



Missouri State Poetry Society

SPARE MULE

Missouri State Poetry Society Newsletter

Vol. 19, No. 3 www.mostatepoetry.com August 1, 2016

From your president:



Nancy LaChance

I hope many of you are gearing up for our state convention in September. It will be held in Lebanon, MO, my hometown. We will be meeting in the public library as we did the last time Lebanon hosted.

I have enjoyed the rains in the past week or two. Although we never got a garden planted, I have been enjoying the labors of others. Wonder if that would be a good poem starter? I haven't written much lately, just been editing older poems. There is value in looking at some from your archives with fresh eyes. I would challenge each of you to take one of your old poems and do a rewrite. Change its form, go from rhymed to free verse.

It is so nice to get a letter from National Contest saying you placed, even if it is honorable mention. You can't win if you don't submit.

Inside this Issue:



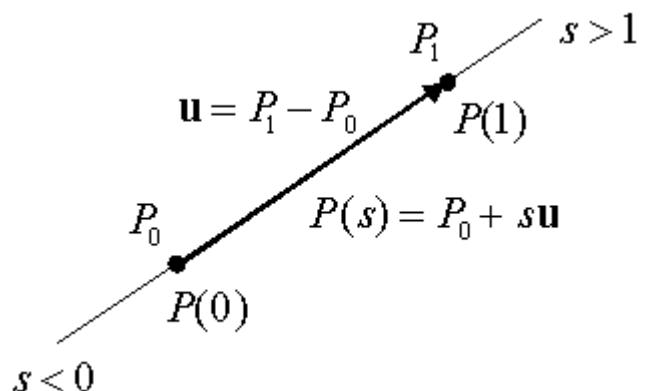
Read to find owl,
Words that count!

Words that Count:

Discovering the Mathematics of Poetry

"It could be said that mathematics and poetry are the freest intellectual activities of human beings."

- mathematician, Cai Tianxin





Janice Canerdy, 1 poem

Potts Camp, Mississippi

Member-at-Large

Castle on a Mountain

"A man's home is his castle." That's what Bob has heard throughout his life. He bought one on a mountain for the girl he hoped would be his wife.

She stared straight up and sputtered, "How we get up there? It's so steep!" He said, "No biggie! I just bought two tanks," and she responded (BLEEP).

She reasoned, "Sometimes hills erode." He said, "I never thought of that. I'll bet it won't!" She said, "Goodbye! I think you're crazy as a bat."

He sent a note: "If I will build a second castle up here, will you come? She sent him a CD with just one song: "Fool on the Hill."

**Check out our updated
website at:
mostatepoetry.com**

Publicity Corner:

In the News, every day we hear—sometimes see—another story of terrorist attacks, murders, and violence of all kinds. These terrible stories—even though they could be pulled out of a script for a horror movie—these horrific stories, sadly, are not fantasy, certainly not for the folks who are suffering from them, and that's getting to be all of us in one way or another—for sure everybody's psyche and sense of safety.

As poets, I think there is no better time than now for us to write and get our poems out there. Poetry, with its universal quality is very much a part of every race, culture and religion, and our poems can act as a salve/balm in these dark days.

And with that, speaking of a place for fellowship and a chance to visit old friends and be uplifted, start making plans to attend the MSPS annual convention, on September, 23/24. The sponsoring chapter always puts a lot of work into the event, and I am sure this year is no different. We always have great featured poets, you will also have a chance to read and share your poetry, as well as sell your poetry books, if you have some on hand. All the pertinent information can be found in the Spare Mule, as well as the MSPS website. You can also find information on the Friday night featured poet online, her name is Jennifer Maier; I am very excited about hearing her read and also looking forward to attending her presentation on Saturday. One of her poems titled "Fly," which I found online, has a very positive critique by Philip Levine ... when you get a positive critique from a poet of Philip's caliber—you are doing well. Philip is no longer with us, but he was a Pulitzer Prize winning poet that many admired, and I was fortunate to hear him read twice, one time in Springfield, at Missouri State University—our Saturday featured poet Marcus S. Cafagna, is a talented poet on the faculty at Missouri State University, where he teaches, creative writing/poetry. I can highly recommend Marcus, having heard him read at one of our past conventions. We are very lucky to have him again, so please show your support for the Lebanon Chapter, by coming to the convention, and look forward to a great time.

