

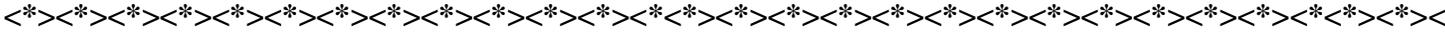


SPARE MULE



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President's Pen,



Nancy LaChance

Happy fall. The seasons change just as life does. It seems just yesterday I went to stay overnight at Grandma's house and now my grandchildren come to stay with me. I love to write poetry about nature in each season. I also like to write about family. Those are two of my passions. What about you? What is your passion that you would like to write about? Remember we want your poems submitted to Spare Mule.

Thanks to On the Edge chapter for hosting our annual MSPS meeting September 26 and 27. Although numbers were down, we had a good time. Tania Runyan, from the Chicago area, was guest poet Friday evening. She gave an excellent workshop Saturday morning, too. Faye Adams presented a workshop after lunch Saturday. Poetry convention 2015 will be in Springfield. I plan to visit each chapter some time in the next year. Do you

have friends and relatives who write poetry in other towns in Missouri? Let me or Dale Ernst know so that we might generate interest in starting another poetry chapter.

Officers elected are as follows: Nancy LaChance, president; Velvet Fackeldey, Vice President; Dawn Harmon, secretary; Bill Lower, treasurer. Other officers include Vicki Behl, youth work director; Todd Sukany, webmaster; Dawn Harmon, editor Grist; and Teresa Klepac, editor Spare Mule. Dale Ernst is our publicist.

As I embark in this role of President, I would encourage each of you to submit poems to contests; for example the Missouri winter contest, Springfield's contest and Lebanon's contest. You will never win if you never submit.

National Poetry Day is October 2 and the theme is "Remember." I would encourage each chapter to plan some event in honor of the day, any time in October.

Cordially, Nancy LaChance

)(()()()()()()()()() REMINDER)()()()()()()()()()()

OCTOBER is the month that 2015 dues are due. Please submit your dues to you chapter treasurer and lets see if we can get the year started off with a full slate of members. *****

CHAPTER REPORTS:

Update from Kansas City Metropolitan Verse:

This past few months the members of Kansas City Metropolitan Verse have found pleasure in attending their regular monthly chapter meeting where focus is on sharing the works of published poets as well as

writing and reading our own poems. It always amazes how the story sharing part of our gathering often appears in the spontaneous writing we produce at the evenings end. Often we respond to prompts, photos or objects brought to the table by our members. We always leave the room happy that we came together to share our love for poetry.

As part of the groups outreach we find opportunity within the community to celebrate poetry. This month many of our members attended the opening of the 2014-2015 Midwest Poets Series at Rockhurst University. Dave Smith, author of at least 20 books, read his own work as well as poems written by many national and international poets.

Poets from the chapter also attended a launch and celebration of the literary magazine, *I-70 Revue*, at *The Writers Place*, a literary venue in Kansas City offering programs for poets and writers. Deanna Ray Eberhart, grand daughter of one of our members, read the posthumously published work of her uncle, John Mark Eberhart.

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KUDOS:

LEE ANN RUSSELL

From Ohio Poetry Day

Honorable Mention for poem, "Sweet Thing" in the Small Stuff category

Tanka poems: "Competition," "Impression," "Persuasion," "Purpose," and "Reproduction," published in the 2014 *Cantos: A Literary and Arts Journal* published by the Department of English at Missouri Baptist University, edited by John J. Han.

OBIT

Date: Wed, Sep 17, 2014

Subject: Sally McCormick-Adams-Adams

It is with great sadness I have to inform you of my mother's passing back on May 17. In going through her things I came across numerous items stating she's been a member several years.

Her life was poetry and what she left behind to me is that lifetime of work. Before she passed we went over two manuscripts she wanted published, Monster Poems and Flood Poems with titles for each.

There are numerous books yet beyond those to publish. My first order of business is to create an anthology of the body of work she has had published over her lifetime in various periodicals, newspapers and misc. works. I also will be writing a her biography. She was an important thread to Missouri as an artist.

I want to thank you for all you have been to her over the years.

I too am a writer & poet She was an inspiration to me all life.

I will try my best to honor her genius and bring to the world fully that which she was not able to distribute entirely.

Here is the link to her obituary:

<http://www.baue.com/obituary/sally-mccormick-adams>

I am devastated she is gone. Her spirit was forever young, modern and intuitive, embracing life with honesty and joy. She was deeply spiritual. We were very close and she is dearly missed.

Please contact me at any time.

Sincerely, Heather E. L. Adams-Farrar

www.quillsongs.com

heather@quillsongs.com

Calling All Poets & Prose Writers

Wanda Sue Parrott invites submission of war-related poems and short prose for the "Great War to End All Wars Contest" (deadline 11/30/14) with cash awards and possible publication of a book that memorializes the 100th anniversary of the start of World War One. Prior publication OK. Details at www.amykitchenerfdn.org

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Tania Runyan, from the Chicago area, was guest poet Friday evening and Saturday morning at the MSPS State Convention

POEMS:

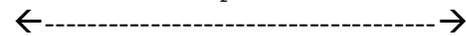
Eulogy

like dogs we smell the blood stained smear
leaking from the mangled form
then lift our leg before trotting off
by Mike Perkins



A woman small and delicate.
My grandmother's hands,
I can only remember their softness
as she washed my face.
Tenderly speaking Croatian,
small hands against my ivory skin.
He touched his face, closed his eyes
and sighed.

Teresa Klepac
Bombadils Chapter



Letters

He saved all her letters
tied up with stiff, white string and
stained with tears.
His blue-veined hands smoothed
the vellum, traveling across
a distance no longer marked
by a street address.
He cradled them the way a man
cradles a child's head ... so fragile
those feelings
those thoughts
memories.
There are stains on the creased pages.
The ink aged sepia.
A lock of chestnut hair
A polaroid trimmed in white scallops

From the poets of Kansas City Metropolitan Verse:

Rainbows

Explaining rainbows
removes the magic.
I prefer a world of elves, fairies
and leprechauns with pots
of gold. A world of omens
where the beauty of the rainbow
is a gift of the gods, a sign
of good times ahead, of peace
and tranquility marking the passing
storm. I prefer magic to science
explaining light refraction.
temperature and rain drops.

- Frank Adams
Kansas City Metropolitan Verse
←-----→

A Generation Defined...
Tim O'Brien

A generation defined by Vietnam
For it or against it
We were a nation divided
Divided
separated

My brothers went
My band of brothers went
I stayed behind
Baked cookies
Wrote letters and
On R&R
made a baby

Brenda Conley
Kansas City Metropolitan Verse
←-----→

Rotund Ralph

Rotund Ralph
Round of face and
Thick of waist

Just one pair
Of jeans still fit
He keeps eating
Just won't quit

Wants to wear
His shoes to town
But he can't breathe
When he bends down

They say that he'll
Be thin some day
Maybe then
But not today

Rotund Ralph
Round of face and
Thick of waist

Ralph Acosta
Kansas City Metropolitan Verse
←-----→

ANGRY TANKA

by **John J. Han**

fifty years later
my bully reappears
in a dream
gritting my teeth
I club him on the head

**

his rude e-mail
further ruins my hard day
at work
I type a polite reply
pounding the keyboard

←-----→

Thanksgiving Day

I put on an apron to play the part
diva chef for the festive day
family and a special friend or two
ground the bountiful table
eating, reminiscing, rejoicing
at last the company leaves

Put the apron away
'til another holiday
just to two of us
sit silently in our recliners
watching TV, napping, snoring
until it's finally time for bed

Nancy LaChance, Lebanon Poets Society

←-----→

Dog Trainer

I train my dog to sit
He trains me to give him biscuits

deer crossing

gray shadows
nocturnal wanderers
take risks as they
flit across the roadway

fall

fall's arrival
leaves have fallen
my driveway's carpeted
wall to wallen

Terrie Jacks

←-----→

Four Senryu for October
by Pat Laster, Bombadil

the flattering insult
of being "carded"
at sixty
~~

mailing the baby
to his great-grandmother
via video tape
~~

panhandling permit
requesting address
of homeless person
~~

awaking
to the quiet of a phone
that doesn't ring

←-----→

Simply for Some Fun

By Rich Eskew

I have often stopped and wondered why the angst and fuss
Of pushing nouns to adverbs – the air turns blue as I cuss.
I pull some hair, what little is left up there somewhere,
Grind my teeth, bite my nails, and say another prayer.

Efforts all too costly to the soul I blend to my muse,
But I continue to suffer through the path I choose.
For then completed work, the masterpiece is done,
And the reason I did it was simply for some fun.

Most all that I write is devoid of blanched melancholy,
The torment of love lost, found and all that folly.
There be too much shadow of life in life I find;
I'm more comfortable with a smile on my mind.

So, I've taken to rhymes which are light, gay and bright,
Instead of free verse which, for me, can be a demon of the night,
There be stories to be told of history, both men and women bold,
The hardships, pain, stamina, of those who mucked for the gold.

These are the people and their stories of which I yearn to verse
In rhyme and lyric, with specific facts and humor – of course.
So I will suffer the aches, blurs, and the occasional times
I get lost in my efforts to write down my whimsical rhymes.

←-----→

Men, Amend Your Ego

By Rich Eskew

Gentlemen, when you feel empowered and superior
And there's nothing about you which might be inferior,
I would caution you to take note of a famous dancer,
And as to your total worth there might be a different answer.

For you see all the moves and steps by Fred Astaire
Were quite remarkable, and we all do hereby declare:
The talents of his partner, Ginger Rogers, were no less;
She did it in high heels, backwards and in a dress.

←-----→

Missouri State Poetry Society Summer 2014 Contest

(KUDOS TO MSPS MEMBERS SHOWN IN BOLD PRINT)

Category 1: Rhymed or Blank Verse

1st Place: Reading Between the Lines by Lee Ann Russell	Springfield, MO
2nd Place: Empty House by Dorothy Rogers	Lucedale, MS
3rd Place: Choices by Velvet Fackeldey	Lebanon, MO
1st HM: Alice Knows by Martha Miller	Lebanon, MO
2nd HM: Love So Sweet by Velvet Fackeldey	Lebanon, MO
3rd HM: Woodland Splendor by Dorothy Rogers	Lucedale, MS

Category 2: Free verse

1st Place: Condemned by LaVern Spencer McCarthy	Blair, OK
2nd Place: Earth in Bloom by Dorothy Rogers	Lucedale, MS
3rd Place: Passion by Dorothy Rogers	Lucedale, MS
1st HM: Flower in the Rock by Dale Ernst	West Plains, MO
2nd HM: Before Your Eyes Closed by Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX
3rd HM: My Feathered Helpers by LaVern Spencer McCarthy	

Category 3: Humorous Verse

1st Place: Buying a Bonnet by Kathy Larson	Salt Lake City, UT
2nd Place: Age Wreaks Havoc by Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX
3rd Place: Suburban Cowboy by Jerri Hardesty	Brierfield, AL
1st HM: The Bottle by Vera Ogden Bakker	West Bountiful, UT
2nd HM: Don't Quote Me by Gloria Milbrath	Ft. Dodge, IA
3rd HM: Silly Squirrel by Karen Knauss Bailey	Blanchard, OK

Category 4: Summer Subject

1st Place: Inspiration Lost by Gloria Milbrath	Ft. Dodge, IA
2nd Place: A Bid for a Memory by Karen Knauss Bailey	
3rd Place: Pirate Play by Sara Gipson	Scott, AR
1st HM: Summer Nights by Lee Ann Russell	Springfield, MO
2nd HM: Momma's Pies by Karen Knauss Bailey	
3rd HM: Patterns in the Sand by Caroline Walton	Crystal River, FL

Poet's Choice; Members Only

1st Place: Missouri Heroes and Rogues by Dale Ernst	
2nd Place: Silhouetted Against Time by Barbara Blanks	
3rd Place: One God, Geronimo, and Me by Marvine Carter	Lebanon, MO
1st HM: When Daffodils Bloom by Karen Knauss Bailey	
2nd HM: Crossroads by Lee Ann Russell	
3rd HM: Detours by Terrie Jacks	Ballwin, MO

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

Deadline: Postmarked by Dec 5, 2014

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