



SPARE MULE



Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter
Vol. 13, No. 3 www.nfsps.com/mo August 1, 2011

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



2011 Missouri State Poetry Society Convention Schedule September 23-24, 2011



Friday schedule

- 4:30 p.m. – Registration
- 7:00 p.m. – Welcome by MSPS President, Billy Adams and host chapter, Howell County Bards' President Dale Ernst
- 7:10 p.m. – Introduction of guest speaker, poet Jeanne Murray Walker, by Mark Tappmeyer
- 7:15 p.m. – Reading and comments by poet Jeanne Murray Walker
- 8:15 p.m. – Break, book signing by Jeanne Murray Walker
- 8:30 p.m. – Door prizes and read-around

Saturday schedule

- 8:00 a.m. – Board Meeting, Registration
- 9:00 a.m. – Welcome by MSPS Vice President, Michelle Foster
- 9:05 a.m. – Introduction of guest speaker, poet Dr. John J. Han, by Faye Adams
- 9:10 a.m. – Reading and comments by poet John Han
- 10:10 a.m. – Break, book signing by Dr. John J. Han
- 10:30 a.m. – West Plains High School Speech and Debate students poetry performance
- 11:00 a.m. – Door prizes, read-around
- 12:30 p.m. – Lunch, MSPS Secretary, Nancy LaChance presiding, MSPS Vice President, Michelle Foster announces Summer Contest winners
Honorary Lifetime Member presentation by Dale Ernst
Memorial presentation, for Sally Hatton by Beth Hykes
- 2:00 p.m. – Welcome by MSPS Treasurer, Bill Lower
- 2:05 p.m. – Business Matters: reports

- 2:20 p.m. – Introduction of guest speaker Larry Thomas, by Dale Ernst
- 2:25 p.m. – Reading and comments by Larry Thomas
- 3:25 p.m. – Break, book signing by Larry Thomas
- 3:40 p.m. – Door prizes, read-around
- 4:30 p.m. – Adjournment

Motel reservation information: When making your reservations let the motel know you are attending the Missouri State Poetry Society Convention to receive the discounted rates listed below.

Best Western Grand Villa, 220 Jan Howard Expressway, West Plains, MO 65775, Phone 417-257-2711 or 800-391-3977, rate, \$73.67 including tax.

Super 8, 1210 Porter Wagner Blvd. West Plains, MO 65775, Phone 417-256-8088, rate, \$62.52 including tax.

Regency Inn, 1301 Preacher Roe Blvd. West Plains, MO 65775, Phone 417-256-8191, rate \$57.96 including tax.



CHAPTER REPORTS:



HOWELL COUNTY BARDS

The Bards give a poetry reading on April 8th at the, **À La Carte Cafe'**... all and all, the reading went very well. Michelle Foster and I read at an annual event held at Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, MO, for Poetry Month. Gordon Johnston head librarian, and member of our chapter moderated the event. Gordon was recently published in **“ Elder Mountain:, A Journal of Ozarks Studies,”** published by Missouri State University-West Plains, MO...good work Gordon.

Our chapter has also been working on preparations for the MSPS convention in September. We have made arrangements with the West Plains Library for the use of their community room. The room is ideal for our purpose, with a private entrance and there is plenty of parking space. All the information can be found at the MSPS website.

Dale Ernst, President, HOWELL COUNTY BARDS



POETS AND FRIENDS, Springfield, MO

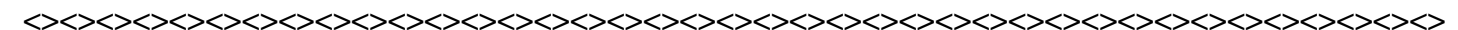
Our chapter has recently made it to facebook at [poetsandfriends@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/poetsandfriends). **Come and visit.**

We have a new editor for our Museletter, **Seth White**, who we think will help us establish better communication within the group and without. **Michelle Nimmo** has set up the facebook which we all appreciate.

