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## Welcome!

### NEW MEMBERS

Rochelle Arelano, Madison  
Lopamudra Basu, Eau Claire  
Kathleen Brown, Marathon City  
Robert Chesney, Cedarburg  
Cindy Forsberg, Slinger  
Rebecca Hansen, Elkhorn  
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Maureen Las, LaCrosse  
Ash Lee, Eau Claire  
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Bradley Mueller, Oak Park IL  
Sara Neall, Wauwatosa  
Robert F. Nussbaum, Rhinelander  
Eric Saunders-White, Madison  
Ann Steinbach, Milwaukee  
Parker Sterling, Ashland  
Marilyn Washow, Lac du Flambeau

## President's Message

As I enter my third year as WFOP president, I am grateful to all those who volunteer their time and energy to promote poetry across Wisconsin. As I write this, Fabu and her fellow editors are busy selecting poems for the 2019 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. The 2020 *Calendar* editors, **Erna Kelly** and **Kathy Loeb** of Eau Claire, are already planning for their edition.

After many years of service, *Calendar* business manager **Michael Farmer** has stepped down and transitioned to a different lifestyle (please refer to the "In House" column in this *Museletter* for more information). Michael guided the production, distribution and sales of the calendar for fourteen years, donating all his commission back to WFOP. We are forever grateful to Michael for his tireless dedication to WFOP.

As we say good-bye to Michael, we welcome **Carol Pemrich Hauser**, the new *Calendar* business manager (see bio elsewhere in this *Museletter*). Carol has jumped right in and is busy analyzing the economics of printing and marketing the calendar.

Planning for the spring conference, "Poetic Conversation & Collaboration", is well underway and in the capable hands of Christina Kubasta. She has lined up phenomenal speakers **Tiana Clark** and **Heather Derr-Smith**, whose bios appear in this *Museletter*. Save the dates now to take advantage of what is sure to be an inspiring conference.

Speaking of conferences, many thanks go to **Nancy Austin** and **Andree Graveley** for all their hard work that went into the fall conference. It was amazing to see the meeting room filled to capacity with 130 people. I'm not sure if that is a record, but it has to be close.

One of the benefits of our long Wisconsin winters is having more time to write. Spring will be here before we know it along with April, National Poetry Month. Take advantage of "cabin fever" to work on those drafts and polish poems for upcoming contests and submissions.

The WFOP Facebook page continues to gather new "likes" every week. If you use Facebook, please "like" the page. Encourage non-members to do so as well. I try to post events and submission opportunities of interest to Wisconsin poets. Keeping the page updated helps me to connect to the wider poetry world and encourages me to work on my own poems. Poetry is a solitary endeavor, so it is nice to know there are many people out there doing the same thing.

Keep writing. I look forward to seeing you at the spring conference in Oshkosh April 27-28.

All the best,  
—JAN

## 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.

### **EAST**

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Calling all Poets! April is Poetry Month. The East Region will celebrate Milwaukee Day (4/14); on Saturday, April 14, 1–4 PM, in the Ellipse Meeting Room of the East Branch of the Milwaukee Public Library, 2320 N. Cramer St, Milwaukee, **Kavon Cortez Jones** (KJ) will host an open mike/spoken word event. Free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served.

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

On February 17 at Woodland Pattern there will be a reading from *Where I Want to Live: Poems for Fair and Affordable Housing*, a poetry project to honor all who participated in the 1967–68 marches in Milwaukee that helped win local and national fair housing laws & to envision the inclusive committee we need. **Peggy Rozga** served as managing editor of this chapbook. In addition to Peggy's poetry, the book includes poems by **Freesia McKee** and **Sheryl Slocum**, among others. Copies of the chapbook are available at Woodland Pattern.

Woodland Pattern's 29<sup>th</sup> annual Poetry Marathon and fund raiser on January 27 was a success. Ten poets read every hour from 10 AM until 1 AM the next morning. WFOP sponsored the 3 PM hour during which member poets read. Dozens of other members read throughout.

Anne Kingsbury, co-founder and Executive Director of Woodland Pattern has retired after 37 years of service. Jenny Gropp and Laura Solomon have been hired as Executive Directors. Jenny and Laura come from the *Georgia Review* in Athens, GA. They both have backgrounds in education, publishing, and arts administration, and as poets and enthusiasts for small-press literature.

