

WISCONSIN
FELLOWSHIP
OF POETS

wfop.org

WINTER 2014

Museletter



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Next Issue Deadline:
FEBRUARY 1, 2015

President's Message

Everyone who attended had a great time at our Fall Conference in Stevens Point October 24–25. People loved the Emily Dickinson dinner theater performance!

Also at the Conference, in recognition of their contributions to WFOP and Wisconsin Poetry, Lifetime Memberships were conferred on **Robin Chapman, Peter Piaskoski, Barb Cranford, and Phyllis Wax**. Congratulations and thanks to all four of you!

At the conference, copies of the schedule were available for our 65th Anniversary Conference next June. You can check out the lineup at wfop.org/confrncs/65conf.html! It's going to be a great time, a 3-day event with tons of cool speakers and workshops, and plenty of time for fellowship, book fair, and visiting with friends!

Did I mention there's FREE REGISTRATION at all of our conferences for 1st-time attendees and students? We do need to charge for meals, however.

I'd like to extend a warm thanks and well-done to WFOP Conference Coordinator **Erik Richardson** for his sterling service over the past couple of years! If you think you might be interested in interning for the job, please contact me.

The board voted to honor our annual \$500 commitment in support of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Fund for 2015. In August a second \$100 mini-grant was awarded to Messiah Church, Washburn, for a Christmas Concert/chapbook/poetry reading. WFOP members **Deanne** and **Steve Yost** are the coordinators, and in September we gave a \$50 mini-grant to help fund awards at a poetry slam at MORE Healthy Foods in Montello, which conducts a regular open mike series. Regional VP **Jim Pollock** and past Poet Laureate Bruce **Dethlefsen** both lent their help and expertise to make the event a success! About 20 people attended and 15 participated. The store now has WFOP Membership forms.

Regional VP **Jim Pollock** also used part of his region's annual \$200 budget to help sponsor a workshop by Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Max Garland** at the Woodson Art Museum in Wausau December 6.

In October we gave a \$100 mini-grant to **Barb Cranford's** Original Voice reading series in Coloma to help with poets' travel expenses. For several years, the series has presented a featured artist followed by an open mike every 2nd Wednesday, Feb–Nov. This is the 2nd such grant we've awarded Barb.

During its Oct. 24th meeting, the WFOP Board voted to recommend a change to the General Membership to the by-laws regarding membership, designed to prevent non-paying members from remaining on the membership roster for as long as two years, and from receiving benefits (like print copies of the *Museletter*, which cost the organization money) and participating in the Fellowship's activities. At the next General Membership meeting (the 65th Anniversary Conference in June) the by-law will be presented for a vote. The new definition of membership will be from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31; unpaid members will be dropped after Feb. 15th. Members renewing at or before the Fall Conference are

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Remember ...

Notify the editor of e-mail or postal address changes.

The .pdf link is sent before the print *Museletter*; sign up for e-mail instead and you'll also save the Fellowship money!

To be added to the weekly WFOP Events e-mail list, notify muselettereditor@gmail.com

Welcome!

*to the new members of
WFOP who have joined
since the Fall 2014 Issue:*

Janet Wullner-Faiss Cloak,
Appleton
Kim Johnson-Bair, Madison
Shawn Igers, Wausau
Julie Kouba, Eau Claire
John Olski, Appleton
Isabel A. Ries, Milwaukee
Kris Rued-Clark, Appleton
Joanne Adragna Shird,
LaFarge
Robert Vaughan, River Hills

Join WFOP at
wfop.org/join.html

renewing for the current year only. New members joining at or after the Fall Conference will receive membership for that year and for the next year.

Membership in the WFOP comes with many wonderful benefits. Members can vote, hold office, enter the Triad Contest, have a webpage, receive the member discount at the twice-yearly conferences, and receive the *Museletter* mailed or e-mailed, free! Membership dues also underwrite the costs of producing the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*, cover contest expenses, keep conference costs affordable for everyone, and help poetry efforts throughout the state through contributions to the Wisconsin Poet Laureate and small grants to poetry projects organized by schools, communities and poets. Your dues help keep poetry alive in Wisconsin!

Renewals are due by December 31st each year. Please renew today, so that you can continue receiving ALL of the benefits of membership. You can do so through PayPal at wfop.org/store or by sending a check payable to WFOP to **Colleen Frentzel, Treasurer, 229 Ba Wood Lane, Janesville, WI 53545**. Annual dues are now \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. Our 5-for-4 deal: pay \$120 for 4 years and the 5th year is free! If you can't afford to renew this year, contact your Regional VP, the Membership Chair, or myself for assistance.

Best Wishes for Winter!

—MIKE

What's Happening in Your Region?

All events free and open to the public unless stated otherwise.

CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VP: Sarah Gilbert, pses@sbcglobal.net

Erin Heiling is the contact for poetry submissions to *The Scene: Oshkosh*. Send to artsy_erin@yahoo.com.

EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Gary Busha has published *Along the Shore*, the seventh of the Wolfsong Press Little Chapbooks. To order this or others in the series, contact Gary: gbusha@wi.rr.com

Sylvia Cavanaugh's poem, "Mermaid Tattoo Becomes Enmeshed in Her Relationship," won First Prize in the Michigan Poetry Society's ekphrastic category, and third in Tanka, in their 2014 competition.

CJ Muchhala, Shorewood, had poems in *Nimrod* Summer 2014, *Up to the Cottage* from Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf, 2014, *Echolocations: Poets Map Madison* (Cowfeather Press, 2013), *Verse Wisconsin Online* (Oct. 2013), and the *Ariel Project Anthology*.

Georgia Ressmeyer has a new full-length poetry book, *Waiting to Sail* (2014, Black River Press). See "Publications by Our Members" to order.

Katarzyna Rygasiewicz (Kat) of Racine has a lesbos poem, "Venus and Mars Dialyze," in the *Haight-Ashbury Literary Journal*; a menopausal mind-expansion poem, "Urban-File Baba Yaga," in Colorado Green Fuse Community's 10th-anniversary anthology; a wedding-vow poem, "As the Universe Configures Us," on a NJ Travelling Poets marriage-vow website; and an epic poem of women's fluids lost on the city bus, complete with chorus, "Women, !Oh, Horror! On the Run," for *Wisconsin Voice*.

