

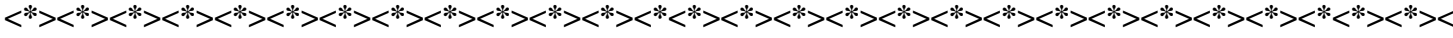


SPARE MULE



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Dawn Harmon

This past weekend we had yet another successful convention with excellent poetry, fabulous presentations, comfortable seating (thank you SBU!), and a great time spent with friends. Some of the greatest moments during these conventions are the breakfast time shared with one another as we all make our way to the cereal dispensers on Saturday mornings. I have not attended a convention weekend yet that I have not enjoyed those sessions shared as well as the time spent listening to our presenters. I count myself blessed to be a part of such a great society of poets.

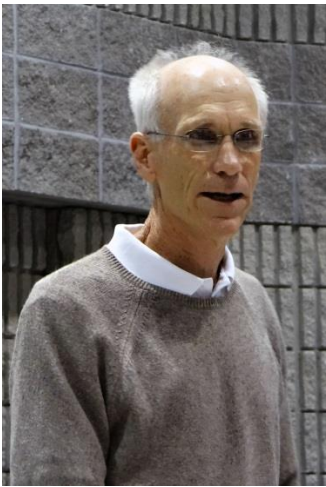
We had some excellent material presented to us this weekend starting off with Naomi Shihab Nye on Friday night. I had been told once by Dale Ernst that Naomi is a 'delightful person as well as an excellent poet.' I will tell you that I came to understand that Dale was correct on both counts. There are no better words that I can think to use here to describe her. She was a delight to listen to as she shared her own experiences and her writings. She spread joy, laughter, and compassion around the room as she visited with us. She was as excited to hear our read-around poems as we were to hear her! Truly she makes the connections she has so eloquently written about.

Saturday we had the privilege of Robert Fink sharing with us Ten Points by which to become better writers. Using some great examples from his and other's poetry, he taught us the importance of looking deeply for what we want to say while sharing with us ways to say things better. His examples from his own writing prove he is someone who knows the craft and his humor made him a fun presenter to listen to as well.

Saturday afternoon had a little twist from what we are used to. We had three former presenters, Jeanne Murray Walker, Paul Willis, and Thom Satterly who shared their ideas and opinions of poem we had first had a few minutes to digest and critique ourselves. Each of these offered insights to me for things to listen for and look for in poetry I read. Some of their comments were very enlightening, revealing an aspect I had missed entirely in my reading of the poem. And each one presented their suggestions with compassion and gentleness and grace. It may have been an unconventional session, but I found it very educational and enjoyable.

Before I wrap this up I want to thank Mark Tappmeyer and All his helpers for pulling this together for us, they did a fabulous job. Our thanks go to SBU for the use of their campus and their help as well. Thanks to Vickie from Lebanon Poets' Society for teaching us the Mobius poem! And to Todd Sukany for helping with the Saturday afternoon session. We appreciate each and every person who contributes and helps with our conventions and each and every poet who makes this society the family it is.

If you did not make it this year, I hope you will be able to join us for the next one. Until I write again, Happy rhyming!



Robert Fink (left) and Naomi Shihab Nye (right) both gave informative and inspirational presentations at the MSPS Convention in Bolivar.

They were, indeed, easy to listen to them talking of their experiences or reading their poetry.



KUDOS:

LEE ANN RUSSELL (Poets and Friends)

Poets Roundtable of Arkansas Monthly Contest for August
3rd place for "Swinging in a Shed"

Kudos to the following MSPS members who received awards from the MSPS Summer Poetry Contest given at the state convention in Bolivar this past weekend. (See total list next page.)

Janice Kroll	Free Verse	1 st place	<i>Shards</i>
“ “	Humorous	3 rd place	<i>The Winner</i>
Tom Padgett	Free Verse	3 rd place	<i>The Tomb of the Unknown Poet</i>
“ “	Summer Subj	3 rd HM	<i>Epilogue of Those Dog Days of Summer</i>
Anna Wells	Free Verse	1 st HM	<i>Daisy</i>
“ “	Summer Subj	3 rd place	<i>Summer Song</i>
“ “	Summer Subj.	1 st HM	<i>The Girls of Summer</i>
Faye Adams	Humorous	3 rd HM	<i>Cow Licks</i>
Barbara Blanks	Humorous	3 rd HM	<i>Flushed</i>
Lee Anne Russell	Members Only	1 st place	<i>First Born</i>
“ “ “	Members Only	3 rd place	<i>Miss Ella</i>
Frieda Risvold	Members Only	2 nd place	<i>State of Mind</i>
Nick Sweet	Members Only	1 st HM	<i>Victory Dance</i>
“ “	Members Only	3 rd HM	<i>Moore, OK 2013</i>
Don DePriest	Members Only	2 nd HM	<i>If You Live in a Cave</i>

