



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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Julie Cummings
34th NFSPS
President

Dear Poetry Family,

As I write this, we have all experienced/watched on television/participated in different types of protests; the protests calling for the opening of businesses and amenities, and the protests for Black Lives Matter. I write these messages hoping to spread some sort of hope and perhaps as a call to action. NFSPS is an organization of inclusion and not exclusion.

These events and COVID-19 have put the world in a place of uncertainty—and uncertainty is scary. I had to unplug for a few days in the midst of everything because of the unending confusion. Those of you who know me personally know that is not my personality. I take action; I do not hide. My personality is one of perfectionist. I love predictability. It is why I became a teacher and let my life be run by a bell. I love making plans and sticking to them. The thing I recognized during my seclusion...the one thing I can control during this time...is the story I tell. I cannot control or predict a lot right now, but I take comfort in what I can control—my poetry story.

Because of the protests and the unpredictability of COVID-19 and the world, I've spent many hours and days reflecting on the state of the world. Whatever our collective beliefs are, I hope we are all on the right side of history. Silence leaves room for speculation—so don't be silent regarding something everyone is thinking and talking about! This is when we poets should use our medium to spread our word.

I have quoted one of my favorite poets in this message in the past and will do so again. Poetry has brought me peace during this uncertainty.

Audre Lorde said "You do not have to be me in order for us to fight alongside each other. I do not have to be you to recognize that our wars are the same. What we must do is commit ourselves to some future that can include each other and to work toward that future with the particular strengths of our individual identities. And in order for us to do this, we must allow each other our differences at the same time as we recognize our sameness."

I missed meeting with you all in Kansas City. I encourage you to purchase an *Encore* from this and prior years, and read all the fine poems that won the contests. I want to also encourage those of you who have not read Diane Glancy's work, to read it and study it. So much can be discovered in her work. She was to be the Keynote speaker; she is so inspiring. To quote the Poetry Foundation: (her) "ability to combine genres, to portray both Native American and non-Native characters, and to depict Native American beliefs and Christianity in her writing, is a great starting point" to broaden your personal library. Then, continue on with your studies and read the work of more poets of color. My favorites (not a complete list) include Audre Lorde, Rita Dove, Loretta Diane Walker, Tracy K. Smith, Saul Williams, Sherwin Bitsui, Li-Young Lee, and Sheryl Luna. I can always read the work of these and other poets and be inspired. Another favorite, Naomi Shihab Nye, at the National Book Festival in 2015 in a talk with Jane Hirschfield and Juan Felipe Herrera, talked about the themes she finds herself returning to in her poetry, as well as the poet's civic responsibility: "to continue to encourage a sense of civility among us and a sense of curiosity about one another's lives."

Let us all heed those words. Read and continue to be inspired by work other than our own. Stand up for what you believe in.

Your sister in words,

Julie Cummings, 34th NFSPS President

2020 BLACKBERRYPEACH PRIZE CONTEST WINNERS

NFSPS is pleased to announce the 1st place winner of the 2020 BlackBerryPeach Spoken and Heard competition is Gary Ketchum of New Port Richey, Florida. The BlackBerryPeach Contest is a major NFSPS competition that challenges poets to present their best original poetry in print and spoken word.

NFSPS 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. This year's judge, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, commented "Poetry began, after all, as an oral and aural art and I love the way this contest harkens to those origins." A record number of entries this year is proof that interest in spoken word poetry continues to grow. Florida led the nation in number of entries, followed by Colorado and Ohio. Cavanaugh invites all poets to pick their 4 best poems and submit them to the BlackBerryPeach Competition next year. Submissions will be accepted between January 1, 2021, and March 15, 2021. Check the nfspd.com's Poetry Contests page for details.

As 1st place winner Ketchum receives the grand prize of \$1,000. The 2nd place prize winner of \$500 is Jessica Hassell of New Jersey. The 3rd place winner of \$250 is Amanda Bailey of Minnesota. The Honorable Mention Award winners are Josh Conklin of New Hampshire, Taelen Thomas of California, Susann Moeller of Ohio, and Melissa Huff of Illinois.

A video of the performances by the winners has been posted on YouTube. NFSPS will publish the prizewinning entries including written and oral versions of four poems from each, in a chap book that will be for sale by the winners and on amazon.com.

~ Joseph Cavanaugh, NFSPS 2nd VP and BlackBerryPeach Prizes for Poetry Chair

STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION

NFSPS is proud to announce J. Coppock as winner of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies 2019 Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition selected by David Rothman, NFSPS Honorary Chancellor. Dr. Rothman says of the manuscript: "Coppock's *So Kiss Me* is a deliciously unfashionable, highly ambitious, and carefully, cunningly crafted collection. It is fitting that it wins an award named for Stevens, because the book stands out for its splendid, rich artifice. Coppock resists or evades both the blandishments of confession and of demotic speech, and embraces mystery, grace, and delight, intentions that announce themselves in the first stanza of the first poem, "No Day for Rest":"

Obscured by roots that grope the fallen leaves,
the carven mysteries
of Mayan dynasties
suspend a streaming jungle from the eaves,
until the sacred ledgers clog or fall.
The pagan priests are dead;
their sacrifices led
to nothing more than this, this ruined wall.

I encourage you to purchase a copy of this manuscript. It is a true winner! The 2020 submission window for this contest is August 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020, at nfspd.submittable.com.

