



Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter Vol. 12, No. 1 <u>www.nfsps.com/mo</u> Jan. 1, 2010



*Strophes* , the national newsletter is available online at <u>http://www.nfsps.com/</u> Click Strophies online.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Faye and I are in the process of judging the 600 plus poems from the Wyoming state poetry contest. We are in the process of making "good and bad" heaps. I was surprised to find that usually agree when choosing which pile the poems end up in. The problem we will have is picking the final list from the "good" pile.

As most of you are aware, I'm a poet by accident and still learning new things about the craft. The following is an example of the learning exercises that I use to improve myself. Please note that I'm aware of mixing metaphors in the examples.

In the October 2005 issue of By Line magazine there is a great article, "Using Sound Symbolism" by Katryn Wilkens. She discussed using words that refer to sounds. The technical name is onomatopoeia. It's a long article so I'll not try to discuss it here but I recommend that you read it.

The other technique is taking something, usually a noun describing an object, and have it perform in a way that is impossible but readily understood by the reader. Below is a before and after example using a poem.

**Before:** 

#### Wormwood

In my dreams I always find elegant solutions to the most knotty problems. As I sleep, soaring lines flow through my mind.

But upon awakening, they all turn to wormwood.

Morning light glints upon the flaws, like sunlight on snow. I have the soul of a poet, writing skills of a blacksmith.

After:

Wormwood 2

In my dreams I write poetry. My words *dance* to the *tune* of a pristine mountain stream, *climb* to heights where eagles soar and *plunge* to icy depths of inky seas.

But upon awakening, my words *turn* to wormwood and gall.

My carefully crafted phrases *fade* into the morning mist. I have the soul of a poet, writing skills of a blacksmith.

Usually, comparisons are linked by the word *like*. For example, "The evening sunset is <u>like</u> molten lava flowing across the seam that separates the earth from the sky." Not using it (like) will normally improve the word picture you are trying to paint. Try instead, "Molten lava flows from the evening sun along the seam that divides night from day."

**Billy Adams, President** 

**KUDOS** TO Billy Adams who has an article presumed to appear in the Guidepost Magazine's book called "The healing Touch" which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> book of a series of 12 books called "The Incredible Prayer ".

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTBeginning with the January issue of the SPAREMULE we will be sending via e-mail.This was discussed and unanimously approved at the 2009 MSPSConvention by all those present.

The *STROPHES* which is normally sent with the *Spare Mule* will be available, as always, at <u>www.nfsps.com</u> and will be referenced in each Spare Mule.

The *Spare Mule* is issued 4 times a year at the beginning of January, April, August, and October. To be viable and up to date each chapter is asked to send in Chapter Reports prior to the deadlines which are the last week before the months listed above. All members of MSPS are asked to send in poems, notice of awards won, and any items of interest that might interest the state organization. These may be sent in at any time before the deadlines.

<u>One other important note</u>. It is much simpler for each member who has e-mail capabilities to send an individual e-mail to <u>mopoetry@mchsi.com</u>

with **SUBJECT: SPARE MULE** and a short request to be added to the e-mail list. This way all that is needed is to save the address. This saves me time and assures the correctness of the address. One additional benefit of going electronic is that we will not be limited to the number of pages we send. This should be an opportunity for members to send in more poems for publications and awards

This conversion to electronic delivery of the Spare Mule does not take effect until the January issue, but please send in your e-mail addresses as soon as possible to provide the easiest transition.

I swept a mess of leaves clear off the deck and steps. A gusty wind came up and blew them back to me. Then sheets of rain came down and plastered leaves to wood making such a mucky mess I retreated to the house. This game's no longer fun. Let Mother Nature have her way.

**Frieda Risvold** 

Anyone interested in further information about THE MISSOURI STATE POETRY SOCIETY may contact PRES. BILLY ADAMS at <u>badams0523@esagelink.com</u> or phone 636-337-0523.

Contact with Spare Mule editor should be via <u>mopoetry@mchsi.com</u> with Subject: Spare Mule

#### **CHAPTER REPORTS:**

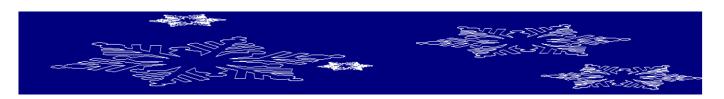
**Crawford County Bombadils:** 

Though membership is low during these cold months, we have still had quite a bit of fun. Crawford County Bombadils hosted a Poet Speak in November at a local coffee shop here called Java.net. We had a fantastic turnout with eight readers and a warm, welcoming audience.

With the coming of the New Year, we are again holding a Youth Poetry Contest and planning a Spring Poetry Read-Around in our community. Our focus for our meetings are small workshops in writing and sharing ideas and new material. We are looking forward to many new adventures in 2010, one of which will be the hosting of the MSPS State Convention in September.

