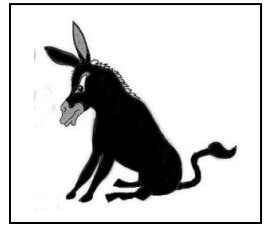




SPARE MULE



Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter
Vol. 12, No. 4 www.nfsps.com/mo October 1, 2010

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

MSPS Board Meeting
Cuba, MO
September 25, 2010

Treasury Report: \$473.63 (+) after Conference expenses but without Grist sales.

Anthology: Grist will remain at 75 copies
Price: \$8.75, preorder price until
deadline of **May 1** and \$10.00 after that date

Annual Conference: 23rd & 24th of Sept 2011
West Plains, MO Sponsor Howell County Bards
Poetry Contest: 503 Entries
Change for 2011: Placing poetry may be
published once in the MSPS Newsletter
unless the poet states that he/she denies
permission on each entry.

There will a \$1 dollar charge on all poems
entered in the MSPS contests.

National Poetry Convention in 2011 will be in
Detroit, MI.

M J Becco

ANNOUNCEMENT: You are asked that
someone from your chapter check the chapter
information in the MSPS website and contact
Tom Padgett for any corrections needed.



Bill Lower, Mort Levy, Nancy LaChance and
Michelle (Martin) Foster who served as a
member panel to critique a submitted poem at
the MSPS convention.

DUES & NAMES & NAMES & DUES

It will soon be time to send in your dues for 2011. They should be sent by the end of November because we have to forward the national portion to that organization in December. State dues are \$7 per year, and \$13 for members at large. This includes the national dues.

When the chapter treasurer or representative sends in the chapter dues, be sure to include the member information that the check covers: name, address, phone, e-mail. If you send your check without the list we have no idea who your chapter members are! Members at large should include the same information with your check.

Mail your check and list to our state treasurer: Bill Lower, 21010 S. Hwy 245, Fair Play, MO 65649.

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

Contact with Spare Mule editor should be via mopoetry@mchsi.com with Subject: Spare Mule

KUDOS FOR

VELVET FACKELDAY, Lebanon Poets' Society, received an Honor Scroll Award from the Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition. There were 1052 entries and 19 Honor Scroll Awards given. Her poem *Once A Private Porch* was published in *Leaves of Poetry*.

LEE ANN RUSSELL Had an approximately 1,000 word article about and entitled, *Poetry*, in the August edition of the Missouri Writers' Guild newsletter.

WANDA SUE PARROTT, now living in Monterey CA, is now the editor of Scribbles the newsletter of the central coast writers until the end of the year.

AND KUDOS FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED AWARDS IN THE SUMMER MSPS POETRY CONTEST:

LEE ANN RUSSELL (Poets and Friends)-3rd place in Blank Verse/Rhymed Verse for *Dawn to Dusk* And 3rd Honorable Mention in the same category for *How To Do a Poem*

ROBERT T. CHRISMAN (Member at Large)- 2nd Honorable Mention in Blank Verse/Rhymed Verse for "But. . ."

And in the Humorous Verse Section:

2nd Place for *Roy Rogers' Auction*, by **GLEN ENLOW**, (Write Place Poetry Society) and 3rd Place for *The Dodo* by **ROBERT T. CHRISMAN** (Member-at-Large)".

In the Summer Subject section, 3rd Place for *To Pull The Weeds* by **FAYE ADAMS** (On The Edge). AND a 2nd Honorable Mention to **TOM PADGETT** (2nd Tuesday) for *Summer Fun*

AND FINALLY in the Poet's Choice section, reserved for members only were selected

1st Place, *The Evening Star*, by **ALEXANDER DRUMMOND**, member-at-large,
2nd Place, *Washout*, by **FAYE ADAMS**, member On The Edge,
and 3rd Place, **BILLY J. ADAMS** member On The Edge.

For Honorable Mention, selected were

1st, *Water Under The Bridge*, by **ALEXANDER DRUMMOND**, member-at-large,
2nd, *By The Old Barn Door*, by **CONSTANCE BENSON**, member Howell County Bards,
and 3rd, *The Pigeons On The Peak Of The Church Roof*, by **ROBERT T. CHRISMAN**, member-at-large.



Paul Willis, Westmont College Professor of English speaks at the MSPS convention



David Clewell, Missouri Poet Laureate and Webster University professor speaks at MSPS convention.

