



# Penns to Paper

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA POETRY SOCIETY, INC.

## PPS DELEGATES ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

NFSPS held its annual conference in beautiful Layton, Utah, June 19-22. Catherine Hoffman, Carole Hodell and Steven Concert attended on our behalf. Ms. Hoffman reported at the July 12 PPS special budget meeting held in Hershey that she had especially enjoyed the diversity of

the panels and learning about the nearby Mormon compound.

She mentioned a few highlights of her experience, notably, a presentation by Alex Caldiero, who made unique sounds and played a nose harp. He is a poet,

a poli-artist, a sonosopher, and a scholar.

NFSPS annual dues will increase one dollar, a much needed increase supported by our own Carole Hodell who argued and then moved for the needed one dollar

*(Continued on page 7)*

## CHAPTERS HONOR NATIONAL POETRY MONTH IN APRIL

During National Poetry Month, Carlisle Poets and friends gave readings at several local retirement communities where their original work as well as the works of favorite poets were featured. Members Leon Geoffrey and Jenny Elliott organized these readings that delighted the residents. Member poets

found the readings to be well-received and meaningful.

Keysner Poets marked the occasion by hosting an Open Reading at Christ's Presbyterian Church, Camp Hill, on April 6. Members of the congregation were invited to attend and

share in reading poems as a special tribute to the late Emma S. McLaughlin, a founding member of the church and former Keysner member.

The Young at Heart Chapter celebrated the month by carrying around a "Poem in a Pocket" to be read to who-

*(Continued on page 7)*

## PPS BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING PRODUCTIVE

Running a gamut from fiscal matters to publicity to emailing decorum to PPS vision, the Budget Committee Meeting and Luncheon hosted by Marilyn Downing on July 12 in Hershey was highly productive and enjoyed by all attending: Marilyn, Ann and Dick Gasser, Mary McCarthy, Lynda Myers, Nancy Kline, Ann Copeland, Cathy Hoffman, and DeAnna Spurlock..

Although the focus of the

meeting was the 2008-2009 budget, which will be better defined on September 30 when all expenditures for the current year have been tallied, additional discussion targeted a continuing desire to involve more people in the organization's work and to unburden positions that have traditionally required too many tasks

for efficient functioning.

Actions approved at the meeting included splitting the Treasurer's job into two jobs, the second being a membership database keeper, a position which will be occupied by Ann Gasser. Also approved was a motion that judges' comments for the annual PPS poetry contest will be distributed only to those who request them.

*(Continued on page 7)*

### POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- New U.S. Poet Laureate
- Share your thoughts about poetry
- Get tips on contesting
- Calls to action
- What is Poetry?

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## PPS CONTEST NEWS

Lynda Rush-Myers, 2009 Contest Chair

Even before we received all of the poems submitted for the 2008 contest, Ann Gasser, Lynn Fetterolf and Joy Campbell were diligently working behind the scenes to review and refresh our veteran poetry categories. We are grateful to these conscientious members whose guiding hands have made lighter work of this important annual task.

For the first year, Poet Lynn Fetterolf is sponsoring Category Seventeen, the Andy Fetterolf Memorial Award, in honor of her late husband. The subject is "Spirituality." All forms are welcome. Another new subject this year is "Our Heritage," Category

Five, sponsored by Carlisle Poets. Both of these new subjects should lend themselves to creative and inspired interpretations!

It is not too early to take a look at the twenty-one categories and to let them speak to your poetic muse. Please take time to promote our annual contest among your fellow poets in your communities. The window for submissions is a three-month period beginning October 15, 2008 and ending January 15, 2009. Complete contest information is now posted on our PPS page on the NFSPS website.

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

*Courtesy Nancy Kline, awards editor*

**Ray Fulmer** of Quakertown, PA received a citation in the Jack Murphy Memorial Award.

**Ann Gasser** of Reading, PA received a citation in Mothers and Daughters award, and in Two Ladies from Texas, she took second prize. She received third rank in Plains Poets Award, a Citation in the William Stafford Memorial Award, a citation in The League of Minnesota Poets Award, tenth rank in the Louisiana State Poetry Society Award, a Citation in the Kentucky state Poetry Society Award, A Citation in the Illinois State Poetry Society Award, and sixth rank in the San Antonio Poets Association Award.