The annual East Region reading from the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* was held November 1 in the Rare Books

Room of the Milwaukee Central Library.

Several WFOP members from the East Region participated in workshops and readings at the Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books at UW-Waukesha November 7–8. **Paula Anderson, Mary Jo Balistreri, Kathy Giorgio, Janet Leahy, Katy Phillips, Peggy Rozga, Paula Schulz, Jessic Slavin** and **Ed Werstein** were among panelists representing the East Region.

Mary Jo Balistreri, Janet Leahy and **Paula Schulz** read at the After-Words Bookstore, Chicago, as part of a poetry celebration sponsored by Jayne Jaudon Ferrer of YourDailyPoem.com. Janet's poems "It is Broken" and "Erasing History" and Paula's "I Am" were recently published on *New Verse News*. **Mary Jo Balistreri, Katy Phillips** and **Paula Schulz** have poems in Chuffed Buff Books *Seasonal Words #2*. **Paula Schulz** won first place in the Ekphrastic Challenge offered by *Rattle* with "The Writing Spider."

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Jim Pollock, jimpollock@charter.net

Our president **Mike Kriesel** was a finalist for the ABZ First Book Prize.

Fourth Thursday Open Mic Poetry Series every month (except Thanksgiving) at Church of the Intercession, 1417 Church St., Stevens Point, 7–8:30 PM. All types of poetry welcome. Light refreshments. To be a featured poet, contact Jim Pollock, 715-295-9979.

Kristin's Riverwalk Restaurant, Clark St., Stevens Point, offers a poetry open mic every Tuesday, 7 PM with a stage, a mike and a bar. No sign-up, just show up.

Barb Cranford conducted a poetry workshop on November 8 at her home in the Big Flat woods. Cranford has held over 50 workshops, with many students going on to publish and win awards. Barb was recently awarded

Life membership in WFOP for her efforts and longevity.

Patricia Williams, Iola, has poems in *Fox City Review*, *Camel Saloon*, *Lake City Lights*, *Third Wednesday*, *Re/Verse*, *Avocet Weekly*, and *The Georgia Poetry Anthology* (Negative Capability Press). Her poem “Two Great Lakes” appears in the 2014–15 *Wisconsin DNR Office of the Great Lakes Calendar* and as a broadside on the DNR website.

Kurt Luchs, **Ko Shin Bob Hanson**, and **Bruce Dethlefsen** were featured poets during the Festival of India “Joy of Poetry” at Stevens Point High School October 11. Luchs was one of the featured readers at Mystery to Me bookshop November poetry reading in Madison.

Elmae Passineau, Wausau, has two poems, “The Ones That Got Away” and “The Snowman,” in the 2014 *Goose River Anthology*.

Joan Wiese Johannes had poems in *Star*Line*, the *Ariel Project*, and the anthology *Family Blessings*.

Jeffrey and **Joan Johannes** were the featured readers for November at Harmony Café in Appleton. Jeffrey was also the Coloma Hotel featured reader in September. They both attended the Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival in Newark in October.

Karla Huston was the October featured poet at Coloma Original Voices.

Lincoln Hartford presented poems and photos describing the life and times of poet Dylan Thomas at the autumn meeting of the Cambrian Heritage Society of Madison. The poems of Thomas are on display throughout the year. Hartford will also present Thursday, December 1, 6 PM at the Hatch Memorial Library, Mauston.

A poetry reading and reception with **Max Garland**, Wisconsin Poet Laureate, Woodson Art Museum, Friday, December 5, 5–7 p.m. Garland will read and discuss his writing. Open mic with refreshments follows. On Saturday, December 6, 10–3 PM, Max Garland will lead a poetry-writing workshop at the museum. The workshop is free, but call the Woodson Museum at 715-845-7010 to register. Bring a bag lunch.

NORTHWEST

VP: Jude Generaux, heyjudegx@gmail.com

Kristie Kringle will be at Toad House in Ladysmith Sunday, November 9, 2:30–4 pm. She will read from and sign her books *Chase the Blues Away with a Quote-a-Day* and *Gems Amongst the Stones*. See toadhouse.info.

Rob Ganson's poems “Swimming With Whales” and “Lovekilldie” and a poet's profile appeared in *Aqueous* #6, and he read at the launch party for the issue.

Diana Randolph was one of the featured poets for the 2015 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* reading at Drummond Public Library in September and at the November open

reading at Art Market 63 in Cable, coordinating both readings with Jan Chronister. Diana had a poem accepted for *The Ariel Project*, an anthology of poetry and art with the theme of “change,” made possible by a Chequamegon Bay Arts Council (CBAC) grant, also sponsored by WFOP.

Redbery Books in Cable holds its annual Author's Market in December; [read@redberybooks.com](mailto:red@redberybooks.com) for details.

Jude Generaux attended the Washington Island Lit Fest in October and was a reader at the annual dinner.

Judith Barisonzi will be one of the judges for the first annual Norbert Blei Literary Award, to be presented at Washington Island's Literary Fest in September 2015.

Peggy Trojan read at Second Sunday in Drummond. Her poems “Condolence” was published by *Boston Literary Magazine*, “Summer Green” placed second in the September Wilda Morris Poetry Challenge, two poems were published in *Three Line Poetry*, and “Return Trip” was published on Little Eagle's *Re/Verse*.

Jan Chronister had three poems accepted for the upcoming *Silly Tree Anthology*; two composed entirely of words “lifted” from *The Great Gatsby* will appear in an anthology to be published by Silver Birch Press, celebrating the 90th anniversary of the publication of the novel. Jan invites writers and artists in the qualifying counties of northwestern Wisconsin to submit to the *Thunderbird Review*. Request guidelines from anthology@fdltcc.edu.

