



Penns to Paper

NEWSLETTER OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA POETRY SOCIETY, INC.

BIANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS!

POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- Contest Winners
- Save the date for our 60th anniversary gala
- Calls to action
- On Diction in Poetry
- Critique Service

As the crisp morning evolved to an unseasonably balmy afternoon, thirty-one members of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society gathered in one of Allenberry's conference rooms for the biannual meeting and luncheon.

The biggest event of the day was certainly the PPS election where all members present voted to affirm the current slate of officers, including President DeAnna Spurlock, Vice President Lynn

Fetterolf, Secretary Lynda Myers and Trustees Ann Gasser and Leon Geoffrey.

Subsequently, some concerns were expressed about PPS's investments and the economy, though the discussion ended with the consensus to hide and watch.

The winners of the first annual PPS Poetry contest were announced

and invited to read their winning poems during the open reading segment of the meeting. Pages four and five of this newsletter contain these poems.

A discussion ensued about the possibility of putting together an anthology of poems by members past and present for next year's 60th anniversary celebration. That celebration will be held from April 30 to May 2, 2009 in Gettysburg.

PEGASUS ENTERS THE 21ST CENTURY

Ann Gasser, Contributor

In the good old days before computers, the *Pegasus* Chair relied on members to give copies of the contest flyer to local teachers, and the PPS publicity person sent a few postcards to radio stations asking them to publicize the contest. But since there are 514 school districts in Pennsylvania, we had traditionally reached only a small portion of them.

In more recent years, flyers were bulk-mailed to PPS members and to as many as 400 schools and libraries, but we found out many of those flyers, especially the ones which had no names and were addressed to Creative Writing Teacher, were

lost in school mail and never reached those who might have encouraged entries.

With more and more schools going online, we decided this year we would try reaching teachers and student poets by e-mail. With the help of an anonymous clerk in the Pennsylvania Department of Education who thought we had a good idea, we obtained a list of districts in the state and have been sending flyers to teachers and schools by e-mail, hoping to reach those who have never been reached before. So far results have

been gratifying. Several principals, superintendents, and teachers have replied thanking us for the information and saying they will pass it along.

However, not all school districts are online and we need to reach more of them. If you would like to help with this project and you know the e-mail address of your local school or any Pennsylvania Home Schooling group, family or student, send an e-mail to aubadeg@verizon.net. Include the e-mail address(es) or a request for the flyer to be e-mailed to you. You'll receive a copy of the flyer with this newsletter. Feel

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NEW MEMBERS

This quarter sees the number of our members increasing significantly. Welcome to The Gettysburg Poetry Society!

Linda Clark brings us Gettysburg Poetry Society. Welcome!

Bertram Barnett of Dillsburg
James Hollar of Gettysburg
Jill Manger of Hanover
Sharon O'Connell of Hanover
Kim Porter of Fairfield

Joseph Whitten from Alabama joins us!
As does Patricia McCarty from New Bloomfield. Welcome!

We also welcome four new poets from the Carlisle area:
Wilma Clippinger
Robert Hanks
William Vernon
Angela White

Would you like to start your own chapter of PPS, Inc.? It's easy! All you need is five members including yourself and monthly meetings.

Our apologies to Vincent Sawyer who appeared in last issue as Vincent Stewart. Welcome once more, Vincent Sawyer!



ED.'S NOTE: MEMBER POEMS

Our Poems by Members page editor resigned in June, before I was appointed as Editor.

We are considering a re-shaping of the Poems by Members page to include contest-winning poems, columns, letters to the Editor and poems by members each month.

Submissions of all kinds as well as thoughts on this very matter are encouraged by e-mail to the Editor.

ANL

NFSPS CONTEST WINNERS

Nancy Kline, Contests Editor

In the West Virginia Annual Contest, **Ann Gasser** won First Prize in the Wo-Jo Sisters Award, Second Prize in the Laurels Award, the Charleston Chapter Award, and the Harold Born Memorial Award, and Third Prize in the Morgantown Chapter Award.

Anthony Gulotta won an honorable mention in Harold C. Jacobs Award.

8 PPS members won in the 2008 Massachusetts Poetry Day Contest :

Ann Gasser won First Prize in the Gail Mower Devine Award, the Ambassador for Poetry Award, and the Celebration of Life Award, Second Prize in the Tony And Christopher Award and Third Prize in the L. Josephine Reid Award.

