

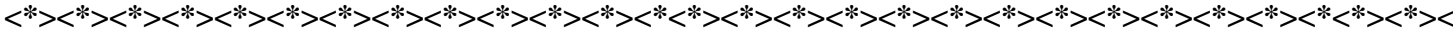


SPARE MULE



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



GRIST and PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



This year's edition of *GRIST* received 60 submissions and has already seen 33 orders. I hope to see the finished copies delivered soon so that I can get those out to each of you who have ordered. Naturally I will have copies of this year, as well as past copies, available at the convention in September, so if you have not ordered yet, it is not too late to receive yours. I am grateful to all who have continued to support the publication of our anthology and all the new members who have contributed to its success. As editor I commend you all for the wonderful writing that makes this publication what it is and for the dedication to being a part of our society.

As President I want to take a moment to share a couple of things. First of all I want to express my relief to know and to report that Dale Ernst's health is better. He has been such a valued member of our society, offering many years of myriad service, and he has also been a wonderful friend and help to many of us. I wish him many more blessings in his recovery.

I also want to say Thank You to those of you whom I was able to reach with updates on his health for the many blessings and well wishes you have also shared with him.

I am sorry to report that this year will be the last year of active service for our great friends and fellow poets, Billy and Faye Adams. They will, I hope, continue in the MSPS family, but will no longer hold positions on our board. I hope you will all join me in wishing them well and in sending them our great Thanks for all they have done.

On another note, I would like to tip my hat to our group from Independence, Missouri, The Write Place. This group has held on and held strong even without the modern convenience of email and text. They continue to be active and contributing members of our society "old school" and I am glad for every opportunity I get to share with and hear from them.

There doesn't seem to be much else to report that you will not see written by someone else in this edition. Please take a look at our upcoming Convention details, the Youth Contest information, and each of our Chapter Reports.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve as your President and Editor and I hope to see each of you in Bolivar this September!

Dawn Harmon, President

Fellow members and non-members,
I do hope that you are making plans to attend our annual convention in September. If you don't plan on attending, you will be missing out on hearing some great poetry. While I haven't heard Robert Fink yet, I have heard Naomi Shihab Nye read twice and have had the privilege of speaking with her twice—if only for a few moments while getting books signed. Along with being an outstanding poet, she is also a delightful person. Our innovative program—"Sharpening Your Critiquing Skills"—also features three fine poets, Jeanne Murray Walker (U. of Delaware), Paul Willis (Westmont College, CA), and Thom Satterlee (Taylor University, IN). This is a great poetic opportunity ... not to be missed and I hope to see you there. So start making plans now, we have all the information, including the schedule posted here in "Spare Mule," and at our website as well. Also, if you haven't entered our summer contest, there is still time to do so, with another opportunity to both support poetry and a chance to get your work out there for other folks to appreciate. Again, the information about the contest can be found here in "Spare Mule," and at our website.

Dale Ernst, Publicity Director

UTILITY

we are tethered to
wires
pipes
lines
and radio waves
all of different lengths
that pulse, dance, and live
a separate life
vestiges of raw resources
energy
and information
transmuted
which is metered out to us
pimped, pumped and transmitted
woven
above
around
below
and through us
and these things
have a secret life
like demigods
with their own attendants
who serve them
as house slaves
while we heed
the demand for tribute
or face disconnection

Mike Perkins

+++++

WHEN SADNESS COMES

So many times I pluck a moment
like a flower and watch it fade
Carefully set in a vase with water.

There are times when events
snag me like a branch
Tug at me,
scrape my heart and make me bleed.

For sadness
For sorrow
For memories
That we live and
others that we borrow.

Life in a moment --
Anger, jealousy, rage
When there's joy,
laughter, and love.
Wishes made on stars
to take back words
or say what is most needed.

For comfort
For praise
For memories
Told in the stories of our days.

All these things are a shimmer
Within a soul.

Peace.

