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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Betsy Borchardt, Redgranite
Constance Bougie, Oshkosh
Caleb Dobbratz, Appleton
Bruce Henson, Gordon
Margo Holzman, Poynette
William Koch, Milwaukee
Denise Kunz, Greenfield
Robert Malouf, Brookfield
David Mickelson, Hayward
Tom Spencer, Whitehall
Sean Standish, Madison
Alexander Zitzner, Eau Claire

President's Message

This week has certainly been "high summer" up north. It's great weather for people spending time at a lake, but not so great for gardeners. I fall in the second category, and though I love this beautiful weather I am always grateful for rain.

Summer is a great time to write. I hope you are finding this to be true and are spending time working on poems, attending readings or workshops, or just relaxing with good poetry. WFOP members around the state are busy bringing poetry to as many people as possible. Events that come to mind are Poetry in Portage, the Summer Poetry Festival in Green Bay, and Poetry Unlocked in Appleton. This is not a complete list by any means. The weekly Events email sent to members on Mondays is a great resource for what's going on around the state, including submission opportunities. If you are not receiving this email, please contact **F. J. Bergmann** at wfopmuseletter@gmail.com to get on the list.

I also encourage members who receive a paper copy of the *Museletter* via U.S. mail to consider switching to e-delivery. Each printed/mailed *Museletter* costs WFOP more than \$10 a year. This change (use above email to switch) is an easy way to help conserve funds that can be used for poetry around the state.

Are you a poet laureate for your town or county? I'd like to keep a list of WFOP members who are serving in this capacity. Let me know if you hold this position and what you are up to. A presentation was made at a past conference on how to establish a poet laureate in your locale. I will get handouts to you if you are interested. Thanks to **Nancy Rafal** and **Jude Genereaux** who originally compiled the information. **Jim Landwehr**, poet laureate of Wales (Wisconsin!), is gathering signed poetry books to donate to the local high school library. For specifics, please contact Jim at jimlandwehr@att.net.

Speaking of poet laureates, **TC Tolbert**, poet laureate of Tuscon, is the featured poet for WFOP's fall conference. The theme is "Poetry of Transition, Transformation & Revision." Read more about TC and the conference inside this issue. TC promises to bring a fresh perspective to those who attend.

It is said that when you give, you get. I have found this to be true as I approach the end of my first term as president. I hope to continue in this position and get to know as many members as possible. We are looking for someone to take on the position of executive vice-president. Although a weekly notice has been given via the Events mailing for the nominations to slate of executive officers, no Fellowship member (who has served in any WFOP leadership role) has volunteered to serve as the vice-president. If you are willing or curious, please contact **Michael Belongie** regarding the vice-president position.

Thanks for reading this and I hope to see you in November.

—Jan

A Note from the Membership Chair

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

Remember ...

Notify *in advance* of address change. Only first-class mail forwards; bulk is returned at WFOP's expense.

Request e-mail instead; the .pdf link is sent earlier, and you'll save WFOP funds!

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

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets is online at wfop.org

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. Email her to be added to the area events list. Regular readings are at Thelma, Fond du Lac, (thelmarts.org), Evergreen Manor, Oshkosh, and The Draw, Appleton.

Of the honorees, 2 of our region's poets were named by the Wisconsin Library Association for Outstanding Poetry: *How to Be An Indian in the 21st Century* by **Louis Clark III** and *Grief Bone* by **Karla Huston**.

Gary Haren had a poem published in *Journal from the Heartland*, Vol. 2, under the theme of "Close to Home."

Some excerpts of **C. Kubasta's** poetry were recently used by artist Mollie Oblinger in her show *drought starved us out* at the Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts (on display through 10/1). Kubasta also had new poetry in *Occulum*, *Hummingbird*, and *A) Glimpse) Of*.

Mary Wehner has been working on two projects: Question Poems, poems beginning with a question; and Word-Of-The-Day poems, choosing a "refdesk" word of the day for inspiration. Two of the Word-Of-The-Day poems were published in *Hummingbird*. David Kopitzke produced beautiful artwork for one of the poems.

