



The Sylvan

NEWSLETTER OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA POETRY SOCIETY, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- Books on Poetry
- Chapter News
- Winners' List
- Prize for renewing in a timely fashion
- Sponsor a contest for Alabama's State Poetry Society

FEATURES

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It wasn't the worst of times. It became the best of times. But for awhile it was a most interesting time. Just as it appeared that our Spring Conference would fail to live up to our expectations, our hosts, Carlisle Poets, and in particular, Janet Manwaring, rescued us by changing locations at the very last moment. In a deft bit of slight-of-hand worthy of Harry Houdini, we were able to wiggle out from under a crumbling house of promises and move the whole shebang to Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse without skipping a beat. Our hearts may have been pounding but we didn't skip a beat.

Needless to say, I couldn't be more pleased with the outcome and with the fortitude of the Carlisle Poets. As hosts, they did what hosts have to do sometimes to ensure that all of us would have a grand time at our Conference. And we most certainly did. There was camaraderie aplenty, as well as prize poetry readings, impressive workshops, and an abundance of good food, all wrapped up in a familiar cocoon nestled along the Yellow Breeches Creek in central Pennsylvania.

Sadly, some of our regular attendees were unable to attend due to health reasons and uncompromising schedules. They were missed. We hope that future conferences will be graced by their presence and by other PPS members who may not have had the opportunity to be part of one of our conferences. We are all the lesser for their absence.

I want to single out the two presenters of workshops for praise. Pam Barney of Carlisle Poets presented a workshop on "Finding Importance in the Ordinary" and Michael Hoover of the Gettysburg Poetry Society (GPS) presented a workshop on "The Magic of Synesthesia." Each workshop, in its own way, gave us tools to use and insight to draw on in crafting more robust, creative poetry. Everyone that I talked to later wished that each presenter had had more time. I share their view.

Our Fall Conference will again be held at the Allenberry Resort Inn, which is a beautiful place to visit at any time of the year but especially so in the fall. I would urge everyone to consider attending our Fall Conference for the camaraderie, workshops, good food and a country setting worthy of a Norman Rockwell painting. I look forward to seeing old familiar faces and making new friends this fall.

Richard "Dick" Lake, President
Pennsylvania Poetry Society



BOOKS ON POETRY, A SHORT LIST

John Holcombe, www.Poetrymagic.co.uk

Self Expression

1. *The Art and Craft of Poetry* by Michael J. Bugeja. 1994. Writer's Digest Books. Cincinnati, Ohio. 339 pp. \$20. Emphasizes the personal and authentic. How to generate ideas for poems. Simple introductions to voice, line, stanza, meter and rhyme. Genres. Many contemporary examples.
2. *The Practice of Poetry: Writing Exercises from Poets who Teach*. Edited by Robin Behn and Chase Twichell. 1992. Harper Perennial. New York. 299 pp. \$15. Some 90 odd exercises covering: getting started, image and metaphor, structuring, rhythm, crafting, etc.
3. *Writing Personal Poetry: Creating Poems from your Life Experiences* by Sheila Bender. Writers Digest Books. 1999. Good in parts.

Poetry as Art

1. *How to Write Poetry* by Nancy Bogan. 1998. Macmillan. New York. 150 pp. \$10. Sensible introduction to the elements of traditional poetry in strict and free verse form. Includes detailed analysis of classic poems and a list of small magazines receptive to new work.
2. *In the Palm of your Hand: The Poet's Portable Workshop* by Steve Kowitz. 1995. Tilbury Houses, Publishers. Maine. 274 pp. \$15. Another good introduction, treating matters a little more fully. Useful sections on publishing your poems, workshops, and resources available to serious poets.
3. *Creating Poetry* by John Drury. 1991. Writer's Digest Books. Cincinnati, Ohio. 211 pp. \$17. Excellent, non-nonsense guide to all aspects. American orientation but has no axe to grind. Twelve chapters cover preparation, language, metaphors, sound, movement, shaping, pattern, voice, sources of inspiration, influences of other arts, etc. Often wryly amusing.
4. *Writing Poems* by Robert Wallace and Michelle Boisseau. 1996. Little, Brown and Company. Boston. \$32. 410 pp. A popular schoolbook, packed with examples. Instruction is by appreciation of poetry in a wide variety of styles and genres.
5. *Please, Lord, Make Me a Famous Poet or at Least Less Fat* by Dean Bleher. Words and Pictures East Coast. 1999. Light-hearted but thorough.
6. *The Poetry Handbook: A Guide to Reading Poetry*