Poets and Friends discussed and approved the production of an information flier at the last meeting. This flier, created by Marsha Becco, will help advertise the organization and hopefully increase membership.

We still meet every 4th Monday evening at 6:30 at the Brentwood Library in Springfield. Anyone in the area is welcome to join us there.

Don DePriest, President



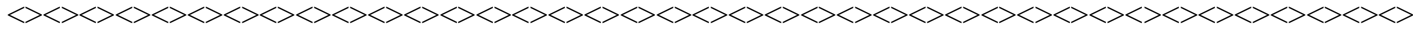
REMINDER:

THE NEW SITE TO SEND ITEMS FOR SPARE MULE PUBLICATION IS

dondepriest85@yahoo.com

KUDOS for

LEE ANN RUSSELL for the role of the screaming patient in the science fiction film, *The Gateway*, written, directed and performed by Missouri State University senior class members (and a few members of the public).



GRIST EDITOR LETTER:

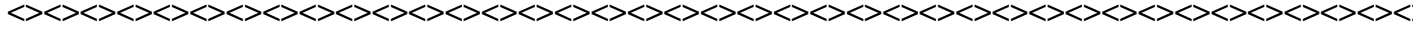
This year's edition of **GRIST** was a wonderful success and is currently at the printers! I anticipate the arrival of these sometime in the first weeks of **August**. If you have not placed an order for your copies yet, you need to do that soon. Checks should be made out to MSPS for \$10/copy and mailed to yours truly at the address provided. It is imperative that you provide me with your mailing address as well.

I want to thank everyone who helped me spread the word at the time that submissions were being accepted. We had a lot of new names appearing in our pages this year and one of those is our new cover artist, Debby Dunstedter. Debby is an artist and poet; she teaches art at St. Patrick's in Rolla, Missouri, and has one book of poetry published titled *Flying Dreams*. It is a privilege to be working with her. Debby will be in attendance at our convention this year so you will all have a chance to meet her and have a face to put with that new name in your book.

Many thanks go out to Bryson Roller who provided us with wonderful cover art for the past four years. And many welcoming wishes also go to the newest members of our society who have helped make this year's **GRIST** issue so successful.

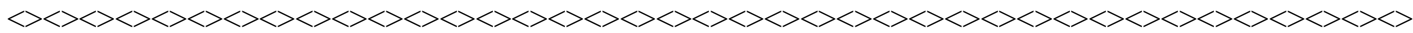
As always, it is a privilege and a pleasure to be your editor. I look forward to seeing each of you at our state convention this **September**.

**Happy Writing,
Dawn Harmon**



SUBMISSION WANTED:

Recipes in poetry form. Must be a usable recipe. Free verse or traditional forms accepted. Recipe just needs to sound poetic. Accepted poems will be published in a recipe book. Submission constitutes permission to publish. Contributors will be able to purchase books at author's cost directly from the publisher. Send submissions to jennifer248@centurytel.net with RECIPE POEM in the subject line. **Jennifer DiCamillo, editor**



SPRINGFIELD WRITERS' GUILD — 2011 POETRY/PROSE CONTEST JIM STONE GRAND PRIZE MEMORIAL AWARDS

#1 - Poetry - any subject, any form, limit 1 page, single spaced

#2 - Fiction - any subject, limit 1,000 words

#3 - Non-Fiction, any subject, limit 1,000 words

Fee: \$3.00 per entry

Awards: 1st place - \$100 and certificate. Two Honorable Mentions & Certificates

PROSE (750 word limit)

#4 - Short Story, any genre

#5 - Nostalgia/Reminiscence

#6 - Humorous

#7 - SWG Members Only: Essay/Opinion Piece

POETRY (Limit 1 page, single spaced)

#8 - Any Specific Form (except free verse) any subject

#9 - Humorous, any subject, any form

#10 - Free Verse, any subject

#11 - SWG Members Only, any subject, any form

Fee: \$2.00 per entry

Awards: 1st place \$20, 2nd place \$10, 3rd place \$5, One Honorable Mention & Certificates

