



# 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

## FROM THE MSPS PR DEPARTMENT

April is National Poetry Month. Start making plans now to celebrate the month with an event. Submit press releases to the newspapers in your area to get publicity for your society, which may bring in new members.

### Suggestions:

1. Host a poetry reading, inviting all poets in your area to participate.
2. Sponsor a poetry contest for children, broken into age groups, or one particular grade.
3. Sponsor a poetry contest for adults.
4. Partner with an arts group for artists' display and poetry reading.

This list is to get you started. Have a brain storming session at a meeting to see what else you can come up with that will work in your area. If you are unable to host an event, write a letter to the editor of your local paper with information on National Poetry Month. Include details about your group and a contact name with phone number or email address in you letter and in all press releases.

Velvet Fackeldey

## CHAPTER REPORTS:

### SEVEN MEMBERS-AT-LARGE BEGIN 2014 CHAPTER OF MSPS

Poets from four states, including Missouri, have paid the dues required of such members.

Sallie McCormick Adams of St. Charles, Missouri, has been a Member-at-Large for several years, publishing poems nearly every year (see her poems in recent issues of Spare Mule).

Harold Benjamin Belle has rejoined also. He had a poem win a prize at this year's district fair. After a few years of ill health. Harold is active again. He is from Springfield, Missouri.

A winner in recent prizes in our MSPS contests among others, Barbara Blanks from Garland, Texas, has also rejoined. Barbara is the editor of A Galaxy of Verse.

The four other MSPS poets entered our Summer contests, which entitles them to free entrance in our Winter Contests for 2014. These are Von Bourland from Happy, Texas; John Crawford from Hot Springs, Arkansas; Dena Gorrell from Edmond, Oklahoma; and Nick Sweet from Shepherd, Texas.

Tom Padgett

**POETS AND FRIENDS:**

We had our last meeting for 2013 at The Library Station with 12 people at the Winter Festival and Contest Meeting with lots of good food and some very nice poetry. Lee Ann read a poem from 1992, I think, that said the December meeting had 14 people in attendance. We are not doing too bad, Poets!!! I hope 2014 will have a greater attendance but whatever it brings, I am looking forward to it and hope you are too.

Our January meeting is January 27th at BRENTWOOD LIBRARY at 0630 PM. We have our old room back and will try to do a coffee run at VI afterwards!! The conversations and the coffee were always good. I hope to see you all there with poetry in hand. Have joyous holidays with your families and wishing you all a great New Year!!

M J Becco 2014 President P&F

**Springfield Poets and Friends 2013 Contest Winner's List**

**Category One—Free Verse**

1 <sup>st</sup> Pl	"Spring in a Trashy Trailer Park"	Lee Ann Russell	Springfield, Mo
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pl	"On the Occasion of a Three..."	Toni Somers	Springfield, Mo
3 <sup>rd</sup> Pl	"Deceived"	Marilyn Smith	Bolivar, Mo
HM	"In Terram"	Timothy Russell	Toronto, OH

**Category Two—Formal Structured**

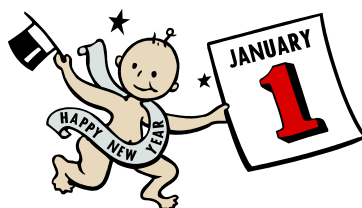
1 <sup>st</sup> Pl	"Summertime's Abundance"	Marilyn Smith	Bolivar, Mo
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pl	"The Retiring Closer...."	Benjamin Smith	St. Louis, Mo
3 <sup>rd</sup> Pl	"Place to Dream"	Mary I West	Springfield, Mo
HM	"Homesick"	Candace Simonson	Strafford, Mo

**Category Three—Humorous**

1 <sup>st</sup> Pl	"Lost Keys"	Marilyn Smith	Bolivar, Mo
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pl	"No Pain, No Gain"	Lee Ann Russell	Springfield, Mo
3 <sup>rd</sup> Pl	"OCD or Not?"	Toni Somers	Springfield, Mo
HM	"Letter of Resignation"	Wanda Sue Parrott	Monterey, Ca

