

WISCONSIN  
FELLOWSHIP  
OF POETS

wfop.org

Museletter  
SPRING 2016



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**Remember ...**

Notify *in advance* of address change. Only first-class mail forwards, or the *Museletter* is returned at WFOP's expense.

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

Get the weekly Events e-mail:  
muselettereditor@gmail.com

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Advertise books, etc., to the WFOP membership in the *Museletter* or Events e-mail at the following rates:

- \$15 eighth page \$40 half page
- \$25 quarter page \$75 full page
- \$10 100 wds in Events e-mail

**Welcome!**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Roseann St. Aubin, Port Washington  
 Cynthia Crebbin, Muskego  
 Susan Firer, Whitefish Bay  
 Bob Koshin Hanson, Neshkoro  
 Barb Harwood, Oostburg  
 Ann Heyse, Baileys Harbor  
 Eileen Hocker, Madison  
 Daniel Kentowski, Milwaukee  
 Linda Kroll, Neenah  
 Kathleen Maude, River Falls  
 Freesia McKee, Milwaukee  
 Shawn Newby, Milwaukee  
 Antonio Re, Madison  
 Nydia Rojas, Middleton  
 Elizabeth A. Turner, Madison

*President's Message*

I have only been president for a few months, but already I am appreciating and amazed at all the poetry events that WFOP members are involved in. I wish I could click my heels and travel to all of them, but obviously that is impossible. However, with the price of gas being so low (for now), I hope to visit many nearby events in the future.

My vision for WFOP has always been to have the organization involved in some way with anything related to poetry in Wisconsin. This is a big goal, but it is definitely something we can all work for together. We have several tools to help us achieve this goal and many talented, dedicated people already hard at work. A shout-out to **Tori Grant Welhouse**, who spent many hours redesigning the WFOP website and adding the vital feature of a blog. We are looking for someone to oversee the blog, so please let me know if you are interested. I also want our Facebook page to be more useful and active. Please use it to post events around the state, as you send the same news to the Events mailing.

I am excited to welcome two new regional vice-presidents: **Christina Kubasta** for Central-Fox Valley and **Eva Olsgard** for the Northwest. Both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their positions and I look forward to working with them.

The first WFOP mini-grant has been awarded: \$100 to Elise Gregory of Ellsworth to conduct poetry workshops with fifth-graders in preparation for a reading and open mic that will be part of the Art Crawl held in River Falls on October 16.

The School of the Arts in Rhinelander was "sunsetted" by Continuing Studies at UW-Madison. A group in Waupaca is attempting to stage a similar week of art classes, hopefully to include several writing workshops. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact me. I am not part of the group, but I offered to help recruit poetry instructors. In a similar fashion, a group in Rhinelander has formed to possibly revive SOA as a grassroots event. I will be kept up to date on any developments. If you live in the Rhinelander area and could represent WFOP at their meetings, please let me know.

Let's establish a strong WFOP presence all around the state. Hand out brochures, show people the *Calendar* (give them away as prizes), and ask other poetry groups if WFOP can be involved. If there is an arts group or festival in your area, inquire if a poetry reading/open mic could be included in programming. April is Poetry Month—the perfect opportunity to host an event at your local library. Invite the community to come and read favorite poems, either original or by another poet. Each regional VP has funds available to help cover expenses for these types of events. Let's make WFOP the first thing that comes to mind when people in Wisconsin think of poetry.

Right now I am snowbound and grateful to not have to drive the 100-mile round-trip to school anymore. I look forward to April and the conference and seeing many of you. In the meantime, please contact me if you have any comments, questions, concerns or ideas.

All the best,  
—JAN

Join WFOP at wfop.org

## What's Happening in Your Region?

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

### CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

**VP: Christina Kubasta, ckubasta@new.rr.com**

**Jean Biegun** had poems in *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction* (Sept.), *Mused: Bella Online Literary Review* (Aug.), and 2 in *Goose River Anthology* 2016.

### EAST

**VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com**

Poets Monday continues every Monday at Linneman's, 1001 E Locust St, Milwaukee. Doors open 7:30. Open mike 8 PM. Featured reader 9 PM. See weekly Events e-mail for featured readers. \$3 cover.

