



who submitted the poems is our own Dr. John J. Han, one of the speakers for our 2011 MSPS convention, who is himself a multi-published, award-winning poet.

**Faye Adams**



**John Han, On the Edge member, speaks at convention on haiku.**

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**kcmetroverse chapter report:**

Since the cold snowy February night in 2005 when Kansas City Metropolitan Verse, the Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri State Poetry Society was founded, our core membership has held strong and has added new voices true to our mission statement: *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.*

Kansas City Metropolitan Verse made our first outreach effort by collecting poetry books, marking them for [BookCrossing.com](http://BookCrossing.com) and sprinkling them around the city. Any book found on restaurant tables, or movie theater counter tops, or other public shelves left there by chapter members were to be read, listed on the internet connection to be tracked, and passed on. Such fun! And free poetry for the community. That first year KC Metropolitan Verse also provided a scholarship to a student from a school in south Kansas City for a writer’s workshop to help hone the skill of this young poet.

By the second year our chapter decided to publish our own volume of work. With National Poetry Month as a goal, a tradition began. The group was featured this April at the *Second Friday Art Crawl* in Excelsior Springs , MO , reading from volume 5!

The *Kansas City Literary Festival* brought opportunity to share space with WriterHouse and Park University on the city’s Country Club Plaza,

and a venue for sharing our work. The Plaza, teaming with writers, country-wide and local, provided our first public reading.

As a meet-up group the members of kcmetroverse attend poetry readings around the city. We have heard Ted Kooser, featured poet, as well as Missouri ’s first Poet Laureate, Walter Bargaen, when we hosted the state convention of the Missouri State Poetry Society in 2009. We have attended readings of Donald Hall, Charles Simic, BH Fairchild, Robert Pinsky, Kay Ryan, Billy Collins and countless others as we get together at readings around the city. Kansas City in alive with poetry and we go on a poetry quest. Sitting on the front row at the downtown library we even spent an evening with Langston Hughes (portrayed by a talented re-enactor).

This past spring one of our poets brought a poetry form to our attention, the renga. We attended the launch of a national movement to share art and ideas using this form, *America: Now and Here*, which linked some of our nation’s finest poets in *Crossing State Lines, an American Renga*, followed by *The K.C. Renga: Ghost Over Water* with many of our city’s talented poets. Inspired by these creations, we linked with our own *Revival Resurgence Renewal: a kcmetroverse renga*. It was published in the Missouri State Poetry Society newsletter, *Spare Mule*, and was featured in a read-around in a Chicago area circle of creative writers and poets.

Poetry has moved from the pages of our journals to numerous on-line publications as well as published books of poetry. Two poets in our chapter are winners of the Crystal Fields Award for Poetry. Another was nominated by the National Association of University Women for the Thorpe-Menn Award. Among national contributing poets, one of our own was featured with his work in a collection of poetry-inspired abstract paintings displayed in a local gallery. We are also very proud of the four published poets in our circle.

**Brenda Conley**

## Crawford County Bombadils

With growing membership of the Crawford County Bombadils, this little chapter is looking forward to new opportunities to share their love of poetry with their communities. It is their own president, Dawn Harmon, who was named the new Vice President of MSPS.

Though the Bombadils have long distance membership, the focus of this chapter is on consistently trying new avenues of writing. With a writing workshop exercise received via email nearly once a month, each member is able to create their own masterpiece and share it with the other members. Though they have not all met one another yet, they share a fellowship of writing and are cultivating beautiful friendships through it.

This year the Bombadils were represented at the State Convention by two of its members, Dawn Harmon and Debby Dunstedter. The ladies enjoyed meeting and visiting with their fellow poets, taking part in read-arounds, and having the privilege of hearing some wonderful speakers. With many notes to keep them inspired, we look forward to seeing what this chapter will turn out next.