Paul Wiegel recently spent a week as the resident writer for Write On Door County! As part of this, he participated in Door County's Midsummer's Music Festival by reading at a concert in Fish Creek. He also brought his brand of "street poetry" to Egg Harbor's Fourth of July Festival & the Baileys Harbor parade. He continues to do this around the state, including a few of the valley's Bazaar at Night festivals, Art Fair Off the Square in Madison, and various other festivals and markets.

EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Patricia Janke received first place in the Bo Carter Memorial Contest for her poem "Manic Wind."

Nancy Runner (Mid-Central) used **Debra Monthei-Manske's** poem "Expiration Dates" in Nancy's newly published memoir, *Early Birds Flock Together (Joys, Sorrows—and Laughs—in Senior Living)*.

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

Joan Wiese Johannes and **Jeffrey Johannes** had poems in *Fox Cry Review* and the anthology *Celestial Musings*:

Poems Inspired by the Night Sky, and poems chosen for *Trace*, the poetry/art exhibit at Center for Visual Arts in Wausau. Joan also had a poem in *Perspective Magazine* and in the World Enough Writers' *Last Call: Beer, Wine, and Spirits Poetry Anthology*. Jeffrey had a poem in *Rosebud*.

M. Justine Foster's poem "Solace" was in the anthology *The Sound of a Thousand Leaves* (Redwood Writers Club, a branch of the California Writer's Club, 2018).

Karyn Powers' poem "Shattered" was selected for the installation *Trace*.

Mary "Ray" Goehring's poem "I Carried Him" is in the summer issue of *Blue Heron Review*, and her poem "Mapping Footprints" was chosen for *Trace*.

Dawn Anderson was filmed performing spoken word for a Public Service Announcement for the National Funeral Directors Association. She is team-teaching a poetry and journaling class for the Center for Visual Art Summer Tween program in Wausau and a Tiny Poems workshop at the Oregon Poetry Association conference in Eugene, Oregon. Dawn read poetry at Farmstead Creamery CSA on August 9.

Joan Giusto's poem "River Runes" has been selected for *Trace*.

Mike Kriesel's pantoum "Fox Mulder Retires" is in the latest issue of the poetry journal of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association, *Star*Line*. Read it at sfpoetry.com/sl/issues/starline41.3.html. "Forgiving the Grass" appears in the Summer 2018 issue of *Midwestern Gothic*. His manuscript of short poems, *Wisconsin Book of the Dead*, was one of 16 finalists in the Wick First Book Contest.

Victoria Lindsay was a featured reader at Art that Blooms, which published four of her poems.

Kathleen Serley's poems, "Storm Clouds Gather" and "Winning," were in *The Solitary Plover*, Summer 2018.

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigw@twc.com

Doris Bezio's poem "Art Fair by Wheelchair" appeared in the *National Writer's Circle Journal*.

Annette Langlois Grunseth offered a reading at the Green Bay Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship for Pride Sunday, June 24. She read from her book *Becoming Trans-Parent: One Family's Journey of Gender Transition* with a discussion following. Her poem "A Child, Maybe Your Child" was in *Bards Against Hunger*, the anthology raising funds for food pantries across Wisconsin.

Tori Grant Welhouse had three poems published with *The Ravensperch* and one poem in *Mayday Magazine*. Links at torigrantwelhouse.com/poetry.

NORTHWEST

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

Lucy Tyrrell had her poem “Sea Glass” published in *Red Cedar Review*, “Reflection” and “Aran Island Sweater” in *Jill*, “Ravens fly far” in the summer issue of *Avocet*, “Winter Passage” in the ‘walls’ issue of *Alaska Women Speak*, “Beads in New Orleans” in the ‘gluttony’ issue of *Pure Slush*, “This gentle curve” in the ‘greed’ issue of *Pure Slush*, and three photos in *Cirque Journal*. Lucy read her poem “Cluster Flies” (during a choreographed dance of it) at the “Wordy Dancing” performance of several poem-inspired dances organized by the poet laureate of Duluth.

Jan Chronister had three poems in *Twig 4*, and a poem in each of the *Greed and Gluttony* anthologies published by Pure Slush Books. Jan served as one of three judges for the poetry slam at the Namekagon Arts and Music Festival on July 7.