UWM hosts U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Philipe Herrera! Reading Thursday, March 3, 7 PM, Union Ballroom. Craft Talk: Friday, March 4, 2 PM, Bolton Hall, Room B52

Lyrical Sanctuary, UWM's monthly open mic night, features standout spoken-word artists, live music and art, and YOU! Prior to performances, the featured poet leads a creative-writing workshop open to anyone. Dates & info: [uwm.edu/studentinvolvement/more/sociocultural/lyrical/](http://uwm.edu/studentinvolvement/more/sociocultural/lyrical/)

Playing with Poetry Workshop Monday nights 6:30–8 PM, April 4 in the Loft, April 11 and 18 in the Roca Room. No writing experience necessary, just a desire to explore and a willingness to play! Come as you are, leave as a poet! Led by Sheboygan poet Lisa Vihos, the 2015 winner of the *Wisconsin People and Ideas* poetry contest and one of the editors of *Stoneboat Literary Journal*.

*cream city* live! Semi-annual event at the UWM Hefter Center April 15. Readers include **Kimberly Blaeser** and **Susan Firer**.

The Earth Poets and Musicians will give their 29<sup>th</sup> annual performances Saturday, April 16, 8 PM, at the Coffee House, 19th and Wisconsin Ave., and Friday, April 22, 8 PM, at the Urban Ecology Center, Riverside Park, both in Milwaukee.

Poetic Pairings: How Poetry Speaks, April 25, 6:15–7:45 PM, Roca Room. The culminating event of Mead Public Library's celebration of National Poetry Month will feature "poetic pairings" of Sheboygan County luminaries and local poets, with an open mic for anyone to share original poems or old favorites. All ages welcome for an enlightening evening of verse and friendship.

**Margaret Rozga's** poem "Dressing up the Tradition" appeared in *New Verse News* during January. She also read a cento at the Indian Mound in Lake Park, Other readers included **Kimberly Blaeser**.

**Georgia Ressmeyer** won Honorable Mention

for Poetry in the 2015 Norbert Blei Literary Awards. Georgia and **Marilyn Zelke-Windau** are coordinating an ekphrastic Art/Poetry show, featuring poems by members of the Mead Public Library Poetry Circle (several of whom also belong to WFOP) and artwork by members of Sheboygan Visual Artists. The show will open March 18 at EBCO Artworks, 1201 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, 6–10 PM. The gallery will also be open for viewing 11–3 March 19–20 and April 2, 3, 9, 10.

**Sylvia Cavanaugh's** chapbook *Staring Through My Eyes* is available for preorder from Finishing Line Press. Release date is May 13.

On January 12 **Mark Zimmermann** read and discussed work from his book *Impersonations* (Pebblebrook Press, 2015) on Milwaukee Public Radio's "Lake Effect." Podcast at <http://wuwmm.com/post/lipogramtically-yours-poems-mark-zimmermann>. Zimmermann was also the featured reader at Boswell Books on January 13.

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker have formed an editorial board to oversee the creation, production, and distribution of a series of monographs on the life and work of Lorine Niedecker. The series is titled *What Region?* in homage to Niedecker's response when she learned that the UW–Milwaukee Library had catalogued her work under local or regional poetry. "What region?" Niedecker asked. "London, Wisconsin, New York?" The editorial board is Tom Montag (Managing Editor), Chuck Stebelton (Production Editor), **Nancy Rafal**, and Karl Gartung. The editors envision publishing two monographs per year, soliciting writing that is personable, insightful, and appropriate to an encounter with Lorine. The first two, 1.1, *Lorine Niedecker's Century* by Jenny Penberthy, and 1.2, *Increase Lapham and Lorine Niedecker* by Paul G. Hayes, are available at Woodland Pattern in Milwaukee.

**Angie Trudell Vasquez** will be a panelist in April 2016 at Split This Rock in Washington, DC. *Cries for Justice—Poems for Dontre Hamilton* is available from her press Art Night Books; all proceeds will be donated to the Hamilton family. It includes 20 poems by 18 Milwaukee, Racine and Madison poets.

### MID-CENTRAL

**VP: Jim Pollock, jimpollock@charter.net**

Looking Ahead: October 28–29, Central Region will host the Fall Conference in Stevens Point. The theme is Birds, Bees, and "The Birds and the Bees."

**Joan Wiese Johannes** had 3 poems in *Third Wednesday*.

**Mike Kriesel** has posts on *North American Review's* blog: "Writing an Abecedarium," Aug. 6; "Writing a Clarian Sonnet," Aug. 17; "Writing a Double Abecedarium/Gays in the '80s Navy," Nov. 3; and "Writing a Lipogram," Dec. 23.