ENTRY GUIDELINES

1. All entries must be the original, unpublished work of the contestant. Do not enter the same prose or poetry in more than one category.
2. First place winners from 2010 **may** not enter the same category in 2011 but **may** enter all others.
3. All manuscripts must be typed on 8 1/2 x11" paper in standard manuscript form. Prose must be double-spaced and poetry single-spaced. All entries must have a title (except Haiku, which is always untitled).
4. Place the category number and name (plus the prose word count) in the upper left corner of each entry. State the applicable poetry form. Number and staple prose pages. Paperclip multiple entries together for one category.
5. **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE ENTRY.** Include one typed cover sheet with your name, address, phone number and email address. List ALL entries by category number, name, title and first line.
6. Keep all originals; no copies will be returned. No entries will be published.
7. There is no limit on entries per category as long as fees for each entry are submitted. (It is possible to win more than one award in the same category.)
8. Winners will be announced and awards given at the **October 22, 2011**, regular SWG meeting or mailed to those unable to attend.
9. **DEADLINE:** All entries must be postmarked no later than **October 1, 2011**. SWG is not responsible for lost, misdirected or postage-due entries.
10. For a list of winners, include a SASE with your entry.
11. Any entry that does not follow these guidelines will be disqualified without reimbursement.
12. Make check payable to Springfield Writers' Guild.

For more information: www.swgsite.org

Mail contest fees and entries to

Dr. Jerry Wible, SWG Contest, 2987 E. Kemmling Lane, Springfield, MO 65804

email: jwible@sbcglobal.net or lar1111@sbcglobal.net

Phone: Jerry Wible (417) 889-8370 or Lee Ann Russell (417) 866-0638

Missouri State Poetry Society. Summer contest.

Deadline: Postmark September 1, 2011.

Two copies of each entry, category number and name in upper left corner of both copies, poet's name and address in upper right corner of one copy. If member, put "Missouri State Poetry Society" below your address, otherwise put "non-member". 40 or fewer lines.

May be previously published if poet retains the rights to the poem;

may enter each category as many times as poet wishes.

Categories: 1) rhymed verse or blank verse,

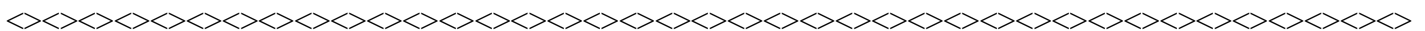
2) free verse,

3) humorous verse,

4) any form, summer subject,

5) poet's choice, MSPS members only (any form, any subject).

Members pay \$1 per entry. Non-members pay \$2 per entry. Payable to MSPS. Send to Michelle Martin Foster, PO Box 1776 West Plains, MO 65775. SASE or email address on a 3x5 index card for list of winners.



Lebanon Poets' Society 5th Annual Poetry Contest

Deadline: **Dec 2, 2011**

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.

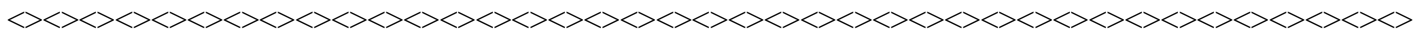
Categories:

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



POEMS BY MEMBERS:

LUNCH AT GARAVELLI'S

His voice was loud and irritating
for a small and frail old man.
Rambling on breathlessly:
"My brother the Chiropractor
quit crackin bones ...
told me about an eye doctor
best one I ever had...
the crash of '29
now that was really bad."
Memories that soon would fade
came spilling out of him.
We listened sparingly,
chewing the Beef Au Jus.
We listened reluctantly,
swallowing the Mostaccioli.
We listened nervously,
our appetites growing dim.
Suddenly our startled eyes agreed:
"Soon we too, could be like him."

RJ Moritz

This Child

The shots rang out and a young girl lies
dying.
All are shocked, all are stunned, some are
still crying.

She was cradled in the arms of a stranger.
Her exit marked, she was beyond all danger.