Diana Randolph, Drummond, read poetry with **John Leighton** at the Farmstead Creamery and Café in Hayward for their Spoken Word monthly event in August. She was the guest speaker/poet for the annual Friendship Brunch for the Hayward area PEO Organization.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

James P. Roberts has had poems published in *Zingara Poetry Review*, *Weirdbook*, and *Blue Heron Review*. He has discontinued his radio show, *A Space For Poetry*, on WWMV-LP 95.5 FM. Individual episodes are still on SoundCloud.

Jeri McCormick, **Gillian Nevers** and **Nathan J. Reid** garnered Honorable Mentions in the *Wisconsin People & Ideas* 2018 Writing Contest.

Guy Thorvaldsen had a poem, “In Our Midst,” published in the *Fredericksburg Literary and Art Review*.

Marilyn Annucci read poetry at Common Ground Cafe in Middleton on May 10.

Richard Merelman read at the Coloma Hotel in Coloma May 9. He also was a reader at “New Poetry In Wisconsin” at Arts & Literature Lab, Madison, June 16.

Tom Boswell read at the Coloma Hotel on June 13. His poem “A Boy, Lost At Swim” was in the Spring 2018 issue of *Sky Island Journal*.

Ronnie Hess read from two new chapbooks, *O is For Owl* and *Canoeing a River With No Name*, on June 21 at Mystery To Me, Madison.

Dominic Holt read at the Alicia Ashman Library in Madison on June 29.

Steve Tomasko won the Hal Prize AND an honorable mention in the *Peninsula Pulse* contest. His winning poem:

<https://doorcountypulse.com/hal-prize-for-poetry-1st-place-pareidolia/>

F. J. Bergmann gave a poetry workshop and read with **Patricia Williams** at Suzy’s Steakhouse, Portage, July 3.

F. J. Bergmann had 2 poems, “Now, You See It” and “Visitors” in *Dreams & Nightmares*; “Xenolinguistics” in *Rosebud*; “Validation” in *Red Cedar Review*; “Heaven,” “Martian Mode,” and “Overtures” in *Tales of the Unanticipated*; “Heat Lightning” in *Priestess & Hierophant*; “Appropriate Tools” in *Pedestal Magazine*; “Scrutiny” and “Drinking from the Source” in *Wild Musette*; “3-Minute Future” and “So You Want to Be a Poet!” in *Unlikely Stories*; “The Garden” in *Uppagus*; “A Shuggoth Approaches through an Antarctic Blizzard whilst an Intrepid Explorer, Snowblind, Trudges Unflinchingly Onward” and “trying on a used ...” in *Star*Line* 41.3; “Betsy Ross” and “only hours out” in the 2018 *Dwarf Stars* anthology; “Gramarye” placed third in the 2018 SFPA Rhysling Award. She competed with Madison’s 2018 Urban Spoken Word team at National Poetry Slam in Chicago August 14–18; thanks to James P. Roberts for a \$100 donation from the WFOP South region.

WEST CENTRAL

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

The grass may be dry in the Chippewa Valley but an aquifer of poetry continues to run. June 16, **Candace Hennekens**, **Jeannie Roberts**, **Bruce Taylor** and **Jan Carroll** read poetry with Chippewa Valley Writers Guild 6X6 event to help open the city of Altoona’s River Prairie, a commercial/social/nature development next to the Eau Claire River. Poems will be included in an anthology published by University Professors Press. June 21, **Yvette Flaten** hosted and read her poetry at the Summer Solstice White Pine Celebration at Simply Dunn in Downsville. **Erna Kelly** also participated in this event. June 21–24, **Sandra Lindow** and **Jeannie Roberts** attended a “Mindfulness” Writing workshop and Cirenaica in Fall Creek. June 28 to July 1, **Lopa Basu** and Lindow also attended the Cirenaica **Karla Huston** “Memory” workshop. July 6, Lindow won the SFPA Slam Poetry event at Convergence in Bloomington, MN. This is her second consecutive win, so next year she will be a judge. Her other readings included a speculative poetry reading at WisCon in Madison May 26, the July 25 *Twig* publication celebration at Shift Cyclery and Coffee Bar in Eau Claire, and the July 28 SFPA round robin reading at Diversicon in St. Paul. **Karen Loeb** published in *Thema*, and a flash piece in *Volume One*. **Jane-Marie Bahr**’s poem “Anniversary” is in the summer issue of *Blue Heron Review*. **David Blackey**’s spring poem “Primavera” was in

