Single and Double rooms are \$119, Triple is \$129, and Quad is \$139. Call 817-870-2100 for reservations and be sure to mention the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. More info later in *Strophes* and on the website. Stay tuned!

2016 ENCORE COVER WINNER

The winner of the *Encore* cover contest is Jackie Huppenthal of Dyer, Indiana, 30 miles south of Chicago. The photo, taken by Jackie on a 5 degrees above zero day, features the Michigan City Lighthouse on Lake Michigan. Jackie has titled it: "Michigan City East Pierhead with Shelf Ice." Jackie is a member of the Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs and other poetry groups in the area. She has won honorable mentions in NFSPS contests, and especially enjoys writing poems for children. She is a teacher's aide for autistic preschoolers and enjoys photography as a hobby. She is a member of Calumet Region Photo Club and the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association. ~ Valerie Martin Bailey