Teresa Klepac, Bombidils

+++++

HAIKU

welcome raindrops
in the birdbath
still, the robin drinks
~~
dog-days of August
in the unkempt flowerbed
a yellow zinnia
~~
startled
when a school bus passes
only mid-August
~~
Overnight
green beautyberries
turn purple
~~
last week of August
almost too cool to sit
outside in shirtsleeves

August '13 Pat Laster, Bombadil, (Benton AR)

+++++

HUNKS OF OLD

All the hunks are getting old
Wrinkled skin and belly rolls

Facial lifts and hair implants
Fancy clothes, now sweatpants

Oh, the times they made us swoon
While watching them in a darken room

Right there on the silver screen
Open shirt and tight blue jeans

How we'd sigh when they kissed the girl
Wishing, wishing they'd give us a whirl

But now all the hunks are getting old
And now appear as AARP's centerfold
Terrie Jacks July 13, 2013



Johnson's Shut Ins State Park

KUDOS:

MARILYN SMITH (Poets and Friends)

Marilyn has a story titled "Singer uses music as therapy after stroke," in all the Neighbor News newspapers in Missouri, as well as their online sites. Those are Bolivar Herald-Free Press, Buffalo Reflex, Cedar County Republican, Christian County Headliner News, Marshfield Mail, NixaXpress, Republic Monitor and South County Mail (an online-only publication).

The story is also the websites for our Arkansas papers, which are the Harrison Daily Times and Newton County Times. They just got our Living Better section up and running there.

Marilyn also has a weekly column, "Remembering Miss Blanche Carter," in the Buffalo Reflex Newspaper.

LEE ANN RUSSELL (Poets and Friends)

Poets Roundtable of Arkansas Monthly Contest for April

HM for "Legacy"

2nd place - Character Sketch for "The Plot: Acute Appendicitis . . . Almost"

From Poets Roundtable of Arkansas

Dr. Lily Peter Award - 3rd place for "Perennials"

Mary Harper Sowell Award - 1st HM for "Lasting Impressions"

From Arkansas Writers' Conference

2nd place for Minute poem, "Summer Nights"

3rd place for Arkansas poem, "House Sitting"

Poets Roundtable of Arkansas Monthly Contest

3rd place for "Condensation is the Key"

CHAPTER REPORTS:

KANSAS CITY METROPOLITAN VERSE CHAPTER REPORT

JUNE 2013

In April we launched our 2013 Anthology at the monthly meeting. Twenty eight people attended and the book was well received. The anthology looks and reads great. Copies may be purchased for \$10.00 from the chapter president, at brendaconley12@aol.com. Members read selections from the book as family and friends listened and enjoyed.

We again awarded a scholarship and this years' winner is Vickie Watson Walker. She was present at the anthology launch and received her scholarship to attend *New Letters Weekend Writer's Conference* in June at UMKC.

KCMV was represented at *Gatsby Days* in Excelsior Springs, MO on April 27th. The event was held in a new venue this year and well attended. A copy of Kay and Deanna's book *Crumb Quilt Poems*, was awarded as a door prize.

The May meeting was devoted to reading, writing and discussion of the possibility of hosting the 2014 MSPS convention in KC the last weekend in September.

Michael Wells facilitated a workshop on May 11th at New Song. The workshop was well attended and received great reviews. Thanks, Michael.

+++++

ON THE EDGE CHAPTER

Bill Adams won 3rd Place with the 2011/12 MSPS Poetry and Prose Anthology, published by our chapter, at the Missouri Writers' Guild Conference in April. Faye won 1st Place with a form poem, 1st Place with an essay on 2nd Chances, and 3rd Place with an historical article about St. Louis, in the same MWG Conference contests.

Bill received notice that his poem, "On the Anvil of Depression" has been accepted for publication in a patriotic anthology in Michigan, assembled and edited by Vernon McVety. Faye also has two poems which have been accepted for the same anthology. Faye's poem, "The Mystery of Birds" was published in the Cave Region Review, N. Arkansas University, in which one of our members, Dr. John J. Han, was the featured author.

