



# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing  
and appreciation of poetry in America.

## Strophes

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January 2015



Eleanor Berry  
31st NFSPS  
President

Dear NFSPS Poets:

It is shortly before Thanksgiving that I am writing this message you will be reading early in the New Year. These are both times when we customarily take stock of our lives.

This year, the seasonal tendency toward introspection was heightened for me by the experience of attending, with my husband, our 50th high school reunion, the first class reunion we'd ever attended.

Those of us in the Rippowam High School Class of 1964 who came from all over the U.S. and from Canada to celebrate in Stamford, CT, this November 1st, had in common a place and a time that we had shared.

In the weeks before the reunion, we had been repeatedly urged to send in accounts of our lives for a reunion book. I couldn't bring myself to write a prose account of what I'd done since high school. Ultimately, I sent instead a poem I'd written a few years before, "Portrait of the Artist at Seven Ages," which presented, in a sequence of lyric moments, my life in each decade. In submitting it to the reunion book editor, I apologized for the substitution and the formatting challenge it would pose.

When our class president spoke as MC at the reunion, he talked about reading the bios for the reunion book, about discovering the achievements and rich personal lives of his former classmates. To my surprise, he drew special attention to the poem I'd sent in lieu of a bio. He had been moved by the way a poem can convey the life behind it.

During the past month, I've been corresponding with Joe Cavanaugh, President of the Florida State Poetry Society, about plans for the 2015 NFSPS Convention, the schedule for which appears in this issue of *Strophes*. It strikes me that each of our conventions is a reunion—not of classmates who shared a time and place, but of people of different ages and diverse backgrounds who share poetry.

We members of NFSPS have various notions of poetry. Some prefer to use traditional metrical forms; some opt for free verse. Some have a bent for narrative; others tend toward lyric. Some write poetry reflecting social and political concerns; others eschew any sort of advocacy. Some are representational artists, concerned with accessibility; others write abstract compositions. But we come together as fellow poets.

I am thankful to be part of an organization that celebrates poetry as a house of many windows and gives recognition and publication to poets at every stage of their development—to middle and high school students through the Manningham Trust Awards, to college and university students through the Edna Meudt and Florence Kahn Memorial Awards, to adult poets for individual poems through the annual contests and *Encore*, and to adult poets for book-length collections through the Stevens Award. I am thankful to those whose donations and sponsorships have made all these annual programs possible and to the volunteers who run them each year. [continued on page 8]

### NFSPS ANNUAL CONVENTION IN ST PETERSBURG, FL

Bayfront Hilton Hotel, June 24-28, 2015

#### Program

#### Wednesday, June 24 — Early Arrivals

1PM Registration & Information

>> Sign up for group activities or sample the local sights on your own

#### Thursday, June 25

9AM-6PM Registration & Information

9AM-3PM Group Tours

3:30-5:30PM NFSPS Board Meeting

5-8PM Dali Museum (special admission for convention attendees)

6:30PM Welcome Reception: Joe Cavanaugh; Poetry Reading: Peter Meinke,

Poet Laureate of St. Petersburg

8PM Dinner on Your Own

9:30PM Late Night Open Poetry Readings

#### Friday, June 26

8-8:45AM Open Poetry Readings

9AM-6PM Registration & Information

9AM Bookstore Open, Silent Auction Starts

9-10:30AM Plenary Session

10:30-11AM Intro to Florida's Poetic Heritage: Maurice Sullivan

11AM-12:30PM Poetry Workshop: Lola Haskins

12:30PM Lunch, Manningham Trust Awards, Contests

3-4:30PM Poetry Workshop: Doyle Rigon

5:30-6:15PM Reception with Nautical Poetry by Travaillon: Janet Watson,

Coleen Ward and Freddie Booth (pirates rumored!)

6:30PM Dinner, College/University Awards, Contests

8PM Performance Poetry Show

10PM Late Night Open Poetry Readings

#### Saturday, June 27

8-8:45AM Coffee & Poetry

9AM Bookstore Open, Silent Auction Continues

9-10:30AM Contemporary Florida Poetry, Cuban Influence: Sylvia Curbelo

10:30AM-12PM Poetry Workshop: Greg Byrd, Curtis X Meyer, Bob

Calabrese, Rosemary Voltz

12:30PM Lunch, Convention Poetry Winners, Contests

3-4PM Panel Discussion on Power of Partnership: Peter & Jeanne Meinke,

Mac Miller & Melanie Hubbard, Joe & Shirley Cavanaugh, Judy &

Randy Krum

4:30-5:30PM State Presidents Meeting

6PM Dinner, Stevens Winner, Contests

8:30PM Performance Poetry: Florida Slam Teams Compete

10:30PM Late Night Open Poetry Readings

#### Sunday, June 28

8-8:45AM Open Poetry Readings

9AM NFSPS Board Meeting

9AM-12PM Bookstore Open, Silent Auction Ends at Noon

11:30AM-12:45PM Plenary Session

1PM Lunch, Contests

2:30-4:30PM Surrealist Poetry at Dali Museum: Dan Pels, Melanie Hubbard

5-6:45PM Reception, Cash Bar, Book Signing, Silent Auction Winners

7PM Gala Banquet, Keynote Speaker: Peter Meinke; Contests

After Dinner: Book Signing, Open Poetry Readings

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.**

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder

**Honorary Chancellor: [to be appointed]**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD ~ 2014-2016**

Elected, NFSPS Convention ~ Salt Lake City, UT, June, 2014

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**FLORIDA: Florida State Poets Association**

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**STROPHES**

*Strophes*, the newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., is published four times a year: August (\*June 25th) ~ October (\*August 25th) ~ January (\*November 25th) ~ April (\*February 25th). News items and information on contests may be sent via regular mail or e-mail, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

Paul Ford, *Strophes* Editor

10239 Hickory Pt. Dr., Sandy, UT 84092-3960

pmford3@yahoo.com

*Strophes* is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$4.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a #10 SASE and \$1.00 per copy.