**Dawn Harmon**

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## Poets and Friends:

We have had a modest increase in membership this year. Each meeting some member presents a challenge of the month by presenting a new or different form of poetry for everyone to try and present the next month. There always seems to be something new and interesting to explore, and it is often a lot of fun, too. Poets and Friends meets at 6:30 at the Brentwood Library in Springfield just one block east of Glenstone on Siminole on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of most months (April and December are different). If any of you are in town on those dates we would love to have you visit.

**Don DePriest**

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## KUDOS

LEE ANN RUSSELL received

1st HM for short story, "Me and Sally" from the White County Creative Writers AND 1st HM for the Opoem, "Methodology" from the Kentucky State Poetry Society

**JUDY YOUNG'S** tenth and eleventh children's books were published last spring and have already won awards! *A Book for Black-Eyed Susan* received the 2011 National Parenting Publication Gold Award. *A Pet for Miss Wright* received the 2011 Parents' Choice Approved Book Award. Also, Judy's book *Minnow and Rose* is on the 2011/2012 Missouri Show Me Readers Award list and *The Hidden Bestiary of Marvelous, Mysterious, and (maybe even) Magical Creatures* is on the 2011/2012 Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award list.

**MARILYN K. SMITH**, 66, of Fair Grove, won the 2011 Missouri Senior Poet Laureate Award with her poem "Sawmill." Marilyn is a member of the Poets & Friends branch of Missouri State Poetry Society.

*(The national winners in the 19th Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition for American poets age 50 and older are two retired educators: 2011 National Senior Poet Laureate, \$500, Raynette Eitel, 74, Las Vegas, Nevada, a school counselor, for her poem "At the Irish Pub." National Runner-Up, \$100, is Josephine Carpignano, Ph.D., 83, of San Mateo, California, a school psychologist, for her poem "The Yellow Bus."*

*Wanda Sue Parrott, contest administrator, is an honorary life member of MSPS and Poets & Friends. She helped found MSP(S). She is co-founder of the national annual SPL contest which was started with Vera-Jane Goodin Schultz, in Springfield, back in 1993. Wanda now administers the contest from California. She thanks all MSPS members who have supported the contest throughout the years and invites you to read the winning entries online at [www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org))*

**The late BILL KIENE**, past-president of Poets & Friends and a founding member of Missouri State Poetry Society, was honored as a recipient of the Golden Pen (In Memoriam) Award for his poem "There was a Time." Bill, who served as a judge on the SPL Contest's panel, died in October 2010 in his

home state of Iowa after living in Missouri many years. He was 77. Also receiving the Golden Pen (In Memoriam) Award was Augusta K. Black, Richland, for her poem "Good Morning, Doll." Augusta, who was born in 1919 and died in 2011, was a native of Missouri. She was 2009 Missouri Senior Poet Laureate award winner.

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**NEWS ITEMS**

**New Honorary Lifetime Member announced**



**Bill Lower** was named the new Honorary Lifetime Member at the convention. Bill, from Fair Play and the Boliver Chapter, has been the MSPS treasurer for many years.

**REMINDER:  
THE NEW SITE TO SEND ITEMS FOR  
SPARE MULE PUBLICATION IS  
dondepriest85@yahoo.com**

**GRIST REPORT**

Our latest edition of GRIST is compiled, completed, and delivered. Upon mailing all the pre-ordered copies to our members, I have taken a seat and am catching my breath. I am happy to say that the whole publication looks good, our new cover artist did a beautiful job for us and to the best of my knowledge there are no errors.

I would like to thank every contributing poet for their part in making our anthology something we can all be proud of. We had 75 poets featured and met our deadline.

Copies of GRIST were made available for purchase at the state convention, and are still available by mailing your editor a check made out to MSPS in the amount of \$10.00 each with your name, mailing address, and requested number of copies. You can look forward to hearing from me again in February

when I open the doors again for submissions for our next year. Until then,

**Happy Writing, Dawn Harmon-Editor**

**HOW TO WRITE 3-LINE POEMS THAT PAY**  
by Wanda Sue Parrott

Moneymaking is easier if you know what you're doing. A shortcut to literary dollars lies in writing three-line poems. How much money are we talking about? Typically, \$25 to \$100 for 1<sup>st</sup> place; \$15 to \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup>; \$10 to \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup>. So, how do you start?