His poem "Invisible Woman Quits Fantastic Four" is in *Pedestal* 77 (15-Year Anniversary Issue). His sonnet "Atheist Heaven" appears in *Right Hand Pointing* 93 and in *Nerve Cowboy* 40. His Navy poem "Dry Heat" is in *Right Hand Pointing* 94. "Rooms by the Sea" appears in *Crab Creek Review* Fall 2015. "Aleister Crowley Lipogram," "Biography of Everything," "Falling Asleep on a Cambrian Beach I Wake Up Covered in Trilobites," "Orgy of the Damned," "Yard Sale in Plainfield, WI" and "Zombie Hamlet" appear in Popcorn Press's 2015 Halloween anthology *Zen of the Dead*. "Paper Navy" appears in the Winter 2015 issue of *VietNow National Magazine*.

**Susan Twiggs** had two poems published in the winter 2016 issue of *Avocet, a Journal of Nature Poetry*: "Maine Mountaintop" and "The First Snow." She also had "Autumn Opus" published in the *Weekly Avocet*.

## NORTHEAST

VP: **Tori Grant Welhouse**, [torigw@twc.com](mailto:torigw@twc.com)

**Nancy Austin** has a new poetry collection, *Remnants of Warmth*, from Aldrich Press.

**Annette Gruneth's** poem "Theory of Choir" appeared in the 2015 *Ariel Anthology*.

**Phil Hansotia** featured at the Dickinson Series at the UU Fellowship in Ephraim December 9.

**Joey Wojtusik** had poems accompanying paintings in the Plymouth Solo Exhibit on Jan. 29. These poems are also in a beautiful book published by artist Christine Alfery, *Fences and Ladders: the Journey*. The exhibit will be featured at Howard Young Hospital in Minocqua in March.

## NORTHWEST

VP: **Eva Olsgard**, [hareonfire@rocketmail.com](mailto:hareonfire@rocketmail.com)

**Nancy Takacs** has a new book of poems, *Blue Patina*, from Blue Begonia Press, [bluebegoniapress.com/](http://bluebegoniapress.com/)

**Jan Chronister** read at Alvord Theatre at Northland College (Ashland) as part of the Writers Read 2016 event. She also read at the Ariel concert and Reading in Washburn on Dec. 21 with WFOP members **Peggy Trojan**, and **Deanna Yost**.

**Beth Tornes'** manuscript, *Between the Dog and the Wolf*, won first place in the Five Oaks Press Chapbook Contest. It will be published this spring.

**Jude Genereaux** thanks all good-hearted Poets of the Northwest territory for support and friendship extended during her time as NW VP, and welcomes new member **Eva Olsgard** who will fill the post. Carry on, good poets!

## SOUTH CENTRAL

VP: **James P. Roberts**, [jrob52162@aol.com](mailto:jrob52162@aol.com)

**Fabu** was a featured presenter at the 25th anniversary

celebration of *UMOJA Magazine* at the Overture Center in Madison November 1.

**Wendy Vardaman** was among the featured poets at the WALL series at the Arts & Literature Laboratory, 2021 Winnebago St., Madison, November 7 and 13.

South Region poets **Wendy Vardaman** and **Marilyn Taylor** read and participated in the Southeast Wisconsin Festival for Books in Waukesha November 6–7.

**Catherine Jagoe**, **Guy Thorvaldsen** and **Mary Wehner** joined other poets reading poems based on the landscape paintings of Xu Bing at the Chazen Museum in Madison December 10.

**Miriam Hall** was featured in an article in the *Madison Cap-Times* at the end of December.

South Central poets **Judith Zukerman**, **James P. Roberts**, **Martha Kaplan**, **Ron Czerwien**, **Ronnie Hess**, **Fabu** and **Wendy Vardaman** read at the Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon in Milwaukee January 30.

