



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

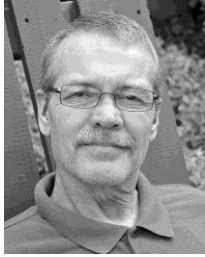
An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing
and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

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James (Jim) Barton
32nd NFSPS
President

Lesson from a Cowboy

The National Convention in Fort Worth was a huge, Texas-sized success! Our hearty thanks go out to Linda Banks and all the members and workers of the Poetry Society of Texas for hosting poets from across the country. I know you put in a great amount of hard work, planning and attention to detail, and the final product showed it. You have made your state and PST proud.

It doesn't hurt that Texas brought home the lion's share of the prizes, but many other poets from across the country won recognition, as well. We all brought home to our own states much more than we came with, including new ideas, new friendships, renewals of old friendships, new tips for improving as poets, and a fresh perspective on what it means to be a poet.

We heard great speakers and performers who enlightened and entertained, and in general, had a wonderful time doing so. What did I learn as an attendee? I'm glad you asked!

I learned that next year, I will be entering the contests. You cannot win if you don't enter. I made every excuse except the real one for not entering this year, that I did not MAKE the time to do so. If you wait around for inspiration, you will never get much done. You must take the time to write, whether, like speaker Nathan Brown, you write a poem every day, or if you set a goal of four poems a month. This applies to contests, submissions to journals and magazines, or to that manuscript you have been meaning to publish.

I learned poetry manuscripts must convey a coherent and cohesive message, an overall theme, a strong and well-constructed story arc. They can either pose a question to the reader and point to a conclusion, or they can lay out a dilemma for the reader to answer. Diane Glancy, one of our nation's best poets taught us that sometimes the best manuscripts are formed by rubbing two seemingly opposite ideas against each other to create a spark, a fire that can create a work of art that burns from within. She has shown this over and over in her award-winning work.

I learned how important it is to have not just competent associates, but to have willing, talented workers who will step up and take the lead when needed. For this, I am ever grateful to my fellow Board members. Thank you for all you do behind the scenes and, when asked, in front of the crowd. I could ask for no finer group of Board members.

I learned that even if you just see a friend one time a year at Convention, it is just like you saw them yesterday. That's what friends are. That's what poets are. That is what our Federation and each State member is about. Poets are friends bound by word and spirit. We are a family because we chose each other through the act of writing.

One of the most important things I learned in Fort Worth came from a rather unexpected source. One day, we went down to the Stockyards to roam around and to witness the daily Longhorn cattle drive downtown. As we waited on the sidewalk for the impressive animals to veer onto the brick streets, one of the cowboys who ride herd pulled his horse up to the crowd next to us. He began explaining how the horses they rode were city employees, and the brand they wore was backwards "F" and a flying "W". The obvious takeaway was that the brand stood for Fort Worth. Then he told us that the "F" was backwards, because the city was moving forward while still recognizing and celebrating its past, a past that was as colorful and important as the future the city faces.

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NFSPS COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE POETRY (CUP) COMPETITION 2017 WINNERS

Winners of the NFSPS College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP) Competition for 2017 are Brian Selkirk for the Meudt Award and Sydney Lo for the Kahn Award.

Both the Edna Meudt and Florence Kahn Awards provide a \$500 prize, publication, and offer to read at the NFSPS Annual Convention in Ft. Worth. Brian Selkirk attended all three days of the convention. His first ever public poetry reading on Friday night from his winning chapbook, *Exhales*, wowed the crowd, while the convention gave him his first experience of a poetry community. Sydney Lo was unable to attend, but her chapbook, *A Natural Cacophony*, sold well in the book room. The title poem from her chapbook was read at the convention by CUP chair Shirley Blackwell. Both chapbooks are available on Amazon.com.

Brian Selkirk is a Michigan native who attended Mott Community College in Flint, where he won first-place awards in the Sharon Naughton Student Writing Contest for Poetry in both 2015 and 2016. After completing studies at Mott, he transferred to the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he is a junior with a double major in Neuroscience and Psychology. This is his first poetry book.

Competition judge North Dakota Poet Laureate Larry Woiwode says of Brian's book, "*Exhales* is an outstanding collection that achieves in each of its poems a voice so clearly and distinctively original that hardly a line slips out of the timbre and cadence and vocabulary of a passionate voice filled with visionary wisdom." Brian's mentor at Mott, Joshual Sauvie, notes that "The pages are riddled with insight and obscure literary references, reminding readers that optimistic romanticism is not lost in this modern world." Poetry Society of Michigan (PSM) president Polly Opsahl echoed this theme, calling his poetry "as unique and evocative as the varied landscapes of his native home in northern Michigan."

Sydney Lo is a first-year student at Brown University in Providence, RI, where she is a staff writer for its *Post Magazine*. Her poetry is published in *The Catalyst Literary Journal*, *The Round Magazine*, and *The Triangle Literary Anthology*. A Minnesota native, she is a member of the League of Minnesota Poets and first-place winner in the senior division of its 2015 Minnesota Manningham Student Poetry Contest. She was unable to attend the convention because of a 2-month internship in Barcelona, Spain and on return to the states immediately leaving on a church mission trip.