Avocet June 3. Roberts' poem "Sunrise" appeared in the June *Visual Verse*, and her poem "La Mujer Volador (The Flying Woman)" appears in the August *Verse-Virtual*. Lindow's publications include "Coming out of the Dark" in *Eye to the Telescope* 29 and "bottle trees on Mars," *Star*Line* 41.2. In May, Lindow's poem "A Corona of Women" was chosen for graphic representation by a UW–Barron County student. The Writers' Group at the Library meets at the Eau Claire Memorial Library first Thursdays. First Congo Writers' Group meets 9:30 AM third Tuesdays at First Congregational in Menomonie. The West Central Region will host the WFOP Spring Conference, April 26–27, 2019. The theme is "Confluence," and the poet guest of honor will be award-winning Minnesota author Heid E. Erdich. Contact Sandra Lindow at lindowleaf@gmail.com for more information.

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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.

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

WFOP's Literary Journal

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

Guest Editor: Ronnie Hess

Theme: Versatility

Open to all forms & styles; however, consider the prompt about versatility: we are especially interested in poems that could just as easily become a children's picture book as a stand-alone poem for mature readers. *Bramble* is now web & print. Guidelines at wfop.org/bramble-lit-mag/how-to-submit

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

C. Kubasta
Bramble submission
 2312 Oregon St
 Oshkosh WI 54902

**Submission Guidelines
 for 2020 Wisconsin Poet's Calendar**

The theme for the 2020 calendar is "Going Places" which can include travel far and wide or close to home—a trip to the supermarket or across the road or a trip across the ocean. Interpret it as you will. A seasonal emphasis is always welcome but not required.

- Because we'd like to publish as many poems as possible, shorter poems have a better chance of being chosen. There is 25-line limit per poem, including stanza breaks. Lines longer than 60 characters count as 2 lines. The calendar is for all people—not only poets—so accessible poems have a better chance.

- Open to anyone with a Wisconsin connection; strong preference given to year-round (or almost) residents.

- Submit 1–2 poems, keeping the line limit in mind. No simultaneous submissions. Previously published okay—credit publisher and year of publication at end of poem.

- Poems should arrive between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1, 2018. Poems sent before Sept. 1 or after 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 1, 2018 will not be considered.

- Email poems as one attachment as .doc or .docx (no PDFs) to 2020wfopcalendar@gmail.com. In your attachment include your name, street address, phone, email, and a short 3rd person bio (30 words maximum). Put line count on each poem in upper right or left corner.

- While we prefer email submissions, typed poems may be sent through the post. Please address to:

Erna Kelly
 1604 Drummond St.
 Eau Claire, WI 54701

Postmarked *between Sept. 1 and Dec. 1, 2018*. Include your address and line count on the page with the poem.

Postal subs only: include SASE so we can notify you if your poem is accepted and send a copy of it for final proofing.

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**Submission Guidelines
 for the 2019 WFOP Student Contest**

Open for submissions; winning poems will appear in and receive the 2020 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. Cash prizes in each division: 1st place \$75; 2nd place \$50; 3rd place \$25. Junior (grades 6–8) and Senior (grades 9–12). E-mail to wfopstudents@att.net

DEADLINE: *Saturday, January 12, 2019*

wfop.org/s/2019-WFOP-Student-Contest-Rules.pdf

WFOP 2018 Fall Conference

POETRY OF TRANSITION, TRANSFORMATION & REVISION

All inquiries should be directed to Tori Grant Welhouse at wfopweb@gmail.com

Conference registration for members: \$60 for both days (including Sat. breakfast and lunch) if *received* by October 2, 2018.

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

Visit wfop.org/conferences/ to register and pay online, or make check payable to WFOP and mail to:

Colleen Frentzel
1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr
Janesville WI 53546

Friday–Saturday, November 2–3, 2018

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

Hotel reservations: at WFOP site, or 715-344-0200 ext. 3 and ask for FOP group block rate by **October 2, 2018**

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 bio on p. 7

Publications by Our Members

Apocrypha, David Southward's new book, is now available from Wipf and Stack Publishers, wipfandstock.com. More at davidsouthward.com.

