

WISCONSIN
FELLOWSHIP
OF POETS

wfop.org

Museletter
SUMMER 2016



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

Triad Contest

DEADLINE
September 1

For info, see
wfop.org/s/Triad-Rules-Entry.pdf

Join WFOP at wfop.org

President's Message

The Spring Conference in Madison was wonderful! (I don't often use exclamation marks.) **James P. Roberts** and his region did a fabulous job putting the program together and ensuring that the conference ran smoothly. The Asian American authors opened up a whole new world for those who were present. Their words will long be remembered. Roll call poems were very strong and satisfying this year.

A special shout-out to Muse and Chapbook contest coordinators: **Yvette Flaten, Fred Kreutz, Bruce Dethlefsen** and **Cathryn Cofell**. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes before the awards are presented at a conference. Our new membership chair **Naomi Cochran** is also doing a fabulous job plus a tremendous amount of work recruiting and processing new members. Our webmaster **Tori Grant Welhouse** has created a stunning site for WFOP and is utilizing the new design in a membership brochure and posters.

Eva Olsgard, the new regional NW VP, is chairing a committee that will be looking at the annual *Calendar* to determine where changes could be made (in process, product and marketing) to make the most of this valuable outreach tool. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Eva at hareonfire@rocketmail.com.

Jim Pollock and the Central region are hard at work on the Fall Conference which will be in Stevens Point (Holiday Inn) on October 28–29. Mark your calendars now!

A replacement for SOA is beginning in Waupaca starting July 20. Our own **Bruce Dethlefsen** and **Angela Voras-Hills** will be poetry instructors. More information and registration is available at liveartloudwaupaca.com.

Seeing so many poets together in one place was uplifting. If you were unable to attend, we hope to see you in October. In the meantime, contact your regional VP or any of the elected officers if you have comments, suggestions, kudos or complaints about WFOP. We are all working together to advance poetry in Wisconsin.

All the best,
—JAN

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Suggestions from the 2016 Muse Contest judge, **Dennis Herschbach**, regarding poetry, and specifically "those writers whose poems didn't make it into the winner's circle":

Refrain from using inversions in your writing. They make the poem appear to come from past eras. Watch for archaic words that are no longer commonly used. Make sure your line-breaks are placed for a reason, not simply to keep each line equal to the others. Each line should end with a strong word, not a conjunction, article or preposition. The title of a poem is important. Don't repeat it in the first line of your poem, and make sure it lends itself to the reader's understanding of the poem. Several poems used repetition to distraction. Use repetition gently, not as a club. These are only a few of the criteria I used in my judging.

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

UWM's monthly open mic, Lyrical Sanctuary, brings students and community together to share poetry and more. Each featured artist leads an open writing workshop. uwm.edu/studentinvolvement/more/sociocultural/lyrical/

CJ Muchhala has had poems in *Ariel Anthology* 2015, *Portage Magazine* (portagemagazine.org), and Woodland Pattern's First Tuesdays (woodlandpattern.wordpress.com).

The Sparks (**Phyllis Wax**, **Helen Padway**, **Peggy Rozga**, **Mara Ptacek** and **CJ Muchhala**) poetry month project: Mara Ptacek created 15 handmade books containing their original poetry which Sven's Café owner gave to customers. They also distributed over 200 one-poem cards at the café, located in Bay View.

The Earth Poets and Musicians, including **Freesia McKee** and **Sylvia Cavanaugh**, gave their 29th annual performances on April 16 at the Coffee House, and on April 22 at the Urban Ecology Center, both in Milwaukee.

Woodland Pattern & Lynden Sculpture Garden present *Whose Sleeves? (Tagasode Byobu)*, a reading & workshop with writer-in-residence Ed Roberson, who will read at Woodland Pattern on Sunday, June 5, 2 PM, and teach daily workshops 1–4 PM Tuesday–Friday, June 7–10. Details, prices and schedules at woodlandpattern.org

Karl Elder's essay "The Moral Authority of Lucien Stryk" and a poem, "Standing in the Way of Wind," appear in *Translation Review* 93, an issue in homage to Stryk.

Liz Rhodebeck's poem "Of Pens and Paints" was selected for Poetry Speaks (see South Central news), and her poem "The Company of Women" won 1st place in the contest sponsored by the Friends of the Whitefish Bay Library. An awards reception was held on March 22.

The Council for Wisconsin Writers awarded **Robert Nordstrom** Honorable Mention in the 2015 Edna Meudt Poetry Book Award for his collection *The Sacred Monotony of Breath* (Prolific Press).

"Chilled," a poem by **Phyllis Wax** appears at *Portside*, portside.org/2016-04-29/chilled

Marilyn Zelke-Windau's poem "Content" received Honorable Mention in the Origami Press *Kindness* anthology. Her poem "Travelling Home on Hwy 67" appears in *Portage*. Her poem "Sharing" was selected for Poetry Speaks, and her poem "Blanketed Dreams" appears in the Kind of a Hurricane Press *Dreams* anthology.