1. Use a legal pad for 3-liner scribbling. Write and revise until you finish twenty poems in each of these three formats.
2. Type the best ones into your computer and save them.
3. Start submitting by researching "Poetry Contests" online; then, select those that offer specialty categories such as "12 lines or less" or "short rhymed poems" or "haiku/senryu."

I have spent more than twenty years running poetry contests, and swear it's true that good haiku are hard to find! In fact, what Americans call haiku are usually senryu poems—or simply one long sentence of prose broken up into three lines. That's because haiku and senryu are look-alike poetry forms. Don't be fooled! Each line should stand alone, yet wrap to the next. Easy? Nah, but once mastered, you'll win! The basic structure is three lines. Haiku deals with nature and the nature of being; senryu deals with life, the foibles of humanity. Use no title, no capitalization (except for proper nouns) and no punctuation. Typical line/syllable count is: 5-7-5. To get the most mileage from so few words, avoid using articles such as "a" and "the" or empty words like "so" and "very"—and do not repeat a word. Here is one I wrote:

when my lights go out  
please post this sign on the door  
*she kept a clean house*

My advice? *haiku is harder to write than senryu, so stick with senryu.* Also try the Tercet and Triplet forms. Lee Ann Russell, judge in the 2012 Spring Writing Contest sponsored by Central Coast

Writers, includes then in *How to Write Poetry*—  
*Ballad to Villanelle* as:

**TERCET**

Lines: 3

Syllables: optional

Rhyme Scheme: a-a-a or a-b-a

**DUSK!**

Twilight shimmers on the shore  
Creeping toward the velvet night  
Closing sunlight's golden door

**TRIPLET**

Lines: 3

Syllables: optional

**IN THE BEGINNING**

While traveling o'er this lovely land  
of mountains high and beach's sand  
We recognize His loving hand.

The two latter poems are similar, except Tercet allows the poet choice—to rhyme only lines 1 and 3, whereas the Triplet locks in all three lines with the same rhyme. According to Lee Ann, you should not mix metaphors or poetry formats; in other words, if you enter it as a particular poetic form, be sure it conforms to the rules.

Three liners can also earn money as jingles in commercials, and as greeting card verse in which Line 1 appears on the front and the rhyming couplet inside the card delivers the sender's sentiment/message.

Contact Lee Ann Russell through 2012 Spring Writing Contest Rules, [www.centralcoastwriters.org](http://www.centralcoastwriters.org)

(Wanda Sue Parrott is Contest Administrator for Central Coast Writers branch of California Writers Club. See [www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org) )



**Dayne Bonnewell,  
West Plains Speech  
and Debate student,  
entertains at the  
convention.**

**POEMS BY MEMBERS**

**SECOND STAR TO THE RIGHT**

He was a boy with wings  
who ran full tilt into everything  
he did, saying he soared because  
he could park later. He smiled  
at himself in the mirror every day,  
seeing the hope of dreams to come, and  
unwrapped each day like an exciting gift.

Such a brief encounter with  
unrestrained joy. Somehow I lost it  
or gave it away--maybe had it stolen  
from me piecemeal, unnoticed.  
I still search for that youth,  
even knowing return is impossible.  
Life is a spiral--not a circle.

And so, when I can't sleep, I throw off  
the covers, raise my legs, and "walk"  
on the ceiling. If I scrunch my eyes tight,  
stars appear behind my lids.  
I can at least pretend  
I've learned to fly again.

by Barbara Blanks  
previously published in  
*PST Book of the Year 2009*

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**Cats**

Perched sphinx-like on my belly,  
Too long neglected, my old tom  
Pokes his fat head out from under  
The canopy of my STANDARD TIMES,  
Then slides a few ribs up my chest  
Until we're face-to-face, cat and man.  
He butts my forehead with his own,  
Gives me a push both soft and kind.  
Oddly the animal leans straight into me,  
Queerly muscles my human face,  
Snuggling up to some sweet dumb  
He spies behind my lesser eyes.  
Cats are like conquistadores,  
Booted looters I guess God made  
To find out eldorados hidden  
In an old map's ruthless shade.