Anthony Gulotta won First Prize in the Arthur F. Mahan Memorial Award, and Second Prize in the Friends of Felines Contest and the Paul Prichard Award.

Jerri Hardesty won First Prize

in the L. Josephine Reid Award Third Prize in the Ambassador of Poetry Award and the L. Josephine Reid Award.

Glenna Glee Jenkins won Third Prize in the Melba Dungey Awards, the Robert and Francis Spaith Memorial Award, the Celebration of Life Award, and the Solie and Andy Award.

Catherine Moran won the Nancy Tupper Ling Award, Second Prize in the Gertrude Callis Award and Third Prize in the Arnold Schaier Memorial Award and the Bushey Brothers Memorial Award.

Lucille Morgan Wilson won First Prize in the Paul Pritchard Award Second Prize in the Nancy Tupper Ling Award, the Celebration of Life Award, and the Madeline Elizabeth Deveau Award, Third Prize in the Lawrence Gilligan Memorial Award.

Mary Mullen won First Prize in the Gertrude Callis Award, the Bushey Brothers Memorial Award, and the David Yeaton Award, Second Prize in the Gail Mower Devine Award, the Robert and Francis Spaith Me-

morial Award, and the Solie and Andy Award, and Third Prize in the Kenneth Callis Award.

Dalene Stull won First Prize in the Arnold Shaier Memorial Award, Second Prize in the Lawrence Gilligan Memorial Award, and the David Yeaton Award, and Third Prize in the Tony And Christopher Award

THE QUICK LIST OF AWARDS

Here's the quick list of awards as noted above and to the left. We provide both lists so that those of us who are not so well-acquainted with the ins and outs of contesting can see how our peers are doing.

The first number is the category; the number that follows the hyphen is the rank.

Ann Gasser 5-01, 6-01, 11-03,16-01, 18-02
Anthony Gulotta 14-01, 20-02, 22-02
Jerri Hardesty 5-03, 9-03, 11-01
Glenna Glee Jenkins 8-03, 15-03, 16-03, 17-03
Catherine Moran 3-02, 4-03, 9-01, 12-03,24-02
Lucille Morgan Wilson 2-02, 9-02,13-03, 16-02,22-01, 25-02
Mary Mullen 3-01, 5-02, 12-01, 15-02, 17-02, 23-01, 24-03
Dalene Stull 4-01, 13-02, 18-03, 23-02



P R E S I D E N T ' S L E T T E R

Dear Pennsylvania Poets,

It was such a pleasure to see old friends and make new ones at our biannual meeting held on Saturday, October 11. We had a good day. Thank you again for affirming the work we officers have been doing these past months. We are honored by your re-electing us.

In addition to the election, a particular highlight of our day was agreement to mark the upcoming Pennsylvania Poetry Society's 60th Anniversary in 2009 with special readings and publication of an anthology of poems by members. In addition to accepting submissions from current members, we plan to publish the work of some late members as a tribute to them. In the winter issue of our newsletter, we will announce a theme for the anthology and invite submissions. We also plan to include in the book some brief biographies of individuals currently sponsoring poetry categories in our annual contest. If you can contribute biographical information about members whose estates continue to fund categories in our annual contest, please send what you know to Vice President Lynn Fetterolf at 492 Kreutz Creek Road, York, PA 17406 or poetrylynn@comcast.net.

Our next biannual meeting will take place in Gettysburg where Linda Clark and her newly formed chapter, the Gettysburg Poetry Society, will organize a three-day spring conference for us. Mark your calendars for April 30 - May 2, 2009, for what is certain to be a fantastic event, with poetry readings, workshops, poetry competitions, good food, opportunities to explore the new museum at Gettysburg National Military Park and Gettysburg's Haunted Houses among other special sites. Hours of stimulating, insightful, and good-humored con-

versations with fellow poets will also be a special part of this conference. Linda, who is also a tour guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park, has agreed to serve as Chair of the PPS 60th Anniversary Conference Planning Committee.

We also hope to hear from all of you about what you'd like to see and do during the spring conference. Please write to Linda Clark at pausetoread@aol.com or at 255 Herr's Ridge Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8084 with your suggestions.

We hope that members from the four corners of Pennsylvania as well as those in neighboring or faraway states will consider attending this special conference, perhaps as part of a vacation excursion. Think about the possibilities.

I would add that Nancy Baass, President of NFSPS, in her President's Message in the enclosed issue of *Strophes*, makes a very important plea for us to continue our efforts to bring into our organization not only poets but lovers of poetry who may not be writers. Consider bringing such friends to our spring meeting. Maybe they will decide to join PPS.