**Jerri Hardesty** of Brierfield, AL received a citation in Jack Murphy Memorial Award, fourth Rank in New Jersey Poetry Society Award.

**Cordelia Jensen** of Newport, PA took fifth rank in the Louisiana State Poetry Society Award.

**Sandra Ann Kolinofsky** of Birdsboro, PA received Fourth rank in Wyopoets award.

**Inge Logenburg Kyler** of Eaton Rapids MI, received sixth rank in the Iowa Poetry Association award.

**Lynda LaRocca** of Twin Lakes, CO

received third rank in the San Antonio Poets Association award.

**Catherine Moran** of Little Rock, AR, received a citation in Jack Murphy Memorial Award, second Rank in Columbine poets of Colorado Award, a Citation in Humorous Poetry Award.

**Mary Mullen** of Reading, MA received ninth rank in Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs Award, eighth Rank in Plains Poets Award, eighth Rank in Poetry Society of Tennessee Dorsimbra Award, a citation in New Jersey Poetry Society Award.

**Dr. M.P.A.Sheaffer** of New York, NY, received a citation in the Doorman John Grace Memorial Award, eighth rank in Connecticut Poetry Award.

**Anne Pierre Spangler** of Lebanon, PA won ninth rank in Nevada Poetry Society Award, and eighth rank in Joseph V. Hickey Memorial Award.

**Loretta Diane Walker** of Odessa TX received a citation in Connecticut Poetry Society Award.

**Caroline Walton** of Crystal River, FL received first prize in the Music award, a citation in the Ben Lomond Poets Award.

**Lucille Morgan Wilson** of Des Moines, IA received fifth rank in the Georgia Poetry Society Award,

seventh rank in the Florida State Poets Association Inc. Award, fifth rank in the Humorous Poetry Award, second Place in the Joseph V. Hickey Poetry Award.

*And Now, by popular Demand, the Quick List for entrants: First number is category, second number is rank, Cit. is Citation*  
**Ray Fulmer**, 07-Cit.; **Ann Gasser** 04-Cit., 11-09, 13-02, 15-Cit., 18-Cit., 29-10, 31-Cit., 47-Cit., 49-06; **Jerri Hardesty**, 07-Cit., 42-04; **Cordelia Jensen**, 29-05; **Sandra Ann Kolinofsky**, 44-04; **Inge Logenburg Kyler**, 41-06; **Lynda LaRocca**, 49-03; **Catherine Moran**, 07-Cit., 20-02, 25-Cit., **Mary Mullen**, 12-09, 13-08, 38-08, 42-Cit.; **Dr. M.P.A.Sheaffer**, 32-Cit., 43-08; **Anne Pierre Spangler**, 16-09, 28-08; **Caroline Walton**, 12-01, 36-Cit.; **Loretta Diane Walker**, 43-Cit.; **Lucille Morgan Wilson**, 05-05, 09-07, 25-05, 28-02

CALL FOR 2009  
CONTEST COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

If you live near the West Shore of Cumberland County and would enjoy contest administration, we would love to have your assistance. If attention to detail is your talent, we can put you right to work. It would be very helpful if you are able to use a computer and have an internet connection. There is one caveat as a committee member: you would not be able to enter your own work in the contest. We promise you delightful company, a good cup or tea or coffee, an important and meaningful job and the satisfaction that comes from a job well done. If you are interested, please call or e-mail Lynda Myers at 717-776-9667, bloomsanew@embarqmail.com.

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

Dear Pennsylvania Poets,

We have much good news to report this issue. First of all, we have finally moved the production and distribution of our letter to Carlisle where we currently have our largest state chapter. We now have many hands to help with this work.

Our new newsletter editor is April Line, a dynamic writer and charismatic personality we have known as a Carlisle area poet since she was sixteen years old. She is now twenty-eight, a graduate in English with Honors from Connecticut State University, and an MFA student on leave from The University of Pittsburgh and mother of two-year-old Miss Pearl.