Kathryn Gahl was part of a collaborative show between Mead Public Library Poetry Circle and Sheboygan Visual Artists in April.

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."

Bruce Dethlefsen was the featured reader at Original Voices Open Mic on April 9. **Jim Pollock** featured on April 13, and **Lincoln Hartford** featured on May 11. Original Voices Open Mic meets on 2nd Wednesdays, 7 PM, at the Coloma Hotel. To be a featured reader, contact Barb Cranford, 608-564-7701, or Julie Eger, 920-787-7663. Dethlefsen also participated on a panel, Writing in Wisconsin Prisons, at the Fox Cities Literary Festival in April. He is teaching in Green Lake as part of the Road Scholar program. Dethlefsen also serves as emcee for the poetry slams at MORE foods café in Montello.

Linda Aschbrenner, **Vlasto Blaha**, **Debra Johnston**, and **Susan Twiggs** celebrated a year of membership in the Cabin Fever poetry group by assembling 50 of their poems over the past 24 meetings. Johnston, Twiggs and Aschbrenner have poetry included in the anthology *The Artists Muse 2016, Wisconsin Artists-Wisconsin Poets*, edited by Christine Alfrey, and in the exhibition The Artists Muse 2016 at the Howard Young Art Gallery in Woodruff. Aschbrenner and Johnston also read at the reception at the Center for Visual Arts in Wausau. Twigg's poem, "The Last Night Before Surgery," appears in the 2016 *Red Cedar Review*. Aschbrenner's poem "First Time in Heaven" appears in the winter 2016 *Blue Heron Review*.

Mike Kriesel's poem, "Egos Anonymous" appears in *Right Hand Pointing* 97, an online journal of short poetry.

Joan Wiese Johannes had poems on *Your Daily Poem* and *The Skinny* poetry websites. **Jeffrey Johannes'** poem "Faith in us" won 2nd place in the Kindness Contest sponsored by The Origami Poems Project. The winning poems can be downloaded and folded into a micro-chapbook free at origamipoems.com and are included in The Origami Poems' *Best of Kindness* anthology.

Karyn Powers participated in Kimberly Blaeser's first poetry recitation at UW–Marathon, to air on her new website aimed at making Wisconsin the U.S.

poetry recitation capital. Powers' poem, "Blue Spruce Community," was published in UWMC's *Mush* in May.

Kathleen Serley and **Elmae Passineau** have begun a quarterly open mic at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 504 Grant St, Wausau. **Greg Galbraith** was the featured poet in April. For information, contact Serley at kserley@dwave.net or Passineau at 715-845-2061.

Victoria Lindsay attended the excellent Picto-Poems workshop led by Poet Laureate **Kimberly Blaeser** at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau. She also participated in the poetry recitation challenge at UWMC. To celebrate National Poetry Month, Lindsay taught ekphrastic writing to Wausau poets and prose writers. Two of Lindsay's poems were selected for inclusion in *Mush*. She was a featured reader at the launch party. For the seventh year, she participated in writing and reading poetry for Art that Blooms at the Portage Center for the Arts.

June Paul had a haiku published on April 11 in *Haikuniverse*.

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigw@twc.com

Ethel Mortenson Davis, Sturgeon Bay, had poems published recently in *An Ariel Anthology*, *ReVerse*, and *Blue Heron Review*. **Thomas Davis**, also Sturgeon Bay, had poems in *Peninsula Pulse*, *The Road Not Taken: The Journal of Formal Poetry*, *ReVerse*, *An Ariel Anthology*, and *Door County Living Magazine*.

Tori Grant Welhouse, Green Bay, and **Bobbie Lovell**, De Pere, had poems in Poetry Speaks at MMOCA.

Annette Grunseth, Green Bay, had three poems arranged as musical compositions at Acadia University, Nova Scotia. The poems can be experienced at houseofthetomato.com/musical-poems/

NORTHWEST

VP: Eva Olsgard, hareonfire@rocketmail.com

Thursday, May 26, 7-9 PM, Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary will host an Open Mic to celebrate the work of its Introduction to Creative Writing Class. The public is welcome and encouraged to share their work. Visit hunthill.org for more information.

Jan Chronister read at the *Thunderbird Review* release party, the poetry month open mic at Red Mug in Superior, and the Home Grown Music Festival in Duluth. Four of her poems were chosen as part of the One River, Many Stories project spearheaded by KUWS. Her poems were published in the Origami Poetry Project's *Best of Kindness* (honorable mention), *Secrets and Dreams* (Kind of a Hurricane Press), and are forthcoming in *Home* (Outrider Press) and *Talking Stick*.