Finally, we want to thank all who worked to make our fall meeting a success. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

With warmest regards,

DeAnna Spurlock

P E G A S U S C O N T E S T
C O N T ' D

(Continued from page 1)

free to make copies and pass those along.

2009
C O N F E R E N C E

Save the date!
April 30—May 2, 2009
60th anniversary gala
Quality Inn

Gettysburg Motor Lodge
380 Steinwehr Avenue
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-334-1103

Reservations available until
March 30.

Variety of rooms available,
rates from
\$81-\$96 per night.

Www.gettysburgqualityinn.com
Look for more information with
the next newsletter!

*With These un-
certain times,
consider
sponsoring a
contest of your
own—the cost is
\$50. Write to
Ann Copeland for
details.*

H E A T H E R M C N A U G H E R ' S
B O O K

Heather McNaugher is Assistant Professor of English at Chatham University where she teaches poetry in the creative writing MFA and is poetry editor of *Fourth River*. Her chapbook, *Panic & Joy*, was published this year by Finishing Line Press.

To order it, contact Heather at
hmcnaugher@chatham.edu or
412.365.1210

**WINNERS OF FIRST ANNUAL
PPS MEMBERS ONLY CONTEST**

Vicky Fake Weldon was the Chair of the first annual PPS Members Only Contest.

Our judge, Gail Varney, has a Bachelor's degree in Humanities/Literature from Penn State. She is founder and editor of *Inspirit* –the literary journal of Baughman Church, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Gail is the married mother of three grown daughters and enjoys teaching writing workshops.



Kindling

Ann Borger—Third Prize

The tool shed at Klinger Lake cottage was stacked to the ceiling with hardwood. One side was split, for the fireplace; the other held seasoning tree trunks.

My Granddad the doctor died slowly in circulatory distress. By chopping wood he chase the ice away one more cold winter.

The year he closed his practice he summoned me into the den to speak of death. I bolted in fear at the keen ax of truth.

I heard how he withered to sawdust; how the mind left his body behind invaded by tubes and machinery in the hospital he helped to build.

I was hundreds of miles away then, chopping logs for a home of my own. I have never returned to that cottage; I imagine the tool shed is empty.

Ritual of Growth

Joan Campbell—1st prize

I push the seeds
into the ground
and take note of the
strength
they must have to endure
their envelopment into
the necessary darkness.

As I tap some extra soil
on top I'm wondering
how they will survive down
there
in that total absence of
light.

But when the time is right
they break ground --
emerge — green shoots
glistening bright
reaching for the sun.

No longer seeds
they are
seedlings --
vulnerable
spindly
ready to be
nurtured
calling
to be cared for
reaching for
the sun.

Natural Scripture

Byron Hoot—2nd prize

And there is no breeze;
The leaves hold perfectly
Still holding the sun
Just where it hits them
The shadows precise along
Their edges.

Nor have I heard more than
One bird:

No robin, no dove,
No blue jay, nor starling
Just one lone
Sparrow in the empty birdfeeder.
If I know this to be true for the whole
Day, there might be no hope,
But I know differently.
I might walk out to get
A cup of coffee, walk back
And everything is different:

Birds are in morning song,
Turkeys strutting the tree line,
The breeze dancing with the leaves,
The shadows boxing with themselves....

Ah, I have just heard a crow cawing:
In a minute, a few moments, or whatever
Time is

All things will change by slight
Or sudden degree -

And that is the mystery
That is the fact that is the hope for me.

***Elizabeth Boiden prefers not to have her
prize-winning poem published online.***



ON DICTION IN POETRY

Colin John Holcombe, excerpted from www.poetrymagic.co.uk, used with permission

Can poetry employ any sort of language? An odd question, but the beginning poet will often find his diction attacked as cliché or contrived. What can be said? Are there overall principles in important elements of literature?

Diction or word choice is indeed a difficult area. We might look at the practice of successful poets, since what worked for them will presumably work for us, but the overwhelming problem is that

fashions change. The concrete, vivid and unpretentious is often preferred today, but the eighteenth century excluded such words, producing manuals to good taste as indeed did the sixteenth, though with different rules. Movements often start as a reaction to styles that have become flabby or overblown, but manifestos are not always followed through. Wordsworth, for example, championed everyday speech in his preface



to *Lyrical Ballads*, but wrote the poetry in an educated tongue.