**Category Four—Haiku/Senyru**

1 <sup>st</sup> Pl	"most delicious cheese"	Diane Siracusa	Hollister, Mo
2 <sup>nd</sup> Pl	"weaving in the wind"	Lee Ann Russell	Springfield, Mo
3 <sup>rd</sup> Pl	"my flower bed dressed"	Marilyn Smith	Bolivar, Mo
HM	"a heavy apple"	Timothy Russell	Toronto, OH



## **KUDOS:**

### **LEE ANN RUSSELL** (Poets and Friends)

Mid-South Poetry Festival

21st Century Wordsworth Award - HM for "Her Name Was Wanda"

Confederate Heritage Award - HM for "Lee and We" from Siloam Springs Writers

3rd place for "Beginning With Love" From Poetry Society of Texas:

Honorable Mention for a Cinquin Sequence, "The Old Home Place,"

Honorable Mention for a Shakespearean Sonnet, "Safe Harbor"

First Place poem, "Lasting Impressions,"

Second place poem, "Lee and We," published in the Mississippi Poetry Society Journal,

2013 Contest Edition From Green River Writers: Honorable Mention in Fiction for "Dinner for Four"  
and Honorable Mention in Creative Non-Fiction for "Sanctuary"

In the Winter 2013 Premier Issue of *Journal of the Ozarks, Past & Present*,  
a poem entitled, "Feelings."

From the Lebanon Poets' Society

2nd place for "Prognosis"

Poets and Friends 2013 Contest Winner's List

1<sup>st</sup> Pl Free Verse "Spring in a Trashy Trailer Park"

2<sup>nd</sup> Pl Humorous "No Pain, No Gain"

2<sup>nd</sup> Pl Haiku/Senryu "weaving in the wind"

### **MARILYN SMITH**

Poets and Friends 2013 Contest Winner's List

3<sup>rd</sup> Pl Free Verse "Deceived"

1<sup>st</sup> Pl Formal Structured "Summertime's Abundance"

1<sup>st</sup> Pl Humorous "Lost Keys"

### **TONI SOMERS** (New P & F member)

Poets and Friends 2013 Contest Winner's List

2<sup>nd</sup> Pl Free Verse "On the Occasion of a Three..."

3<sup>rd</sup> Pl Humorous "OCD or Not?"

### **WANDA SUE PARROTT**

Poets and Friends 2013 Contest Winner's List

HM Humorous "Letter of Resignation"

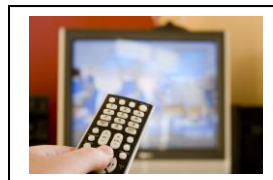
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## **JUST WHAT YOU WANTED TO KNOW CATEGORY**

I read somewhere recently an article about why televisions are measured by how big the screens are diagonally instead of some other way, such as square inch of the screen surface. The answer, not surprisingly, was reasonable to only a few. It was probably insulting to many.

The thinking, way back when TVs were first being sold, someone realized that the diagonal measurement of a TV screen was larger than it was either horizontally or vertically. So naturally, customers would be impressed by the larger number and think they were getting more for their money. Customers are gullible that way, you know.

Or possibly, the retail advertisement agents remembered that old axiom "Bigger is better".



**POEMS:**

**It Dusted Overnight**

A fine dusting  
Dusted the ground  
Ground is white  
White not brown  
Brown on the trees  
Trees dusted in white  
A white fine dusting  
Dusted overnight  
Terrie Jacks

**Time for Bed**

It's 10 o'clock PM  
time to brush my teeth  
to go to bed  
snuggle under my blankets  
my heat is going down  
outside it is nineteen degrees  
and snow is on the ground  
BRRRRRRRR!  
Terrie Jacks

**Snow Night**

Officially it's cold  
Officially it's snowing  
I declare  
Snow night

Stay home  
Stay warm  
Hibernate  
Terrie Jacks



**Maple-colored Gifts**

(Tanka)  
*--For Faye Adams*

**Sunny autumn day...**

Faye gives me two buckets full  
of ripe persimmons.  
Likewise, my mom used to save  
fuyus for her only son.

