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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

John Adler, Hayward
Sharon Aldrich, Arbor Vitae
Laura Berlage, Hayward
Stacy Blint, Muskego
Brian Ciochetto, Green Bay
Shannon Conlin, Germantown
David Dahlstrand, Wautoma
Eloisa Gomez, Milwaukee
Daniel Hansen, Elkhorn
Kathy & Sydney Hansing, Cottage Grove
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Patricia L. Janke, Wauwatosa
Larry Janowski, Onalaska
Kristin Johnson, Milwaukee
Mary E. Krauss, Elm Grove
Sara Krebsbach, Madison
Amy Kumrow, West Bend
Doris Link-Schreiber, Withee
John Loomis, Eau Claire
W. Joseph Lutz, Monona
John & Karin Randolph, Minocqua
Amber Scarborough, Madison
Elizabeth Schussler, Woodruff
Mary Ticknor, Rhinelander
Tom Tjepkema, Port Wing
Jean Walsh, Duluth MN
Karen Wollenberg, Dalton

President's Message

Where I live (and in much of Wisconsin) winter has already arrived. Over 130 people did not let a snowy, icy day deter them from attending the fall conference in Stevens Point. The reward was an experience that appealed to all senses. There was visual richness, lovely music, and delicious, unique edibles. Food for the soul was provided by Coleman Barks and Lisa Starr as well as the hundreds of poems read by attendees. **Nancy Austin** and **Andree Graveley** deserve the credit for staging such a memorable event. Many months of planning and attention to every detail resulted in a successful conference. Thanks also to everyone who volunteered their time in various ways over the two days.

With the conference concluded and winter in control, I find this is the perfect time to write. WFOP has many opportunities for Wisconsin writers to submit their work for publication. The *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* and *Bramble* are accepting poems through December 1 and 10 respectively. The Muse Contest is now open through February 1, 2018. If you have a chapbook with a 2017 publication date, please consider entering the WFOP Chapbook Contest, deadline February 1, 2018. Please encourage those who work with students in grades 6–12 to enter the Student Poetry Contest, deadline January 13, 2018. Rules and entry forms for all are at wfop.org or in this issue of the *Museletter*.

Save the date now for the WFOP Spring Conference: April 27–28 at the Best Western Conference Center, Oshkosh. The theme is Poetry: Conversation and Collaboration. Tiana Clark and Heather Derr-Smith are the headliners.

Living in sort of a no-woman's-land between Superior and Ashland, I rely heavily on Facebook to keep in touch with other poets and be alerted to submission opportunities and poetry events. I enjoy sharing these on the WFOP Facebook page, so please "like" the page if you are not already receiving these posts. I am still learning how to navigate social media, so be patient. If it is not something you care to do, that's fine, but I find it helps fill a void and keep me connected to the wider world of poetry beyond my place in the woods.

One of the best parts of the conference was seeing so many of you. It is difficult to talk to everyone, so if you have a comment, suggestion or question, please contact me at wfoppres@gmail.com

I am proud of WFOP and what we have accomplished together. So many people devote time and energy to keep things moving forward. Thanks to all of you.

Write on, Wisconsin poets!

—JAN

Chapbook & Muse Contests

DEADLINE
February 1



Rules & entry forms:
wfop.org/chapbook-contest
wfop.org/muse-contest

Remember ...

Notify *in advance* of address change. Only first-class mail forwards, or the *Museletter* is returned at WFOP's expense. We *must* send first class if you have a second address.

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

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

What's Happening in Your Region?

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

CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VP: Christina Kubasta, ckkubasta60@marianuniversity.edu

Your regional VP wishes to share your news! Please send. Also, if you're not receiving regular e-blasts about events in our area, please email her to be added to the list. Regular readings are at Thelma, Fond du Lac, (thelmart.org), Caramel Crisp Café, Oshkosh, and The Draw, Appleton.

Kathryn Gahl, Appleton, won the 2017 Mill Prize for Poetry with "Fondue Party." Judge Abayomi Animashaun said, "An ambitious poem of wit and humor that manages not to take itself too seriously." The Mill will rename the prize the Janet Dee Wullner-Faiss Memorial Award in honor of a long-time supporter.

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.