You'll be concerned with current writing, but even less agreement prevails today on poetry's proper aspirations, styles or content. An innocuous word like *upon* will pass unnoticed by many editorial boards, but bring automatic rejection from others. Diction shows allegiances, and allegiances are what you must bear in mind when submitting work to magazines and competitions. Diction or word choice is a ground fought over by the contending schools of poetry, and there is no final arbiter.

WINNERS CONTINUED

Consider the Sandpipers

Theda Bassett—2nd Honorable Mention

I leave my nest of unrest, shed my shoes,
walk barefoot, toes caressed by warmed waters.
I love how the sea pulses, how sand squishes
beneath my toes. I've been a yo-yo,
my mind in rapid ups and downs, winding,
rewinding, humming the doleful sound
of strings re-threading.

Following the bubbly edge, a sandpiper scurries,
one eye on wily waves, one on sand.
This bird senses each incoming wave, darts
frisky swirls. Such fragile legs – its whole body
could fit in my palm. One raucous wave
could knock it down, yet it forages
fearlessly for food, always at the edge,
even in danger, and on the run.

I want to match that courage when my life
threatens like these waves. I forage this beach
for that evasive sustenance to fill gaps created
when bubbles of life break, leave indentations in the sand.
I run where seas swirl into dry places I walk,
seek courage to maintain the edges.

Four citations were also chosen.
1st citation went to Ann Borger for "Railroad Crossing." 2nd citation went to Ann Borger for "Sailing Into Sunset." 3rd citation was awarded to Joy Campbell for "Ironing Out a Poem." 4th citation went to Marilyn Downing for "Table 26 at the Sunday Flea Market."

Opportunities

Carolyn L. Williams—3rd Honorable Mention

I

In morning mist spider webs lay,
the same silver ones as those
on darkest evenings drape
library lamp posts I pass
walking to the car for home.

II

The
front door
is
like
a slice of raisin bread
jam-packed as it is with June bugs
on a hot summer's night
when the porch light burns.

III

Crazy
crickets
cross
my country hearth.
Explain their song:
are they calling or crying
when the door shuts behind them?

IV

The praying mantis
sits silently
on the silky white milkweed
whose seeds
fly free from the pod
wafted in the wind.

CONTESTS TO ENTER & PUBLICATIONS

Short list of state contests: for full list and guidelines, see www.nfsps.org. Click the "Poetry Contests" link at the left-hand side of the page. All contests are open for entry until March 15th!

NFSPS Founders Award

First prize is \$1500.

Utah State Poetry Award

First prize is \$100.

William Stafford Memorial Award

First prize is \$50.

PPS, Inc's Annual Contest commences this month!

Postmark between Oct 15 and Jan 15 for consideration. Write Marilyn Downing for a Brochure. 137 Apple Ln. Hershey, PA 17033.

Monthly Contests at Poet's Roundtable of Arkansas!

poetsroundtable.com

St. Anthony Messenger—a general-interest, family-oriented Catholic magazine is written and edited largely for people living in family situations. They are accepting poetry to fit their needs and are a paying market. www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/Jul2008/default.asp

Commonweal—publishes editorials, columns, essays, poetry, reviews of books, movies, plays, the media, a selection of apposite and/or funny cartoons and lots of letters to the editors. www.commonwealmagazine.org/

Dew on the Kudzu—looking for new stories, poems, places of interest, recipes, anything really as long as it's Southern in nature. The only requirements for the Dew are that the stories are Southern

or the authors are. dewonthe kudzu.net

Hawk & Whippoorwill— seeking thoughtful and well-crafted verse on the topic of "man and nature". www.bostonpoetry.com/hw/

In the Mist—looking for poetry, prose, nonfiction, photography, and artwork that deals with women outside. www.inthemistmag.com/

The Road Not Taken—a Journal of Formal Poetry—likes the old fashioned stuff—their motto—"Keeping rhyme and meter alive." www.journalofformalpoetry.com/

Sarah Joy YA—a voice for young adults. It publishes poetry, drama, fiction and academic non-fiction. sarahjoyya.wordpress.com/

WORD OF CAUTION

Before entering any online contest, visit the following URL:

www.thepoetsanctuary.net/scams.html

Inspirat—Literary journal of Baughman Memorial United Methodist Church, specializing in religious, spiritual or nature poetry. www.baughmanchurch.org

Coal Hill Review—Coal Hill Review takes its name from Mt. Washington in Pittsburg, PA. Find submission guidelines and their wonderful chapbook competition at www.coalhillreview.com.