\*

**Departing autumn...**

Faye brings me more persimmons  
from her backyard.  
Behind her smile, I see Mom  
smile in her Korean yard.

John J. Han  
On the Edge



**WANDA SUE PARROTT**, MSPS member now living in Monterey, CA and is also the editor of **THE DIPLOEMAT** and submitted the following item take from that December 2013 publication.

#### 2014 NATIONAL SENIOR POET LAUREATE POETRY COMPETITION

**PUBLISHED & UNPUBLISHED Poems OK -- NO LIMIT to # of ENTRIES – DEADLINE 6/30/14**

A literary contest open to all American poets age 50 and older who are U.S. Citizens regardless of where they are in the world. The 2014 SPL Contest will reflect the SPL Contest of 1994 in which only two categories were featured. It is privately administered by **BARBARA CALLAHAN QUIN**, and sponsored by Great Spirit Publishing, of Springfield, Missouri. Judges will include former Senior Poet Laureate contest co-founder Wanda Sue Parrott and members of the panel of judges to be convened in 2014. Entries will be accepted between January 1 and June 30, 2014. All entries must be submitted **ELECTRONICALLY** according to instructions below.

#### **A W A R D S**

Best Rhymed Poem and Best Unrhymed Poem will be chosen, one each to be named: These winners compete for:

- National Senior Poet Laureate (Best overall Poem: \$500 and Certificate)
- National Senior Poet Honor Scroll Award (Runner-Up: \$100 and Certificate)
- Other discretionary awards to be determined by the 2014 contest board.

**ENTRY FEES**; \$5 for first poem; \$3 each for second and all subsequent poems  
40-lines maximum per entry. E-MAIL by: 6/30/14.

#### **RULES**

There are two categories: **RHYMED POEMS** and **UNRHYMED POEMS**. Subject matter and style are: **POET'S CHOICE**. An entry cannot exceed 40 lines plus title. Each entry must have a title, unless haiku or senryu. Single spaced; legible type, preferably 12 pt. size, black ink. No illustrations, fancy type, or shaped poems. If special formal format, include name of form such as "sonnet" or "triolet," etc., in upper left corner. Electronic submissions only.

**HOW TO ENTER ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS** Electronic submissions should be sent to:

bquin@gmail.com. We suggest you send yourself a copy in order to keep an entry record. No submissions will be returned. Send only one poem per e-mail entry. In the Subject Line state "2014 SPL (and your last name)" and in the upper right corner:

Your Name Your Pen Name, if applicable E-mail address Drop down 2 spaces and continue with **TITLE OF THE POEM IN CAPITALS** The poem, single-spaced.

Also include one electronic cover sheet by following the **HOW TO SUBMIT COVER SHEET** instructions below.

Please state in the subject line:

2014 SPL BIO and your full name.

**HOW TO SUBMIT COVER SHEET** : (One page, not one page per poem, should include): A. Number of Poems submitted: \_\_\_; B. Are you a U. S. Citizen? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No; C. Personal information: I. Your **LEGAL NAME**;

II. Your **PEN NAME** (by which you wish to be identified); III. Your current **RESIDENTIAL** and **E-MAIL** addresses; IV. Your **DATE OF BIRTH** (month, day and year); V. Gender; VI. **OCCUPATION**, including type of work done and your status as working or retired; VII. Personal data such as hobbies, publications, children, etc.

**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY FEE**: Make your check payable to: **BARBARA QUIN** and write "SPL 2014" in the memo space. Upon receipt of payment, your entries will be activated. Send to: **SENIOR POET c/o Barbara Callahan Quin, Administrator, 3651 W. Madison St. Springfield, MO 65803**. Winners will be notified by 8/31/14. Winning poems may be published online and in the September edition of **THE DIPLOEMAT News Letter**. All rights revert to the poets. To print a copy of the Rules go to

<http://www.greatspiritpublishing.yolasite.com/golden-words.php> or [www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org)