An anthology, *The Water Poems*, has been published by The Grand Avenue Poetry Collective: **Sylvia Cavanaugh**, **Nancy Harrison Durdin**, **Dawn Hogue**, **Maryann Hurr**, **Georgia Ressemeyer**, and **Marilyn Zelke Windau**, available from any of the poets or Water's Edge Press.

Georgia Ressemeyer has a full-length collection of poetry, *Home/Body*, available from Pebblebrook Press.

The Poetry Society of Michigan awarded 2nd place in the "Loss" category to **Sylvia Cavanaugh's** poem "Autumn's Leaving." It is in the fall Contest Edition of *Peninsula Poets*.

Phyllis Wax's poem, "In Omiya" appears in the October issue of *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*.

John Sierpinski's poem, "Water Washed," is in the inaugural issue of *Oyster River Pages*: oysterriverpages.com

Anja Notanja Sieger has a new book, *Healers and Dealers of The Ultimate Truth*, published by Vegetarian Alcoholic Press.

Ed Block's chapbook *Seasons of Change* is out from Finishing Line Press.

Dawn Hogue won the 2017 Hal Prize in Poetry. "The Obligation" was featured in the August 4 *Peninsula Press*.

Patricia Foldvary had two poems, "Time for Fall" and "Master Builder," in the Fall issue of *The Avocet*.

Liz Rhodebeck's poem "Trading Up" appeared in the October *Creative Wisconsin Literary Journal*; "Notes on the Neardeath" in *Remembered Arts*, Fall; "Giving to the Poor" in the 5th Anniversary *Bards Against Hunger* anthology.

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

Kurt Luchs recently had poems in the following: *Antiphon*, "Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?"; *Burningword Literary Journal*, "Entropy"; *Light*, "Psalm"; *Noctua Literary Review*, "The Sound of Weeping"; *Phantom Drift*, "Natural History"; *Verse-Virtual*, "The Dream," "Mementoes," "New Year," "Self-Interrogation," "To Michael Beasley, Who Beat My Turtles to Death," and "Walking After Dark." "Winter Begins" was one of three winners (unranked) of the 2017 Bermuda Triangle Poetry Prize sponsored by *The Poet's Billow*. His humor collection, *It's Funny Until Someone Loses an Eye (Then It's Really Funny)*, is out from Sagging Meniscus Press, NJ.

James Botsford and **Greg Galbraith** were Featured Readers at the Readers Loft in Green Bay September 14. They each read from their own published books of poetry, followed by a back-and-forth exchange of 40 epigrams.

Jeffrey Johannes and **Joan Wiese Johannes** have poems in the new *Ariel Anthology*. Joan also had poems in *Redheaded Stepchild*.

Bruce Dethlefsen emceed a poetry slam at MORE Foods and Café in Montello on October 20.

Patricia Williams, Iola, read selections from her chapbook, *The Port Side of Shadows*, at the Arts on the Square festival in Waupaca on August 19 and recently had two poems in *Mused*: "Stuck in the Dead Letter Office" and "Ahead of Schedule."

Victoria Lindsay had a poem published online by the International Crane Foundation.

Susan Twiggs had "Where Does It Go?" in the Summer *Blue Heron Review* and "The Allergist Had a Fear of Bees" in the Fall *The Avocet: A Journal of Nature Poetry*. She read her poem "April Layover" at the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Poetry in the Prairie Slam.

Elmae Passineau, Weston, has three poems each in the 2017 *Ariel Anthology* and *Goose River Anthology*.

Karyn Powers participated in a storytelling event during the central Wis Book festival in Wausau.

Mike Kriesel, Wausau, has accepted the position of the new poetry editor of *Rosebud Magazine*. His poem "Leaves of Grass Lipogram" appears in *North American Review* 302.4; "Invisible Woman Quits Fantastic Four" and "Aleister Crowley Lipogram" in *New Poetry from the Midwest 2017* (New American Press); and "Cheese Popcorn" in the 2017 Main Street Rag anthology *Of Burgers & Barrooms*.

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigw@twc.com

Paulette Laufer, Sturgeon Bay, received an honorable mention in the 2017 Wisconsin Academy/WI People &

Ideas writing contest for her poem “Daily Reminders.”