The Fourth River—requests poems about the relationship between people and their habitats. Find guidelines at fourthriver.chatham.edu (no www).

STATEWIDE POETRY EVENTS

Did you attend one of these events? Write a review and submit it for publication in the newsletter!

Please—share your thoughts.

What is poetry to you? What makes it good?

Bad? Who makes those decisions?

State College: Open Poetry Workshop at East West Crossings Tea Shop, Cafe, Books and Art every Wednesday night from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Poets, readers, listeners and poetry in different languages are all welcome. So far we have heard poetry read in English, Bengali, Mandarin, German, Hindi, Dutch, French and Korean. 201 Elmwood St. Lower Level Sate College, PA 814-234-8810

Camp Hill: Poetry Thursdays, at Crimson Frog Coffeehouse, 1104 Carlisle Road, Camp Hill, PA, 717-730-0633, 7- 9 p.m., presented by the Almost Uptown Poetry Cartel and hosted by Marty Esworthy. For more information: 717-761-4721

Pittsburgh: The Gist Street Readings are held monthly and feature local and national poets and writers. The series focuses on emerging writers either publishing in national journals and magazines or publishing their first or second books. The readings are unpretentious and fun.

Place: James Simon's sculpture studio, 305 Gist Street, Uptown Pittsburgh. 3rd floor. **Time:** Socializing starts at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:15. Readings begin around 8:00 p.m.

Bring and enjoy: BYOB. Homemade bread by Antoine. Chips. Raffle prizes. Much more. **Cost:** \$5

Ellen Litman (fiction) and Miriam Levine (poetry): November 7, 2008 (8:00 p.m.)

Robert Marshall (fiction) and Anne Marie Macari (poetry): December 05, 2008 (8:00 p.m.)

Bloomsburg: River Poets offer the following events
NOTE: Most events are held at Phillips Emporium, 10-12 East Main Street, Bloomsburg (downtown, revitalized) PA. For our readings at Phillip's Emporium (not July and Aug.) people can gather after 7:00 p.m. Poetry readings will start PROMPTLY at 7:30 p.m.

Submit events to April Line at april.line@gmail.com.



AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY:
COLUMN 161

I hope it's not just a guy thing, a delight in the trappings of work. I love this poem by John Maloney, of Massachusetts, which gives us a close look behind the windshields of all those pickup trucks we see heading home from work.

After Work

They're heading home with their lights on, dust and wood glue, yellow dome lights on their metallic long beds: 250s, 2500s as much overtime as you want, deadline, dotted line, dazed through the last few hours, dried primer on their knuckles, sawdust calf-high on their jeans, scraped boots, the rough plumbing and electric in, way ahead of the game except for the check, such a clutter of cans and iced-tea bottles, napkins, coffee cups, paper plates on the front seat floor with cords and saws, tired above the eyes, back of the beyond, thirsty. There's a parade of them through the two-lane highways, proudest on their way home, the first turn out of the jobsite, the first song with the belt off, pure breath of being alone for now, for now the insight of a full and answerable man. No one can take away the contentment of the first few miles and they know they can't describe it, the black and purple sky.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 2007 by John Maloney, whose most recent book of poetry is "Proposal," Zoland Books, 1999. Poem reprinted from AGNI online, 2/2007, by permission of John Maloney. Introduction copyright © 2008 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

LINDA AMOS'
PUBLICATIONS

Linda Amos' poem, "More" appeared in Gary Drury's *The Best American Poetry/Stories* in the February 2008 issue.

Her poem, "Sojourners of the Heart" was published in York County's *Senior News: Redefining Age* in Feb 2007.

"Wishful Thinking" was published in *Lucidity* Vol 21 Issue 2, Winter 2006.

CRITIQUE SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENT & GUIDELINES

The critique service is free and available only to PPS Members.

Headed by Sandy Van Doren, the committee is comprised of accomplished, published PPS members.

Sandy's job is to facilitate the critiquing process so that reviewers will remain anonymous.

Poets are entitled to submit three poems (each no longer than one page) to the Critique Committee during a four-month period.

Mail the following items to Sandy:

- Poems, maximum of three
- One blank sheet per poem (for the critique comments)
- One manila SASE with enough postage for the return of six sheets.
- One unaddressed manila envelope with enough postage for the mailing of six sheets

Her address is 9 Andrews Rd., Malvern, PA 19355

Once Sandy receives the packet, she'll send it to one of the anonymous critics who will have 30 days to return the critiqued poems to the poet.