Troy Reeves

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## When Alice Is Alone

[Inspired by John Steinbeck's *The Wayward Bus*]

When her husband isn't home,  
Alice heaves a luxurious sigh.  
She feels happy, secretive, and sinful.  
Slowly she smooths her dress over her hips  
and caresses her thighs.

Giggling to herself, she locks all the doors,  
Then she brings out a fifth of Bourbon, two bottles  
of beer,  
and a bottle of port wine.  
She drinks very slowly, emptying each one.  
A strange, pleasant pain runs through her veins.

Her nose looks broken on the surface  
of the metal paper-napkin holder.  
She stands before the mirror, penciling her  
eyebrows,  
brushing her hair, and reddening her lips.  
Then she puts perfume on her bosom, her ears, and  
her hair.

Alice imagines her husband saying, "You're kind of  
pretty."

Then she recalls a man who kept begging for sex,  
fulfilled his wish, then left her on the spot.  
Burying her head in her arms, she cries loudly.  
Only she can hear her sobs.

John J. Han, On the Edge

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## Confession To My Sister

For your sixteenth birthday, Grandma gave you a  
ring.

A flower, with ruby petals and diamond pollen,  
on a stem of ivory skin with nails shaped just as  
those

of the porcelain dolls in your room.

I still had two and a half years to wait for mine.

That ring was a rite of passage,  
magically transporting its owner into womanhood,  
and I could not wait for my turn to come.

Your little flower was soon buried in a box,  
in a drawer, in a dresser, in your room.

I never understood why.

You might remember my asking sometimes  
if I could just see your ring.  
I confess, I sneaked in once looking for it.

I wanted to know how it would feel  
to have something so pretty  
when my turn came. I wanted  
to feel what womanhood is like  
for little girls like me.  
I wanted to see the vision  
of beauty I might possess  
upon crossing that threshold myself.

I was careful to never let you know.

For just that moment,  
having slipped your ring  
over my too small finger,  
I became porcelain, too.

Dawn Harmon

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## The Styrofoam Room

We eat breakfast in a styrofoam room---

The eggs perfectly round;

The yogurt cheap and chunky;

The sausage from pigs raised in American Standard  
Farms,

Amidst a miasma of stink and cruelty

Too extensive and hideous to recount.

Old ladies stare at us underneath

The unforgiving glare of fluorescent lights,

While we eat off styrofoam plates

And drink coffee from Styrofoam cups.

I will dream tonight of being imprisoned

In a styrofoam room, the screams

Stolen from my throat and lodged

In that 20th Century poison, unheard.

Debby Dunstedter

## TASTES OF FALL

Sipping warm apple cider

Smelling hot mustard circling

First bite of grilled brat

Music...folk music live

The best kind

blended with conversations  
of browsers and artists at the  
UnPlaza Art Festival  
Hands stroked cherry red  
And midnight blue bowls  
Not long from the kiln  
Smooth, inviting.

I could nearly smell the  
vegetable soup  
Zucchini, sweet potatoes,  
winter squash,  
and onion...  
the taste of Earth  
Circling with steam

Fragrance of thin hamburgers,  
dill pickles, and  
crunchy onion rings  
met us at the door.  
Long-handled spoons  
dripped thick chocolate shakes  
into our mouths  
at Winstead's  
on the Plaza

by Pat Berge  
Kansas City Metropolitan Verse

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**SEE YOU NEXT FALL**

I'm back! in the land with less music.

Friday was wonderful...sitting high in the air  
on metal bleachers with a brisk breeze blowing  
cold Seattle-like mist in my face for three or four  
hours.

Saturday was cold and wet,  
then sunny and warm,  
then stormy and threatening  
all in an 8 hour time span.  
With thunder and lightning in the sky  
and tornado watch announcements playing  
through the camp ground radio station  
many of the less brave  
(or slightly brighter- could go either way)  
packed up their tents and headed out  
to one of the multitude of states they might call  
home.

