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Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter
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<http://www.nfsps.com/> Click Strophes online.



CHAPTER REPORTS

Poets and Friends Chapter Report

Perhaps our biggest monthly meeting is coming next month with our Poetry in the Park meeting. We meet at Grant Beach Park at Grant and Lynn Street intersection in Springfield. The date is April 22 from 1-6 pm. We start with a potluck lunch and lots of poetry reading. There is a nice pavilion for the meeting so rain or shine we should have a good time. All poets and friends are invited to join us.

The Poets and Friends have been meeting at the Brentwood Library for years but ran into a little problem of late getting our meeting place reserved. For the past two months we have been meeting at the Library Station on North Kansas and will again in May, September and November. The rest of the year we will be back at Brentwood. We found that things have progressed so far that in order to reserve certain rooms at the library you have to be in person at the library by about 5:30 am on sign up day to get a room reserved. And so it goes.

Don DePriest, President

Poets and Friends



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEELEVILLE ARTS COUNCIL MEETING

MSPS was represented recently in Steelville, Missouri, when vice president, Dawn Harmon, attended an evening of poetry and music sponsored by the Steelville Arts Council. This was an event presented free of charge to the community and featuring music by a local artist followed by a reading from Missouri Poet Laureate, David Clewell. Mr. Clewell has held this honorary position for two years and has used it as a means to broaden his opportunities for lecturing and reading. In addition to engaging the minds of the students of the local high school, Mr. Clewell shared some of his favorite pieces with approximately 60 people who came out to hear him speak that evening at The Soda Fountain. You may all remember his wonderful cadence and humorous tales he shared with us at the 2010 State convention held in Cuba, Missouri, including his piece on America's Bed and Breakfast. Upon hearing he had an owner of such an establishment in his audience that evening and that she had a good sense of humor, he told her 'if that is so, then put it on now,' and read again that much anthologized piece. Mr. Clewell's term as Poet Laureate will be expiring soon and it was indeed a pleasure to hear him open the world of poetry to so many with that specialized style all his own.



HEAR YE, HEAR YE

The time has come,

the time is now,
if you want to participate,
here's how.....

It's that time of year again that GRIST submissions are being accepted by your editor for our upcoming 2012 publication.

Here are the rules:

Submit your poem with no more than 36 lines and limited to 60 characters per line to Dawn Harmon either by email or via the US postal service.

Include your name, city and state, chapter affiliation and title of the poem, if applicable.

Submissions should be sent to the following addresses:

inafieldofdaisies@hotmail.com
or Dawn Harmon
Editor-GRIST
PO Box 639
Cuba, MO 65453

Please do not send your poem thru another member of the poetry society as this has in the past led to miscommunication and improper crediting of the poem.

The deadline for submissions to be received for publication is MAY 1, 2012.

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Purchase price per copy PRIOR to MAY 1, 2012 ---\$8.75
--AFTER MAY 1, 2012 ----\$10.00

All orders for GRIST should be submitted to Dawn Harmon at the above address or below with your MAILING address and contact phone number included.

I cannot always think of catchy ways to promote this, but I must admit, the highlighting and underlining here was a little bit fun for me.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Harmon if you have any questions concerning GRIST 2012 or earlier publications as well.

In an effort to reach all of our Society members, I ask you to share this email with all of your friends. The more

submissions we get the better and I certainly could use your help spreading the word. If you know members who do not have email, you can request of me to mail them a copy of this announcement, but unless you give me their address, I will not be able to comply. So please, please, please, help us spread the word to our fellow poets.

I look forward to hearing from each of you soon,

Happy Writing!!

Dawn Harmon
PO Box 639
Cuba, MO 65453
573-205-9113
inafieldofdaisies@hotmail.com

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WINTER POETRY CONTEST RESULTS

Following is the winners list from 4 of the 5 categories in the Winter Contest.