Eva Olsgard's poetry debuted in *Floor_Plan*, the Poetry Speaks installation at MMOCA, *All We Can Hold: A Collection of Poetry on Motherhood*, and *Magma Poetry* (UK). She most recently read at the Northwest region's National Poetry Month Open Mic at the Red Mug in Superior and at the London Review of Books in London.

Diana Randolph, Drummond, had two poems and two drawings published in *Thunderbird Review*. At the Cable Congregational Church she shared a poem at the opening of the Women's Fellowship meeting in March, and in April she read poems during a church service with a guitarist, and had a poem published in their newsletter. Also in April, Diana was the featured reader at Forest Lodge Library in Cable, and a WOJB-88.9 FM announcer read several of her poems on air. She read at the Drawing Water Retreat for artists and scientists at UW Trout Lake Station in Boulder Junction, a facility of UW-Madison.

Peggy Trojan had poems "Condolence" and "Last Dance" in *Boston Literary Magazine's Best of Ten Years* anthology. She read at the release of *Thunderbird Review* at Fond du Lac College, at the Open Mic at the Red Mug in Superior, and at Forest Lodge Poetry Reading in Cable. She was the featured speaker at the annual state meeting of Home and Community Education Ass'n in Cable May 12.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Members **Kimberly Blaeser**, **Lewis Bosworth**, **Sylvia Cavanaugh**, **Robin Chapman**, **DeWitt Clinton**, **T. A. Cullen**, **Jody Curley**, **Bruce Dethlefsen**, **CX Dillhunt**, **Araceli Esparza**, **Fabu**, **Russell Gardner**, **Ronnie Hess**, **Barbara J. Holt**, **Dominic W. Holt**, **Martha Kaplan**, **Norman Leer**, **Sandra J. Lindow**, **Bobbie Lovell**, **Richard Merelman**, **Eva M. Olsgard**, **Fran Rall**, **Liz Rhodebeck**, **James P. Roberts**, **Mary Rowin**, **Paula Schultz**, **Sandy Stark**, **William Stobb**, **Richard Swanson**, **Marilyn L. Taylor**, **Guy Thorvaldson**, **Moises Villavicencio Barras**, **Timothy Walsh**, **Tori Grant Welhouse**, **Linda Newman Woito**, **Marilyn Zelke-Windau** and **Mark Zimmermann** had poems in Poetry Speaks, an event marking the 115th anniversary of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA) as well as the museum's 10th year in its Cesar Pelli-designed building. Poets from across Wisconsin were invited to submit poems that animate, celebrate, and deliberate on the value of the arts. **Sarah Sadie Busse** and **Wendy Vardaman**, proprietors of Cowfeather Press and Madison's fourth Poets Laureate, selected 55 poems from more than 120 submissions. The full collection is in a printed portfolio in MMoCA's lobby and on video monitors in the lobby and facing State Street. Several poets recorded works for the video project.

Marilyn L. Taylor, Madison, won the Margaret Reid Prize of \$1,500 for a poem that rhymes or has a traditional style, for “The Seven Very Liberal Arts: A Crown of Sonnets.” Winners at winningwriters.com/our-contests/contest-archives/tom-howard-margaret-reid-poetry-contest-2015. Her poem “Ice” appears in *Rhino* 2016.

Eva Hagenhofer read from *Big Turtle* with Celtic music by Michael Duffy at the Farley Center in Madison on February 27.

F.J. Bergmann was interviewed by Bryan Thao Worra in March at thaoworra.blogspot.com/2016/03/reality-adjustment-alien-sex-black.html, received a Merit Award in the 2016 *Atlanta Review* poetry contest, had poems in woodlandpattern.wordpress.com April 23, “Contents of a Sealed Trunk Found on an Abandoned Ship” (with David C. Kopaska-Merkel) in *PoluTexni*, polutexni.com/?p=1032; “Tech Support for the Apocalypse” and “Chronopatetic” in the 2016 *Rhysling Anthology*; “Cloud Adoption” in *Eye to the Telescope*, eyetothetelescope.com/archives/020issue.html; “Nature Morte” in *Grievous Angel*, urbanfantasist.com/latest-sci-fi-fantasy-poetry--flash-fiction/new-poetry-potatoes-peaches-and-toasted-marshmallows; “Vodka over Ice” in *One Sentence Poems*, onesentencepoems.com/osp/f-j-bergmann-vodka-over-ice/; “Kisses on Both Cheeks” and “Shaded, Coiled” in *Forklift, Ohio*; and “Jubilee” in *Apex* at <http://www.apex-magazine.com/jubilee/>.

