

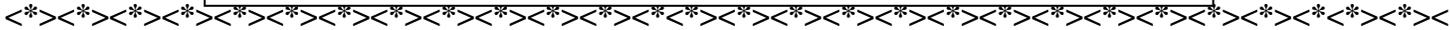


SPARE MULE



Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter
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Strophes, the national newsletter is available online at
<http://www.nfmps.com/> Click Strophes online.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHAPTER REPORTS

On the Edge chapter met December 16th at *The Bistro* in De Soto for our annual Christmas breakfast, with eight members present. We are continuing to meet twice monthly, with an evening meeting for those who work a day job, and a morning get together for those who don't drive at night. We ended the fiscal year with 19 members in September, many of whom have renewed for the current year. Several *On the Edgers* experienced the joy of multiple publications during the year and Four of our members were featured in a Christmas anthology, published in Canada. Bill is in the process of converting our books to e-book format; his book, *Around the Mulberry Bush*, is available on Amazon.com, and he reports that three of my books will be available in e-book form after January 1. Faye Adams

Poets and Friends

We in Springfield have just completed our poetry contest for the year. We had contestants from all over the country who contributed some outstanding poetry.

Membership in the chapter has been increasing slowly over the past year.

Our election of officers is due to occur at the January meeting. We will also be planning for our yearly Poetry in the Park meeting the last Sunday in April which has been such a great success in years past.

Happy New Year everyone. May your arms always be extended forward, but not in want.

NEWS ITEMS

(The final and complete results of the MSPS 2011 SUMMER CONTEST WINNERS LIST are listed on page 4 of this Spare Mule. We know some of you have been waiting anxiously for this and we apologize for the delay.)

FROM WANDA PARROTT

Win a free copy of Wanda Sue Parrott's new book

Move over, Shakespeare!

HOW TO ENTER--AND WIN--POETRY CONTESTS

One lucky Missouri State Poetry Society member's name

will be drawn on 1/31/11 to win a free copy. To enter,

submit an e-mail with "MSPS DRAWING" in the subject line

and your name and e-mail address in the message to

amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com

Visit Wanda's website for book details at www.amykitchenerfdn.org

Wanda Sue Parrott, Contest Administrator, announces the 2012 Senior Poets Laureate Contest

for American poets 50 and older is now open for submissions for poets laureate of all the states. Also, 2012 White Buffalo Native American Poet

Laureate Contest and 2012 California Gold Contest

are seeking entries. See Rules at www.amykitchenerfdn.org

Thanks. Merry Christmas and
Happy Poetic New Year.

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PAY YOUR DUES NOW

Members, it is time to pay dues for Missouri State Poetry Society and National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Most members of local chapters pay the treasurer of the chapter the amount agreed upon by the chapter. It is the responsibility of the president of the local chapter to see that these fees are collected and \$7 per member is mailed to state treasurer, Bill Lower, who will pay the national treasurer \$3 per member to cover national dues. Members-at-Large of MSPS pay \$13 each directly to Bill Lower at 21010 S. Hwy 245, Fair Play, MO 65649 or to Webmaster Tom Padgett at 523 N. Park Place, Bolivar, MO 65613. Dues must be paid by March 10, 2012, for a member to be eligible to participate in the annual NSPS contests, which are described in detail at www.nfmps.com/poetry_contests.htm Because this date is immediately upon us, MSPS board members, local chapter officers, members-at-large, as well as any individual member of any local chapter is encouraged to pay your dues immediately. If you do not know to whom the dues should be paid, make a check to MSPS and mail it to Bill Lower or Tom Padgett at the appropriate address given above. **DO IT THIS WEEK!**

KUDOS

MARIE ASNER, Member-at-Large in Kansas, has been selected as the Kansas winner of the 19th annual State Senior Poet Laureate competition sponsored by the Amy Kitchener Foundation. Marie has had poems published in three anthologies in 2011, including "Kansas 150: Begin Again" (Woodley Press, Washburn University) that includes poems from Kansas poets in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Kansas. The state of Kansas no longer has an

Arts Commission. Marie also taught a class in meditation using her poetry for the theme of "Winter." She participated in a poetry reading in Lecompton, Kansas, the original state capital of Kansas, which is now a state history museum. The reading was in celebration of the Kansas state anniversary.

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JUDY YOUNG'S book *A Book for Black-Eyed Susan* recently won the 2011 National Parenting Publications Gold Award, 2011 Society of School Librarians International Honor Award, and 2011 Chicago Parent Magazine Best Book. *A Pet for Miss Wright* recently received the 2011 Parents Choice Approved Book Award and is nominated for the 2012 LA Reading Association Child Choice Award.

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LEE ANN RUSSELL

GRAND PRAIRIE FESTIVAL OF ARTS

1st place - Poetry - (Sestina) "Bridges and Doors"

Honorable Mention - Adult Non-Fiction - "Sanctuary"

SILOAM SPRINGS WRITERS

Honorable Mention - Short Story "Convention"

Honorable Mention - Whines and Gripes - "Why My Fellow"

POETS ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

2nd place for poem, "Captivation"

2nd HM for poet, "Gadabout"

WHITE COUNTY WRITERS

1st HM for short story, "Me and Sally"

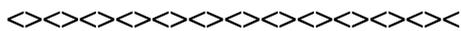
KENTUCKY STATE POETRY SOCIETY

1st HM for poem, "Methodology"

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BILL AND FAYE ADAMS each have work accepted for publication in "St. Louis Reflections," the 90th Anniversary anthology currently being published by STL Books for St. Louis Writers Guild. Both were also volunteers for the "Voices of Valhalla" event this month, for which Faye wrote one of the scripts.

Faye has gone International. She recently won a first place in an International Poetry Contest, will be published in a Christmas Anthology in Canada, and had five poems translated into Korean and published in an anthology, *Wilderness*, in South Korea. The joint book signing for *Nurturing Paws* at Main Street Books in St. Charles, in which a story and a poem of hers appeared, was a sellout! Linda O'Connell, who is a member of the De Soto chapter, also had a poem published in the book.



POEMS

CHRISTMAS MORN

With Christmas near, oh dear, oh dear,
What is this gal to do?
I must be good, I should, I should,
More gifts I do pursue.

I never miss, a kiss, a kiss,
On hubby's cheek each day,
I must persuade, plans made, plans made,
Go shop without delay.

Come Christmas morn, the gifts, the gifts,
Beneath the tree for me,
My hubby's good, so good, so good,
How pleased can this gal be!

A Senyru by Marilyn K. Smith



ENGLISH?

A blade of grass shall cut no bread
The calf of the leg has not a head.
We make no meal with the corn on our toe.
How fire can be fed without food I don't know.
When the clock strikes ten, ten strikes not back,
You can box a gift without getting a smack.
No one complains when you hit the hay--
All of them cowards I must say.
Without vocal chords the winter wind screams.
Must we journey far to the land of our dreams?
The little brook "laughs" but it seldom will
"sing".

Isn't this English a misleading thing!

Billie Davis



FOR ANGELA EDEN ON A SPRING
MORNING Pearl moon hangs at her left
shoulder,
Aurora's little sister haunts the night.
Climbing heaven's stair a little bolder,
she kisses stars to bring us light.
She wears a cloak of fire's gray ash,
seams stitched with embers of the sun,
and seldom shakes the dew from off her sash,
until the dawn begins her brilliant run.
She blinks seed pearls from her lashes,
laughter on her silvered tongue,
as about the heavens she dashes,
a melody of prelight gently sung.
Starlight is the name I give to you,
Paradise and Messenger of morning dew.

Teresa Klepac



THE ANTI-ALCHEMIST'S MANTRA

While some take what they know
and turn it into gold,
I, the anti-chemist,
turn what I know
to dirt.
I strain life through a sieve
expecting something fine.
I inspect the remnant with a pushy finger.

Make a seam with gold in the weave?
Not I.
I pull the loose thread.
Make a mess
too frayed for mending.
All tossed out
not good enough for the rag bag.

Shall I wish for pestle and bowl
filled with some inert, worthless ore
that I might transfigure with my
Infinite, special knowledge
Into gold?

I'm not that smart.

Life is messy.
If you don't like that
Then learn to enjoy
playing in the dirt.