Columbus Day
Observed on 14th



Halloween on 31st

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REPORTS:

Membership information from MSPS Vice President Nancy LaChance

This information is concerning the 2014 membership for Missouri State Poetry Society.

Checks are sent to treasurer, Bill Lower,
21010 S Hwy 245
Fair Play, MO 65649.

Dues are: \$7.00 per member or \$13.00 for members-at-large
all need to be paid by JANUARY 1st.

You will not be considered a member until you have also sent the following information to Bill:

name,
address,
email
chapter affiliation or member-at-large status.

If you an honorary member, please send your information to Bill also.

This is very important, especially when Bill may get a check for multiple members in a chapter but does not know what members it is for.

ADDITIONALLY: If you enter poetry contests, the national contest chairperson relies on the state membership list to determine contest eligibility.

MSPS Summer Poetry Contest Winners

Category One: Rhymed or Blank Verse

1st.	Lisa M Salinas	Crucible
2nd.	Catherine MoranA Roach	in Church
3rd.	Von Bourland	Brotherly Love
HM 1.	Kolette Montague	In a Heartbeat
HM 2.	Larry Cunningham	A Family Legacy
HM 3.	Francie Wolff	The Crane

Category Two: Free Verse

1st.	Janice Kroll	Shards
2nd.	Kim Greenup	Ashes
3rd.	Tom Padgett	The Tomb of the Unknown Poet
HM 1.	Anna Wells	Daisy
HM 2.	Mike Perkins	Prayer
HM 3.	Kolette Montague	After the Piper

Category Three: Humorous Verse

1st.	Morton Levy	Anticipation
2nd.	Larry Cunningham	Spider at my Window
3rd.	Janice Kroll	The Winner
HM 1.	Faye Adams	Cow Licks
HM 2.	Doreen Joy Graham	The farmer's Shock
HM 3.	Barbara Blanks	Flushed

Category Four: Summer Subject

1st.	Dewell Byrd	When You Return
2nd.	B. J. Alligood	Auditory Memories
3rd.	Anna Wells	Summer Song
HM 1.	Anna Wells	The Girls of Summer
HM 2.	Kolette Montague	Garden Vespers
HM 3.	Tom Padgett	Epilogue of Those Dog Days of Summer

Category Five: Poets' Choice- Members only

1st.	Lee Ann Russell	First Born
2nd.	Frieda Risvold	State of Mind
3rd.	Lee Ann Russell	Miss Ella
HM 1.	Nick Sweet	Victory Dance
HM 2.	Don DePriest	If You Live in a Cave
HM 3.	Nick Sweet	Moore, OK 2013

POEMS:

Faces (senryu)

San Jose, CA:
brown white yellow white
white yellow brown yellow brown
yellow brown yellow

Denver, CO:
white white brown brown white
white brown brown white white yellow
white black white white white

Red Cloud, NE:
white white white white white
white white white brown white white white
white white white white white

John J. Han
On the Edge

INEQUITIES (an Etheree)

I
Can not
Understand
Why people fear
Letting others know
The salary they earn.
Would not such posted facts
Reveal the job inequities
That so many have fought to correct?
Secrecy protects only employers.
Don DePriest, P&F

CHAPTER REPORTS

ON THE EDGE

De Soto *On the Edge* Chapter ended the Fiscal year with 14 members. We continue to meet twice monthly, on the first Tuesday evening in Festus, and on the third Friday morning in De Soto. Many of our members have won awards and/or had work published during the year. The final issue of the *On the Edge Poetry and Prose Anthology* was published in 2012, featuring the work of 23 authors from across America. Since our first issue in 2003, we have presented the drawings, paintings, poems, and stories of one hundred and twenty three authors, including Tom Padgett, who founded M.S.P.S. and two Governor-appointed Missouri State Poet Laureates.