Annette Langlois Gruneth had poems in *Paddock Review*. She was an honorable mention in the *Wisconsin People & Ideas* 2017 poetry contest. She also participated in a poetry reading in September for a 6-week series on “Gender and Art” organized by the UW–Green Bay and Positive Voice titled “Please Check a Box.” Her chapbook *Becoming Trans-Parent: One Family’s Journey of Gender Transition* received a Pushcart Prize nomination.

Tori Grant Welhouse published “Anniversary” in Issue 2 of *Sky Island Journal*.

Steve Tomasko, Middleton, is the winner of the 2017 Norbert Blei Poetry Award, administered by Write On, Door County. Judge **Alice D’Alessio** selected Tomasko’s poem “That sure was a close and holy time.” Honorable mentions in this year’s award went to **Shoshauna Shy**, Madison, for “This is You in the Sundance Catalog” and **Mike Orlock**, Sturgeon Bay, for “Origin Stories.”

NORTHWEST

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

Lucy Tyrrell had “Wild Blueberries” published in *Alaska Women Speak*, and “Round Bale of Hay” and “How to Be a Bowhead Whale” in *Avocet*. Lucy was invited to read her poetry at What Goes ’Round/Quality Used Books in Bayfield August 7. Lucy was the lead planner and organizer for the visit of Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Karla Huston** to the Bayfield area September 29–30, who met Bayfield’s poet laureate, Howard Paap. 70+ people attended the reception and poetry program at the Washburn Cultural Center (WCC), which also honored ten artists whose works, inspired by three poets-laureate poems, were displayed. Karla visited two classrooms at Bayfield School and offered a poetry writing workshop at the Bayfield Carnegie Library, the primary sponsor of the poet laureate visit.

Jan Chronister appeared on a panel on “Getting Published in Literary Journals” sponsored by Lake Superior Writers. Her poems were recently published by *Truth Serum Press*, *Sky Island Journal*, *Zoetic Press*, *Nonbinary Review*, *The Wild Word*, *Plath Poetry Project*, *Herstory* and *Main Street Rag*. One of her poems is displayed in Highland Park, IL, as part of an outdoor installation inspired by sculpture.

Peggy Trojan read at the *WI Poets’ Calendar* reading in Drummond. She has poems in *Goose River Anthology* and *Ariel*. Her poem “Night Storm” won an Award of Merit from the League of Minnesota Poets. She attended the WFOP conference. Her new chapbook, *Free Range Kids*, has been published by Evening Street Press.

Diana Randolph, Drummond, recently hosted an event at Drummond Public Library & Historical Museum with **Jan Chronister**, featuring poets from this region published in the 2018 *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar*. Those featured: Diana, Jan, **Peggy Trojan**, **John Leighton**, **Naomi Cochran**, **Dale Chesley**, and **Nancy Larson**. Many people read during the open reading. The event included a celebration of Diana hosting poetry readings in the Cable/Drummond region for 20 years. Door prizes were given and a brief history reviewed. This event was sponsored by Drummond Public Library, CHARAC (Cable Hayward Area Arts Council) and (Diana’s) Once in a Blue Moon Studio.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Pauquette WordCrafters meets at Portage Public Library 9:30–11:30 AM 4th Tuesdays. Writing prompts at each meeting. Bring a poem or two, any style, to share.

Richard Merelman published two poems in the October issue of *The Lake*, a British online journal.

Katrin Talbot had poems in the anthology *The Book of Donuts*, and her collection of poetry *The Little Red Book* has been published by Dancing Girl Press.

Robin Chapman had poems in *About Place Journal* and *Switched-on Gutenberg*.

Marilyn Annucci has won first place in the 2018 Press 53 poetry chapbook contest.

Guy Thorvaldsen’s first book of poetry, *Going to Miss Myself When I’m Gone*, was published by Kelsay Books.

Steve Tomasko won the 2017 Norbert Blei Poetry Award. **Shoshauna Shy** received an Honorable Mention.

Marilyn Annucci, **Susan Elbe**, and **Rita Mae Reese** were among the readers celebrating the 2017 *New Poetry from the Midwest* August 19 at Arts & Literature Lab in Madison. (Note: Susan Elbe passed away suddenly September 24.)