WEST CENTRAL

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

Spring has been busy for West Central Wisconsin poets. The Writers’ Group at the Library meets on first Thursdays. Monthly readings continue at the Eau Claire Public Library and at Volume One. March 24, the Spring Equinox White Pine was celebrated with music and poetry at Simply Dunn, Downsville. **Yvette Flaten**, **Sandra Lindow**, **Karen Loeb**, and **Bruce Taylor** participated in Woodland Pattern’s Poetry Month celebration. April 21–May 5, **Erna Kelly** conducted a Chippewa Valley Learning in Retirement series exploring “Why We Read Poetry.” On April 26, Taylor was honored by the Eau Claire City Council for his many achievements as Poet Laureate of Eau Claire. We are delighted that Max Garland will take over this position.

Jane-Marie Bahr’s poem “Madagascar Palm” appeared in *Red Cedar Review*, and she participated in a special poetry month book-release presentation at UW–Barron.

Karen Loeb had two poems in *The Gyroscope Review*, three on the Woodland Pattern blog, and her poem “Manteno State Insane Asylum,” which won 2nd place in the 2014 Muse contest, appears in the spring/summer ’16 issue of *The Cape Rock*.

In March, **Sandra Lindow** read her poetry in Orlando, Florida, at the International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts. Her poem “Rayna in Utero” appeared as part of Poetry Speaks. Her poems “An Introduction to Alternate Universes: Theory and Practice” and “Enlightened” appeared in *Gyroscope Review* 16/1 and “Car Time Is” in *Gyroscope Review* 16/2. “Out of the Bark” and “The Scent of Lavender” appear in online and print versions of *Faerie* 34. “The Library of Butterflies” appeared in *Star*Line* 39.1. “Zucchini Relish” appears in *Red Cedar Review* and “The Venus of Letting Go” in the April issue of *Szyzygy*.

Yvette Flaten’s poems “Bait” and “Land of Straight Sumac” appear in the 2016 *Midwest Review*. She had three poems in the Woodland Pattern blog. Her poem “If the Birdfeeder Were a Toolbox” appears in the 2016 *Red Cedar Review*, and she participated in the authors’ showcase at UW–Barron on April 28. In February, Flaten received 2nd Place for her poem “Speaking to Garcia Lorca” in the UW–Eau Claire Center for Writing Excellence writing contest.

Finding Ourselves in Alzheimer's by Naomi Cochran

28 pp. (Advance Printing, 2015), \$10 + \$1 s&h

Order from naomicochran@outlook.com
or W1598 Lee Road, Hayward WI 54843

Publications by Our Members

Violet Hours by Jeanie Tomasko

(Taraxia Press, 2015) 40 pages, handsewn, \$13. Buy from publisher (taraxiapress.com), or contact Jeanie (jeancarsten@gmail.com).

Perennial ... poems that last by Julie C. Eger

72 pages, \$7.00 print, \$2.99 e-book: amazon.com/Perennial-poems-Julie-C-Eger-ebook/dp/B01CMLMIIS

from the banks of brook avenue by w r rodriguez

(Zeugpress, 2015) 84 pages, perfect bound, laminated cover, linen paper, \$20 print edition from author (wrodriguez@tds.net), or \$4.99 ebook at smashwords.com/books/view/577626

This is the third book of The Bronx Trilogy: three books of poetry about The Bronx and its environs. The second book, *concrete pastures of the beautiful bronx*, is still in print, and a second edition of the first book, *the shoe shine parlor poems et al*, has just been released.

IN MEMORIAM

Katarzyna (Kat) Rygasiewicz

–April 14, 2016

Dedicated WFOP Member, Racine-Kenosha performance poet and guerrilla street singer, Kat died in hospital from kidney disease. She is survived by her works and memories of those who loved her. Her first poem, “Changelings” (1983) was performed at the “Boerner in Bloom” Festival in 1996, and she appeared in *Calendars* since 1996. Her last work is a nearly completed chapbook, *Lake Michigan Folk Poems*. One poem from this collection will appear in the 2017 *Calendar*.

Connie M. Sanderson

September 30, 1947–January 27, 2016

Born in Madison, WI, Connie graduated in 1969 from Luther College in Decorah, IA, and married Harlan Sanderson. She taught French and English for 27 years before retiring with her husband near Lynxville, WI. A gentle soul who loved nature, her poems appeared in numerous literary magazines, and she received the WRWA Jade Ring Award for Poetry in 1996.

Jean Claire Ross

1947–December 17, 2015

A lifelong resident of Milwaukee, Jean obtained a Bachelor's degree and a Master of Library Science, both from UW-Milwaukee. She worked in the Milwaukee Public Library system 1977–2006 and was appreciated for many years of service and for her notable work in support of literacy, reading and culture. A regular attendee and featured reader at Poets Monday, her poetry was published many times, most recently in the Walt Whitman anthology *A Taste of Poetry*. Music, Poetry & Pies, a celebration of Jean Ross, was held on May 7 at Quaker Meeting House, Milwaukee.

