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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Peter Blewett, Milwaukee
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Janice Fuller, Webster
Tony Gardner, Milwaukee
Crystal Gibbins, Washburn
Aaron Heugel, Madison
Margo Holzman, Poynette
Nicole Kallio, Waupaca
Michael Krogman, Cudahy
Susan McCabe, Milwaukee
Walter Mongin, Appleton
Charline Myers, Chippewa Falls
Marjorie Pagel, Franklin
Curt Pawlisch, Madison
Stephanie Rose, New Richmond
Kelly Schoberg, Holmen

President's Message

I'm still riding on a poetic cloud! What a wonderful Spring Conference. So many diverse voices. Poetry is indeed thriving in Wisconsin. Many thanks to **Christina Kubasta** for all the hard work that went into making the conference a success.

Available at the conference were the Spring issue of *Bramble* and the 2019 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. Kudos to *Bramble* guest editor **Jeanie Tomasko**, managing editor **Christina Kubasta**, and designer **Tori Grant Welhouse**. The cover art by **Jeffrey Johannes** is stunning. The 2019 *Calendar* is another testament to the talents of Wisconsin poets. Editor **Fabu Carter** has created a worthy addition to the tradition. Order these two publications at wfop.org.

Thanks to our members, WFOP is able to financially support important poetry initiatives and events in Wisconsin. We have been a sponsor of the Poet Laureate Commission and Friends of Lorine Niedecker for several years. WFOP is also a sponsor of the Woodland Pattern Bookstore in Milwaukee, and it was voted at the recent board meeting to begin a similar agreement with the Untitled Town Book and Author Festival in Green Bay. The board also desires to continue to support projects by individual members or groups of members. If you have a poetry project you feel might qualify for financial support from WFOP, please contact your regional vice-president. Funding is contingent on available resources, membership being the major source of WFOP revenue. When you renew, you can pat yourself on the back for being part of WFOP's role in growing and supporting poetry in Wisconsin.

The Fall Conference will be November 2-3 in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn. Northeast VP **Tori Grant Welhouse** is working hard to plan a meaningful experience for attendees.

WFOP has an opt-in weekly Events e-mail for poetry events and opportunities around the state. If you are a member and wish to receive this email, contact **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com**. wfop.org is also a good place for information on regular readings and special events.

Also, please "like" the official WFOP Facebook page to stay informed about poetry events around the state. We try to share publication opportunities as well as news from other Wisconsin literary organizations such as the Chippewa Valley Writers Guild, the Arts and Literature Lab in Madison, the Council for Wisconsin Writers and the Wisconsin Writers Association.

WFOP is the only statewide organization dedicated solely to poetry. It has a long history of serving poets in Wisconsin as well as bringing poetry to the public. We are currently seeking a secretary and executive vice-president. This would be a great way to learn more about the fellowship and become involved in the decision-making process. Please contact me or **Michael Belongie** if this might be the time to step into a leadership role in WFOP.

In the end, it is the energy, ideas, and support of all our members that makes WFOP the vibrant organization it is. Thank you for all you do.

Have a great summer!

—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. Email her to be added to the area events list. Regular readings are at Thelma, Fond du Lac, (thelmararts.org), Caramel Crisp Café, Oshkosh, and The Draw, Appleton.

"My Mother's Kitchen" by **Kathryn Gahl** appears in the current *Wisconsin People & Ideas*. The poem won honorable mention in the 2017 Poetry Contest. Her poem "40," winner of *New Millennium Writing's* 45th award for Regrets & Resolutions, appears in the January 2018 issue.

EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Jim Landwehr was appointed poet laureate for the Village of Wales on April 2. Jim will fill the position previously held by **Paula Anderson** for a one-year term. For more on his writing, visit jimlandwehr.com.

Eileen Mattmann has had several poems published in *Blue Heron Review*, *Zoetic Press*, *The Wild Word*, *Ekphrastic Review*, and *Postcard Poems and Prose*.

Ed Werstein was awarded the Council for Wisconsin Writers Lorine Niedecker Award for 2018.

100 Thousand Poets for Change will happen worldwide again this year on September 29. Time to plan an event in your area! Join with poets, musicians, and artists all over the globe who will be sharing expressions of peace, justice, inclusion, and sustainability. For more information, contact **Lisa Vihos** at lisavihos@gmail.com, or go directly to the 100TPC website to learn more and sign up.

Cristina Norcross (Oconomowoc) had a poem in the 2018 *Poets' Almanac* (Local Gems Press).