April has worked with us to bring members' ideas into the newsletter—an increasing emphasis on the news from PPS chapters and members, general poetry news, stimulating questions which invite responses from readers, educa-

tional materials and continuing traditions of contests to enter, poetry exercises, publication of poems by members, friends, and other notable poets. April also sees room for a series of members' editorials on poetry, reviews by members of good poetry collections, and additional articles submitted by members for publication. We applaud these efforts, April. I have asked her to introduce herself to you with a sample of her work. She offers "Resolutionary," which follows this letter.

We thank Steve Concert, who is now Chancellor for NFSPS, for his work getting out the newsletter these past four years. We wish him the best as he takes on yet more challenging work at the national level.

As we examine the reformatting of the current newsletter, we would note that several Board members have suggested that we consider changing its name. From its inception, it was called the *PPS Newsletter*. It was changed to *Penns to Paper* in February 2006 by a simple majority at a Board meeting. Thus we are now suggesting that we vote on a newsletter name at the October 11 Biannual Meeting to be held at Allenberry in Boiling Springs. Names suggested so far are The Sylvan, The Sylvan-News, Sylvania Penned, PPS Quarterly, Sylvan Quarterly. Send your suggested names to April or include it in the suggestion box on the enclosed dues renewal form.

There is good news to report in the area of chapter growth. Linda Clark of Gettysburg is forming a new chapter there. She and her friends already have chosen a name: Gettysburg Poetry Society (GPS). April Line is also forming a chapter in Pittsburgh for her graduate student friends. We

look forward to welcoming new members.

We have also formed a Publicity Committee charged with early and continuing publicity for the PPS 2009 Contest as well as about the Pennsylvania Poetry Society.

Our upcoming October 11 Biannual Meeting will be held at the lovely Allenberry Resort and Playhouse in Boiling Springs, a favorite site for many of us. We have also planned a dinner event for those who will be able to arrive on October 10. See the flyer in this newsletter for details about our Fall Meeting, one sure to please.

I look forward to seeing you in October.

With warmest regards,  
DeAnna Spurlock

## R E S O L U T I O N A R Y

ANL

This is the year I'll divine with rods  
get better at love, worse at eating  
I'll make beelines for honeydew.  
Won't touch Snickers. Won't snicker, either.  
I promise I'll be good good good,  
especially to my minister. If he again tells  
Lorna Miller not to get divorced, I will  
drive the highest road. We won't scoff over  
bonbons.

Also, I will make a fish tank. The fish at  
Walmart are sad. Their mouths say,  
"home home home." I will spend  
more time at home. No more two dollar  
coffees, maybe once a moon. Chock Full o' Nuts  
in the pot I own. For sure no four  
dollar coffees, Vicki's Secret, Quizznos,  
Gray Goose, Claiborne tops (even though she died)  
or those Paige Jeans I've been dying  
not to live without.

I will keep a journal: self-tabs. Next year,  
I will know what I ate thought did on March 2.  
Ride a unicycle. Make a marionette,  
Volunteer, candy stripe, read to the elderly.  
Eat more elderly cheese,  
Bleu. Try caviar, switch to skim. When Maria  
asks me to be her wing woman, I won't  
say I know flying already.  
Do what hurts. Use Fewer Band Aids.

I'll read *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*  
and remember daily how light  
it is to be.



Upcoming:  
October 11  
biannual  
Meeting,  
Allenberry  
Resort and  
Playhouse in  
Boiling Springs.

WHAT IS POETRY?

Colin John Holcombe, excerpted from [www.poetrymagic.co.uk](http://www.poetrymagic.co.uk), used with permission

What distinguishes poetry from other literary compositions? Nothing, says a vociferous body of opinion: they are all texts, to be understood by the same techniques as a philosophic treatise or tabloid newspaper. But that makes sense only to readers of advanced magazines, for poetry does indeed seem different. Even if we accept that poetry can be verse or prose — verse simply having a strong metrical element — poetry is surely distinguished by moving us deeply. In fact, for all

but Postmodernists, it is an art form, and must therefore do what all art does — represent something of the world, express or evoke emotion, please us by its form, and stand on its own as something autonomous and self-defining.