**CJ Muchhala** has poems in *Ariel Anthology* 2017, *New Poetry from the Midwest* (newamericanpress.com); *Peacock Journal* online (peacockjournal.com) and in print 1:2 (littleredtree.com); and in *Voices on the*

*Wind* 68 (voicesonthewind.net). CJ collaborated with photographer Karen Peugh on a work included in the Museum of Wisconsin Art Member Exhibition and has had several poems exhibited with Christine Alfery's art in the New Visions Gallery, Marshfield. The latter poems are also included in the exhibition book *Journeys II*.

Several of **Marilyn Zelke Windau's** poems have been published recently by *Parentheses*, *Indian River Review*, and *Placeholder*. One of her poems received one of two Honorable Mentions in the Visual Prompt Contest held by *Helen Literary Magazine*.

**Freesia McKee's** book *How Distant the City* (Headmistress Press), is a finalist for the Charlotte Mew Prize.

### **MID-CENTRAL**

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

**Joan Giusto**, Tomahawk, had her poem "Timeshares" appear in *Bards Against Hunger*, and the haiku "passage" included in the 2017 *Ariel Anthology*.

**Jeffrey Johannes** and **Joan Wiese Johannes** had poems published in the *Ariel Anthology*.

**Mike Kriesel** has two poems in the recent anthology *New Poetry from the Midwest* 2017, and a poem in the new Main Street Rag anthology *Of Burgers and Barrooms*. His poem "Leaves of Grass Lipogram" appears in *The North American Review's* fall 2017 issue and "Banishing the Muse" appears in *Seems* 51 from Lakeland College.

A new monthly Poetry Reading with a Featured Poet, Featured Reader and OPEN MIC debuts Tuesday, April 3, 6–8 PM at Suzy's Steakhouse, 2701 County CX, Portage (North side, accessible off I-39/Hwy 51 N and Hwy 16), suzysportage.com. Suzy's starts serving at 4 PM, so come early, eat, socialize or mingle. Please help us raise awareness of the benefits of poetry to the community in regard to education, culture and business. **Bruce Dethlefsen** will be the first Featured Poet. **Michael Belongie** will speak about WFOP's mission, Poetry in Education and share a poem or two to end the evening. In between Bruce and Mike we'll have OPEN MIC time! Bring a friend! Future dates: May 8, June 5, July 3, August 7, Sept. 4, Oct 2, Nov. 4, Dec. 6.

### **NORTHEAST**

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigw@twc.com

**Annette Langlois Grunseth** had two poems published in the *Ariel Anthology*. Her chapbook *Becoming Trans-Parent, One Family's Journey of Gender Transition* was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry and a poetry award with the Society of Midland Authors.

**Tori Grant Welhouse** had a poem included in *New Poetry from the Midwest* 2017.

## NORTHWEST

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

**Elizabeth Tornes** had “Letter to F.” in *The Poeming Pigeon: Love Poems*, an anthology, and received an Honorable Mention in the *Up North* Lit poetry contest for her poem “Deer Story.”

**Jan Chronister’s** micro-chapbook *From Seed* was published by Origami Poetry Projects. Her chapbook *Casualties* about war and the Holocaust was self-published in December. She had a poem in the *Happy* anthology published by Pure Slush and a poem in the *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* anthology published by Zoetic Press. Jan taught a Cabin Fever Poetry Reliever workshop in Duluth in February and gave a reading with **Peggy Trojan** at the Douglas County Historical Society in Superior. Jan has a new author website at janchronisterpoetry.wordpress.com

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Correction: **Marilyn Taylor, Cathryn Cofell, Karla Huston** and **Gillian Nevers** read from the *Nasty Women Poets* anthology at Mystery to Me bookstore November 9.

**Jo Scheder** has a poem in *Bards Against Hunger, 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anthology*.

**Marilyn Annucci** will read from her new book *The Arrows That Choose Us* at Cafe Carpe in Fort Atkinson April 4, 6:30 PM, at Whitewater Cultural Arts Center April 11, 7 PM, and at Mystery To Me, Madison, April 19, 7 PM.

**Susan Godwin** had a haiku, “Assisted Living Birthday” in the December issue of *The Heron’s Nest*.

**James P. Roberts** had a poem, “Modern Discussions” in *Mobius: The Journal of Social Change*.

**C. X. Dillhunt, Araceli Esparza, and Lynn Patrick Smith** read at the Bridges Poetry Reading at the Chazen Museum, Madison, on December 7.

**Guy Thorvaldsen** read at the Arts & Literature Lab, Madison, on December 8.

**James P. Roberts, Kimberly Blanchette, and Martha Kaplan** were among South-Central poets reading at the Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon, Milwaukee, Jan. 27.