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

M. Justine Foster was published in *Redwood Writer's 2018 Anthology*.

Gregory Galbraith has accepted a role as columnist for *Agriview*, the state's largest weekly ag newspaper. He is incorporating his poetry into his column pieces about his dairy farm in Eastern Marathon County.

Joan Wiese Johannes had poems in the spring issue of *Portage Magazine*.

Patricia Williams, Iola, read selections, followed by discussion, from her chapbook, *The Port Side of Shadows*, and her forthcoming collection, *Midwest Medley: Places & People, Wild Things & Weather*, at the Waupaca Area

Public Library's Lunch and Learn program on April 10, honoring National Poetry Month.

Victoria Lindsay had a poem in *Blue Heron Review* 9 and two poems in *Mush Literary Magazine* 2018.

Four members of the Cabin Fever poetry group, **Linda Aschbrenner**, **Vlasta Blaha**, **Kris Rued-Clark** and **Susan Twiggs**, had poems from the Marathon Public Library Love in Six Words contest posted on its website.

Linda Aschbrenner was the featured reader at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Wausau, April 26. Reading at the open mic were **Mavis Flegle**, Rothschild, and **Vlasta Blaha** and **Sue Twiggs** of the Marshfield Poetry Fever group.

Mike Kriesel recently judged the Poetry Division of the Shawano Area Writers' George Putz Memorial Student Writing Contest, for kids in Shawano and Menominee Counties. His double abecedarian "Gilgamesh Tomb Found in Iraq" appears in *Star*Line* 41.1; short poems "Early Birthdays" and "Years Later" in issues 121 (part 1) and 120 of *Right Hand Pointing*; a double abecedarian, "Black Pyramid," in the Spring 2018 *Mobius: The Journal of Social Change*; and a 26-word abecedarian, "Beastuary," in *Stoneboat*, Spring 2018.

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's poem, "Deer Story" appeared in *Up North Lit* Winter 2018 (upnorthlit.org/elizabeth-tornes-poetry). Her poetry manuscript, *Thirst*, was a semi-finalist for the Two Sylvias Wilder Prize.

Lucy Tyrrell was the guest editor for the poetry winter issue of *Artifacts*, the newsletter for the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council. That issue featured poems and short articles about poetry by five local poets, including **Jan Chronister**, **Peggy Trojan**, and **Ted Gephart**. Lucy had poems in *Ariel Anthology* (3 poems, 1 photograph), *Alaska Women Speak* (one poem each in themed issues of "Social Media" and "Vessel"), *Pure Slush* (one poem each in themed issues of "Happy" and "Lust," the first of 7 deadly-sins-themed issues), *Thunderbird Review* (3 poems), and *Avocet* (one poem in the Spring 2018 issue)

as well as the weekly *Avocet* email (one poem in #263, 4 poems in #272, photos in #274, and 3 poems in #276).

Jan Chronister has poems published in *Minute Magazine*, *Red Earth Review*, *Thunderbird Review*, *Nonbinary Review*, *Stars* (Outrider Press), *Subterranean Blue Magazine* and *Celestial Musings: Poems Inspired by the Night Sky*. One of Jan's Holocaust poems was selected for the special Yom HaShoah issue of *Poetry Super Highway*. Jan taught a "Spring Cleaning for Poems" workshop in April for Lake Superior Writers.

Diana Randolph, Drummond, had a poem, a memoir and a drawing in *Thunderbird Review* 6. She had a poem selected to read while a modern dance group interpreted it in the Weber Auditorium at UMD. She read two poems while a guitarist played original music during a service at Cable UCC and she had a poem in the church newsletter. Diana and **John Leighton** will be guest poets at Farmstead Creamery and Café, Hayward, August 23, 6 PM.

Peggy Trojan had poems in *Thunderbird Review*, *Red Cedar*, and the Wilda Morris Poetry Challenge for April. Her *Free Range Kids* won the Helen Kay Chapbook Prize.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Ronnie Hess had a poem "Middleton Owl" published in *Heron Tree*.

Richard Merelman had poems in *I-70* and *Third Wednesday*.

Timothy Walsh had poems published in *Sixfold*.

June Paul had poems in *Grief Digest* and *The Poet By Day*.

Poetry Reading with a Featured Poet and Open Mike 6–8 PM at Suzy's Steakhouse, 2701 County CX, Portage, suzysportage.com. Suzy's starts serving at 4 PM, so come early, eat, socialize or mingle. Future dates: June 5, July 3, August 7, Sept. 4, Oct 2, Nov. 4, Dec. 6.