CHAPTER REPORTS:**Chapter Report for Howell County Bards September 2010**

Howell County Bards, previously Mountain View Poetry Society, continue to meet monthly on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the West Plains Library. We are excited to announce plans to host the 2011 Missouri State Poetry Convention!

Dale Ernst, Bards' member and MSPS Advisory Board Member, attended this year's State Convention and board meeting as well as Michelle Foster, Bards member and MSPS Vice-President. Connie Benson, we are proud to announce, received 2nd Honorable Mention for her poem, *By The Old Barn Door*, in the MSPS 2010 Summer Poetry Contest in the Poet's Choice category. Michelle Martin married in May and is still trying to remember to write Michelle Foster when she signs her name. Our officers will change this year due to health issues with President, Sally Hatton. Sally has been an exemplary President and inspiration to the Bards. We send prayers and positive thoughts to her with wishes for a speedy return to attending meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Foster, Secretary, Howell County Bards

With her permission, we submit Connie Benson's winning poem.

By The Old Barn Door

I came across a kitten one day
Nestled down in a pile of hay
I didn't disturb her as she lay there
Her restful spot made her unaware

By the old barn door

My mind imagined what went on back then—
Could the old red barn remember when?
I wondered how many people had been around.
Would the kitten be startled by all the sounds?

By the old barn door

The baler twine hangs from the loft above
And I hear the coo of the mourning dove.
I can see the harness for the horse drawn plow
Just hanging there all rusty now,

By the old barn door

They search for leftover grain in the trough
Waiting for stanchions on their necks to come off.
I can hear the soft blat of a newborn calf
And also the echo of a young child's laugh

By the old barn door.

The old bard stands so sad and torn
With hinges bent and boards all worn.
It's empty now and slightly askew,
But pride remembers when things were new,
By the old barn door.

The kitten yawns and stretches around
Unmindful of all my imagined sounds.
She saunters off as the wind blows through the pane
Reminding me nothing ever changes
And nothing stays the same.

The participants at the 2010 MSPS Annual Convention took time to enjoy the beautiful day and charming surroundings of the Wallace House in Cuba, MO.



MSPS SUMMER CONTEST RESULTS

Out of the 503 total entries in 5 categories, there were 13 winning poems submitted by MSPS members and 17 non-member winners.

Attending the Convention were 3 winning members, Billy Adams, Faye Adams, and Alexander Drummond. Winners of the MSPS 2010 Summer Contest were announced at the MSPS State Convention in Cuba Missouri September 25th.

Certificates, and checks for \$25, \$15 and \$10 were given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners respectively. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Honorable Mention winners were awarded certificates. Michelle (Martin) Foster, MSPS Vice-President was in charge of the contest. Checks and Certificates will be mailed to winners not present at the convention.

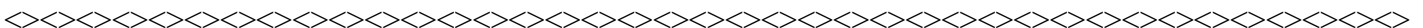
Bill Oakley, Judge for Category 1, Blank Verse/Rhymed Verse, selected 1st Place, *Lindsey*, by Nick Sweet, non-member, 2nd Place, *Putting Priorities In Focus*, by Madelyn Eastlund, non-member, and 3rd Place, *Dawn to Dusk*, by Lee Ann Russell, member Poets and Friends. For Honorable Mention, selected were 1st, *Coming Upon A Stone Circle At Sunset*, by Juleigh Howard Hobson, non-member, 2nd, *But...*, by Robert T Chrisman, member-at-large, and 3rd, *How Is A Poem?* by Lee Ann Russell, member Poets and Friends. There were 124 entries, 50 from members.

Judy Bowles, Judge for Category 2, Free Verse, selected 1st Place, *...from acorns grow*, by Evan Guilford-Blake, non-member, 2nd Place, *Says Adameus*, by Carol Louise Moon, non-member, and 3rd Place, *Divination*, by Janet Henderson, non-member. For Honorable Mention, selected were 1st, *After The Piper*, by Kolette Montague, non-member, 2nd, *How I Became A Shakespeare Aficionado*, by Madelyn Eastlund, non-member and 3rd, *Card Shark Of Santa Rosalillita*, by Ms Theda Bassett, non-member. There were 138 entries, 41 from members.