Faye's article about her grandfather has been accepted for an inspirational anthology, and a short piece was accepted for publication in a daily devotional book. Her poems have been published annually in *Cantos*, a literary and Arts Journal, edited by John Han, and published by MBU, St. Louis, since 2010. Articles on Creative Writing have also been published in the same journal, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Bill won 1st Place in the LUCIDITY Poetry Contest at the poetry retreat in April. Another member of our chapter, Anna Wells, won 2nd Place. Faye won the Critic's Choice contest, and both she and John Han won H. M. in the larger contest. HM's in that contest win a monetary prize. There were 17 HM Awards given, \$30 each! Many of those went to members of other MSPS chapters. Missouri Poets Rock!

Thanks again for the reminder. Life gets hectic, and our memory banks don't work as well as they once did. We do greatly appreciate all the good work you do for us. The Spare Mule contributes so much to the cohesive progression of our state organization. I wish we could have attended the national convention in Arizona this June. But, we will be at the convention in Bolivar. What do you think about Missouri hosting the national convention in 2015?

Faye

CONVENTION REPORT:

2013 MSPS State Convention
September 27-28
at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Missouri

CONVENTION INFORMATION:

The convention is **free**, except for your lodging and meals. Visitors welcome.

Make your motel arrangements through Bolivar's Super 8 (1919 Killingsworth Av.) by calling 417-777-8888. Room rate is \$64.99 plus tax (2 queens).

Saturday's lunch/brunch will be held in the university cafeteria (Ticket: \$6.76. No reservations necessary).

CONVENTION SCHEDULE:

Session 1 (Friday night, in the Davis-Newport Theater of the Jester Center (BUILDING #17 ON MAP BELOW). Parking available across the street):

7:00 p.m. Opening (President of MSPS) and introduction of Naomi Shihab Nye

7:15 p.m. Reading by Naomi Shihab Nye, followed by a book signing

8:30 p.m. Read-around

Session 2 (Saturday morning, in Room 104 of the Casebolt Music Center. Parking available by the building):

8:30 a.m. MSPS Board Meeting in Room 107 of the Casebolt Music Center.

9:30 a.m. Opening (Vice President of MSPS) and introduction of Robert Fink

9:45 a.m. Presentation and reading by Robert Fink

11:30 a.m. Lunch/brunch in the university cafeteria, presentation of honorary membership, recognition of winners of the summer contest, and convention business meeting

Session 3 (Saturday afternoon, in Room 104 of the Casebolt Music Center. Parking available by the building):

2:00 p.m. Sharpening Your Critiquing Skills, featuring video demonstrations for MSPS by Poets Jeanne Murray Walker (U. of Delaware), Paul Willis (Westmont College, CA), and Thom Satterlee (Taylor University, IN)

3:30 p.m. Read around, adjournment

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Session 1: Friday Night (9/27)

This session will be held in the Davis-Newport Theater of the Jester Center. Parking available across the street.

Naomi Shihab Nye

Award-winning Poet, Writer, Anthologist, and Educator

Naomi Shihab Nye describes herself as a “wandering poet.” She has spent 37 years traveling the country and the world to lead writing workshops and inspiring students of all ages. Nye was born to a Palestinian father and an American mother and grew up in St. Louis, Jerusalem, and San Antonio. Drawing on her Palestinian-American heritage, the cultural diversity of her home in Texas, and her experiences traveling in Asia, Europe, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Middle East, Nye uses her writing to attest to our shared humanity.

Naomi Shihab Nye is the author and/or editor of more than 30 volumes. Her books of poetry include *19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East*, *A Maze Me: Poems for Girls*, *Red Suitcase*, *Words under the Words*, *Fuel*, and *You & Yours* (a best-selling poetry book of 2006). She is also the author of *Mint Snowball* (paragraphs); *Never in a Hurry* and *I’ll Ask You Three Times, Are You Okay? Tales of Driving and Being Driven* (essays); *Habibi* and *Going, Going* (novels for young readers); and *Baby Radar* and *Sitti’s Secrets* (picture books). Other works include eight prize-winning poetry anthologies for young readers, including *Time you Let Me In*, *This Same Sky*, *The Space Between Our Footsteps: Poems & Paintings from the Middle East*, and *What Have You Lost?* Her recent collection of poems for young adults entitled *Honeybee* won the 2008 Arab American Book Award in the Children’s/Young Adult category. Two new books are forthcoming in winter 2012: *There Is No Long Distance Now* (a collection of very short stories) and *Transfer* (poems).