Hailstorm Interlude, Thomas J. Erickson's new chapbook, can be pre-ordered at finishinglinepress.com/product/hailstorm-interlude-by-thomas-erickson/ or by check for \$14.99 per copy plus \$2.99 shipping to Finishing Line Press, PO Box 1626, Georgetown, KY 40324. (Pre-orders determine the initial press run; deadline is August 8.)

Emily Bowles's chapbook, *His Journal, My Stella*, uses the literary and historical relationship between Jonathan Swift and Esther Johnson as the structure for telling intimate stories of sexual predation, shame, and power. Pre-order through August 24: finishinglinepress.com/product/his-journal-my-stella-by-emily-bowles/

Neighbors by Tom Boswell, winner of the Helen Kay Chapbook Prize, is a new, themed chapbook, a somewhat dark look at small-town life, published by Evening Street Press, Sacramento, CA. Available on Amazon or at eveningstreetpress.com.

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 2018 Fall Conference—Registration form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ WFOP Region _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____

Current members \$60 (if received by October 2; \$65 at the door) Number ____ \$ _____
(Includes breakfast and lunch)

Non-members \$90 (if received by October 2; \$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: _____

Colleen Frentzel
1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr
Janesville WI 53546

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

Dear Friends of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate,

Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Karla Huston** is in the last six months of her tenure. This fall, the Poet Laureate Commission will select a new Poet Laureate for 2019–2020. Applications are being taken for the next Wisconsin Poet Laureate beginning August 20, until the deadline, October 5. For full guidelines: <http://wisconsinpoetlaureate.org/node/44>

Karla’s tenure has been exciting. Just this year alone, she’s logged thousands of miles, appeared at conventions and conferences around Wisconsin, given dozens of public readings, held writing workshops and driven through at least one snowstorm. Also this year, Karla’s new chapbook, *Grief Bone*, received an outstanding Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Library Association. Our past poets laureate and our Board members also have been active, with several new books to their credit.

“The Poet Laureate plays a crucial role in keeping the arts accessible and vital to all age groups, and acts as a statewide emissary for poetry and creativity. The Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission embraces the diversity of human experience, identity, and literary aesthetics. All applications are welcome, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, cultural heritage, socio-economic background, physical ability or poetic sub-genre. And in fact, those very aspects of identity are factors the committee will take into account when making its selection, in the pursuit of the Poet Laureate Program being representative of the rich and diverse cultures of poetry in the State of Wisconsin.”

Wishing you a fine summer and, once again, thank you for your support of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate program.

—Ronnie Hess, Chair, Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission

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.

2018 Fall Conference Schedule

Friday, November 2

- 4:30 PM Registration Opens
- 4:00–6:00 PM Board Meeting
- 6:00–7:00 PM Dinner on your own
- 7:00–8:00 PM How to Set Up a Memory Café with Karla Huston
- 8:00–10:00 PM Open Mic

Saturday, November 3

- 7:15 AM Breakfast/Registration/Book Fair
- 8:15 AM Welcome and Announcements
- 8:30–9:15 AM Business Meeting
- 9:15–10:15 AM Roll Call Poems (under 20 lines)
- 10:15 AM Break
- 10:30–11:30 AM Triad Contest Winners Announced

- 11:30 AM–NOON Roll Call Poems (under 20 lines)
- NOON Lunch
- 1:00–2:30 pm Poetry of Transition, Transformation & Revision: Workshop
- 2:30 PM Break
- 2:45–3:00 PM Roll Call Poems (under 20 lines)
- 3:00–3:45 Visual Poetry with TC Tolbert: Reading
- 4:00–4:30 PM Book Sales/Signing

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

Advertise in the *Museletter* or Events e-mail! Rates:

\$15	eighth page	\$40	half page
\$25	quarter page	\$75	full page

\$10 /100 wds in Events e-mail

Fall Conference Presenter

Featured Poet: **TC TOLBERT** often identifies as a trans and genderqueer feminist, collaborator, dancer, and poet, but really s/he's just a human in love with humans doing human things. TC earned her/his MFA in Poetry from the University of Arizona in 2005 and is currently Core Faculty in the Low Residency MFA Program at Oregon State University–Cascades. S/he is a nationally certified EMT, and in the summer s/he leads wilderness trips for Outward Bound. TC was selected as Tucson's Poet Laureate in 2017. TC's first full-length collection, *Gephyromania*, was published by Ahsahta Press in 2014. *Gephyromania* was selected as one of the top poetry books of 2014 by *Entropy* and was listed by Eileen Myles as one of her favorites for 2014 in *The Gay and Lesbian Review*.