Teresa Klepac



NEW MEMBERS

The following are the new members reported to me over the past 3 months. We extend a welcome to all new members and hope that they will continue to enjoy their fellowship and poetry with the MO State Poetry Society. --Editor

Olivia Finley
Garden City, MO 64747

April Lopp
Reedsburg, Wi 53959

Rex Ybanez
Bolivar, MO 65613

Becky Haley
Buffalo, MO 65622

Teresa Klepac
Columbia, MO 65202

Travel Haiku: Louisville, KY
blazing sun
a water bird dips its legs
in the cascade

river flows
a concerned stranger gives me
a tract on hell

pick-up passes by
so does Gospel Twang:
"I saw the light..."

walking aimlessly...
a sudden encounter with
Thomas Merton

a Mongolian man
his eyes brighten as he talks
about his country

late afternoon...
over the skyline
high moon

sunset glow...
the river, two mallards
and me

John J. Han (On the Edge)

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MSPS 2011 SUMMER CONTEST WINNERS LIST

The results and the prizes for the Summer contest were delayed this year. The contest coordinator had major computer problems, but now the prizes have been awarded to the winners. MSPS apologizes for the delay. We encourage everyone to enter the current Winter contest. Get your entries in early and often.

Category 1, Rhymed or Blank Verse

Rose Ann Spaith; Columbus, Ohio

John McBride; Bettendorf, IA

Troy Reeves; Nixa, MO MSPS Member

First Honorable Mention—Glenna Holloway; Naperville, IL

Second Honorable Mention—Von Bourland; Happy, TX

Third Honorable Mention—Eugene Shea; Hanna, WY

Category 2, Free Verse

Anna Roberts-Wells; Festus, MO MSPS Member

Rose Ann Spaith; Columbus, OH
Carol Carpenter; Livonia, MI
First Honorable Mention—Dale Ernst; West Plains, MO MSPS Member
Second Honorable Mention—Glenna Holloway; Naperville, IL
Third Honorable Mention—Carol Carpenter; Livonia, MI

Category 3, Humorous

Anna Roberts-Wells; Festus, MO MSPS Member
Patricia J. Koch; Oklahoma City, OK
Elizabeth Hykes; Willow Springs, MO MSPS Member
First Honorable Mention—John J. Han; Manchester, MO MSPS Member
Second Honorable Mention—Bill Lower; Fair Play, MO MSPS Member
Third Honorable Mention—Roberta Page; Lebanon, MO MSPS Member

Category 4, Summer Subject

Carol Louise Moon; Sacramento, CA MSPS Member
Sally Clark; Fredricksburg, TX
Elizabeth Hykes; Willow Springs, MO MSPS Member
First Honorable Mention—Donna Volkenannt; St. Peters, MO
Second Honorable Mention—Meredith Cook; Blue Earth, MN
Third Honorable Mention—Nancy La Chance; Lebanon, MO MSPS Member

Category 5, Poet's Choice, Members Only

Elizabeth Hykes; Willow Springs, MO MSPS Member
John J. Han; Manchester, MO MSPS Member
Velvet Fackeldey; Lebanon, MO MSPS Member
First Honorable Mention—Jennifer Lynn Wills; DeSoto, MO MSPS Member
Second Honorable Mention—John J. Han; Manchester, MO MSPS Member
Third Honorable Mention—Faye Adams; De Soto, MO MSPS Member

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Missouri State Poetry Society Winter Contest 2012

Deadline:

- **Postmarked February 15, 2012**

Format:

- **Submit two copies of each entry, category number and category 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.**

Note that there are special rules for student submissions.

Limits:

- 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 (including open-field, shaped, or concrete poetry), any subject, serious or humorous.
6. Youth Poetry Division I: Middle School 6th-8th grades
Division II: High School 9th-12th grades
Special Rules for Youth Poetry (for Category 6 only):

1. One FREE entry per Missouri student, currently in grades 6-12.
2. Students may individually submit or poems may be submitted by teachers.
3. Any type of poetry accepted except "found poetry."
4. 37 line maximum, including lines between stanzas; lines no longer than 45 characters.
5. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Seven honorable mentions.
6. First place winners will be published in the MSPS Anthology *Grist*.
7. 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.
8. Students will be notified of MSPS and Manningham winnings through their school.

For YOUTH SUBMISSIONS: Submit ONE TYPED copy (failure to include the following info will result in disqualification)

- a. On top right hand corner: student's name, student's school, school address and student grade
- b. On top left hand corner: English teacher's name and email address.
- c. ALL poems must have the following statement of originality signed by student and attached to the poem:

Statement of Originality: I certify that this poem is my original work, and has not been copied in whole or in part from any author's poems, including poems posted on internet. Student signature _____ date _____

Mail Youth entries to: Judy Young
MSPS Youth Director
6155 E. Farm Road 132
Springfield, MO 65802

Fees for Categories 1-5:

- Non-members pay \$2.00 per poem. Members pay \$1.00 per poem. 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.