Naomi Shihab Nye has been a Lannan Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and a Witter Bynner Fellow (Library of Congress). She has received a Lavan Award from the Academy of American Poets, the Isabella Gardner Poetry Award, the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, the Paterson Poetry Prize, four Pushcart Prizes, and numerous honors for her children’s literature, including two Jane Addams Children’s Book Awards. In 2011 Nye won the Golden Rose Award given by the New England Poetry Club, the oldest poetry reading series in the country. Her collection *19 Varieties of Gazelle* was a finalist for the National Book Award. She is a regular columnist for *Organica*. Her work has been presented on National Public Radio on *A Prairie Home Companion* and *The Writer’s Almanac*. She has been featured on two PBS poetry specials: “The Language of Life with Bill Moyers” and “The United States of Poetry” and also appeared on *NOW with Bill Moyers*. She has been visiting writer for full semesters for The Michener Center for writers at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Hawai’i at Manoa. In January 2010 Nye was elected to the Board of Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets. In October 2012 she was named laureate of the 2013 NSK Prize for Children’s Literature.

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“Naomi Shihab Nye is a voice that America needs in its time of trouble. Her clarity combined with her verbal kindness and her knowledge of multiple cultures provide a strong, audible message that the only hope for reconciliation and understanding lies in the ideals set by the human heart.”

— Billy Collins

“In the current literary scene, one of the most heartening influences is the work of Naomi Shihab Nye. Her poems combine transcendent liveliness and sparkle along with warmth and human insight. She is a champion of the literature of encouragement and heart. Reading her work enhances life.”

— William Stafford

Session 2: Saturday Morning (9/28)

This session will be held in Room 104 of the Casebolt Music Center. Parking available by the building.

Robert A. Fink

A presentation and reading

Writing Good Poetry

Robert A. Fink is the W. D. and Hollis R. Bond Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at Hardin-

Simmons University, Abilene, Texas. He has five books of poetry, including *The Tongues of Men and of Angels* (Texas Tech University Press, 1995) and his most recent collection *Tracking The Morning* (Wings Press, 2005), one of three finalists for the Violet Crown Award from the Writers' League of Texas. His literary nonfiction book *Twilight Innings: A West Texan on Grace and Survival*

(Texas Tech University Press, 2006), one of five finalists in the "Essays" category for *Foreword* magazine's 2006 Book of the Year, was awarded the "Silver" medal, second place. His first poetry collection *Azimuth Points* was the 1981 *Texas Review* Poetry Prize Chapbook (Sam Houston State University, 1981).

Poems and literary nonfiction have appeared in numerous journals including *The Southern Review*, *Poetry*, *TriQuarterly*, *The Iowa Review*, *New England Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Southwest Review*, *Image*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *The Texas Review*, *Gulf Coast*, and *The Iron Horse Literary Review*.

Fink is a native Texan. He graduated from Baylor University with a B. A. in English in 1968. From 1968 to 1971, he was a lieutenant in the U. S. Marine Corps, serving twelve months in Danang, Vietnam, 1970. His M. A. (1973) and his Ph. D. (1977) in English are from Texas Tech University. He has done post-doctoral work in The Graduate Poetry Workshop—The University of Iowa, Summer 1985. He has been at Hardin-Simmons since 1977. In 1990 he was elected to membership in The Texas Institute of Letters. Since 1996, he has been the poetry editor of the Walt McDonald First-Book Competition in Poetry, Texas Tech University Press. He is married to Katrina. They have grown twin sons.

Session 3: Saturday Afternoon (9/28)

This session will be held in Room 104 of the Casebolt Music Center. Parking available by the building. Sharpening Your Critiquing Skills

Prerecorded demonstrations for MSPS from Poets Jeanne Murray Walker (U. of Delaware), Paul Willis (Westmont College, CA), and Thom Satterlee (Indiana).