- for Pleasure and Practical Criticism* by John Lennard. O.U.P. 1996. Does exactly what it says on the title.
7. *The Making of a Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms* by Mark Stroud and Eavan Boland. W. W. Norton & Co. 2000. Examples from contemporary poets and old favourites.
 8. *Reading Poetry: An Introduction* by Tom Furniss and Michael Bath. Pearson Education Ltd. 1996. Practical and sensible.

Literary Criticism

1. *An Introduction to Poetry* by X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. 1998. Longman. New York. £23. 650 pp. Classic school text, packed with past to present-day examples, plus much useful advice.
2. *A History of Modern Poetry* by David Perkins. 2 vols: *From the 1890s to the High Modernist Mode*, and *Modernism and After*. 1987. Harvard University Press. c 700 pp. and £12.50 each. A deft interweaving of biography, critical appraisal and cultural setting. Solid and generous: covers the major US and British poets of the period.
3. *Eight Contemporary Poets* by Calvin Bedient. 1974. In-depth appraisal of eight British poets of the 1950-70 period.
4. *An Introduction to 50 Modern British Poets* by Michael Schmidt. 1979. Fifty sharply-written essays.

Literary Theory

1. *Poetry in English: An Introduction* by Charles Barber. 1993. Macmillan. London. 220 pp. Generally sound, explaining what other introductions take for granted. Covers poetry of Eliot to Hughes adequately, but not Structuralism, stylistics and later schools of criticism.
2. *Poetry Today: A Critical Guide to British Poetry 1960-1984* by Anthony Thwaite. 1996. Addison-Wesley. 196 pp. £15. Short but intelligent survey.
3. *Contemporary Poetry and Postmodernism: Dialogue and Estrangement* by Ian Gregson. 1997. Macmillan. London. 269 pp. \$22. Illustrates the conflict between mainstream and Modernist poetry outside the Establishment. Mostly British contemporary poets.
4. *English Poetry Since 1940* by Neil Corcoran. 1993. Longmans. 308 pp. £15.00. Covers some fifty-odd British poets from Eliot to contemporary performers from a somewhat narrow, postmodern, Left-

S A N A N T O N I O
P O E T R Y C O N T E S T

S H O R T L I S T
C O N T I N U E D

(Continued from page 2)

ish stance. More themes and theories than illustration. Very useful bibliographies and potted biographies.

Poetry Anthologies

1. *The Faber Book of Twentieth Century Verse* edited by John Heath-Stubbs and David Wright. 1975. Faber and Faber. 347 pp. £10. Broad survey, with many favourites.

2. *New Poets of England and America* by Donald Hall, Robert Pack and Louis Simpson. 1957 New American Library. 351 pp. Introduced contemporary poetry to the postwar generation.

3. *British Poetry Since 1945* by Edward Lucie-Smith. 1985. Penguin Books. 432 pp. £10. A catholic and generous selection, with helpful notes.

4. *Up Late: American Poetry Since 1970* edited by Andrei Codrescu. 1990. Four Walls Eight Windows. 623 pp. \$17. More experimental American poetry.

5. *New American Poets of the '90s* edited by Jack Myers and Roger Weingarten. 2001. Godine. \$22. Mainstream American poetry. Being re-published.

6. *Postmodern American Poetry* edited by Paul Hoover. 1994. \$25. Experimental contemporary American poetry.