No doubt more could be said, but the starting poet may be feeling impatient. Theorists, like clever lawyers, can prove anything, and it is all too easy for an atrocious piece of writing to be defended by irrefutable standards. Are there not more practical ways of assessing poetry?

[ . . . ]

Poetry may well be the art of the unsayable. A good poem lies somewhere beyond mere words: it is the

intangible, an exultation in things vaguely apprehended, something which emerges out of its own form, and which cannot exist without that form. Any poem that can be completely understood or paraphrased is not a poem, therefore, but simply versified or emotive prose (though not the worse for that).

NEW ONLINE FORUM

SECRETcrowds, of which our own Adrienne Wolter is co-founder, is a writing community where authors can showcase their works and collaborate with others in order to better their craft. Though all ages are welcome, the forum

is especially geared toward older teenagers and those in their twenties. We work in long and short prose forms in addition to poetry.

<http://z11.invisionfree.com/secretcrowds>



Please send your thoughts. What is poetry to you? Who decides what makes poetry good? What drives you to write it? Some of your letters and tips will be published in next quarter's issue.

DOUBLE DUTY WORDS

Ann Gasser, Contributor

There are many words in the English language which have two or more meanings. A few of these are:

stalk	race	rose	pick	stick	match	find, and how are words like these useful to a poet?
stream	fly	fast	catch	crack	scale	A.: When you are writing a villanelle, a sestina, or any other form where words must repeat numerous times, double-duty words come in very handy. They can keep your poem from sounding too repetitive.
charm	drift	dice	class	strain	man	
fan	swallow	minute	land	rank	chance	
			shield	bark	smart	
			pass	taste	date	
			state	streak	seal	
			wheel	plane		

Q.: How many more can you

CONTESTING ADVICE

Ann Gasser, Contributor

Contests sponsored by state members of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies are fair and not biased.

If a contest has a number of categories you may enter, enter all of them for the best chance of a win. It is like the lottery—the more you enter, the better your chances. Even the best poets are lucky to win in more than 20% of the categories they enter.

Follow the rules precisely. I have known Contest Chairs to disqualify up to 10% of entries for tiny deviations from the rules. If you are not sure exactly how a word should be used, don't use it.

Avoid rhyme for serious subjects unless you are writing a sonnet or other classical form. When in doubt, leave rhyme out. Whenever writing forms be sure you follow the pattern correctly and do not force rhyme. Read your poem aloud to see if the words flow.

Avoid clichés and over-using adjectives. Keep your imagery consistent. One of the worst poems I ever read used these images: "swimming across your eyes' seas," "grazing in your eyes' green fields."

Get the reader's attention

in the first line. If contest clerks are weeding out thousands of entries you need to get their attention FAST. Strive for original images that will subtly stir feelings in the reader. Don't let the reader say, "So what?" when he is finished.

Above all, do not get discouraged if you do not win as often as you would like. If you believe in a poem, keep sending it out until it wins!

Ann Gasser was interviewed by Poet's Market in 2005 about her contesting skills.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for length or to include partial notes and tips.

KAY RYAN WILL BE  
THE NEXT US POET LAUREATE

It is a testament to the complication and bedlam of the average American life that Kay Ryan's modest, accessible but beautifully rendered poems have earned her the place of highest honor in American letters. It was announced this past week that Ms. Ryan will be the next U.S. Poet Laureate.

Ms. Ryan, however, is a poet unlike the others. She has always maintained a safe distance from the traditional activities of a poet of her merit: she has never taken nor taught a creative writing

course, she attended her first AWP conference a short 5 years ago when it was held in Vancouver.

She instead teaches remedial writing at a Community College in Marin County, California. What's more, she self-published three books of poetry before her fourth was published by Grove Press.

Her dense rhymes and subtle assonance can be seen in the piece we offer last, *A Cat/A Future*.

*A Cat/A Future*

A cat can draw the blinds behind her eyes whenever she decides. Nothing alters in the stare itself but she's not there. Likewise a future can occlude: still sitting there, doing nothing rude.