Dr Craig Albin, Judge for Category 3, Humorous Verse, selected 1st Place, *Blast From The Past*, by Nick Sweet, non-member, 2nd Place, *Roy Rogers' Auction*, by Glen Enlow, member Write Place Poetry Society, and 3rd Place, *The Dodo*, by Robert T Chrisman, member-at-large. For Honorable Mention, selected were 1st, *Ugly Goes Deeper*, by D Beecher Smith II, non-member, 2nd, *Dog Owner's Prayer*, by Sandra Soli, non-member, and 3rd, *A Fine Time*, by Marilyn Camden Norton, non-member. There were 98 entries, 36 from members.

Allison Wilson, Judge for Category 4, Summer Subject, selected 1st Place, *A Piece Of The Tropics*, by Catherine Moran, non-member, 2nd Place *Lady Of The Season*, by Kolette Montague, non-member, and 3rd Place, *To Pull The Weeds*, by Faye Adams, member On The Edge. For Honorable Mention, selected were 1st, *Garden Truth*, by Juleigh Howard Hobson, non-member, 2nd, *Summer Fun*, by Tom Padgett, member Second Tuesday, and 3rd, *Dust Bowl Days*, by Eugene Shea, non-member. There were 84 entries, 35 from members.

Laurence Thomas, Judge for Category 5, Poet's Choice, selected 1st Place, *The Evening Star*, by Alexander Drummond, member-at-large, 2nd Place, *Washout*, by Faye Adams, member On The Edge, and 3rd Place, Billy J Adams, member On The Edge. For Honorable Mention, selected were 1st, *Water Under The Bridge*, by Alexander Drummond, member-at-large, 2nd, *By The Old Barn Door*, by Constance Benson, member Howell County Bards, and 3rd, *The Pigeons On The Peak Of The Church Roof*, by Robert T Chrisman, member-at-large. This category, for members only, had 59 entries.



Interview with Faye Adams, Missouri Senior Poet Laureate

Faye Adams, winner of a contest awarding her the title of Missouri Senior Poet Laureate as well as a winner in 2 categories in the 2010 MSPS Summer Poetry Contest did not “roll out of the cradle” writing poetry. Surprisingly, this talented woman did not begin writing poetry until she was an adult.

Recently I had the opportunity to interview Faye. She related that after she and her husband, Billy, moved to De Soto Missouri, she happened to read an article in a local newspaper about an essay contest. References to a ‘Writer’s Society’ aroused her curiosity. She related that she “had never heard of such a thing” having grown up attending school in a 1 room schoolhouse.

With what I soon learned was her typical tenacity, she succeeded in finding a support system of other writers. She wrote, developing her skills and style but did not enter a contest until around 2004, 2005.

She states she was “very green”. After entering one contest, Faye was called by Donna Volkanannt about her submission. Donna explained what Faye had done incorrectly, personally corrected it and sent it along for judging. Faye began studying her craft in earnest, taking online classes, attending the Lucidity Retreat, continuing to improve her poetry.

Hard work rewarded Faye and she still recalls the excitement she felt winning her first contest, 1st prize for her poem *I Believe God Invented Dancing*.

She attributes her success in contests to support from fellow poets who have given her a “hand up” along the way. Her recipe for contest success sounds, not surprisingly, like the recipe for a good poem. She stresses the importance of revision and sometimes takes a break between revisions to step back from the poem. She relies on her husband Billy to read and review a poem. Finally she takes the poem, with copies, to other poets for critique.

Membership in several writing and poetry groups keeps Faye challenged and supported. Her perseverance and commitment to growth are what make her and her poems winners.

- - - **Michelle Foster**



Roberta Page from the Lebanon Poets Society, the newly named Honorary Life Time Member speaks to the convention. The award was presented by Past President, Velvet Fackelday

POEMS BY MSPS MEMBERS**Not About Going to the Specialist**

It's not so much
 that my eighty-nine-year-old mother,
 living in a nursing home, hates
 going to a specialist. It's not about
 slow-moving, swollen fin-like legs.
 It's the one persistent thought
 that comes and goes and comes again:
 "I am not going back to that doctor.
 I know exactly what he wants—
 just another good look
 at my booty!"

Still, I am more hopeful
 than the time she resisted
 going to the emergency room
 when fear gripped my heart,
 quickly followed by my love
 for her feistiness.