F.J. Bergmann was the featured reader at the Original Voices Open Mic in Coloma September 13.

Andrea Potos read from her new poetry collection, *Arrows of Light*, at Mystery To Me, Madison, September 20.

Katrin Talbot read with **Andrea Potos** and **Marilyn Taylor** at Madison Chocolate Company September 22.

Fabu and **F.J. Bergmann** were featured authors at the Pinney Library Mini-Book Festival, Madison September 23.

Rita Mae Reese held a poetry workshop at the Lorine Niedecker Poetry Festival, Fort Atkinson, September 30.

Angie Trudell-Vasquez held a poetry workshop, Arts and Resistance Through Craft (How To Write A Better Political Poem) at Arts & Literature Lab, Madison, October 5–26.

Thirty Madison-area poets read from the 2018 *WI Poets’*

Calendar at A Room Of One's Own, Madison, October 22.

Robin Chapman, Catherine Jagoe and **Alison Townsend** read at Madison Central Library November 4.

Andrea Potos, Katrin Talbot, Robin Chapman and **Marilyn Taylor** were among the readers at the *Nasty Women* anthology reading at Mystery To Me November 8.

James P. Roberts continues to host 'A Space For Poetry' on WWMV 95.5 FM in Madison. Recent interviews featured **F.J. Bergmann, Nesha Ruther**, poets reading at the Lorine Niedecker Poetry Festival, **Lynn Patrick Smith, Richard Roe**, and a Halloween 'Spooktacular' with F.J. Bergmann, Lynn Patrick Smith and others. Listen to the show at soundcloud.com/wwmv-lp-95-5fm/a-space-for-poetry.

F.J. Bergmann read from her chapbook *A Catalogue of the Further Suns*, an SPD staff pick for October, at Village Booksmith, Baraboo, October 13. She won the Urban Spoken Word Haiku Slam at Genna's Lounge, Madison, November 18. "Point of Departure," in the *Evolving Gender* issue of *Eye to the Telescope*, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize; "The Sending" appeared in *Priestess & Hierophant* 3.9; "Absence" in *Riddled with Arrows* 1.3; "Ceasefire" in *Speculative* 66 14; "Guardian Demon" and "It Began as a Conversation" in *One Sentence Poems*; and "Survivorship" in *Star*Line* 40.4.

WEST CENTRAL

VPs: **Sandra Lindow**, lindowleaf@gmail.com, & **Jeannie Roberts**, jeannie.roberts@jrcreative.biz

On September 14 a 2018 *Calendar* celebration was held at the Eau Claire Public Library, with local contributors reading their poems. On October 20, the Chippewa Valley Book Festival Nadine St. Louis Poetry Conversation featured Max Garland and **Karla Huston**. October 26, **Sandra Lindow** participated in the *Barstow and Grand* inaugural reading at Volume One in Eau Claire. Lindow edited the fall issue of *Bramble*, "Everyday Magic," which includes photo essays by Chippewa Valley poet/artist **Jeannie Roberts**. *An Ariel Anthology* includes Roberts' poems "At Sixty" and "Grief, Guilt, and the Daily Mail" plus three of her photographs and Lindow's "Where Sparrow Sleep at Night." Roberts' other publications include "Hummingbird," June *Bramble*; "The American Waistland," *Local Lit*, July 24; "Radio" (August), "El Amanecer" (September), and "The Gentle Approach" (October) in *Visual Verse*; "Why, Oh Why, Did We Move from the Country," "The 3:20 School Bus," and "Clearing Trees, the Makings of a Subdivision," in the September *Verses-Virtual*; "My Son's Tattoos," in October *Literary Mama*; "The Tempo of Gratitude," in *Sky Island Journal*, October Local Gems Press, 13 Days of Halloween; "Shadows," and "Gabriele" in the November issue of *Quill and Parchment*. **David Blackey's** poems "Two Turtles Walk

Into a Bar" and "Sightseeing" appear in the September *Avocet* online. Lindow edited the "Evolving Gender" October issue of *Eye to the Telescope*. Her poem "Prelude" appears in *Barstow and Grand*. An audio version of her poem "Pulling" appears on the SFPA Halloween page at sfpoetry.com. "Tuesday Morning Yoga" appears in the fall issue of *UpNorth Lit* online. The Writers' Group at the Library, now in its 30th year, meets on first Thursdays in the Chippewa Room. Until March, we meet 2-4 PM. Contact **Sandra Lindow** at lindowleaf@gmail.com for more information.