**Richard Merelman** read from his new chapbook, *Sensorium*, along with **Jeanie Tomasko**, who read from her collaborative volume with **Sharon Auberle**, *Dovetail*, at Mystery To Me, Madison, on February 8.

**F.J. Bergmann** was one of two runners-up for the *Missouri Review* Jeffrey E. Smith prize. “Green Flash” appeared in *Songs of Eretz*, “This time” in the Arthuriana issue of *Eye to the Telescope*, “Gramarye” and “Exorbitant” in *Polu Texni*, tankas “only hours out,” on the SpecPo blog and “fifty years later” in *Ars Poetica*; “Spirited” in *Literary*

*Hatchet*, “Rapunzel” in *Abyss & Apex*, “It was close” in *unFold*, “Teratology” and “What It Means When You Dream of Swords” in *Spectral Realms*, “Finite Love” and “Travelogue” in the *Two Countries* anthology (Red Hen Press), and “Development” in *Reckoning 2*. “Kindred Spirit,” which appeared in *Dreams and Nightmares*, has been nominated for the SFPA Rhysling Award, and her chapbook *A Catalogue of the Further Suns* has been nominated for the SFPA Elgin Award. She received three 2017 Pushcart Prize nominations.

## WEST CENTRAL

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

In the worst flu season in many years, poetry still finds an audience in the Chippewa Valley. **David Blackey’s** poem “Black Ice” is in *Avocet*, winter 2018. **Sandra Lindow** and **Karen Loeb** have poems republished in *New Poetry from the Midwest* (New American Press), an anthology that includes prize winners from the Heartland Poetry Contest as well as previous U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser. Loeb’s poems also appeared in *Ariel Anthology*. Lindow’s poem “Black Hole Haberdashery” is in *Star\*Line* 41.1, and her poem “Knees” appears in *Panoply Poetry* 8, panoply.com. **Jane-Marie Bahr’s** poem “Circle Ceremony at the Highground” appears in *Hummingbird*. **Jeannie Roberts** has published poems in monthly ekphrastic challenges—*Visual Verse*: “Our Loved Ones’ Belongings” (Nov.); “Pretty Mannequins All in a Row” (Dec.); *Verse-Virtual*: “Three Wise Men Walk into a Bar ...” (Dec.); “A Vinegar Tale” (Feb.), and *Quill and Parchment*: “The Magpie” (Dec.). Roberts was the featured photographer for *Quill and Parchment’s* January issue. **Erna Kelly** and **Jeannie Roberts** participated in a Mother and Child Reunion reading at the EC Public Library hosted by Eau Claire poet laureate Max Garland. January 18 **Sandra Lindow** read her poetry as part of the Winter Solstice White Pine Celebration at Simply Dunn Pottery, Downsville. The next White Pine will be March 20 at Simply Dunn. **Erna Kelly** will teach a two-session class, “Exploring Poetry 3” for Chippewa Valley Learning in Retirement in June 2018. For more details see cvlr.org. **Sandra Lindow** is coordinating a monthly poetry workshop at First Congregational in Menomonie at 9:30 AM third Tuesdays. The Writer’s Group at the Eau Claire Public Library, now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year, meets first Thursdays. Winter hours 2–4 PM, otherwise 7–9 PM. Contact **Sandra Lindow** at lindowleaf@gmail.com for more information.

2018 Wisconsin Poets’ Calendars still available!

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

Past Calendars still available at impressive discounts!

*In House* (information on members in transition  
shared with permission)

Longtime WFOP calendar business manager and Door County resident **Michael Farmer** is relocating to Nebraska. Please contact him at the address below:

**Michael Farmer**  
801 Washington Ave Apt 556  
Plattsmouth NE 68048  
mfarmer1876@gmail.com

Please contact **Michael Belongie** at poetpow@gmail.com if you are a member with news to share.

## 2019 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar Editor

**Fabu Phillis Carter**, Poet Fabu, as she is professionally known, is a poet, storyteller, columnist and a life-long educator. She holds the distinction of being the first African American Madison Poet Laureate (2008–2012). As a literary artist she shares poetry with both young and old. Through the Alzheimer's Poetry Project she shares poetry with elders to stimulate their memories.

Fabu has poems inside the Atrium at 2300 South Park, in the Green Room at the South Madison Library, and on the sidewalks in front of the Weary Traveler Restaurant and Willy Street Cooperative-East in Madison. She is a previous poetry editor for *UMOJA*, *The Capital City Hues*, and *Madison Magazine*. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2013 and 2014.