Her promise stolen without care or concern.
He had taken her life for what in return?

Did this child owe a debt she could not meet?
Or simply the cost of walking on our street.

A mother's days now forever stained with
tears.
While others remember and try to face their
fears.

The future of our youth they have yet to
chart.
But this child should always remain in our
heart.

Cheryl Teeter

Do not Inhibit the Civil

**Who were you before inhibition?
Who were you when you dared
to use your intuition?
You know...
not before you knew God,
but before you knew religion.**

**I remember sometimes
the freedom of my mind,
that daring feeling I could find,
not invincibility but admittedly,
pride.
Pride, like God
is a two-edged sword
luring us from our comforts
but also leading us toward the absurd.
Speaking of pride
how about humilitv?
Not servitude,
but a certain form of civility.**

**Make a point to reach in,
but don't forget to reach out
It's not where you've been
when you had your intuition;
it's who you can be if you
give what's within.**

Samantha Terrell, 2011

WHIRLING

Sitting contemplating the years gone by,
Suddenly I hear a rustling outside above the
Din of the equipment digging up the street,
Putting in new culverts—
One thing etched in my memory, is cars
Getting stalled when they hit the water
That couldn't run off during a heavy rain.
Glancing out the open window—a wondrous
snowfall—
Seedpods from the large maple in the backyard
Spinning dervish-like, covering the yard.
As children we called them parachutes.
Yesterday my three year old grandson picked up a
few
From the balcony of my daughter's apartment.
Just as I said, let me show you something, he sent
Them whirling off over the railing—dancing on
the wind.

Dale Ernst, Howell Co. Bards

LAST CALL

**You're invited to my funeral
on the nineteenth day of **June**.
I'll be anxiously awaiting
all my family's lack of gloom.
Bring an anecdote or story
or a poem you can share,
and we'll celebrate the life of me
while I am still aware.
Bring some pretty, fragrant flowers
and a handkerchief of blue.
We will sing some hallelujahs;
snap a photograph or two.
I have lived a happy lifetime
with some hard times interspersed;
I am not expecting heaven
nor eternity, rehearsed,
I just want to have a party
filled with loving sentiment --
an obituary written
long before my life is spent.
I don't want to have my funeral
when I've gone ahead and died
'cause I'll hear the organ music
and how people mourned and cried.
I'll be standing there to greet you
with a handshake and a hug,
and we'll talk about our friendship
long before my grave is dug.
I'll be waiting by the casket
for the stories we can tell,
and we'll celebrate my living
as you laugh and wish me well.**

Lee Ann Russell

*(7th place out of 2,700 entries in the
Writer's Digest 2011 poetry contest.
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**Kansas City Metropolitan Verse
Summer 2011**

Revival Resurgence Renewal

The renga is a poetic form linking the voice of two or more poets in a collaborative composition. To create this linking poem, the format is three lines of seventeen syllables, two lines seven syllables each, then repeat! Formal use of this configuration can also be relaxed allowing diverse possibilities. A continuing theme finds itself flowing along, following only the lines immediately preceding, with the entire creation remarkably linked.

America: Now and Here is a cross country movement of art and ideas. As we follow *Crossing State Lines An American Renga* as the link to *The KC Renga: Ghost Over Water*, the poets of Kansas City Metropolitan Verse hope you will be inspired by our link to this poetic form: kcmetroverse renga *Revival Resurgence Renewal*.