Poet Laureate of Minnesota Joyce Sutphen commented, "*A Natural Cacophony* is a stunning debut, filled with some of the most gorgeously textured lines I have ever read in contemporary poetry." LOMP past president Dennis Herschbach says, "From the opening line of 'A Bee Begins with a Singular Sound,' Lo uses her unique poetic voice to link the human experience to the natural world." Brown U. professor Carolyn Bergonzo adds, "With sonic prowess, Sydney Lo's poetry sensitizes its readers to a material world radiant with texture, detail, and transformation."

This is the first year that the CUP has been judged by an individual rather than a panel of judges. The CUP committee deeply appreciates the time and care that Larry Woiwode, Poet Laureate of North Dakota and writer in residence at Jamestown University, devoted to the contest. Not only did he judge 52 manuscripts, but he also provided written critiques for the winners and six finalists.

NFSPS 2017 ANNUAL CONTEST WINNERS**1. NFSPS FOUNDERS AWARD [to honor Mary B. Wall]** \$1000, \$500, \$250 (371 entries)

Judge: Lee Pennington, Louisville, KY

1st Christine Irving, Denton, TX
"Hardwood"**2nd Clarence P. Socwell, Ogden, UT**

"An Open Letter to Certain Victorian Ladies"

3rd Jenny Kalahar, Elwood, IN

"Tomorrow, When the World is Free"

1HM Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

2HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO

3HM Christine Beck, West Hartford, CT

4HM Lynn Farmer, Decatur, GA

5HM Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI

6HM Sheryl Luna, Wheat Ridge, CO

7HM Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX

2. PEACE AWARD \$500, \$300, \$200 (139 entries)

Judge: Ron Whitehead, Louisville, KY

1st Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN

"This community garden"

2nd Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

"To a Refugee Vetted for Three Years"

3rd Maxine B. Kohanski, Spring, TX

"My Soul's Journey"

1HM Maya Benko, Longmont, CO

2HM Melissa Huff, Champaign, IL

3HM Michael Owens, Cypress, TX

4HM Clarence P. Socwell, Ogden, UT

5HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

6HM, 7HM: No Awards

3. WINNERS' CIRCLE AWARD \$300, \$200, \$100 (211 entries)

Judge: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

1st Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

"The Sounds of Tinnitus"

2nd Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

"A Journey with St. Irena"

3rd Henry Panowitsch, Mankato, MN

"The Last Fly of the Season"

1HM Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

2HM Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

3HM Geraldine Felt, Layton, UT

4HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

5HM Jenny Kalahar, Elwood, IN

6HM Grace Diane Jesson, Glenwood, UT

7HM Joe Perrone, Ponce Inlet, FL

4. THE NFSPS BOARD AWARD CONTEST \$300, \$150, \$85 (230 entries)

Judge: Jim Haendiges, St. George, UT

1st Karen McAferty Morris, Pensacola, FL

"Old Tire"

2nd Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL

"Boiler"

3rd Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

"Pencil"

1HM Clarence P. Socwell, Ogden, UT

2HM Marilyn Stacy, Dallas, TX

3HM Myron L. Stokes, Oak Park, IL

4HM Kate Lacy, Fayetteville, AR

5HM Beverly Seaton, Memphis, TN

6HM James Ahearn, Rochester, MI

7HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

5. THE MARGO AWARD \$225, \$125, \$75 (216 entries)

Judge: Ruth F. Harrison, Waldport, OR

1st Annie Neugebauer, Denton, TX

"The Fox"

2nd Ruth Hill, Chetwynd, BC, Canada

"Encounters from the Four Winds"

3rd Elzy Cogswell, Austin, TX

"Thirty-Two Thousand Years Dream On"

1HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

2HM Carol Brockfield, Medford, OR

3HM Rebecca L. Bailey, Grangeville, ID

4HM Jerry Lang, Muskegon, MI

5HM Mary A. Couch, Noblesville, IN

6HM Catherine Favole-Gruber, Brunswick, GA

7HM Mary Ann Savage, Watsonville, CA

***6. DONALD STODGHILL MEMORIAL AWARD**

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

Judge: Pat Lieb, Springhill, FL

1st Alice B. Couch, Noblesville, IN

"Making Memories"

2nd Sylvia Ramos Cruz, Albuquerque, NM

"Memorial Day 2016"

3rd Jon Sebba, Murray, UT

"Meditation and War"

1HM Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

2HM Deborah J. Petersen, Bluffton, IN

3HM Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX

4HM Scott Wiggerman, Albuquerque, NM

5HM Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN

6HM Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX

7HM Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL

Citations: Christina M. Flaughter, Mapleton, MN;

Birna Castle, Beaumont, TX; Kate Walker, Spring

Mills, PA; Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

***7. GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD**

(*Members only) \$150, \$75, \$25 (122 entries)

Judge: Jeremy M. Downes, Auburn, AL

1st Sylvia Williams Dodgen, Orange Beach, AL

"Return to the Vieux Carre"

2nd Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX

"Hurricane Hubbub"

3rd Peggy Brosious East, Huntsville, AL

"Whitfield"

1HM Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

2HM Florence Bruce, Memphis, TN

3HM Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

4HM Brenda Brown Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS

5HM Julie Shavin, Colorado Springs, CO

6HM, 7HM: No Awards

***8. POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS AWARD**

(*Members only) \$125, \$50, \$25 (177 entries)