Fabu was selected as one of UW–Madison's Outstanding Women of Color for 2016 for her work with poetry and her advocacy for memory services for people of color. She is the creator/presenter, with two other writers, Catrina Sparkman and Sherry Lucille, of Hidden Voices: African American Writers in Wisconsin, which draws connections between early and contemporary African American writers in Madison. They are currently presenting at 13 libraries in Dane County.

Her books are *Poems, Dreams and Roses; In Our Own Tongues; Journey to Wisconsin: African American Life in Haiku*, which won a Wisconsin award; and *Love Poems Again*. Two new books, *Remember Me: Mary Lou Williams in Poetry* and *Sacred Mary Lou*, based on the recording *Mary Lou's Mass*, will soon be released. You can hear Poet Fabu reading selected poems at artistfabu.com.

## FROM THE ARCHIVIST

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

## IN MEMORIAM

### Marilyn Potter

Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the monthly Caramel Crisp poetry reading, tribute was paid to Marilyn Potter. Poems were read out loud from her two chapbooks, *Ralph's Pipes* and *Crane Dance*.

Mandi Isaacson said: "Oshkosh lost one of its most valued citizens recently. Marilyn Potter was well-known in and respected by many organizations, including UW–Oshkosh and most certainly within the arts community. She contributed, in her late husband's honor, the new fountain in the all-new formal gardens at the Paine Art Center and Gardens. Indeed, Marilyn's Celebration of Life service was held in the Paine conservatory. But for many of us in the Fox Valley, Marilyn was our mentor. A fine poet, she took us into her care, encouraging and counseling us to be the best writers/poets that we could be."

Upon learning of Marilyn's death, author and poet Laurel Mills said, "Marilyn Potter, born on the prairie, was a woman of strength, courage, and intellect. She was a respected college counselor, a gifted watercolorist, and a talented poet. She was also a supportive and generous friend, and we will miss her."

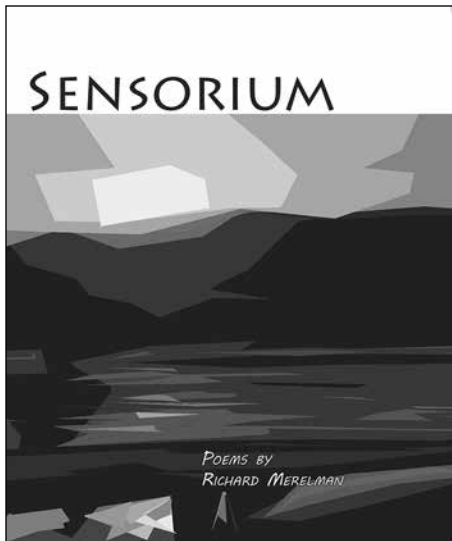
## New Calendar Business Manager

**Carol Pemrich Hauser** was born December 23, 1958, the fifth of eight children, and second daughter, in a chaotic Catholic family in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She grew up caring for her siblings and developed a love of writing poetry with strong themes of sensitivity and compassion.

Carol graduated from Solomon Juneau High School in Milwaukee. She has four daughters, two step-daughters and seven grandchildren. She has a B.S. in Operations Management from Marion University. She moved to Green Bay and met her present husband Jerry Hauser, himself a gifted and well known poet, with whom she shares her love of poetry and the power of the written word.

Currently, Carol is living in Neenah, caring for Jerry who has developed Alzheimer's Disease, but is still writing and has a great deal of passion for sharing what she has learned and is still learning. Carol has partnered with her oldest daughter, Michele Cathers, a gifted writer herself and a patient, insightful editor, on several writing projects.

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



## SENSORIUM

POEMS BY  
RICHARD  
MERELMAN

A just-published chapbook of poems about the five senses. You'll squint, you'll sniff, you'll hum, you'll gorge. You'll even pinch a pimple. A phrase or two may knock your socks off.

To get the full treatment, you can purchase the small volume for twelve bucks from Bent Paddle Press at [jeanietomasko.com](http://jeanietomasko.com) or from the author at [merelman@wisc.edu](mailto:merelman@wisc.edu).

## 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. Jeanie Tomasko will edit the next issue; the theme is Collaboration.