Barbara Jordan Bache-Wiig

January 25, 1922 – July 3, 2015

Barbara grew up in Minneapolis during the Depression. She obtained a MS in speech pathology in 1952. Barb pursued a career in speech therapy. She married Robert Bache-Wiig in 1945; they raised four children in Waukesha. A great friend, she shared her passions willingly: she was a teacher, practiced yoga, became a poet, publishing a number of volumes, played in her community band, studied Italian and championed the rights of women.

2016 Spring Contest Winners

At the 2016 Spring Conference in Madison, the following WFOP contest awards were presented:

2016 Chapbook Contest

First Place: *and no spiders were harmed* (Red Bird Chapbooks, St. Paul, MN), Steve Tomasko, Middleton.

Second Place: *The Toolbox Poems* (Finishing Line Press, Georgetown, KY), Sandy Stark, Madison.

Honorable Mentions:

Finding Ourselves in Alzheimer's, Naomi Cochran, Hayward.

Navigating in the Sun, Stephen Anderson, Shorewood.

2016 Muse Prize for Excellence in Poetry

The judge was Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN. He is the current president of the League of Minnesota Poets as well as the leader of a chapter of that league. His poetry is published in several anthologies including *The Talking Stick*, *Fire Ring Voices*, *Lutheran Voices in Poetry*, *Country Lines*, and *The Moccasin*. He has published two books of poetry, *Grief Journey* and *South First and Lakefront*.

First Place: “On Perdido Beach,” Mike Orlock, Sturgeon Bay.

Second Place: “Real,” Paula Schulz, Slinger.

Third Place: “Some Nights,” Jude Genereaux, Sarona.

1st Honorable Mention: “Seasonal Help at the Furniture Factory,” Bobbie Lovell, DePere.

2nd Honorable Mention: “Lost Seed,” Annette L. Grunseth, Green Bay.

3rd Honorable Mention: “Spring Forth,” Laurel Devitt, La Crosse.

2016 Spring Conference Poetry Slam-mation

First Place and \$50: JoAnn Chang, Milwaukee.

Second Place and \$30: F.J. Bergmann, Poynette.

Third Place and \$20: James Botsford

Also competing: Carolyn Vargo and Jim Pollock.

Congratulations to all!

We hope that future conferences will continue to include poetry slams: spoken-word poetry competition where poets read their own poems aloud, (3-minute limit and no props). Judges are randomly selected from the audience. The cash prizes should encourage many more to try!

General Announcements

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?

Like WFOP's page: [facebook.com/wfopoets](https://www.facebook.com/wfopoets)

A Note from the Membership Chair...

We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions regarding membership! Please contact Naomi Cochran at wfopmembership@gmail.com or W1598 Lee Road, Hayward WI 54843

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE SPRING 2016 ISSUE

Abayomi Animashaun, Howard	Matthew Kleman, Milwaukee
Ed Block, Greendale	Mark Kraushaar, Madison
Connie Christensen, West Allis	James Landwehr, Waukesha
Dewitt Clinton, Shorewood	Eileen Mattmann, West Bend
Regan D'Arruda, Brookfield	Michael G. Michlein, Wausau
Meg Doolan, Kiel	Colleen Nehmer, Brookfield
Robert Duckert, Coleman	Mary Olen, Milwaukee
Katheryn Franzmann, Barneveld	Julie Pallowick, Fond du Lac
Charles Haislet, Gordon	James Smith, Manitowoc
Grace Hanson, Roberts	Douglas Steele, Portage
Gracie Hayes, Somerset	Jacob Stockinger, Madison
Zach Hetue, Hartford	Leslie Thomas, Prescott
Rickard Hokans, Brown Deer	Raina Wedeward, LaCrosse
Dominic Holt, Monona	Elliot Wehnes, Pewaukee
Gary Jordens, Hazelhurst	Paul Wiegel, Berlin

& 2015 NEW MEMBERS WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY OMITTED (OUR APOLOGIES!)

Betty Brenneman, Racine
Alessandra Foster, Milwaukee
Deborah Gadian, Stoughton
Daniel H. R. Hanson, Madison
Mark R. Hinkston, Racine
Kathleen Kennedy, Williams Bay
Christina Kubasta, Oshkosh
Lee LeVoy, Ellison Bay
Emilie Lindemann, Newton
Eva Olsgard, Sarona
Katherine Sontag, Ripon
Jason Talbot, Sussex
Margaret Turnbull, Manitowoc
Gloria Zager, Vesper
Pat Zenz, Middleton

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 wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

2017 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendars* available!

Order extras for gifts now; see

wfop.org/poets-calendar/

Past *Calendars* still available at impressive discounts!

Markets

DEADLINE: July 30. The Woodrow Hall Top Shelf Awards 2016 are intended to acknowledge and celebrate poems that have earned an audience through prior publication. While most journals and contests mandate that submissions be not-yet-witnessed work, this contest is designed to provide further notoriety and a wider readership to poems that have already proven their excellence.