The info in this piece was garnered from several sources: a piece by Adam Kirsch [www.nysun.com](http://www.nysun.com), Ryan's piece in Poetry Magazine, "I go to AWP." "A Cat/A Future" from NY Times web extra at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)



STATEWIDE POETRY EVENTS

*Don't miss the  
Seraldine R  
Dodge Poetry  
and Music  
Festival in New  
Jersey which  
takes place  
September  
25-28, 2008.*

*For registration,  
programs,  
performers, poets,  
more, visit  
www.  
dodgepoetry.  
org*

**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

**Shauna Seliy (fiction) and Kazim Ali (poetry):** September 12, 2008 (8:00 p.m.)

**Amy Knox Brown (fiction) and Jan Beatty (poetry):** October 03, 2008 (8:00 p.m.)

**Ellen Litman (fiction) and Miriam Levine (poetry):** November 7, 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.**

**Sept. 9th** - Feature: Tara Holdren whose book *Circumnavigation* will be newly available. Open Reading after. Theme: Circles. MC: Dave Barsky.

**The Self & Place in Poetry: A workshop with Leonard Gontarek:** Sept 17,24, Oct 1, 8 (all Wednesdays). At The Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania. To register, contact Leonard Gontarek at [gontarekl@earthlink.net](mailto:gontarekl@earthlink.net), or at 215-808-9507.

*Submit events to April Line at  
[april.line@gmail.com](mailto:april.line@gmail.com).*

## CONTESTS TO ENTER

**Deadline September 30, 2008.** postmarked or submitted online **Tom Howard/John H. Reid Poetry Contest** First Prize \$2,000. Second prize: \$1,000. Third prize: \$500. Fourth prize: \$250. Also five High Distinction Awards of \$200 each, and five Most Highly Commended Awards of \$100 each. The top 14 entries will be published on the Winning Writers website (over one million page views per year). Submit poems in any style, theme or genre, original work, published or unpublished..previous prize winners okay. Entry Fee \$6 for every 25 lines you submit. If you submit a sonnet of 14 lines and a haiku of 3 lines, totaling 17

lines, the fee would be \$6. Exclude your poem titles and any blank lines from your line count. No limit on the number of lines or number of poems you may submit. Winners of the contest will be announced on February 15, 2009. Entrants with valid email addresses will receive an email notification. Copyright- If your entry wins any cash prize, you agree to give both John H. Reid and Winning Writers a nonexclusive license to publish your work online. From time to time, selected winning entries may also be published in printed collections. Prize winners may be asked permission to include their winning entry in one of these books. Your

entry will not be published in print without your consent, and you retain all other rights.

**9/1/08—Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs** 31 open categories. Prizes \$5 to \$50. For contest brochure, send #10 SASE to Darleen Butler, ISFPC Contest Chair 2219 Lakeland Lane Ft Wayne, IN 46815

**9/10/08—Poet's Roundtable of Arkansas** 10 open categories, Prizes from \$5 to \$100. For contest brochure, send #10 SASE to Verna Lee Hindergardner Apt 109 Villa Central Apartments Hot Springs, AR 71913

**9/30/08—Tom Howard Poetry Prize** Visit winningwrit-

## WORD OF CAUTION

**Before entering any online contest, visit the following URL:**

[www.thepoetsanctuary.net/scams.html](http://www.thepoetsanctuary.net/scams.html)

[ers.com/contests/tompoetry/tp\\_guidelines.php](http://ers.com/contests/tompoetry/tp_guidelines.php) for details

**2009 PPS Contest Brochure** is now available. Contest deadline 1/15/2009. Send #10 SASE to Sarah Kelly Martson 126 Strayer Drive Carlisle, PA 17013

**9/30/08—Morton Marr Poetry Prize** Prizes of \$200/\$1000. Entry fee \$5 per poem, max 6 poems. *The Southwest Review* gives an annual

award for a poem by a writer who has not yet published her first book of poetry. Contestants may submit poems in traditional forms (sonnet, villanelle, blank verse, etc). Cover