Judge: Crystal Czerwinski, North Hollywood, CA

1st Rebecca L. Bailey, Grangeville, ID

"Pilgrimage"

2nd Barrie Fiedler, Evergreen, CO

"Regret"

3rd Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

"Visit Home"

1HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO

2HM Janice L. Freytag, Sounderton, PA

3HM - 7HM: No Awards

9. NOT THE USUAL POEM AWARD

\$100, \$60, \$40 (262 entries)

Judge: Judy Davies, Gautier, MS

1st Rita Goodgame, Little Rock, AR

"The Red Danube"

2nd Barbara Lewie Berry, Mansfield, TX

"A Thousand Souls"

3rd Angie M. Goin, Fort Worth, TX

"Where Penance Begins"

1HM Loretta Burns Vaughan, San Antonio, TX

2HM Donna Houghton-Alico, Nathrop, CO

3HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

4HM Brian Volz, Stuart, IA

5HM K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA

6HM Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK

7HM Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX

***10. AL LASTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members only) \$100, \$50, \$25 (191 entries)

Judge: Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX

1st B.J. Alligood, Port Orange, FL

"Their Last Walk"

2nd Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

"Lost Cause"

3rd Catherine L'Harrison, Garland, TX

"Paul's Shipwreck"

1HM Naomi Stroud Simmons, Fort Worth, TX

2HM Elizabeth Bodien, Kempton, PA

3HM Richard Hurlzler, Tyler, TX

4HM Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

5HM Grace Diane Jesson, Glenwood, UT

6HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

7HM Beth Turner Ayers, Plano, TX

11. FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION, INC. AWARD \$100, \$50, \$25 (60 entries)

Judge: Janeen Pergrin Rastall, Marquette, MI

1st Tilli Urban, Denver, CO
"I Always Called You the Cathedral"**2nd Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX**

"Escape to Paradise"

3rd B.J. Alligood, Port Orange, FL

"Songs of Survival"

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

2HM Louise Cook, Sandy, UT

3HM Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD

4HM Crystie Cook, Sandy, UT

5HM Patricia A. Peterson, Cottonwood Heights, UT

6HM Rob Burgess, Oklahoma City, OK

7HM No Award

***12. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD** (*Members only) \$75, \$50, \$25 (158 entries)

Judge: Mary E. O'Dell, Louisville, KY

1st Jenna Pashley Smith, Richmond, TX

"Negative Space"

2nd Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

"Nothing More Than Yearning"

3rd Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

"Great Gray"

1HM Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM

2HM Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI

3HM Chet Taylor, Seguin, TX

4HM - 7HM: No Awards

13. LAND OF ENCHANTMENT AWARD \$75, \$50, \$25 (142 entries)

Judge: Erik Greenberg, Los Angeles, CA

1st Karen Mastracchio, Spring, TX

"Leaving Home"

2nd Vicki Dawn Arnett, Preston, MO

"The C-Store"

3rd Laura J. Bobrow, Leesburg, VA

"To Overflow"

1HM Sylvia Ramos Cruz, Albuquerque, NM

2HM Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

3HM D. Beecher Smith II, Memphis, TN

4HM Amanda Partridge, Searcy, AR

5HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

6HM Laura Loughridge, North Little Rock, AR

7HM Louise Cook, Sandy, UT

Citations: Delores Walker, Oklahoma City, OK;

Michael Erdelen, Lowell, IN

14. THE VIRGINIA CORRIE-COZART MEMORIAL AWARD \$75, \$50, \$25 (182 entries)

Judge: Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO

1st Jenna Pashley Smith, Richmond, TX

"Dorothea Alise Brown"

2nd Shirley Valencia, Dayton, OH

"Van Gogh at His Own Exhibition"

3rd Rebecca L. Bailey, Grangeville, ID

"A Melody of Turquoise"

1HM Paul Horton Amidon, Albany, NY

2HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

3HM Lorette Burns Vaughn, San Antonio, TX

4HM Allison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

5HM Dan Kaufman, Central Point, OR

6HM Susan Whitley Peters, Kansas City, KS

7HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

15. ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD \$75, \$30, \$20 (177 entries)

Judge: Jim Lambert, Carbondale, IL

1st Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

"The Fly on My Window Seal"

2nd Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, ON, Canada

"Sleeping till Wednesday"

3rd Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN

"Invasion of Consciousness"

1HM Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

2HM Linda Eve Diamond, Port Orange, FL

3HM Shirley Valencia, Dayton, OH

4HM Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH

5HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
6HM Susan Daubenspeck, Corpus Christi, TX
7HM Carol P. Thompson, Tyler, TX

***16. MILDRED VORPAHL BAASS REMEMBRANCE AWARD (*Members only)**

\$60, \$40, \$20 (139 entries)

Judge: Julie Cummings, Conifer, CO

1st Darla D. Burris, Alliance, OH
"A Cat Named Mouse"

2nd Leah Miller, Albuquerque, NM
"Evaluation"

3rd Jim Brosnan, Assonet, MA
"What I Am"

1HM Sarah Hull Gurley, Memphis, TN
2HM Madelyn Eastlund, Beverly Hills, FL
3HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
4HM Rose Ann Spaih, Columbus, OH
5HM Carol Brockfield, Medford, OR
6HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
7HM Mike Wahl, Athens, GA

17. LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS AWARD

\$60, \$40, \$20 (209 entries)

Judge: Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR

1st Tanya R. Whitney, Sorrento, LA
"I Flew"

2nd Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
"Tomatoes Yield to Tornados"

3rd Angie M. Goin, Fort Worth, TX
"I Can Tell by the Smell"

1HM Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX
2HM Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
3HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO
4HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
5HM Maya Benko, Longmont, CO
6HM Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD
7HM Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN

18. ISFPC AWARD \$60 \$30, \$20 (145 entries)

Judge: Steven Concert, Harveys Lake, PA

1st Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI
"deep in the spring soil"

2nd Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
"He says he loves her"

3rd Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX
"Church of the Night"

1HM Robert V. Davis, Ogden, UT
2HM Jon Sebba, Murray, UT
3HM Amanda Bailey, Mankato, MN
4HM Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX
5HM Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL
6HM Sara Hull Gurley, Memphis, TN
7HM Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

19. NEVADA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (75 entries)

Judge: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

1st Shirley Valencia, Dayton, OH
"The Inaugural Address"

2nd Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
"Inaugural Address"

3rd Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
"The Inauguration"

1HM Clarence P. Socwell, Ogden, UT
2HM Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK
3HM Janet Qually, Memphis, TN
4HM Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS
5HM Meredith K. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
6HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
7HM Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

20. WILLIAM STAFFORD MEMORIAL AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (204 entries)

Judge: Carol Martino, Peoria, IL

1st Barbara Green Powell, Beaumont, TX
"His Way"

2nd Patricia Lieb, Spring Hill, FL
"The Girl in Antigua, Guatemala"

3rd Jon Sebba, Murray, UT
"Tension in the Garden"

1HM B.J. Alligood, Port Orange, FL
2HM Barbara Lewie Berry, Mansfield, TX

3HM Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
4HM Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
5HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
6HM Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN
7HM Philip L. Levin, Biloxi, MS

21. THE NEW YORK POETRY FORUM AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (192 entries)

Judge: Grace Curtis, Waynesville, OH

1st Claudia Van Gerven, Boulder, CO
"Let's Say"

2nd Margery Dorfmeister, Buena Vista, CO
"Ars Poetica"

3rd Christine Irving, Denton, TX
"Free Verse"

1HM Kathleen McClung, San Francisco, CA
2HM Francis Cowden, Cordova, TN
3HM Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
4HM Laura Altshul, New Haven, CT
5HM Amanda Bailey, Mankato, MN
6HM Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ
7HM Jessica Temple, Madison, AL

***22. COLUMBINE POETS OF COLORADO AWARD (*Members only) \$50, \$30, \$20 (117 entries)**

Judge: Eric H. Read, Brigham City, UT

1st Ann Gasser, West Reading, PA
"In Mountain Solitude"

2nd Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO
"Steep"

3rd Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
"My mountain"

1HM Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
2HM Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
3HM Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
4HM Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
5HM Angie E. Goin, Fort Worth, TX
6HM Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK
7HM No Award

23. MORTON D. PROUTY & ELSIE S. PROUTY MEMORIAL AWARD \$50, \$30, \$20 (213 entries)

Judge: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

1st Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
"The Sanctuary"

2nd Pat Hale, West Hartford, CT
"Squirrel-Proof Feeder"

3rd Dian S. Barnett, Marietta, GA
"The Poet Dozes on a Drizzly Afternoon"

1HM Vicki Wilke, Clarkston, MI
2HM Sarah E. Morin, Fishers, IN
3HM Nadia Ibrashi, Troy, MI
4HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
5HM Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL
6HM Karen Douglass, Broomfield, CO
7HM Christine Irving, Denton, TX

***24. POETS ROUND TABLE OF ARKANSAS AWARD (*Members only) \$50, \$30, \$20 (179 entries)**

Judge: Amy Miller, Ashland, OR

1st Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, ON, Canada
"Devoted"

2nd Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
"Bridge over the Lily Pond at Giverny"

3rd Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
"The Wayfarer"

1HM Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
2HM Carol Brockfield, Medford, OR
3HM Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
4HM La Vern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
5HM Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR
6HM S. Evan Walters, Indianapolis, IN
7HM Karen Mastracchio, Spring, TX

25. LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD \$50, \$30, \$20 (130 entries)

Judge: Sandra Soli, Edmond, OK

1st Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
"The Good Times Roll, on a Ledge in Yosemite Valley"

2nd Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
"The Men in Our Family Drink to..."

3rd Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

"What They Got for Not Taking Seriously"
1HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO
2HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
3HM Pat Hale, WestHartford, CT
4HM Ed Brekke-Kramer, Fairmont, MN
5HM D. Beecher Smith II, Memphis, TN
6HM, 7HM: No Awards

***26. FREEDA MURPHY MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members only) \$50, \$30, \$20 (179 entries)**

Judge: Donna Salli, Brainerd, MN

1st Louise Cook, Sandy, UT
"The Span"

2nd Vicki Wilke, Clarkston, MI
"Kites"

3rd Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
"Daydream Believing"

1HM Joyce P. Wilson, Centennial, CO
2HM Joshua Conklin, Amerst, NH
3HM Brian Volz, Stuart, IA
4HM - 7HM: No Awards

27. CLAIRE VAN BREEMAN DOWNES MEMORIAL AWARD \$50, \$30, \$20 (113 entries)

Judge: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

1st Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ
"Another Drought Year"

2nd Warren E. Jones, Owensville, IN
"A Sign of the Times"

3rd Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
"To Stand with Trees"

1HM J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX
2HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
3HM Marilyn Downing, Hershey, PA
4HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
5HM Marilyn Stacy, Dallas, TX
6HM La Vern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
7HM Faye Adams, DeSoto, MO

28. UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD \$50, \$30, \$20 (155 entries)

Judge: E. Gail Chandler, Shelbyville, KY

1st Karen Betstadt, Denver, CO
"Lessons"

2nd Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
"Unmarked Fields"

3rd Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
"October Cups a Sparkler in My Hands"

1HM Betty Preisendorf, Merritt Island, FL
2HM Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN
3HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
4HM Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
5HM Annie Neugebauer, Denton, TX
6HM Elizabeth Bodien, Kempton, PA
7HM Janet Wilson, Wesley Chapel, FL

29. OHIO AWARD \$50, \$25, \$15 (188 entries)

Judge: Laurence W. Thomas, Ypsilanti, MI

1st Susan Whitley Peters, Kansas City, KS
"Writing Love: A Sestina"

2nd Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO
"Latin 101"

3rd Rebecca Hines, Denton, TX
"Celebrating Summer"

1HM Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
2HM Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN
3HM Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
4HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
5HM - 7HM: No Awards

30. ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD \$40, \$30, \$20 (142 entries)

Judge: Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR

1st Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
"Home Sweet . . ."

2nd Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
"Learning to See"

3rd Diane Attwell Palfey, Cambridge, ON, Canada
"Random"

1HM Judith Krum, Sanford, FL
2HM Kate Walker, Spring Mills, PA
3HM Barbara Lewie Berry, Mansfield, TX

1HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
 2HM Janet Qually, Memphis, TN
 3HM - 7HM: No Awards

46. MAINE POETS SOCIETY AWARD

\$25, \$20, \$15 (128 entries)

Judge: Andrea L. Watson, Denver, CO

1st **Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT**
 "Thrashed"

2nd **Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX**
 "Gull Watching at Ocean Beach"

3rd **Clarence P. Socwell, Ogden, UT**
 "Thin Edges"

1HM Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
 2HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 3HM Louise Cook, Sandy, UT
 4HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 5HM Madelyn Eastlund, Beverly Hills, FL
 6HM Sheila Tingly Moore, San Antonio, TX
 7HM Jim Brosnan, Assonet, MA

*47. MIRIAM S. STRAUSS MEMORIAL AWARD

(*Members only) \$25 \$20, \$15 (91 entries)

Judge: Catharine McGraw, Seattle, WA

1st **Maxine B. Kohanski, Spring, TX**
 "Haunting Melody"

2nd **Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK**
 "Two Hearts as One"

3rd **Elizabeth Bodien, Kempton, PA**
 "Nape"

1HM Amanda Baily, Mankato, MN
 2HM Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 3HM - 7HM: No Awards

*48. THE POETS NORTHWEST AWARD

(*Members only) \$25, \$20, \$15 (77 entries)

Judge: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

1st **Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX**
 "New Eden"

2nd **Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR**
 "Outcrop"

3rd **Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO**
 "Melt Down"

1HM Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
 2HM Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
 3HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO
 4HM Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, ON, Canada
 5HM Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
 6HM Annie Neugebauer, Denton, TX
 7HM Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

49. JESSICA C. SAUNDERS MEMORIAL

AWARD \$25, \$20, \$15 (105 entries)

Judge: Sarah Hull Gurley, Memphis, TN

1st **Loretta Burns Vaughan, San Antonio, TX**
 "Dramatic Diva"

2nd **Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK**
 "Cemetery on Blackberry Road"

3rd **Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN**
 "Country Radio"

1HM La Vern Spencer McCarthy, Blaire, OK
 2HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 3HM V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 4HM Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 5HM - 7HM: No Awards

50. STUDENT AWARD \$50, \$30, \$20, HMs \$5 (158 entries)

Judge: Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR

1st **Laura Liu, Wayne, PA**
 "Lunchtime"

2nd **Marina Ellis, Miami, FL**
 "From Where They Came"

3rd **Faith Franzwa, Fort Worth, TX**
 "The Work of Breeze"

1HM Shenu Kathymoon, Miami, FL
 2HM Danelle Antelo, Coral Gables, FL
 3HM Jean-Marc vant' Verlaat, Miami, FL
 4HM Zoha Baig, Westford, MA
 5HM Nadia Jo, Deerfield, MA
 6HM Franziska Nace, Sewickley, PA
 7HM Izabel Wilde, West Des Moines, IA

2016 STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT WINNER AND FINALISTS

Erin Rodoni's manuscript, *A Landscape of Loss*, was selected as winner of the 2016 Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition, sponsored by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Rodoni's husband had an internship in Vietnam, so Rodoni wrote most of the poems in Ho Chi Minh City while her three-year-old napped. Judge Tony Barnstone, Professor of English at Whittier College and author of 18 books, says the book "is filled with exhibits and atrocities and elegies, but also . . . grace . . . that swells, pregnant, with hope. It is an amazing book, one that shows us how much can still be gained from a landscape of loss." Rodoni read portions of her winning manuscript on Saturday evening, July 1, at the National Convention in Fort Worth, TX.

Rodoni holds a BA from UC Berkeley and an MFA from San Diego State. She currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and two young daughters.

Barnstone also selected ten finalists: Alyse Bensel, Lawrence, KS ("Rare, Wondrous Things"); Elizabeth Chapman, Palo Alto, CA ("A Feeling for Good Water"); Jackie Craven, Schenectady, NY ("Secret Formulas & Techniques of the Masters"); Rochelle Goldstein, Brooklyn, NY ("Gretel's Answer"); Kake Huck, Bend, OR ("Sentenced To Venice"); Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL ("The Caregiver"); Sarah McCart-Jackson, Louisville, KY ("Stonelight"); Sheila Smith McKoy, Marietta GA ("Last Drink of Water"); Marcella Remund, Vermillion, SD ("The Book of Crooked Prayer"); and David Tucker, Ocean Twp., NJ ("Love, Death, and Scandal").

Online submissions included 111 manuscripts from poets unrelated to the National Federation of State Poetry Society and 36 manuscripts from members (a total of 147) and 15 manuscripts submitted as hard copies, for a grand total of 162.

A Landscape of Loss is available for purchase through nfsps.com and amazon.com.

BLACKBERRY PEACH POETRY AWARDS 2017

The BlackBerry Peach Poetry Awards for written and spoken poetry are given for the best written and spoken word poets who presented their work in written and oral format. Judging is based on the quality of their spoken as well as written poetry. This is a major, new national contest sponsored by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Winners were invited to perform at the national convention. The written work of the six winners is available on amazon.com as the *BlackBerry Peach Poetry Awards 2017*.

The winners are: Kari Gunter-Seymour (Ohio), Susan Chambers (Minnesota), Rosemerry Trommer (Colorado), Zachary Kluckman (New Mexico), Josh Conklin (New Hampshire), and David Bond (Illinois). The winners were chosen from entries originating in eighteen states. Poets submitted written and

oral versions of four poems through submittable.com. Hakim Bellamy of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a highly regarded poet in both written and spoken word poetry, judged this year's contest.

This is the first year of this competition and the first book published with the winners' work in audio accessible through soundcloud.com.

The tradition of "performance" poetry goes back into pre-history. Poetry was performed "onstage" long before it was captured on the page. Competitive performance poetry was part of the ancient Greek Olympics. With the advent of printing, poetry moved increasingly to the page and classroom, but since the 1970s, there has been a resurgence in oral presentation, including *hip-hop* (or *rap*) and incorporating other genres such as *slam* (which reintroduced competition) and *spoken word*, the catchall term for any kind of poetry recited aloud. In recent decades, poetry has been blended with music and many other art forms. This trend has become a cultural mainstay and the genre most embraced by youth—case in point, the hip-hop musical "Hamilton," which won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Literature.

For additional information, contact: Joe Cavanaugh at jcavanaugh1@gmail.com.

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY has named Alina Stefanescu (Coryell) as our Interim President, since our previous president, Jodi Adamson, took a leave of absence. The current list of officers can be found at alpoets.org. The ASPSP Fall meeting will be held October 27 -28 in Pell City, AL. More information is available on our website. ASPSP is pleased to announce that Rita Moritz was named 2016 Poet of the Year. ~ *Alina Stefanescu, Reporter*

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS'

Little Rock River Market Branch will hold the annual Poetry Day Conference on Saturday, October 21 at the Butler Center. This conference honors past Arkansas Poet Laureate Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni who established the first Arkansas Poetry Day on October 15, 1948. Featured speaker will be Bryan Borland, poet, author of *Dig*, a 2017 American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book in literature. It is also a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry, founding publisher of Sibling Rivalry Press, and the 2016 Judith A. Markowitz Emerging Writer Award Winner. ~ *Laura Loughridge, Secretary*

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION

had a large display in a local library window and partnered with two other organizations to hold a Poetry Festival in April. Presenters included Joe Cavanaugh, Mary-Ann Westbrook, Mary Rogers-Grantham, and Kevin Campbell. There was poetry, music, door prizes, raffles and refreshments. We celebrate National Poetry Day in the fall with

our Annual Convention, “Voices Carry,” October 13-15 at the Altamonte Springs Hilton. There will be workshops by our chancellors, Lola Haskins and Peter Meinke (also NFSPS Honorary Chancellor and Florida Poet Laureate); and panels on getting published and creating our own publications. We will give tribute to Nobel Laureate Bob Dylan and learn about the genius of Emily Dickenson from Dr. Stephen Caldwell Wright, who recently retired from Seminole State College and is founder and president of the Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Association. A Seminole State colleague, Webb Harris Jr., will help members examine narrative poetry. And State Slam Coordinator Noir Jente will present a poetry slam. State poetry anthologies have been placed in several area libraries including the Altamonte Springs Library and it is available at the gift shop at the Orlando Museum of Art. ~ *Alice R. Friedman, Secretary*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY celebrated Poetry Month with a variety of events and efforts to put members’ poems out into the world. Public libraries ranging from downstate to the northern suburbs displayed our work with the theme of “travel” for the entire month. We also sold members’ books at the yearly Chicago Poetry Fest held at the Harold Washington Library. Readings at the After-Word Bookstore and Brewed Awakening coffeehouse as well as at some libraries further offered participation. In June some members read their ekphrastic poetry at the Brigantine Art Gallery. On July 1st a new two-year term began for the ISPS board and the retirement of Wilda Morris. Melissa Huff is the new Secretary. The rest of the officers will keep their positions. Featured readers and open mic continue every month at Brewed Awakening in Westmont. Please visit illinoispoets.org for more information. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA has just completed our annual Spring Gathering with the theme: “The Comforts of Home.” We were entertained by a folk ballad composer/poet, fed with some great home-cooked dishes, guided through a poetry writing workshop led by our Premier Poet, which included focusing on the surprising mundane. We walked away with door prizes that could have come from grandma’s house: antique tablecloths, old vases, porcelain salt/pepper shakers, and vintage planters. Our poetry sharing included poems about family traditions and special moments, children, ancestors, reunions, and moments in our lives that shaped us. The Board reported on our name change to ‘Poetry Society of Indiana’, the work done by the Manningham Team, and the creation of a new on-going poetry category for our State Contest: “In Memorium”. An anthology of the winning poems from our State Contest, *Ink to Paper*, is available for sale on amazon.com. Our State

Poetry Contest starts July 1st and ends September 1st. The guidelines are available at poetrysocietyofindiana.org and on our Facebook page. Our summer project, the publishing of our 75th Anniversary Anthology will be celebrated with a book release party later in the season. ~ *Deborah Petersen, President*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY gathered at the Continuum for Creativity in Westbrook for an all-day meeting. Poems on the subject of “Food” with a 24-line limit were judged by Alice Persons. The next meeting will be Saturday, September 16, at the Belfast Free Library in Belfast, Maine. A contest with the subject, “Fairy Tale/Popular Culture,” is open to members only. It will be judged by guest judge Jeri Theriault. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$12 registration fee. Lunch is complimentary. Non-members are welcome and invited to bring a poem to share for “The Poet’s Corner.” New membership is always encouraged. For more information, visit mainepoetsociety.com or contact MPS President Jenny Doughty at 207-699-9243 or jmdought@maine.rr.com. MPS also has a Facebook page. ~ *Sally Joy, Reporter*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY: After a long, tough New England winter that forced MSPS to cancel and reschedule meetings many times, we finally held our first 2017 meeting on June 10th at the Beebe Memorial Library. President Jeanette C. Maes conducted a workshop, “Keep A Taut Line,” after which attendees wrote a quatrain keeping in mind the four words to remember when the poet turns attention to editing his/her poems: compress, condense, compact, abridge. After a lunch break, Elayne Neal presented her video program, “Poetry and the Seasons,” which consisted of her photographs and poems on the subject. The next meeting of the Society will be on October 15th at the Winthrop Public Library in Winthrop. It will consist of a workshop by President Jeanette Maes; a program by the Waterfront Crew Chapter; and an open mic poetry reading in celebration of National Poetry Day with the reading of a Proclamation by the governor proclaiming October 15th National Poetry day throughout Massachusetts and the month of October. A time to celebrate poetry. ~ *Jeanette C. Maes, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN held its spring meeting on April 29 in the Delhi Cafe, Holt, MI. President Polly Opsahl presided over the meeting of twenty-five members and guests. Long-time member Larry Thomas was present to receive his official designation as third Honorary Chancellor. Ed Morin, editor of the five-year anthology, *Water Music*, reported on sales with just a few copies remaining. Elizabeth Kerlikowske agreed to coordinate a poetry reading, perhaps in the fall for Poetry Day; a day will be scheduled for a Strategic Planning Day for the organization;

election of new officers will be held in the fall; Melanie Dunbar agreed to bring the website up to date. Sponsorship of contests was discussed. A resolution was read honoring Julie L. George for her above-and-beyond commitment to the society. Original poems were read. Joe Kelly won the Traveling Trophy for his poem “Grandpa Tells Us What You Want.” After dinner Eric Torgeson presented a program on ghazal poetry, followed by another reading of original poems. The fall meeting will be held in Muskegon. It was a great day enjoyed by all. ~ *Inge Logenburg Kyler, Historian*

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY’S Spring Festival, was organized and run by Ann Carolyn Cates, her family, and assorted MPS members, including President John Michael Shelton, VP Linda Owen, Past President Brenda Finnegan, and Contest Coordinator Dr. Emory Jones. Ann Carolyn Cates took on our MPS contest. The Annual Spring Festival was held in Southaven, April 29-30. Highlights of the festival include our 2017 Poet of the Year, Elaine McDermott of Gulfport. She also received our Lifetime Achievement Award. She read from her chapbook, *By the Rivers of Babylon*, published by MPS. Other awards were: Michael Shelton, Poet of the Year for North Branch, Brenda Finnegan, Poet of the Year for South Branch, and Ann Carolyn Cates, Lifetime Achievement Award for North Branch. Our keynote speaker was Pat Durmon of Arkansas. She has published three books of poetry. JoAn Howerton of Tennessee presented our workshop, “Think Outside the Box.” We included an extra contest category for the “Best of the Fest” won by Barbara Blanks, Garland, Texas. ~ *Michael Shelton, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA welcomed the hot, lazy days of summer in a July workshop with keynote speaker, Mike Angelotti, a freelance writer and abstract artist who also serves as Emeritus Professor of English Education at the University of Oklahoma. He often teaches summer courses and conducts professional workshops focused on the image and word style (paint-write) demonstrated in his book: *Double Vision II: Living a Poet’s Life in Paint, Photo and Word*, 2nd Edition, in color. PSO believes that poetry is one of the most universal vehicles of human expression. We encourage our members to try new forms of poetry by publishing a new form in our Oklahoma Rose Newsletter. We use and hear poetry daily, whether it is reciting nursery rhymes to our children, reading the Bible, singing hymns, listening to commercials on TV or hearing political campaign slogans. It has been said that “Poetry is important because it shows the connectedness of all of us.” Poetry is the glue that holds our thoughts, ideas and words together! ~ *Patti Koch, President*

[State Reports continued on page 8]

President's Message from page 1

We poets can learn much from this friendly cowboy. As we morph and change and turn in new and interesting ways, employing new forms, new media, new styles, we should never forget where we came from. The poets of old sang and chanted and recited their words to a mostly illiterate public because they had something important to say. They had a fire within. As time went by, poets used new methods of reaching an increasingly literate audience: broadsides, chapbooks, hardcover print editions, etc. Today, we have a whole new universe of options including social media, coffee house and street readings. Performance and spoken word, video, and audio are everywhere.

Poets today have more opportunities to be heard and read than ever before. We must use these opportunities. We owe it to ourselves as poets. We owe it to those who come after us. And yes, as the old cowboy said, we owe it to those who came before.

I want to thank all who attended the Convention, all who made it possible, and all those who, for whatever reason could not be there. For, without you, without poets, the world would be stuck forever in a static "Now". With you, we carry our past proudly as a brand that will light the future.

Live. Love. Write (and read) Poetry.

James (Jim) Barton ~ 32nd NFSPS President

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS (continued)

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS'

Student Awards Festival was held on April 22, 2017, at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in downtown Dallas with Poetry in the Schools Chairman Budd Powell Mahan officiating. There was standing room only with over 200 students, family members, guests and teachers attending. Prior to the event, certificates were mailed to students winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place in the PST Student Contests and those attending the event read their winning poems. Upon their arrival, students were given the anthology containing the 1st Place winning poems, as well as the names only of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Place winners, along with the names of all their teachers and schools. Assisting at the event were L.D. Carter, Vice President Catherine L'Herisson, Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks and Director Beth Turner Ayers. ~ Nancy Baass reporting

WYOPOETS held their April Workshop in the Historic town of Buffalo, Wyoming. The presenter was David Mason. Among his many works are: *The Buried Houses*, *The Country I Remember*, and *Arrivals*. He also wrote a novel in verse titled *Ludlow*. The April meeting featured two workshops. The first workshop focused on "Muses and Masters." In this session we examined poems

and tried to uncover their source of inspiration. The focus of the second workshop was on how to create killing openings. Through these workshops, we learned some important techniques to hone our craft. We learned to go for experience instead of information and that the most important things to write about are the hardest things to write about. The Deadline for the WyoPoets Chapbook Publishing Project is coming up. Submissions are due by October 15, 2017. Remember only members of WyoPoets are eligible to submit works for publication. The theme this year is: Hunger and Yearning. Contestants are allowed to enter three poems. All rights will be returned to the author upon publication. There is no fee and one complimentary chapbook will be given to each poet whose work has been selected. See wyopoets.org for more information. ~ *Angel Mizner, Reporter*

NFSPS 2018 CONVENTION IN DENVER, CO

Come join the Columbine Poets of Colorado for the 2018 NFSPS convention in the Mile High City, May 31st to June 3rd, 2018.

Greater Denver (nearly 3 million people) stretches along the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. Though the region is front row to a mecca for adventure sports enthusiasts, Denver itself boasts metropolitan variety and Western charm—2 things in short supply elsewhere in Colorado. City parks and botanical gardens, art museums and the hipster-filled downtown district barely scratch the surface for those itching to further explore the city's cultural attractions. See columbinepoetsofcolorado.com for more info, or email nfspd2018@columbinepoetsofcolorado.com

CONTESTS

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS 2017 ANNUAL CONTESTS. Deadline: August 15, 2017 (Postmark). The brochure listing all contests, procedures and rules can be obtained

from poetrysocietyoftexas.org or by mailing a SASE to PST Annual Contests Chairman Nancy Baass, 408 E. Warren Ave., Victoria, TX 77901-4847.

ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY 2017 FALL CONTEST.

Deadline: August 18, 2017 (Postmark). The guidelines are available at alpoets.org/pages/contests.html.

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF

ARKANSAS will have 30 poetry contests including the Sybil Nash Abrams Contest which holds a \$1,000 first place prize. It is for Arkansas poets and its topic each year revolves around Arkansas, in addition, it must be historically accurate.

NFSPS SPEAKER DATABASE

During the strategic planning meeting which followed the 2016 NFSPS Convention, it was concluded that NFSPS can and should find ways to add value to services offered to state societies as well as members. One such service will be the development and promotion of a Speakers Database that can be utilized by states, chapters, or even individual members when developing programming to fit their needs.

The database will list individuals who are willing to give workshops and/or presentations and include details of their offerings. The database will be made available through the NFSPS website as well as via email distribution when requested.

Members who have presentations and want to be listed in the database may contact Steven Concert, NFSPS Chancellor, via email or snail mail (see page 2 of *Strophes* for contact details). He will provide an information form to be completed and returned.