Category 1, Rhymed Verse

- 1. It's Elementary--Lee Ann Russell, MSPS Member
- 2. Ode to a Molar--Aaron E. Holst, non member
- 3. The Greatest Generation--Edwin S. Rice, MSPS Member
- 1st Honorable Mention--Supermarket Saturday--Edwin S. Rice, MSPS Member
- 2nd Honorable Mention--Raspberry Tea--Joyce Shiver, non member

Category 2 Free Verse

- 1. Golden Pomise--Dorothy Roger, non member
- 2. A Fair Day--Sara Gipson, non member
- 3. My First Time--Jennifer Harbaugh, non member
- 1st Honorable Mention--The Call--Dorothy Rogers, non member
- 2nd. Honorable Mention--Wind Stories, David L. Byrn, non member
- 3rd Honorable Mention--Arithmetic--Carol J. Megge, non member

Category 3, Humorous

- 1. Oops!! Did I Say That?--Marilyn Stacy, MSPS member
- 2. The Pasture Stakes--Edwin S. Rice, MSPS member
- 3. McCoffee to Go--Barbara Blanks, MSPS member
- 1st Honorable Mention--Claire, the Near-sighted Dance Hall Girl--Jim Barton, non-member
- 2nd Honorable Mention--Modesty, Be Damned--Lee Ann Russell-MSPS member
- 3rd Honorable Mention--Sedona--David L. Byrn, non member

Category, Winter Subject

- 1st Place--The Dove--Dewell H. Byrd, MSPS member
- 2nd Place--Gentle Snow--Beverly Stanislawski, non member
- 3rd Place--Happiness is a Warm Cuppa Cocoa--Barbara Blanks, MSPS member
- 1st Honorable Mention--Species Shift--Dennis Maulsby, non member
- 2nd Honorable Mention--Caroline Zarlengo Sposto--non member
- 3rd Honorable Mention--Sara Gipson, non member

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JUDY YOUNG, MSPS' YOUTH WORKS DIRECTOR just finished judging the poems submitted to the Winter Poetry Contest's Missouri youth divisions. There were 647 entries in the Junior Division (grades 6-8) and 106 entries in the Senior Division (grades 9-12). The ten top poems were then sent as Missouri's submissions to the NFSPS' Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest. In the last eight years, seven Missouri youth have had a poem recognized in this contest! Below are the two first place poems - as you can see, Missouri has some excellent young poets!

LIFE

by Claire Shipp
Grade 6
Chillicothe Middle School

My grandma's death was an ax

My dad was the handle
Holding tight so he wouldn't shatter into a million pieces
Staying strong for me

My mom was the bolts
Holding our family tight together
Holding together for me

My sister was the chopped through air
Dizzy and confused

My heart's the wood
The ax slowly, painfully splitting it in half

But now, two years later
Our family is growing
With new refreshed life
As a sapling

MOMENTUM

(a pantoum)
by Matthew Lenz
grade 12
University of Missouri High School
Columbia, MO

A mass swinging back and forth
Creates a pendulum effect
Objects constantly in motion
A grandfather clock tolling the last hour

Creates a pendulum effect
Light bouncing off chafed skin
A grandfather clock tolling the last hour
At 340 meters per second

Light bouncing off chafed skin
A splintered cracking sounds
At 340 meters per second
Like the death of a man
Objects constantly in motion

A splintered cracking sounds
A mass swinging back and forth
Like the death of a man

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★ Poetry in the Park ★

Annual P&F Celebration of Poetry Month

22 April 2012 100 PM to 600 PM

in Springfield, MO Grants Beach Park

(Opposite side of park from the Locomotive)

♪ Pot Luck and Poetry--Who could ask for more!! ♪

(Remember--April 22 is also 🌸 Earth Day!! Celebrate with a Poem!)