SBU Campus Map

BOLIVAR, MISSOURI

1600 University Ave.,
Bolivar, MO 65613
800.526.5859 • 417-328-1810
www.SBUuniv.edu
admitme@SBUuniv.edu

How To Get To The SBU Campus!

From the North
On MO-13: exit from MO-13 SOUTH right at the second BOLIVAR exit onto ALDRICH ROAD and travel east until you reach the third traffic signal at SPRINGFIELD AVE. Turn left onto SPRINGFIELD AVE. Turn left onto SELLS AVENUE. The Sells Administrative Center will be straight in front of you.

From the South
On MO-13: exit from MO-13 SOUTH right onto BUSINESS LOOP MO-13/MO-83/SPRINGFIELD AVE. Travel north until you see the SBU campus on your left. Turn left onto SELLS AVENUE. The Sells Administrative Center will be straight in front of you.

From the East
MO-32: turn left from MO-32 WEST onto BUSINESS LOOP MO-13/MO-83 at the first traffic signal. Go south approximately 0.8 miles. Turn right onto SELLS AVENUE. The Sells Administrative Center will be straight in front of you.

Allen Walk of Life.....1	Hutchens Library.....16	Meyer Wellness.....30
Awad Memorial Garden.....2	Jester Center.....17	and Sports Center.....30
Beasley Hall.....3	Jim Mellers Center.....18	Natorium.....31
Bell Tower/Spurgeon Carillon.....4	Keathley Lifewalk.....19	Pike Auditorium.....23
Bookstore.....5	Killian Health Center.....20	Plaster Athletic Center.....32
Burnidge Memorial Forum.....6	Landen Hall.....21	Plaster Hall.....33
Casebolt Apartments.....7	Leslie Hall.....22	Randolph Meditation Chapel.....34
Clement Amphitheater.....8	Mabie Chapel.....23	Rice Facility.....35
Craig House.....9	Maughn Hall.....25	Roseman Apartments.....36
Casebolt Music Center.....10	McClelland Dining Facility.....26	Sells Administrative Center.....37
Goodson Student Union.....11	Mellers Dining Commons.....27	Sells Memorial Garden.....41
Gott Educational Center.....12	Memorial Hall.....28	Taylor Center.....38
Gott Hall.....13	Meyer Hall.....29	University Success Center.....24
Hammons Center.....14	Meyer Recital Hall.....10	Wheeler Science Facility.....39
Heer Facility.....15		Woody Hall.....40

MSPS SUMMER CONTEST:

TO ATTRACT MORE ENTRIES FOR OUR SUMMER CONTEST WE ARE EXTENDING THE DEADLINE TO AN AUGUST 10 POSTMARK DEADLINE AND ENCOURAGING ALL OUR MEMBERS AND OTHER POETS TO SUBMIT ENTRIES IMMEDIATELY. PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TEST YOUR SKILLS WHILE HELPING SUPPORT THE MSPS WITH FEES. HERE ARE THE DIRECTIONS FOR THIS CONTEST.

Missouri State Poetry Society Summer Contest 2013

Deadline: Postmarked August 10, 2013

Format:

Submit two copies of each poem entered. On both copies put the category number and name in the upper left-hand corner. On one copy in the right-hand corner put your name, your address, and either "Member MSPS" or "Non-Member"

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 or published without permission.

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. **Summer Subject**, any form, serious or humorous.
5. **Poet's Choice (members only)**: any form serious or humorous.

Prizes:

- \$25, \$15, \$10, and three honorable mentions in each category.

Fees for Categories 1-4:

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

Fees for Category 5 (Members Only): \$2.00 per poem.

Make money order or check payable to MSPS. Mail all poems and fees to:

Nancy LaChance
14940 Hwy 64
Lebanon, MO 65536

Include a 3x5 index card with your email address for a list of the winners by email, or if you do not have email, send an SASE (self-addressed-stamped envelope).

Membership:

If you do not belong to one of our local chapters, but wish to join Missouri State Poetry Society, include the \$13 annual Member-at-Large membership fee and Membership Information with your poems. Joining entitles you to enter the poet's choice category and to pay the reduced member contest fees for other categories.

With your membership request, please include: Full name, email and US postal addresses, and phone number (optional).