Not me! I curled up like a puppy (which I certainly  
am not)  
and slept in my car.  
The cloud to ground lightning flashing all around  
me  
the announcer kept reminding people  
sleeping on the ground might not be such a good  
idea...  
I say sleeping in the back seat of a Ford  
isn't such a good idea either!

But I love every minute  
of my annual pilgrimage  
to the Walnut Valley Music Festival  
in Winfield, Kansas  
See you next fall.

by Brenda Conley  
Kansas City Metropolitan Verse

**FALL FESTIVAL**

crisp fall air  
colorful autumn leaves  
cold apple cider

orange pumpkins  
bittersweet and gourds

caramel apples  
corn stalks and hay bales  
apple dumplings

harvest time  
summer's reward

By Deanna Delong  
Kansas City Metropolitan Verse

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**MSPS SUMMER CONTEST RESULTS:**

Category 1 Blank Verse/Rhymed Verse, Dr Craig  
Albin, Judge  
1st Place, *The South Rose at Sainte-Chapelle*, by  
Rose Ann Spaith, non-member  
2nd Place, *Quasimodo, Hunchbacked Bell-Ringer of  
Notre Dame*, by John McBride, non-member  
3rd Place, *Tablerock Lake*, by Troy Reeves,  
member  
1st Hon Mention, *Cheetah in a Zoom Lens*, by  
Glenna Holloway, non-member

2nd Hon Mention, *An Anchored Buoy of Faith*, by Von S. Bourland, non-member

3rd Hon Mention, *The Miner's Wife*, by Eugene Shea, non-member

56 entries, 28 from members

Category 2, Free Verse, Sean Carter, Judge

1st Place, *Old Sailor*, by Anna Roberts-Wells, member

2nd Place, *A Letter to Theresa from Oscar*, by Rose Ann Spaith, non-member

3rd Place, *Hospice*, by Carol Carpenter, non-member

1st Hon Mention, *A Good Horse*, by Dale Ernst, member

2nd Hon Mention, *Coming Home To Morning*, by Glenna Holloway, non-member

3rd Hon Mention, *The Farthest House*, by Carol Carpenter, non-member

73 entries, 47 from members

Category 3, Humorous Verse, Niza Volair, Judge

1st Place, *I Sing*, by Anna Roberts-Wells, member

2nd Place, *A Day to Remember*, by Patricia J. Koch, non-member

3rd Place, *Prestidigitation*, by Elizabeth Hykes, member

1st Hon Mention, *Weird People: A Senryu Sequence*, by John J Han, member

2nd Hon Mention, *Male Call*, by Bill Lower, member

3rd Hon Mention, *Something Always Itches*, by Roberta Page, member

32 entries, 22 from members

Category 4, Summer Subject, David Malone, Judge

1st Place, *The Repose of June*, by Carol Louise Moon, member

2nd Place, *Texas Drought*, by Sally Clark, non-member

3rd Place, *Bee-keeping*, by Elizabeth Hykes, member

1st Hon Mention, *Summer Help Wanted*, by Donna Volkenannt, non-member

2nd Hon Mention, *Midsummer Celebration*, by Meredith R. Cook, non-member

3rd Hon Mention, *What's For Supper?* by Nancy LaChance, member

48 entries, 24 from members

Category 5, Poet's Choice, Judy Bowles, Judge

**(Category results not received as of deadline.)**

## **CONTESTS**

### **Lebanon Poets' Society 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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### **Springfield Poets and Friends 12<sup>TH</sup> Annual Poetry Contest**

Deadline: November 30, 2011

Categories of Free Verse, Formal Structured, Contemporary Form, Humorous, Haiku or Senryu, and student divisions for Middle school and High school.

E-mail M J Becco at [mjbecco@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbecco@hotmail.com) for details on adult contest.

E-mail Don DePriest at [dondepriest85@yahoo.com](mailto:dondepriest85@yahoo.com) for student details.

**Preview of coming events.**