7. *Strong Measures: Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms* by Philip Dacey and David Jauss. 1986. Harper and Row. 750 pp. \$49. Some 150 contemporary poems in traditional forms.

8. *Aloud: Voice from the Nuyorican Poets Cafe* edited by Miguel Algarin. 1994. Dial. 514 pp. \$30. Poetry written for performance.

Sponsored by the UTSA Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the UTSA English Department, The San Antonio Poetry Fair proudly announces its Fourteenth Annual SAPF Contest. The national contest has cash awards totaling \$350! Please see www.sanantoniopoetryfair.com for entry details. Deadline is June 15; electronic entries only.



H E L P W I T H O U R
A R C H I V E S

PPS asks your help in completing our archive sets of *Prize Poems* and *Pegasus*. If you have any of the following copies you would like to donate, they would be greatly appreciated:

Prize Poems for the years 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1979, 1983, 1985, and 1989

Pegasus booklet for 2000, 2001, and 2004



O N D U E S

Dues for the next fiscal year shall be paid in September, 2011. The grace period ends on November 30th. Membership checks received after November 30, 2011 will be returned. Checks shall be sent to Nancy Henry Kline, treasurer, 1040 Dogwood Drive, P.O. Box 125, Cornwall, PA. 17016.

**See additional incentive, page 5



CHAPTER NEWS FROM
GETTYSBURG



SPONSOR A CONTEST

Dear PPS Members,

Very rarely does PPS have contest categories open for sponsorship. We frequently have a list of those waiting for a category to sponsor, but the 2012 contest now has three categories waiting for sponsors.

If you want to honor someone living or memorialize someone who has passed into the Great Beyond, now is your chance.

Our sponsors may pay \$50.00 yearly for a category or send a larger check to cover any number of years at \$50.00 per year. Make out your check to PPS, Inc. and mail it, along with instructions as to a subject and form, to

PPS Treasurer Nancy Henry Kline
1040 Dogwood Dr Box 125
Cornwall, PA 17016

Categories will be assigned on a first come basis. Requests and checks MUST be in hand by June 1, 2011 so the 2012 brochure can be printed in time to take to the NFSPS Convention.

Sincerely,
Richard T. Lake,
President, PPS, Inc.

Linda Clark, Gettysburg Poetry Society

The Gettysburg Poetry Society is pleased to announce their participation in the Gettysburg Festival! This nationally acclaimed ten day arts festival includes art, music, history, theater, and poetry! We have been invited to do a poetry presentation at The Spirited Ladies Shoppe on Chambersburg Street in downtown Gettysburg on Friday, June 15, from seven to nine. "Reading Between the Lines" is the title of our program which will feature an assortment of historical poems and original poetry by our members. We are obviously very excited about this exciting opportunity to share our poetic muse!

GPS continues to meet three times monthly and is attracting more members! Our workshops have featured GPS member Lana Hawley challenging us to set poetry to music. Lana is a talented poet as well as songwriter who shared some of her creations with us! GPS member Imogene Hunt, a talented poet and quilter, encouraged us to find writing inspiration in "found" objects. It is amazing how much work our workshop leaders put into their presentations and how much creativity they inspire in our members.

We continue to have sharing/business meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, a workshop session on the third Tuesday of the month, and a critique session on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Our second and fourth Tuesday meetings continue to be held at the Adams County Library, while our workshop continues to be held at Battlefields and Beyond Military Bookshoppe at 777 Baltimore Street. Check our website at gettysburgpoetrysociety.webs.com and come visit our group! We love visitors!

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the members of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society for their kind cards and gifts during my recent medical scare. Please know that even a popular prescription drug like prednisone can cause life-threatening situations.



ALABAMA STATE CHAPBOOK CONTEST

The Alabama State Poetry Society is accepting submissions for the Annual John and Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition.

Deadline is May 31. Winner receives \$100 and 50 copies of his/her winning chapbook.

Poems may be previously published if poet retains all rights. Send 20-24 total pages of poetry, (poems may be longer than one page, but total page count must be 20-24) with two (2) title pages: one with author identification, and one with NO author identification.