Karla Huston will judge. Karla is the author of *A Theory of Lipstick* (Main Street Rag, 2013), which won a Wisconsin Library Association Outstanding Achievement Award, as well as seven chapbooks of poetry. A Pushcart Prize winner, her poems, reviews and interviews have been published widely, including in the 2012 Pushcart *Best of the Small Presses* anthology. Awards will be judged blind.

The top-winning poem will earn the poet \$500. The 2nd place winner will receive \$300. Three finalists will each receive \$100. All 5 poems will be published. For specific guidelines visit poetryjumpsofftheshelf.com/

2018 *Wisconsin Poets Calendar* Call For Submissions

Submissions are open **July 1–December 1, 2016**. Poems arriving prior to July 1 will be deleted. Poems arriving after 11:59 PM on December 1 will not be considered.

Tried and true advice from the past still applies: shorter poems have a better chance of getting in. We want to include as many poems as possible. There will be a strict 30-line limit, including stanza breaks. Lines longer than 60 characters count as 2 lines.

Seasonal works have a slight advantage; accessible poems as well: remember, the audience is not just other poets but the general public. That said, we have no specific theme but encourage you to send “your best stuff.”

Submissions are open to all with a Wisconsin connection, but strong preference will be given to those who are year-round (or almost year-round) residents.

Send no more than three poems; previously published is OK, but credit first publisher and include year of publication.

E-mail 1–3 poems, a bio of 30 words or fewer, and your postal address in one (1) .doc (no .pdfs) to 2018wfoppoetscalendar@gmail.com

Put “[last name] [first name] sub” in the subject line.

Thank you and good luck to all.

Editors: Richard Swanson and Ed Werstein

TRIAD POETRY CONTEST RULES 2016

1. Contestant must be a current WFOP member.
2. No entry fee. Do not send SASE. Entries will not be returned.
3. Completed entry form must be included with submission. Contest opens on June 1. Entries must be postmarked by September 1. Use a business envelope for last-minute entries; large envelopes often do not arrive until after the packets have been sent to judges.
4. Contestant may enter only one original, unpublished poem in each category. The same poem may not be entered in more than one category. Categories are described on the Entry Form. **Please note the eligibility rules for the Kay Saunders Memorial Emerging Poet category.**
5. Manuscript must be typed on 8½"x11" white paper, one side only, one poem to a page. Type the category in the upper left corner.
6. Writer's name should **NOT** appear on the page with the poem.
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the Fall Conference where the presentations will be made. The names will be posted on the WFOP website and included in the *Museletter* following the conference.
8. The First Place winner in each category will be ineligible to enter that category the following year.
9. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants an award.
10. Sorry, but WFOP cannot accept responsibility for lost manuscripts and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow the rules. Author retains all rights to her/his work.
11. Please do not post your entries on your webpage until

after the contest has been judged.
12. For each category below, prizes are \$100, \$50, \$30.

Theme: Birds, Bees and/or "Birds & Bees"
Poet's Choice
Kay Saunders Memorial Emerging Poet

TRIAD JUDGES

Joanne Diaz will judge Poets' Choice. She is the author of *My Favorite Tyrants* (Brittingham Prize, U. of Wisconsin Press, 2014), *The Lessons* (Gerald Cable First Book Award, Silverfish Review Press, 2011), and, with Ian Morris, the co-editor of *The Little Magazine in America* (U. of Chicago Press, 2015). She received fellowships from the Illinois Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, Bread Loaf Writers Conference, and the Sustainable Arts Foundation. Joanne is the interview editor for the *Spoon River Poetry Review* and an associate English professor at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Angela Sorby will judge the Kay Saunders Memorial category. Her poetry has won the Felix Pollak Prize, John Fiske Poetry Prize, Brittingham Prize in Poetry, and the Lorine Niedecker Award. She teaches at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Matthew Siegel will judge the theme category. Mathew is from New York and currently lives in San Francisco. His first book of poems, *Blood Work*, won the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry from UW–Madison in 2015 and was also short-listed for the Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection by the Forward Foundation. A former Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford, he holds an MFA from the University of Houston and teaches at San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

About Your Membership

Renewal payments are due **December 31st** 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, 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, mail must be sent first class to forward. We are charged for returned bulk mail. Signing up for e-mail-only *Museletter* (.pdf to download or read online) saves WFOP \$ and arrives 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify 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.

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.

ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2016 TRIAD CONTEST

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 (postmark)

Printed Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ E-Mail _____

City, State, Zip _____

I am a current member of WFOP. The poetry I am submitting is my original unpublished work and not under consideration elsewhere.

Signature _____ Date _____

You may enter only one poem in each category. Complete for each category you enter.