One of our chapter members, John Han, serves as Editor and Publisher of *Cantos*, an annual literary and arts journal, sponsored by Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis. At least 10 of our *On the Edge* members have published in *Cantos*.

Of the 19 prizes presented at *the 2013 Lucidity Poetry Retreat*, five were won by *On the Edge* members, with Billy Adams taking 1st place, and Anna Wells taking 2nd place. Billy's poem, *Above the Clag*, also won the 2013 Senior Poet Laureate contest in California.

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2013 P&W Springfield Annual Contest

This year's stripped down contest is open for entries. The full brochure is in this issue of [SpareMule](#). We have slimmed to four categories and are ready for business!!

Please consider entering our traditional contest. We appreciate all entries and enjoy announcing the winners at our annual Winter Festival in December, 2013.

Contest chairman is M J Becco, 3025 N. East Ave, Springfield, MO, 65803. My email is MJBecco@hotmail.com and my phone is 417-818-5056, if you have any questions. M. J. Becco



President Dawn Harmon receives the Honorary Membership award. Presented by Anna Wells at the MSPS Convention in Bolivar.

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SPARE MULE ITEMS

Please remember to send Spare Mule items (news, poetry, kudos, announcements, etc.) to spare_mule@suddenlink.net (place an underline between spare and mule) before each publication date (first day of Jan., Apr., Aug., Oct.).

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**Lebanon Poets' Society
7th Annual Poetry Contest**

Deadline: Postmarked by Dec 6, 2013

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**

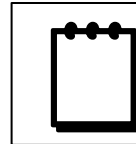
Fees: \$3.00 per poem. Make checks payable to Lebanon Poets' Society

Prizes: \$25, \$15, \$10, and honorable mention in each category.

**Mail entries to:
Nancy LaChance
14940 Hwy 64
Lebanon, MO. 65536**



Springfield
POETS AND FRIENDS



2013 ❧ 14TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST ❧

2013

❧ ❧ ❧ ❧ CATEGORIES ❧ ❧ ❧ ❧			
1.	FREE VERSE POEMS	Any Subject	40 lines/fewer
2.	FORMAL STRUCTURED POEMS Any classical form such as sonnet, triolet, couplets, etc. Form must be named.	Any Subject	40 lines/fewer
3.	HUMOROUS POEMS	Poet's Choice	40 lines/fewer
4.	HAIKU or SENRYU	Haiku---Nature Senryu---Man & Nature	5-7-5 syllables

\$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$ **PRIZES** \$\$\$\$ \$\$\$\$\$
\$25-FIRST PLACE ** \$15-SECOND PLACE **** \$10-THIRD PLACE**
PLUS 3 HONORABLE MENTIONS IN EACH CATEGORY

❧❧❧❧ **GUIDELINES FOR ENTRIES** ❧❧❧❧

1. **GENERAL:** All poems must be unpublished, 40 lines or fewer. Poems should be typewritten and single-spaced. No poems will be published or returned. Poems that have previously won Poets and Friends Springfield, MO, Cash Prizes will be disqualified. Please check the judging guidelines on the reverse of this sheet.
2. **NUMBER:** Poets may enter a maximum of THREE poems in each Contest Category and all will be eligible for prizes.
3. **DEADLINE:** All entries must be postmarked by November 30, 2013. P&F will not be responsible for lost or misdirected or postage due entries. (No E-Mail submissions accepted.)
4. **FORMAT:** Submit one copy of each poem with only the Category name and number in the upper left hand corner. For Categories 2 & 4, the poetic form (i.e., sonnet, triolet, couplets, haiku, senryu, etc.) **MUST** also be stated in upper left hand corner. Submit ONE cover sheet that lists ALL poems entered by category name, poem's title and first line. Also include the author's name, address, phone number and email on the cover sheet **ONLY**.
5. **FEES:** \$1.00 per poem for all categories. Make checks out to "Poets and Friends."
6. **SEND Annual Contest Entries and Fees to** M J Becco, Contest Ch
3025 N East Ave
Springfield, MO 65803
7. **WINNERS** will be announced at the December Poets and Friends Winter Celebration and Awards Ceremony in Springfield, MO. Send a SASE with your entries for the Contest Winners List, mailed the last week in December.

For more information, Contest: E-mail: MJBecco@hotmail.com ❧ Call: (417) 818-5056 📞