\* Submission Deadlines

**NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS**

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Jeremy M. Downes

\* Deceased

## NFSPS 2015 CONVENTION INVITE

Dear Poets and Friends,

I want to extend a special invitation to join us next June in St Petersburg, Florida for the annual NFSPS Convention. We promise you will discover the treasure of poetry in a unique setting that includes rich cultural activities and choices including a surrealist poetry workshop at the internationally acclaimed Dali Museum, across the street from our beautiful Hilton Hotel, an opportunity to have a guided tour of the Tampa arts-oriented downtown including Ybor City and the famous Columbia restaurant, or a trip to nearby Sarasota to visit the Ringling Museums, including the classic fine arts and circus museums and sensational home and gardens of the estate. You can also enjoy some of Florida and the world's finest beaches or explore the cultural arts in downtown St Pete including the Chihuly Glass Collection, fine restaurants, galleries and museums.

Visit [floridastatepoetsassociation.org](http://floridastatepoetsassociation.org) to take advantage of the opportunity to register on line or print out a copy of the registration form and mail it in to reserve your place at these limited-capacity events and discounted hotel rates. Bring your friends, family and poetry lovers to this special opportunity to enjoy the treasure of poetry and bask in the best setting Florida has to offer. We look forward to seeing you in June.

Best, *Joe Cavanaugh*

*President, Florida State Poets Association*

### NFSPS 2015 CONVENTION: EXPLORE ST. PETERSBURG

The following 'explore on your own' options are but a sampling of the many activities available in St. Pete:

- \* See the Dali Museum across the street from the convention hotel
- \* Walk or take a trolley to the cultural arts district (St Pete is rated the #1 arts destination in the USA for midsized cities)
- \* Visit the Museum of Fine Arts
- \* See the Chihuly Glass Collection
- \* Visit the Sunken Gardens, a 100-year-old botanical paradise
- \* Enjoy galleries including Florida's finest arts & crafts
- \* Check out the shops, boutiques, coffee houses and fine dining indoor and outdoor restaurants
- \* Visit the marina and yacht basin, take a ferry or boat ride
- \* Rent a segway, kayak or paddleboard
- \* Check out the Museum of History next to Spa Beach

- \* Visit Hazlam's, Florida's largest new and used bookstore
- \* Take the Central Trolley to Florida's finest beaches
- \* Enjoy lunch and a tour of the classic Vinoy Renaissance Hotel
- \* See the Tampa Bay Rays play the Boston Red Sox at the Ray's stadium near the hotel
- \* Visit the nearby private airport for a scenic flight or enjoy a meal at the unique Hangar Restaurant

### NFSPS CONVENTION POEMS

For those planning to attend the NFSPS National Convention in St. Petersburg, submit your sunniest poems with the convention theme "Discover the Treasure--Poetry's Place in the Sun." First prize is one night's stay at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel with VIP access. Second prize is free convention registration (\$75). Third prize is a ticket to either the Tampa/Sarasota Ringling tour or the St. Pete Beach tour. Just follow these simple rules:

1. Enter unpublished poems based on the convention theme.
2. Include a \$10 fee per poem. Make your check payable to FSPA.
3. Poems may be any form, up to 40 lines, and in good taste.
4. Send two copies of each poem: one with no identifying information, and the second with your name, address, and email address in the upper right corner.
5. Mail your entries postmarked by March 15, 2015 to:

Joan Clark  
5961 West Dedham Trail  
Crystal River, FL 34429

Winners will be announced at the convention. You must be in attendance to win!

### CONVENTION INVOCATION POEMS

Rules for poems to be read before meals:

- 1) Non-sectarian
- 2) 10 lines max
- 3) \$25 prize for each poem selected
- 4) Mail entries to:  
Mary-Ann Westbrook  
6 Juniper Dr., Ormond Beach, FL 32176  
or email to [1poetry.3@gmail.com](mailto:1poetry.3@gmail.com)
- 5) Deadline is March 15, 2015

### 2015 NFSPS COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY LEVEL POETRY COMPETITION:

#### Something Old, Something New

Through its annual College/University Level Poetry Competition, NFSPS again will offer recognition and publication to poets who are college undergraduates. The 2015 Competition has a new twist, in that students

will be able to submit their manuscripts in either electronic form through [submittable.com](http://submittable.com), the publishing industry's top submissions manager, or on paper, as they have in the past. The guidelines for both methods are on the NFSPS website: [nfsp.com](http://nfsp.com).

Two awards—the Edna Meudt Memorial Award and Florence Kahn Memorial Award—are given for manuscripts of ten poems each. Each award recipient receives \$500 plus publication of his or her winning manuscript as a chapbook. Each winner is also given 75 copies of the chapbook to sell or give to friends and family. Recipients are invited to read from their work at the NFSPS Convention; if they attend, they are offered a \$300 stipend to offset travel expenses.

The submission period for both electronic and paper entries opens January 1 and closes at midnight, February 14. Unless online contestants already have a personal Submittable account, they will have to open one. Doing so is a simple process, it is free, and the account can be used by the author in future years for other literary venues. **Do not even attempt to email entries.** Submittable and email are two different species, and only disaster awaits emailed poems.