Please send manuscript with a \$15 reading fee payable to New Dawn Unlimited, Inc. Mail to:

Jerri Hardesty
ASPS 2011 Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition
1830 Marvel Road
Brierfield, AL 35035

SPONSOR AN ALABAMA CONTEST

We are looking for folks to sponsor contests for the Alabama State Poetry Society's Fall Contest brochure.

You put up the prize money, and you specify what subject, form, style, theme, length, whatever, for the contest!!

You also get to name your own contest!

Use this opportunity to memorialize or celebrate someone important in your life, mark a special event, express your support for a particular cause, share your love for something, educate people in a form or subject, or just to make people think about a new idea, etc.

Please email Jerri Hardesty at WyRabbit1@aol.com if you are interested in sponsoring a contest!!

PRIZE TO REMEMBER SEPTEMBER

In 2010, to make record-keeping easier, PPS decided to once again adhere to the long-standing tradition of a membership month—a limited time for members to join or renew PPS dues. September was designated as the month with a two-month grace period.

Therefore, anyone who does not pay dues by November 30, 2011 will be dropped from the roster and cannot rejoin until September 1, 2012.

To help members remember September and encourage them to get dues in on time, we are offering this incentive:

If you pay your dues by October 1, 2011, (before the date of our Fall Meeting, which is usually around the middle of October,) your name will be placed in a special box for a drawing the day of the meeting.

On that day we will draw three names from the box, and three lucky people will win the following:

1st Prize: 5 copies of a 36 page book of YOUR poems and the .pdf files to have more printed

2nd Prize: 3 copies of a 36 page book of YOUR poems and the .pdf files to have more printed

3rd Prize: 2 copies of a 36 page book of YOUR poems and the .pdf files to have more printed

If you want to see YOUR poems in YOUR book, make sure YOUR name is in the box for the drawing. Good luck!

Richard T. Lake, President, PPS, Inc



**2 0 1 1 A N N U A L C O N T E S T W I N N E R S
W H O A R E P P S M E M B E R S**

Vera Ogden Bakker – 4th place in category 6

Pam Barney – 2nd place in category 5

Theda Bassett – 8th place in category 5, 2nd place in category 7, 6th place in category 10

Isobel Beaston – 1st place in category 6, 7th place in category 11

Linda Clark – 5th place in category 4

Lee Pelham Cotton – 2nd place in category 2, 2nd place in category 4, 2nd place in category 8, 8th place in category 9, 8th place in category 11, 5th place in category 12

Doris DiSavino – 4th place in category 15

Marilyn Downing – 5th place in category 8, 1st place in category 10, 8th place in category 14

Lynn Fetterolf – 1st place in category 8, 6th place in category 9, 5th place in category 16

Ann Gasser – 5th place in category 2, 7th place in category 4, 2nd place in category 6, 3rd place in category 7, 8th place in category 10, 6th place in category 15

Glenna Glee – 4th place in category 10, 6th place in category 16

Jerri Hardesty – 1st place in category 1, 4th place in category 3rd place in category 5, 5th place in category 6

Roberta Anna Heydenberk – 6th in category 14, 8th in category 16

Byron Hoot – 5th in category 3

Nancy Henry Kline – 8th in category 3

Inge Logenburg Kyler – 8th in category 6, 4th in category 9, 2nd in category 11, 2nd in category 12, 6th in category 13

Richard Lake – 3rd in category 6, 4th in category 14, 3rd in category 15, 1st in category 16

Janet Lohr – 7th in category 7, 7th in category 14

Sarah Kelly Marston – 5th in category 10

John McBride – 7th in category 2, 7th in category 5

LaVern Spencer McCarthy – 2nd in category 3, 6th in category 6, 1st in category 9, 3rd in category 12

Carol Dee Meeks – 7th in category 8

Catherine Moran – 3rd in category 2, 1st in category 3, 3rd in category 8, 2nd in category 15, 2nd in category 16