Reserve 2019 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendars* now for delivery in September. Supplies are limited.
wfop.org/poets-calendar-1/poets-calendar-2018
 Past *Calendars* still available at impressive discounts!

POETRY CRITIQUE GROUPS

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

Are you on Facebook?

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/)

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

In Memoriam

RONALD VIRGIL ELLIS (1933–2018), widely published poet and editor, passed on July 6, 2018. A highly regarded media studies professor at UW–Whitewater, he developed courses in poetry writing, screenwriting and desktop publishing. Witty and iconoclastic, Ron formed the music and performance groups Dangerous Odds and Fuzzy Logic, dedicated to improvisation; two tapes and six CDs have been recorded. An energetic poet and performer, Ron made a large swath of national appearances, performing in small clubs and colleges throughout the Midwest and on the East Coast. I personally had him as a guest-performer in my fiber-optic broadcast studio in Randolph, acquainting high-school students at four other broadcast studios simultaneously with this cutting-edge poet. That event was “all Ron” for energy and grit. Ron presented at several WFOP events. He served the WFOP and its members as a well-received and accomplished poet-ambassador of poetry in Wisconsin and national venues.

A celebration of Ron's life and works is to be held at the Soulful Toad in Fort Atkinson on October 20, 2018.

—Michael Belongie

Poems BY Our Membership

—ELMAE PASSINEAU, EDITOR

Nothing Happens Prompt: Poet Wislawa Szymborska said, "Even boredom should be described with gusto. How many things are happening on a day when nothing happens?" Submit a poem about the commonplace, the boring, the expected, the ordinary, the seemingly insignificant, with or without a twist at the end. Maximum 18 lines.

LUNCH BREAK NEAR THE ROAD

Hardhats set
on picnic benches,
lunch boxes open to flies, July,
yellowjackets, sandwiches,
water sipped cool,
sweat drips from foreheads.

Co-workers eat shadeless in the field
beside the road, lettuce, tomato chilled, a dill,
exchange water weekend stories,
close hot eyes to rest away
construction dust, still noon.

A scream of brakes alarms.
A car just yards away.
Above the road little girl in blue—
airborne.

—Tad Phippen Wentte, Port Washington

ANOTHER MORNING

Wake to insistent light in the east
backyard shadowed quiet stepped into
feet chill in the dew wet grass

touch glistening drops..mirrors of sun
iris-eyed on the lacy green fans
of dappled Lady's Mantle fringes

startle three robins intent on stripping
succulent plumpness off purply-black bounty
weighing thick on the Mulberry tree

hear bees drone at the fence line
already working the pale purple sweetness
blossomed swaying tips of tall Russian Sage
pearly gray-green in this light

while in front of the house
the fresh 'FOR SALE' sign
settles into the oncoming day

—Karen Haley, Wauwatosa

DANDELIONS

Gold spots dot my lawn.
Honeybees and Hoverflies
feed in golden crowns.

—Jan Bosman, Woodstock, IL

ABOVE A GRASSY FIELD

hundreds of times, she filled the coffee pot with water,
pressed the toggle, waited for the boil.
so ordinary—like doing nothing.

today, she presses the switch with trembling hands,
while distraught passengers huddle, confer—
others say goodbye on cell phones,
one reveals the combination to her safe.

uncommon courage surges forward,
solidarity in purpose, desperate resolve.

no pocket knife cuts, no gun explodes,
no scissors stab—they were not aboard
with forty souls

it is the pot of scalding water that thwarts and saves
above a grassy field

it is the glass of the ordinary that breaks and lingers—
last brave moments of Flight 93.