The first annual Norbert Blei Literary Award, announced by Jude at the Washington Island Lit Fest, will be given in September 2015; short story and poetry categories. truebloodpac.com/norbert-blei-literary-award

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigw@att.net

New publications: **Annette Grunseth** (Green Bay) and **Janet Taliaferro** (Leesburg, VA) were both published in the *Ariel Anthology*. **Kathryn Gahl** (Two Rivers) was published in the November *Amarillo Bay*. **Nancy Austin** (Hazelhurst) was published in *Midwestern Gothic* and *Adanna Literary Journal*. **Tori Grant Welhouse** has three poems in the latest issue of *Rivet Journal*.

B.J. Best has launched a new literary journal, *Portage Magazine*, a review of upper Midwestern writing, art & culture, open for submissions until Dec. 1 for issue 1. B.J. is the faculty advisor; it will be managed by Carroll University students. portagemagazine.org/submissions/

Poetry reading on last Thursday of every month, 6 PM, at The Reader's Loft, Green Bay (readersloft.com).

houseofthetomato.com is a poetry showcase curated by **Tori Grant Welhouse**; submissions to torigw@att.net.

SOUTH CENTRAL

VP: **James P. Roberts**, jrob52162@aol.com

James P. Roberts, **Kimberly A. Blanchette** and **Linda Schumacher** read at the VOICE:OVER Poetry Open Mike at the Masonic Temple in Edgerton September 12.

Lisa Marie Brodsky read from her collection *Motherlung* at Arcadia Books in Spring Green September 21 and at the book launch at Mystery To Me August 1.

Rita Mae Reese read at the Pinney Branch Library Mini-Book Festival in Madison September 27.

Richard Roe featured at the first Madtown Poetry Open Mike, Mother Fool's Coffeehouse, Madison, October 3. Other readers were **James P. Roberts**, **Lisa Marie Brodsky**, **Robin Chapman**, and **F.J. Bergmann**.

The *Calendar* reading at A Room Of One's Own, Madison, Oct. 5 included **Suzanne Bergen**, **F.J. Bergmann**, **Coral Bishop**, **T.A. Cullen**, **Jody Curley**, **Suzy Godwin**, **Joan Halpin**, **Ronnie Hess**, **Patricia Jameson**, **Martha Kaplan**, **Norman Leer**, **Brenda Lempp**, **Gillian Nevers**, **Richard Merelman**, **Gary Powell**, **Fran Rall**, **James P. Roberts**, **Richard Roe**, **Mary C. Rowin**, **Shoshauna Shy**, **Sandy Stark**, **Richard Swanson**, **Jeanie Tomasko**, **Steve Tomasko**, **Wendy Vardaman**, **Beth Ann Workmaster**, **Yvonne Yahnke**, and **Judith Zukerman**.

Participating in the Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison, October 16–19, were **Robin Chapman**, **Dion Kempthorne**, **Andrea Potos**, **Eve Robillard**, **Katrin Talbot**, **Jeanie Tomasko**, and **Rosemary Zurlo-Cuva**.

Andrea Potos read from her new poetry collection *New Girl* August 7 at Mystery To Me, Madison.

Tim Walsh has a new poetry collection, *The Book Of Arabella*, from Parallel Press.

Katrin Talbot has a new chapbook, *Noun'd, vb.*, from Dancing Girl Press.

Margaret Benbow had a poem reprinted in *The Georgia Review*.

Lisa Cihlar had two prose poems in *Convergence*.

Guy Thorvaldsen, Madison, has "In Praise of Older Women" and "The first time I touched a vagina" in the *Perfume River Poetry Review*: His poem "The Last Child Arrives" is in the Fall/Winter *The Aurorean*.

Mary C. Rowin had two poems in *Solitary Plover*, one this month in *Zo Magazine*, and has a poem in *The Ariel Project*.

F.J. Bergmann has recent poems "Suggestion" on onesentencepoems.com, "Questioning" on poemsoncrime.blogspot.com, "Lost" on eyetothetelescope.org, "Why We Don't Trust Them" in *Dreams and Nightmares*, and won 2nd place in the 2014 SFPA Poetry Contest: sfpoetry.com/contests/14contest.html. She will teach a poetry

workshop, "Playing with the Write Brain," at the Monroe St. Public Library in Madison Wednesday, January 14, 6:30–8:30 pm.

WEST CENTRAL

VP: **Sandra Lindow**, lindowleaf@gmail.com

October 13–23, the 15th Annual Chippewa Valley Book Festival was well attended. Oct. 17, the Nadine S. St. Louis Memorial Poetry Reading featured **Roberta Hill** and **Dasha Kelly**. October 24–25, **Sandra Lindow** hosted the Fall Conference in Stevens Point. The Emily Dickinson reenactment and the John Walser journaling presentation were particularly well received. Poetry about community and pictures of poetry events can be sent to **Sandra Lindow** for possible publication in a poetry quilt broadside. **Jeannie Roberts'** "Front Porch" is available online in *Quill and Parchment* 161. The Driftless Poetry group will meet November 22 at Java Vino, Losey Blvd. and Jackson. All are welcome. Contact David Blackey for more information. The Writers' Group at the Eau Claire Memorial Library continues to meet the first Thursday of each month; contact **Sandra Lindow**.

2016 WISCONSIN POETS' CALENDAR GUIDELINES

Editors: *Brenda Lempp and Coral Bishop*

Send us your best poems inspired by the theme "Shadows and Reflections." The seasons, nature, holidays, life in Wisconsin or perhaps a Wisconsin poet who has inspired you are all possibilities.

- Poets must be at least 18, a resident of Wisconsin or have a close connection to Wisconsin.
- Submit 1–3 poems. Shorter poems are more likely to be accepted. No poems longer than 34 lines.
- E-mail submissions strongly preferred; send to: 2016Calendar@gmail.com
- Please paste poems into body of e-mail unless format is unusual; then send as attachment;.doc, .docx, or .rtf only. Put all poems in one document.
- Only original and unpublished work accepted.
- Include your name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address, and a short bio. We will only accept the first 30 words of your bio, so keep it short.
- Send postal mail submissions to:

Brenda Lempp
41 N Yellowstone Dr
Madison WI 53705

Deadline: DECEMBER 15, 2014

Markets

GILLIAN NEVERS • 2022 JEFFERSON ST • MADISON WI 53711 • NEVERSGILLIAN@GMAIL.COM

LOOKING AT MARKETS

More on the subject of not receiving complimentary copies of anthologies a poet's work appears in ...