THEME: Birds, Bees, and/or "The Birds and Bees" (75 lines maximum)

Poem Title: _____

First Line: _____

POET'S CHOICE: Any subject/form (75 lines maximum)

Poem Title: _____

First Line: _____

***KAY SAUNDERS MEMORIAL EMERGING POET: Any subject/form** (75 lines maximum) **This category is reserved for emerging WFOP poets, those poets who may have started to publish their poetry and/or participate in workshops and classes, but have not won 1st place in a contest as an adult**

Poem Title: _____

First Line: _____

**I meet the criteria (restricted; see rules) for this Triad contest.* Signature: _____

Mail entry postmarked by September 1 to: **Jeffrey Johannes**
800 Ver Bunker Ave
Port Edwards WI 54469

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 in the *Museletter*, and to have a 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.

WISCONSIN POETRY RECITATION CHALLENGE

Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kim Blaeser invites you to join a project celebrating the art of poetry recitation. Those who participate will have their video recitations available online—and will help make Wisconsin the Poetry Recitation Capital of the U.S.!

To celebrate poetry and “heart,” Blaeser invites memorization and recitation of poems for this special project. “Having poetry at our fingertips—or on our lips—as we go through our daily lives can enrich us in many ways,” she says. “Recitation was once a common art I’d like to revive. When we know poems ‘by heart,’ they inhabit us and we them in a particular way. We internalize the images, the ideas, and the poem’s re-seeing of the world, we experience the felt rhythm of the language. The poem becomes another part of the vocabulary with which to encounter and process experiences in the world, a tool of celebration and of survival. Each poem we memorize adds to our intangible wealth.”

To participate, select a published poem by a poet you love and learn it “by heart,” then submit a video of yourself reciting the poem from memory. Participants are asked to introduce themselves by name on the video as well as introduce the poem with a sentence or two including the name of the poem and the poet. The performer may also note why the poem or poet is important to them, when they memorized the poem, or whatever else seems appropriate to a very brief introduction. Send video to wipoetlaureate@gmail.com with the subject line

“Submission Recitation Project” followed by the reciter’s name (e.g.: Submission Recitation Project, Kimberly Blaeser). In the e-mail, include the name of the reciter, the title and author of the poem performed, and the location and date of the recitation. By submitting the video, an individual gives permission to the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission to post their video and make it available for public viewing. (Participants under eighteen years of age must provide the e-mail address of a parent or guardian who can provide permission to post the video.)

To make this more interesting, Blaeser suggests you challenge friends and public figures to recite, or plan a gathering with a group in a public place and hold a recitation event. Then submit the videos of individual recitations from your “poetry by heart” celebration. Blaeser and members of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission are also working to plan recitation events, and she is willing to travel to events others plan.

Video submissions will be considered by an editorial committee and will continue to be reviewed on a rolling basis. All acceptable submissions will be posted on an interactive map of Wisconsin and posted at wisconsinpoetlaureate.org/

The Commission has received several terrific submissions. Some were collected at the Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon and from a special recitation event held at UW–Marathon County in Wausau. Blaeser will announce the launching of the map at [facebook.com/WisPoLo/](https://www.facebook.com/WisPoLo/) as soon as the project goes live.

Poems BY Our Membership

—JEANIE TOMASKO, EDITOR

Golden shovel from a 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 a 12-line poem.

EVOLUTION

how revealing to look upon
the face of an orangutan in the
zoo, to see one’s self mirrored in the room’s
occupant, to know that in the silence
of endless creation, i
was there, so to speak, in the will
of the creator, the one who chose to sew
all of the pieces together in a
seamless stream—an artful work of nagging
coincidences or miracles or just one button
at a time, ending in a pale string of
earth dwellers, huddled by candlelight

—Jan Bosman, Woodstock

SPYING A SNOWDROP

I see outside a fairytale world where upon
every branch buds swell, burst, the
husks flying everywhere, so here in the room’s
heat, I open windows, doors, and silence
breaks open with warbler songs; I
take up the songs though my crow’s voice will
crack the windows’ glass; I will sew
it up with silver thread while spying below, a
snowdrop against dark, damp dirt, nagging
my memory of another spring—a button
unbuttoned, a clasp unhooked, a sound of
silk sliding to the floor in the kind candlelight.

—Peg Lauber, Eau Claire

WITHIN

in mute darkness i stumble upon
a non-existent floor in the
unfocused room's
superior silence
as trembling i
weigh the strength of will
it may take to sew
recalcitrant fear into a
locked pocket and halt the nagging
thread that unravels a pale button
which is all that remains of
misplaced candlelight

—*Judy Wucherer, Menomonee Falls*

EARLY

At the farm's vernal pond my eyes settle upon
a few mallards, Canadian geese, a pair of teal, but the
entry of two sandhill cranes breaks the room's
liquid calm. Their unison call echoes against silence.
From my bench in the cattail blind nearby, I
watch the male dip and bow to his mate, and will
treasure watching their courtship ritual. Ducks sew-
ing in and out of the weeds are a
perfect accompaniment to the cranes, each nagging
its own mate to ease off to some button
of secluded land—all of this going on at the edge of
dawn, all of this beheld as if by candlelight.