South Central Poets who read during the 2018 Winter Festival of Poetry at the Art-In Gallery were **Lynn Patrick Smith, Fran Rall, Jody Curley, Shoshauna Shy, Guy Thorvaldsen, Sharon Daly, Brent Christianson, Ronnie Hess, Alice D'Alessio, Lewis Bosworth, Antonio Re, Robin Chapman, Paul Creswell, Sandy Stark, Dennis Collier, Brenda Lempp, Daniel Hanson, Roy Dorman, Jo Scheder, Patricia Freres-Stinger, Mary Rowin, Joseph Lutz, Dave Benson, Richard Merelman, Rosemary Zurlo-Cuva, Marilyn Taylor, Dave Scheler, Dominic Holt, Beth Workmaster, Kimberly Blanchette, Amber Scarborough, Nathan Reid, Richard Roe, Richard Swanson, Rebecca Hansen, Christopher Chambers, and Fabu. Dawn Anderson** came from Wausau to read!

Richard Merelman read from his new chapbook,

Sensorium, on February 3 at Crossroads Coffeehouse with Guy Thorvaldsen and February 8 at Mystery To Me with **Jeanie Tomasko**, who read from her collaborative book, *Dovetail*.

June 1, 4–6 PM: Drury Gallery in the Portage Center for the Arts hosts the Opening Reception for Art That Blooms. Free and open to the public, featuring original artwork, fresh floral arrangements, and original poetry inspired by the works of art. Meet the artists, florists and poets.

F. J. Bergmann was among six poets who read at the Chazen Museum for the Bridge Poetry Series: Ancestral Modern: Australian Aborigine Art on April 5.

Fabu was among the six poets laureate who read at the Madison Central Library on April 7.

Marilyn Annucci read at the Whitewater Arts Alliance in Whitewater on April 11 and on April 19 at Mystery To Me, from her new book *The Arrows That Choose Us*.

In honor of National Poetry Month, **Brenda Lempp**, Madison, held an opening celebration of her very own Little Free Library with an April 3 poetry reading. The library has side windows filled with poems, a Poetree on the back with hooks for attaching poems, and poems on the front. Poets and friends at the event were **Coral Bishop, Lenore Coberly, Barbara Eggleston, and Suzi Godwin**. Guests enjoyed eating Walt Whitman's Coffee Cake and Emily Dickinson's Coconut Bread made by Brenda. Poetry books were donated for the library. Anyone interested in making a donation of poetry books for adults and children for the Little Free Library, contact Brenda at 608-233-3576.

Marilyn Taylor is pleased to report that her poem titled "If, in October" was chosen as a finalist, out of more than 2,000 entries, for the Lascaux Poetry Prize.

F. J. Bergmann had 7 poems, "Ascension," "Break," "Lowered Expectations," "Massive Perturber," "Presence," "Rationalization" and "Tend" in the *Missouri Review*; 5 poems, "With Reservation," "Weathering the Storm," "Frangipani," "Whoa Nelly" and "Long Haul" in *Otoliths* (Australia); "Cetaceae" and "Last Ride" in *Weatherbeaten*; "After the Ball" in *Alcyone II*; "Absences" in *Nixes Mate*; "Dealing with the IRS," "Magical Thinking," "Trusty Oak" and an interview in *Portage Magazine*; "Good Vibrations" and "In All Things" in *Postcard Poetry and Prose*; "We Call This Living" in *One Sentence Poems*; "Boundaries" in the *Plume Anthology of Poetry* 6; 6 scifaiku and "Widening Gyroscope" in *Star*Line* 41.2; "Kindred Spirit" and "Gramarye" in the 2018 *Rhysling Anthology*; and "Troubles in Store" in *Imperfect* (History House), an anthology of mistakes for grade-schoolers. She was selected for the 2019 Urban Spoken Word National Poetry Slam team at the April 21 finals and was the featured reader at Mother Fool's poetry open mike in Madison on May 5.