We hope to see you all then,

Dawn Harmon



#### SPARE MULE

# **Springfield Winter Banquet**

JANUARY 2010

If you were not at the Pasta Express in Springfield, MO on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, you missed a great time! You missed a great dinner and you missed all the winners and some wonderful poetry!

The Springfield Poets and Friends held their Winter Banquet and Contest Results on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December at the Springfield, MO, Pasta Express. We had nearly 30 people attend the dinner.

Thirty-five contestants entered the contest with 270 entries from New Hampshire to Florida to Utah. The nationwide contest drew some wonderful poetry that we read and enjoyed. Also, there were 29 entries to our Youth Poetry Contest with many excellent offerings.

The group even had a read-a-round with some great Christmas poetry.

Next year, plan to attend our winter party for some great fun, poetry and food.

Marsha Becco, Sec.

**Monterey, Calif.-**-(1/1/10)--Entries are now being accepted in the First White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate poetry contest. The winning poem will receive a \$100 cash award. Native American ancestry is not a prerequisite; good writing in the voice of the Indian Spirit is necessary. Deadline for entries is Feb. 28, 2010.

Co-sponsors are White Buffalo Tribe honorary chiefs Barbara Callahan Quin (LittleCrow WalkingEagle), Springfield, Mo. and Yvonne Londres (Dances with Poetry), San Antonio, Tex. Contest administrator is Wanda Sue Parrott, (Prairie Flower), Monterey, Calif.

Details and rules are available on the online-host home page links "Contest—White Buffalo" and "Newsletter— The Diploemat" (Sept. and Dec. 2009) at <u>www.amykitchenerfdn.org</u> ---Wanda Parrot

Winter Haiku By John J. Han (OE)

snowy football field steam comes out of players mouth

melting in the sun drop by drop icicles

winter garden perching on a bare branch golden butterflies growing out of a deserted wheelbarrow winter grasses

icy rain sipping hot tea by the fireside

midwinter night sound of migrating birds then silence

deep snow a prayer may school be closed

## WYOMING POETRY CONTEST

Billy and Faye Adams were recent judges of the Wyoming State Poetry Contest. There were 648 poems entered. After narrowing it down they still had over 100 on their long list. That's when they found that they had to really get picky to narrow it down to the few winners allowed. This is very often the case. Judging is sometimes harder than writing a winning poem. Congratulation to both Billy and Faye.

#### **MSPS WINTER 2010 CONTEST:**

Here are the guidelines for the MSPS Winter 2010 Contest:

#### **Deadline:** Postmarked February 15, 2010

<u>Format:</u> Submit two copies of each entry, category number and name in upper left-hand corner of both copies, poet's name and address in upper right-hand corner of one copy. If you are a member, put "Missouri State Poetry Society" below your address. Put "Non-Member" if you are not.

<u>Limits:</u> Poems may be 40 or fewer lines. They may be unpublished or previously published if the poet retains the rights to the poem. Poets may enter each category as many times as they wish. No poems will be returned.

**Categories**:

- 1. Rhymed verse or blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter) any subject, serious or humorous
- 2. Free verse, any subject, serious or humorous
- 3. Humorous verse, any subject
- 4. Any form, winter subject, serious or humorous
- 5. Members only--Poet's choice: any form, any subject, serious or humorous
- 6. Youth Poetry Division I: Middle School 6th-8th grades

**Division II: High School 9th-12th grades** 

(See Special Rules Below)

**Special Rules for Youth Poetry (for Category 6 only):** 

- 1. FREE. There are no fees for the Youth category.
- 2. Open to Missouri students only, currently in grades 6-12.
- 3. Limited to one poem per student.
- 4. Students may individually submit an entry, or they may be submitted by their teacher.
- 5. Any type of poetry accepted except "found poetry.".
- 6. 37 line maximum, including lines between stanzas; lines no longer than 45 characters.
- 7. Cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, first place winners will be published in the MSPS Anthology Grist.

8. Winners and HMs will automatically qualify as candidates for MO entries to the Manningham Student Poetry Award Contest, sponsored by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

Submit two copies:

1. On one, write only "category 6" and the student's grade in top right hand corner.

2. On other copy:

a. in top right hand corner, write category 6, student's name, address, and grade.

b. on top left hand corner, write English teacher's name and email address, school name and address

Send Youth entries to: Judy Young, MSPS Youth Director,

6155 E. Farm Road 132, Springfield, MO 65802

**Fees for Categories 1-5:** 

Non-members pay \$1.00 per poem. Members pay \$1.00 for two entries. Make money order or check payable to MSPS and mail to Bill Lower, 21010 S. Hwy 245, Fair Play, MO 65649. Include an SASE or your e-mail address on an index card for a list of the winners.

#### **Prizes:**

\$25, \$15, \$10, and three honorable mentions in each category.

• Membership: See <u>Membership Application</u> on the menu on our webpage at www.nfsps.com/mo

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