**E.J. Bergmann** has a translation of Boris Vian's "I will die from a cancer of the spine" in *Silver Blade*, [silverblade.net/2015/11/i-will-die-from-a-cancer-of-the-spine/](http://silverblade.net/2015/11/i-will-die-from-a-cancer-of-the-spine/); "Absence" in *Abyss & Apex* 57, [abyssapexzine.com/2015/12/absence/](http://abyssapexzine.com/2015/12/absence/), "Fascicle" in *Eye to the Telescope*, [eyetothetelescope.com/archives/019issue.html](http://eyetothetelescope.com/archives/019issue.html), "Imperative" in the *Farrago's Wainscot Anthology* from Resurrection House, [resurrectionhouse.com/up/fwal/](http://resurrectionhouse.com/up/fwal/), "Someone Coming" in *Spectral Realms* 4, and "Brightness Falls" and "Flags of Defiance" in *Unbroken: a journal of prose*, [unbrokenjournal.com](http://unbrokenjournal.com).

## WEST CENTRAL

VP: **Sandra Lindow**, [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com)

Fall and winter have been a productive time in West Central Wisconsin: December 15 at the Menomonie Public Library **Yvette Flaten**, **Erna Kelly** and **Jeannie Roberts** were among the participants in a celebration of the 2016 *Wisconsin Poet's Calendar* February 9 at the Eau Claire Public Library, **Karen Loeb**, **Bruce Taylor** and others participated in a pre-Valentine's Day event, "Someone Else's Love Poems." **Elise Gregory** and new WFOP member **Kate Maude** (Welcome, Kate!) are

### IN MEMORIAM

WFOP member and dear friend **Jean Ross**, Milwaukee, died on December 17. A poet and librarian, she touched many people with her kindness. We will miss her.



Archie and Sue Mossman donated to WFOP in memory of **Marion Brimm Rewey**.

planning a literary/art crawl in River Falls in October. They have a WFOP mini-grant for a poetry lesson at Greenwood Elementary with 5–10 fifth-graders reading.

*An Ariel Anthology: transformational poetry and art 2015* included “May, 1944,” “Bull Durham, revisited,” and “Aunt Evelyn’s Choice” by **Phyllis Beckman**, **Yvette Flaten’s** “Trinity,” and *The Neighborhood Oak*, a photograph by **Jeannie Roberts**. On December 23, Roberts’ new poetry collection, *Beyond Bulrush*, was the focus of “Caught Up in her Place,” a feature article in Eau Claire’s *Volume One*. The book is illuminated by Robert’s fine eye for the beauty of West Central Wisconsin. Her poem “Red-spotted Purple” appears in *Presence: an International Journal of Spiritual Direction* (March 2016). “Santa’s Lap, a Christmas Story” (Dec. 19), “Mona Lisa” (Nov. 25), and “Angel Food Cake” (Sept. 21) appear in *Silver Birch Press*. “Oyster” appeared in the food-themed *The Poeming Pigeon: a Literary Journal of Poetry* 6. “Snapping Turtle” and an accompanying artwork, same title, appeared in the Aug. 2 Little Eagle *RE/VERSE*. Robert’s poem “Gray Wolf” was commissioned for *Winter of Elves*, a young adult novel by Joanne Vruno (North Star Press, 2015, and *Volume One* published “Gratitude.”

**Sandra Lindow’s** poems “El Duende: Out of the Bark” and “The Scent of Lavender” appear in the spring 2016 issue of *Faerie Magazine*; “The Library of Butterflies” appears in *Star\*Line* 39.1. “An Introduction to Alternate Universes: Theory and Practice” and “Enlightened” appear in *Gyroscope Review* 16:1, [joomag.com/magazine/mag/0388389001451511138/p32](http://joomag.com/magazine/mag/0388389001451511138/p32).

**Bruce Taylor’s** poem “The Alternate Ending” appears in *Cortland Review* 70 and can be read/heard at [cortlandreview.com/issue/70/taylor.php](http://cortlandreview.com/issue/70/taylor.php).

The Writers’ Group at the Library meets on first Thursdays. Contact Sandra Lindow for time and place: 715-309-2084 or [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com).

## Publications by Our Members

*and no spiders were harmed* by Steve Tomasko  
48 pages, (Red Bird Chapbooks, 2015), \$12. Buy from publisher ([redbirdchapbooks.com](http://redbirdchapbooks.com)), or contact Steve ([stevetomasko2@gmail.com](mailto:stevetomasko2@gmail.com)).

*Beyond Bulrush* by Jeannie E. Roberts  
100 pages, (Lit Fest Press, 2015), \$16. Buy from [amazon.com/Beyond-Bulrush-Jeannie-E-Roberts/dp/1943170118/](http://amazon.com/Beyond-Bulrush-Jeannie-E-Roberts/dp/1943170118/)

*Cries for Justice—Poems for Dontre Hamilton*  
ed. Angie Trudell Vasquez (Art Night Books, 2016)  
20 poems by 18 poets from Milwaukee, Racine and Madison. All proceeds will be donated to the Hamilton family. Order from [angievasquez13@sbcglobal.net](mailto:angievasquez13@sbcglobal.net)

## Markets

The annual **Lindquist & Vennum Prize for Poetry** is now open to poets currently residing in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. No entry fee. The prize awards \$10,000 and a publication contract with Milkweed Editions, an independent literary press in Minneapolis, to the author of the winning full-length manuscript. Judge: A. Van Jordan (recipient of the 2015 Lannan Literary Award for Poetry). Postmark deadline: **March 1**. [milkweed.org/about-us/editorial/lindquist-vennum-prize-for-poetry/](http://milkweed.org/about-us/editorial/lindquist-vennum-prize-for-poetry/)

**Red Cedar**, UW–Barron County’s annual journal of the arts and literature, is now accepting submissions of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and other creative writing through **March 1** by e-mail to [redcedar@uwc.edu](mailto:redcedar@uwc.edu). Send up to 5 poems, 1–3 short prose pieces of up to -1500 words each, or mixed submissions, with contact information, including a postal address, and a very brief bio.

The annual **Hal Prize** writing and photography contest, sponsored by The Peninsula Pulse newspaper in Door County, offers publication, \$150 awards for first place winners, a week’s stay at Write On, Door County, and other prizes. Submit at [thehalprize.com](http://thehalprize.com) until **May 1**.

**New American Press** is accepting submissions for the next anthology of Midwestern poets until **May 1**. <https://newamericanpress.submittable.com/submit/50705>

The *Museletter* used to frequently publish essays and columns on poetry craft, publishing and poetics. We want to revive the custom, and look forward to your poetry-related articles for future issues! Send to [muselettereditor@gmail.com](mailto:muselettereditor@gmail.com)

## General Announcements

2016 *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendars* still for sale!  
Order extras for gifts now; see [wfop.org/store/](http://wfop.org/store/)  
Past *Calendars* still available at impressive discounts!

### POETRY CRITIQUE GROUPS

Looking for a group to join? Contact your regional VP. If your group is open to new members, notify the *Museletter* editor.

### Are you on Facebook?

WFOP has a Facebook page:  
[facebook.com/wfopoets?fref=ts&ref=br\\_tf](https://facebook.com/wfopoets?fref=ts&ref=br_tf)  
Post your Wisconsin-poetry-related news and bring up and discuss WFOP policies there.

### FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Please send WFOP correspondence, photos, conference/workshop programs/handouts, regional memorabilia, personal mementos, etc. I’ll return them, and WFOP will pay the postage!

Lewis Bosworth, WFOP Archivist  
2829 Barlow St, Madison WI 53705-3621  
[lewisabosworth@gmail.com](mailto:lewisabosworth@gmail.com) ~ 608-238-3648

## SPRING 2016 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### *Crossing Borders: Discovering Other Voices In Poetry*

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

4:00 p.m.	Registration Opens
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Book Fair
5:30 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Open Mic Poetry
9:00 – 10:30 p.m.	Poetry Slam-mation!

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m.	Registration Opens
9:00 a.m.	General Business Meeting
9:45 a.m.	Break/Book Fair
10:00 a.m.	Roll Call Poems
11:15 a.m.	WFOP Awards
Noon	Lunch
12:45 p.m.	Bryan Thao Worra reads
1:15 p.m.	Kao Kalia Yang reads
1:45 p.m.	Roll Call Poems
2:30 p.m.	Break/Book Fair
2:45 p.m.	Ed Bok Lee reads
3:15 p.m.	Asian-American Poetry panel moderated by Timothy Yu
4:00 p.m.	End of Conference

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Do you have small artwork or handcrafted items to sell? Table space is available at the Spring Conference. A half-table is free; \$5 for each additional half table. Please contact Jan Chronister ([janchronister@yahoo.com](mailto:janchronister@yahoo.com)) to reserve space. (limited, so act promptly). Deadline **March 20**.

## MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Crown Plaza Hotel  
4402 E. Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704  
(608) 244-4703

Room reservations must be made directly with the hotel (888-233-9527) by **March 30**. You must identify yourself as a member of the WFOP. Reservations can be made online at [https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=13964716](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=13964716)

### DIRECTIONS

From I-90/94, turn south on 151. Hotel will be on your right. Easily visible from the street. We look forward to seeing you at the best poetry conference in Wisconsin!

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Conference Registration is \$50.00 for both days (including Saturday lunch), if received before **April 1**.

After deadline/walk-ins: \$60.00 members. \$80.00 non-members, including membership.

Please indicate if this is your first conference, or if you need book table space or meals (if you are a first-timer, student or guest).

Visit [wfop.org/store](http://wfop.org/store) to register and pay online, or make check payable to WFOP and mail to:

**Beth Ann Workmaster**  
1142 Erin Street  
Madison, WI 53715

### *About Your Membership*

Renewal payments are due **December 31<sup>st</sup>** each year. Your membership expires at the end of the year on your *Museletter* mailing label. To receive reminders, make sure we have your current e-mail address.

**NB:** *If you allow your membership to lapse, and then renew without paying dues for the intervening time, you will be entered as a new member. Continuous membership is required for service awards.*

If you winter or summer elsewhere, let us know which is your main address; mail must be sent first class to forward. We are charged for all returned bulk mail. Signing up for the e-mail-only *Museletter* (.pdf link to download or read online) not only saves WFOP \$ but arrives about 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com) to opt out of print delivery.

The Events weekly e-mailing is a separate opt-in list; to receive it, notify [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

**DO NOT** send social media invites (e.g., LinkedIn, FB) to the *Museletter* editor; they will be ignored.

Send all address changes, membership or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

**WFOP SPRING 2016 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**  
*Friday–Saturday, April 29 & 30, 2016*

All inquiries should be directed to James P. Roberts: JRob52162@aol.com or call (608) 242-7340.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Members \$50.00 (if received before April 1st; \$60.00 at the door)  
(includes breakfast and lunch)      Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members: \$80.00 (if received before April 1st; \$85.00 at the door)  
(includes meals and 1-year WFOP membership)      Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student or first-timer, complimentary registration      Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ *no charge*

Meals: First-timer, student or guest      Breakfast \$16.50      Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch \$19.00      Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed:      TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need table space to sell books?      Yes       No

If "Yes", please list name(s) to be posted on book sales table: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Online at <http://wfop.org/store> (include requested information)  
If paying by check, include this form (can download at [wfop.org/Spring-Conference-2016-Registration-Form.docx](http://wfop.org/Spring-Conference-2016-Registration-Form.docx)).

Mail to: **Beth Ann Workmaster, 1142 Erin Street, Madison, WI 53715**

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**Membership Renewal Form** KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

Renewals are due by January 1. Expiration year follows your name on the mailing label. Dues **MUST** be current to enter WFOP contests, be published in the *Museletter*, and to have a poet page on wfop.org. Contact the *Museletter* Editor if you are not sure when your membership expires.

*Renew or join online: see wfop.org*  
*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.

# Poems BY Our Membership

—JEANIE TOMASKO, EDITOR

*The prompt was to use at least 5 of these words: thirty-seven, misspelled, vigil, lodge, not, horse, triple, screaming.*

## THE POET MISSES THE CROWN

For years I've watched the Derby, Preakness,  
Belmont Stakes, kept vigil, waiting for  
the perfect horse to win the Triple Crown.  
This year, one thoroughbred outruns the field,  
takes the Derby, takes the Preakness, is on track  
to win the Belmont and the Triple Crown.  
On Decision Day I'm with poets  
at a lodge without TV, ears-deep  
in image, iambs, perfect words. I miss  
"Aaand they're off!" Miss the jockeys' florid silks,  
miss the horses pounding down the stretch,  
miss the wild screaming for the winner.  
When I'm not watching, that little stallion  
outruns all the horses, takes the Belmont,  
Triple Crown, first in thirty-seven years.  
I'm secluded with wordsmiths when  
one speedy steed, American Pharoah,  
the horse with the misspelled name,  
races to glory.

—Barb Germiot, Appleton

## RIDE A WINTER HORSE

If you would ride a winter horse,  
You must be intimate with snow and ice.  
You must stand vigil in the stone lodge of wilderness  
from the fading of light  
to the pale whisper of morning.  
Do not be deterred by the Triple Goddess  
Brigit  
Poet Healer Smith  
screaming her seventy-one blessings  
and thirty-seven curses into the wind.  
In the realm of numbers,  
she has an affinity for primes.  
Lack of belief is a hairshirt  
on her soul.  
The way her name is so oft misspelled  
Anathema.

—JoAnn Chang, Milwaukee

## 1337 SOUTH 21<sup>ST</sup>

Not exactly Prospect Ave. & let's face it  
I had no prospects & the ad said clean  
on bus line across from Mouse Lodge  
(turned out Moose misspelled but O.K.)  
*Room & Board. Gentlemen only.*  
*Will trade for painting & maint.*  
Gold star in cracked pane whispering  
long vigil & bad news. Short woman  
in stained apron & strained smile screaming  
SHUT THAT THING OFF!  
Kid in drive revving couple hundred horse  
flathead triple carbs lake pipes. Post-war  
Mercury with baby moons & hood propped up.  
A little grainy sunshine & an aroma of tannery  
& kielbasa & cabbage. Caraway maybe. &  
maybe I could paint. Maybe I could maintain.

—Ralph Murre, Baileys Harbor

## FOR ALL WE KNOW

*What is now proved was once only imagined.*

—William Blake

it's possible that thirty-seven angels  
screamed across the sky last night  
bound on urgent business  
while we were sleeping  
  
it's possible no one saw or heard them  
yet like Blake we *could* believe ...  
  
it's possible angels keep vigil with us  
forgive our hostile ways  
lodge in small corners of our heart  
to hold us safe emerging  
whether we call on them or not  
  
it's possible that Blake was mad  
but probable that he was not ...  
  
that snowy pine with its crown of crows  
*could* harbor angels for all we know ...

—Sharon Auberle, Sister Bay

## THIRTY-SEVEN SECONDS

Halfway through the stadium-jumping course, in the approach to the triple oxer, something went wrong. An all-night vigil running the video on slo-mo loop. The horse seems to take forever to arc through the air, crash through breaking poles, spectators screaming.

—*F.J. Bergmann, Poynette*

## OUR KIND AND UNLUCKY RIDER

That night the rain fell like heavy stones  
Outside the smoke-filled lodge in those endless northwoods,  
The stoic horse stood vigil in the dark dead rain:  
Always faithful. His kind and unlucky rider;  
Inside, at cards: “Double-down!”, “No, triple-down!”  
His thirty-seven dollars disappearing, disappearing, disappearing.  
The farm would not be, nor the wife, nor the children running in the meadow.  
Then screaming and hollering and shots and broken glass; broken dreams.  
Horse ears alert, horse eyes sad, and the rain kept falling down.

Again at vigil, with a saddle that would stay empty,  
In the warm sun over a weathered wooden grave with name misspelled.  
A lovely spot, quiet meadow, in those endless north-woods,  
For a kind and unlucky rider.

—*Jason Talbot, Sussex*

## LOIS LANE'S LAMENT

When I was thirty-seven he zoomed into my head,  
a telepathic superman bent on expanding my small  
blue mind to and then beyond the pale.

I was married with children, so I'd rented a cottage  
at the No Regerts Lodge [sic] to work on my poems.  
(It's misspelled, but the price was right).

By day, we rode on one horse, left one set of footprints.  
By night we wrote, became a couple, lovers, flyers in a world  
of endless possibilities and no limitations.

I fretted about going home. Would we become  
a threesome creating triple the fun, or would there  
be a long vigil with a decision ultimately obligatory?

One thing is for sure, I thought as I packed the pages  
the Man of Steel and I had attentively but exuberantly conceived.  
I did not want to look back with regerts, no matter how you spelt it.

—*Laurel Devitt, LaCrosse*

## ERROR MESSAGES

I am a misspelled word,  
a horse with a foundered hoof,  
a brook lodged with sticks.  
These words haunted me,  
whirled in my brain  
in double and even triple time  
during wakeful vigils.  
Then on a quiet winter walk,  
the pines whispered,  
*Only snowflakes are perfect.*  
*Learn to love what you are.*

—*Pauline Witte, Middleton*

## VILLANELLE—MINUS THREE

For a student, it is paramount  
to query thus, to ask the question:  
“Does my spelling really count?”

Misspelled words, statistics mount.  
Teachers battle one-on-one.  
For a student, it is paramount.

Vigils kept, a vast amount.  
Migraine screaming, solution none.  
Must this spelling really count?

Thirty-seven, no small amount.  
Can this number be outdone?  
For this student, it is paramount.

This mantra, Sermon on the Mount,  
a calling not to be undone—  
for a student, it is paramount.  
Yes, indeed, your spelling counts

—*Patricia Smith, Knapp*



AFTER READING *THE LIFE-CHANGING MAGIC OF TIDYING UP*  
BY MARIE KONDO

The vigil's end was open vibrant space,  
a place that graced, not packed her clothing hooks.  
She emptied first the closet, then the bookcase,  
and stopped her choice at thirty-seven books.

So when some blouses left, there was no screaming.  
The triple way she folded each was kind.  
The precious few she kept were softly beaming  
at feeling chosen, not just left behind.

She shredded papers by the garbage bin  
without concern for misspelled words or history  
till useful pages stood beside their kin  
and what remained was needed, not pulp mystery.

Mementos held sparked joy within her soul.  
Sparseness of stuff will make her spirit whole.

—Julia Rice, Milwaukee

WOODLAND SNOWBIRDS

A thousand years ago  
The ever-vigilant Woodland People  
Watched the harvest moon fade  
Heeded the screams of geese flying south  
Dried their speared fish and harvested corn  
Collapsed their lodges along Lake Koshkonong  
Loaded their canoes and paddled  
South to winter in snug caves  
In the bluffs along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.  
Not unlike my Wisconsin neighbors today  
Who pack their SUVs  
With fishing poles and golf clubs  
And head for the Horse Latitudes  
To winter on Florida's Gulf Shores.

—Frankie Mengeling, Oshkosh

KEEPING VIGIL

Thirty-seven misspelled words did not sit well  
with Virgil. The big, red "F" sent him screaming  
down the hall and out the double-doors toward  
the Henry Louis Lodge, where Mr. Mencken III  
sat sipping his triple shot of whiskey, no ice.  
"What's wrong?," Mencken asked Virgil.  
"I failed my first-quarter spelling test," Virgil  
sighed. Mencken smiled while quoting his grandpa  
H. L.'s famous words: "Correct spelling, indeed,  
is one of the arts that are far more esteemed by  
schoolma'ams than by practical men, neck-deep  
in the heat and agony of the world." Raising his  
glass Mencken added, "Don't let it eat you up,  
do better next time, and delight in the fact that  
when you're older, we'll laugh about it over a triple  
shot of whiskey, no ice."

—Jeannie E. Roberts, Chippewa Falls

NOTE TO STUDENT

Thirty-seven misspellings in your in-class paper  
had me sitting up late in front of the lodge fire  
as I burned it till not a scrap was left, just ash.  
Afterward I went out, mounted my horse  
bareback and galloped off into the night  
screaming.

—Peg Lauber, Eau Claire

GOLDEN SHOVEL

Here's a cool line by e. e. cummings:

*"upon the room's silence, i will sew a nagging  
button of candlelight"*

Use each word in order as the last word of each line of  
your 12-line poem. Send to: [jeancarsten@gmail.com](mailto:jeancarsten@gmail.com)

Or snailmail to: **Jeanie Tomasko**  
**6725 Century Ave**  
**Middleton WI 53562**

DEADLINE: APRIL 15

### WHEN CATS TAKE DARES

A few of us older witches were holding a vigil  
for our favorite cat, Screaming Beauty,  
who ate thirty-seven mice on a dare.  
Rolling on the grass, she moaned and groaned,  
not looking one bit well.  
We formed a circle around a bonfire,  
safely away from our log cabin lodge, chanting:  
*Moon and stars, shine your power bright,  
triple your might. Swift as horses be here tonight.  
Take pity on our petering-out powers,  
our mismatched, misspelled spells.  
Transform Screaming Beauty from sick to well.*  
As fast as a bat, Screaming Beauty stood up, discreetly  
threw up, and purred. Our cheers soared to the winking stars.

—Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield

### MOTHERHOOD

When I was thirty-seven,  
second baby on the way,  
midnight vigils claimed  
my all-too-weary body.  
Distressed screaming did  
not, however, dislodge  
anticipation, for signals  
from the womb telegraphed  
assurances: Baby No. Two  
would reduce dissonance,  
add harmony to the mix.

—June Nirschl, Baileys Harbor

*Next Issue Deadline*  
**MAY 1, 2016**