The postage should cost in the neighborhood of \$2.50.

**It is very important to assemble your packet carefully, for poems not conforming to the guidelines will not be critiqued!

STULL'S BOOK &
CORRECTION

Dalene Stull's book, *Plaid People* can be obtained by sending \$5.00 *post paid* to

Dalene Stull
19767 Danville-Jelloway Rd.
Danville OH 43014



We regret that we got the address wrong in the insert with the last newsletter. We also neglected to mention that the \$5.00 is post paid.

PPS CONTACTS

STAFF OF PPS, INC.

President: **DeAnna Spurlock**
Honorary President: **Steven G. Concert**
Vice President: **Lynn Fetterolf**
Honorary Vice President: **Janice Freytag**
Recording Secretary: **Lynda Myers**
Corresponding Secretary: **Joy Campbell**
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Trustees:
(2010) **Mary McCarthy, Richard Lake**
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(2014) **Catherine Hoffman, Ann Gasser**
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PPS Contest Chair: **Lynda Myers**
Ferguson Contest Chair: **Richard Lake**
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Prize Poems: **Ann Gasser**
Endowments & Audit: **The Trustees**
Penns to Paper Editor-In-Chief: **April Line**
Bulk Mail: **PPS Volunteers**
PPS Webmaster: **Adrienne Wolter**

Mailing Addresses

DeAnna Spurlock (PPS President)
110 S. Bedford Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-258-5243 - deaspur@comcast.net

Lynn Fetterolf (PPS Vice-President)
492 Kreutz Creek Road
York, PA 17406-8060
717-757-3154 - poetrylynn@comcast.net

Joy Campbell (Corresponding Secretary)
10 Polecat Road
Landisburg, PA 17040
archjoy@embargmail.com

Ann Copeland (Treasurer)
RR1, Box 1452
Little Meadows, PA 18830
570-744-2827 - copeland@epix.net

Sandy VanDoren (Historian)
9 Andrews Road
Malvern, PA 19355

Vicky Fake-Weldon (PPS Trustee Chair)
108 North 26th St.
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-737-5342 - vfake@state.pa.us

Lynda Myers (PPS Contest Chair)
1904 Walnut Bottom Rd.
Newville, PA 17241
717-776-9667 - bloomsanew@embarqmail.com

April Line (PPS Newsletter Editor)
725 Longs Gap Rd.
Carlisle PA 17013
april.line@gmail.com

CHAPTER CONTACT INFO

Cadence Crafters: 610-534-0615
Carlisle Poets: Joy Campbell, archjoy@embarqmail.com
Keysner Poets: Marilyn Downing, 717-533-7097
Pittsburgh Poetry Society: 412-441-1390
Young At Heart: Ann Lasky, 717-867-4837, amlasky@comcast.net.
Gettysburg Poetry Society (GPS): Linda Clark, 717-337-9093
Pittsburgh City Poets: Being Formed by April Line,
april.line@gmail.com

ABOUT US

Founded in 1949, PPS, Inc. is a non-profit group of poets and aspiring poets, most of whom reside in PA, who are involved in poetry at local, state, and national levels.

At the local level, active chapters hold monthly meetings and workshops, sponsor poetry readings and contests as well as print anthologies of members' poems. Some members serve as contest judges and teach poetry writing in schools, colleges, retirement communities, etc.

At the state level, one can join PPS, Inc., either as a member at large or as a member of a local chapter. All chapter members must be members of PPS, Inc.

A new chapter can be formed by five or more PPS members who have a slate of officers and by-laws compatible with those of PPS, Inc.

At the national level, the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) describes itself as "An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America." Its four-day annual conventions are held in a different state each year and offer workshops as well as intellectual and creative commerce between members of state poetry societies.

Contact Nancy Kline to become a member or join online by visiting www.nfsps.com. Click "State Links" and then "Pennsylvania" to access our site.



PENNS TO PAPER PAGE AND COPY EDITORS

Ann Gasser, Challenge Page Editor, 801 Spruce St. West Reading, PA 19611 or aubadeg@verizon.net
Nancy Kline, Awards Editor, 1040 Dogwood Dr. PO box 125 Cornwall, PA 17016
Mary McCarthy, Copy Editor, mmcarth@comcast.net
Constance Crawford, Copy Editor, ccc147@psu.edu