—*Judy Kolosso, Slinger*

IT'S TOO FUCKING COLD OUTSIDE

So sitting at the kitchen table scratching upon
A notebook lined with words the
Box elder, rough bark, wayward limbs seen through the window, room's
Silence.
The dishes need to be done and i
Have clipped an ad about estate planning, a will.
Time to parse for charities, sew
Some money into the fabric of those I love, a
Thing that must be done, it's nagging
At me and I should button
It up, after all is said and done it's just a flicker of
Candlelight.

—*Mike Michaels, Milwaukee*

GOOD NIGHT

to e e cummings
and margaret wise brown

once upon
a time in the
green room's
moonlit silence,
with a whispered hush i
found the will
to squint and sew
onto the coat of a
drowsy bunny, his nagging
wayward button,
by the flickering of
that good night's candlelight

—*Phyllis Beckman, Onalaska*

Who feels put upon
when company's gone, the
place a shamble, the room's
vacant, a summons for help meets silence.
The answer is clear. It is I.
Yes. It is I. I will
do it all—bake, clean, sew ...
the list is long. A
challenge. With a nagging
conscience, I button
my lips, ask for no more of
their help. No power? Work by candlelight.

—*Marge Westrich, Abbotsford*

SITTING CAPS

At camp we gathered, each atop our sit-upon:
a reconfigured flowered vinyl tablecloth—the
likes of which, folded in a closet of the kitchen-room's,
lay forgotten across America in vintage silence
until i,
a burgeoning outdoorswoman with a will
to conquer the elements, took the old picnic cover to sew
into a square just right for keeping a
bottom dry and free of those nagging
slivers—adding with a flourish a medley of button
ornamentation—to plop down in front of
a Girl Scout bonfire's candlelight.

—*Barb Harwood, Oostburg*

Long ago, and once upon
a forgotten time the
walls of my room's
emptiness housed only silence.
Scorning that stillness I
adorn each room, at will,
with fullness of sound sew
melody and harmony onto a
place of empty space that is nagging
like a loosening button,
mend, with taut golden stitches of
music, glowing amid evening candlelight.

—*Frances Henkel, Wauwautosa*

I will sew upon
a button in the
candlelight the room's
nagging silence
the candlelight I
sew upon the button will
silence the nagging I sew
upon a
room's silence the nagging
of the button
the nagging of
the room The silence of candlelight

—*Peter Sherrill, Forestville*

(DAWNFALL)

rock-a-bye upon
night's pale moon caught in the
dark oak limbs like a waiting room's
hovering silence

i
empathic watch and will
through the eye of a needle sew

strands from the awakening sunrise a
red-pink-yellow-orange gently nagging
pastel button
of
lowing candlelight

—*Paula Anderson, Wales*

IMMATERIAL

One cannot sew a button upon
a room, let alone the
being of a room, say the room's
chaos or violence or even silence.
All that's impenetrable to needles. i
know. i've tried, through will
power, to sew
up the silence of a
room, enclose the nagging
unspoken with a magic button
hole to seal the unsolvable of
our being. then leave quietly in candlelight.

—*Nancy Jesse, Madison*

FIRST LINE ~ DEADLINE JULY 15

Use one of these lines from Kenneth Rexroth and craft
a poem, 15 lines max, about any subject.

- 1- You cannot find it in a telescope
- 2- There are temples everywhere
- 3- In a waking dream, a princess of the old time
- 4- Nine dice roll out, one by one.

Send to: jeancarsten@gmail.com

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

WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS
W5679 STATE ROAD 60
POYNETTE WI 53955
WFOP.ORG

Forwarding Requested.

WEEKEND IN DC

Tom hands us martinis upon
our arrival—their swirling ice motes the
sole commotion in the sun room's
artfully partitioned silence.
Watching you with Noriko, I
am thankful; in this house we will
sit together, remembering how to sew
a proper conversation. No threat of a
deadline looming, no television nagging,
no risk of pushing the wrong button.
As the world's skies dim, no shortage of
laughter by candlelight.

—David Southward, Milwaukee

ART LESSON AT THE METROPOLITAN

We usually don't discuss art much or dwell upon
the ideas we've formed over the years together, the
museum trips much as before. But this room's
done a number on us now, broken the common silence,
our usual agreement, as casually I turn to you and i
say I love Puvis de Chavannes. I add I always have and will,
then stop to take in his muted colors, even sew
his flat and static characters into my mind again. A
kind of incomprehension grabs you, leads you to nagging
me albeit gently about what on earth I see in him, button
holing me, faulting his pretentiousness, the absence of
three dimension, warmth, you know, De La Tour's candlelight.

—Ronnie Hess, Madison

Next Issue Deadline
AUGUST 1, 2016