—Lucy Tyrrell, Bayfield

AMID THE JACK PINES IN AUGUST

pine needles drape over a branch like fur trim
shafts of sun spread across the grass
green and brown pine cones sprawl in the shade
a spider stops crocheting its web
dried sap whitewashes the shaggy bark
sour fruit ferments in the compost heap
a mosquito coasts along the porch
screened out in disbelief

—Deb Johnston, Marshfield

Note
that we are
far more likely
to find room
for shorter
poems!

EVENING ON THE PORCH

Sitting, listening to the rain increase
from drizzle to soft showers;
drops increasing in the bucket
at the corner of the gutter. Sit
and breathe in peace before you turn
to other pages, other duties.

Now the drops become a rhythm
in the bucket, heartbeats, speeded up;
the rain is running. The drops
are now a runner's heartbeat,
strong and steady; in the lead,
and feeling confident.

The air is cool, the breeze has dropped;
the rain has stopped. The drops are slowing.
Now the race is at an end;
the runner pauses, ribbon broken; the pulse
slows down. A steady thump,
thump, thump, within the breast of night.

—*Ed Block, Greendale*

CLOUD CAT

He slips in like lengthening shadows,
like a sly change in the weather.

Quiet as twilight,
heavy as the evening air,
he's a warm front moving in from the south
with shifting shades of variegated gray,
ripples of silvery pearl,
a luminous mackerel sky spreading
slow across my waiting lap.

Pink nose soft as the blush of last light,
dark tail curving like the veiled horizon,
he squints with a solace shy and sweet
and purrs from somewhere deep.

We sleep.

—*Jody Murad Curley, Madison*

MEDITATION WALK

I walk among them most days—
names without faces—
Jones, Smith, Wilcox,
Abbott, Gaithers, Stowe,
Mueller and more.

I recognize a few from a distance now.
Their shape, position under the trees,
some alone, others with family close by.
From time to time a new one arrives—
its fresh finery easy to distinguish.
Most don the same day after day
until a special day.

For many, that day is long past,
save for the kindness of a stranger
who might have brought an extra measure.

—*Patricia Smith, Knapp*

AN ORDINARY DAY

I wake to an ordinary day: The sky blue,
the sun rising, the wind strong,
tree branches swinging. I don slippers.

I notice, later, at the front window, sipping coffee,
that the ordinary lilac has done its blooming. It is
still and the sky has turned an ordinary grey.

I watch, waiting at car servicing, flashy angelfish flutter
and humble catfish bottom feed in their glass house.
Like me, they enjoy an ordinary day.

I make that most ordinary stop for milk and bread,
and realize with a start how extraordinary,
how monumental, how splendid it would be for some
in this world to have such an ordinary day.

—*Laurel Devitt, LaCrosse*

MIND YOUR Ps ~ DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

Every once in a while, a random word poem seems to be in order. Submit a poem including the following seven words: primitive, pillow, preposterous, promenade, pearl, peak, piano. Maximum 16 lines.

Send to: etp1024@gmail.com

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

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HUMDRUM FACT

When my checkbook landed in laundry water,
hapless lingerie and ledgers soaked up each
other's inks and dyes. Loosened numerals,
lace, ruined pulp in need of sorry rescue.

Dredging sogged materials from marbled water,
I wondered when, how hard, to squeeze,
trying gingerly to unmarry tangled layers, to dry
fetched and wetted pages, realizing with a shrug
how much of life is, of necessity, thus spent:
performing mundane tasks of fix, of mend.

Again illumined, the flat little fact that life
keeps moving through mishap, mess, and
resolution. Repetition: its wary muse.
Boredom: its by-product unless we refuse.

—Ann Steinbach, Milwaukee

HISTORIC COZY RENTAL COTTAGE ON THE SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR

Soothing at first, even companionable,
the soft drips from the kitchen faucet.
I looked forward to needed sleep,
serenaded by waves. The quaint drip,
an added benefit. That first night,
I slept like the dead. Night two,
insistent drips, a puzzling Morse code.
Night three, water flowed erratically.
Ancient plumbing or ghosts having fun?
Night four, pipes groaning, squeaking,
moaning, breaking into my dreams
of water demons, drownings,
sailors lost at sea. Day five, I fled.

—Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield