



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

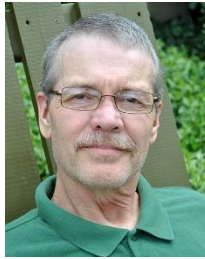
An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing
and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

Vol. LIV No. 4

www.nfspd.com

April 2018



James (Jim) Barton
32nd NFSPS
President

[Editor's note: Because of health challenges, President Barton was not able to prepare a message for this issue. Dennis Patton, President of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, informed me that Jim underwent successful surgery. I join with Dennis in his request, "For those you know who pray, please ask on his behalf." Immediately below is a brief message on Jim's behalf by Julie Cummings, NFSPS 1st VP, followed by her own message to NFSPS members.]

Dear NFSPS Poets: Thank you for answering the call!

The heart and soul of any organization, especially one such as NFSPS, is the willingness and availability of volunteers. Our local groups and branches, our State Societies, and our National Federation depend on them to survive and thrive. Over the years, we have been fortunate to have an abundance of willing workers to keep things moving along. The same still holds true. In the last issue I mentioned two very pressing needs: a host for the 2019 National Convention and a new Chairperson for the Stevens Manuscript Competition beginning with the 2018-2019 time period. Both slots have been filled and will be announced at convention! We are looking forward to wonderful time at the annual NFSPS convention in Denver this summer and look forward to a great gathering of poets. See you in the hills!

May you all receive the blessings of the season and pass them on, one smile, one hug, one poem at a time. Live. Love. Write (and read) Poetry.
James (Jim) Barton ~ 32nd NFSPS President

Greetings Poets!

Columbine Poets of Colorado are excited about, and busy with the final details of the 2018 "Mountain High Poetry" Convention to be held at the Denver Renaissance Hotel in Stapleton. If you are flying to Denver International Airport, upon exiting the plane you need to board the free tram to the Jeppesen Terminal to claim your baggage and seek ground transportation. You can ride the University of Colorado A Line commuter train to the Central Park Station. Train tickets are \$9 each way, \$4.50 for seniors 65 and over. Trains depart to and from the airport every 15 minutes throughout the day. Early morning and late evening trips depart every 30 minutes. The commuter rail trains are specially designed to accommodate travelers with luggage, but train operators cannot assist with the luggage so be sure you can lift your own. To get to Denver Airport Station, follow signs to the Transit Center and proceed to the south exit on level 5 (look for the large American flag), exit the terminal through the sliding glass doors and take the escalator located in the center of the plaza down to level 1. Purchase your ticket at the computer kiosk and board the next train. Once you get to Central Park Station (the 4th stop), call the hotel shuttle to come get you. Or, you can take a Super Shuttle or other ground transportation. If you rent a car or drive to Denver, the hotel has free parking.

Denver weather has the potential to be volatile during the time of the convention. Be prepared for sun, rain, hail, and wind. If you plan on the Wednesday night and Thursday Excursions, bring a light jacket just in case.

Because we are a mile high in elevation, drink plenty of water before and during your entire stay to minimize altitude sickness and dehydration. The only liquid that counts as water is water. Dehydration and altitude sickness can ruin a vacation! If you plan on continuing a fitness regimen while here, remember there is less oxygen, so you might want to slow it down a bit. We want you to enjoy all that Colorado has to offer and feel great during your entire stay.

Thanks so much for planning to attend the NFSPS 2018 "Mountain High Poetry" Convention. We are delighted as much as we are excited to spend time with you in our beautiful mile high city of Denver!

~ Julie Cummings, Columbine Poets of Colorado

NFSPS 2018 CONVENTION MOUNTAIN HIGH POETRY!

MAY 31, JUNE 1-3 ~ DENVER, COLORADO

Columbine Poets of Colorado invites you to Denver, Colorado—The Mile High City—as we celebrate Mountain High Poetry! Our convention headquarters is the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, located just off I-70 between the Denver International Airport and Downtown. The schedule below lists our line-up of excursions, programs, and activities. In this *Strophes* you will also find speaker bios and our registration form, which includes hotel information, menus for our convention meals, and details for our excursions. You won't want to miss a thing!

Register for the convention using our secure site:
<https://columbinepoetsofcolorado.com/registration-nfspd-2018>

To make a hotel reservation, call 1-303-399-7500 and be sure to mention you are with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies to get the convention room rate of \$119 plus tax (discounted rate only available through May 10th). Online hotel registration is also available at:
<https://goo.gl/DsS1Kx>

The hotel does not have a shuttle from the airport, but they do have a shuttle from the "Central Park" light rail station. Details on how to ride the light rail from the airport or the train station will be in your confirmation email. Of course, you can always take a taxi, an Uber or a Lyft.

If you plan on selling your books in the bookroom, email nfspd2018@columbinepoetsofcolorado.com for details.

NFSPS 2018 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, May 30 (Early Arrival)

6:00 – 10:00 pm Excursion to Downtown Denver (fee includes transportation and food)

THURSDAY, May 31

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration

9:30 am – 1:00 pm Excursion to Evergreen, Colorado
- Hiwan Homestead

Lunch (On Your Own)

1:30 – 5:00 pm Excursion (continued) - Art Museum

3:30 – 5:30 pm NFSPS Board Meeting

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner

7:15 – 8:00 pm River City Nomads

8:00 – 9:00 pm Art Compost and The Word Mechanics

9:00 – 10:00 pm Open Mic

FRIDAY, June 1

7:30 – 8:30 am Open Mic

8:00 – 5:00 pm Registration

8:00 – 9:00 am State Presidents Meeting

9:15 – 10:15 am Carolyn Campbell, Workshop

10:30 – 11:30 am SETH, Performance Workshop

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch

(Convention schedule continued on page 3)

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder
Honorary Chancellor: Jo McDougall