Prabha Nayak Prabhu – 3rd in category 11, 7th in category 16

Dr. M.P.A. Sheaffer – 7th in category 13

Anne Pierre Spangler – 2nd in category 10

Dalene Stull – 4th in category 2, 4th in category 7, 4th in category 12, 8th in category 15, 3rd in category 16

Nick Sweet – 4th in category 1

Mildred Taylor – 8th in category 2, 1st in category 4, 4th in category 13

Larry Turner – 1st in category 11

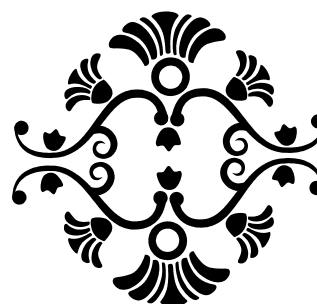
Loretta Diane Walker – 2nd in category 1, 8th in category 4, 7th in category 12, 3rd in category 14

Joseph L. Whitten – 3rd in category 1, 4th in category 5, 5th in category 15

Gail Sosinsky Wickman – 3rd in category 3, 2nd in category 14, 1st in category 15, 4th in category 16

Lucille Morgan Wilson – 6th in category 4, 1st in category 5, 5th in category 7, 6th in category 8, 3rd in category 9. 1st in category 14, 7th in category 15

Alexandra Moss Zannis – 6th in category 7, 6th in category 15



AMERICAN LIFE
IN POETRY

OBITUARY

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

For me, the most worthwhile poetry is that which reaches out and connects with a great number of people, and this one, by Joe Mills of North Carolina, does just that. Every parent gets questions like the one at the center of this poem.

How You Know

How do you know if it's love? she asks,
and I think if you have to ask, it's not,
but I know this won't help. I want to say
you're too young to worry about it,
as if she has questions about Medicare
or social security, but this won't help either.
"You'll just know" is a lie, and one truth,
"when you still want to be with them
the next morning," would involve too
many follow-up questions. The difficulty
with love, I want to say, is sometimes
you only know afterwards that it's arrived
or left. Love is the elephant and we
are the blind mice unable to understand
the whole. I want to say love is this
desire to help even when I know I can't,
just as I couldn't explain electricity, stars,
the color of the sky, baldness, tornadoes,
fingernails, coconuts, or the other things
she has asked about over the years, all
those phenomena whose daily existence
seems miraculous. Instead I shake my head.
I don't even know how to match my socks.
Go ask your mother. She laughs and says,
I did. Mom told me to come and ask you.



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Raymond E. Fulmer, a former PPS Board member and officer of the former PPS Wallace Stevens Chapter, passed away on March 14, 2011 at his home in Florida. Ray last served PPS as a trustee and sponsor of category 2 in the annual contest. He was an accomplished poet who won many awards and his poetry appears in numerous anthologies as well as in his two chapbooks *Between Tick and Tock* and *Quartet*.

Ray was supervisor and language arts teacher in the Boyertown Area School district, served a tenure as president of Quakertown Borough, directed plays at Bucks County Playhouse, directed and performed

EDITOR'S NOTE,
CRITIQUE COMMITTEE

Hello All,

Very exciting issue this time! There's so much to include that there's no space for the critique committee guidelines. Please email me for a copy of the guidelines, if you've anything to submit.

Another brief reminder: the next deadline for the Newsletter is August 5, 2011. Please send any announcements, requests, letters by then.

And once again, our ability to publish announcements about poetry events and contests is limited to those events and contests which are given by chapters of PPS, other state poetry societies, and events which feature members of PPS.



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Immediate-past President: **DeAnna Spurlock**
Vice President: **Lynn Fetterolf**
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(2016) **Walter Brandenburg,**
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(2017) Membership Committee:
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Marilyn Downing,
PPS Publicity Chair: **Linda Clark**
Pegasus Contest Chair: **Marilyn Downing**
Prize Poems: **Ann Gasser**
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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 intercourse among 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.



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