Clickity- clack-clack
Far away memories of
Yellow low-riders

A time when the hustle and
Bustle of KC centered

Joyce Hellstrom

Around the streetcar
A magical carpet ride
Its long arm hanging

From electrification
Grid above, feet on bright tracks

It dreams of tracks and passengers
And all its working days
Before cars

The tracks are gone now, all gone
Their steel re-forged to new use

Ralph Acosta

So it stands, passenger-less,
On display
Among buildings old and new

Missing the warmth of people
Seeing only stone and steel

Kansas City's a place
Of dull concrete
Rising from the plain

Frank Adams

A place of humid days
Nights filled with rain

A place of frigid winters
Where they do not
Remove the snow

**A good place to be from
Not a place to go**

**Kay Klinkenborg
and Deanna Delong**

**A fun and fancy
bit of fluff
adorns her head**

**strutted to announce
station in life**

**head cover
prim and proper
tiny wisp**

**proper in public
or in the box**

**hint of tulle
perhaps a feather
or not**

**fierce competition
I won't admit**

**afraid to be bare
won't commit to a hat
we'll just leave it at that.**

**Petticoat Lane at Main
Garment District goes Global
Women's hands fold, seam**

**Pat Berge and
Sarah Marquis**

**Walt Disney on Troost
M I C K E Y Mouse**

**Explodes coast to coast
Joyce Clyde Hall carries
Hallmark Cards in a shoebox**

**Crayola transforms
Miller Nichols creates the Plaza**

Amy Leigh Davis

**City of Fountains
spouts from the heart of the plains
like the earth remembering**

**something God used to say be-
fore the trains came to carry**

**goods to towns blooming
west. Now this is all ruins;
lonesome hay bales, grain mills, gnat**

**swarms, rail road tracks leading to
American wilderness.**

or a small quaint neighborhood
due north of Independence Avenue.
home to second and third generation

immigrants who settled along the narrow
side-walk lined streets over a century ago

where community gardens rise
out of vacant lots producing kitchen
staples for the old family recipes

and in the park, their own Bocce Court,
where games are known to get serious

Brenda Conley

Spiraled symphonic shell ringing, steel girded
Casavant Frères pipe organ crowning jewel of Helzberg
Shiny beacon of hope amongst the decay

Kemper Arena sits sorely neglected
Waiting for the American Royal

Municipal Auditorium, Art Deco Fresco
Architectural Marvel
Pride of Truman, Pendergast

City, boundary of the West
Progress masking neglect

Rebecca Stallard

Bernita Pettit

Neighborhoods heavy with culture and accents
Burbs past the river stark ivory
Our town a keyboard of life's music

Generations loving a crime boss, mulberry stained
hands climb up on his knees, smile for the camera

Clicking clacking freight trains, livestock exchange
From thriving to abandoned the west bottoms revive
As does downtown, with power and light and crossroads

Trolley trams from east to west, south to north
Mixing the crowd, the Arts stirring the mix

Sheila Patton Madonia

Ancient and modern
You house the great and the new
The Nelson Atkins

All of the world in one place
Your art is open for all

Beauty surrounds you
With bold and spewing fountains
Paris cannot match

Our great and mighty river
Flows between the town I love

And a block from this great Nelson Atkins

**Is a well known hamburger restaurant
Winstead's**

**I remember family members going to NuWay
And then they would have to take me to Winstead's**

**To get their super thin hamburger,
With a big, thick slice of onion
and the delicious mustard-ketchup sauce**

**Sauce so well known at Winstead's
Located on the ritzy Plaza**

Linda DeJarnette

**our own Seville, Spain
tiled roofs and fountains cozy
against the north bank**

**of the waters of Brush Creek
scene of plastic duck races**

**and rain on the plains
nineteen seventy-seven
sent a water wall**

**but the Plaza would come back
and remains our crown jewel**

Michael Wells

**My Paris of the Plains
Our city of fountains
Home of trails west**

**Stockyards and Plaza
Ward Parkway and Westport**

**Surprising and active Arts
Music and food
Unnoticed vibrancies**

**Built on the past, ever-changing;
All within a fifty minute drive**

Russell Key

(Our objective is to celebrate poetry in all its forms, contemporary and classic, to encourage the value of poetry within the community, and to support enthusiasm for this art form. The poets of Kansas City Metropolitan Verse, the Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri State Poetry Society, hope you enjoyed this linking poem. We also have available on Amazon.com five volumes of our poetry compiled since our chapter's beginning.)