Please send 1–4 poems (any length and style) to [bramble@wfop.org](mailto:bramble@wfop.org). Deadline March 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](http://wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit)  
**Poems must be received by March 10.**

Join WFOP at [wfop.org](http://wfop.org)

### Is your writing feeling stale? Sometimes a fresh, experienced pair of eyes can help!

I specialize in mentoring those who want feedback on poetry drafts in order to meet short- or long-term goals. I can meet face-to-face in Milwaukee, or by Skype or Face Time for 60-90 minute sessions (\$45, including my preparation time). Please see [kathleenandale.com](http://kathleenandale.com) for contact info and client comments. “Kathleen respects the poet’s own voice and work, offering useful suggestions that clarify meaning or bring out the poem’s vision.”

**Maybe it’s time to re-invest in your own creativity!**

### A clarification for *Museletter* submissions

Send news either to your regional VP or directly to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

### Are you on Facebook?

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

Join the WFOP public group:  
[facebook.com/groups/1088414487891479/](https://facebook.com/groups/1088414487891479/)

### Members’ Pages on [wfop.org](http://wfop.org)

As part of your membership to Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, you are entitled to a member’s page on the website: [wfop.org/member-pages](http://wfop.org/member-pages)

If you would like a Member’s Page, please send the following to [wfopweb@gmail.com](mailto: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

## General Announcements

**WLA AWARD:** The Wisconsin Library Association annually awards an Outstanding Achievement in Poetry designation to up to 5 poetry books. If you have published a book of poetry in 2017 please consider sending a copy to the Committee.

- A. To be considered for this award a book must:
  1. Normally be more than thirty-two pages in length.
  2. Be published in the previous calendar year.
- B. For a single book, not for the body of a poet's work.
- C. The poet must be a person who was born in Wisconsin, or is currently living in Wisconsin, or lived in Wisconsin for a significant length of time.
- D. The work must contribute to the world of literature and ideas.
- E. Textbooks and works with specialized or technical content will not ordinarily be considered.

The Committee welcomes nominations from anyone. It is helpful if you send a copy of the nominated book to the Literary Awards Committee c/o the WLA office, but we would at least need to have the title, author and date of publication. (If you wish to have your submission returned, please provide a self-addressed envelope with the appropriate amount of postage.) Please also tell us the author's connection to the state of Wisconsin. Send nominations before April 1 to:

Literary Awards Committee  
Wisconsin Library Association  
4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100  
Madison, Wisconsin, 53718-2153

### Spring Conference Featured Poets & Panelists

**Stewart Cole** is the author of *Questions in Bed* (Goose Lane, 2012). A Canadian expatriate, he lives in Wisconsin, where he teaches at UW–Oshkosh.

**Megan Gannon** is the author of *Cumberland*, a novel, and *White Nightgown*, a book of poems. Currently, she is revising her second novel, *Claim*, and composing the poems for her second collection, *Dispatch from the Middle Distance*. She is an Assistant Professor of English at Ripon College.

**Austin Segrest** was born and raised in Alabama. He teaches poetry at Lawrence University. His poems appeared recently in *Ecotone*, *32 Poems*, and *Image*, where he was featured as an Artist of the Month. He writes long-form poetry reviews for *Southern Humanities Review*.

**Abayomi Animashaun** is a Nigerian émigré, who came to the United States in the mid-1990s. Abayo is the author of two poetry collections, *Sailing for Ithaca* and *The Giving of Pears*, and editor of two anthologies, *Walking the Tightrope: Poetry and Prose by LGBTQ Writers from Africa* and *Others Will Enter the Gates: Immigrant Poets on Poetry, Influences, and Writing in America*. He teaches writing and literature at UW–Oshkosh and lives in Green Bay with his wife and two children.

### Publications by Our Members

**COWS—*Living the Paradox*** by Judy Kolosso is a look at squaring affection for bovines with life as a carnivore. It includes autobiographical poems as well as a smattering of cow foolishness. Available from Judy at [jksummerhill@gmail.com](mailto:jksummerhill@gmail.com) or from Summerhill Press, 3289 Oakridge Rd, Neenah, WI 54956. \$10.

***How Distant the City*** by Freesia McKee, a finalist for the Charlotte Mew Prize, was published by Headmistress Press. Available from [headmistresspress.blogspot.com](http://headmistresspress.blogspot.com)

***Sensorium*** is a new chapbook by Richard Merelman, published by Bent Paddle Press in Middleton, WI. The poems focus on the five senses in a wide range of settings. The chapbook is available from [jeannietomasko.com](http://jeannietomasko.com) or from the author at [merelman@wisc.edu](mailto:merelman@wisc.edu). The price is \$12.

***Still Voice***, Lee LeVoy's first book of poems, has been published by Sand Beach Press. The collection is a praisesong for gifts of family and nature. Available from Lee at [lee.levoy@gmail.com](mailto:lee.levoy@gmail.com). \$10.

***The Arrows That Choose Us*** by Marilyn Annucci is available from Press 53. [press53.com/poetry-collections/the-arrows-that-choose-us-by-marilyn-annucci](http://press53.com/poetry-collections/the-arrows-that-choose-us-by-marilyn-annucci). \$14.95.

***The Wingspan of Things*** by Jeannie Roberts is now available from Dancing Girl Press.

Australian-born **Katrin Talbot's** collection *The Little Red Poem* was recently released by dancing girl press. She has three other chapbooks and has two recent Pushcart Prize nominations. Her collaborative work includes poetry and photography collaborations with multi-media classical music concerts performed in New York City, Australia, and Romania; a Madison Symphony photography and poetry exhibit; a residency as poet for the Sound Ensemble Wisconsin (SEW) chamber-music group; collaborations with Chef Daniel Bonanno and SEW to combine original poetry with a menu and music selections. She runs the Bridge Poetry Series with the Chazen Museum of Art. Her coffee-table book, *Schubert's Winterreise—A Winter Journey in Poetry, Image, and Song* is published by the UW Press and won a Best of the Best of University Presses Award. She is a violinist, photographer, and poet, all of whom live in Madison.

**Jeanie Tomasko** is the author of a few books of poetry, first of which was *Tricks of Light* (Parallel Press), and forthcoming early 2018 from Red Bird Chapbooks, *dear little fist*. All of her books published in between can be found at [jeannietomasko.com](http://jeannietomasko.com), including three poetry/art collaborative works she put together with her friend, WFOP member *Sharon Auberle*. She works as a home health nurse in Madison.



## Poetic Conversation & Collaboration

Join us to consider how poets working together, and across genres, can generate and rejuvenate our work

### Spring Conference Agenda

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

- 4:00 PM Executive Board Meeting  
4:00 PM Registration opens  
4:30–6:30 PM Book Fair  
6:30–9:30 PM Cash bar  
7:00–9:00 PM Evening Reading: *New Voices from the Fox Valley*, featuring Stewart Cole, Megan Gannon & Austin Segrest with emerging poets, followed by Open Mic

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

- 7:30–9:00 AM Breakfast Buffet  
7:30 AM Registration opens  
8:30 AM General Business Meeting  
9:15 AM Roll Call Poems  
10:15 AM Break/Book Fair  
10:30 AM Panel: *Collaboration between Poets and across Genres*, featuring Abayomi Animashaun, Katrin Talbot, & Jeanie Tomasko  
11:15 AM Break/Book Fair  
11:30 AM Roll Call Poems  
12:15–1:00 PM Lunch  
1:00 PM Muse Prize/Chapbook Prize  
1:30 PM Break/Book Fair  
1:45 PM Roll Call Poems  
2:30–3:30 PM Headliner Reading: Featured Poets Tiana Clark & Heather Derr-Smith in a Collaborative Reading, followed by Q&A, book signing

## WFOP Spring Conference April 27 & 298

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, 1 N. Main St, Oshkosh WI (920) 230-1900 / (800) 780-7234

*Ask for the WFOP room block!*

**Directions:** The hotel is located in downtown Oshkosh, near a number of restaurants, coffee shops and bars, in addition to the hotel amenities.

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## Saturday Headliner Poets

**Tiana Clark** is the author of *Equilibrium*, selected by Afaa Michael Weaver for the 2016 Frost Place Chapbook Competition. She is the winner of the 2017 Furious Flower's Gwendolyn Brooks Centennial Poetry Prize, 2016 Academy of American Poets University Prize, and 2015 *Rattle* Poetry Prize. Her writing has appeared in or is forthcoming from the *New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *New England Review*, *Best New Poets 2015*, *BOAAT*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Muzzle Magazine*, *Thrush*, *The Journal*, and elsewhere. She recently graduated from Vanderbilt's MFA program, where she served as the poetry editor of the *Nashville Review*. She is currently the 2017–2018 Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute of Creative Writing.