~ Pat Durmon, 2010

Travel Haiku

By John J. Han (OE)

the way to Salem
 hills after hills
 cows after cows

a mini windmill
 turns fast, slows down,
 then turns fast

dotting the meadow
 at autumn's dusk—
 haystacks

I look left, I look right
 yet there is none—
 a witch museum

wherever I turn
 I can't find one—
 a fellow Asian

CONTESTS IN THE OFFERING

**Lebanon Poets' Society
 5th Annual Poetry Contest**

Deadline: Dec 3, 2010

Format: send two copies of each poem, include category and name of poem on both copies in left corner; on one copy include name and address in right corner.

Limits: poems should be 36 or fewer lines. Poets may enter as many poems as they wish in any category. Poems will not be returned. Poets retain the rights to their poems.

Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Categories:

- 1. Rhymed or blank verse, any subject**
- 2. Free verse, any subject**
- 3. Poet's choice: any form, serious or humorous**

Fees: \$3.00 per poem. Make checks payable to Velvet Fackeldey.

Prizes: \$25, \$15, \$10, and honorable mention in each category.

**Mail entries to:
 Nancy LaChance
 14940 Hwy 64
 Lebanon, MO.
 65536**

Springfield

POETS AND FRIENDS

2010

11TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

2010



CATEGORIES



- | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|
| 1. | FREE VERSE POEMS | Any Subject | 40 lines/fewer |
| 2. | FORMAL STRUCTURED POEMS
Any classical form such as sonnet, triolet,
rhyming couplets, etc. Form must be named. | Any Subject | 40 lines/fewer |
| 3. | CONTEMPORARY FORM POETRY
Modern form or theme poetry. | Poet's Choice | 40 lines/fewer |
| 4. | HUMOROUS POEMS | Poet's Choice | 40 lines/fewer |
| 5. | HAIKU or SENRYU | Haiku-Nature | 5-7-5 syllables
Senryu-Man & Nature |
| 6. | P & F MEMBERS ONLY! | Poet's Choice | 120 lines/fewer |
| 7. | STUDENT DIVISIONS: | <u>Division I</u> Middle School (6-8)
<u>Division II</u> High School (9-12) | |

For more information on the Student Divisions: Contact Don DePriest at dondepriest85@yahoo.com

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P R I Z E S

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\$25-FIRST PLACE **** \$15-SECOND PLACE **** \$10-THIRD PLACE

PLUS **3 HONORABLE MENTIONS** IN EACH CATEGORY



GUIDELINES FOR ENTRIES



1. **GENERAL:** All poems must be unpublished, 40 lines or fewer (Categories 5 & 6 excepted). Poems should be typewritten and single-spaced. No poems will be published or returned. Poems that have previously won Poets and Friends Springfield, MO, Cash Prizes will be disqualified. Please check the judging guidelines on the reverse of this sheet.

2. **NUMBER:** Poets may enter a maximum of **THREE** poems in each Contest Category and all will be eligible for prizes.

3. **DEADLINE:** All entries must be postmarked by November 30, 2010. P&F will not be responsible for lost or misdirected or postage due entries.

4. **FORMAT:** Submit one copy of each poem with only the Category name and number in the upper left hand corner. For **Categories 2 & 5**, the poetic form (*i.e.*, sonnet, triolet, rhyming couplets, haiku, senryu, *etc.*) **MUST** also be stated in upper left hand corner. Submit ONE cover sheet that lists ALL poems entered by category name, poem's title and first line. Also include the author's name, address, phone number and email on the cover sheet **ONLY**.

5. **FEES:** \$1.00 per poem for categories 1-6. Make checks out to "Poets and Friends." **NO FEES** in Student Categories.

6. **SEND Annual Contest Entries and Fees to**

M J Becco, Contest Ch
3025 N East Ave
Springfield, MO 65803

Send STUDENT Entries to

Don DePriest, Student Ch
1241 W Vancouver
Springfield, MO 65803

(No E-Mail submissions accepted.)

7. **WINNERS** will be announced at the December Poets and Friends Winter Celebration and Awards Ceremony in Springfield, MO. Send a SASE with your entries for the Contest Winners List, mailed the last week in December.

For more information, **Contest: E-mail:** MJBecco@hotmail.com **Call:** (417) 818-5046

Student Entries: dondepriest85@yahoo.com **Call:** (417) 833-4839