



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.



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April
is

National Poetry Month

poem in your pocket day

Every April, on Poem in Your Pocket Day, people throughout the United States celebrate by selecting a poem, carrying it with them, and sharing it with others throughout the day as schools, bookstores, libraries, parks, workplaces, and other venues ring loud with open readings of poems from pockets.

Poem in Your Pocket Day was originally initiated in 2002 by the Office of the Mayor, in partnership with the NYC Departments of Cultural Affairs and Education, as part of the city's National Poetry Month celebration.



In 2008, the Academy of American Poets made the initiative national, encouraging individuals around the country to join in and channel their inner bard.

Poem in Your Pocket Day 2016 will be held on April 21.

MSPS Calendar:

- * April 21: Poem in Your Pocket Day
- * May 7: MSPS Annual Board Meeting (date tentative) *
- * July 15: Submissions for *Spare Mule* (August edition)
- * Sept. 1: MSPS Summer Contest entries, postmarked
- * Sept. 23-24: MSPS Annual Convention (Lebanon, MO)

Hone Your Craft:

- * The Missouri Writers Guild annual conference will be held April 29-May 1 at the Kansas City Airport Hilton. Lots of agents and editors. Workshops for fiction/nonfiction/poetry/inspirational/fantasy, plus a special track for children's literature. Early Bird savings by Mar. 1. More information at www.missouriwritersguild.org

Kansas Poet Laureate Eric McHenry and poet Jose Faus will teach a **poetry master class**.

* In celebration of Canada's National Poetry Month in April, they are holding a contest. They are reaching out to English speaking Poetry Societies around the world and hope you can help spread the word in Missouri.

The contest has three categories: **Free Verse; Traditional Verse; Haiku**

There are three prizes in each category - 1st \$50, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$10 CAD

Entries are to be submitted online and they accept entry fees through Paypal or by cheque.

For complete guidelines visit our website <<http://panthergpss.wix.com/craigleighpress>>



Editor's Comment: Thanks to Teresa and everyone for making my transition as *Spare Mule* editor a smooth one! **New features:** Featured Chapters, Hone Your Craft (workshops), MSPS Calendar, etc...as a reminder, please submit your poems, kudos and reports by **July 15th** for the August *Spare Mule*.

Show-Me Poetry, Janetta R. Lower, Editor

Poets in This Issue:

Todd Sukany
Janetta Lower
Skyler Sanzotera
Abby Johnson
Carol Moon
Faye Adams
Janice Canerdy
Jean Marie Purcell
John J. Han
Curtis McClain
Pat Durmon
Marie Asner
Karen Kay Bailey
Terrie Jacks
Dale Ernst
Lee Ann Russell
Sarah Fortna



Featured Chapter Author Unknown

(Bolivar, Missouri)

MEMBERS: Author Unknown is a poetry society of students and faculty at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Missouri. The membership in the society varies by semester, but ranges from three to twelve.

MEETING DATES, TIME, AND PLACE: Meetings are held during just the fall and spring semesters, occurring most Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in SBU's Jester 230.

OFFICERS: Dr. Mark Tappmeyer serves as state society representative and is on the board of Missouri State Poetry Society.

PROGRAMS: The group conducts read-arounds to encourage members in writing poetry and sharing it with others. The group workshops each poem presented in the read-arounds.

“Featured Chapter.” Each issue, I will feature a Missouri State Poetry Society chapter. **Crawford County Bombadils:** You'll be featured in the August edition of *Spare Mule*. Please email me your chapter's bio, kudos, poems and anything else you want to share with MSPS.

Abby Johnson (3 poems)

John 3:16

A
being
sent
His descendant with a
message to a lost world.
They
failed
to
listen,
but
He
forgave.

Rejection

Wedding in
five months;
Cake on
counter.
“God said,
‘No.’”

