



PRESIDENT

Jan Chronister
3931 South County Rd O
Maple WI 54854
janchronister@yahoo.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Michael Belongie
1421 Hiawatha Dr
Beaver Dam 53916
poetpow@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Ronnie Hess
1819 Summit Ave
Madison WI 53726-4038
rlhess@wisc.edu

TREASURER

Colleen Frentzel
1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr
Janesville WI 53546
layersofmoments@yahoo.com

Next Issue Deadline:
NOVEMBER 1, 2017

MUSELETTER EDITOR

F.J. Bergmann
938 E Dayton St
Madison WI 53703-4618
(608) 566-9087
wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

President's Message

As I pick plentiful cucumbers, I am reminded how those small seeds we plant in April or May can produce such abundance. Poets love metaphors, so here we go: we never know what will grow from a small gesture or comment we make to someone about poetry and WFOP. Maybe it is just mentioning "You should check out our website," or "You can find out what we are up to on Facebook." Maybe it is leaving a brochure on a coffee shop table. If you are reading this, you are probably a member. Please take brochures with you when you attend a reading or event. I have a whole box and will mail some to you. Your regional VP should also have a supply. We all know poets who would benefit from the contest and publication opportunities WFOP offers, not to mention our conferences.

Speaking of conferences, NW VPs Andree Graveley and Nancy Austin have been working hard to make the fall conference in Stevens Point one to remember. Information and registration is in this *Museletter*. The focus is on Islamic culture and the poetry of Rumi. World-renowned Rumi interpreter Coleman Barks is the featured speaker. The conference should prove to be an uplifting and mindful experience.

Speaking of contests, don't forget to enter the Triad Contest. The New Poet category is a great way for those without a long list of credits to get started. In addition, if you know a writing teacher in grades 6-12, please tell them about the WFOP student contest. The cash prizes have been upped a bit to motivate student writers to enter.

The WFOP lit mag *Bramble* is well on its way to being a showcase of Wisconsin art and poetry. The most recent issue is online at wfop.org or you can order a copy on the website. Ongoing kudos to Christina Kubasta and Tori Grant Welhouse for the editing and design of this unique WFOP publication.

Another unique WFOP publication is the annual calendar. Fabu is the 2019 editor and the call has gone out for submissions. More information is available on our website.

All around the state, WFOP members are involved in poetry at the grass-roots level. I am so appreciative of everyone who plans readings and events, participates in these, and supports WFOP with their time, effort and membership dues. I hope to see many of you in November or even before. In the meantime, be safe, write poems and live in peace.

All the best,
—JAN

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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!

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
Janine Arseneau, Milwaukee
Nancy M. Barbieri, Milwaukee
Andrea Christoff, Baraboo
Mackenzie Devitt, Madison
Michelle Draves, Berlin
Eugene Falkenberg, Onalaska
M. Justine Foster, Wautoma
Emily Gierlich, Milwaukee
Gene James Gilbert, Baraboo
Gerri Green, Delavan
Patricia Herman, Lodi
Stephen Hull, Larsen
Stephanie Kleckner, Sheboygan Falls
Nathan LaForce, Milwaukee
Brent Mitchell, Kenosha
Amy Phimister, Sturgeon Bay
Nathan Reid, Madison
Elaine J. Strite, Harshaw
Cheryl Root, Appleton
Lucy Tyrrell, Bayfield

**Triad Contest
DEADLINE
September 1**

*Info in last issue, or see
wfop.org/s/Triad-
Rules-Entry.pdf*

Join WFOP at wfop.org

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

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

Barbara Germiot's poem "A Trip Back Home" won the 2016 Mill Prize for poetry.

Cathryn Cofell had poems published in Blue Heron Review.

Christina Kubasta had poems appear in Mortar Magazine and ROAR.

The April Poetry Month broadside contest (co-sponsored by Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts & WFOP) celebrated in June with a reading of **Mary May's** winning poem and unveiling of her broadside.

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.