~Julie Cummings, NFSPS President

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

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder
Honorary Chancellor: David J. Rothman

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Elected, NFSPS Online Voting, July 2020

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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
2020 ANNUAL CONTEST WINNERS

1. NFSPS FOUNDERS AWARD [to honor Mary B. Wall] (352 entries) Judge: Jared Smith

- 1st Place:** Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 "The Secret Language of Ideas"
2nd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "Out of Ireland"
3rd Place: Joyce Gregor, Westcliffe, CO
 "Harlem Renaissance 1957"
 1st HM: Constance Snyder, East Thetford, VT
 2nd HM: K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA
 3rd HM: Patricia Thrushart, Clarington, PA
 4th HM: Jin Cordaro, Jackson, NJ
 5th HM: Elaine Zimmermann, Hamden, CT
 6th HM: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 7th HM: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX

2. WINNERS' CIRCLE AWARD

(194 entries) Judge: Jeremy Downes

- 1st Place:** M. E. Hope, O'Fallon, IL
 "Understory"
2nd Place: Libby Casey Irwin, Woodbury, MN
 "Upon *Looking* at a Photograph I See What Gifts Children and Stars Are"
3rd Place: Maggie Kennedy, Brookfield, IL
 "Child's Body Found in Park Lagoon"
 1st HM: Markay Brown, St. George, UT
 2nd HM: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 3rd HM: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 4th HM: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 5th HM: Libby Jones, Berea, KY
 6th HM: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 7th HM: Omair Hasan, Toledo, OH

3. THE NFSPS BOARD AWARD

(65 entries) Judge: Steven Concert

- 1st Place:** Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
 "Flotsam and Jetsam"
2nd Place: Jerri Hardesty, Bierfield, AL
 "She Was My Hero"
3rd Place: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
 "Father's Funeral"
 1st HM: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
 2nd HM: Janet Qually, Memphis, TN
 3rd HM: Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT
 4th HM: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 5th HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 6th HM: Harvey Stone, Johnson City, TN
 7th HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

4. THE MARGO AWARD

(94 entries) Judge: Barbara Funke

- 1st Place:** Charles Southerland, Viola, AR
 "The Librarian Wolves Reintroduced Into the Wild"
2nd Place: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 "Lone Wolf"
3rd Place: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
 "Mother Warned Me"
 1st HM: Rikki Santer, Columbus, OH
 2nd HM: Janet McCann, College Station, TX
 3rd HM: Claudia Van Gerven, Boulder, CO
 4th HM: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, Ont. Canada
 5th HM: Jenna Pashley, Richmond, TX
 6th HM: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
 7th HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

***5. DONALD STODGHILL MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members only) (117 entries) Judge: Julie Cummings

- 1st Place:** Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN
 "Beseeching the Raven"
2nd Place: Fay B. Wise, Benton, AR
 "A Note from the Ghost of Edgar Allen Poe"
3rd Place: Barbara Ford, Poncha Springs, CO
 "Fugitive Colors"
 1st HM: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI
 2nd HM: Barbara Banks, Garland, TX
 3rd HM: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT

- 4th HM: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX
 5th HM: Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK
 6th HM: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 7th HM: Peter Gordon, Orlando, FL

***6. GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD**

(*Members only) (91 entries) Judge: Jessica Temple

- 1st Place:** Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO
 "Summer, Newborn, Georgia"
2nd Place: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 "The Conch Republic"
3rd Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 "Gulf Oysters are Dying"
 1st HM: Jerri Hardesty, Bierfield, AL
 2nd HM: Carol Thompson, Tyler, TX
 3rd HM: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 4th HM: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 5th HM: Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR
 6th HM: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
 7th HM: Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

7. STONE GATHERING AWARD

(141 entries) Judge: Pat Durmon

- 1st Place:** Shirley Blackwell, Los Lunas, NM
 "The Life You Save"
2nd Place: Lori Ann Goetz, Germantown, TN
 "Leaden"
3rd Place: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 "Every Scar of Us"
 1st HM: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH
 2nd HM: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 3rd HM: Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX
 4th HM: Ed Brekke-Krammer, Fairmont, MN
 5th HM: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
 6th HM: M. E. Hope, O'Fallon, IL
 7th HM: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

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

(*Members only) (177 entries) Judge: Jesse L. Robbins

- 1st Place:** Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL
 "The Night of the Old Iguana"
2nd Place: Alison Chisolm, Southport, UK
 "Fairytale"
3rd Place: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 "Autumn Chill"
 1st HM: David Bond, Del Rio, TX
 2nd HM: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 3rd HM: Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH
 4th HM: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX
 5th HM: Peter Gordon, Orlando, FL
 6th HM: Julie Johnson, Norwalk, IA
 7th HM: B. F. McCune, Denver, CO

9. JIM BARTON, BARD OF THE PINES AWARD

(39 entries) Judge: Florence Bruce

- 1st Place:** Linda R. Payne, Fairfield, OH
 "I'd Rather Have a Meadow"
2nd Place: V. Kendall Barney, Kaysville, UT
 "Never-Changing Hills"
3rd Place: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
 "What I Wish For"
 1st HM: Elizabeth Shack, Savoy, IL
 2nd HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 3rd HM: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
 4th HM: Marc Davidson, Daytona Beach, FL
 5th HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 6th HM: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 7th HM: Shirley Blackwell, Los Lunas, NM

***10. AL LASTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members only) (146 entries) Judge: Jerold Narland

- 1st Place:** Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
 "Fantine's Despair"
2nd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 "Geometry"
3rd Place: Karen Mastracchio, Spring, TX
 "from Sorrows of the King (Matisse)"
 1st HM: Michael Escoubas, Bloomington, IL
 2nd HM: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 3rd HM: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

- 4th HM: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX
 5th HM: Christain Shute, Cheyenne, WY
 6th HM: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 7th HM: Barbara Ford, Poncha Springs, CO

***11. JIM BARTON MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members Only) (171 entries) Judge: Julie Allyn Johnson

- 1st Place:** Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 "Eden and After"
2nd Place: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 "Ending It"
3rd Place: Charles Salmons, Pickerington, OH
 "My Father Cursed"
 1st HM: Rebecca L. Bailey, Grangeville, ID
 2nd HM: Pam Whitfield, Rochester, MN
 3rd HM: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 4th HM: Omair Hasan, Toledo, OH
 5th HM: Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT
 6th HM: Alison Chisolm, Southport, UK
 7th HM: Ravitte Kentwortz, Louisville, CO

***12. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD**

(*Members only) (151 entries)

- Judge: Nancy Susanna Breen
1st Place: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 "Pink Squirrel!"
2nd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 "Fallingwater"
3rd Place: Faye Adams, Cherokee Village, AR
 "A Hole in the Sky"
 1st HM: Peter Stein, Minneapolis, MN
 2nd HM: Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO
 3rd HM: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 4th HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 5th HM: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 6th HM: Rikki Santer, Columbus, OH
 7th HM: Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

13. LAND OF ENCHANTMENT AWARD

(125 entries) Judge: Anthony Fusco

- 1st Place:** Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "One Journey on the Railroad"
2nd Place: Charles K. Firmage, Eagle Pass, TX
 "Listening for Trains"
3rd Place: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 "Bipolars and Borderlines"
 1st HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 2nd HM: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 3rd HM: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 4th HM: Windy Visser, Cambridge, Ont. Canada
 5th HM: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO
 6th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 7th HM: Judith Feenstra, Maple Lake, MN

14. POWER OF WOMEN AWARD

(146 entries) Judge: Polly Opsahl

- 1st Place:** Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
 "Draft Field Guide for the American Girl"
2nd Place: Ciela Reed, Athens, GA
 "Women's Hands: A Primer"
3rd Place: Harvey Stone, Johnson City, TN
 "Sexual Syntax"
 1st HM: Alliyah Greaver, Yankton, SD
 2nd HM: Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL
 3rd HM: Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL
 4th HM: Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN
 5th HM: Rikki Santer, Columbus, OH
 6th HM: Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL
 7th HM: Tina Vorreyer, Westmont, IL

15. THE VIRGINIA CORRIE-COZART MEMORIAL AWARD

(68 entries) Judge: Ann Gasser

- 1st Place:** Crystal Barker, Los Angeles, CA
 "105 Pounds of Fierce"
2nd Place: Jerri Hardesty, Bierfield, AL
 "Wild One"
3rd Place: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 "What Should Have Been In The Obituary"

1st HM: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
 2nd HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 3rd HM: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 4th HM: Susan Randall, Orem, UT
 5th HM: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 6th HM: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 7th HM: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX

16. ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY

AWARD (156 entries) Judge: Donna Salli

1st Place: Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH
 "Shovel Song"
2nd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 "Respiration"

3rd Place: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 "Prediction for Tomorrow"

1st HM: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 2nd HM: Jonathan Bennett, Lakeland, TN
 3rd HM: Janet McCann, College Station, TX
 4th HM: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
 5th HM: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL
 6th HM: Llewellyn McKernan, New Smyrna Beach, FL
 7th HM: Roger Singer, Old Lyme, CT

*17. MILDRED VORPAHL BAASS REMEMBRANCE AWARD

(*Members Only) (97 entries) Judge: Carolyn Files

1st Place: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 "I Won't Tell You About the Cat"

2nd Place: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 "To The Manner Born"

3rd Place: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
 "C Is For Chloe, The Care Giving Cat"

1st HM: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 2nd HM: Sheila Murphy, Portland, CT
 3rd HM: Doris Jones, Madison, MS
 4th HM: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 5th HM: Lisa Baldwin, Grand Pass, OR
 6th HM: Terrie Jacks, Ballwin, MO
 7th HM: Charles K. Firmage, Eagle Pass, TX

18. LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS AWARD

(203 entries) Judge: Jeanette Willert

1st Place: Carmel Morse, Lima, OH
 "Ghost Insomniacs"

2nd Place: Susan Campbell, Mansfield, TX
 "The Pigeons of Paris: The Fire"

3rd Place: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
 "A Long Ride"

1st HM: Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
 2nd HM: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 3rd HM: Anita Jepson-Gilbert, Westminster, CO
 4th HM: Tony Fusco, West Haven, CT
 5th HM: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 6th HM: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 7th HM: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN

19. JESSICA C. SAUNDERS MEMORIAL AWARD

(86 entries) Judge: Emily Strauss

1st Place: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
 "Word Song"
2nd Place: Tony Fusco, West Haven, CT
 "PTSD"

3rd Place: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 "Remembering the First One Dead"

1st HM: Mimi Jennings, Saint Paul, MN
 2nd HM: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
 3rd HM: Anne Pierre Spangler, Lebanon, PA
 4th HM: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
 5th HM: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 6th HM: Betsy M. Hughes, Dayton, OH
 7th HM: Doris Dembosky, Penrose, CO

20. POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA AWARD

(94 entries) Judge: Lori Goetz

1st Place: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 "We Knew Them as Boys"

2nd Place: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 "Enduring Freedom"

3rd Place: Beth Honeycutt, Denton, TX
 "One Smoke From a Wheelchair"

1st HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 2nd HM: Tonya R. Whitney, Sorrento, LA
 3rd HM: Shelly Jones, Johnson, IA
 4th HM: Linda Treat, Blue Springs, MS
 5th HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 6th HM: Mary Beth Magee, Poplarville, MS
 7th HM: Richard P. Hurler, Tyler, TX

21. NEVADA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

(101 entries) Judge: Ann Carolyn Cates

1st Place: Curt Vevang, Palatine, IL
 "As The World Trembles"

2nd Place: Elaine Person, Orlando, FL
 "Senior Citizen's Online Dating Profile"

3rd Place: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
 "Dust Bunnies"

1st HM: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood UT
 2nd HM: Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK
 3rd HM: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 4th HM: Suzanne Austin-Hill, Ruskin, FL
 5th HM: Brenda Wildrick, Ft. Morgan, CO
 6th HM: Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
 7th HM: Shirley Blackwell, Los Lunas, NM

22. WILLIAM STAFFORD MEMORIAL AWARD

(177 entries) Judge: Susan Glassmeyer

1st Place: Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS
 "Blank Frame"

2nd Place: Daniel Liberthson, Cottage Grove, OR
 "Reading James Wright"

3rd Place: Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ
 "I Hear You"

1st HM: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 2nd HM: Charles Salmons, Pickerington, OH
 3rd HM: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 4th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 5th HM: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
 6th HM: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
 7th HM: Maxine Carlson, Iowa City, IA

23. THE NEW YORK POETRY FORUM AWARD

(166 entries) Judge: William "Bucky" Ignatius

1st Place: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 "Survival"

2nd Place: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, Ont. Canada
 "The Stringed Instrument of Words"

3rd Place: Betsy M. Hughes, Dayton, OH
 "Paper Flowers"

1st HM: Carmel Morse, Lima, OH
 2nd HM: Charlotte Abernathy, Ashland, OR
 3rd HM: Sara Gipson, Scott, AZ
 4th HM: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 5th HM: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
 6th HM: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
 7th HM: Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, NM

*24. COLUMBINE POETS OF COLORADO

AWARD (*Members only) (157 entries)

Judge: Alina Stefanescu

1st Place: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 "Currency"

2nd Place: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 "April"

3rd Place: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 "Any Month"

1st HM: Susan Campbell, Mansfield, TX
 2nd HM: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 3rd HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 4th HM: Laura Hansen, Little Falls, MN
 5th HM: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 6th HM: Carolyn Evans Campbell Evergreen, CO
 7th HM: Anita Jepson-Gilbert, Westminster, CO

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

(175 entries) Judge: William "Bill" Reyer

1st Place: Pegi Deitz Shea, Rockville, CT
 "Charlotte's Egg Sac"

2nd Place: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
 "Quite Wisdom"

3rd Place: Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL
 "A Tanglewood Tale"

1st HM: Carie Juettner, Austin, TX
 2nd HM: Doris Dembosky, Penrose, CO
 3rd HM: Henry Panowitsch, Mankato, MN
 4th HM: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX
 5th HM: Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR
 6th HM: Maurice G. Lyons, Mansfield, OH
 7th HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

26. TRADITIONAL HAIKU AWARD

(160 entries) Judge: Art Elser

1st Place: David Bond, Del Rio, TX
 "Pure science slipped through"

2nd Place: Brenda Brown Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS
 "Sun through Mason jars"

3rd Place: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 "red clay canyon walls"

1st HM: Ana Reisens, Barcelona, Spain
 2nd HM: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 3rd HM: Gearldine Felt, Layton, UT
 4th HM: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
 5th HM: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
 6th HM: Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR
 7th HM: NOT AWARDED

27. LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY

AWARD (161 entries) Judge: Joe Cavanaugh

1st Place: Florene Flatt, Lubbock, TX
 "The Wall"

2nd Place: Lauren McDaniel Carbondale, IL
 "Juggling on the Amite, LA"

3rd Place: Christian Shute, Cheyenne, WY
 "Absolom"

1st HM: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 2nd HM: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
 3rd HM: Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL
 4th HM: Karen Call, Aurora, CO
 5th HM: Jon Sebba, Murray, UT
 6th HM: Nancy Simmonds, Ft. Wayne, IN
 7th HM: Crystal Barker, Los Angeles, CA

*28. EVELYN CORRY APPELBEE AWARD

(*Members only) (159 entries) Judge: Dawn Terpstra

1st Place: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 "When I think about you..."

2nd Place: Pam Tucker, Washington, UT
 "Every Word has a Vowel"

3rd Place: Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR
 "Concave"

1st HM: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 2nd HM: Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT
 3rd HM: Patricia Thrushart, Clarington, PA
 4th HM: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 5th HM: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
 6th HM: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 7th HM: Llewellyn McKernan, New Smyrna Beach, FL

29. UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

(129 entries) Judge: Barbara Blanks

1st Place: Carolyn Evans Campbell, Evergreen, CO
 "Eve Steps Out"

2nd Place: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 "Cavern Where the Heart Should Be"

3rd Place: Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT
 "Lineage of Laments"

1st HM: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 2nd HM: Patricia Thrushart, Clarington, PA
 3rd HM: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 4th HM: Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
 5th HM: Alexandra Moss Zannis, Fort Wayne, IN
 6th HM: Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL
 7th HM: Tommy Little, Brandon, MS

30. CSPS JAMES E MACWHINNEY MEMORIAL

AWARD (59 entries) Judge: Anita Jepson-Gilbert

1st Place: Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
 "Writing on Rocks"

2nd Place: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 "In Defense of Earth"
3rd Place: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
 "Three White Moons"
 1st HM: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 2nd HM: Christie Cook, Sandy, UT
 3rd HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy
 4th HM: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 5th HM: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
 6th HM: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 7th HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

31. ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

AWARD (127 entries) Judge: Alan Perry

1st Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "Estate Sale Biography"
2nd Place: Laura Mahal, Ft. Collins, CO
 "No One in Particular"
3rd Place: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 "After Reading a Good Book"
 1st HM: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
 2nd HM: Peter Stein, Minneapolis, MN
 3rd HM: Omair Hasan, Toledo, OH
 4th HM: Janice Hoffman, Williamsburg, VA
 5th HM: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 6th HM: Doris Jones, Madison, MS
 7th HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

32. THE ROBBIE AWARD

(110 entries) Judge: Karen Kay Bailey

1st Place: Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
 "Dressing the Boy"
2nd Place: Geraldine Felt, Layton, UT
 "March 17, 1975"
3rd Place: Judith Feenstra, Maple, MN
 "Shepherd"
 1st HM: Laura Altshul, New Haven CT
 2nd HM: Tanya R. Whitney, Sorrento, LA
 3rd HM: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 4th HM: Mary Theis, Talent, OR
 5th HM: Jade Rosina McCutcheon, Salem, OR
 6th HM: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 7th HM: Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

33. OHIO AWARD

(171 entries) Judge: Russell Strauss

1st Place: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH
 "Hallowed Ground"
2nd Place: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 "Ode to a Season"
3rd Place: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
 "West of Juntura, Oregon, I Hear a Late-Night
 Truck"
 1st HM: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 2nd HM: Jerri Hardesty, Bierfield, AL
 3rd HM: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
 4th HM: Carmel Morse, Luna, OH
 5th HM: Crystal Barker, Los Angeles, CA
 6th HM: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 7th HM: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT

34. FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION

AWARD (54 entries) Judge: Terrie Jacks

1st Place: Jenna Pashley, Richmond, TX
 "Fountain of Youth"
2nd Place: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 "Tracing Orange Blossoms"
3rd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "The Ringmaster"
 1st HM: Mark Davidson, Daytona Beach, FL
 2nd HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 3rd HM: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX
 4th HM: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 5th HM: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 6th HM: Alexandra Moss Zannis, Fort Wayne, IN
 7th HM: Susan Daubenspeck, Corpus Christi, TX

35. POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN AWARD

(156 entries) Judge: Susan Gundlach

1st Place: Charlotte Abernathy, Ashland, OR
 "Dark Cherries"
2nd Place: Jonathan Bennett, Lakeland, TN
 "Quotient"
3rd Place: Michael Spears, Plain City, UT
 "The 'Black Hole'"
 1st HM: Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL
 2nd HM: Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR
 3rd HM: James F. Ahearn, Rochester, MI
 4th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 5th HM: Dr. Emory Jones, Iuka, MS
 6th HM: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 7th HM: Judith Feenstra, Maple Lake, MN

36. MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

(87 entries) Judge: Barbra Nightengale

1st Place: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
 "Sonnet to an Armadillo"
2nd Place: Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
 "On Writing Poetry"
3rd Place: Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX
 "Autumn Chill"
 1st HM: Anita Jepsen-Gilbert, Westminster, CO
 2nd HM: Donna Puccaini, Wheaton, IL
 3rd HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 4th HM: Betsy M. Hughes, Dayton, OH
 5th HM: Martha Balph, Millville, UT
 6th HM: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO
 7th HM: Mary Tindall, Whitehouse, TX

*37. JESSIE STAURT MEMORIAL AWARD

(*Members only) (128 entries) Judge: Pat Lieb

1st Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "At Masada"
2nd Place: Betty Kossick, Apopka, FL
 "Kentucky Girl"
3rd Place: Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS
 "The Patriot"
 1st HM: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 2nd HM: Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ
 3rd HM: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 4th HM: Tanya R. Whitney, Sorrento, LA
 5th HM: Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR
 6th HM: Tilli Urban, Denver, CO
 7th HM: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT

38. MINUTE AWARD

(68 entries) Judge: Janet Qually

1st Place: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 "The Hometown Oak"
2nd Place: Robert Shinzel, Highland Village, TX
 "Sprouts"
3rd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 "Everbeauty"
 1st HM: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 2nd HM: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
 3rd HM: Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
 4th HM: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
 5th HM: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 6th HM: Mary Tindall, Whitehouse, TX
 7th HM: Linda R. Payne, Fairfield, OH

39. BARBARA STEVENS MEMORIAL AWARD

(169 entries) Judge: Vince Broerman

1st Place: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
 "The Disseminator of a Sad Truth"
2nd Place: Brenda Brown Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS
 "I Wish I'd Had a Black Friend"
3rd Place: Linda Treat, Blue Springs, MS
 "The Broken Heel"
 1st HM: Pamelyn Casto, De Cordova, TX
 2nd HM: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, Texas
 3rd HM: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 4th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 5th HM: Judith Feenstra, Maple Lake, MN
 6th HM: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
 7th HM: Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

*40. ALICE MAKENZIE SWAIM MEMORIAL

AWARD (*Members only) (79 entries)

Judge: Rita Aiken Mortiz
1st Place: Jerri Hardesty, Bierfield, AL
 "Faithful"
2nd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Hamlet Grieves for Yorick"
3rd Place: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
 "Spring Rain"
 1st HM: Robert V. Davis, West Haven, UT
 2nd HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 3rd HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 4th HM: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 5th HM: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
 6th HM: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
 7th HM: Jeani M. Picklesimer, Ashland, KY

*41. POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA

AWARD (*Members only) (109 entries)

Judge: Lauren Hanisian
1st Place: Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX
 "A Secret Distance Keeps"
2nd Place: Elaine Person, Orlando, FL
 "Gala"
3rd Place: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 "Misty Morning"
 1st HM: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, UK
 2nd HM: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 3rd HM: Shirley Blackwell, Los Lunas, NM
 4th HM: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO
 5th HM: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 6th HM: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 7th HM: Alice Haines, Auburn, ME

42. SAVE OUR EARTH AWARD

(117 entries) Judge: Dorothy Black Crow

1st Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "The Flight of Sparrows"
2nd Place: Merideth R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
 "Fallout"
3rd Place: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
 "Bilking Lights Paint Darkness Scarlet"
 1st HM: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 2nd HM: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 3rd HM: Tommy Little, Brandon, MS
 4th HM: Anita Jepsen-Gilbert, Westminster, CO
 5th HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 6th HM: Marilyn Huntman Giese, Aurora, IL
 7th HM: Betsy M. Hughes, Dayton, OH

43. MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

AWARD (142 entries) Judge: Holly Dunlap

1st Place: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO
 "Changeling"
2nd Place: Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
 "Where We"
3rd Place: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 "Presenting the Four Seasons as Composed"
 1st HM: Carolyn Evans Campbell, Evergreen, CO
 2nd HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 3rd HM: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
 4th HM: Christina Phillips, Orlando, FL
 5th HM: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 6th HM: Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT
 7th HM: Jo-Anne Rowley, Lafayette, CO

44. POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE AWARD

(164 entries) Judge: Alida Rol

1st Place: Shelly Reed Thieman, West Des Moines, IA
 "Afghan Matches"
2nd Place: Jenna Pashley, Richmond, TX
 "Poetic Globetrotting"
3rd Place: Lisa Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR
 "Poetry is a Country"
 1st HM: Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH
 2nd HM: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 3rd HM: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 4th HM: Beth Honeycutt, Denton, TX
 5th HM: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 6th HM: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
 7th HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

45. IOWA POETRY ASSOCIATION AWARD

(110 entries) Judge: Sandra Nantais

1st Place: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
"Bathub Lake"**2nd Place:** Doris Jones, Madison, MS
"Hummingbird Hoedown"**3rd Place:** Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
"My Pet, My Pet Whatever Shall It Be"

1st HM: Jennifer Rood, Grants Pass, OR

2nd HM: Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR

3rd HM: Jerri Hardesty, Bierfield, AL

4th HM: Marlene Million, Noblesville, IN

5th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

6th HM: Marjorie Dohman, Riceville, IA

7th HM: Shelly Jones, Johnston, IA

46. WYPOETS AWARD

(86 entries) Judge: Jennifer Horne

1st Place: Carolyn Evans Campbell, Evergreen, CO
"Child of the Prairie"**2nd Place:** Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
"A Letter from the Prairie, 1878"**3rd Place:** Christine Irving, Denton, TX
"The Cowgirl and the Raven"

1st HM: Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

2nd HM: John McPherson, Searcy, AR

3rd HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

4th HM: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT

5th HM: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN

6th HM: Ravitte Kentwortz, Louisville, CO

7th HM: Michael Spears, Plain City, UT

***47. SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION**

AWARD (*Members only) (86 entries)

Judge: Rose Klix

1st Place: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
"Truck"**2nd Place:** Steven Leitch, West Jordon, UT
"The Master Gardener"**3rd Place:** Marilyn Huntman Giese, Aurora, IL
"Message from the Midnight Moon"

1st HM: Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH

2nd HM: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR

3rd HM: Michael Spears, Plain City, UT

4th HM: Kathleen Puchala, Rockwood, MI

5th HM: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA

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

7th HM: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

48. MAINE POETS SOCIETY AWARD

(113 entries) Judge: Kathryn "Kate" Lacy

1st Place: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
"The Color of Deep Water, Mid-Pacific"**2nd Place:** K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA
"Maiden Voyage of an Iceberg, 400 AD April-1912"**3rd Place:** Jon Sebba, Murray, UT
"Surge of Attention"

1st HM: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

2nd HM: Brenda Brown Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS

3rd HM: Carlton Johnson, Winter Park, FL

4th HM: Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH

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

6th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

7th HM: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

***49. MIRIAM S. STRAUSS MEMORIAL AWARD**

(*Members only)(112 entries) Judge: Lynda La Rocca

1st Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
"Guardian of Lochinvar Plantation"**2nd Place:** Elizabeth Horrocks, Winslow, UK
"Breaking Through"**3rd Place:** Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
"Haunted"

1st HM: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK

2nd HM: Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ont. Canada

3rd HM: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

4th HM: Patti J. Koch, Oklahoma City, OK

5th HM: Wendy Visser, Cambridge, Ont. Canada

6th HM: Janet Tyner, Tyler, TX

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

50. THE POETS NORTHWEST AWARD

(131 entries) Judge: Sue Brannan Walker

1st Place: Merideth R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
"Achieving Détente, or, a Lesson for Xenophobic Warmongers"**2nd Place:** Dr. Emory Jones, Iuka, MS
"Sacred Music"**3rd Place:** Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
"At the Psychiatric Museum"

1st HM: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN

2nd HM: Virginia Mortensen, Des Moines, IA

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

4th HM: Linda Treat, Blue Springs, MS

5th HM: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

6th HM: Omair Hasan, Toledo, OH

7th HM: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

51. STUDENT AWARD GRADES 9-12

(37 entries) Judge: Budd Powell Mahan

1st Place: Bianca Singelstad, Lake Mills, IA
"Estate Sale Biography"**2nd Place:** Sarah Meeks, Little Rock, AR
"Something Like a Story"**3rd Place:** Megan Johnson, Ely, IA
"Number one on My To Do List"

1st HM: Tristian Stubblefield, Marengo, IA

2nd HM: Summer Craig, North Little Rock, AR

3rd HM: Jackson Nelson-Bradley, Davenport, IA

4th HM: Alana Scherer, West Des Moines, IA

5th HM: Kate Moellers, Little Rock, AR

6th HM: Nicholis Roberts, White Hall, AR

7th HM: Crimson Ruttenberg, Bedford, IA

52. STUDENT AWARD GRADES 6-8

(23 entries) Judge: Shari Crane Fox

1st Place: Megan Goughnour, Polk City, IA
"Family"**2nd Place:** Laney Pearson, Denver, CO
"Addiction (Free Verse)"**3rd Place:** Emma Paris, Putney, VT
"Did You Know, America?"

1st HM: Isa Roth, Denver, CO

2nd HM: Haley Olson, Sandborn, IA

3rd HM: Isabell Lowe, Sheldahl, IA

4th HM: Olivia Nusbaum, Denver, CO

5th HM: Adrianna Ripple, Ft. Wayne, IN

6th HM: Alexa Tsvetkov, Denver, CO

7th HM: Aubrey Chapman, Osage, IA

53. STUDENT AWARD GRADES 3-5

(6 entries) Judge: Shari Crane Fox

1st Place: Julia Irish, Lakewood, CO
"The Shadow"**2nd Place:** Jack Hillman, Ames, IA
"Frank"**3rd Place:** Laura Austin, McHenry, KY
"The Rose"

1st HM: Sophie Kyverya, Ames, IA

2nd HM: Trysten Collins, Ames, IA

3rd HM: Neve Sprecher, Ames, IA

4th HM: NOT AWARDED

5th HM: NOT AWARDED

6th HM: NOT AWARDED

7th HM: NOT AWARDED

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS**CONNECTICUT POETRY SOCIETY**

continues strong, despite recent challenges. Not all members belong to chapters, but those who do like to get together to share their work. COVID-19 has turned our world upside down. Many of our chapters now meet via Zoom or email to share poems and give feedback. We even have some new chapters, including one that is focusing on haiku. We continue to host a series of programs called Poets on Poetry, or POPs.

The last few presentations have been virtual meetings using Zoom. Recent programs have focused Walt Whitman and Robert Hayden. Our state Poet Laureate, Margaret Gibson, an honorary Board Member of CPS, was recently named a 2020 Poet Laureate Fellow by the Academy of American Poets. She received a grant to host eco-themed poetry readings featuring town-laureate poets and local poets, and to produce an anthology of poems by CT authors about the natural world and climate change. In addition, our society's 2020 Connecticut River Review Contest will focus on the natural world. Submissions are open to poets from around the country, from August 1 to September 30. Authors of prize-winning poems will earn substantial cash prizes and have their poems published in our annual poetry journal, *Connecticut River Review*. Guidelines can be found on our web site. ~ *Ginny Connors, Reporter*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

has been continuing to have chapter critiques on Zoom as well as board meetings, in spite of the pandemic. The fifth volume of our biennial anthology is nearing completion and will be available possibly in late summer. Our annual poetry contest will be held again with submissions starting in the fall. The ISPS website will post further details. The Manningham contest was a success, although there was no chance for students to read their winning poems at Brewed Awakening Cafe as is the usual arrangement. We regret that there was no national convention but do send greetings to all the members of NFSPS. Please visit illinoispoets.org for ongoing news. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA

is trying new and fresh ideas for staying connected, growing membership, and tending to the needs of our group—electronically. Our Annual Spring Fling was coordinated by our Premier Poet, Sarah E. Morin-Wilson, and still included all the workshops, contests, and connections originally planned before the pandemic. At this time, it appears that our Fall Rendezvous may go the same route as our venue at the State Park Inn may not be accommodating retreats this fall. However, our Annual Poetry Contest is in full force until mid-August. Our Contest Brochure, Membership Enrollment form, and other bits are on poetrysocietyofindiana.org. Our website and Facebook pages have become the state resource spot for other poetry groups to share their news and presentations. Poets from around the state advertise their publications with us. As a growing hub, we are making new friends and branching out

into other areas of the state with other creative wordsmiths. We have had 11 of our own PSI members publish chapbooks within the last year alone. ~ *Deborah Petersen, President*

IOWA POETRY ASSOCIATION has postponed our 75th Anniversary Celebration to October 2021 due to COVID-19. The Celebration will still include an all-day workshop in Des Moines with Iowa's Poet Laureate, Debra Marquart, and an evening of Poetry Conversations with Debra Marquart, Ray Young Bear, Rustin Larson and Crystal Stone. Sunday will feature a formal luncheon at the Tea Room in Des Moines. Our 75th edition of *Lyrical Iowa* will be published with a foreword from Iowa's Poet Laureate, a brief history of IPA, as well as poems from our 2020 Lyrical Iowa Competitions. The winners list is at iowapoetry.com/lyricaliowa.htm; winning poems will be posted when the anthology is released this fall. Our Spring Workshop was changed to a mail-in / email critique of poems submitted. Critics Jeanne Emmons and Rustin Larson graciously shared all their comments in writing, which were then returned to participants. For our Fall workshop, we have decided to do a Zoom meeting with critics to read and discuss all poems submitted. This will be held in October in place of our regular workshop and will be offered to IPA members only. In addition, we will hold our bi-annual election of officers by mail-in ballot. ~ *Marilyn Baszczyński, IPA's Editor-in-chief*

LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY's 2020 Fall contest deadline for entries is August 31. Contest is open to all and details are available on our website louisianastatepoetrysociety.org. We still have the 2019 anthology available for \$8. Checks and money orders are to be mailed to LSPS, 6660 Cambridge St., Baton Rouge, LA 70807. On a sad note, Lola Jolly recently died. Lola was a member for over 30 years. Her son will present a collection of her poems to our chapter, which will be archived at Tulane University along with other poetic materials of the GNO-Fleur de Lys Chapter. The LSPS 2020 70th Spring Festival Anniversary celebration was cancelled and will be rescheduled for next spring. We are exploring digital formats until we can return to the Old Metairie Library. Our Spring 2021 LSPS poetry contest's details will be finalized in October. The outreach Haiku group (organized by Emma Pierson) has met monthly to read, write and edit haiku. The group is working on self-publishing a book of haiku. All chapters are practicing social distancing and are taking safety precautions for the

COVID-19 pandemic. Keep writing. Stay encouraged. ~ *Kaylon Allen, President*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY met on Zoom Saturday, May 16, with contest judge David Sloan sharing the results of our "Truth Telling" members-only contest and reading some of his own work. We were pleased that several members who are not able to travel when we meet in person were able to join us. The following Saturday, May 23, members were invited to participate in a two-hour workshop led by Claire Hersom, also on Zoom. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 19. This also will be online. Time is yet to be determined as are the details for the next members-only contest which will have a deadline of August 19. Information will be available by mid-July and will be included in our next newsletter (*Stanza*) and on mainepoetsociety.com. ~ *Sally Joy, Reporter*

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN: To stay in touch and keep writing, we began posting a writing prompt every day on our Facebook page. Our webmaster, David Jibson, reposts the prompts on our web page, with the caveat that some publications consider any web presence a publication. Interestingly we have gained at least ten new members during this time. Phillip Sterling, our newsletter editor, decided to devote most of the spring issue to poems written during our quarantine, but not doomy, gloomy ones. It was a great and well-received issue. Full disclosure: my poem "Home Office" about working with cats in the vicinity is in there. Finally, Melanie Dunbar, our contest coordinator, had to refigure our annual contest guidelines, publication schedule, and plan logistics. Our spring issue of *Peninsula Poets* still languishes in a closed print shop on a closed college campus. If all we have are electronics, then we will use them. My writing group meets on Zoom, and there is less distraction. The chance to stay connected is crucial. One of our members writes a short poem every morning. I am on her mailing list and look forward to reading it each day. ~ *Elizabeth Kerlikowske, President*

NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY remains committed as a resource/advocate for poetry throughout New Mexico. Meanwhile, Zoom meetings open up opportunities to meet and expand NMSPS's horizons in the future. Our state convention has been rescheduled tentatively for October 17, 2020. Our NMSPS Bylaws/Constitution were written and ratified in November 2019, for better

financial controls, simplified membership structure, and recruiting younger members. A new NMSPS chapter has been formed (Poetry and Film). Our former chapter (River Poets) has been reinstated. Our updated website goes live at the end of the summer. Our Children's Poetry Project continues to thrive after ten years! Last winter, thirty poets partnered with the Albuquerque Museum to present a program that included poetry with families. Over 300 people took part in our Poets Picnic that included live poetry readings, music, book sales, and demonstrations by members of the Escribiente Calligraphy Society. Our 2020 Picnic was rescheduled for May 2021. NMSPS's Poetry and Film chapter partnered with the Santa Fe Film Festival in February to produce a poetry reading and poetry film screening event. NM Poet Laureate Levi Romero and State Senator Bill O'Neill were among the readers. ~ *Bernadette Perez, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA scheduled its annual Workshop for July 25th at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City. We planned an exciting workshop despite the COVID-19 coronavirus! Not only did we have a special key-note speaker at our workshop, we had in-house workshop exercises, too. This year we decided to work with haikus. We enjoyed this time of poetry, learning and recognition. Winning poems were read, poets recognized, awards given, and a delicious luncheon provided. Every year NFSPS, Inc. offers as one of its poetry contests, the Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition. A huge congratulations to our own Past President, John Coppock, as this year's winner! Congratulations to Carol Hamilton as "Poet of the Week" in Poetry Super Highway. Her featured poem was "Shopping Malls Are Almost Gone". Carol is a former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma. We invite everyone to check out angelfire.com/poetry/psoc/ and our Facebook page for current PSO information. As always, we welcome all to "Come and grow at PSO!" ~ *Patti Koch, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE's Northeast Chapter (PST-NE) marks its 10th anniversary in 2020! Over the past decade PST-NE has built an active community of poets, attracting them from Johnson City, Kingsport, Bristol and surrounding regions. We often partner with local writers and area writers' groups such as Lost State Writers Guild and regional college faculty to provide fresh and diverse insights into the craft. (continued on page 8)

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE (continued from page 7)

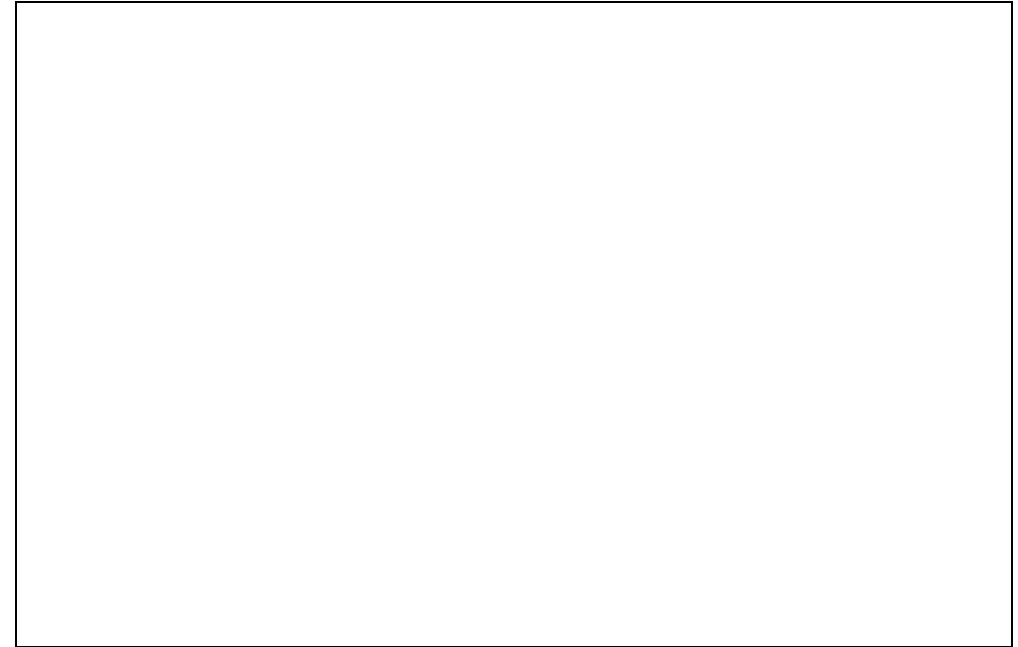
We have learned from and were inspired by featured presentations held by poets like Knoxville Poet Laureate Dr. Marilyn Kallet and East Tennessee State University Poet-in-Residence Dr. Jesse Graves, along with members of our own community. What started at a six-foot table with five members crafting poetry for PST contests grew to a gathering open to creative expression and where community members motivate and learn from one another. Our poets have ranged from their twenties to their nineties, bringing with them both individual and shared experiences. Whether sharing poems among members, giving presentations, sponsoring public readings, contests, and workshops, or composing anthologies such as *Fresh Breath*, we strive to expand our membership and hone our poetry craft. We are proud to have reached our decennial anniversary and hope to celebrate many more milestones in the future. ~ *Lori Goetz, President*

WYOPOETS' outgoing and incoming Board of Directors passed unanimously an official statement of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. The full statement can be found on our website. Due to the pandemic, the WyoPoets' Workshop faced some major changes. However, we have pivoted successfully to the online Zoom format. For the health of the members the board made the difficult decision not to hold the workshop in Gillette as planned. Our 2020 presenter, Juliet Patterson, offered an online video workshop with prompts and feedback. Paced over several weeks, participation was very good. At least 30 people attended each of the three online meetings. Some people were able to participate who wouldn't have been able to travel. Initial evaluations have been good. The board has chosen to continue WyoPoets' Zoom membership and will allow local groups to access it for poetry readings and other public writing events. ~ *Angel Mizner, Reporter*

POETRY CONTESTS

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE CONTEST

PST has posted its 64th Annual Contest Brochure. See poetrytennessee.org and click on our "Annual Festival and Contest" tab for a link to the brochure and additional details. A special highlight: a young adult contest, "Social issues facing youths in 2020!"



POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ANNUAL CONTEST

Deadline: August 15, 2020 (postmark). The brochure listing all contests, procedures and rules are at poetrysocietyoftexas.org or by mailing a SASE to PST Annual Contests Chairman Nancy Baass, 408 E. Warren Ave., Victoria, TX 77901-4847.

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

ISPS' annual contest is now accepting entries. Details are on illinoispoets.org. Deadline for submissions is October 31, 2020. If you have any questions, contact Jim Lambert at jim@jimlambert.net or you can mail him a note to him at: 300 Twin Lakes Rd., Carterville, IL 62918. This contest has 13 categories including one for Cinquain poems.

POETS & PATRONS OF CHICAGO ANNUAL CONTEST

This year's Poets & Patrons contest has 14 themed categories, plus a free sonnet contest with 2 categories (traditional and modern). Cash prizes (including one prize of \$300.00). Deadline September 1, 2020. Contests are open to all, except one category open to Chicago area residents only. Go to poetsandpatrons.net for details and guidelines.

MONTHLY POETRY CONTEST

Wilda Morris, former president of the Illinois State Poetry Society, posts a contest for other poets each month on her blog. New contests are posted on the first of the month; deadline is the 15th of the month. No charge to enter. Previously published poems are okay, but not simultaneous submissions. Winning poems are published. View the complete guidelines at: wildamorris.blogspot.com.

THANKS TO OUTGOING NFSPS ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

I want to take this opportunity to thank Shirley Blackwell and Lucille Morgan Wilson for their tireless dedication to the NFSPS board and our federation.

With great appreciation for your immeasurably valuable work you both have done for NFSPS, I can never thank you enough. Your dedication is essential to the work that we do at NFSPS. With your unique qualities, each of you brought ideas, positive energy and a beautiful intensity for poetry to the board and the federation. The good you have done returns to you a hundredfold. Never forget this: be sure that the universe has wonderful things in store for each you. My bottomless thanks to you both.

~*Julie Cummings, NFSPS President*

ENCORE 2020



The anthology of our top 159 prize-winning poems from NFSPS 2020 contests is on Amazon for \$13. The 2019 edition that would have been distributed at this year's convention is also available. All royalties support NFSPS.

~*Kathy Cotton, Encore Editor*