CONTESTS  
CONT'D

Letter with contact and other relevant info. must accompany. Remove all identifying information from poems. Submissions will not be returned. Submit to Southern Methodist University PO Box 750374 Dallas TX 75275 or [swr@mail.smu.edu](mailto:swr@mail.smu.edu)

**9/30/08—Morton Marr Poetry Prize** Prizes of \$200/\$1000. Entry fee \$5 per poem, max 6 poems. *The Southwest Review* gives an annual award for a poem by a writer who has not yet published her first book of poetry. Contestants may submit poems in traditional forms (sonnet, villanelle, blank verse, etc). Cover Letter with contact and other relevant info. must accompany. Remove all identifying information from poems. Submissions will not be returned. Submit to Southern Methodist University PO Box 750374 Dallas TX 75275 or [swr@mail.smu.edu](mailto:swr@mail.smu.edu)

## PUBLICATIONS

**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](http://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. <http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/>

**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. <http://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. <http://dewonthe kudzu.net>

[dewonthe kudzu.net](http://dewonthe kudzu.net)

**Hawk & Whippoorwill**—seeking thoughtful and well-crafted verse on the topic of "man and nature". [www.bostonpoetry.com/hw/](http://www.bostonpoetry.com/hw/)

**In the Mist**—looking for poetry, prose, nonfiction, photography, and artwork that deals with women outside. [www.inthemistmag.com/](http://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/](http://www.journalofformalpoetry.com/)

**Sarah Joy YA**—a voice for young adults. It publishes poetry, drama, fiction and academic non-fiction. [sarahjoyya.wordpress.com/](http://sarahjoyya.wordpress.com/)

SLATE OF  
OFFICERS

For the 2008-2010 Term, the following Officers have been nominated.

**President:** DeAnna Spurlock

**Vice-President:** Lynn Fetterolf

**Treasurer:** Ann Copeland

**Recording Secretary:** Lynda Myers

**Trustees:** Ann Gasser, Leon Geoffrey

All terms last 2 years except for the Trustees, who will be appointed for 6 years.

Elections will be held on October 11, 2008 at the PPS Meeting at Allenberry. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at this meeting, but nominees *must be present* in order to accept the nomination.



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear PA Poets,

I'm honored to be part of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society and to be editing this newsletter. I love being able to create a sounding-board for thoughts about poetry, and a publication especially for folks who pursue poetic actualization through their own work, voice, community involvement.

Thanks for this opportunity and please accept my formal invitation to send letters to the editor responding to anything you read on these pages, but especially to the content found on page four. I also welcome feedback, both positive and negative, about

the changes we have made. I look forward to reading your letters.

All the best,  
-April

april.line@gmail.com

725 Longs Gap Rd.  
Carlisle, PA 17013

\*\*\*\*All poets submitting copy for next quarter's issue—please submit as text only. MS Word (.doc) or an Adobe (.pdf) file, please by October 1, 2008. Cannot Guarantee Inclusion of late copy.\*\*\*\*

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY:  
COLUMN 161

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET  
LAUREATE, 2004-2006

I may be a little sappy, but I think that almost everyone is doing the best he or she can, despite all sorts of obstacles. This poem by Jonathan Holden introduces us to a young car salesman, who is trying hard, perhaps too hard. Holden is the past poet laureate of Kansas and poet in residence at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 1985 by Jonathan Holden, whose most recent book of poetry is "Knowing: New & Selected Poems," University of Arkansas Press, 2000. Reprinted from "The Names of the Rapids," The University of Massachusetts Press, 1985, by permission of the author. First printed in "Black Warrior Review." Introduction copyright © 2007 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.

## Car Showroom

Day after day, along with his placid automobiles, that well-groomed sallow young man had been waiting for me, as in the cheerful, unchanging weather of a billboard pacing the tiles, patting his tie, knotting, un-knotting the facade of his smile while staring out the window. He was so bad at the job he reminded me of myself the summer I failed at selling *Time* and *Life* in New Jersey. Even though I was a boy I could feel someone else's voice crawl out of my mouth, spoiling every word, like this cowed, polite kid in his tie and badge that said *Greg*, saying *Ma'am* to my wife, calling me *Sir*, retailing the air with such piety I had to find anything out the window. Maybe the rain. It was gray and as honestly wet as ever. Something we could both believe.