IN MEMORIAM

Susan Elbe

Madison poet Susan Elbe died unexpectedly of a heart attack at her home on Sept. 25, 2017, at age 71. She was author of two books and two chapbooks of poetry, *Eden in the Rearview Mirror* (Word Press, 2007) and *The Map of What Happened*, which won the 2012 Backwaters Press Book Prize and the Julie Suk award from Jacar Press for the best book published by an independent publisher in 2013. Her two chapbooks were *Light Made from Nothing* (Parallel Press, 2003) and *Where Good Swimmers Drown* (Concrete Wolf Press 2012), winner of the 2011 Concrete Wolf Chapbook prize. Among her awards were the CALYX inaugural Lois Cranston Memorial Poetry Prize and the Council for Wisconsin Writers' Lorine Niedecker Award. Her writing group treasured Susan's sharp editorial eye and her own fierce standards for making language new. Susan supported and promoted poetry wherever she could, serving as webmaster on the Council for Wisconsin Writers Board of Directors and on the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission. She was one of the poet founders of the Bridge Poetry Series in collaboration with the Chazen Museum of Art. Her writers' group Lake Effect and poet friends read from her work at a memorial reading at A.L.L. on November 12. Links to her poetry can be found at susanelbe.com.

Members' Pages on wfop.org

As part of your membership to Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, poets are entitled to a member's page on the website: wfop.org/member-pages

If you would like a Member's Page, please send the following to wfopweb@gmail.com

- Contact info (address, email, website)—one or all, your preference
- Bio and sample poems—1 or 2
- List of publications
- Pictures—poet photo, any book or chapbook covers

RULES FOR WFOP 2018 MUSE PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN POETRY CONTEST
DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1, 2018

1. Contestant must be a Wisconsin resident 18 years of age or older.
2. The entry form must be completed in full, included with the submission and postmarked by the contest deadline date listed on the entry form.
3. Only one original unpublished poem not under consideration elsewhere may be entered in the WFOP Muse Prize contest. The poem may not be a simultaneous submission and it may not have won a monetary award in any contest. Seventy-five line maximum. Send two copies of poem. Plagiarism disqualifies the contestant.
4. Manuscript must be typed on 8 ½” x 11” white paper, one side only. Writer’s name should not appear on the page with the poem.
5. An entry fee of \$4.00 for WFOP members and \$8.00 for non-members must accompany the submission or may be paid online at wfop.org/store. Checks are to be made out to WFOP Literary Fund and mailed to WFOP/Muse/Jagielski, 572 Berwyn Drive, Fontana, WI 53125. Please send entry in #10 business-size envelope.
6. Prizes are: 1st place - \$200.00, 2nd - \$100.00, 3rd - \$75.00.
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the WFOP Spring Conference. The list of winners will be published in the WFOP *Museletter* and posted on wfop.org after the conference.
8. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants a prize award.
9. The first-place winner of the Muse Prize will be ineligible to enter for three years.
10. WFOP is not responsible for lost manuscripts. Do not send a SASE. Entries will not be returned and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow any of the above rules.
11. Author retains all rights to his/her work.

2018 MUSE PRIZE JUDGE: **CONNIE WANЕК**. See conniewanek.com

New WFOP Literary Journal

Bramble, the literary magazine of WFOP, is open for submissions. Each quarterly issue will have a different editor, theme and guidelines, to be announced. Cathryn Cofell will edit the next issue; there is no theme.

Please send 1–3 poems (any length and style) to bramble@wfop.org. Deadline December 10. You must be a WFOP member to submit; do not submit more than once to this issue. Please put your last name and “Poetry Submission” in the subject line. In the body of the email, please include a cover letter, brief bio, and your poems. No attachments, please. No previously published poems; no simultaneous submissions.

Postal submissions (*only* if unable to email) to:

C. Kubasta
***Bramble* submission**
2312 Oregon St
Oshkosh WI 54902

More info at wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit
Poems must be received by December 10.