Dale Ernst - Publicity Director



Marie Asner, 2 poems

Crawford County Bombadils

Perpetual Siesta

While on the gravel road, we began to see rock fence posts,
sparrows cleared their voices and took pleasure
with grain stubble in narrow shafts of light.

Fog starts to lift, then swirls away from the small wooden
chapel
with faded boards, windows almost shut and door partly
open

We park the car and walk the cracked brick path
from the side road to the graveyard,
so forgotten is this place that the dead
have been whispering to each other a long time.

During our visit, I did find one possible relative,
though the headstone was faded and stained.
“Could it be?” My friend said, “I think not,”
and with jangling keys strolled to the car.

We glanced into the old chapel
imagining lace curtains on the windows
moving quietly in services, while in winter
frost formed intricate patterns on the north side
as an old gray metal stove provided warmth,
and people sat on wooden pews, season after season,
for baptisms, marriages and funerals.

We leave and I look back before the bend in the road
to see the church fading into mist.

In time, even the birds will pack their bags
and move from the Church of Perpetual Siesta
to new lives...as did we.

Third Tour

Birds come to the gnarled elm tree
and gather on the south side,
I slowly walk past them
toward the forsythia hedge
by the shallow stream
where water ripples with questions

the airport was draped in red, white and blue
plane after plane after plane arriving

the spectrum of color once lived ends
when denial comes knocking at the door
even the clouds held back, quiet and expressionless

while in the hills thousands of miles away,
children play in open courtyards

and women cautiously walk in shadows
to a newly dug well in the village

he had found the golden door of kindness.

Carol Louise Moon, 1 poem

Crawford County Bombadils.

THE CRYSTAL BELL

Not the copper cowbell
under the brown cow's neck,
nor the church bell
high in the tower
of my Methodist youth,
but this bell
of other significance.

A crystal-handled
crystal bell in the den
of my beloved aunt
ting with the same gaiety
as her voice--
sound waves of a clapper
striking crystal
against crystal



Pat Durmon, 1 poem
Crawford County Bombadils

The Dance
(for Haven)

A willowy girl with dark brown curls
does not heed her father's call. Instead,
she chases black-and-white-striped
butterflies. She stretches an arm,
hoping to touch, whispering *ohhh* as
they hover, fly up, down, over, fanning,
flowing from one yellow flower to another.

Her blue eyes grow big as she stares at
tiny girls dancing, whirling in wide
skirts,

Terri Jacks, 2 poems
On the Edge, De Soto

Privy

I'm privy to the privy
the newspapers, the wood
the air holes, spiders
the smell (phew) isn't good
the half moon
cut upon the door
the trip in the morning
at half past four

No Words to Express

Searching in the dictionary
trying to find a word
one that would grab me
but I'm just not stirred

Nothing makes me swirl
or spurs me to write
no word stands out
or come charging like a knight

Guess I'm not a damsel
but I am in distress
I'm still holding my pencil
with no words to express

"After living in the United States for 28 full years, I now visit the rice/barley fields in my dreams a couple of times a week. There are many many childhood memories attached to that place. I had the happiest period of my life in the fields until 6th grade, after which I left the village to pursue my education elsewhere."

Dr. John J. Han, On the Edge, De Soto



(Picture Location: Yeonggwang County, Jeollanam Province, South Korea)

A Winter Dream

By
John J. Han

My home village comes into sight
through the winter haze,
frozen across the rice fields.
A young boy walks alongside me.
He wears a Western suit and tie,
his hair is neatly trimmed and combed.
He looks like a handsome blond boy
in an old ad.
A closer look reveals his black hair
and yellow skin—he must be
returning home.
We talk.
He says he spent twenty-four hours
to reach this remote place.
It also took me twenty-four hours to arrive
by plane,
by subway,
by bus,
by taxi,
then on foot.
Did we travel together?
I turn to the boy again. He looks different—
he is me, a young Korean boy
who achieved the American Dream,
a sweet dream that soon yielded
to incessant thoughts
about this desolate, familiar plain,
where his ancestors lie buried.