**Heather Derr-Smith** was born in Dallas, Texas, in 1971. She spent most of her childhood in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She earned her B.A. in Art History at the University of Virginia, where she also took poetry workshops with Charles Wright, Rita Dove, and Greg Orr. She went on to earn her MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and has published three books of poems, *Each End of the World* (Main Street Rag Press, 2005), *The Bride Minaret* (University of Akron Press, 2008) and *Tongue Screw* (Sparkwheel Press, 2016). Her fourth collection, *Thrust*, won the 2016 Lexi Rudnitsky Prize at Persea Books and was published in 2017.

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

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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

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Friday-Saturday, April 27 & 28, 2018

Direct conference inquiries/questions to ckubasta@new.rr.com

\*No refunds except in the case of personal or family emergency.\*

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Members \$60.00 (if received before April 6; \$65.00 at the door) Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes breakfast and lunch)

Non-members: \$90.00 (if received before April 6; \$95.00 at the door) Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Vegetarian meals preferred \_\_\_\_

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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.



## 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

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
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## 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.

## Poems <sup>BY</sup> Our Membership

—ELMAE PASSINEAU, EDITOR

*Prompt: 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.*

### AFTER THE MONSOON—GUANGZHOU, CHINA

When the temperature rises once the rains stop in June, we become night creatures, walking to the grocery after dinner, hauling water and food home by the light of a full moon. We listen to the serenade of frogs that are hidden in the shadows of the blossoms on the lily pads as we turn onto the bridge. The cats are now in sight, roaming in the shadows of buildings, waiting for the rodent clan. Old people sit on benches along the lagoon, watch us trekking from the store, calling out *lao shi*, smiling, waving at us, trusting that all foreigners on a college campus must be teachers. We smile back, keep moving, the heaviness of the bags and bottles reshaping our muscles and bones as if they're made of clay. Refrigerators are small here, and this climate causes a deep thirst. The next night we'll have to shop for more.

—Karen Loeb, *Eau Claire*

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

### HOME

I didn't know—  
at the end of the canopied two-track  
the faded barn-red cabin  
brownish window shades  
two tall oak sentries out front  
last year's bird nest perched on the outside light  
smell of cold dampness and must  
mouse droppings littering floors and counters  
enormous stone-cold wood burner  
miscellaneous furnishings—  
I didn't know  
this would be my home one day

—Patricia Smith, *Knapp*

## CITY GAMES

The spewing cross-town bus stuttered to a stop  
near my Tenth Street tenement.  
Me and Ramon hopped the rear bumper,  
and clawed for handholds.  
The bus, with its numb riders  
sputtered west like a wounded bison.  
We clung to that bus,  
like mountaineers against storm-riven Alpine cliff:  
City games, never about the destination.

Ramon dared me so  
I stepped trancelike into traffic,  
a shaman walking into a holy river.  
I stared straight ahead  
at Bova's Fruit Stand on the far bank.  
I walked toward it while a symphony  
of city sounds rent the air:  
horns honking, hacks hollering "Ya fuckin' mook,"  
I reached the shore and stole an apple.

—David Blackey, *LaCrosse*

## BELLEVILLE

Miles of strip malls keeping company with  
properties boarded up for months or  
years. Folks down there want to call it their  
hometown, a new vision of what  
southern Illinois wants. It's my hometown.

I got a very fine education there, preparing  
me to become a diligent college student.  
Belleville is an odd place in some respects.  
It shifts seamlessly from the once prestigious  
and wealthy Signal Hill area to East St. Louis,  
known nationally as an embarrassment.

This city includes Swansea, not a bad name  
if it were a sea of swans, and is joined by the  
sprawling Fairview Heights. Almost falling into  
the mighty Mississippi, it joins river communities  
which, eons ago, might have been flooded.  
The river etched out my town's border.  
I seldom visit these days.

—Lewis Bosworth, *Madison*

## TOWER FARM

We left the farm after years of living  
taking things we thought most dear  
leaving many treasures there:  
the view across the misty lake  
in early morning light,  
the English walnut spreading wide,  
apple trees in bloom,  
the square, old water tower,  
herons hiding in the reeds,  
honking geese and tiny killdeer  
greeting us at unsuspected times,  
fields we cleared, and cleaned of rocks,  
barns and arenas built and fenced,  
ghosts of special horses, mares and foals,  
and dogs who kept us company,  
picnics in July, and friendly Christmas dinners.  
Yes, we took the things we thought most dear,  
and left a world of treasures there.