Join WFOP at wfop.org

2019 Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar Call For Submissions

Submissions are open until **December 1, 2018**. Poems arriving after 11:59 PM on December 1 will not be considered.

Theme: *Celebrating Wisconsin People*

Strict 30-line limit, including stanza breaks. Lines longer than 60 characters count as 2 lines; preference to shorter poems. Send no more than two poems; previously published is OK, but credit first publisher and include year of publication.

E-mail 1–2 poems, a bio of 30 words max and your postal address in one .doc (no .pdfs) with “[last name] [first name] sub” in subject line to 2019wfoppoetscalendar@gmail.com.

Thank you and good luck to all.

Editor: Fabu

2018 Wisconsin Poets’ Calendars still available!

Order extras for gifts now; see

[**wfop.org/poets-calendar/**](http://wfop.org/poets-calendar/)

Past Calendars still available at impressive discounts!

ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2018 MUSE PRIZE
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2018 (postmark)

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ E-Mail _____

City, State, Zip _____

Poem Title: _____

First Line: _____

If my poem wins, I agree to have it published in the Museletter ___yes ___no

I am a Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older. The poem I am submitting is my own original unpublished work, is not under consideration elsewhere at this time, nor has it won a monetary award in any contest.

Signature _____ Date _____

Entry Fee Enclosed: Current WFOP Member - \$4.00 _____ Non-member - \$8.00 _____

Make Check Payable to: WFOP Literary Fund, or _____ (check here if paid online at wfop.org/store)

Mail Entry to: **WFOP/Muse/Jagielski**
572 Berwyn Drive
Fontana, WI 53125-1556

General Announcements

Publications by Our Members

Look, the Silence, Barbara Germiot's first chapbook, has been published by Antrim House Press. A look back at significant events of her past, it's available from Barb at barb@germiot.net or from antrimhousebooks.com/germiot.html.

Of Covenants, C. Kubasta's new book, is available from Whitepoint Press, whitepointpress.com. Matt Sutherland of *Foreword Reviews* writes, "The plainspoken, country-road cadence and homespun themes lean to AM, not FM, and yet the words, sounds, and rhythms are high-beam, A-team poetry."

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

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/)

CALL FOR OFFICER CANDIDATES

Elections for WFOP President, Vice president, Secretary and Treasurer will be held in the fall of 2018. If interested in running, please contact Executive VP Michael Belongie:

poetpow@gmail.com or 920-210-6073

A clarification for *Museletter* submissions

Send news either to your regional VP or directly to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com (please include region!). Send in the body of an e-mail; format as in *Museletter*; don't send .pdfs or press releases. Poetry news only; please send only publications, not acceptances; don't bother including WFOP awards or *Calendar* or *Bramble* appearances, which are made available to all members. *Please* don't double-space after periods.

2018 WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS CHAPBOOK PRIZE RULES

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

1. Contestant must be a Wisconsin resident 18 years of age or older. A resident is a person who maintains a permanent residence in Wisconsin or who has lived for at least six continuous months in the state during the contest year. A contestant does not need to be a member of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets.
2. The contest opens December 1, 2017. The entry form must be completed in full, included with the submission and entry fee, and postmarked by the contest DEADLINE, which is February 1, 2018.
3. Chapbooks published in 2017 may be entered by the author or the publisher, up to 47 pages long. Chapbooks may be self-published. Print only; online and e-book chapbooks do not qualify.
4. The non-refundable entry fee is \$7 per chapbook entry for WFOP members and \$15 per chapbook entry for non-members. Mail chapbook, entry form, and check (made out to WFOP Literary Fund) to:

WFOP/chap/Nevers
2022 Jefferson St
Madison WI 53711

5. Prizes are: First Place—\$200.00; and Second Place—\$100.00. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants a prize.
6. This year's judge will be **Patricia Valdata**, Maryland. See patvaldata.com
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the Spring Conference in April. First Place and Second Place winners are invited to the awards luncheon as guests of WFOP. Winners will be posted in the WFOP *Museletter* and at wfop.org.
8. The First Place winner of the WFOP Chapbook Prize will be ineligible to enter that contest again for three years.
9. The WFOP is not responsible for lost books. Do not send a SASE. Entries will not be returned and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow any of the above rules.
10. Author retains all rights to his/her work.
11. Address questions to Gillian Nevers: **neversgillian@gmail.com**

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

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 or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com.