EXECUTIVE BOARD ~ 2016-2018

Elected, NFSPS Convention ~ Chaska, MN, June 2016

PRESIDENT: James Barton

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Presidential Advisors Chair

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Tuscaloosa, AL 35404 ~ President@alpoets.org

ARIZONA: Arizona State Poetry Society

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Phoenix, AZ 85020 ~ AZPoetryorg@gmail.com

ARKANSAS: Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

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Alexander, AR 72002 ~ patton_dr@hotmail.com

CALIFORNIA: California State Poetry Society

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COLORADO: Columbine Poets of Colorado

Julie Cummings, President ~ 9428 Fallen Rock Rd.,

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CONNECTICUT: Connecticut Poetry Society

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FLORIDA: Florida State Poets Association

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GEORGIA: Georgia Poetry Society

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ILLINOIS: Illinois State Poetry Society

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LOUISIANA: Louisiana State Poetry Society

Kathleen Simon, President

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MICHIGAN: Poetry Society of Michigan

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MINNESOTA: League of Minnesota Poets

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MISSISSIPPI: Mississippi Poetry Society

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MISSOURI: Missouri State Poetry Society

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NEVADA: Nevada Poetry Society

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Belen, NM 87002~ president@nmpoetry.com

NEW YORK: New York Poetry Forum

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OHIO: Ohio Poetry Association

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Winchester, OH 43110 ~ charles@ohiopoetryassn.org

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Lisa E. Baldwin, President ~ 5007 Laurel Ave.,

Grants Pass, OR 97527 ~ leb.97527@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Poetry Society

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Fairfield, PA 17320 ~ sandralpolvinale@hotmail.com

SOUTH DAKOTA: South Dakota State Poetry Society

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Leslie Blakeburn, President ~ 1608 Tutwiler Ave.,

Memphis, TN 38107 ~ leslielakeburn@yahoo.com

TEXAS: Poetry Society of Texas

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UTAH: Utah State Poetry Society

O. William (Bill) Asplund, President ~ 2262 East 1200

North, Layton, UT 84040 ~ wasplund@comcast.net

WYOMING: WyoPoets

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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 email, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

Paul Ford, *Strophes* Editor

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pmford3@gmail.com

* Submission Deadlines

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 \$4.00 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.

NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS (Presidential Advisors)

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Nancy Baass

Russell H. Strauss

Jeremy M. Downes

Eleanor Berry

* Deceased

NFSPS 2018 CONVENTION SCHEDULE (continued)

FRIDAY, June 1

- 1:30 – 2:30 pm Manningham Winners, Presentation of Special Award, and NFSPS Contests Results
- 3:00 – 4:30 pm David Rothman, “Belle Turnbull”
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm Plenary Session
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm CUP Winners and NFSPS Contests Results
- 9:00 – 10:00 pm Open Mic

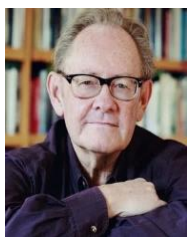
SATURDAY, June 2

- 7:30 – 8:30 am Open Mic
- 9:00 – 10:15 am Aaron Abeyta, Writing Workshop
- 10:30 – 11:45 am Eleanor Swanson, “The Persona Poem”
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:30 pm NFSPS Contests Results
- 3:00 – 4:15 pm Panel Reading: Pattiann Rogers, Aaron Abeyta, David Rothman
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm Veronica Patterson, “The Prose Poem”
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:15 – 8:00 pm Stevens Book Manuscript Award Winner
- 8:00 – 9:00 pm NFSPS Contest Results
- 9:00 – 10:00 pm Convention Contest and BlackBerry Peach Awards
- 10:00 pm Open Mic

SUNDAY, June 3

- 7:30 – 8:30 am Open Mic
- 8:30 – 10:00 am NFSPS Board Meeting
- 9:00 – 10:45 am Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, “Gold Panning”
- 10:45 – 11:45 am Panel on Youth Programs: Anita Jepson Gilbert, Catherine O’Neill Thorn
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:30 pm NFSPS Contest Results
- 3:00 – 4:00 pm Joseph Hutchison, “The Transformational Arc”
- 4:00 – 4:30 pm Book Signings for All Authors
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm Reception
- 6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:15 – 8:30 pm Colorado Poet Laureate Joseph Hutchison
- 8:30 – 9:00 pm NFSPS Contest Results
- 9:00 – 10:00 pm Open Mic

CONVENTION SPEAKERS



Joseph Hutchison, Poet Laureate of Colorado (2014-2018), is the award-winning author of 16 poetry collections, including *The World As Is: New & Selected Poems, 1972-2015*,

Marked Men, The Satire Lounge, Thread of the Real, and Bed of Coals. He has also published a translation of *Ephemeral*, by Mexican fabulist Miguel Lupián, and co-edited two poetry anthologies: FutureCycle Press’ anthology *Malala: Poems for Malala Yousafzai* (all profits to the Malala Foundation) with Andrea Watson, and with Gary Schroeder, *A Song for Occupations: Poems about the American Way of Work*. At the University of Denver’s University College, he directs two programs for working adults: Professional Creative Writing, and Arts & Culture. Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, Hutchison lives in the mountains southwest of the city with his wife, Iyengar yoga instructor Melody Madonna.

River City Nomads blend pathos and humor with theatrical flourishes and fine storytelling. This poetry troupe presents performances that are powerful, poignant, and sometimes hilarious. Together since 2004, the Salida, Colorado-based River City Nomads have performed at poetry festivals, art galleries, cafes, colleges and universities, independent book stores, and numerous other venues throughout Colorado. The group’s trademark is its ability to weave the distinctive voices of its individual members—all accomplished poets in their own right—into a colorful tapestry of poetic takes on topics ranging from the awe-inspiring beauty of Colorado’s wilderness and the universal longing for connection to the absurdities of blind dates and close encounters of the strange and memorable kind on cross-country road trips. Each of the River City Nomads writes from a strong sense of place, generating finely nuanced and richly imagined characters and landscapes that fit together, like pieces in a poetic jigsaw puzzle, to create performances that are truly unforgettable.