Kudos:

Lee Ann Russell: Her poems "Poetic License," "Sequel" and "Caveman" have been selected for inclusion in the 2016 edition of the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writer's Guild anthology, Well-Versed, which will be launched June 5. In the Missouri Writers' Guild contest, "The Old Home Place," a cinquain sequence, won first place in the poetry category.

Announcements:

John J. Han: John J. Han's newest poetry book, Returning Home: Haiku and Other Succinct Poems (Cyberwit; 136 pages), was released in June. The 2016 issue of Cantos: A Literary and Arts Journal, which Han edits annually, will be published in August. Submission deadline for the 2017 issue is March 1, 2017. Interested poets and writers are welcome to e-mail their prose, poetry, artwork to the editor (hanjn@mobap.edu). Cantos considers submissions throughout the year and welcomes early submissions.

Group News:

On the Edge: "This is an offbeat report on what's happening now with the On the Edge group. As the weather heats up and it is only June, my report for On the Edge is this. Earlier this spring a small group from On the Edge attended the Lucidity Poetry Retreat. There were several critique sessions that went well and a few information programs that were, of course, informative. Along with all this there were contests. John Han won the poets' choice, Anna Wells won the Ekphrastic Poetry contest. Billy and Faye Adams, and Terrie Jacks won honorable mentions in the retreat contest. On the Edge I would say had a good showing at the retreat. On other fronts we have had two new poets/writers join our group. Welcome Juanita Wittu and Christopher Chubb. May the writing muse be with you. I can say our little group is getting a bit bigger. Oh, by the way Carol and Don are busy with their art and their poetry. They are being featured (as the featured poets) in the upcoming Cantos, Congrats. Faye Adams is again published in Galaxy of Verse, both with submissions and contest winner. (Hmm....Must look into that.) As for myself and John Han, we each have had published in Cattails, an online journal a haiku. Our group is always busy doing this and that. Writing, doing artsy stuff and even doing a little reading of our works. Speaking of reading our poetry, I am looking for people in and around St. Louis who would like to do a bit of reading. The Manchester Artfest is Oct. 8th. The submission form should be available at www.manchestermo.gov/arts Thanks." - Terri Jacks

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

P.O. Box 1774

Columbus, NM 88029

* 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](#).



Make Your
Reservations
TODAY!

Use the
**“Return
Reservation
Coupon”**
on the next
page to
reserve your
spot at the
2016
Convention!

Missouri State Poetry Society 2016 Convention Lebanon-Laclede Library; 915 S Jefferson Ave Lebanon, MO

Friday, September 23

6:00-7:00 p.m.	Registration
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Speaker: Jennifer Maier
8:00-8:15 p.m.	Break and Book Signing
8:15-9:15 p.m.	Read Around

Saturday, Sept 24

8:30-9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting in Benage Room
8:45-9:45 a.m.	Read Around
10:00-10:45 a.m.	Workshop with Jennifer Maier
10:45-11:00 a.m.	Break and Book Signing
11:00-11:45 a.m.	Lebanon Presentation
12:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00-1:45 p.m.	Contest Awards and Business Meeting
1:45-2:00 p.m.	Comfort Break
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Poet Speaker Marcus Cafagna
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Read Around

Recommended Hotels and Motels:

Hampton Inn 1-800-Hampton
Holiday Inn Express 1-800-Holiday
America's Best Value Inn 417-532-3133
Bennet Spring Inn 417-588-9110

**Special Prize Drawing for Early Bird Registration by August 31.*

Free registration

**\$10.00 for Lunch. Checks made to : Lebanon Poets Society*



Missouri State Poetry Society

Reservation Return Coupon

Number Attending Convention # _____

Lunch Reservation (on site) \$10.00 X _____ = _____

[Pay by Check _____ (Enclosed) or At Registration ____x____]

Number of ½ tables needed for display of Books, etc. (No Charge) _____

NAME/ADDRESS _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Reservations may be made by email- lachancenancy@outlook.com. Please include all information above.

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

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*

-Submission Deadline-

September 15th is the submission deadline for the October issue of *Spare Mule*.