WFOP member **Lorelee Sienkowski** was concerned after reading the Markets column (Spring 2014) in which some members were unhappy that they did not receive a contributors' copy of an anthology, so she wrote to Deborah Benner, the editor of *Goose River Anthology*, saying: "Before I submit again, I want to first thank you for the opportunities you have given us in the past. This year, though, I do have a couple of questions. There's been a discussion among members of Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets about the fact that you do not compensate your authors with a complimentary copy; one author was quite upset with that policy. My feeling is that you would not stay in business long if you gave away a \$15 book for the sake of a single poem in it, but that's what "business" has done to my thinking, but I would like to listen to your side as well, and then, may I share it with the membership through the Museletter where the discussion occurred?"

Below, with permission, is Deborah Benner's response to Lorelee's question.

"Thank you for your letter and I welcome the chance to give my side of the story....

"I certainly do apologize that we cannot give away free copies just because someone is in the anthology. We try to compensate by paying royalties. If someone works hard to sell books which they can purchase with up to a 40% discount, and an additional 10% royalty, they have the opportunity to make some money on their writing. For example, one of our authors sent in labels of people who knew her and wound up selling over 20 single copies in paperback and a few hardcovers. Another author purchased 30 paperbacks at a 40% discount to resell (most of them) at a good profit. Whether writers like to look at it this way or not, selling books is a business. I have been publishing anthologies since 1985. I began with another company and started Goose River Press in 1999—publishing at least one anthology per year. There is no way that a small press can stay in business if they give away their books. Poetry is especially hard to market so the influence and the support of the author is vital.

"We do not promise or in any way say that an author will receive a free copy. The author who was upset, should not have submitted [...]

"Best wishes,

"Deborah J. Benner, Goose River Press"

I want to thank Lorelee for initiating contact with Brenner. I doubt that she intended her letter to also be a reminder to me that I probably should have contacted Brenner to get her side of the story. Intended or not, I need to be more diligent in the future.

UNRESPONSIVE POETRY JOURNAL EDITORS

A few weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a friend in which he bemoaned the fact that in his experience, as well as that of other poets of his acquaintance, many poetry journal editors are "unresponsive to legitimate inquires about submitted work; either willfully or unintentionally misleading about their schedules and their adherence to their own stated submission guidelines as to the dates of publication for their journals and the times in which submitters should expect responses." My friend was clear that he was referring to the editorial process, not the editorial judgement of submissions or manuscripts, but he couldn't help but think that such practices may, to a degree, affect content. He also expressed concern that this pattern in the editorial process "turns what could be a more cooperative relationship between editors and contributors into an adversarial relationship."

I want to open this column up to a discussion on this subject. I also want to expand the conversation beyond the issues of unresponsiveness on the part of some editors and their staff and the appearance of an arbitrary adherence to guidelines and schedules. I cannot do that without your input. Let me know about your experience with editors responding, or not responding, to your inquiries about the status of publication. How does it make you feel when they don't get back to you? Angry? Incredulous? Blown-off? Resigned, because this is just the way it is? What do you really think about the explanations/excuses editors give when one actually hears from them? What is it like to have your poem, or poems, languishing in publication limbo—especially, when you only learned publication was delayed after you wrote to ask what was going on? Do you think there should be a common set of standards regarding the editorial process? Should editors be as accountable to poets—the writers who give them material to "edit" and publish—as poets seem to be expected to be to them? Really, what would happen if poets decided to withhold their work?

Please send thoughts, experiences (good and bad) and suggestions regarding this issue to neversgillian@gmail.com. Please get your comments to me by January 15.

WHERE MEMBERS ARE PUBLISHING and NEW MARKETS
Although our members poems continue to appear in a variety of print and online publications, I've taken up too much space to allow me to mention them in this issue. As for new markets ... **B.J. Best** has launched a new literary journal, *Portage*, a review of upper Midwestern writing, art & culture. The magazine is open for submissions until December 1 for their first issue. B.J. is the faculty advisor, and the magazine will be managed by Carroll University students. portagemagazine.org/submissions/

CELEBRATE THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF WFOP

June, 5, 6, and 7, Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI. Keynote poet, Dorianne Laux. The schedule is still tentative; please send suggestions to Michael Belongie at poetpow@charter.net. Changes will be posted on the web page and in the *Museletter*. Details at wfop.org/confnrcs/65conf.html

Reserve rooms directly with the Conference Center. \$125 per night; suites \$150; cutoff for this block of rooms is April 10, 2015. Call 920-294-3323 and mention the WFOP event.

\$75 registration fee including Sat. and Sun. meals will be processed later. Cash bar at the Saturday night banquet. Alcohol is not permitted to be brought onto campus.

The Green Lake Conference Center is on a thousand acres overlooking the deepest lake in Wisconsin. permitting a mini-vacation in addition to a memorable 65th celebration.

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Dig through your WFOP files and find important items that belong in the Archives. This is especially important before the 65th celebration. Send items to:

Lewis Bosworth
2829 Barlow Street
Madison, WI 53705-3621

Mailing costs can be reimbursed by WFOP. If you're in or near Madison, you can arrange to drop them off.

At the Fall Conference, many members asked how I "keep up" in the world of poetry. I'm a devoted member of PLATO, the Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization, an affiliate of UW-Madison Continuing Studies. Anchored in Madison, PLATO offers over 40 courses each semester on almost as many topics.

Founded over 25 years ago, PLATO originally met the educational needs of senior citizens, but now reaches out to younger members of the community as well. PLATO frequently offers poetry courses, both literature and creative writing. But we poets can also study current politics, jazz, biography, drama, physics, and many other subjects. Check it out: plato.mhwebstaging.com.

Your Archivist, Lewis Bosworth

General Announcements

WRITE YOUR MADISON Share your vision(s) of the city with Madison's Poets Laureate, Cowfeather Press, and Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA) via Twitter using #WriteYourMadison or email cowfeather@versewisconsin.org. Add #DigiWriMo during November to share. Tweets **sent by February 15** will contribute to a group collage poem. Writers don't need to be in Madison. All entries will also be part of a "word salad" for poets invited by MMoCA to compose new work as part of a Madison-related installation. Reading at MMoCA March 6. Questions? @wendylvardaman or cowfeather@versewisconsin.org. Visit MMoCA to learn more about *Madison: A Cooperative Almanac*, "a social landscape of Madison," by Eric and Heather ChanSchatz. Poems may be posted over the year on cowfeather.org. Use #WriteYourMadison to advertise Madison poetry events, post links to or poems about Madison as video or jpg, or talk poetry in Madison through 2015.

BUS LINES 2014-2015 Call for 1-3 short poems from Madison-area students & adults: "Write Your Madison," Deadline January 31, 2015. Selected work will appear in Metro Transit materials. Guidelines at [Madison Metro: cityofmadison.com/metro/poetry/](http://MadisonMetro.com/cityofmadison.com/metro/poetry/)

.....
Fall conference photos posted at wfop.org/news.html

Publications by Our Members

Wolfsong announces *Along the Short and Network of Wires*, mini-chapbooks by **Gary C. Busha**. Query gbusha@wi.rr.com if interested.

* * *

Woodland Pattern Books of Milwaukee has published a chapbook, *Viaticum*, by **Brent Christianson** of Madison, the first in Woodland Pattern Books' imprint tender A tinder.

* * *

I Didn't Know There Were Latinos in Wisconsin: Three Decades of Hispanic Writing, edited by Oscar Mireles (Cowfeather Press, 2014) \$20

Order from cowfeatherpress.org/mireles.html or Amazon

* * *

Waiting to Sail by **Georgia Ressimeyer**

(Black River Press, 2014) \$15

Order from BlackRiverPress.com

or from Georgia: gjressmeyer@sbcglobal.net

717 Grand Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53083

WFOP POETRY QUILT CONTEST DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2014

THEME: COMMUNITY

Entries for this contest should focus on community as an influence for poetry. The quilt will feature poems that show the poet's connection and response to others rather than poems that are created by the solitary poet in nature. Think about how the arts in your community are affected by your community's traditions, quirks, qualities, and by the people who live there. Open to anyone with Wisconsin ties. Submit up to three poems of 24 lines or fewer.

Winners will receive cash awards (\$100, \$50, \$25) as well as being printed on the 65th Anniversary Poetry Quilt, along with pictures from the Fellowship's history.

Judged by award-winning poet **John C. Rezmerski**, who taught creative writing, journalism, storytelling, science fiction, and linguistics for 35 years at Gustavus Adolphus College. He has received a National Foundation for the Arts fellowship, the Rhysling Award for science fiction poetry, the Devins Award for poetry, and served a

term as Poet Laureate of the League of Minnesota Poets.

The Poetry Quilt contest opened September 1st; entries must be received by December 15th. Please send poetry submissions and/or WFOP-history-related pictures to Sandra Lindow at lindowleaf@gmail.com with "Poetry Quilt Submission" as the subject line. No need to include entry form if submitting by e-mail; paste poems into the body of the e-mail or attach as an rtf. The e-mail should include the poem titles and the poet's name, address and telephone number.

Postal submissions should include the entry form, with no identification on the poems. Send to:

Poetry Quilt Contest
Sandra Lindow, Editor
1308 16th Ave E
Menomonie WI 54751

65TH ANNIVERSARY WFOP CONTEST DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2015

WFOP will celebrate its 65th Anniversary Conference June 6-8, 2015, at the Green Lake Conference Center. Because it replaces the spring and fall conferences, the 65th Anniversary Contest will replace the Muse and Triad contests for 2015. Open only to WFOP members current on dues. (The poetry quilt contest is separate and is open to all poets with a Wisconsin connection, whether or not they are members; see above and wfop.org.)

Because the 65th Anniversary Contest is special, all members, including recent Muse or Triad winners, are eligible to enter. No specific theme; poems should be 75 lines or less and not previously published or being considered for publication. Each member may submit only one poem. There is no entry fee.

Prize amounts based on 65: 2 x 65 = \$130 for first, 1.5 x 65 = \$97.50 for second, and \$65 for third. Up to three honorable mentions will also be awarded.

Barbara Crooker will judge the 65th anniversary contest (Philip Dacey had to withdraw for health reasons). She is the recipient of the 2007 Pen and Brush Poetry Prize, the

2004 WB Yeats Society of New York Award, and the 2003 Thomas Merton Poetry of the Sacred Award. Her books include *Radiance*, winner of the 2005 Word Press First Book competition and a finalist for the 2006 Paterson Poetry Prize; *Line Dance* (2008, Word Press), winner of the 2009 Paterson Award for Literary Excellence; and *More* (2010, C&R Press). Crooker's latest book is *Gold* (2013, Cascade Books). Her poetry has been read by Garrison Keillor on *The Writer's Almanac*. She has read in the Poetry at Noon series at the Library of Congress and at the 2014 Geraldine Dodge Festival.

In order for our judge to have time to carefully read and judge the poems, the deadline for entry is February 1st. The contest opens December 15th, and the entry form is on the back of this page. Please send entry form and poem postmarked by February 1st to:

WFOP 65th Contest
c/o Jerome Jagielski
572 Berwyn Dr
Fontana WI 53125-1556

WFOP POETRY QUILT CONTEST ENTRY FORM
DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2014

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ E-Mail _____

City, State, Zip _____

The poems submitted are my original unpublished work and not under consideration elsewhere.

Signature _____ Date _____

No specific subject or form. 24 lines maximum. No identification on poem.

Title: _____

First Line: _____

Title: _____

First Line: _____

Title: _____

First Line: _____



WFOP 65th ANNIVERSARY CONTEST ENTRY FORM
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2015

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ E-Mail _____

City, State, Zip _____

*I am a current member of WFOP. The poem submitted is my original unpublished work
and not under consideration elsewhere.*

Signature _____ Date _____

No specific subject or form. 75 lines maximum. No identification on poem.

Title: _____

First Line: _____

WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS 2015 CHAPBOOK PRIZE CONTEST RULES

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets is dedicated to promoting poetry in Wisconsin and seeks to expand its contest offerings by honoring the best chapbook published in the previous year by a Wisconsin resident.

1. Contestant must be a Wisconsin resident 18 years of age or older. A resident is a person who maintains a permanent residence in Wisconsin or who has lived for at least six continuous months in the state during the contest year. A contestant does not need to be a member of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets.
2. The contest opens December 1, 2014. The entry form must be completed in full, included with the submission and entry fee, and postmarked by the contest DEADLINE, which is February 1, 2015.
3. Chapbooks may be entered by the author or the publisher, up to forty-seven total pages long, and published in 2014. Chapbooks may be self-published. Online chapbooks do not qualify.
4. The non-refundable entry fee is \$10 per chapbook. Mail chapbook, entry form, and check (made out to WFOP Literary Fund) to:
WFOP/chap/Dethlefsen
422 Lawrence Street
Westfield, WI 53964
5. The prizes are: First Place - \$100.00; and Second Place - \$50.00. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants a prize.
6. The contest will be judged by a writing professional who resides outside the state. This year's judge will be Joyce Brinkman, former Indiana Poet Laureate .
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the WFOP Spring Conference in June 2015. The First Place and Honorable Mention winners are invited to attend the awards presentation luncheon as guests of WFOP. The winners will be published in the WFOP *Museletter* and at wfop.org.
8. The First Place winner of the WFOP Chapbook Prize will be ineligible to enter that contest again for three years. Plagiarism disqualifies the contestant.
9. The WFOP is not responsible for lost books. Do not send a SASE. Entries will not be returned and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow any of the above rules.
10. Author retains all rights to his/her work.
11. Address questions to Bruce Dethlefsen: bpdethlefsen@gmail.com.

About Your Membership

Renewal payments are due December 31st each year. Your membership expires at the end of the year shown on the *Museletter* mailing label. To receive e-mailed reminder notices, make sure we have your current e-mail address: send to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com.

No double addresses for bulk mail anymore; if you winter or summer elsewhere, please let us know which is your main address; your mail must be sent first class, which forwards. We are charged for all returned bulk mail.

Signing up for e-mail-only *Museletter* delivery (a .pdf link, where you can download or read online) not only saves WFOP money but arrives about 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify wfopmuseletter@gmail.com to opt out of print delivery.

The WFOP Events weekly e-mailing is a separate opt-in list. If you wish to receive it, notify wfopmuseletter@gmail.com. **DO NOT** send social media invites (e.g., LinkedIn, FB) to this address.

**WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS
2015 CHAPBOOK PRIZE CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

Poet's Name _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapbook Title _____

Publisher and Date (month and year) _____

CHOOSE AND SIGN ONE:

___ I am a Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older. The chapbook I am submitting is my own original work.

Signature _____ Date _____

___ As publisher, I am submitting this chapbook for _____, who, to my knowledge, is a Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older, and contains his/her original work.

Signature _____ Date _____

[Optional] Newspaper (name and address) to be notified if this chapbook is chosen as First Place or Second Place

Enclose published chapbook, entry form and fee (\$10 per chapbook; make check payable to "WFOP Literary Fund").

Mail entry to: **WFOP/chap/Dethlefsen**
422 Lawrence Street
Westfield, WI 53964

DEADLINE (postmarked by): February 1, 2015. This form may be reproduced.

Membership Renewal Form

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT. Pay 2015 dues before January 1. The expiration follows your name on the mailing label—if it's not P, L or a number larger than 14, you need to renew. Dues MUST be current to enter WFOP contests, to be published in the *Museletter*, and to have a personal poet page on the WFOP website.

Renew or join online: wfop.org/store/

or mail to: Colleen Frentzel, 229 Ba Wood Lane, Janesville WI 53545.

Please make checks payable to: WFOP

Active \$30.00

Student \$15.00

***** 5 for 4 Deal *****

\$120 paid now will give
5 years of membership
for the price of 4! Save \$30!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

E-mail address _____



Willing to help WFOP save \$?
Check to get *Museletter* via e-mail.

WFOP Student Poetry Contest printable poster at wfop.org/contests/15StudentContestPoster.pdf. Please take copies to your local school, give them to English teachers, post at your coffee shop, or give to your kids for their 6th–12th-grade friends. Deadline January 17. Questions to coordinator, Jeanie Tomasko, at wisstudentpoetrycontest@gmail.com

POETRY CRITIQUE GROUPS

Looking for a poetry critique group to join? Contact your regional VP to see what's available. Is your online or live poetry crit group open to new members? If so, send info to the *Museletter* editor for the Events e-mail.

THE COUNCIL FOR WISCONSIN WRITERS invites Wisconsin writers published in 2014 to enter contests for book-length fiction, nonfiction and poetry; short fiction and nonfiction; five poems; and children's literature. (Outdoor writing may now be submitted as long or short non-fiction). First-place winners receive \$500 and a weeks' residency at Shake Rag Alley Center for Arts and Crafts in Mineral Point. Contests close January 31, 2015 (postmarked). Authors must be current Wisconsin residents. \$20 entry fee (\$15 for members of CWW). Membership is not required. Out-of-state judges will make the selections. Awards banquet at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee in May 2015. Links to specific guidelines, entry forms, judge's bios, and important additional information: wiswriters.org/rules.htm.

Poems *BY* Our Membership

—JEANIE TOMASKO, EDITOR

KYOTO SCISSORS

In the forest of my sewing box
that has grown vines over the years
threads unwind and entwine
where even a thimble can disappear
and be MIA for a decade
I hide in plain sight my silver scissors
from a hundred-yen store in Japan
only I knowing that the handles
fold upward for what reason I can't
divine except for the pleasure
of having this secret.

—Karen Loeb, *Eau Claire*

OFFSHORE SAN JOSÉ ROCK FUERTE AMADOR, PANAMÁ

A slab of Roquefort
with crumbly sides,
presented on a sunlit
silver plate of sea, garnished
with pitted ripe olive pebbles,
sampled by gourmet gulls.

—Marilyn Zelke Windau, *Sheboygan Falls*

INUKSUIT STAND

It's the stance, the frozen-in-silhouette sort,
the stand-in-line kind that happens at Walmart;
it's the endless queue, where you feel lithoid,
stone-like, waiting to break this barren stare,
to move forward, to assume your turn. But
until then, you're feeling Inuit-ancient, when
you imagine Alaska or Greenland, where
you see treeless landscapes with hand-laid
structures, rock cairns fused with lichen—
inuksuit transcending tundra, breaking barren
spaces, filling frozen regions with silhouette.
And while you imagine, you recall how each
inuksuk served a purpose, an aim higher than
your current goal of consumer, in a line of
other consumers waiting to check out. Fused
with lichen, upon this commercial landscape,
we stand purposeless as neither taggers
of travel routes, nor markers of hunting grounds,
flaggers of food or weapon reserves, not even
as symbolic storytellers. Nope. We stand
as practitioners of Walmart's "save money, live
better" slogan, where together, we—rock on.

—Jeannie E. Roberts, *Chippewa Falls*

ALONG LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN: IN THE MONTHS AFTER KATRINA

I find a garden of naked Barbie dolls
left lying on their backs, feet together in the middle
like swimmers in water ballet
forming a circle of meditation.

Do they think of the child who left them
under the edge of the cottage porch
sheltered by the floor five feet above,
not knowing she was never
coming back to get them?

Around them, boats have run up in piles,
splintered, carried inland
for blocks, the yacht club burned,
the lighthouse leaning east
like an aquatic Pisa, the laughing gulls
silent as they walk back and forth
in front of the dolls, embroidering
the sand in a fancy zig-zag pattern.

Next to them, like a garden statue,
a plastic horse, handsome as only
a horse can be, has hung her head
as if she is oh so tired of water
everywhere. I leave them where they are.

—*Peg Lauber, Eau Claire*

NIGHT SKY OVER INDIA

iridescent orange pours
over clouds, the sea

then blackness
and my sleep made
restless by the pitch
and roll of this amazing
ship revealed in starlight
flashes to sleepless eyes below
my slow awakening to bangles
scattered in the dark
the seduction of their glow

—*CJ Muchala,
Shorewood*

UNKEPT PROMISE TO A BOG MAN AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM, IRELAND

I want to apologize
for this disturbance to your privacy;
I want to blame your unearthing
on something called science,
on technicians whose job it was
to place you here, glassed-in
and stationed in the path
of the visiting curious.

They were acting for all of us,
ordinary folk who want to see
what happens to a man encased
in sedge and sphagnum
through the passing of slow,
deep centuries. Standing beside
your char-black body, I plot
a proper burial, a re-interment
for the once-buried who lost his shroud
of turf to the glare of procession.

Under cover of darkness, bog man,
I'll steal you away, carry you
on my back to the peaty element
that first swaddled you.
There I'll release you, ease you down
into the residue of your wild Irish dreams.

—*Jeri McCormick, Madison*

SUNRISES THAT LEAVE YOU SPEECHLESS

My son finally found a place in the foothills he can afford:
a double-wide on ten acres of scrub oak and cholla cactus
at the end of twelve miles of dirt road.
The nearest neighbor, in a mobile home you can't see from here,
warned him about rattlesnakes.
The front porch view scans a vast arc of rusty prairie
creased in the middle by a thin black strip of highway.
Water gets trucked in once a week.
As I pull up beside the carport (no garage) he bounds down the front steps,
leans in the passenger-side window and grins.
"First thing," he says, "I'll show you around. This place is one sweet dream."

—*Bill McConnell, Denver CO*

FLYING OVER FRANCE

Over green fields I gaze down and cannot
begin to weigh the blood that soaked
this ancient soil, Crécy and Agincourt,
Vimy Ridge and Belleau Wood, the miles
of shingle beach, or sand, the cold, dense
Ardennes forest front.

I read, I studied, I listened to three
generations' tales, but from the air
I can only see criss-cross lines of road
and rail, river and chateaux. Peace up here,
never war. Unreal to me, that fields once
burned while legions marched, that skies
like mine were once thick with flack.

—*Yvette Viets Flaten, Eau Claire*

AM. PEEPING TOM ON HOLIDAY OCT. '73

One white swan gliding on a pond—opened to me
by a portal through blackberry thicket—
summoned in me a whole—a little o in Sussex—
a complete world of being in one aah moment.

Cows and grass fenced—a sandwich/gift stand
across the road—at the Stonehenge rockpiles—
would not give this aah, ah hah! moment.

A salmon tie clasp—the concept and craftsmanship—
at an Inverness gift shop came close. An oh.

Wooly sheep and green hills smack dab in Edinburgh—
that prim city—with a Loch Catharine to boot—gave more
dada-istic surprise—a Toody ooh!ooh!—rather than aah.

Black minstrel show—jolly strutting black-faces picking
Stephen Foster darkie songs—oh! Mr. Bones!—in London—
was merely enjoyable without conscience.

Still another ooh!ooh! in the Victoria & Albert—
all the tortures imaginable of St. Barbara the Syrian
delectably cut in miniature as altarpiece from dead
elephant tusk—ivory without conscience.

Taking a swan dive in no great beauty—Spiro
Agnew—no longer veep—was announced officially
fallen—as I crossed the Big Pond back on the return
wing to Chicago and to hoodlumism as norm.

—*Katarzyna Rygasiewicz, Racine*

COMING INTO BRATISLAVA ON THE TRAIN

Fields of mist shroud copses of birch and poplar,
empty fields at the edge of the city
where streets end at the railway station.

Stacked goods and tired warehouses
Stand apart from the passenger station.
Red tiled roofs and distant steeples
reced into the morning's gray drizzle.

The night train from Krakow to Budapest
slows, approaching Bratislava,
rain running off the rail car,
streaking windows in the overcast.

We pause for early morning folk,
passengers, too soon awake,
umbrellas overhead, rubbing sleep
from their eyes. Attendants who
move through the drizzle loading cargo.
We too are groggy, dozing on and off
like the town, not yet awake, sleepy.

—*Peter Piaskowski, Shorewood*

THE NEW MEXICAN SKY

The New Mexican sky
is not something
to be imagined,
but it is itself.

It is a blue-black color
when you look straight up—
the color, almost, of space.

It stays with you
like a burn on the skin,
like the tortured wind
today that you felt:

Something to take home
and feel for awhile
in the warm house,
to wonder about
in the undone universe.

—*Ethel Mortenson Davis,
Sturgeon Bay*

L'ARBRE DE MARIE PARLE (MARIE'S TREE SPEAKS)

My feet rest deep
in royal soil
here on Pont Neuf
in this tiny park.

I watch for my mistress,
sweet Antionette,

who came in my youth
to this island end.

She sat 'neath my branches,
then supple and thin.
We'd share our secrets
and often a song.
Now only the Seine
comes telling me stories.
My arms reach in vain
for her gentle embraces.

So sit with me now
though you're not my mistress
and tell me about her
till she sits here again.

—*Francha Barnard, Baileys Harbor*

A STUDY IN CONTRASTS MOSHI, TANZANIA 2012

A home visit while volunteering was
unusual but a great glimpse
of overwhelming welcome and courtesy.
A study in contrast . . .
tiny house, town well, shared village
bathroom, no heat or running water
but a TV and computer in the living room.

Children wear uniforms to school but
the little Muslim girl loses her hijab
while jumping rope . . . still
never misses a beat.

Learning is important, but even more
important . . . orphans cuddle close to
me at recess.

—*Doris Ann Hayes, Burlington*

SMALL OWL

The French girl in my English class
asks me how to translate *chouette*.
I reply great, she says *non*,
insists it's a bird, *un oiseau*.
I shrug.
At night I look the word up.
Chouette, small owl,
nests in buildings,
is not afraid of humans,
is a stone carving
on the side of Notre Dame Church.
Every day I walk past it
to school and back. Small owl,
the town's good luck charm.
Legend says rub it gently
with your left hand, make wishes.
So I do. It fits into my palm,
disappears, while I long for the littlest things—
to see in the dark, to stay in France,
for the young girl to grow old,
have touchstones, learn English.

—*Ronnie Hess, Madison*

MESA VERDE

A steep path winds downward
Through pine and jimson into a canyon.
Red sandstone rises on either side
Striations show where once an ocean shed its water
As the Colorado Plateau rose.
Swirling downward it sculpted these canyons
And carved caves high on the walls.
Nestled in these are the remains of a pueblo
Vacated a millennium ago.
All is empty and quiet under a hot sun.
Windows in stonewalls stare vacant
Into roofless kivas where once
People sang to their gods,
Children laughed and played,
Men hunted deer in the valley,
Raised maize on the mesa,
Looms clacked and fires crackled.
Now only a crow hops busily on paths once
Trod by these people.

—*Frankie Mengeling, Oshkosh*

LA CAPITAL

The first time I stepped
into the bowl called Mexico
it reeked of tortillas frying.

Then the air cleared
to reveal the vibrant spread—
shops flattening disks of corn,
walls husked with history,
indigenous dancing in the plaza,
sellers in every corner of the zócalo.

We ate in the House of Blue Tiles,
swayed to the Ballet Folklórico
venerated the volcano called Popo.

Then an inversion covered this bowl,
choking the weak, fogging the art.
After I left, the temblor coughed up the earth,
and the drug dealers terrorized tourists.

Modified corn and culture feed the people.
The richness I had devoured seems poisoned.
At a table far to the north my soul suffers
death by tortilla.

—*Julia Rice, Milwaukee*

FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA— ERSTWHILE UTOPIA

Alluring 1890s experiment
situated on Mobile Bay—
you charm us with
endearing southern drawls
stylish refinement
balmy climate
salty ocean air
streets abloom with petunias
mysterious narrow alley ways
New Orleans-style buildings
and massive live oaks—
alluring still today

—*Patricia Smith, Knapp*

LEAVING NEW MEXICO

One more day
of morning silence as the sun
meanders toward Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

One more day
to bounce up washboard graveled
Cabresto Creek Road in a stick-shift Toyota.

One more day
to hike the arroyo of Carson National Forest
step over deer bones, stripped by a cougar.

One more day
to see aspen trees, golden splashes
across charred Southern Rockies.

One more day
to watch the antics of Stellar's Jay
hear it squawk for fresh chicken skin.

One more day
to feel Georgia O'Keeffe's spirit,
moving across adobe-dotted vastness.

I am a stranger,
reading foreign road signs: Questa
Santo Domingo Reservation, Algodones—
for just one more day.

—*Jan H. Bosman, Woodstock IL*

SIX WORDS FROM A DORIANNE LAUX POEM:

LONELY AS A LEFTOVER THUMB

(NB: DORIANNE LAUX IS THE FEATURED SPEAKER
AT THE 2015 WFOP CONFERENCE IN JUNE.)

Use all of these words in a poem: *thumb, silver, twelve, window, eddies, leftover*. Any form, 24-line limit.

Send poem to: jeancarsten@gmail.com

Or snailmail to:

Jeanie Tomasko
6725 Century Ave
Middleton WI 53562

DEADLINE: JANUARY 25

WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS
W5679 STATE ROAD 60
POYNETTE WI 54955
WFOP.ORG

Return Service Requested.

ON AUTHORS' RIDGE, SLEEPY HOLLOW CEMETERY, CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

The simple headstone of Henry David Thoreau, which is hardly larger than a sheet of paper, compresses the message of his life into one short word:

H E N R Y

He shed property, conformity, bondage to the past, lived free, died a simple death, now rests in the company of trees, wildlife, and a few writer friends.

—*Georgia Ressmeyer, Sheboygan*

Next Issue Deadline:

FEBRUARY 1, 2014

send to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

WHITE NIGHTS

A gentle breeze blows
Across the balcony and
Through the open door,
Bringing with it
The sweet smell of sea air
And the sound of water
Splashing against the ship
As the full moon rises
Through the partial dusk
Of the White Night
In the land of the midnight sun
On the beautiful Baltic Sea.

—*Bob Kimberly, Bellevue WA*