WEST CENTRAL

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

Poetry springs in the Chippewa Valley, crocuses fading, daffodils beginning to bloom. We are delighted to announce that **Karen Loeb** has been named Eau Claire Writer in Residence. **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. Loeb and Kelly will be co-editors of the 2020 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. **Jodie Arnold** won a 2018 Lakefly Writing Award for poetry. **Jane Bahr's** poem “Lake Superior Vigil” was chosen for publication in *Red Cedar Journal* with a corresponding book release reading at UW–Baron County May 10. Bahr's poem was also chosen as a student's class project and printed on a large canvas with representative drawings. May 12, **Candace Hennekens** participated in a reading celebrating the Grand Opening of Altoona's River Prairie Plaza. Henneken's poem “How Louis Became My Lover, appears in *Local Lit*, Volume One. March 8, **Jeannie Roberts** read and co-hosted Writers Read at the Library, “What's in a Name?” Roberts has poems “How Healing Feels” in *Blue Heron Review*, February; “Prayer in My Pocket” in the March *Verse-Virtual*; “The Sound of Winter” and “The Mother of Modern Arts” in *Portage Magazine*, April, also including her photo *Rabbitfoot Clover*; “The Offering” in the March *Visual Verse*; “Living the Miracle” in *The Paddock Review*, February; “A Poet Examines Her Voice, and Other Ramblings,” *Praxis Magazine*, April 29; “Looking Outward” in *Visual Verse*, April; “Pondering Deoxyribonucleic Acid and Belonging,” *Anti-Heroic Chic*, April 28. In March **Sandra Lindow** participated in a “Words and Worlds” poetry reading at the International Conference of Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando, Florida. Lindow's published poems are: “A Corona of Women,” *Red Cedar Journal*; “Negative Space” in *Sky Island Journal* 4; “Powers,” *Nourish* 1; “Bottle Trees on Mars,” *Star*Line* 41.1; “Waltzing with Widow's Tears,” *Parentheses Journal* III; “Gardens of the Galaxy,” *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* 28:1. Along with **Yvette Flaten**, **Peg Lauber**, **Nadine St. Louis**, and **Bruce Taylor**, Loeb, Roberts and Lindow have poems reprinted in *Volume One's* celebration of April Poetry Month. The Writers' Group at the E.C. Library continues to meet the first Thursday of each month. A corresponding group at Menomonie's 1st Congregational meets the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Sandra Lindow at lindowleaf@gmail.com for more information.

In House sharing information on members in transition
Please contact **Michael Belongie** at poetpow@gmail.com if you are a member with news to share.

Poet Laureate Commission

Thanks to many donors, we reached our fundraising goal of \$2000 during our end-of-year appeal! We appreciate your support and knowing that poetry matters to you. Forgot or didn't have time to contribute earlier? You can still donate online: wisconsinpoetlaureate.org/two-ways-support

State Poet Laureate **Karla Huston** has been busy making visits around the state, reminding varied audiences about the power of poetry. Here are her current stats:

- Readings, workshops, school visits, talks: 45
- Interviews: 6
- Number of people attending various events: 2,100+
- Number of miles traveled: 7,000+

Additionally, Karla has visited 13 memory care facilities to conduct Memory Café workshops that help residents connect with their pasts through poetry, an effort she finds very gratifying.

Former Poet Laureate Kim Blaeser (2015–16) continues to work on the Poetry Recitation Project. We're still perfecting sound and video quality, but you are invited to take a peek. Better yet, recite a poem from memory on video and get yourself on the poetry map!

On behalf of the Poet Laureate Commission,
Ronnie Hess, Chair

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!

Members' Pages on 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

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

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

Publications by Our Members

Counting Snowflakes by Gary Busha features 96 haiku/short poems with cover art by Emmett Johns. About musings, life observations, ideas common to everyone. Title poem: *It's not easy / counting the snowflakes falling / into the ocean*. New from Wolfson, 26 pp. \$5. gbusha@wi.rr.com

Canoeing a River with No Name by Ronnie Hess. Follow poet Hess on this riverine journey of thoughtful, nuanced poems. Her unique voice can come across as almost matter-of-fact, yet there are depths to her poetry that belie this seemingly straightforward tone. Rocks and rapids lie just underneath the gentle current and surprises wait around the next bend. Bent Paddle Press. \$12. ronniehess.com/poetry

dear little fist by Jeanie Tomasko explores the many ways a heart can beat. RedBird Chapbooks. \$12. jeanietomasko.com or redbirdchapbooks.com/content/dear-little-fist

Tiny Poems by Dawn Anderson is a collection of short, meaningful poems. amazon.com/author/createthedawn or createthedawn.wordpress.com

O is for Owl by Ronnie Hess, a short chapbook published by Borderland Books. \$12. ronniehess.com/poetry

Sucker Hole by John Sierpinski is available from Cholla Needles Press.