Art Compost and the Word Mechanics has been delighting poetry audiences for more than 15 years. This musical-poetic ensemble, led by performance poet SETH, hosts a “Jam before the Slam” every Sunday evening at the Mercury Café in Denver, CO. Poets, singers and musicians from the audience are invited to join in an improvisational jam of music, poetry and spoken word. Their CD, “Love, Death & Poetry” won a *Best of Denver* in 2005 for Best Spoken Word CD. A revolving roster of musicians, singers and poets, Art Compost & the Word Mechanics also travels the state, performing at poetry festivals and wherever else lovers of poetry gather. Sample their recordings at wagingart.com.



Carolyn Evans Campbell, a native Coloradoan raised in Denver, is a graduate of East High School and the University of Colorado. She and her husband, a Foreign Service Officer in the Diplomatic Corps, lived in South America for ten years where she raised two sons and taught English and history. Carolyn has had a long teaching and writing career, both in California, where she was a California Poet in the Schools, and in Evergreen and metro Denver where she became a published author and prize-winning poet. She has published six books of poetry, one a Colorado Book Award Winner. She has been awarded seven Top Hand Awards in poetry from the Colorado Author’s League. Her historical novel, *Fireweed, A Woman’s Saga in Gold Rush America*, won first place with the Hackney Literary Award, and was a finalist for the Willa Literary Award, The Colorado Book Award, and the Heekin Literary Award. “The Ballad of Hallelujah House,” a play with music, both written by Carolyn and produced by the Evergreen Players, received a First place with the Colorado Authors League. Carolyn was awarded Artist of the Year by Evergreen’s Center for the Arts in 2016 and a First Place for a memoir written in 2016. She presently teaches memoir and poetry in Evergreen and edits publications of students’ writings. Carolyn’s passion is sharing the creative journey with other writers.



Poet, actor and percussionist **SETH** celebrates his 30th year as a performance poet. One score and ten years ago, SETH joined forces with two other poet/musician/actors, Woody Hildebrant and Tupper Cullum, to form Open Rangers, a Poetry Theater troupe that incorporated other poets, musicians, actors and dancers into their multi-textured performances. A recipient of numerous awards for his innovations in performance poetry, SETH went on to join Jafrika, a critically acclaimed performance art trio lauded as “one of Colorado’s finest cultural offerings.” His poetry has been described as “original, moving, insightful,” his stage presence “harboring power and intelligence.” One of Colorado’s best-known performance poets, SETH currently performs weekly at Denver’s Mercury Café with his musical-poetic ensemble, Art Compost & the Word Mechanics. SETH teaches poetry and creative writing to

Denver youth and instructs fellow poets in the art of reading and performing poetry to diverse audiences.

David J. Rothman serves as Director of Western Colorado University's Graduate Program in Creative Writing, where he also directs the poetry concentration and the annual conference, Writing the Rockies,

along with editing Western's national journal of poetry and criticism, *THINK*. His most recent book is *Belle Turnbull: On the Life & Work of an American Master* (Pleiades, 2017), co-edited with Jeffrey Villines. His most recent volumes of poetry, both from 2013, are *The Book of Catapults* (White Violet Press) and *Part of the Darkness* (Entasis Press). A book of essays about mountains and mountain towns, *Living the Life* (Conundrum Press), also appeared in 2013. His poems, essays and scholarly work have appeared widely, in journals including *Academic Questions*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Hudson Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Poetry*, *Threepenny Review* and many more. He co-founded and served as first Executive Director of the Crested Butte Music Festival, was the founding Publisher and Editor of Conundrum Press (now an imprint of Bower House Books), and currently serves as Resident Poet for Colorado Public Radio and Poet Laureate of Colorado's Western Slope (2017-2019). He has been a Finalist both for the Colorado Book Award in Poetry and for Colorado Poet Laureate. He recently completed a four-year term as Southwest Council Representative on the board of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) and has served on panels with the NEH, the President's Council for the Arts and Humanities, and state arts councils of Colorado and of Maryland. He lives in Crested Butte, Colorado.

Aaron A. Abeyta is a Colorado native, a professor of English and the Mayor of Antonito, Colorado, his hometown. He is the author of four collections of poetry and one novel. For his book, *colcha*, Abeyta received an American Book Award and the Colorado Book Award. In addition, his novel, *Rise, Do Not be Afraid*, was a finalist for the 2007 Colorado Book Award and El Premio Aztlan. Abeyta was awarded a Colorado Council on the Arts Fellowship for



poetry, and he is the former Poet Laureate of Colorado's Western Slope, as named by the Karen Chamberlain Poetry Festival. Abeyta is also a recipient of a Governor's Creative Leadership Award for 2017. Aaron has poems in over 100 publications including *An Introduction to Poetry*, 10th ed., *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, & Drama*, 8th ed., *Conversations in American Literature: Language, Rhetoric, & Culture*, *The Leopold Outlook*, *Colorado Central Magazine*, *The High Country News*, and numerous other journals.

Eleanor Swanson is a widely published poet and fiction writer. She is a featured poet in the Fall 2017 issue of *The Missouri Review*. Awards include an NEA Fellowship and a Colorado Council on the Arts Fellowship. Her first poetry collection, *A Thousand Bonds: Marie Curie and the Discovery of Radium*, winner of the NFSPS poetry manuscript competition, was also a finalist for the Colorado Book Award. Her second collection of poetry, *Trembling in the Bones*—about the Colorado Coal strike of 1913 and the 1914 Ludlow Massacre—was reissued in 2013 (3: A Taos Press). Her third poetry collection is *Memory's Rooms* (Conundrum Press). She is also a fiction writer who has published a novel and two collections of short stories. Her second story collection, *Exiles and Expatriates*, won the 2014 Press Americana Prize. She regularly reads from her work in the Denver Metro area and she is a Core Faculty member in the Regis University Mile High MFA Program, where, during the residency period, she teaches fiction and poetry workshops and craft seminars.

Pattiann Rogers was born, raised and educated from elementary school through high school in Joplin, Missouri. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Missouri, Columbia, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and a minor in Zoology. She holds a Master's Degree in Creative Writing from the University of Houston. Pattiann has published thirteen books of poetry, most recently, *Quickening Fields* (Penguin, 2017) and *Holy Heathen Rhapsody* (Penguin, 2013). She has published two books of prose, *The Dream of the Marsh Wren* (Milkweed Editions, 1999), and *The Grand Array*, *Writings on Nature, Science, and*



Spirit (Trinity University Press, 2010), as well as the poetry-painting collaboration, *A Covenant of Seasons* (Hudson Hills Press, 1998), with the landscape painter Joellyn Duesberry. *Firekeeper, New and Selected Poems* (Milkweed Editions, 1994) was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Award from the Academy of American Poets and a Publishers Weekly Best Book of 1994. *Song of the World Becoming, New and Collected Poems, 1981-2001* (Milkweed Editions, 2001) was a finalist for the Los Angeles Book Award. Pattiann is the recipient of two NEA Grants, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Literary Award in Poetry from the Lannan Foundation. Among other awards, her poems have received five Pushcart Prizes, two appearances in *Best American Poetry*, five appearances in *Best Spiritual Writing*, the Tietjens Prize and the Hokin Prize from *Poetry*, the Roethke Prize from *Poetry Northwest*, and two Strousse Awards from *Prairie Schooner*. She has taught as a visiting writer at several universities, including Montana, Texas, Washington University, and Pacific University, and was Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas from 1993-1997. In May 2000, Pattiann was in residence at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy. Her papers are archived in the Sowell Family Collection at Texas Tech University. Pattiann is the mother of two sons and has three grandsons. She lives with her husband, a retired geophysicist, in Colorado.

Veronica Patterson is a graduate of Cornell University, the University of Michigan, the University of Northern Colorado, and the Warren Wilson College MFA program. Her poetry collections are *How to Make a Terrarium* (Cleveland State University, 1987); *Swan, What Shores?* (NYU Press Poetry Prize, 2000), which was a finalist for the Academy of American Poets' 2000 James Laughlin Award and won awards from both the Colorado Center for the Book (Colorado Book Award for Poetry) and Women Writing the West (Willa Award); *Thresh & Hold*, which won the Gell Poetry Prize (Big Pencil Press, 2009) and was a finalist for the 2010 Colorado Book Award for Poetry; & *it had rained* (CW Books, 2013); and *Sudden White Fan* (Cherry Grove Collections, 2018). She has also published two chapbook of prose poems, *This Is the Strange Part* (Pudding House Publications, 2002) and *Maneuvers: Battle of the Little Bighorn Poems*



(Finishing Line Press, 2013), also a collection of poetry and photography, *The Bones Remember: A Dialogue*, with photographer Ronda Stone. Her poems have appeared in numerous publications including *The Southern Poetry Review*, *The Louisville Review*, *The Sun*, *The Madison Review*, *The Malahat Review*, *The Indiana Review*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *The Mid-American Review*, *The Willow Review*, *The Montserrat Review*, *The Bloomsbury Review*, *Willow Springs*, *The Colorado Review*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, *Many Mountains Moving*, *Coal City Review*, *Dogwood*, *New Letters*, *The Bellingham Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Runes*, *Pilgrimage*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Lumina*, *Rosebud*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *Snake Nation Review*. Her poems "Around the Block of the World" and "The Samovar" co-won the 2006 Campbell Corner Poetry Prize. Veronica has been awarded artists' residencies at the Ucross Foundation, Rocky Mountain National Park, Hedgebrook, the Ragdale Foundation, and the Gell Center. She received two Individual Artist's Fellowships from the Colorado Council on the Arts. She has received several nominations for a Pushcart Prize. Her essays have appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *PieceWork Magazine*, and *Pilgrimage*. Her essay "Comfort Me with Apples" was selected as a Notable Essay of the Year.

Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer has 11



collections of poetry, most recently *Naked for Tea* (Able Muse Press, 2018). She served as the third Colorado Western Slope Poet Laureate (2015-2017) and is

poetry editor for the gourmet magazine *Edible Southwest*. She teaches poetry for 12-step recovery programs, hospice, mindfulness retreats, women's retreats and more, and in 2016 she did a TEDx talk on "The Art of Metaphor." Her one-word mantra: Adjust. See: wordwoman.com.

Anita Jepson-Gilbert is recently retired



from the Community College of Denver. She's been a member of Columbine Poets of Colorado since 1985 and a member of the Denver Woman's Press Club since 1990.

She is the author of the children's book, *Maria and the Stars of Nazca / Maria y las Estrellas de Nazca*, a bilingual illustrated book about the mysterious Lines of Nazca

and the woman who discovered them for the world. Her chapbook, *Everywoman*, is published by Pudding House Press, and her poems have appeared in numerous journals.

NFSPS 2018 CONVENTION CONTEST: "Out of Thin Air"

Contest Guidelines

Eligibility: Open to all NFSPS members who write in English (no translations, please). Entry Fee: \$10 for 1-3 poems. Line limit: 30 lines. Subject / Form: No required subject or theme or form. Deadline: *Postmarked* or submitted electronically by April 2, 2018.

Winners: Poets must be present at the convention to win. Prizes: 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25

Format: 12-point type. No identifying personal or contact information should appear on any pages. Include a cover letter that states name, address, email address, and phone number. Then list the poem titles. Enter no more than 3 poems.

Poems must be unpublished. No simultaneous submissions are allowed, and that includes submissions to the 2018 NFSPS Contest.

2 ways to submit:

- 1) Mail hard copy by April 2, 2018, using the United States Postal Service to: Convention Contest c/o Julie Cummings 9428 Fallen Rock Road Conifer, CO 80433
- 2) Send email by April 2, 2018, to nfspd2018@columbinepoetsofcolorado.com and mail a check to the above address postmarked on or before May 10th.

2018 COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE POETRY PRIZES

NFSPS is happy to announce the winners of the 2018 College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP) competition, which awards two cash prizes and publication.

Winner of the 2018 NFSPS Edna Meudt Memorial Award is Iryna Klishch, a senior at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, for her manuscript titled *A Monster the Size of the Sun*. Iryna's hometown is Glenview, IL.



Winner of the 2018 NFSPS Florence Kahn Memorial Award is Catherine Valdez, a junior at Columbia University in New York, NY, for her manuscript titled *Imperial Debris in Quisqueya and Beyond*. Her hometown is Miami, FL.



The Federation also congratulates the other finalists in the competition:

1st Honorable Mention - Kara Applegate, Gordon College, Wenham, MA, for *On Certain Mornings*

2nd Honorable Mention - Juliana Chang, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, for *Inheritance*

3rd Honorable Mention - Hannah Isaac, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, for *Puppet Show*

4th Honorable Mention - Heather Bellinger, Corban University, Salem, OR, for *Cut Gravity's Cord*

5th Honorable Mention - Christie Clause, Gordon College, Wenham, MA, for *Things to Remember*

The judge for this year's contest was Dr. Benjamin Myers. He was the 2015-2016 Poet Laureate of Oklahoma and currently teaches at Oklahoma Baptist University as the Crouch-Mathis Professor of Literature.

CUP winners are invited to read and to sell their books at the NFSPS Annual Convention. At this time, neither winner is sure she can attend the upcoming convention. Although their chapbooks will soon be available through Amazon.com, we hope to see both of these young women in Denver and receive our copies from the hands of the authors themselves.

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS will host this year's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration in April on the Central Arkansas Library campus. Featured speaker will be Jo McDougall, author, teacher, poet, Pushcart nominee and winner of numerous prestigious awards, including induction in the Arkansas Writers' Hall of Fame, and Honorary Chancellor for NFSPS (2017-2018). At the Spring Celebration she will also share critiques of poems that members submit. Poetry Day 2018 will be hosted by PRA on October 13th at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock. Arkansas Poet Laureate Peggy Sue Caudle Vining passed away on November 26, 2017. She was appointed in 2003 by Governor Mike Huckabee and was only the 6th to hold this position since it was established by legislative resolution in 1923. Governor Asa Hutchinson said, "With the passing of Mrs. Vining, Arkansas has lost a wonderful poetic ambassador . . . Arkansas is richer for the life of Poet Laureate Peggy Vining and for the verse she left behind. Two lines in her poem, 'Arkansas the Natural State,' capture my feelings about Arkansas: 'O Arkansas, which season is your best? Each one seems far more lovely than the rest.'" Karen Hayes (River Market) was featured in an article in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* in November. She was lauded for her volunteer work using poetry with the

Alzheimer's Association, plus her many other poetic outreach activities in the North Little Rock area. We applaud all of Karen's creative outreach to promote poetry in Arkansas ~ *Laura Loughridge, Secretary*

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION continues to grow. Our new chapters in Brevard and Osceola Counties are up and running while new ones are likely in the Panhandle and perhaps in North Central Florida. We have started accepting PayPal and have inaugurated a speakers bureau. Five poets have signed up to be considered for invitations from chapters around the state to present workshops. It will be further promoted at our Spring Fling, on April 20-21, where we will explore "The Nature of Poetry" hosted by our new Brevard Chapter. State Chancellor Lola Haskins will take us to Erna Nixon Park in Melbourne for a picnic, nature walks and poetry. We will also repeat our popular in-house Poetry Slam. Joe Cavanaugh, NFSPS VP and former FSPA President, will help us explore American Transcendentalism. It is an exciting time of growth and celebration of poetry in Florida. ~ *Alice R. Friedman, Secretary*

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY met in January 2018 at Perimeter College of Georgia State University on the Clarkston Campus near Atlanta. Names of the new officers and board members who were installed at the meeting may be found at georgiapoetrysociety.org. The 2017 Dickson Chapbook contest winner, Ron Self, read from his book, *Art of War*. First, second, and third place winners of GPS's seven fall contests read their poems. Results of these contests may also be found at the Georgia Poetry Society web site. The fall contests are open to all poets. Marissa McNamara, of Perimeter College and a Contributing Editor for *The Chattahoochee Review*, spoke on writing Poetic Memoir. Lee Furey, a literary historian and poet, spoke on "Turning the Garment Seams Out: Dramatic Personae in Poetry." ~ *Ann Kuykendall Gillespie, Reporter*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY's coming year includes several special events starting in April with National Poetry Month. Members' poems on the topic of gardens will be displayed in libraries across Illinois. Readings will include a collaboration with poets and artists at the Lemont Art Center on April 6 and members' poetry at the North Branch Evanston Library on April 16. ISPS will again be part of the Poetry Fest in Chicago at the Harold Washington Library on April 29. There are also plans for a fourth volume of our

anthology, *Distilled Lives*, with submissions accepted during April. A book launch is in the planning stages. Monthly coffeehouse readings continue to be held on the fourth Sunday at Brewed Awakening in Westmont. Our website now has a haiga submission section, and latest information plus membership guidelines can be found at illinoispoets.org. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA's Board has chosen two projects to be addressed locally and state-wide: 1) How Best Do We Drum Up Memberships? and 2) What Are Ways We Can Get More Youth Involved in Our Programs and Societies? All of us are charged with defining who we are, revisiting PSI's mission, and examining what it is we seek from our membership with PSI and within our local groups. Then, we will have a stronger platform to 'sell' what we have to offer to others and create opportunities for prospective members to participate. The second project has started with the development of a 'Youth PSI' website and the creation of a scholarship source for young poets to be assisted with registration fees and other expenses for our state-wide gatherings. A dynamite go-getter, Linda Eaton, is at the helm of the State Manningham Contest. She is working diligently to get us into high schools and to connect with home-schooled students. The student winners will be our keynote speakers at the Annual Spring Fling. As a small token to our Word Artist friends, the Board has compiled writing prompts that will be featured each day in the poetry month of April on our website. Come play with us! ~ *Deborah Petersen, President*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY's next general meeting will be Saturday, April 28, at the First Universalist Church, 169 Pleasant St. in Auburn. Due to the limited number of attendees at our last several meetings, we ask that people bring a bag lunch. Coffee, tea, bottled water and cookies will be provided. A \$10 registration fee will help defray the cost of renting the facility. Previous spring meetings have happened in May, and we hope the April date may work better for our members. Our members-only contest for our general meeting was judged by Lee Sharkey, author of *Walking Backwards* (Tupelo, 2016), *Calendars of Fire* (Tupelo, 2013), *A Darker, Sweeter String* (Off the Grid, 2008), and eight earlier full-length poetry collections and chapbooks. Her poetry has appeared in *Kenyon* and several other prestigious journals. She has been awarded the Ballymaloe International Poetry Prize, the Abraham Sutzkever Centennial Translation Prize, the *RHINO* Editors' Prize, and the

Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance's Distinguished Achievement Award. For more information and to learn about the society, please visit mainepoetsociety.com or contact MPS President Jenny Doughty at jmdought@maine.rr.com or 207-699-9243. MPS also has a Facebook page. ~ *Sally Joy, Reporter*

UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY's two southern chapters hosted successful writing workshops the first weekend in March: Dixie Poets hosted the annual Poetry in the Park (in Zion National Park) on Friday, March 2nd, while Redrock Writers hosted their annual creative writing workshop on Saturday, March 3rd. UTSPS is now preparing for our annual April Awards Festival to be held in Provo on April 20-21. Guest speakers will be Natasha Sajé, English professor at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, and Lance Larsen, English professor and associate chair of the English Department at Brigham Young University in Provo. See utahpoets.com for more details on the Festival and registration form. The Festival will conclude with announcement of the 1st place manuscript (to be published as our Book of the Year). ~ *Paul Ford, President Elect*

NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY is now into our "Poets in the Classroom" program, sending members as volunteer teachers to three elementary schools in the Albuquerque Public Schools system along with publishing a collection of poetry created at one of these schools. The plan is to choose one school each year for publishing their students' works. Bonnie Rucobo, our new chair of this program, has recruited more volunteers. We are excited to be invited to a middle school for the first time, and Secretary Dino Leyba is coordinating a program for over 90 students from the 7th grade. The second annual "Poetry Picnic" will be held at the Open Space Visitor Center. Our state convention will be held on April 28th, 2018. On a sad note, Elizabeth Anne Ross Lackmann, known to everyone as Betsy, passed away September 13, 2017, at the age of 97. Betsy was a founding member of NMSPPS and an honorary lifetime member. We hope to see many of you at the 2018 National Convention in Denver! ~ *Bernadette Perez, President, and Iris Gersh, Vice President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA held its Annual Spring Awards Banquet on March 10th at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City. Winning poems were read, poets recognized, awards handed out while a delicious banquet capped this special day. The OKC City Council will present a

Proclamation to declare April as National Poetry Month in Oklahoma City (for the seventh year in a row!). As well, our Oklahoma State Legislators will present a Resolution stating April as National Poetry month for the State (again, for the seventh year in a row!). As noted previously, we in PSO do like to celebrate National Poetry month in Oklahoma! Members of PSO are looking ahead to an exciting summer. In July, PSO will host another workshop at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City; this will be a morning through afternoon workshop presented by PSO members and a guest speaker. We will also be presenting awards for the July contest winners at this workshop. PSO is looking forward to another exciting year—the best is yet to come! We welcome all to “Come and grow at PSO!” Check angelfire.com/poetry/psol/ and our Facebook page for current PSO information. ~ *Patti Koch, President*

PENNSYLVANIA POETRY SOCIETY is alive and well. Mid-January saw the close of submissions to our annual competition, the 66th. We are all patiently waiting while the judges attend to the always difficult task of selecting the winners. A winners’ list will be posted to nfsp.com/pa/ when it becomes available. Our 2018 Spring Luncheon will be held on April 28th in the Philadelphia area and hosted by our Cadence Crafters Chapter. The Spring Luncheon is our annual awards ceremony where poets will be able to recite their award-winning poems. In addition to the awards, our spring meeting will feature a workshop led by Dan Maguire. PPS has made a monetary donation to help support the 2018 Young Poets Competition of Delaware County (PA). This decades-old competition usually receives over three thousand entries. The PPS Executive Board voted to have Steven Concert finish the Treasurer’s term due to a resignation. He was serving a term as Vice-President which is now vacant. ~ *Steven Concert, Treasurer*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE is gearing up for our 66th Mid-South Poetry Festival for the weekend of October 5-6. We are presently working to obtain sponsorships. We will be sending out emails to the Chapter Presidents and a brochure containing details once the speaker is confirmed. On February 3, our annual critiquing meeting was held, in which a panel reviewed anonymous submissions. It’s a great way to see how different people can view the same poem. Each meeting includes a critique session led by Russell Strauss who presents a poem from a contest for our National

Contest Brochure to be critiqued. Please ‘like’ us on Facebook and visit our website: tupoetry.org. Another chapter has been formed in Knoxville led by Sharon Fox. Their meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of January through October (plus a holiday party) at Earth Fare Turkey Creek. Each meeting features an educational program plus reading of members’ work. Check out their Facebook Page. In January they discussed the Golden Shovel form and wrote poems in this form. The PST-Northeast chapter conducts a monthly meeting at the Sullivan County Public Library in Blountville, the second Saturday of each month. Please check out their Facebook Page and visit their website: pstne.weebly.com. ~ *JoAn Howerton, Vice President*

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 (exception: the event is not held in years that the NFSPS Convention is hosted by PST). The 2017-2018 Executive Board is comprised of President Budd Powell Mahan, Vice President Amanullah Khan, Corresponding Secretary Catherine L’Herisson, Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks, Treasurer Patrick Lee Marshall, and Directors Beth Turner Ayers, Susan Maxwell Campbell and Irene C. Robertson. ~ *Nancy Baass reporting*

WYOPOETS’ poetry workshop in Cheyenne will kick off Friday, April 27, with a poetry reading and the launch of the 2018 chapbook. On this Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm Art Eiser will lead the workshop at the Kiwanis Community House in Lions Park. The morning workshop will cover the art and craft of poetry. This will include crafting line and stanza breaks and how to end a poem. The afternoon session will cover inspiration in ekphrasis. According to the Poetry Foundation, an ekphrastic poem is a vivid description of a scene or work of art. After looking at several examples, the poets will pick a piece of art to inspire a draft poem for discussion. Art Eiser is a poet and writer who has been published in many journals and anthologies. His latest book, *As the Crow Flies*, is a collection of 120 haikus; he has published three other books. Art now lives in Denver and has served as

Treasurer for WyoPoets for several years. If you wish to register for the workshop, go to wyopoets.org. The Early bird rate is \$50 and is open until April 14th. After that the price goes up to \$55. There are youth scholarships available. ~ *Angel Mizner, Strophes Correspondent*

POETRY CONTESTS

2018 STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION

The NFSPS Stevens manuscript competition submission period begins on August 1st. Manuscripts must be submitted through the NFSPS Submittable page <https://nfsp.com/submittable.com/submit> or postmarked by September 15, 2018. For guidelines, see nfsp.com/stevens1.htm.

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS 2018 Annual Contests. Deadline: August 15, 2018 (postmark). The brochure listing all contests, procedures and rules can be obtained by visiting poetrysocietyoftexas.org or by mailing a SASE to PST Annual Contests Chairman Nancy Baass, 408 E. Warren Ave., Victoria, TX 77901-4847.

POETS & PATRONS POETRY, a poetry society based in Chicago, Illinois, currently has two contests: 1) Helen Schaub International Sonnet Contest, and 2) Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Both contests have a deadline of Sept. 1, 2018. For details, see the Sonnet Contest page at poetsandpatrons.net.

POETRY ARTICLE

Submitting Your Work

By Bruce Parker, Oregon Poets Association’s newsletter Co-editor

If you write poetry to put in a drawer and never show it to anyone, this article is not for you. But if you craft words, sound, rhythm, image, symbol, metaphor, into works of art you want to send into the world, to contribute a grain to the great, ever-growing heap of poetry in English, then how do you do that?

1) **Find a market**, that is, find a periodical, a literary journal or review, a magazine or online zine that seeks poetry to publish. These avenues typically acquire first North American serial rights, often without payment, for first publication; thereafter, copyright reverts to the poet, with the proviso that if the work is republished elsewhere, the first publisher be acknowledged.

There are several ways to find an outlet for your work. One is to look in *Poet’s Market*, which comes out annually, is widely available, and lists around a thousand outlets for book publishers, magazines, contests and *(continued on page 8)*

other venues. Arranged alphabetically by title, each entry provides contact information, where and how to submit your work, guidelines and criteria, the needs of the magazine, any contests or awards, and tips on submission.

Another means to search for a home for your poems is Duotrope.com, an enormous data base that now lists more than six thousand markets for poetry and all genres of prose. Each listing provides information on what kind of work the publication is looking for, how long it takes for them to get back to you, what percentage of submissions are accepted, whether there is a submission fee, and more. Each listing also has a link to the publication's website, where you can read their submission guidelines and hopefully some of the poetry they publish, as well as find out how to submit. Duotrope costs \$5 a month or \$50 a year, and is well worth it if you submit a lot, because you can keep track of all the poems you have submitted by title, where submitted, date of submission, in your own account. Duotrope asks that you update your submission entry when you have a result, acceptance (we always hope) or rejection, with the date of response, so they can update their data base. Personally, I have sent 221 poems out in the last 12 months, have 80 pending response, have sent 3 out this month, and have an acceptance ratio of 6.5%. I couldn't possibly keep track of all this without this sortable data base. In addition, Duotrope lists which publications respond the quickest or slowest, and which have the best and worst rate of acceptance. (I keep a log book, as well, because not all the publications I submit to are listed in Duotrope.) A Duotrope account will also get the Duotrope Weekly Wire in your inbox with their latest new listings of paying and non-paying markets, fee-based markets, markets which have become defunct, and those which are open/reopened to submissions, and themed deadlines.

Almost half the markets listed in Duotrope use Submittable as their submissions manager, and it is another good place to look for a home for your work. A Submittable account is free; it remembers your contact and payment information after you first use it. Many markets, but not all, charge a fee, to submit, usually two or three dollars, to pay their Submittable bill. Snail mail has largely gone away. Submittable also tracks your submissions, if they are through Submittable, and updates the status of each, "Accepted", "In-Progress", "Declined" and "Received." Submittable enables a publication to move its usually very large number of submissions through their review and decision process electronically. And at the top of the

Submittable window under "Discover" is a listing of markets seeking submissions (via Submittable), their deadlines, and links to their web sites. A Submittable account also gets the *Submishmash Weekly* newsletter which brings you still more opportunities to submit, and news of the "publishing and other creative industries."

Every editor wants you to read the publication before submitting to see what they accept, what their tastes and interests are; actually, they want you to buy an issue or subscribe. If you submit a lot, that can quickly come to a lot of money if the publication does not allow at least some access to what they have published in past issues. One way around that is a free subscription to *The Review Review*, a newsletter whose premise is "we read the reviews so you don't have to." This is a cornucopia of news, advice, markets, interviews with editors, deadlines and more.

There is also a Yahoo group called Creative Writers Opportunities List, which is just that, a listing of opportunities for writers of all sorts to submit work.

Finally, there is *Poets and Writers Magazine*, which always has lists of calls for submission and deadlines in the back of each issue.

2) Prepare your manuscript. First and foremost, follow the submission guidelines to the last jot and tittle. No colored ink or paper, no funny fonts; don't send more poems than required, longer poems than allowed, genres or subjects for which there is no call. Guidelines vary from publication to publication, so read them carefully. Guidelines can be vague or leave out important details. When in doubt, use 12-point Times New Roman and you'll be right.

Most Submittable users want all your poems in one document. Unless it's for a contest, put your contact information on each poem, preferably at the top right- or left-hand corner. The most acceptable formats for Submittable are .doc, .docx, and .pdf. Some markets have their own submission manager system, and very small ones may ask that your submission be an attachment to an email. In any case, Apple Pages users will have to export their document to Word or .pdf and go from there. If a cover letter is required, or optional, it should reflect some familiarity with the market you are submitting to, and it should contain your contact information. If you append a bio, a maximum of five previous publications is about the most an editor wants to see. Most cover letters are not read until the submission has been examined. When submitting by mail, always enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope (the industry calls it an SASE) for a response. Weigh your submission and affix appropriate postage; for the cost-conscious, a second ounce stamp is cheaper than two first class stamps.

3) While you are waiting for a response, write another poem.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT NATIONAL FEDERATION BOOK PUBLICATIONS

If you have purchased any NFSPS prize-winning books since 2016 and like what you read, please support the author(s) and NFSPS by writing a brief review for the book on Amazon, barnesandnoble.com or other websites/publications accepting such reviews.

2018 NFSPS Convention ~ REGISTRATION FORM ~ May 31 to June 3, Denver, CO



Our convention headquarters will be the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel located at 3801 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80207. Reserve your room by May 10th, 2018, to receive the following discounted rates, tax not included: Single and Double rooms are \$119, Triple is \$139, Quad is \$139. Call the hotel at 1-303-399-7500 or go online to: <https://goo.gl/DsS1Kx>

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guests: _____

Registration Fee	_____	@ \$75.00 per person	= \$ _____
Single Day	_____	@ \$40.00 per person	= \$ _____
Guest	_____	@ \$20.00 per person	= \$ _____
Thursday Dinner	_____	@ \$36.00 per person	= \$ _____
Friday Lunch	_____	@ \$26.00 per person	= \$ _____
Friday Dinner	_____	@ \$36.00 per person	= \$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____	@ \$26.00 per person	= \$ _____
Saturday Dinner	_____	@ \$36.00 per person	= \$ _____
Sunday Lunch	_____	@ \$26.00 per person	= \$ _____
Sunday Dinner	_____	@ \$36.00 per person	= \$ _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____ Vegetarian _____ Gluten Free _____ Other*
 *If other, please explain: _____

Excursions & Extras:

Wednesday evening excursion for early arrivals	_____	@ \$30.00 per person	= \$ _____
Thursday excursion (Lunch on your own)	_____	@ \$15.00 per person	= \$ _____
T-shirt	S M L XL XXL	_____	@ \$20.00 per person = \$ _____
T-shirt (long sleeve)	S M L XL XXL	_____	@ \$25.00 per person = \$ _____
Hoodie (long sleeve)	S M L XL XXL	_____	@ \$35.00 per person = \$ _____
			TOTAL = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Columbine Poets of Colorado
 Send registration form and check by May 10th
 % Julie Cummings
 9428 Fallen Rock Road
 Conifer, CO. 80433

MENU

**Thursday
Dinner**
\$36

Traditional Potato Salad Cole Slaw
Smoked Brisket BBQ Chicken
Homestyle Mac N Cheese Ranch Style Beans
Buttered Corn with Red Pepper Confetti
Cornbread and Rolls with Butter
Cherry Strudel Cheesecake or Fruit Cup

Friday Lunch
\$26

Classic Caesar Salad
Entrée Choices: Penne Pomodoro-Tender Penne
Pasta tossed in Fresh Tomatoes, Toasted Garlic,
Asiago Cheese, Marinara Sauce, and Fresh Italian
Herbs or Falafel Platter
Bread Sticks Tiramisu or Fruit Cup

Friday Dinner
\$36

Spinach Salad with Bacon, Egg, Onion, Tomato
Entrée Choices: Blackened Turkey Medallions served
with Cajun Cream Sauce and Green Beans with
Brown Butter or Butternut Squash Ravioli
Rolls with Butter Carrot Cake or Fruit Cup.

**Saturday
Lunch**
\$26

Chef's Choice Soup
Salad Bar with fixings
Cookies and Brownies
Fruit Cup

**Saturday
Dinner**
\$36

Garden Salad with choice of Ranch or Balsamic
Dressing
Entrée Choices: 4 oz. Sirloin Marsala served with
Mashed Potatoes and Broccolini or Portobello
Tortellini
Rolls with Butter Chocolate Mousse Cake or Fruit Cup

Sunday Lunch
\$26

Deli Buffet- Freshly Sliced Roasted Turkey Breast, Deli
Ham, Roasted Beef and Salami Freshly Sliced Swiss,
Cheddar, Provolone and Pepper Jack Sliced
Tomatoes, Sweet Red Onion, Leaf Lettuce, Pickles,
and Condiments
Arugula and Kale Salad with Shaved Parmesan,
Grape Tomatoes, and Olive Oil Emulsion
Snickers Cheesecake bars
Fruit Cup

Sunday Dinner
\$36

Caesar Salad
Entrée Choices: Chicken Picatta served with Rice
Pilaf and Garlic Broccoli with Roasted Red Peppers-
Portobello Stack
Rolls with Butter
Boston Torte
Fruit Cup