Send membership inquiries to Naomi Cochran, Membership Chair, **wfopmembership@gmail.com** or W1598 Lee Rd, Hayward WI 54843

2018 WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS CHAPBOOK PRIZE ENTRY FORM

DEADLINE (postmark): February 1, 2018

Poet's Name _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapbook Title _____

Publisher and Date (month and year) _____

CHOOSE AND SIGN ONE:

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

Enclose published chapbook, entry form and fee (\$7 member/\$15 non-member per chapbook; make check payable to "WFOP Literary Fund").

Mail entry to: **WFOP/chap/Nevers**
2022 Jefferson St
Madison WI 53711

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.

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

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Sign up to receive the weekly Events e-mail.

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

2017 TRIAD AWARDS

M Wright judged 33 entries in the Kay Saunders Memorial New Poet Award Contest.

- 1st Place "Talking to Strangers" by **Naomi Cochran**
- 2nd Place "No" by **Joyce M. Latham**
- 3rd place "Snake Charmer" by **Colleen Nehmer**
- Honorable Mention "Oil Can" by **Sharon Rook Daly**; "Nourishment" by **Erna Kelly**

The judge for the Theme category was Charles Hood. There were 67 entries for the theme "Rules and/or Laws."

- 1st place "Remember the Sabbath Day by Keeping it Holy" by **Paula Schulz**
- 2nd place "My Mother Says" by **Jeffrey Johannes**
- 3rd place "A Daisy Chain for My Daughter" by **Emily Bowles**
- Honorable Mention "Ma Come Get Me (The Phone Slams)" by **Bruce Dethlefsen**; "The Presumption of Innocence" by **Thomas J. Erickson**; "She Never Spoke of How She Died" by **Janet Leahy**

There were 79 entries in the Poets' Choice contest, judged by Judith Vollmer.

- 1st Place "October Clouds of Door County" by **Bruce Dethlefsen**
- 2nd Place "The Romance of Dragonflies" by **Sandra J. Lindow**
- 3rd place "It's Raining Outside" by **Sharon Foley**
- Honorable Mention "Arriving Free in the Green Land" by **Fabu P. Carter**; "Toward Evening" by **Richard Roe**; "Cemeteries" by **Sheryl Slocum**



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.

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			

UNDOING

I have walked through many lives
and have left my muddy footprints
on the priceless carpets of a few—
friends, wives. Faceless others.
Do I now have any chance, gracelessly,
to back my way across those floors,
unsay the unkind things I've said,
undance, somehow, my awkward dance?
The poorly romanced don't call anymore,
don't seem to hear my knock. The silence
on the other side is too loud to ignore—
the only sound: some damned, ticking clock.

—Ralph Murre, *Baileys Harbor*

RECOGNITION

from the beginning it felt familiar
thread, thimble, needle pulling
quilting, spinning, weaving
respect for self-sufficiency
remnant monastic tendencies
of some past cloistered calling, love of solitude,
a spiritual bent
but lacking discipline
shreds of the wizard life alive and vibrant as,
just once, I'd elevate the deserving,
smite the cruel and thoughtless—
still, too quick to judge

—Eileen Mattmann, *West Bend*

Poems BY Our Membership

—ELMAE PASSINEAU, EDITOR

*The last line of Stanley Kunitz's "The Layers" is "I have walked through many lives ..."
These poems deal with a life or lives poets have "walked through."*

IF I COULD WALK THROUGH THEIR LIVES AGAIN

My deceased mother, daughter of Finnish immigrants,
appears before me, opening her blue sewing box.
She patches dad's overalls, darns his white socks,
stitches torn hems, knits new thumbs on holey mittens.
Mom couldn't imagine tossing threadbare clothing.
My deceased father, son of Finnish immigrants,
appears before me, enacting the construction
of our two-story house he built board by board,
mostly by himself. Then he pantomimes the wiring,
plumbing, plastering, painting, the pouring of concrete
under the clothesline and down the long driveway.
Dad couldn't imagine paying someone to do this work
he could do himself, having learned, by necessity, as a child.
Daughter of these second-generation Finnish immigrants,
I walked obliviously through their lives. Now, I wonder
why I never said *teach me* so that we might have walked together.