At UWM's monthly open mic, Lyrical Sanctuary, each featured artist leads an open writing workshop. uwm.edu/studentinvolvement/more/sociocultural/lyrical/

Improvisational Writing Classes every Sunday 2–3:30 at Voyageur Books. Different theme each week; more info: laprosette.com/classes/

Writers Workshop facilitator needed for Hart Park, Wauwatosa, Tuesdays, 12:30–2:30 Sept. 12 through Dec. 19. \$25 per session paid by Wauwatosa Rec. Dept. Call **Peter Piaskoski**, 414-801-5424.

Georgia Ressimeyer, third place winner in this year's *Wisconsin People & Ideas* poetry contest, has two poems in its summer issue. All five poems that won her the Honorable Mention Award in the Council for Wisconsin Writers' 2017 Lorine Niedecker poetry contest are included in her new full-length poetry collection, *Home/Body*. She also had poems recently in *Solitary Plover* and *Stoneboat Literary Journal*.

Fred Kreutz recruited **Connie Wanek** to be the judge of the 2017/2018 MUSE poetry Contest.

Peggy Rozga's new book, *Pestiferous Questions: A Life in Poems*, was launched with a well-attended reading on June 13 at Boswell Books.

Marilyn Zelke-Windau had two poems published recently in *Soul-Lit*, one in *OVS magazine*, and two in the 2017–18 *DNR Calendar*.

Ed Block's chapbook, *Seasons of Change*, is due out November 17. Please consider a pre-publication order: \$14.99+postage. finishinglinepress.com/product/seasons-of-change-by-ed-block/

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathy Serley, kserley@dwave.net

Kurt Luchs appeared in *Crosswinds Poetry Journal*, "First Flakes" and "The Argument" (the latter was Honorable Mention in the magazine's annual contest); *Grey Sparrow Journal*, "Spider"; *Poydras Review*, "The Sleep Test"; *Quail Bell Magazine*, "Shampoo-Conditioner (A Poem of Protest and Resistance)" and "Two Sisters"; *Triggerfish Critical Review*, "Wrong Cave," "The Innocence of Youth," and "Pumpernickel"; *Wilderness House Literary Review*, "Spider." "My Personal Doom," published by *Former People Journal* last year, received Honorable Mention in the *New Millennium Writings* 43rd Poetry Competition.

Kathleen Serley had a poem in *Volga River Review* and a poem posted on the International Crane Foundation website as part of the Poetry in the Prairie competition.

Patricia Williams, Iola, conducted two sessions in the Waupaca Area Public Library's Adult Summer Program, Build a Better World: on July 10, she led a session for beginners on writing poetry later in life, and on July 13, she read selections from her chapbook *The Port Side of Shadows*. Recent publications include *Peregrine Journal*, "Perils and Choices"; *Poetry Quarterly*, "Midnight Encounter"; 2017–18 *DNR Calendar*, "Wisconsin's Inland Seas." Her poem "Islands" in the June issue of *Waypoints* received the Editor's Choice Award.

Victoria Lindsay has two poems in the UW–Green Bay Gender and Art exhibit and was a featured reader at the Art that Blooms exhibit at the Portage Center for the Arts, which included four of Victoria's ekphrastic poems.

Joan Wiese Johannes has a poem on the *Rondeau Round-up* website in the Wendy Cope contest, and poems in *Red-headed Stepchild*, *Portage Magazine*, *Stoneboat*, and *The Beer, Wine, and Spirits Anthology* from World Enough Writers.

Dawn Anderson has a new poetry book, *Stamp Collection*.

The Original Voice open mic at the Coloma Hotel, Coloma, will feature **F.J. Bergmann** September 13 and **Greg Galbraith** October 11.

What Else Could It Be? Exuberant Writing, a UW–Marathon Continuum Class, six Tuesday evenings starting October 11. The Fall Continuum Catalog is online, or call 715-261-6375. The aim is to inspire refreshing new ideas that will enable you to rejuvenate your writing. Enjoy brainstorming, unique prompts and activities. Learn and share. **Victoria Lindsay**, Continuum Writing Instructor

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigw@twc.com

Annette Grunseth, Green Bay, received an honorable

mention in the Wisconsin Academy/Wis. *People & Ideas* writing contest 2017 for her poem “The First Time I Enter a Ladies’ Restroom with My Daughter,” and “Chopsticks” was published in the Summer issue of *Bramble*.