BUDGET MEETING  
CONT'D

(Continued from page 1)

Committee chairs were reminded to keep a monthly budget sheet. A code of protocol was established for the group's use of email and the newsletter and its operations were moved to Carlisle.

The Board brainstormed ways to strengthen PPS's publicity efforts, affirmed the establishment of a Publicity Committee and considered innovative ways to increase membership.

NFSPS CONFERENCE  
CONT'D

(Continued from page 1)

increase after a five dollar increase had been voted down. The next NFSPS conference will be the 50th anniversary Convention. It will be held in Duluth, Minnesota on the North Shore of Lake Superior from June 11-15, 2009. Updates will be listed in *Strophes*.

POETRY MONTH  
CONT'D

(Continued from page 1)

ever would listen at whatever time of day or night. They also prepared a "Devour a Poem" poster which was posted at the Lebanon County

GEOFFREY'S NEW  
BOOK

Leon Geoffrey announces his latest book's release, *Ode to the Bosc and Other Poems*, a collection of 58 poems. The book can be obtained by sending \$9.00 to

Leon Geoffrey  
PO Box 580  
Carlisle, PA 17013

WELCOME NEW  
MEMBER

We welcome a new member: Vincent Sawyer IV, a college student. He will be an active member and joins us from Levittown, PA.

# PPS CONTACTS

## STAFF OF PPS, INC.

President: **DeAnna Spurlock**  
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Vice President: **Lynn Fetterolf**  
Honorary Vice President: **Janice Freytag**  
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Corresponding Secretary: **Joy Campbell**  
Treasurer: **Ann Copeland**  
Historian: **Sandra Van Doren**  
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(2010) **Mary McCarthy, Richard Lake**  
(2012) **Vicky Fake-Weldon, Chair; Leon Geoffrey**  
Membership Committee:

**Nancy Kline, Chair; Kara Valore  
Marilyn Downing, Joy Campbell**

PPS Contest Chair: **Lynda Myers**  
Ferguson Contest Chair: **Richard Lake**  
Pegasus Contest Chair: **Marilyn Downing**  
*Prize Poems:* **Ann Gasser**  
Endowments & Audit: **The Trustees**  
*Penns to Paper* Editor-In-Chief: **April Line**  
Bulk Mail: **PPS Volunteers**  
PPS Webmaster: **Adrienne Wolter**

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**Pittsburgh Poetry Society:** 412-441-1390

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**Gettysburg Poetry Society (GPS):** Being formed by Linda Clark,  
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**Pittsburgh City Poets:** Being Formed by April Line,  
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## ABOUT US

Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Inc. (PPS, Inc.) is a non-profit group of about 150-200 poets and/or poetry aficionados, most of whom reside in Pennsylvania, and are involved in poetry at local, state and national levels. PPS, Inc. is part of a national network of about 7000 or more poets called the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Many of these members are teachers or retired teachers, others are poets and aspiring poets or those who love poetry and want to see the genre thrive.

At a local level, there are several active chapters of PPS Inc. in various parts of the commonwealth. These chapters hold monthly meetings and poetry workshops, sponsor readings, print anthologies, and sponsor youth contests.

At the state level, PPS sponsors an annual contest for all poets and a student contest for all students in PA. A book of PPS prize poems is published from each contest each year. Additionally, PPS organizes two annual meetings where workshops and open readings provide poets an opportunity not only to meet each other but to practice their craft. We offer a critiquing service to members and publish a quarterly newsletter.

Belonging to a group of local poets gives one an audience for one's poetry. The local workshops help a poet to grow in the craft. When one is a member of the local-state-national network of poets, one is able to network with other writers.

The purposes of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society are to secure fuller recognition, to foster a more intelligent appreciation of poetry, to educate, and to encourage and assist American poets.

Contact Nancy Kline to join or visit [www.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.com) and go to the state links to access PPS, Inc.'s site.



## PENNS TO PAPER PAGE AND COPY EDITORS

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