Those sending paper copies (not before January 1, 2015, please) must mail the Awards Chair four copies of a manuscript of ten poems, postmarked by midnight, February 14, 2015. All entries (online or hard copy) require a separate, completed application form with notarized affidavit that the work is original; send it to the Competition Chair by first-class mail and postmarked no later than February 14. Complete submission guidelines for the College/University Level Poetry Competition are on the NFSPS website at [nfsp.com](http://nfsp.com). The required application form and affidavit can be downloaded from there. Anyone with questions about the competition is welcome to email the College/University Competition Chair, Shirley Blackwell, at [sonneteer@earthlink.net](mailto:sonneteer@earthlink.net).

A panel of three judges will select the two winning manuscripts from those that meet the guidelines. The two award recipients will be announced by April 15, 2015, and their chapbooks will be published in time for the 2015 NFSPS Convention.

Please help spread the word about this exceptional opportunity for poetically talented undergraduates. Encourage your own friends or family to enter, and inform any college or university creative writing teachers you know about this program. Because we are offering electronic submissions this year, we anticipate more entries; we will rely heavily on word of mouth advertising until we can gauge the response.

## MANNINGHAM TRUST STUDENT POETRY CONTEST

Rules: 2015 annual competition

**1. There are two divisions: Grade 6-8 (Junior Division) and Grades 9-12 (Senior Division).** Each state may submit ten (10) top poems in each division. Poems may have been printed and/or have won previous awards. Contests at state level may have occurred anytime in 2014 or 2015.

**2. The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6 – 12.** Public, private, and home-schools are eligible for entry by individual NFSPS member states.

**3. Submit two copies of each poem.** Put the division (Junior or Senior) in the upper left corner of both copies. One copy must have student's ID in upper right corner. The ID information is student name, school name and address, student grade level, and the student's language arts/English teacher's name. The second copy must not have ID information. Do not send a copy with any other marking - there should be no indication of prior award granted by the state.

**4. Each poem must be neatly typed or computer-generated, and have no more than 30 lines.** If a poem continues more than one page, staple the pages together. Do not staple the two copies of the poem together. It is suggested that each state representative keep a copy of poems entered.

**5. There should be no large or unusual fonts or illustrations.** Times New Roman is the suggested font. No font larger than 12 point should be used. Winning poems are scanned for the award anthology and large and/or unusual fonts impede the process.

**6. Each entrant must make a declaration of originality.** The statement should appear on the bottom of the ID copy only. The form below is acceptable:

I certify that this poem is my original work, and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poems in print or posted on the Internet.

Signed:

**7. Separate poems into respective divisions.** Within each division separate the ID copy from the anonymous copy meant for judges. Include a cover letter identifying the Manningham (Youth) Chairperson to whom the report on the contests will be mailed.

**8. Entries must be received by March 1, 2015.**

**Send entries to: Budd P. Mahan, 7059 Spring Valley Road, Dallas, TX 75254**

Ten prizes will be awarded in each division: First Place - \$75, Second Place - \$50, Third Place - \$40, Fourth Place - \$35, Fifth Place - \$30, and five Honorable Mentions - \$10 each. All winning poems will be published in the Manningham Trust Poetry Student Award Anthology. Winners will receive complimentary copies. The schools of each winning student will receive a complimentary copy for the school library. Notice of winners report will be sent to each state's Manningham (Youth) Chair no later by May 20, 2015. Awards (certificates, checks, anthologies) will also be mailed to the state chairperson. Each state is responsible for distributing prizes to winners and winning schools. The top winning poems will be read to NFSPS members at the Convention held in June, 2015.

We look forward to each state's participation in the Manningham Poetry Trust's annual contests. Questions may be directed to the chairperson:

Budd Powell Mahan  
Manningham Trust Student Poetry  
Awards Chairperson  
7059 Spring Valley Road  
Dallas, TX 75254  
972-788-4944  
buddmahan@att.net

### NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

**ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY** has exciting plans for 2015. We are expanding our membership and our presence in the state. We are engaging in community outreach, networking with other organizations, taking poetry events to a variety of venues, and experimenting with innovative poetry productions. We are continuing with our contests, meetings, workshops, and publishing opportunities as before, as well as adding new events to our calendar. ~ *Jerri Hardesty, President*

**ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY** celebrated its 44th Annual Fall Conference in November. Organized by Vice-President Carol Hogan and assisted by President Christy White, the theme was "Poets, Telling a Story Through the Ages." Friday night was an upbeat celebration of poetry, featuring acclaimed spoken word artist Seth Walker, joined by Jeremiah Blue, Manual Arenas, Mikel Weisser, Jack Evans, Tristan Marshall and Richard Morris. After a welcoming by President Christy White on Saturday, Alberto Rios addressed the group with an update of his first year's experience as our inaugural Arizona State Poet Laureate and a poetry reading. We had a full day of events and workshops from which to choose. Sharon Skinner shared her expertise in two

workshops on "The Business Side of Writing" including publishing and marketing. Other presenters included Maxwell Alexander Drake on "Point of View" and "Character Creation." Christy White had us writing "Poetry to Reveal Hidden Stories of Our Families." Mike Weisser used his long-time teaching skills to present an old fashioned lesson on poetry form and format. There was time set aside for open readings and perusing the book tables. The winners of the annual poetry contest were announced, and winning poems were read. Contest chair Carol Hogan announced the fall contest was very successful with poems entered from across the United States, and Canada. Over \$1,500 was paid out in prize money. Winning poems will be printed in a beautifully bound edition of our quarterly publication *Sandcutters*. Congratulations to Pauline Mounsey who has won our admiration for her dedication to poetry in the state and our society. She has been awarded our first-ever service award. Pauline has been a much published poet, held many offices in our organization, including president, and has been a tireless teacher and advocate of poetry for many years. This award has been named "The Amanda Award" as a tribute to Pauline's collection of "Amanda" poems. This will become an annual award to recognize selfless poets who add to our community by promoting the art of poetry. ~ *Molly Saty, Reporter*

**POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS** branches convened in Mountain Home October 17th and 18th in celebration of Poetry Day in Arkansas. The event was hosted by the Free Verse Poets of Mountain Home. Friday night's potluck and poetry "read-off" contest was held at member Pat Durmon's spread in Norfolk, located at the North Fork and White Rivers. Saturday the group enjoyed stories of the war in Kuwait by an ex-military officer who served there. The PRA members read poems they had written celebrating Arkansas. Cowboy Poet George Dreger was honored for his longtime membership and service. Laura Loughridge was presented with the annual PRA Merit Award for her work with student poets. Marcia Camp won the Sybil Nash Abrams Award which carries a \$1,000 prize. Loughridge finished second. Next year's event will be hosted by River Market Poets in Little Rock. To see a full list of winners, go to [poetsroundtable.webs.com](http://poetsroundtable.webs.com). ~ *Laura Loughridge, Reporter*

**COLUMBINE POETS OF COLORADO's** annual statewide Poets Fest was held on Sept. 13 at Aurora Community College and featured Aaron Abeyta, one of Colorado's award-

winning poets, who teaches at Alamosa State University in Alamosa. His workshop was on "Poetry as Prayer," in which he broadened the field of what we normally regard as "prayer." Writing was generated on this theme, and later we were inspired by the poems we heard that were started during his workshop. We also announced the winners of our statewide contest during the Poets Fest. This was the first time we had added a prose poem category along with free verse and traditional form, and members were encouraged to enter more than one category for a flat rate. As a result, a few of our winners placed in more than one category, while Lorrie Wolfe and Lynda LaRocca placed in all three. This year Columbine Poets revived the "Poetry to Go" project in the Denver Metro area by putting the winning poems of teens on large placards inside our city buses. We hope to continue this project into next year as we double our efforts to raise the money necessary to pay for this worthwhile endeavor to publicize the creative work of teens in the Greater Denver area. ~ Anita Jepson-Gilbert, Reporter

**FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION's** Annual Convention was held October 24-26 at the Daytona Beach Resort and Conference Center on the beach in Daytona Beach. Friday evening featured a welcoming reception for poets to mingle and reconnect. The first session of FSPA contest awards took place and was followed by open mic poetry readings. Books for sale were on display in the book room as well as raffle prizes. After Board and General meetings Saturday morning the fun began. Poetry contest awards continued throughout the day interspersed with a variety of workshops. Dr. Carol Thomas, retired professor of Literature, Psychology and Women's Studies presented "Tips on Giving a Good Reading." Dr. Sue B. Walker, Poet Laureate Emeritus of Alabama, presented information on "Developing a Thematic Manuscript." Dr. David Axelrod, Poet Laureate Emeritus of Suffolk County, New York, spoke on "The Healing Powers of Poetry." Dr. Sidney Wade, Professor of English at University of Florida Gainesville presented a workshop on writing poetry using different voices. She was also our Keynote speaker offering "The Ten Things I Know About Poetry." Now we know them too! Saturday continued with a birthday party to celebrate FSPA's 40th anniversary. There were gifts, a raffle, cake and the annual FSPA anthology was distributed. An open mic poetry reading ended a very full day. Sunday morning brought a ghost tour of Daytona Beach's historic Lilian Place followed by a ghost poetry writing workshop presented by Michelle Davidson, author of *Florida's Haunted Hospitality*. She personally had a

ghostly experience at the base of the stairway in the house. This was the perfect conclusion to an outstanding convention. See you all in St. Petersburg in June. ~ Mary-Ann Westbrook, Secretary

**ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY's** new Manningham Contest Chair is Lael Laning after Gail Goepfert's fine job for three years. The Nook in Lisle, Illinois, is the new location of a shared reading sponsorship with the Naperville Writers Group. Open mic and featured reading opportunities are held in this venue. ISPS member Tom Moran was chosen by the Poetry Foundation in the "Favorite Poem" contest. A video can be viewed on the Foundation website. ISPS will be sharing a table with Poets and Patrons at Chicago's annual Printers' Row event in 2015. Members' books will be sold and society information made available. Wilda Morris and Caroline Johnson will present a workshop at Powells bookstore on Halsted in the spring of 2015. The former Hinsdale chapter will now be meeting at the Indian Prairie Public Library in Darien. In November, members met at Brewed Awakening in Westmont to launch our second anthology, *Distilled Lives 2*. Live guitar music preceded readings from both the current and first publication, *Distilled Lives*. The holiday gathering and poetry critique will be held at Danada House in Naperville on December 7. ~ Susan T. Moss, President

**INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF POETRY CLUBS'** Hoosier poets on October 10-12, 2014, enjoyed their 36th Annual Fall Rendezvous at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana on the Ohio River. Highlights included the building of a "poet tree" with a coat rack, string, a hat, and 3x5-card poems about autumn by those present; a workshop on "Elfchen Poetry" by Mary Couch and her mother, Alice Couch; four open reading opportunities; readings of winning poems in the ISFPC annual contest; readings by the ISFPC Premier Poet, Mary Couch; and a combined performance and workshop by "Reservoir Dogwoods," a creative and engaging trio of innovative regional poets. Local poetry clubs represented at the Rendezvous included Noble Poets (Noblesville), The Last Stanza Poets (Elwood), Northwest Indiana Poetry Society (Lowell), Northeast Indiana Poets (Ft. Wayne), Backroom Poets (Ft. Wayne) and Magic Hour Writers (Schererville). Several of these clubs are enjoying some coordination with local arts groups. Noble poets are enjoying a symbiotic relationship with painters associated with Nickel Plate Arts in Noblesville, currently working on a January show and a book of poet-and-painter collaborative works for this coming spring. Northeast Indiana Poets cross-pollinates

creative endeavors with United Arts in Fort Wayne. ~ Dr. David W. Stocking, President

**KENTUCKY STATE POETRY SOCIETY** "Poetry arrived/in search of me," writes Pablo Neruda in his poem, "Poetry." "From a street I was summoned," he continues, "from the branches of the night..." Some fifty members and friends of KSPS answered the summons to the 2014 annual conference held October 31 to November 2 in Berea, Kentucky. President Libby Falk Jones organized the program. Sessions were held in the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center at Berea College. The weekend opened on Friday evening with a reading by 15 Berea poets, including several Berea College students as well as poets from the community. On Saturday participants engaged in three workshops. Chris Green, poet and director of the Loyal Jones Appalachian Center, led a craft session on freedom and discipline in crafting the line, while Morgan Adams and Laura Benton invited participants to write persona poems based on fairy tales and myths. Adams, a graduate of Berea College, holds an MFA in poetry from Indiana University, while Benton is pursuing an M.A. at the Breadloaf School of English. The midday business meeting concluded with a presentation by noted writer bell hooks. Hooks has authored more than 30 books, including four volumes of poetry. In addition to reading her own poems, hooks discussed the importance of poetry in her life and work. She read and recited poems by writers who had influenced her, including Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson. The afternoon program included a workshop on poetry, place, and mining memory, led by Crystal Wilkinson, poet and fiction writer currently serving as Berea College's Appalachian Writer-in-Residence. The day concluded with a roundtable discussion on ways to get poetry into the world—through publishing, organizing readings, hosting community events, and developing and supporting local writers' groups. The evening awards banquet, held at the Boone Tavern Hotel, included readings by workshop leaders, contest winners including student poets, and other poets. Both evenings concluded with round-robin poetry readings, where all attendees were invited to read. Current KSPS officers include: Libby Falk Jones, President; George Eklund, President-Elect; Mary E. O'Dell, Secretary; Dexter Alexander, Treasurer; Pam Hirschler, Immediate Past President and Webmaster; Elaine P. Akin, Membership Chair; Rebecca Lindsay, *Pegasus* Editor; Carol Mauriello and Brandie Trent, Student Contest Co-Chairs; Mick Parsons, Adult Contest Chair; E. Gail Chandler, Historian. Regional Directors include Lorie Zientara, Judy Milford, Sandy

Daugherty, and Anna Lucas. For more information about KSPS, please visit [kystatepoetrysociety.org](http://kystatepoetrysociety.org). ~ *Libby Falk Jones, President*

### MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

celebrated National Poetry Day at its Autumn Meeting on October 18, 2014. A proclamation from Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, read by Lou Pituolo, designated the day and the entire month to honor the art of poetry. MSPS President Jeanette Maes congratulated recent winners, then listed up-coming contests and advised a final reminder for submissions for our Society's 2014 anthology. Waterfront CREW Poets Chapter paid homage to the late, great Dr. Maya Angelou with an outstanding program. Staged by Lou Pituolo and with a nod to the author, the production was entitled "Phenomenal Woman." Allen Swartz opened with prose selections, excerpts from the poet's thoughts, and emotions. Reading her poems were Esther Fich, Babe Giangregorio, Marcia Jackson, Renee Pike, with the epilogue delivered by Patricia Tacelli. This event marked the sixteenth year that CREW Poets have presented a special production at the Fall gathering. President Jeanette conducted an engaging workshop that focused on "Writing on the Light Side." The resultant poems were read aloud and produced laughter that could be heard throughout Winthrop Public Library. MSPS Contest Chair Roberta Hung thoughtfully displayed winning poems from this summer's competition. The usual spirited open mic followed a late lunch and another inspiring MSPS event ended. Next meeting will be held at Beverly Public Library on Saturday December 6. Special features will include introduction of winners of the holiday contests, new poetry challenges, and a silent auction of gently used poetry books. Then a traditional great fun Yankee Swap will be held, MSPS style, i.e., each wrapped gift must be accompanied by a verse which suggests what the content might be...a prize to the winner! All followed by a bountiful New England Buffet lunch. Peace and Blessings to NFSPS. ~ *Patricia Bruen Tacelli, Reporter*

### POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

President Polly Opsahl presided over the fall meeting in West Branch, Michigan on October 18th. Around thirty members and guests were present. Original poetry was read after the business meeting. Li Chiu Tien won the Traveling Trophy for his poem, "Silent Night," after the reading of original poems. After a lovely lunch, Milton J. Bates, winner of the NFSPS 2014 Margo Award, read his poem, "Chinese Folk Song performed on

Oldest Playable Flute." Ed Morin reported on preparations for a new PSM anthology; Mono D'Angelo reported on the "Rust Belt" and "Manningham" contests. Patricia Barnes demonstrated how one subject can be written in different poetical forms. Julie George, Treasurer, reported that PSM has a membership of 178, to date. Another round of poetry was read before members left the beautiful countryside newly inspired. ~ *Inge Logenburg Kyler, Historian*

### LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS

braved the cold and snow to attend LOMP's semi-annual state-wide gathering held in Duluth, MN on November 14 and 15. Two writing classes were held on Friday afternoon, and although the temperature barely made it to twenty degrees, several members chose an outdoor poetry writing tour on the Lake Walk. We are a hardy bunch. That night, winners of the League's annual poetry contest were announced and their poems read. Well over a thousand poems were entered, with entries coming from twenty-one states and Canada. Ellie Schoenfeld, co-author of *The Moon Rolls Out of Our Mouths*, and *Bound Together Like the Grasses*, was the keynote speaker on Saturday. LOMP reminds you that we will be hosting the NFSPS convention in June of 2016. It will be held in the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and I personally assure you that our population of free-range mosquitoes will be corralled by then. Who wouldn't want to visit cities known as *The Mill City*, *The City of Lakes*, or the *Mini-Apple*, or its counterpart *Pig's Eye*, *The Silver City*, or *Moscow on the Mississippi*? In the meantime, members of LOMP hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and look forward to a happy, productive 2015. ~ *Dennis Herschbach, President*

### MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY

is pleased to announce its 2015 Poet of the Year, Mrs. Sandra Bounds. Sandra has been a member of MPS since 1997 and has won numerous places in the annual contests of MPS. She was its 2005 Poet of the Year. Sandra has publication credits in the U.S., Australia, and England. Her work has appeared in gift and devotional books, and three of her poems have each received a nomination for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry. Sandra has taught English in Noxubee County and has been an English instructor for East Mississippi Community College. Her chapbook, *From the Heart of the Deep South*, will be available in April, 2015. MPS President Judy Davies' poem "Artistry" won a grand prize in the Dancing Poetry Festival contest. The poem was choreographed and performed in San Francisco on September 20 at the Florence Gould Theater. She and her husband, Ken, attended the event in Lincoln

Park, San Francisco, California, where Judy read her poem. The Dancing Poetry Festival presents poetry and dance as "a unified art form." Judy joins her colleague in the South Branch of MPS, Patty Butkovich, in receiving an award in this festival. Patty placed in the 2013 Dancing Festival contest. It should be noted that beginning this year MPS will only have one contest and one festival per year, held in the spring with hosting alternating among the three branches. This year's festival will once again be held at the charming Gulf Hills Hotel and Conference Center in beautiful Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Our guest speaker will be Jim Barton of Arkansas. Contest information is available on our website: [www.misspoetry.net](http://www.misspoetry.net) under the "Contests" tab. Also available on our website is an application form for membership. We encourage any and all interested persons to join as members or members-at-large. ~ *Dorothy Wiman, Secretary*

**OHIO POETRY ASSOCIATION** will kick off 2015 with a publishing workshop, to be held at our new home at Otterbein University. OPA is partnering with Otterbein to bring poetry programs to the campus and internship opportunities to students, in exchange for use of classroom and performing arts space for OPA programs. While there are bound to be a few bumps in the road, we're very excited about this partnership and its potential to benefit both organizations. Also, OPA officers are in the process of submitting a 2015 Community Arts Fund Grant application through the Columbus Foundation. We hope to receive continued increased funding from the Foundation as we have for the past three years, to sustain our programming efforts. ~ *Chuck Salmons, President*

### POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA

announces that Amy Kitchener's Angels Without Wings Foundation awarded Dena Gorrell the 2014 Senior Poet Laureate top award with her poem, "Autumn Morning Praise." She will receive a certificate and a monetary prize. Her poem will be published in Wanda Sue Parrott's newsletter, *The Diploemat*. PSO is inviting everyone to submit their work for the upcoming poetry anthology, *Red Earth Revisited*. "We're inviting everyone across Oklahoma to be a part of this historic publication as the PSO celebrates its eightieth birthday." The anthology is titled *Red Earth Revisited* and will include poems from all participating PSO members. There is no charge for members to participate and PSO membership is only \$20 per year for adults and \$10 per year for youth members. Each member is invited to submit up to three poems for consideration along with a short bio. Complete details are available at

the PSO website, [www.oklahomapoets.com](http://www.oklahomapoets.com).  
~ *Joan Wilcoxon, Co-President*

**OREGON POETRY ASSOCIATION** has come back from summer with renewed energy. After our Spring Conference was “over the mountains” (for many of us) in Bend, we chose to hold our Fall Conference in Bandon, on the justly-famous Oregon Coast. We met in “The Barn,” Bandon’s community center. This time, instead of two workshops presented twice, so all attendees could get to both, we offered a menu of sixteen different workshops, panels and presentations. It was a new format for OPA and we hope it may have set a new model for future conferences. Dorothy Mack led a group of Coast poets in organizing it. Board Member Anatoly Molotkov coordinated the seven Fall contests: Poet’s Choice, Members Only (12-line limit), Traditional Form (“litany” this time), Themed (“Fences”), Dueling Judges, New Members, and Experimental. He reports that over 400 entries came in. This was the last year we offered two conferences. After a vote amending our Constitution last spring, 2015 will be the first year we will organize only one conference. This being the centennial year of William Stafford’s birth, OPA and its local units have continued to offer many presentations for members and the public, built around his poems, reminiscences of poets who knew him, and films of his life and teachings, most notably the film about his resistance to war, *Every War Has Two Losers*. ~ *Dave Harvey, Reporter*

**POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE** held our annual poetry festival on Oct. 11, 2014. Our workshop leader, Caki Wilkinson from Rhodes College, conducted a workshop on the use of effective repetition in poetry. Awards were made in 31 contests. Jim Barton received this year’s Best of the Fest award. PST recently held a contest for the best poem written in the rubaiyat form. Poets who entered were asked to wager one, two or three dollars on their poem depending on how good they thought it was. The winner would receive an amount equal to one, two or three times the total amount of poems in the contest depending on what they wagered. The contest had sixteen entries. The winner, Caroline Sposto, bet three dollars and received a \$48 prize. Two honorable mentions were also awarded. The Memphis chapter of PST held an Edgar Allan Poe poetry reading in Overton Park the Sunday before Halloween. Costumes were worn and poems by Poe were read along with original poems by participants. Our Northeast chapter is publishing their *Fresh Breath Anthology*. Submissions were due by November 30, 2014. Both chapters held Christmas parties on Saturday December 13. A full calendar of

speakers, readings, and critiquing sessions has been planned for early 2015 and monthly contests are available to members. ~ *Russell Strauss*

**POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS’** 58th Annual Awards Banquet was held at the Doubletree Hotel near the Galleria in Dallas on November 8. The theme was “Autumn’s Poetry Palette.” Sharon Martin Turner was Chairman of the event and welcomed attendees. After the meal was served, President Catherine L’Herisson made introductions. Greetings from the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. were brought by 26th NFSPS president, Budd Powell Mahan, and as Chairman of the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award, he announced that the 2014 recipient was Marilyn Stacy. In the absence of Nancy Baass, Chairman of the PST Annual Contests, who was unable to attend, her Annual Contests Report was given by President Catherine L’Herisson. Vice President Budd Powell Mahan and President Catherine L’Herisson announced the names of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners. 1st Place winners who were present, read their winning poems. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the 2014 Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award, announced that the winner was Lisa Salinas. 2nd Place went to Sylvia S. Medel, 3rd Place went to Beth Ayers and 4th Place went to Michael Owens. ~ *Nancy Baass*

**WYOPETS**—“If you write a poem you are a poet!” This is a quote from a friend and fellow poet who resides in Pinedale, Wyoming. His name is “Cork” (short for Cornelius) Kelly and he is one of the featured poets profiled on [wyopoets.org](http://wyopoets.org). Cork is a longtime member of NFSPS and WyoPoets. He recalls one of the highlights of his WyoPoets’ workshop experiences when he was called on to assist Ted Kooser, featured panelist that year, in the use of one of those card-keys to access his hotel room. Go to [wyopoets.org](http://wyopoets.org) to read Cork’s poetry, his profile and some valuable writing incentives he uses to motivate his writing career. We are feeling especially isolated here in Wyoming. The temperature at this writing is one degree, the snowfall has ceased and the WyoPoets Autumn Newsletter arrived with poems, publishing opportunities and news of our April workshop! What better time to “read and write?” Inside this treasured document, National Poetry Day was acclaimed with a copy of Joint Resolution 243 and an article by Bob Holman and Margery Snyder on the history of National Poetry Day. Best of all was the April workshop announcement. There will be spring, and with it will come WyoPoets’ annual gathering. This year we meet in Casper, Wyoming on Saturday, April

18, 2015, at the historic Fort Caspar Museum with poet, Rick Kempa, presenting. A public reading will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday evening, April 17th at the Natrona County Public Library. All of these events as well as the results of our Eugene V. Shea National Contest can be accessed on our website. ~ *Lee Ann Siebken, Reporter*

## CONTESTS

### NFSPS 2015 ANNUAL CONTESTS

Information is available on [nfsp.com](http://nfsp.com). Look for the Poetry Contests link. Entries cannot be postmarked before January 1, 2015, and must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2015.

### NFSPS TREASURER’S MESSAGE

#### ARE YOU READY? DO’S, DUES (and DON’TS)

#### Attention: State Membership Chairs and Treasurers

**Contest Rule 9** requires that your current membership list, in alphabetical order, be sent to the NFSPS Treasurer by January 15 along with a check for dues at the \$3.00 per member rate. This determines an entrant’s eligibility to enter NFSPS contests at the “member” rate – and, even more importantly, to enter MORE of the categories. Note that nearly half of them are open only to “members,” a status achieved by having dues paid up to one of our state associations, and reported by you.

We know there is much variation among states for fiscal years, but whether you work on the calendar year or any other twelve-month period, if membership is regularly reported as of January 15th, we’re all on equal footing. Those who pay up later, or join your association after January 15th may be included in a supplemental list that should reach me by contest deadline March 15th with the appropriate additional dues check. [I’d prefer having your additions in one list, but if it is simpler to send a few at a time as they come in, we’ll accept that, too.]

Not having your membership lists in a timely manner means delaying entries in the judging process, requires extra time for re-checking and follow-up, and is a disservice to your dues-paying members, the very people we seek to serve and encourage.

Many of you prefer to e-mail your membership lists. Occasionally, our systems are incompatible and I may have difficulty opening the message. If the same person is sending list and check, it may be easier to send a hard copy. Only one copy is needed.

NFSPS DUES are to be calculated on ALL members, including honoraries. If your mailing list includes complimentary mailings to libraries, schools or other institutions, and national officers, these need not be in your member count. However, out-of-state residents, who may also be members in their

home states, should be included by each state to which they pay dues.

**AN IMPORTANT MATTER  
FOR ALL ENTRANTS:**

**Contest Rule 1a:** *Any poem submitted must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in any form . . .* You may know that considerable confusion, with resulting delays, extra work and postage cost occurred last year when someone's previously published poems rose into the winners ranks and adjustments had to be made. To avoid embarrassment and wasted time, do keep track of where your poems are sent and any publications, in print or on-line. Use temporary sticky notes, penciled notes on a hard copy, or whatever system works for you, but be sure the poems you send to the Contest Chair, Mikki Pennington, are in accordance with the rules.

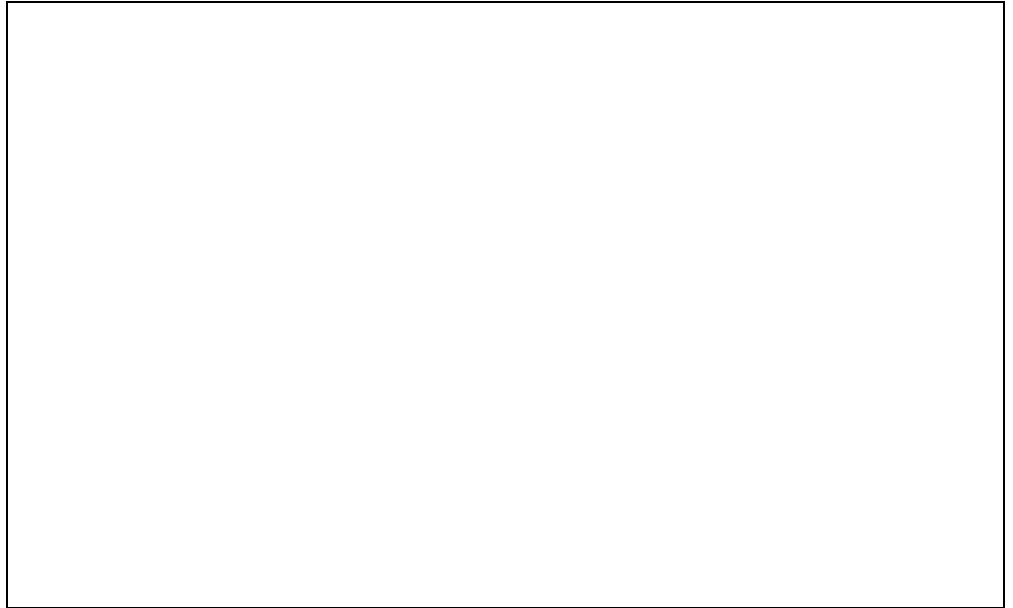
Now check the NFSPS website, re-read the rules, and get those potential prize-winners ready to go. I look forward to hearing from state treasurers and membership chairs soon after the notes of Auld Lang Syne have faded away, and hope to see many of you in St. Petersburg next June.

*Lucille Morgan Wilson, NFSPS Treasurer*  
2325 61st Street, Des Moines, IA 50322  
lucille\_e\_wilson@hotmail.com

**POETRY EVENTS & NOTES**

**POETRY IN THE PARK**

This year's PIP will be held Friday, March 20, 2015, in Zion National Park. Let the spring beauty of Zion's landscape inspire you. Poetry workshop 9 am - 4 pm on "Beginnings and Endings" with Lola Haskins, award-winning poet, author of thirteen books of poetry, MFA instructor and writing coach. Enjoy Utah's unique red rock cliffs on a guided walk by naturalist Michael Plyler. Bring your camera and sack lunch. Join us for an unforgettable experience: picnic with new friends, explore your creativity and *find your muse*. Presented by Utah State Poetry Society and Zion Canyon Field Institute, funded in part by grants from the Utah Arts and Museums as well as the National Endowment for the Arts. Fee is \$60 (includes free one-day park entrance) while only \$48 for members of UTSPS and ZCFI. To register, contact Michael Plyler at 800-635-3959. More info available at poetry-in-the-park.com or contact UTSPS PIP Chair Lin Floyd at 435-628-8522. Housing and carpools available in nearby St. George, UT.



**President's Message continued from page 1**

As the inheritors of these programs, we have the responsibility to carry them forward and to preserve and strengthen NFSPS as a whole. The start of a new year gives us an occasion for considering what this responsibility entails and to make some individual and collective resolutions for fulfilling it. In my view, our methods for conducting our competitions and issuing our publications need to be responsive to changing circumstances and to the preferences of new generations as well as to those of long-time members. This doesn't mean abrupt change but does require gradual transitions.

A couple of NFSPS programs offer excellent examples of such transitions. One of them is this newsletter. *Strophes* is still available in print to all members of all state societies who wish to receive it in that form. For the past few years, under the editorship of Paul Ford, it has also been available online, in an expanded edition (not constrained by printing costs) with additional feature articles and color photographs. Over this period, societies' orders for print copies of *Strophes* have steadily declined. For the current issue, one society—the League of Minnesota Poets—will go entirely electronic, receiving no print copies but simply a notice that the new issue has been posted on the NFSPS website.

A second example is the College/University Level Poetry Competition, now chaired by Shirley Blackwell. For the first time, this competition is open to electronic submissions via Submittable.com as well as to paper submissions sent via the postal mail. (See the article elsewhere in this issue.) Once methods for handling dual modes of submission are worked out for this one competition, they can be extended to others.

Besides adapting our existing programs to new communications technologies, we need to develop and obtain funding for new programs that will appeal to younger generations and recognize the modes of poetic expression they are pioneering and the ways they are furthering poetry as an important part of American cultural life. Youth Chair Steven Concert has assembled a Youth Advisory Committee to work toward adding such programs to NFSPS offerings as well as to support state societies' youth activities.

As a federation, NFSPS is only as strong as its affiliated societies, and it is only as national as the number and geographic range of those affiliates. The 31 societies presently affiliated with NFSPS include ones from every region of the continental U.S., but there are 19 states currently without an affiliated society. In his new role as Membership Chair, Jim Barton is working to increase the national membership of NFSPS. I know that he will welcome suggestions of potential new affiliates.

Whatever region of the country we live in, whatever aesthetic we embrace, we poets are all makers (Greek *poiētēs*, maker) whose medium is language in all its aspects. Ours is a slow art—both in the making and in the reception. It takes a long time to write even a short poem and a long time to read one well. That slowness is necessary for the depth of engagement with language that is essential to poetry. The practice of our slow art is central to our lives and helps us to live them deeply. It is what we share at our state and national reunions, what brings us together in fellowship.