Tori Grant Welhouse, Green Bay, published Instagram poem “Surrender” with *Her Heart Poetry*, “Endocrinologist” with *Blue Heron Review*, “Dear Self at Thirty” with *RoarFeminist* and “Canoe” with *New American Press Midwest Poetry Anthology*.

NORTHWEST

VP: Nancy Austin, austin10929@gmail.com, & Andree Graveley, graveley@newnorth.net

Jan Chronister has poems appearing in the annual *Black and White* anthology by Outrider Press, *Talking Stick* Vol. 26, and online in *Minute Magazine*, *Blue Heron*, and *Weatherbeaten Lit*. She will be teaching classes in October on “Creating a Chapbook,” one in Superior and one in Ashland through WITC.

Naomi Cochran, Hayward, was the featured reader for the July 20 Spoken Word in Moose Lake. Her book *Fill in the Blank* has been selected as an Outstanding Work of Poetry by the Wisconsin Library Association’s 2017 literary award committee.

Terry Andre Dukerschien, Glen Flora, had “Enroute” published in *Red Cedar* Vol. XIX.

Diana Randolph, Drummond, was a featured poet with **John Leighton** at Farmstead Creamery and Café in Hayward for one of their summer weekly Spoken Word/pizza nights. Diana’s oil painting *Wild Iris in Starlit Grasses* was the cover image for the summer issue of *Bramble*. She’ll host a reading with **Jan Chronister** on Sunday, Oct. 29, 2 pm, at Art Market 63 in Cable, an open mike followed by Northwest poets in the 2018 *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar*.

Peggy Trojan’s chapbook *PA* won an honorable mention in the *Concrete Wolf* contest. She had poems published in *Jill*, *Thunderbird Review*, and *Save the Cranes Anthology*. She read at the Red Mug and the release of *Thunderbird Review* and taught a workshop on writing family history with **Jan Chronister** at the Douglas County Historical Museum.

New WFOP member **Lucy Tyrrell**, Bayfield, was one of three poets reading at the Bayfield Carnegie Library on April 8 (organized by Bayfield Poet Laureate **Howard Paap**, celebrating National Poetry Month). She had a poem (and two photos) published in *Cirque Journal*, three poems (and three photos) in the first issue of the online journal *Minute Magazine*, and a poem in the Summer issue of *Bramble*. She is lead organizer for the September 29–30 visit of Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Karla Huston** to

the Bayfield area hosted by the Bayfield Carnegie Library.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Pauquette WordCrafters meets at Portage Public Library 4th Wednesdays 9:30–11:30 AM. Writing Prompts at each meeting. Bring a poem or two, any style, to share; feel free to ask for critique. Also journal and memoir writing.

PAMP (Portage Area Muses Project) meets 3rd Thursdays at Portage Public Library 6–8 PM to support Poetry OutLoud Project. Bring original or favorite poetry for critique, recitation, or to listen and discuss poetry.

Rita Mae Reese was the featured poet at the Madtown Poetry Open Mic at Mother Fool’s, Madison, April 7.

James P. Roberts was the featured reader at the Second Wednesday Reading Series at the Coloma Hotel, Coloma, April 12.

Araceli Esparza offered a Writing and Yoga class at the Synergy co-working space in Madison on May 20.

Robin Chapman read at Intersections: Writing Where You’re From at the Arts & Literature Lab in Madison May 21.

Marilyn Annucci, Robin Chapman, Susan Elbe, Catherine Jagoe and **Sara Parrell** were among the featured readers reading Poems of Loss and Remembrance at the Arts & Literature Lab in Madison May 25.

Shoshauna Shy read from her new chapbook *The Splash of Easy Laughter* with Guy Thorvaldsen at the Crossroads Coffeehouse, Cross Plains, May 21 and with Alice D’Alessio at Mystery to Me, Madison, June 8.