—Linda Setula Aschbrenner, Marshfield

WALKING THROUGH A GATE

Like a sylvan deity, he tried to make me in his own image,
my Gramp Jones, a feisty little Bantam rooster of a man
who on his toes crowed loudly, flapping his dusty wings,
trying to mold an aspiring young poet into a dairy farmer.
I wore his duck-foot shoes for my eighth-grade graduation,
and eventually used his gift razor to shave my smooth chin.
After our ferocious quarrel over algebraic negative numbers,
and a lesson in the Proper Way to close a barbed-wire gate,
he finally resigned himself, You're not going to be a farmer,
are you? and I slowly shook my head, silently answering, No.
I left for college, an English major in the school of education,
no shoveling shit nor pulling tits in the future lying before me.
But later I bought half the farm, a wise financial investment,
I thought, not expecting a return of raw emotional dividends.
I planted rambling gardens, as if a truck farmer in training,
and now I have a sweet two-year-old granddaughter, Julia,
who lovingly calls me Gramp, her grandfather, the old poet,
and I hold the gate open for her, as we enter my lush garden.

—Gary Jones, Sister Bay

THOUGHTS FROM SHAKESPEARE, KHLIL GIBRAN, AND THE PREACHER IN ECCLESIASTES

The Bard said we all have our exits and our entrances.
The War exited as I entered, in Oklahoma, a state I never knew.
We were an all-girl family. Sisters are those who know you the longest and see you at your worst.
When I was twelve we walked in Liverpool and said, "Ta ta," and called our friends "Luv."
How strange to walk three years in South America and not fall off the globe.
Those were the most kissable years, and boys followed me home from school.
I walked through the lives of a family from Iowa and tarried with them thirty years before saying—
it's time for a change.
In those years, I held the hands of a blond boy and a girl with flaming hair. They were the arrows
shot from my bow.
Now four other small ones walk with me and we make cookies.
Before the silver cord snaps, I will have had thirty years on my own to dream and write. All in all,
a good play, with comedy and drama.

—Nancy Runner, Weston

SAY IT SOFTLY

Move into another's life.
Sit next to a child learning to read.
Hear the stumbles,
the slow sounding of a word,
the long puzzled pauses.

Enter into the problem.
See some words and make their sound.
See other and feel a cold blank.
Have the breathless need to read a whole page.
And the anxious fear of the long word
glimpsed at the end of the line.

Join the child's struggle.
Lean in closer.
Forget who you are
and what you know.
Say the word so softly
the sound becomes the child's own.

—Pauline Witte, Middleton

MEDITATION ON "PLAN B"

knowing
i can drive
to the cal sag canal,
stones in my pockets
in the manner of virginia woolf,
to end the madness,
gives me the
courage
to reset the kitchen timer
one more time
onemorettimeonemorettimeonemorettime
one more time

—Phyllis Beckman, Onalaska

PLACE ~ DEADLINE JANUARY 15

Recalling Carl Sandburg's proud and powerful portrayal of "Chicago," send a poem that deals with a city, town, village, or other place (park, street, building, lake, etc.) you have known. Maximum 18 lines.

Send to: etp1024@gmail.com

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

LAST FOREVER

Blue string with a metal lock meant we could stay all day,
a Tuesday off work, nowhere to be but walking up and down
the midway, taking the roller coaster 3,4,5 times.
That forever long ascent, that thrill of the fall. And later,
you below me on the steps (is how I tell the story, how I
couldn't say what I wanted to say)
Candy made of pink cotton, games with fuzzy bears to win,
arcade in the background, noise enough to drown my awkward love.
Years later, I ask would you ride it now?
Yes, you say, no hesitation. You love the falling.
We put 51 cents in the crush-your-penny machine,
a shiny penny you've been saving. 11 tons of pressure,
the sign informs, will make the beach boardwalk last.

—*Jeanie Tomasko, Middleton*

Next Issue Deadline
FEBRUARY 1, 2018