



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

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

Strophes

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www.nfsps.com

August 2019



Julie Cummings
33rd NFSPS
President

Hello Poetry Family!

As I write this, the convention is over for another year. However, I am still celebrating our many members who won the contests, the CUP winners, the Stevens winner, the BlackBerry Peach winners, the members who work with youth, all the attendees and presenters, and our collective membership, who are also winners. I am reading and re-reading poetry books galore!

New Mexico presented our attending membership with an incredible line up of workshops that made the Diamond Jubilee an amazing event! Sixty years is quite an accomplishment! I am so proud to be the 33rd president of such an amazing organization devoted to poetry.

Our Poetry talent evolves and changes quicker than ever, and as such, we know that what got us here over the last 60 years will not get us where we, as talented professionals in our state organizations and at the national level, want to be in the years to come. That is why I've challenged the NFSPS board to look at ways to enhance and improve our current offerings, listen to what you want and how NFSPS stays relevant in this ever-changing landscape to create new opportunities for all of us to engage and grow.

At the State Presidents' meeting it was agreed that presidents will have an online forum for discussion of issues you bring to them. All reports are posted online and are available for State Presidents to download and share if desired. We heard from the represented states at the convention, and many of you are doing wonderful things. I hope you will continue to do what I am not good at—"toot your own horn!"

The Board voted to declare October 15, Poetry Day in the United States. It is hoped that this movement, spearheaded by Shirley Blackwell, will be adopted and celebrated nationally. Please see her report online. It is attached to the online version of Strophes.

It's a good idea to check nfsps.com occasionally. Billy Pennington, our webmaster, has proposed wonderful changes to the makeup to the site. He wants to include articles about poetry, writing, and instructions about form. My first contribution will be instructions on how to use technology, specifically how you can use your computer and enter the BlackBerryPeach Contest. Hopefully, you will be interested and want to enter! Please let us know what else you want to see on the website.

We've formed a Rules Committee for the 53 contests. Do you want to work with us to rein in the rules? If you do, please email me and let me know. The rules will not change this year, but we can see how they can be simpler for 2021. Are you confused about the number of contests? There are now 3 student contests: 3-5th grade, 6-8th grade, and 9-12th grade, as well as an additional 1 for adults. That's right, you can enter 50 contests now! We know the rules can get overwhelming, so we really want to analyze their worth.

Many of you used nfsps.submittable.com to enter the contests this year. I'm glad you endured the process and I hope you were happy with the savings in your bank account when you used it. It's a free account and you don't have to pay postage! I'm working with Submittable to streamline the process, but so far there isn't a different way. Let's hope by January that Submittable has implemented enhancements I've suggested to help streamline the process for you.

And finally, we have formed a Poetry Slam committee to investigate the possibility of Slam being potentially incorporated into our ranks. Poetry Slam International is no longer an organization, and we were presented with a proposal to pick up the poetry pieces. *[continued on page 8]*

POET BJ ALLIGOOD IS THE FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE 2019 BLACKBERRYPEACH PRIZE CONTEST

NFSPS is pleased to announce that the 1st place winner of the 2019 BlackBerryPeach Spoken and Heard competition is BJ Alligood of Port Orange, Florida. The BlackBerryPeach Contest is a major NFSPS competition that challenges poets to present their original poetry in print and spoken word.

Vice President Joe Cavanaugh, chair of the contest, stressed the importance of reaching out to all poets by recognizing spoken poetry in its many forms as a powerful poetic genre.

As 1st place winner, Alligood received the grand prize of \$1,000 and was invited to perform her work at the NFSPS national convention in Santa Fe, New Mexico. "NFSPS is excited and proud to showcase BJ and her signature poetry and voice," Cavanaugh says.

The 2nd place prize winner of \$500 is Ray Jimenez of Orlando, Florida. Third place winner of \$250 is Melissa Huff of Champaign, Illinois. The Honorable Mention Award winners are Jana Bouma, of Madison Lake, Minnesota, Paula J Lambert of Columbus, Ohio, and Radi Silver of East Orange, New Jersey. All prize winners were invited to perform as part of the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday afternoon at the convention.

A video of the convention performances will be posted on YouTube and NFSPS will publish the prizewinning entries including written and oral versions of four poems from each, in a 6" by 9" chapbook that was for sale at the Convention and will be marketed on Amazon.com.

KIDDING AROUND: IDEAS FOR POETRY WORKSHOPS WITH KIDS

By Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, NFSPS Youth Chair

To encourage our membership to host more programs with youth, I thought I'd begin a column on ways to engage youth with poetry. What's worked for you? Send me your ideas (wordwoman@rosemerry.com) and I will highlight member ideas in future columns. For the inaugural column, let's focus on an exercise inspired by a poem written by our NFSPS president, Julie Cummings. I've been using this outline for nearly 20 years, and kids love it. Good for grades 2-8, though I've had great success with adults writing these poems, too—fits into a 40-minute class period.

Becoming an Instrument

Begin by asking the kids if they ever feel unheard. Who doesn't hear them? Their parents? Their teachers? Their siblings? Their friends? The president? Have a brief talk about how poetry sometimes allows us to share the feelings and ideas that we want to express but we fear are going unheard. Have the kids write the initials of a person they wish would listen to them on the top of their page. Then read together the following poem: *(continued on page 8)*

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

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STROPHES

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* 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.

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES
2019 ANNUAL CONTEST WINNERS

1. NFSPS FOUNDERS AWARD

\$1,000, \$500, \$250 (337 entries)

Judge: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO

1st Wilda Morris, Boling Brook, IL, “On the Local Train from Orvieto to Florence, Italy”

2nd Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN, “Planning a Poetry Party with a Cheese Head of Billy Collins”

3rd Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, “When Spring Returns”

1st HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

2nd HM: Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX

3rd HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

4th HM: Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN

5th HM: Judyth Hill, Conifer, CO

6th HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

7th HM: Lucia Wainwright, Westcliffe, CO

Citations: Linda Haviland Conte, Somerville, MA; Christine Irving, Denton, TX; Kate Lacy, Fayetteville, AR; and Eleni Verven (3rd grader), Houston, TX

***2. THE DIAMOND T AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$500, \$300, \$200 (66 entries)

Judge: Nicholas Trandahl, Upton, NY

1st Patricia Thrushart, Clarington, PA, “The Churchgoer”

2nd Sheila Moore, San Antonio, TX, “Canary Island Caballero”

3rd Crystie Cook, Sandy, UT, “Against Time”

1st HM: Michael Escoubas, Bloomington, IL

2nd HM: Rose Klix, Johnson City, TN

3rd HM: Susan Daubenspeck, Corpus Christi, TX

4th HM: Doris Jones, Madison, MS

5th HM: Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL

6th HM: Nancy Christopherson, Baker City, OR

7th HM: Maxine Kohanski, Spring, TX

3. THE NFSPS BOARD AWARD

\$250, \$85, \$50 (140 entries)

Judge: Susan Glassmeyer, Cincinnati, OH

1st Paula J. Lambert, Dublin, OH, “Berkshire Mountains, September 2016”

2nd Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO, “Shadow Crossing”

3rd Dave Harvey, Talent, OR, “Dale Bassett 1922-77”

1st HM: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA

2nd HM: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

3rd HM: Jennifer Rood, Grants Pass, OR

4th HM: Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT

5th HM: Jackie McVey, Tyler, TX

6th HM: David Bond, Carbondale, IL

7th HM: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

4. THE MARGO AWARD

\$200, \$100, \$50 (182 entries)

Judge: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO

1st Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO, “Autumn Ritual”

2nd Doris Jones, Madison, MS, “Audience”

3rd Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN, “The Penguin”

1st HM: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM

2nd HM: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

3rd HM: S.A. (Sidney A.) Young, Santa Fe, NM

4th HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

5th HM: Marcia Jones, Golden, CO

6th HM: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

7th HM: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

5. WINNERS' CIRCLE AWARD

\$225, \$100, \$75 (212 entries)

Judge: Barbara Funke, Valparaiso, IN

1st Gwen Gunn, Guilford, CT, “Earthmother”

2nd David Bond, Carbondale, IL, “Reanimation---for Gabriel”

3rd Patty Dickson Pieczka, Carbondale, IL, “Medieval Statue”

1st HM: Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN

2nd HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

3rd HM: Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN

4th HM: Teresa Parr, St. George, UT

5th HM: Milton J. Bates, Marquette, MI

6th HM: Carol Williams, York, PA

7th HM: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT

***6. DONALD STODGHILL MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members Only) \$200, \$100, \$50 (186 entries)

Judge: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH

1st Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, “We’re Not Going to Disneyland”

2nd Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL, “A Few Slow Winter Bees”

3rd Christine Irving, Denton, TX, “Rendezvous on Ithaca”

1st HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

2nd HM: Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL

3rd HM: Andrea McBride, Wesley Chapel, FL

4th HM: Crystie Cook, Sandy, UT

5th HM: Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL

6th HM: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO

7th HM: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

***7. GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD**

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

Judge: Carol Hamilton, Midwest City, OK

1st Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT, “Saved”

2nd Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park, IL, “Georgia Bite”

3rd Geraldine Felt, Layton, UT, “Saint Simons Island, Georgia”

1st HM: Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

2nd HM: Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

3rd HM: Patricia A. Peterson, Cottonwood Heights, UT

4th HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

5th HM: Doris Jones, Madison, MS

6th HM: Carol Thompson, Tyler, TX

7th HM: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

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

(*Members Only) \$125, \$50, \$25 (168 entries)

Judge: Karen Bailey, Blanchard, OK

1st Terry Miller, Richmond, TX, “A Whisper in Dime Box”

2nd Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL, “Old Poet at the Open Mic”

3rd Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL, “Family Album”

1st HM: Jim Brosnan, Assonet, MA

2nd HM: Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT

3rd HM: Susan Daubenspeck, Corpus Christi, TX

4th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

5th HM: Benita Volk, Denver, CO

6th HM: Virginia (Barrie) Fiedler, Evergreen, CO

7th HM: Marcia Jones, Golden, CO

***9. THE CHILDREN'S HOUR AWARD**

(*Members Only) \$100, \$60, \$40 (118 entries)

Judge: Shelly Reed Thieman, Des Moines, IA

1st Harvey Stone, Johnson City, TN, “The Drop”

2nd Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT, “Flower Power”

3rd Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL, “Wild Party”

1st HM: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, U.K.

2nd HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

3rd HM: Rita Geil, Carson City, NV

4th HM: Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park, MN

5th HM: Jennifer Rood, Grants Pass, OR

6th HM: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

7th HM: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT

***10. AL LASTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members Only) \$100, \$50, \$25 (165 entries)

Judge: Sharon Mishler Fox, Knoxville, TN

1st Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO, “The Winged Nike (of Nevada)”

2nd Linda Eve Diamond, Port Orange, FL, “Surreally Good Apple”

3rd Robin Gow, Mineola, NY, “flower 1964”

1st HM: Colette Tennant, Salem, OR

2nd HM: Suzanne E. Austin-Hill, Ruskin, FL

3rd HM: Wendy Visser, Cambridge, ON

4th HM: Alison Chisolm, Birkdale, U.K.

5th HM: Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN

6th HM: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN

7th HM: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

11. FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION, INC. AWARD \$35, \$25, \$15 (57 entries)

Judge: Donna Salli, West Brainerd, MN

1st Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN, “Riding the Down and Up Waves”

2nd Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL, “The Highest Range”

3rd Doris Jones, Madison, MS, “Beachside Jazz”

1st HM: Pegi Dietz Shea, Rockville, CT

2nd HM: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH

3rd HM: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA

4th HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

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

6th HM: Cheryl A. Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL

7th HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

***12. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD (*Members Only)** \$75, \$50, \$25 (160 entries)

Judge: Bruce Eastman, West Brainerd, MN

1st Gwen Gunn, Guilford, CT, “Found Gift”

2nd Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI, “Napping Baby”

3rd John Coppock, Tuttle, OK, “Reflection”

1st HM: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

2nd HM: Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL

3rd HM: Christine Irving, Denton, TX

4th HM: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

5th HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

6th HM: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL

7th HM: Stephan Curry, Jackson, MS

13. LAND OF ENCHANTMENT AWARD

\$75, \$50, \$25 (138 entries)

Judge: Deanna Baldelli, Elizabeth, CO

1st Christian Shute, Cheyenne, WY, “King of the Cul de Sac”

2nd Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH, “Virginia Specter”

3rd Maxine Carlson, Iowa City, IA, “Note to His New Wife”

1st HM: Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

2nd HM: Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR

3rd HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

4th HM: Cynthia Nankee, Canton, MI

5th HM: Marc Davidson, Daytona Beach, FL

6th HM: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN

7th HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

Citation: Mo Saidi, San Antonio, TX

14. THE VIRGINIA CORRIE-COZART MEMORIAL AWARD

\$75, \$50, \$25 (128 entries)

Judge: Carol Willette Bachofner, Rockland, ME

1st Claudia Van Gerven, Boulder, CO, “When the Trees Escaped”

2nd Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO, “Marks on Paper”

3rd Marlene Yanish, Denver, CO, “Becoming Music”

1st HM: Ryan Van Lenning, Oakland, CA

2nd HM: Carol Williams, York, PA

3rd HM: Rita Geil, Carson City, NV

4th HM: Libby Jones, Berea, KY

5th HM: Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL

6th HM: Conrad Geller, Ashburn, VA

7th HM: J. Paul Holcomb Double Oak, TX

15. ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

\$75, \$30, \$20 (72 entries)

Judge: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN

1st Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL, “A Wet Dream in a Dry Season”

2nd Julie Shavin, Fountain, CO, “Judging the Cover”

3rd Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN, “Never Land Sixty-Six Years Later”

1st HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

2nd HM: Doris Jones, Madison, MS

3rd HM: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

4th HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

5th HM: Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN

6th HM: Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN

7th HM: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

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

\$60, \$40, \$20 (101 entries)

Judge: Julia George, Muskegon, MI

1st Cynthia Nankee, Canton, MI, “(Not Quite) Still Life in the Garden: Black Cat with Pumpkins”**2nd** Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX, “If Winter Comes...”**3rd** Carol Williams, York, PA, “Long-Haired Cat”

1st HM: Terry Miller, Richmond, TX

2nd HM: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, U.K.

3rd HM: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

4th HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

5th HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

6th HM: Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL

7th HM: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

17. LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS AWARD

\$60, \$40, \$20 (181 entries)

Judge: Cathy Essinger, Troy, OH

1st Rita Geil, Carson City, NV, “Directions for Daughters”**2nd** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX, “A Night on the Lake”**3rd** Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, “Out for Blood”

1st HM: Steven Leitch, West Jordon, UT

2nd HM: Howard S. Carman Jr., Blountville, TN

3rd HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

4th HM: Patty Dickson Pieczka, Carbondale, IL

5th HM: Candice Armstrong, Murphysboro, IL

6th HM: Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR

7th HM: Mark Barton, Mechanicsburg, PA

18. JESSICA C. SAUNDERS MEMORIAL**AWARD** \$60, \$40, \$20 (104 entries)

Judge: Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR

1st Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN, “Storm Phobia”**2nd** Wendy Visser, Cambridge, ON, “Adrift”**3rd** Jana Bouma, Madison Lake, MN, “Postponement”

1st HM: Richard R. Cuyler, Middlebury, VT

2nd HM: J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX

3rd HM: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO

4th HM: Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL

5th HM: Patricia Jo Koch, Oklahoma City, OK

6th HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

7th HM: Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL

19. POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (97 entries)

Judge: Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR

1st Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL, “Worship”**2nd** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX, “Yellowtail Lanes, Lodge Grass, Montana”**3rd** Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX, “Community Comes Out in Troubled Times”

1st HM: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

2nd HM: Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN

3rd HM: Omair Hasan, Toledo, OH

4th HM: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

5th HM: John Coppock, Tuttle, OK

6th HM: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

7th HM: Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

20. NEVADA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (128 entries)

Judge: Sue Gundlach, Evanston, IL

1st Tony Fosco, West Haven, CT, “The Flag is Upside Down”**2nd** Paula J. Lambert, Dublin, OH, “Siege”**3rd** Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR, “Items I Read Last Year”

1st HM: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, ON

2nd HM: Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO

3rd HM: Gloria Klinger, Grand Haven, MI

4th HM: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

5th HM: Randy K. Swartz, Ann Arbor, MI

6th HM: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT

7th HM: Gwenn Gunn, Guilford, CT

21. WILLIAM STAFFORD MEMORIAL AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (179 entries)

Judge: Rita Moritz, Pell City, AL

1st LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK, “The Old, Yellow School Bus”**2nd** Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL, “Cancer”**3rd** Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR, “All the Forgotten Pieces”

1st HM: Markay Brown, St. George, UT

2nd HM: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT

3rd HM: Terry Miller, Richmond, TX

4th HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

5th HM: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

6th HM: Ann Carolyn Cates, South Haven, MS

7th HM: Shelia Moore, San Antonio, TX

22. THE NEW YORK POETRY FORUM AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (162 entries)

Judge: Jo McDougall, Little Rock, AR

1st Andrea McBride, Wesley Chapel, FL, “Writing Outside”**2nd** Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT, “Flight”**3rd** Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX, “Whiteout”

1st HM: Lucia Wainwright, Westcliffe, CO

2nd HM: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO

3rd HM: Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

4th HM: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX

5th HM: Ryan Clinesmith, New York City, NY

6th HM: Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN

7th HM: Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR

***23. COLUMBINE POETS OF COLORADO AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$50, \$30, \$20 (171 entries)

Judge: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

1st Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO, “Sarcasm in December”**2nd** James B. Mele, Bristol, CT, “August”**3rd** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX, “March”

1st HM: Lucia Wainwright, Westcliffe, CO

2nd HM: Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN

3rd HM: Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, NM

4th HM: Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN

5th HM: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT

6th HM: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

7th HM: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

24. MORTON D. PROUTY & ELSIE S. PROUTY MEMORIAL AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (196 entries)

Judge: Art Elser, Denver, CO

1st Stephen Curry, Jackson, MS, “Nature’s Law”**2nd** Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL, “Amargosa, the Hide-and-Seek River”**3rd** Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN, “Stalactite/Stalagmite”

1st HM: John Foster, Sun City Center, FL

2nd HM: Marc Davidson, Daytona Beach, FL

3rd HM: Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS

4th HM: Jon Sebba, Murray, UT

5th HM: Edith Powers, Albuquerque, NM

6th HM: Mo Saidi, San Antonio, TX

7th HM: Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL

***25. POETS ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$50, \$30, \$20 (153 entries)

Judge: Sandra Nantais, Arcadia, LA

1st Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK, “The Neglected Gift”**2nd** Mark Barton, Mechanicsburg, PA, “Sighting Birdsong in the Pyrenees”**3rd** Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, “Yesterday”

1st HM: Doris Jones, Madison, MS

2nd HM: Marjorie Dohlan, Riceville, IA

3rd HM: Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN

4th HM: Kathleen Robinson, Champaign, IL

5th HM: Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, NM

6th HM: Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

7th HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

26. LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY**AWARD** \$50, \$30, \$20 (149 entries)

Judge: Sue Brannan Walker, East Mobile, AL

1st John Coppock, Tuttle, OK, “from Symposium—A Play: No. 1 and No. 2”**2nd** J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX, “I Never Liked That Tie Anyway”**3rd** Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX, “The Place for Lost Children”

1st HM: Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN

2nd HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

3rd HM: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

4th HM: Nancy Christopherson, Baker City, OR

5th HM: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

6th HM: Sheila Moore, San Antonio, TX

7th HM: John Foster, Sun City Center, FL

***27. FREEDA MURPHY MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$50, \$30, \$20 (161 entries)

Judge: Doug Rutledge, Columbus, OH

1st Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR, “Crisis hot-line”**2nd** Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR, “Too Much Bliss”**3rd** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX, “Card Stock”

1st HM: Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL

2nd HM: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

3rd HM: Crystie Cook, Sandy, UT

4th HM: Lynn Kincanon, Loveland, CO

5th HM: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR

6th HM: Diana Morley, Talent, OR

7th HM: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

28. CLAIRE VAN BREEMEN DOWNES**MEMORIAL AWARD** \$50, \$30, \$20 (104 entries)

Judge: Stacy Pendergrast, Little Rock, AR

1st Mary Tindall, Whitehouse, TX, “Doll”**2nd** Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR, “Discovering Pigs”**3rd** Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL, “At a Fund Raiser for Cancer Victims”

1st HM: P. Adrienne Pamplin, Longview, TX

2nd HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

3rd HM: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, U.K.

4th HM: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL

5th HM: Karen McAferty Morris, Pensacola, FL

6th HM: Libby Jones, Berea, KY

7th HM: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

29. UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 (141 entries)

Judge: Julie Cummings, Conifer, CO

1st Wendy Visser, Cambridge, ON, “Remnants”**2nd** Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA, “Tracks Through Winter”**3rd** Laura Altshul, New Haven, CT, “Family of Six Portrait, 1918”

1st HM: Lin Floyd, St. George, UT

2nd HM: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH

3rd HM: Rita Geil, Carson City, NV

4th HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

5th HM: Cheryl A. Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL

6th HM: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO

7th HM: Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN

Citation: Doris Jones, Madison, MS

30. CSPS JAMES E. MACWHINNEY MEMORIAL**AWARD** \$50, \$30, \$20 (64 entries)

Judge: Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL

1st Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT, “The Invention of Nouns”**2nd** Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, U.K., “Double Exposure”**3rd** Lorette Diane Walker, Odessa, TX, “Aftermath”

1st HM: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

2nd HM: John Coppock, Tuttle, OK

3rd HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

4th HM: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

5th HM: Teresa Parr, St. George, UT

6th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

7th HM: Peter M. Gordon, Orlando, FL

31. ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY**AWARD** \$50, \$30, \$20 (107 entries)

Judge: Sandy Soli, Edmond, OK

1st Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL, “On listening to Middle Eastern Poetry at the Poetry Foundation in Chicago”**2nd** Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL, “Two Views of the Plaza”**3rd** Crystie Cook, Sandy, UT, “Booksmarts”**1st HM:** Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL**2nd HM:** John McBride, Bettendorf, IA**3rd HM:** Lisa E. Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR**4th HM:** J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX**5th HM:** Gloria Klinger, Grand Haven, MI**6th HM:** Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX**7th HM:** Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

Citation: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

32. OHIO AWARD

\$50, \$25, \$15 (152 entries)

Judge: Jessica Temple, Huntsville, AL

1st Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH, “Ode to the Cochlea”**2nd** Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL, “Lightning Rod”**3rd** Markay Brown, St. George, UT, “Undressing Billy Collins”**1st HM:** Susan Daubenspeck, Corpus Christi, TX**2nd HM:** Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN**3rd HM:** Lucia Wainwright, Westcliffe, OC**4th HM:** Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL**5th HM:** Jo-Anne Rowley, Lafayette, CO**6th HM:** Diane Attwell Palfrey, Cambridge, ON**7th HM:** K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA***33. MINUTE AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$35, \$25, \$15 (75 entries)

Judge: Rose Klix, Johnson City, TN

1st Richard Hurlzeler, Tyler, TX, “Where Worlds Collide...”**2nd** Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL, “Random Act”**3rd** V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT, “Wishful Fishing”**1ST HM:** Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL**2nd HM:** Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX**3rd HM:** B. J. Alligood, Port Orange, FL**4th HM:** Catherine L’Herisson, Garland, TX**5th HM:** Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO**6th HM:** Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN**7th HM:** Ann Carolyn Cates, South Haven, MS**34. POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN AWARD**

\$35, \$25, \$15 (144 entries)

Judge: Janice Hornburg, Johnson City, TN

1st Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN, “This Year’s Garden”**2nd** Dave Harvey, Talent, OR, “A Sign, a Jingle”**3rd** Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX, “A Long View Through Time”**1st HM:** Mary A. Couch, Noblesville, IN**2nd HM:** Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI**3rd HM:** Peter M. Gordon, Orlando, FL**4th HM:** Becky Alexander, Cambridge, ON**5th HM:** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX**6th HM:** Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL**7th HM:** John McBride, Bettendorf, IA**35. MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY AWARD**

\$35, \$25, \$15 (88 entries)

Judge: Carolyn Files, Oakridge, LA

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, “The Vietnam Memorial”**2nd** Dave Harvey, Talent, OR, “Deadly Birds”**3rd** Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX, “To the Former Child: Directions for Your Day”**1st HM:** John Coppock, Tuttle, OK**2nd HM:** Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, U.K.**3rd HM:** Inge Logenburg Kyler, Eaton Rapids, MI**4th HM:** Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK**5th HM:** Janice Canerdy, Potts Camp, MS**6th HM:** LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK**7th HM:** Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL***36. JESSE STUART MEMORIAL AWARD****(*Members Only)** \$25, \$20, \$15 (135 entries)

Judge: Chris McCurry, Lexington, KY

1st Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT, “Nosing About the Stars”**2nd** Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield, TX, “Graft: Kisses and Roses”**3rd** Judith Feenstra, Maple Lake, MN, “Stray Cat Traveling”**1st HM:** Catherine L’Herisson, Garland, TX**2nd HM:** Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA**3rd HM:** Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI**4th HM:** Merideth R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN**5th HM:** Anita Jepson-Gilbert, Westminster, CO**6th HM:** Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK**7th HM:** Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX***37. HUMOROUS POETRY AWARD****(*Members Only)** \$25, \$20, \$15 (119 entries)

Judge: Ann Carolyn Cates, South Haven, MS

1st Curt Vevang, Palatine, IL, “The Grandpa Card”**2nd** Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN, “Checklist for the Picknic”**3rd** Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT, “New Bird Feeder”**1st HM:** Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL**2nd HM:** Sara Gipson, Scott, AR**3rd HM:** Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN**4th HM:** Beverly A. Joyce, Land O’Lakes, FL**5th HM:** LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK**6th HM:** Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX**7th HM:** Jeani M. Picklesimer, Ashland, KY**38. BARBARA STEVENS MEMORIAL AWARD**

\$25, \$20, \$15 (186 entries)

Judge: Christina Flaughler, Mapleton, MN

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, “Smoke”**2nd** Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK, “Somewhere”**3rd** Larry Schulte, Albuquerque, NM, “Home”**1st HM:** Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT**2nd HM:** Paula J. Lambert, Dublin, OH**3rd HM:** Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA**4th HM:** Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT**5th HM:** Amanda Grace Span, Sewlickley, PA**6th HM:** Diane Glance, Gainesville, TX**7th HM:** Geraldine Felt, Layton, UT***39. ALICE MACKENZIE SWAIM MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$25, \$20, \$15 (79 entries)

Judge: Florence Bruce, Memphis, TN

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, “Blood on the Mountain”**2nd** Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL, “Cicada Summer”**3rd** J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX, “Changing Seasons, Changing Colors”**1st HM:** Inge Logenburg Kyler, Eaton Rapids, MI**2nd HM:** Sara Gipson, Scott, AR**3rd HM:** Sheri A. Sutton, Wichita Falls, TX**4th HM:** Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN**5th HM:** Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL**6th HM:** Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI**7th HM:** Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, U.K.***40. POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$25, \$20, \$15 (74 entries)

Judge: Janet Qually, Memphis, TN

1st Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, “Like His Ancestors”**2nd** Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH, “Questioning”**3rd** Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK, “All That Glitters Isn’t Gold”**1st HM:** Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL**2nd HM:** Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX**3rd HM:** Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX**4th HM:** Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO**5th HM:** Barbara Shepherd, Edmond, OK**6th HM:** Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO**7th HM:** Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK**41. SAVE OUR EARTH AWARD**

\$25, \$20, \$15 (121 entries)

Judge: Alan Perry, Maple Grove, MN

1st Christina M. Flaughler, Mapleton, MN, “Letter to the Daughter I Didn’t Have”**2nd** Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO, “The Children of the Earth”**3rd** Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN, “From the Voice of Water”**1st HM:** Paula J. Lambert, Dublin, OH**2nd HM:** Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park, IL**3rd HM:** Cheryl A. Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL**4th HM:** Cynthia Nankee, Canton, MI**5th HM:** J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX**6th HM:** Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR**7th HM:** Kari D. Miller, Evergreen, CO**42. MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD** \$25, \$20, \$15 (139 entries)

Judge: Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

1st Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL, “Spring Demon”**2nd** Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX, “Middle School Choir Concert”**3rd** Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA, “Colostomy”**1st HM:** John Foster, Sun City Center, FL**2nd HM:** Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL**3rd HM:** Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN**4th HM:** Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX**5th HM:** Christina M. Flaughler, Mapleton, MN**6th HM:** Tony Fusco, West Haven, CT**7th HM:** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX***43. POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$25, \$20, \$15 (73 entries)

Judge: Jennifer Horne, Cottondale, AL

1st Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, U.K., “One Moment In Time”**2nd** Brenda Brown Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS, “A Different Thanksgiving”**3rd** LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK, “He Loves Me Still...”**1st HM:** Linda R. Paine, Cincinnati, OH**2nd HM:** Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL**3rd HM:** Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT**4th HM:** Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL**5th HM:** Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN**6th HM:** Tony Fusco, West Haven, CT**7th HM:** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX**44. IOWA POETRY ASSOCIATION AWARD**

\$25, \$20, \$15 (94 entries)

Judge: Susan Cherry, Evanston, IL

1st Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT, “Spinach”**2nd** Linda R. Payne, Cincinnati, OH, “Summer Rain”**3rd** Marjorie Dohman, Riceville, VA, “A To Zoo”**1st HM:** Cynthia Nankee, Canton, MI**2nd HM:** Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN**3rd HM:** Teresa Parr, St. George, UT**4th HM:** Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX**5th HM:** Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX**6th HM:** Pegi Dietz Shea, Rockville, CT**7th HM:** Barbara Shepherd, Edmond, OK**45. WYOPOETS AWARD**

\$25, \$20, \$15 (79 entries)

Judge: Ann Gasser, West Reading, PA

1st Susan Daubenspeck, Corpus Christi, TX, “Singing Red Sky”**2nd** Cheryl A. Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL, “Enchanted”**3rd** O. William Asplund, Layton, UT, “Roundup Memories”**1st HM:** Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM**2nd HM:** Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX**3rd HM:** Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN**4th HM:** John W. Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR**5th HM:** Tanya R. Whitney, Sorrento, LA**6th HM:** Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS**7th HM:** Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR

46. SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION*AWARD (*Members Only)** \$25, \$20, \$15 (96 entries)

Judge: William Reyer, Tiffin, OH

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, "The Grandfather Clock"**2nd** Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT, "Canning"**3rd** Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX, "Kachinas on First Mesa"

1st HM: Markay Brown, St. George, UT

2nd HM: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN

3rd HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

4th HM: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX

5th HM: Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN

6th HM: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

7th HM: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, U.K.

47. MAINE POETS SOCIETY AWARD

\$25, \$20, \$15 (115 entries)

Judge: Dr. Bruce Bond, Denton, TX

1st Cristie Cook, Sandy, UT, "Observation at Oceanside Beach, California"**2nd** Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX, "The Compass Rose"**3rd** Julie Shavin, Fountain, CO, "Hope's Cloak"

1st HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

2nd HM: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

3rd HM: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX

4th HM: Kathleen Robinson, Champaign, IL

5th HM: Rita Geil, Carson City, NV

6th HM: Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH

7th HM: Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL

48. MIRIAM S. STRAUSS MEMORIAL AWARD*(*Members Only)** \$25, \$20, \$15 (82 entries)

Judge: Julie Allyn Johnson, Norwalk, IA

1st Laura Trigg, Little Rock, AR, "This is the City that Birthed Me"**2nd** Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield, TX, "From Up Here"**3rd** Omair Hasan, Toledo, OH, "Poetry open mic at a busy café but I do not speak"

1st HM: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

2nd HM: Lynn Farmer, Decatur, GA

3rd HM: Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

4th HM: Harvey Stone, Johnson City, TN

5th HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

6th HM: Randy K. Schwartz, Ann Arbor, MI

7th HM: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

49. THE POETS NORTHWEST AWARD*(*Members Only)** \$25, \$20, \$15 (131 entries)

Judge: Vivian Stewart, Oklahoma City, OK

1st Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR, "Evenings Among the Junipers"**2nd** Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL, "The Challenge"**3rd** Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, "Isolation"

1st HM: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

2nd HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

3rd HM: Omair Hasan, Toledo, OH

4th HM: Geraldine Felt, Layton, UT

5th HM: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN

6th HM: J. R. Simons, Elyria, OH

7th HM: Lura Kolp, Beaumont, TX

50. STUDENT AWARD

\$50, \$30, \$20 and \$5 for each Honorable Mention (167 entries)

Judge: Tamara Baxter, Kingsport, TN

1st Laura Liu, Wayne, PA, "aurelia"**2nd** Krystal Smith, Little Rock, AR, "Don't Shoot"**3rd** Mary Margaret Sell, Dallas, TX, "Mackey Walks Me"

1st HM: Riya Guttigoli, Dallas, TX

2nd HM: Regan Pierce, Dallas, TX

3rd HM: Gina Miele, Forney, TX

4th HM: Izzi Baggett, Dallas, TX

5th HM: Chanel Perreault, Austin, TX

6th HM: Emma Dial, Austin, TX

7th HM: Cristiana Miele, Forney, TX

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS**ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY**

continues to increase in membership and our four branches are benefiting! Summer is a quieter time for the desert cities as many of our winter visitors have returned to cooler homes or members are traveling, but with our annual contest running, deadline September 30, we continue to generate interest. The second issue of our revived quarterly newsletter, *The Desert Voice*, was published with Kris Perry as our new editor; she has also stepped in as board secretary and co-editor of the *Sandcutters* journal. Bill Brown is our new treasurer. In June, our president, Christy White, attended the inaugural meeting of #PhxLitServ which is a collaboration of the literary community in the Phoenix area to provide a resource of information about events, workshops and more. The Tucson Poetry Society ASPS branch will be publishing their anthology, *Desert Tracks: Poems from the Sonoran Desert*, this fall. It will be available on Amazon. Members are having their poems published in a number of journals this spring and summer, as well as participating in Arizona book festivals in Prescott and Sedona, so even with the summer heat we are staying active. ~ *Christy White, President*

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF

ARKANSAS' 2019 Poetry Day Conference is scheduled for October 19 at the Butler Center in Little Rock. John McPherson will serve as Poetry Day Chair. Marie Allison of Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs will serve as Poetry Day Contest Chair. Pat Couch Laster, an Arkansas native, is the featured speaker. She earned a B.A. from Hendrix College, and a M. Music Ed. from U of A in Fayetteville. She did graduate work at San Diego State College. She's been schooled in "lucid" poetry, under the tutelage of Ted O. Badger, long-time editor and publisher of *The Lucidity Journal*. She was mentored by the late Robert Speiss, long-time editor of *Modern Haiku*, who published the first poem she sent him. Poetry Day is the main poetry event in Arkansas. Each year this conference honors Arkansas Poet Laureate Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni (1888-1970). As a result of her efforts to promote poetry in Arkansas, Governor Ben Laney proclaimed October 15, 1948, the first annual Poetry Day in Arkansas. Congratulations to Arkansas Poet Laureate Rosa Jo McDougall, who was named the fourth Arkansas writer to receive the Porter Fund's Lifetime Achievement Award. in a ceremony at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock. ~ *Laura Bridges, Reporter*

FLORIDA STATE POETS

ASSOCIATION members enjoyed the annual Spring Fling May 17-18 hosted by Orlando Area Poets and Osceola Poetry Society in downtown Orlando where poets experienced sessions on reverse ekphrasis, narrative poetry, songwriting, poetry as visual art, and an in-house poetry slam. The next big event is the FSPA fall convention in Daytona Beach October 25-27 hosted by Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach where a new chancellor will be installed and state poetry contest awards will be announced. In other news, representatives from the FSPA Speakers Bureau continue to speak at various meetings and events around the state, including the recent Jacksonville Poetry Fest. One final note: Space Coast Poets are taking a break this summer with regular meetings resuming on August 12th when new officers will be elected. ~ *Leslie C. Halpern, FSPA Secretary*

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY held its Spring meeting in April at Perimeter College in Covington. Mario Chard read a set of speech poems across time and conducted a workshop on the human voice in verse and free verse. He is the author of *Land of Fire* and was named winner of the 2016 Dorset Prize and received a 2018 Notable Debut Award from *Poets & Writers Magazine*. Recently his poems have appeared in the *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, and *Boston Review*. He was the winner of the "Discovery" / *Boston Review Poetry Prize* and is a former Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. He currently teaches in Atlanta, where he lives with his wife and sons. Jennifer Holley Lux read from her book, *White Portals* (Press 53, 2018), which was chosen as a runner-up for the publisher's book award. Her poems have appeared in *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, and *The Prose Poem: An International Journal*. She works in Atlanta at Georgia Tech. We are proud to announce the selection of Chelsea Rathburn as our new Georgia Poet Laureate. She has presented workshops at our GPS meetings. A professor of English and creative writing at Young Harris College, she succeeds Judson Mitcham as Poet Laureate. ~ *DuAnne Kaiser, Reporter*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

celebrated April Poetry Month, which included fifteen public library displays in various state locations. We also had a members' open mic reading at the North Branch Evanston Library. During April ISPS displayed and sold members' books and our anthology, *Distilled Lives*, at the Harold Washington Library in Chicago

during the annual Poetry Fest. June 15 was a gathering of poets and artists to present an ekphrastic collaboration. The afternoon event was held at the Downers Grove Library. July 1 starts the new two-year term for board members. The haiku chapter has been popular and contributes to a variety of poetry experiences for our members. This year ISPS had a large contingent of members attend the NFSPS convention in Santa Fe. Another yearly joint open mic with Poets and Patrons is planned for September at the After Words Bookstore in Chicago. Also, September 1 is the deadline for our annual poetry contest that is being chaired by Jim Lambert. Entries will be accepted beginning September for ten categories. More details are available on the ISPS website, illinoispoets.org. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN President Elizabeth Kerlikowske conducted the Poetry Society of Michigan spring meeting held in the Kalamazoo Public Library; over thirty members and guests attended. After the reading of original poems, Patricia Barnes won the Traveling Trophy for her poem "Why My Hair is Blue". Following a mini-reading, Lansing's Poet Laureate Dennis Hinrichsen conducted a workshop. After lunch a business meeting addressed: committee reports, updating the logo to reflect "celebrating and encouraging poets and poetry since 1935", a possible new five year anthology for 2021, reports from various poetry chapters, possibilities for publicizing poets and poetry, and the upcoming fall election of new officers. The fall meeting will be held in Farmington Hills. ~ *Inge Logenburg Kyler, Historian*

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY's 2019 festival was held in April at the Cabot Lodge Millsaps in Jackson. Natchez author, poet, veteran, and filmmaker Mark LaFrancis was our keynote speaker, assisted by members Doris Jones and Stephen Curry, he shared poetry inspired by interviews with soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The 2020 festival, hosted by North Branch, will be held at Lake Tiak O'Khata Family Resort in Louisville, Mississippi, in April. The keynote speaker will be Benjamin Morris, full-time writer and poet from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. In Central Branch news, Jason Ervin recently shared details of his experience as a presenter for the new Healing Arts Program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He shared some of his poems and the stories behind them. The program's mission is to give patients and staff a break from the stresses of working and being in a hospital. South Branch members met at an art show in

Ocean Springs. They wrote poems about the paintings, which were based on poems by famous Mississippi poets. We MPS members are enjoying our 2019 contest journals. We are also conducting a membership drive. ~ *Janice Canerdy, Secretary*

NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY's Poetry in the Classroom (PITC) project celebrated its ninth year by teaching poetry at Reginald Chavez, Alvarado, and Cochiti Elementary Schools. Thirty poets taught hour-long classes ranging from kindergarten through the fifth grade. In all, the group spent three full days at the three APS schools, teaching approximately 1,050 students. This year the Albuquerque Museum collaborated with the students from Alvarado Elementary. Twenty-seven students read their ekphrastic poems in front of the original art works. Attendees said they had never seen children so happy to be learning. Poets in the Garden gathered at the Albuquerque Public Library hosted by NMSPS in commemoration of poetry month. The event drew youth and their families for an afternoon of poetry. NMSPS Secretary Dino de Leyba co-hosted "Sage on the River". This event included twenty-six children ranging from five to thirteen years of age. The third Annual Poets' Picnic was a glorious gathering. Open Space reports that more than 300 people attended the picnic throughout the day. ~ *Bernadette Perez, President*

OHIO POETRY ASSOCIATION's celebration of its 90th anniversary featured several workshops led by award-winning and nationally recognized poets. In April, we again sponsored the annual Ohioana Book Festival. In June, we partnered with the Thurber House to host a poetry publishing and bookmaking workshop. Our featured guests were Ohio publishers in books/chapbooks and journals. Additional good news came from The Columbus Foundation, which has again awarded OPA with supporting funding, this year from the William C. and Naoma W. Denison Fund. Our annual picnic in July featured some of OPA's best members, contest winners, and several past presidents. The picnic was highlighted by several raffles, with prizes provided by local presses and bookstores. On August 1, we are partnering with the Ohio State Fair's Fine Arts Program to sponsor an Ohio Poetry Showcase in the Cox Fine Arts Center in Columbus. The event features: Poetry Out Loud students; more than a dozen Ohio poets from throughout the state; and our state Poet Laureate, Dave Lucas, who caps the event with an evening reading. Plans continue for

the 3rd Sun & Moon Poetry Festival, to take place in Yellow Springs. We are partnering with Glen Helen Ecological Center to host the event. Keynote poet Jim Daniels will lead an exclusive workshop and give a reading. We invite our friends in other states to attend this weekend event. ~ *Chuck Salmons, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA scheduled its annual July Workshop at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City. And, what an exciting workshop we planned! We were honored to have Maria Veres as our keynote speaker. Maria is an accomplished writer whose poetry, fiction and nonfiction have appeared in a wide variety of publications. A recent poetry collection, *Church People*, was an Oklahoma Book Award finalist. Maria speaks about writing, gives poetry readings throughout the greater OKC Metro area and teaches adult creative writing classes at Francis Tuttle Tech Center. We always encourage everyone to attend, to bring a friend and enjoy this time of poetry, learning and recognition. Those attending are asked to bring pen and paper, to be prepared to work and learn (it's a workshop!). We always have in-house workshop exercises – this year "Paint Chip Poetry!" Also at this event, winning poems are read, poets recognized, awards given and a delicious banquet celebrates poetry. PSO is looking ahead to Autumn and celebrating National Poetry Day. We invite everyone to check out angelfire.com/poetry/ps/ and our Facebook page for current PSO information. As always, we welcome all to "Come and grow at PSO!" ~ *Patti Koch, President*

PENNSYLVANIA POETRY SOCIETY is planning our Fall Conference to be held this year on October 19. We will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary with a big party as part of the conference. Also in October, we will announce PPS' 68th Annual Poetry Contest, to be conducted in 2020. ~ *Emiliano Martín, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE's three chapters are very busy! PST-NE has hosted several speakers, and has moved to a new location, the Johnson City Public Library. PST-Knoxville continues to meet at EarthFare. PST-West Tennessee is hosting monthly poetry readings/open mic sessions at Café Eclectic in Memphis. Check out our new website, poetrytennessee.org. Webmaster Lori Goetz has done a great job. Information and links to all three chapters are available there. Also see our poetry forms blog at poemssamples.blogspot.com. Blogger Florence Bruce is open to suggestions: florencebruce@att.net.
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KIDDING AROUND: IDEAS FOR POETRY WORKSHOPS WITH KIDS

(continued from page 1)

Drumming at 30

—Julie Cummings

My words rose up
then came down hard,
a steady beat
interrupted at times
when you droned on
and on
like a 10-year-old
practicing the violin.
It hurt my ears
to hear you.
Some days I
tried to accompany
what you called music
with a steady beat,
but I kept improving
and you continued
to wail.

Now ask all kids to think of three instruments. Have them write them on a blank page. Share these aloud and write all instruments on the board. Tell the kids to choose any instrument and write that on their blank page. Then ask the following questions:

Think of the person who you fear is not listening to you. What might you try to get them to hear what you say? Become an instrument and speak to them through music. Think of the instrument you chose. How would you play? For whom would you play? And who would you not play for? Who would not listen to you? Where would you play? Describe the music, its tempo and rhythm. How loud or soft would you be?

Write a possible starting line on the board. "Would you listen to me if I were a name of the instrument?"

Give them time to write (7-10 minutes), then share. If there is extra time, ask them to form an "air band." You be the conductor, they are their instruments, and they silently "play" their instrument as you direct how fast, how loud, etc.

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

(Tenn. continued from page 7)

Our 63rd Annual Poetry Festival is scheduled for Oct 19th on the campus of Southwest Tennessee Community College. Our two-hour workshop will be conducted this year by Budd Mahan, former president of the Poetry Society of Texas and of NFSPS. He's a fine poet from whom we can learn a lot. New this year: oral poetry contests in both "traditional reading" and "performance poetry"! Information on how to register and participate in our Festival is available on the website. Please enter our

63rd Annual Poetry Contest! Twenty-six challenging contests with deadline for entries on August 20th! Questions? Contact contest chair, Lori Goetz, poetrytennessee@gmail.com. Thanks and good wishes to our retired contest chairman of many years. His replacement is Ann Carolyn Cates of Southaven, MS. Many thanks to Ann Carolyn for taking this on.
~ Florence Bruce & Lori Goetz, Reporters

WYOPOETS held their annual April conference in Casper, Wyoming. Connie Wanek was our presenter. She led an exciting and informative workshop. The first session covered narrative poetry and storytelling. The second session covered the subject of "Bad Poems". We had a wonderful turnout of 40 people from across the state. Accommodations were great and provided a beautiful space and we got good service. Planning for the next two years of Conferences and the host towns are already in the works. There have been some recent changes to wyopoets.org. Information about the three contests that WyoPoets host are under the Contests tab. The information on how to buy present or past chapter books is under the same tab. We have also added a Newsletter tab. By clicking on this tab, we can post poems and/or share news. The next deadline for posting is September 25. Now, let's exercise our creativity and get writing!
~ Angel Mizner, Reporter

NFSPS STATE REPORTS

Please limit state reports to 200 words or fewer. All *Strophes* readers appreciate hearing about new state society programs and innovations used to promote participation and "spreading the word" about the delightful art of poetry. Whereas reading about Aunt Maudie's delicious chocolate chip cookies may be of interest to a few, unless the goodies promoted poetry, most readers will not find this to be useful information. ~ Jim Lambert, *Strophes* Associate Editor

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Joe Cavanaugh is the head of that committee. They have been challenged to investigate and determine exactly what NFSPS's interests would be in SLAM, how it would be funded, if it is feasible, and to present a full proposal to the Board for a decision. I would love it if you who have expertise in this arena volunteer to serve on that committee, just send me an email and I'll send you details.

Thank you for an amazing 60 years, and with your help, we will make the next 60 even better!

As always, email me with any questions, comments, or concerns you have: julie@juliecummingspoetry.com

ENCORE 2019

NFSPS' anthology of 2019's top 150 prize-winning poems is on amazon.com for \$13. Buy two copies and get free shipping. All royalties support NFSPS. ~ Kathy Cotton, *Encore* Editor

WARNING ON SCAM EMAIL REQUESTS PURPORTED TO BE FROM NFSPS BOARD MEMBERS

A scammer is sending out requests to purchase gift cards while pretending to be an NFSPS board member such as our current president or a past president. NFSPS will never directly email a request for donations or gift cards to be sent to an individual, no matter the purported emergency. If you do receive an emailed money request, simply mark it as "Phishing" or "Spam" and then delete it. This is not the way NFSPS raises funds.
~ Paul Ford, NFSPS 1st VP and *Strophes* Editor

ADDENDUM

FROM: Shirley Blackwell

RE: Poetry Day/Poetry Month Liaison Co-Chair

One of my duties as NFSPS 1st vice chancellor is to acknowledge efforts to celebrate National Poetry Day (NPD) and National Poetry Month (NPM). In the past, this was done by awarding certificates at the NFSPS Annual Convention to those state societies who submitted reports. But what effect do those awards have besides a brief moment of glory for the few who ever see or receive them? How do we not only acknowledge the participants more widely but also share their award-winning ideas throughout the NFSPS community? My answer was not to give certificates at the Santa Fe convention, but to spotlight those efforts in this article and others to follow.

Kudos go out to the following state poetry societies for their activities to commemorate NPD/NPM: Arkansas, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Ohio, Tennessee, and Utah. I will share their accomplishments in future *Strophes* articles, but in this issue I will focus on individuals or groups within member societies. This is the first year they could report on their activities separate from the state reports. I received 11 responses, many deserving of praise, but I selected the following for the imaginative ways they have promoted poetry:

Jill Jennings of Fort Myers, FL, member at large of the Florida State Poets Association, who in April produced, directed, and emceed a poetry slam for teenagers of Lee County; held her twice-monthly Teen Writers Workshop at the East County Library in Lehigh Acres; served as head judge for all poetry entries in the Gulf Coast Writers' Annual Poetry Contest; designed and produced a poetry presentation requested by the Fort Myers chapter of AAUW; and was featured in three other public venues to support poetry.

John Foster of Sun City Center, FL, custodian of the Poet-Tree, where fellow residents in his senior-living community post poems. In April, eight Poet-Tree contributors gave a well-attended reading for the other residents, resulting in several more recruits to provide poems for the display, which changes monthly. John also heads the Southshore Poets; he and eight others in the group gave a public reading for an audience of 30 during NPM. Lastly, as a member of the Selby Poets of Sarasota, he and five other poets offered a 90-minute program to observe NPM, followed by a Meet & Greet social, at an area library.

JoAn Howerton and Russell Strauss of the Poetry Society of Tennessee (PST) celebrated NPD by appearing on WMC TV to publicize a proclamation they had elicited from Memphis mayor Jim Strickland, the first ever such document by the City of Memphis to support National Poetry Day. They recounted PST's history and its current efforts to promote both adult and youth poets in the Mid-South area and, as members of the NFSPS Board, told their TV audience about NFSPS and its role in conjunction with PST and on the national scene.

There were many others who undertook worthwhile endeavors to mark these special times, like Floridians Judith Krum and Carolynn Scully, who posted their work on FaceBook every day in April (Carolynn created memes using her own photography and sayings); who wrote a poem every day, as did Susan Love Brown, Tomoka Poet Niki Byram, and members of the New River Poets; who shared poems at his bank and pharmacy and at a street festival (Steve Concert of Pennsylvania Poetry Society); or who featured at *Le Chat Noir*, Miami's premier Jazz club (Tere Starr, Ricki Dorn, Zorina Frey and Willan Lawlor) in a show organized and emceed by Sheena Powell Szuri.

So many poets doing wonderful things, so little time and space to acknowledge their work!! Next issue, I will talk about the Poetry Day and Month accomplishments of the member societies mentioned above. Meanwhile, my compliments to those I mentioned and to those I didn't. I know all of you dedicated time and effort to a noble aim: fostering the appreciation and creation of poetry in the USA.

Your compadre in poetry,
Shirley Blackwell, New Mexico SPS