Gillian Nevers was the featured poet at the Madtown Poetry Open Mic at Mother Fool’s Coffeehouse, Madison, June 2.

Oscar Mireles read at the Cheap At Any Price Poetry Open Mic at Cargo Coffee, Madison, June 3.

F.J. Bergmann (the winner), **James P. Roberts, Donna Carnes, Jeanie Tomasko, Richard Roe** and **Ron Czerwien**, among others, competed in the ‘Hand-To-Hand Haiku Battle’ at the Arts & Literature Lab, Madison, June 6.

Jeanie Tomasko read from her new chapbook *The Collect of the Day* at Mystery To Me, Madison, June 16. Steve Tomasko also read.

F.J. Bergmann read from her new chapbook *A Catalogue of the Further Suns*, winner of the Gold Line Press competition, at Mystery To Me, Madison, June 23. She competed as part of the Madison Urban Spoken Word team at National Poetry Slam in Denver, CO, August 8–13 and will read at Farmstead Creamery and Café, Hayward, August 24.

Sarah Sadie Busse, Wendy Vardaman and **Catherine**

Jagoe read with others at the Slow-Lit reading at the Arts & Literature Lab, Madison, July 16.

Catherine Jagoe is the winner of the Edna Meudt Poetry Book Award for the book *Bloodroot*.

Shoshauna Shy, Dominic Holt and **Mary C. Rowin** took honorable mentions in the *Wisconsin People & Ideas* Poetry Contest.

Dave Scheler and **Marilyn Taylor** had poems published in Verse-Virtual in May.

Jo Scheder has a poem in Free Exercise Thereof, a summer online exhibit at axleart.com/free-exercise curated by Axle Contemporary Gallery Santa Fe, NM.

WEST CENTRAL

VP: Sandra Lindow, lindowleaf@gmail.com

The beginning of August in the Chippewa Valley, the pole beans are high as an elephant's eye but being shredded by an influx of Asian beetles, inspiring anger and no haiku. The Writers' Group at the Library, now in its 29th year, continues to meet the First Thursday of each month at the Eau Claire L.E. Philips Memorial Library. September 14 the library will host a reading in celebration of the 2018 *Poets' Calendar*. Beginning in October Jeannie Roberts will be sharing the job of West Central Regional Vice President.

Karen Loeb's poems "Madame Ovary" and "In the Clay Factory I See Mao" appeared in *Third Wednesday*, Summer. "Origami Dinner" appeared in *Stick Magazine*, "Re-Up" appeared in *Fiction Southeast*.

Jeannie Roberts had two poems in *Silver Birch Press*: "At Seventeen, 55 South Eighth Street," February, "Father's Flower Girls," April. "Brown-Headed Cowbird" in the April issue of *Portage Magazine* along with two of her nature photos; *Red Cedar Review*, June, "Weathering Her Conditions"; and *Sky Island Journal*, July, "O Emily" and "But Oh How It Feels so Real."

Sandra Lindow's poem "A Calculus" appears in the July *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*; "How to Write Your Own Peony" was reprinted in *Riddled by Arrows*; "The Island of Amazonned Women" in *Blue Heron's* July special issue on healing; and "What Do Simple Folk Do?" in *Timeless Tales*, along with an auditory version by Lindow and **Kevin Drzakowski**.

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Museletter submissions: Send news either to your regional VP or directly to **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com** (include region!), in body of e-mail; format as in *Museletter*; no .pdfs or press releases.

Poetry news only; send only publications, not acceptances; don't bother including WFOP awards or *Bramble* or *Calendar* appearances. **Please** don't double-space after periods.

2019 Wisconsin Poets Calendar Call For Submissions

The 2019 *Calendar* theme is "Celebrating Wisconsin People," which includes Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Spanish-Speaking Americans, Bi-racial and Multi-racial Americans.

Shorter poems have a better chance of getting in. I want to include as many poems as possible. To aid me in doing so, there will be a strict 30-line limit, including stanza breaks. Lines longer than 60 characters count as 2 lines.

Poems celebrating inclusions, racial and cultural diversity will have a slight advantage. Poems should also be accessible, as the *Calendar* speaks to not just other poets but to all of the people in Wisconsin.

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

Poems will be accepted in other languages, as long as an English translation is also submitted. There is a 15-line limit for each version (30-line limit in total).

Send no more than TWO poems; previously published is OK, but credit publisher and include year of publication. Include, with email or mail submission, a short bio; a strict 30-word limit will be enforced.

Email 1–2 poems in one (1) Word or Word-compatible file (no PDFs) to **2019wfoppoetscalendar@gmail.com**.

If you prefer, you may mail poems to:

James Roberts
324 Kedzie St Apt 30
Madison WI 53704

He will type and email to me. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for him to send you your final version.

Poems should arrive by December 1, 2017. Poems received after 11:59 pm on December 1 will not be considered.

—Editor: Poet Fabu | Fabu Phillis Carter

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.

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Please send WFOP correspondence, photos, conference/workshop programs/handouts, regional memorabilia, personal mementos, etc. Returnable; postage reimbursed!

Lewis Bosworth, WFOP Archivist
2829 Barlow St, Madison WI 53705-3621
lewisabosworth@gmail.com ~ 608-238-3648

WFOP 2017 Fall Conference

COLEMAN BARKS READS RUMI

All inquiries should be directed to Nancy Austin at austin10929@gmail.com or 715-356-1610

Conference registration for members: \$60 for both days (including Sat. breakfast and lunch) if *received* before October 9, 2017.

After deadline and walk-in: \$65 member \$90/\$95 non-member (includes meals & membership)

Visit <http://wfop.org/store/> to register and pay online, or make check payable to WFOP and mail to:

Nancy Austin
10929 Fork Road
Hazelhurst, WI 54531

Friday–Saturday, November 10–11, 2017

Location: Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center
1001 Amber Ave, Stevens Point, WI 54482

Hotel reservations: 715-344-0200 ext. 3 and ask for WFOP group rate by 10/09/17

Directions: The hotel is less than a half mile from the intersection of Hwys. 51/39 and 10

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!



Conference schedule & presenter bios on p. 7

Publications by Our Members

A Catalogue of the Further Suns by F.J. Bergmann (Gold Line Press 2017 chapbook contest winner). \$10. Order at fibtz.com/sales.html or from the press.

Home/Body by Georgia Ressmeyer (Pebblebrook Press, full-length). \$15. For more information and to order, see georgiारessmeyer.com.

Owning Shadows by Marilyn Zelke-Windau (Kelsay Books, full-length). \$14. To order, contact marilynzelkewindau@gmail.com.

WFOP's Literary Journal

Bramble, WFOP's online literary magazine is open for submissions for the Fall issue until **September 10**.

Guest Editor: Sandra J. Lindow

Theme: Everyday Magic

Bramble is now an integrated web & print magazine. Guidelines & info at wfop.org/bramble-lit-mag/

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

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 vacation elsewhere, mail must be sent first class in order 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.

WFOP 2017 Fall Conference—REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ WFOP Region _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____

Current members \$60 (if received before October 9; \$65 at the door) Number ____ \$ _____
(Includes breakfast and lunch)

Non-members \$90 (if received before October 9; \$95 at the door) Number ____ \$ _____
(includes breakfast, lunch and WFOP membership)

Vegetarian meals preferred? ____ First time at a WFOP conference? ____ Total \$ _____

Need table space to sell books? ____

Name for sales table sign: _____

Nancy Austin
10929 Fork Road
Hazelhurst, WI 54531

Pay online at wfop.org/store/ or by check (include this form) & mail to:

More Poems ^{BY}
Our Membership

RANDOM THEATER

She wasn't in the original cast.
Like interlopers or vagabonds,
some would say. Yet, being new
to the scene, she dare not protest
what is crystal clear—in this play
on words there are fewer roles
that stage lower than understudy
to a bit part.

—Marianne Canter, Milwaukee

STEVE'S FAULT

He said he was easy to read,
unapologetic, pure as crystal.
He took no part in regret after
that night when he was a teenager
and got stinking blind drunk.
I told him he was an original,
as in few, fewer, fewest.
He didn't protest but blushed,
said he could list plenty of other
straightshooters: two-year olds,
waitresses, vagabonds, folks
who have nothing to lose.

—Ronnie Hess, Madison

VAGABOND DREAMS

I dream of joining a band
of vagabonds. Not to protest
my life which is,
for the most part, satisfactory
but to experience an existence
with fewer encumbrances.
I'll take only a crystal goblet
for the enjoyment of fine wines
and a book of poetry (original edition).

—Patti Herman, Lodi

Membership Renewal Form KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

Renewals are due by December 31. Expiration year follows your name on the mailing label. Dues MUST be current to enter WFOP contests, be in the *Museletter*, receive mailings, and to have a page on wfop.org. Contact the *Museletter* Editor if you are not sure when your membership expires.

SAVE POSTAGE and renew or join online at wfop.org
or mail to: Colleen Frentzel, 1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr, Janesville WI 53546
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 _____

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

2017 Fall Conference Schedule

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

3:30 PM Board Meeting
 4 PM Registration Opens
 4:30 PM-? Book Fair
 5-6 PM Elaine Strite—Islamic Faith and Culture
 Time for Q & A
 Cultural Foods and Music (dinner on your own)
 7 PM-? Open Mic

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

7 AM Registration/Book Fair Opens
 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
 8:15 AM Welcome and Announcements
 8:30-9:15 AM Business Meeting
 9:15-10:15 AM Roll Call Poems (20-line limit)
 10:15 AM Break

10:30-11:30 AM Featured Presenter Coleman Barks reads Rumi, accompanied by cellist Nayoung Ryoo
 Lisa Starr, Rhode Island Poet Laureate Emeritus, and Coleman Barks read from their own work
 11:30 AM-NOON Book Purchasing and Signing
 NOON Lunch
 1:00-1:30 pm Breakout Sessions: last names beginning A-M with Coleman Barks; last names beginning N-Z) with Lisa Starr
 1:30-2 PM Breakout Sessions—remain seated; speakers will switch places
 2 PM Break
 2:15-2:45 PM Triad Contest Winners Announced
 2:45-4 PM Roll Call Poems (20-line limit)
 4 PM Break
 4:15-5:15 PM Madison Sufi Community teaches & leads us in their Dances of Universal Peace

2018 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendars* still available!
 Order extras for gifts now; see
wfop.org/poets-calendar/
 Past *Calendars* still available at impressive discounts!

Are you on Facebook?
 Like WFOP's page: [facebook.com/wfopoets](https://www.facebook.com/wfopoets)
 Join the WFOP public group:
[facebook.com/groups/1088414487891479/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1088414487891479/)

Fall Conference Presenters

COLEMAN BARKS taught poetry and creative writing at the University of Georgia for thirty years. He is the author of numerous Rumi translations, 22 volumes in 33 years, and he has been a student of Sufism since 1977. His work with Rumi was the subject of an hour-long segment in Bill Moyers' *Language of Life* series on PBS. Barks is credited with the "Rumi Renaissance" in the United States and with making Rumi the best-selling poet in the country. Barks has made frequent international appearances and is well known throughout the Middle East. In 2006 he received an honorary doctorate from Tehran University. It is said that Barks' work has contributed to an extremely strong following of Rumi in the English-speaking world, and because of his work, the ideas of Sufism have crossed many cultural boundaries.

LISA STARR was the fourth appointed Rhode Island Poet Laureate, a position she held from 2007 to 2012. She has created a poetry "pen pal" system in Rhode Island that partners students with elderly citizens in communities around the state. She also has created "poetry circles" in hospitals, shelters for people experiencing homelessness, state prisons, and agencies serving children with disabilities. In 2009, she brought together more than a dozen state Poets Laureate for "Poetry for Hope," an event that included poetry readings, workshops, and public forums in venues around Rhode Island. Starr also founded and is the director of the Block Island Poetry Project, which is described as a way for Starr "to combine her seemingly disparate vocations as poet and innkeeper with her love for the land and devotion to building community." Starr has published three poetry collections.