—Bob Kimberly, *Bellevue*

## EXPATRIATE

*Serenely let us move to distant places and let no  
sentiments of home detain us ... prepare for parting and  
leave-taking or else remain the slave of permanence.*

—Hermann Hesse

Rows of brick bungalows and two-flats,  
an occasional white cottage, the corner store,  
all in city-block order—

narrow back-alleys,  
streets lined with spring-flowered catalpa trees,  
their blossom clusters like cymbidium orchids,  
their leaves, heart-shaped—

mothers in tidy houses sweep front walkways,  
yet fallen red mulberries  
still stain children's shoes—

what we have left, those who have left us,  
images of long-past selves—  
we carry them all, scattered through life  
like last year's snow.

—Patricia Williams, *Iola*

## FREE RANGE CHILDREN

Cornfields started after 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue stretched miles to the DeKalb pollinating plot. We walked to school down Spring Street passing Old Lady Archers house, onto pavement at the corner of West & 6<sup>th</sup>. Summers held free range chicken, children, bikes on gravel, neighbors down the block. The hayloft across the street held a secret kiss until the barn was torn down for a house with an attached garage. Change slipped in as we grew the telephone company came to town, Carnegie library became a museum, detasseling corn was done by machine, Rock Island Line Depot became a restaurant.

Today an old friend sent me a town map. Some now need directions to find their way home.

—*Hanna Pinkerton, Madison*

## ODE TO MY CITY

O Milwaukee,  
bright and sad Great Lake City  
hope for some, despair for others  
a Renaissance-like Madonna  
of both gilded and glum faces.

Your flaws and wounds are deep  
rooted in bridge wars, division,  
and segregation,  
where poverty prevails for some,  
great wealth favors others.

Yet, you have nourished me  
with your natural areas, great lake,  
beautiful vistas, changing seasons.  
You sustain my life with libraries,  
parks, rivers, art, plays, and poetry.

My Milwaukee, my city, my home,  
I praise you and pray for you.

—*Anne Bales, Milwaukee*

## HOPE

Once a dot  
on a Wisconsin map  
where woodsmen foresaw  
railroad tracks  
and thriving community  
on the banks  
of the Big Eau Pleine River.  
Stands of timber became fields  
a forgotten school  
vacant cheese factory  
corner bar  
church and cemetery.  
Shells along the river.

—*June Nirschl, Baileys Harbor*

## THE BARN,

where my sister and I played  
King of the Mountain  
on the alfalfa bales in the haymow;  
where Stinker, our calico cat,  
the best ratter we ever had,  
sat near the gutter, waiting  
for a squirt of frothy milk  
from the teat of a Holstein cow,  
is gone. Not a trace remains,  
not a shard from the fieldstone  
foundation, not a stanchion  
nor a whitewashed beam.  
The faded red barn,  
indestructible in my memory,  
was demolished  
while I was away.

—*Jan Hasselman Bosman, Woodstock IL*

### WAYS & MEANS ~ DEADLINE APRIL 15

Instead of "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," submit a poem with "seven ways of looking at ..." something. Or six, or eight. Maximum 18 lines.

Send to: [etp1024@gmail.com](mailto:etp1024@gmail.com)

Or snailmail to:

**Elmae Passineau**  
**7007 Weston Ridge Dr #14**  
**Weston WI 54476**

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*Next Issue Deadline MAY 1, 2018*

### GOODBYE BROOKLYN

Goodbye to the Q and the B,  
the grimy subway steps,  
the skyline view on the Manhattan Bridge.  
Goodbye to rainy evenings cooled by the ocean's breeze,  
the nine-step brownstones and the sleek high-rises,  
the bronze wiener dog on the MetroTech Commons.  
Goodbye to Junior's Cheesecake and Jimmy Jazz hip wear,  
long black braids clasped with golden rings,  
a rapper keeping time with boom-box beats.  
Goodbye to the English elm shielding us from summer's heat,  
Fort Greene Park—its Saturday afternoon picnics  
scented with barbecue.  
Brooklyn, I remember your vibrancy, your color,  
the music of your people as they talk  
and dance their way down your streets.

—*Sue Twiggs, Marshfield*

### RIVER IN TRANSITION

Hayman Falls Pond is emptying  
its dam demolished  
The water once calm and deep  
now gurgles over emerging rocks  
Logs protrude sodden and mud-covered  
submerged nearly four score years  
Mergansers sail down the new stream  
then fly up to sail down again  
Each morning fresh muddy flats reveal  
tiny treasures for killdeer and robins  
Fish dangle in eddies  
easy prey for eagles  
The Embarrass River shrinks  
into new/old meandering course

—*Sanny Oberhauser, Madison*