Uncertainty

The Magic 8 Ball said
“no”
I asked the fortune cookie
Which replied simply
“maybe one day”
I even asked the flowers
Which didn’t seem to care
either way
Now I ask you



God’s Gift

Our trees have grown too thin
We’re dying from within.
Our world was sacred
Until our sin changed it.
Protect the seas and the skies
Just one chance, no more tries.
Protect this gift we’ve been given.
Like our sins; our waters have risen.

Todd Sukany

Barn Noises

How do you know,
even at four months,
life in a onesie and rocker,
know
cradled against my chest,

know the page
that is purple and black
with white letters,
the page
with the horse

and foal,
jumps
your heart,
sits one
straight up?

Sarah Fortna, Author Unknown (Bolivar, MO)

"Spring Song of a Squirrel"
(Confined to English Sonnet Form)

The second spring of my short life begins,
With wondrous light I do not understand.
Now, why this glow as shiv'ry winter ends?
I feel a joy I can't hold in my hand.

This time last year, I first opened my eyes;
That day, the world looked colorless and cold.
With dripping fur, I shivered and I cried--
Heart beating fast as mocking thunder rolled.

But now I know this: after storm comes sun.
The sun, to turn the rain to sparkling jewels.
I chase the beauty 'till the day is done,
And store it in my heart for winter's chill.

As spring dawns, my heart fills with endless sound;
I sing my song of joy that can't be bound.

Tips for Writing An English Sonnet:

Lines and syllables: A sonnet has fourteen lines, and each line has ten syllables. It is important that you write your sonnet with exactly fourteen lines, because this makes it so the poem can be broken down into three segments of four lines (each called a quatrain) and one pair of lines that rhyme (called a couplet).

Rhyming: Every other line in a sonnet rhymes, (except the couplet where both lines rhyme) but the rhyming pattern starts over with each quatrain. So, if you assigned a letter of the alphabet to each line, it would look like this: ABAB CDCD EFEF and GG for the couplet. Think of each quatrain as its own little poem and it will make it easier to get a hold of the rhyme scheme.

Poetry



Poems by Members

Terrie Jacks, On the Edge, (2 poems)

To Do and Not to Do

I've parked myself way to long
Time to budge and move along.

Time for doing before it rains
And when it does I'll rest again.

Is this Enough?

I've written a poem
is this enough?
I want to know
for writing is tough

Too much to know
to get it right
I feel like a deer
in a poetic headlight

I've finished this one
and I just want to know
how many do I need
to be a lamenting old pro?

Janice Canerdy (2 poems)

HILARITY

Humor needs a bigger role
In this world of woe.
Laughter's serum for the soul,
As all fun lovers know.
Robust guffaws feel so good;
Insides shake; hot tears flow.
Think a moment now. Could
You cheer someone you know?

Marie Asner, Crawford County Bom-
badils

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

(Gen 22: 11-18)

We walked with stealth up the moun-
tainside
as though to hunt large rams near the
tree line,
so when Isaac's back was turned
I swiftly bound his arms, then feet.
He was surprised as I piled stones
for an altar and readied to do
as Jehovah asked - sacrifice my son.
In ribbons of smoke, I clutched a dagger
and raised my hand when a Spirit ap-
peared
saying I had been tested and passed.
I saw a ram with horns caught in a small
tree
and slit its throat for a fresh offering.

I may have passed the test with Jehovah,
but did not pass the test with Isaac.
I planned to fail as a father
and failed to plan for a survivor.



Flowers and Friends

A gardener took many seeds
and planted them with tender care,
but when the beds were choked with
weeds,
the planter had no time to spare.
Her life moved at a frantic pace.
Demands of work and home were
great.
No flowers ever filled a vase,
for all had met a dismal fate.

A gardener took many seeds
and planted them while well aware
that precious things have many needs
for nurturance and tender care.
Though life was a frenetic race,
she found the time to cultivate.
She joyously filled every vase,
for blooms grew at a pleasing rate.

Carol Moon

GOOD AND GREAT DAY

Down, down, down to the
edge of the clean clear pond
is where I rest my elbows
and peer in.

A shining stone I've thought
to be the precious beryl
lies sparkling under water.

Farther out, a great fountain
billows in the brisk breeze
that often blows across
the pond this time of day:

a time when the goslings and I
are free to wander and wonder
our own wonderings.

Jean Marie Purcell

*"Leading Age Oregon" held a get-together
recently. About twenty people read their
submitted writings. Here is one of mine I read"*

JUST A POUND

At thirty I was pretty and slim
a success at my job-- for a girl.
Shamlessly on a hunt for Him,
many a Him and I shared a whirl.

Didn't notice if I gained a pound.
How could that generate much fear?
With munching, on my gay social round,
in time I added a bit there and here.

At sixty--with my face gone pale--
staring back at me from the floor,
the dial on the scales I assail
shows I now weigh thirty pounds more.

Frieda Risvold

Thoughts in haiku :

where goes searching mind
looking for inspiration
to the library.

if mind is barren
you might cultivate fresh thoughts
read seed catalogs.

when the mind is blank
where do new thoughts congregate
in works of others.

Faye Adams, *On the Edge*, (3 poems)

Red Robin

With scarlet breasts
and charcoal backs
they came today
like jumping jacks
and brought our lawn alive.

They passed on by
the seed in place
plus water bath
to pace their chase
in groups of four or five.

I watch one hop
through still-green grass
ignoring me
on every pass
to bob head for his food.

That oil-well bob
to pull with beak
the hapless worm
into his cheek
seems uncommonly rude.

Winter Delight
(*Poetry Form: Hexadual*)

It's wet
and yet
we greet it as a friend,
don't want to see it end.

Its presence we have missed so much,
all summer long without its touch,
kissing our lips,
our fingertips.

Mere man could never match
these wondrous flakes we catch.
We watch it blow,
first winter snow.

What Would the Pope Say?

The Sadducee, the Pharisee
both had words to say
when Jesus came their way.

Fearful of personal harm
harsh words of alarm
erased all their charm.

If Jesus showed up now
would His Eminence bow
and perhaps even allow

a short, personal powwow?

Reports

Spring is here and at [Kansas City Metropolitan Verse](#) are heralding in National Poetry Month! KCMV is entering their second decade and we are still blessed to have many of the original members; 12 are active members of the MSPS. Our members started off contributing to the Park Scribe and then inspiration struck and Kansas City Metropolitan Verse was formed. We are now growing and have a new member Angela Minard. Our first meeting of Spring was March 13, 2016 . We have been gathering works for the 10th Anniversary anthology--Brenda Conley and Ralph Acosta has been working around the clock to get the submissions edited and the dynamic cover completed. We will have a robust anthology with over 12 contributing poets and 3 in *spotlight on emerging poets*. You can find the anthology on amazon.com or email:brendaconley12@aol.com.

the moon at the end of the cove

Brenda Conley

Kansas City Metropolitan Verse

time

all I have to give

warmth

solace from the internal storm

and

the moon at the end of the cove

Cosmic Movements

for Skyler Lazarus Bundy

born January 18, 2016

Ralph Acosta

Kansas City Metropolitan Verse

Everything moves

We all move on the Earth,

The Earth spinning on its axis,

Orbiting about the Sun

The Sun and its planets

Gliding around the galaxy's heart,

Part of an expanding universe

Electron clouds whirl

About the hearts of atoms

With quarks in constant motion

Virtual particles, fleeting creatures,

Created and destroyed

In an unceasing cosmic dance

Now our new great-grandchild

Swings around our hearts

In an expanding cloud of love

And my heart is moved forever

On first thought and first sight

Of his cosmic presence

Molasses and Deep Snow

Sheila Madonia-Maberry

Kansas City Metropolitan Verse

Sometimes,

There are days,

I flounder

Struggling to right myself

to move forward.

to accomplish

the most mundane of things.

My mind becomes stuck,

In drifts,

Within.

That lazy syrup

That stays within the tree,

Of me.

Waiting to be tapped.

I am overwhelmed

With the depth

Of the snow

And the whiteness

Stretching before me

John J. Han, On the Edge: “*They are not classic haiku. Rather, they are intended to be humorous and can be called nonsense haiku.*”

The Missing Back Scratcher: A Haiku Sequence

—For Terrie Jacks

winter itch

looking for

a back scratcher

winter confusion

unable to find

my back scratcher

winter desolation

the dang back scratcher

still missing

winter misery

desperate for

a back scratcher

winter quagmire

I consider scissors,

then shake my head

winter sadness

using a letter opener

as a back scratcher

bloody winter

red streaks

all over my back

Reports:

Terry Jacks, On the Edge, DeSoto, MO-

On the Edge is going and going, doing and doing, writing and crafting, and creating like mad. The Horstman have several sculptures being displayed in a sculpture park in Olathe, Kansas. John Han is working on translating a collections of Korean sijo poems and just finished an haiku collection called *Maple Colored Moon*. Anna Wells is working on the history of her family. She is also recuperating from a broken leg. The Adams are busy writing and getting ready for the poetry retreat in Arkansas. Faye, as always, has several poems in contests. Good luck. We had a visitor, Kathy Sweeny and she may be joining us in the future.

On the Edge is always creative and productive. The group has the aptitude to go forth and generate art, whether it is in words, paintings, or sculptures. Such a talented group they are.

News & Kudos:

Lee Ann Russell

From GREEN RIVER WRITERS

3rd place, Short-Short Story, for "Dinner for Four"; 1st HM, Creative Non-Fiction, for "Sanctuary"; 1st HM, Limerick, for "Gutter Snipes"

MSPS: 1st place, Humorous Verse, for "Cowboy Bill"

*Has a photo entitled "Spring" in the juried Senior Art Exhibition at Hammons Hall through April 6

News & Kudos:

Faye Adams

Received acceptance from Whispering Angel Books, that her story, "I Want You To Leave" has been accepted for publication in their anthology, *Soul Survivors: From Trauma to Triumph*. in early summer. Three of her poems are included in the story: "Loss of a Brother," "Taking Chances," and "Death's Gentle Sigh."

Karen Kay Bailey

Poet Laureate, 2016 Poetry Society of Oklahoma; Winner of five 1st place awards at Poetry Society of Oklahoma's Spring Awards Banquet, March 12, Oklahoma City; Presenting four Poetry Workshops at the Inspirational Writers Alive Conference in Amarillo, TX, April 2nd.

Dale Ernst

New Poetry Book, entitled "*The Silver Cord*," is now available for purchase [from the printer] at the website: thebookpatch.com. Go to the Bookstore on the site and look up the title in search by title, or authors name. It also can be found in categories (poetry).

Ted Badger

Observing the 30th year of publishing LUCIDITY, a venue for understandable verse. For sample copy ask Ted at tedbadger@yahoo.com At present, entry fees and subscription costs are zero.

MSPS Winter Contest Winners:

CATEGORY 1. RHYMED OR BLANK VERSE

Jasper and Lloyd Go Over the Top, Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA

Desert Race, Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, UT

Starry Night, Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX

1st Honorable Mention, *Game Time*, Todd Sukany, Pleasant Hope, MO, MSPS Member

2nd Honorable Mention, *Red Robin*, Faye Adams, De Soto, MO, MSPS member

3rd Honorable Mention, *Winnowing*, Janice Kroll, Independence, MO, MSPS member

CATEGORY 2. FREE VERSE

four breakfasts of my childhood, Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA

Lucy Malone, All Dressed Up, Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA

Age, The Cat, LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

1st Honorable Mention, *Feeding the Flock*, Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA

2nd Honorable Mention, *Poem's Invitation*, Todd Sukany, Pleasant Hope, MO, MSPS member

3rd Honorable Mention, *Turtle Lady*, Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA

MSPS Winter Contest Winners:

CATEGORY 3. HUMOROUS

Cowboy Bill, Lee Ann Russell, Springfield, MO, MSPS Member

Quoth My Daddy "Nevermore"!,
Janice Canerdy, Potts Camp, MS,
MSPS Member

Plumb Regretful, LaVern Spencer
McCarthy, Blair, OK

1st Honorable Mention. *Ruse de
Cezanne*, Nick Sweet, Shepherd,
TX

2nd Honorable Mention, *A Rancher's
Advice to His Son*, Barbara Blanks,
Garland, TX, MSPS Member

3rd Honorable Mention, *Beetle
Juice*, Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust
Hill, VA

CATEGORY 4. WINTER SUBJECT

One Winter Morning, Karen Kay Bailey,
Blanchard, OK, MSPS Member

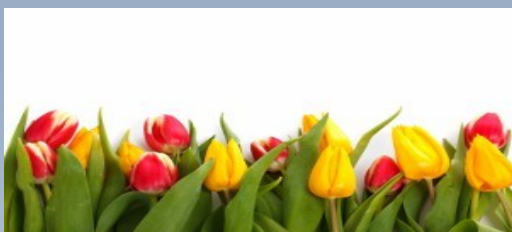
Hibernation, Sally Clark,
Fredricksburg, TX

February Slump, Terrie Jacks, Ballwin,
MO, MSPS member

1st Honorable Mention, *Winter's Last
Gasp*, Faye Adams, De Soto, MO,
MSPS Member

2nd Honorable Mention, *Ballerinas in
the Snow*, Karen Kay Bailey,
Blanchard, OK, MSPS member

3rd Honorable Mention, *Winter Can
Be a Time To*, Jean Marie Purcell,
Eugene, OR



CATEGORY 5. POET'S CHOICE

Rice Field, Billy J. Adams, De Soto,
MO, MSPS Member

Floodie, Alexander Drummond,
Salida, CO, MSPS Member

Nightmare, Alexander
Drummond, Salida, CO, MSPS
Member

1st Honorable Mention.
Butterfly, Alexander
Drummond, Salida, CO, MSPS
Member

2nd Honorable Mention. *Track
Star*, Alexander Drummond,
Salida, CO, MSPS Member

3rd Honorable Mention.
It Suddenly Occurred To Me,
Alexander Drummond, Salida,
CO, MSPS Member

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

Thank you to everyone who entered, and please enter our future contests. Remember our Summer Contest with a deadline of September 1, 2016. Entry info can be found at: <http://mostatepoetry.com/summer.html>

May Board Meeting: The Spring Board meeting is tentatively planned for May 7. Meeting place to be determined, this year will probably be in Lebanon, MO. All Board members and representatives of local chapters are encouraged to attend, as well as any interested members. Details will be forthcoming.

Missouri State Poetry Society Summer Contest 2016

Deadline: * Postmarked 1 September 2016

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.

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.

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, summer subject, serious or humorous
5. MSPS members only: Poet's choice:

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

Fees:

* Non-members pay \$2.00 per poem. Members pay \$1.00 per poem. Make money order or check payable to MSPS

* Mail poems and fees to

Velvet Fackeldey
2310 W Chesterfield Blvd #A101
Springfield MO 65807.

* Include a SASE for a list of the winners, OR check the October 1st issue of the Spare Mule Online for a list of winners.

Membership:

*If you do not belong to one of our local chapters but wish to join Missouri State Poetry Society, pay the \$13 annual member-at-large fee and enter the contests by paying a member's reduced contest fees. See [Members-at-Large](#).

ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

Each year the Missouri State Poetry Society holds a state convention for members and guests. The program for the convention features poets of national and state-wide reputation who read from their work and discuss topics related to the composition of poetry. There are also read-arounds during which each member attending the convention may read his or her poetry to the assembly.

Convention 2016

The MSPS Annual Convention will be held 23-24 September 2016 in Lebanon, Missouri.



Spare Mule Newsletter is a publication of the Missouri State Poetry Society and is published January, April, August and October.

Show-Me Poetry,
Janetta R. Lower, Editor