ELAINE STRITE has spent 27 years in the Middle East, 15 in Egypt, ten in the occupied Palestinian territory, and two in Lebanon. She got her start in Egypt teaching English in Egyptian schools and set up an income generating project for women in the Sinai. In Palestine, she worked in journalism and as a consultant for handicraft marketing before managing USAID-funded scholarship and education support projects from 2001 until 2007. In Lebanon she worked as an independent consultant for two US organizations, surveying international development efforts and conditions in Lebanese schools. She has a Master's Degree in Near Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan. Elaine is married to Wausau native, John Viste. They have three children, all born in the Middle East. Elaine is actively engaged in sharing Middle Eastern culture with the northern Wisconsin community.

Poems BY Our Membership

—JEANIE TOMASKO, EDITOR

Prompt: Words That Are Steve's Fault—Six Random Words (that Steve found):

crystal, vagabonds, protest, fewer, part, original. Write a poem of 13 lines or fewer using all of these words.

A few words from the new POEMS BY OUR MEMBERSHIP EDITOR, Elmae Passineau:

For most of my career, I was an English teacher. I've taught everything from creative writing to fifth graders to Shakespeare at the college level. For 10 years, I was a middle school principal, which, if nothing else, honed my sense of humor.

I don't have much of an ego, so suffice it to say that I've had enough poems published to please but not to satisfy. I continue to be a student of poetry, reading in public places, taking writing classes, and marveling at the wordcraft of other poets, and I believe that poetry should be understandable and enjoyable for non-poets, too.

ALSO ... I'd like to say a few words!

It has been my pleasure to be the Poetry Pages editor for several years. I am passing the pleasure along not because I want to, but because I feel it's someone else's turn to enjoy the honor. I have appreciated all the back and forth many of us have had and the friendships we have made. Hope to see lots of you at conferences! Happy writing to all. —*Jeanie Tomasko*

AN ORIGINAL

You hung a crystal chandelier in a one-room studio,
commissioned a suit of armor to guard the bathroom.
Your refuge from the road with your rock 'n' roll
vagabonds was piled with books, strewn with paints
and paper, jars crammed with Sharpies, everything
dusted with a month's worth of inattention. The week
before you died, you were confused about the part I
was playing in your life. Old friend? Old lover? *When
did you get this job?* you asked as I drove you to
Hospice. A year later, I met your home health nurse.
She'd written a poem about you. I didn't tell her how
you protested every time I asked you to show me
where you hid the gun.

—*Gillian Nevers, Madison*

VAGABOND

Watching TV with Crystal
we were surprised to see
George, the old, town vagabond,
who lived out of a grocery cart while
shaking a cup at everyone passing by.
Cleaned up and with fewer bags of stuff
he was sounding like
the original carney barker
as he was taking part in leading
a protest march
making its way up Main Street.

—*Bob Kimberly, Bellevue, WA*

RESCUE

She was one of the vagabonds
who wander the streets, hide under bushes—
part cat, part rebellious little kid
her original caretaker and home mysterious—
no collar, no chip imbedded.

Did she run away in protest
of confinement or of boredom?
I know she pulls her transparent eyelid
over her crystal yellow-green eyes
when I pry, or else she just looks away.
My queries have become fewer and fewer
over these five years of our togetherness
since we rescued each other.

—*Judy Kolosso, Slinger*

CLOUDING

you wander aloft part of the stream that vagabonds
from sky to sky reinventing the original
your tufts and lobes grow fewer one moment
next you cover the blue serene
I want to imagine accurately that moment of formation
when droplets and crystals take shape each so tiny
spread out for miles—gravity has nothing on you
how would it feel to be so float
your parts intricate and building yet not weighed down?
after riding updrafts into the atmosphere
you spend your storm, deliver
the gift you want to give
no protest from within

—*Beth Ann Workmaster, Madison*

SUNDAY OPEN HOUSE: TWO-FLAT WITH GREAT GARDEN

My original thought was to ready
the Xanadu as a retreat for vagabonds
or people who protest but as I thought
more about it, the idea of a gypsy camp
seemed like it might draw attention.