JUDY YOUNG

Judy's 12th children's book, Little Missouri (Sleeping Bear Press), releases April 1. A board book for the youngest of book lovers, toddlers will delight in rhyming riddles about Missouri's birds, animals, flowers, trees and other state symbols. In addition, Judy's book A Book for Black-Eyed Susan (Sleeping Bear Press, 2011) received the 2012 Storytelling World Honor Award, is the 2011 Gold Winner of the National Parenting Publication Award and is on the 2012 KS National Education Association Reading Circle List. A Pet for Miss Wright (Sleeping Bear Press, 2011) is also on the 2012 KS National Education Association Reading Circle List as well as the 2011 Parents' Choice Approved Book Award Winner and on the 2012 Louisiana Reading Association Child Choice Award List.

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POEMS

OUR COMMUNION

Listening
as we breathed
to the sounds
of the night.

Seeing shadows cast
in moonlight.
Blessing the quiet
of our communion.

Frank Adams, Kansas City Metropolitan Verse, is the author of two volumes of poetry; Mother Speaks Her Name, and Love Remembered. Both published by Wild Ocean Press, San Francisco, CA.

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FRANCIS

Francis is the name
they chose for me.
Mother said it was a "such a nice name"
and "pretty."
It was my father's middle name,
though he never used it.

The boys at school
thought it too pretty.
Teased me, saying it
was a girl's name.
They'd forgot St. Francis of Assisi,
who talked to the animals,
At. Francis Xavier, founder
of the Jesuits and a warrior.

The boys would ask
if I was a girl.
They'd call me a sissy.

Francis they'd mockingly call out
as they bloodied my nose,
tore my clothes
broke my glasses
pummeling me
and my name
to the ground.
Leaving me alone in tears
wishing I could talk to the animals
that I could be a warrior
or a saint.

Frank Adams, KC Metro Verse

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PULLING GRANDSON DUTY

Prepare for a marathon by loading up
with carbs, plenty of hydration, a quick stretch
of moxie muscles, anticipate the starter's gun.

Launch slowly and never change the tempo:
up the stairs, down the slide, run to the stairs,
up the stairs, down the slide, run, run, run.

...both at the age of
enjoying long naps.

Todd Sukany
Second Tuesday

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Instant Lament poems:

A GANG MEMBER'S PRAYER

I am anger,
I wear it like a badge of honor, for all the world to see.

They are my family, my refuge,
but I labor almost daily, simply to stay alive,
please help me to escape.

Marilyn Smith P&F

TO SOAR WITH THE BIRDS

Fearless, he jumped from the barn loft,
with gusto, he flapped his arms,
but alas, he hit the ground with a thud,
for the wings he attached to his arms
didn't work the way that he thought they should.
But the loser in this situation,
was the chicken who gave up her life for his flight.

Marilyn Smith P&F

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MY LOVE WILL COME AGAIN

My day has come and now I cannot stay,
no longer here will I be seen,
neither can touch again reach me,
I've tried and yet cannot remain.
Think kindly of our future plans,
know I would have loved them so,
But do not dwell where I have been,
go out and let the sun, your friend,
shine on you now in my stead,
for I would hold you if I could
but Time has whispered things untold
and though I cannot see your face,
I'll fuel the sun for your embrace
and send to you my love each spring
in flowers blooming and in the rain.

Dawn Harmon
Crawford County Bombadils

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Six senryu poems

AT AN AUTO REPAIR SHOP: SENRYU

a man steps in
mumbling to himself
“Lord Jesus, thank you!”

freezing cold...
he takes off his winter hat
revealing matted hair

cashier
pretty but she didn't wash
her hair today

old man complains
about his heart problems
no one listens

mechanic's jargon—
I'm confused but he looks and
sounds sincere

my poetic trance
is abruptly broken—
my car is fixed

John J. Han
On the Edge

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JOURNEY

From all things must we part
And into all things must we go.
Our journey can only end
With a new beginning.
Our hearts can only break
With renewed joy;
Our death hangs above our heads
As we rock in the cradle
With laughter on our lips;
And life hovers on gentle wings
Above every coffin.

Debby Dunstedter
Crawford County Bombadils