I wanted fewer guests. A couple
with one older child or a lone adult
testing whether to part. Because
I really wanted to keep the garden
to myself. The hosta-lined pavers,
the rows of arbor vitae, the crystal ball
balanced on top of a cairn.

—Mary Rowin, Middleton

MY CRYSTAL SET

Dad built me a crystal set at a
Young age—an original source
Of entertainment. The only kid
To have one, I became part of
a clan of popular guys. The sound
Was scratchy, and there were fewer
Than six stations, but I listened
Nightly at bedtime—*The Lone
Ranger*, prince of Vagabonds.
Our Miss Brooks, a protest against
Single teachers. *The Inner Sanctum*,
Scary but true. *Amos and Andy*,
Yesterday's Black dudes.

—Lewis Bosworth, Madison

MY HEART'S DESIRES

These vagabonds of my soul,
this part-and-parcel of everything
I wait for.

This prayer flag,
this protest song, this crystal ball,
this go-for-broke, this fewer of the few,
this fever, this merger,
this reminder that the only
original sin is separation.

—Lisa Vihos, Sheboygan

ON THE SHORES OF CRYSTAL LAKE

We stand on the shores of Crystal Lake,
vagabonds to summer. The ducks protest
our lack of food as we look toward
our next target across seven miles of water
then up a short road: Pointe Betsie lighthouse,
beauty on big Lake Michigan where fewer
and fewer go to collect Petosky stones,
only visible when wet, part of an ancient bed
of coral, where the original lighthouse down
the beach is falling into disrepair, ruin.
We'll bring our treasures back home
putting them in our fifth-grade summer boxes
to finger through our never-ending sixth-grade winter.

—Peg Carlson Lauber, Eau Claire

THE SUMMER OF '71

We drove through Canada that August, vagabonds,
in your old green Chevy van with the faulty radiator,
off to visit a friend in Vancouver who smoked weed,
took crystal, wrote original plays in this age of Aquarius
and protest. The world felt rocky with Watergate
yet to play its part. For five thousand miles we kept
a budget, eating fewer meals, living on soup heated
on the Coleman stove. With sleeping in the van,
our biggest expense was gas at 51 cents a gallon.
Out of school and on the road, we sang
“You and Me and a Dog Named Boo” as miles
ticked by, the future an unknown. Yet, we two
hermits and loners held onto a miracle—each other.

—Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield

WALKING THROUGH ~ DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

The last line of Stanley Kunitz's “The Layers” is “I have walked
through many lives ...” Submit a poem that deals with a life
or lives you have “walked through.” Maximum 18 lines.

Send to: etp1024@gmail.com

Or snailmail to: **Elmae Passineau**
7007 Weston Ridge Dr #14
Weston WI 54476

RAIN AND WORDS AT RANDOM, IN FORM

Errands done. The rain makes a bubble pattern on the car windshield; the trees, muted, like looking through an opaque shower curtain. Crystal drops of water linger. Time to leave this parking lot, move on. We're all of us vagabonds, in a car, in the rain, in the protest to capture the simple surprising curve of the leaf of one lost trailing flower, the arc of an original shoreline where fewer people linger, the flat stark beauty of the parking lot, backdrop of shimmer trees, a quick wash of sparkle. Hanging the words on a line like a clothesline, squinting sideways at the temporary part in the clouds before the next dazzling downpour.

—Paulette Laufer, Sturgeon Bay

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Of course they're vagabonds,
those felines with the emerald eyes
that glow golden crystals in the dark

Stalking with silence and stealth,
they roam from yard to yard,
never fewer than three,
seeking their prey

They were the original neighborhood watchers,
part of a centuries-old ritual,
protesting only when blocked by a door
from their nocturnal pursuits

—Elmae Passineau, Weston

Next Issue Deadline
NOVEMBER 1, 2017