Angular Embrace by Sylvia Cavanaugh is available from Kelsay Books.

A Tar Pit To Dye In by Ed Werstein is available from Kelsay Books.

In The Field: Autobiography of an Inspector by Sue Blaustein is available from sueblaustein.com.

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

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 Muse Contest Winners

First Place: James A. Gollata, Manitowoc, "In Viaggio"

Second Place: Thomas J. Erickson, Whitefish Bay, "November"

Third Place: Karen Loeb, Eau Claire, "I Kiss My Daughter on the Crown of Her Head"

Honorable Mentions:

Ed Werstein, Milwaukee, "realchristianonymous"
Fabu P. Carter, Madison, "Arriving Free in Wisconsin, the Green Land"

Barbara Germiot, Appleton, "Where I'm From"

The judge was Connie Wanek, the author of four books of poetry, including *Rival Gardens: New and Selected Poems*, newly released from the University of Nebraska Press, the second book in the Ted Kooser Contemporary Poetry Series. She is also the author of a book of prose called *Summer Cars* (Will o' the Wisp Books, 2014). Now living in Duluth, MN, she is originally from Madison, WI.

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/)

WFOP Literary Journal

Bramble, the literary magazine of WFOP, is open for submissions. Each quarterly issue will have a different editor. David Southward will edit the next issue.

Please send 1–3 poems (any length and style) to bramble@wfop.org. Deadline June 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. Full guidelines at wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit.

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

C. Kubasta
Bramble submission
2312 Oregon St
Oshkosh WI 54902

Poems must be received by June 10.

2018 Chapbook Contest Winners

First Place: Jeanie Tomasko & Sharon Auberle, *Dovetail* (Bent Paddle Press) jeanietomasko.com

“... a gem of a chapbook. It’s one thing to be an accomplished poet and another to be an accomplished visual artist, but Jeanie Tomasko and Sharon Auberle are, each of them, talented in both categories. This book has charming illustrations and equally charming poems, but that doesn’t make it saccharine. There are poems about love and loss, family and friendship, people and places of the heart and the imagination. The attention to the line—both written and drawn—and to visual and written language make this chapbook a joy to read.”

Second Place: Sharon Foley, *What Is Endured* (Finishing Line Press)

“... full of exquisitely detailed observations from the viewpoint of a speaker who is a doctor, a patient, and a daughter. The poems can be heartbreaking as we encounter illness and death, yet Foley also finds beauty and hope, even in the darkest of clouds. Foley’s precision of language lets her integrate the technical with the colloquial in a way that is seamless.”

Honorable Mention:

Cows—Living the Paradox, Judy Kolosso (Summerhill Press)

Grief Bone, Karla Huston (Five Oaks Press)

Alien Freight, Stewart Cole (Anstruther Press)

28 chapbooks were entered. The judge was Patricia Valdata, an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland University College, where she teaches creative writing. patvaldata.com



2018 Triad Contest

The Triad contest opens on **June 1**, and the deadline for entries is **August 15**. Please note that this deadline is earlier than in previous years. This change will allow the judges enough time to judge while still giving the winners time to make arrangements to attend the conference. In the past, some winners have been unable to attend because notification arrived after their work schedules had been set.

Please consider entering the Poets’ Choice, Theme, and/or Kay Saunders Emerging Poet categories (for poets who have begun to submit/publish, but have not won a poetry contest as an adult). The theme for the Theme Category is Small Talk. All of your entries can be listed on a single form. The rules and entry form are in this *Museletter* and on wfop.org. Winners will be notified before the fall conference, and awards will be given at the conference.

Joan Wiese Johannes and Jeffrey Johannes
Triad Co-chairs

The 2018 Triad Judges

Poet’s Choice: **Eric Nelson**’s six books include the award-winning collections *Some Wonder* (Gival Press Poetry Award), *Terrestrials* (Texas Review Poetry Award), and *The Interpretation of Waking Life* (University of Arkansas Poetry Award). He taught poetry workshops at Georgia Southern University for 26 years before moving to Asheville, NC in 2015. He teaches in UNC–Asheville’s Great Smokies Writing Program. For more information: ericnelsonpoet.com

Theme: **Steve Klepetar** has recently relocated to the Berkshires in Massachusetts after more than forty years in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where he taught literature and creative writing at Mount Senario College, The College of Saint Catherine, and Saint Cloud State University. Klepetar’s work has appeared worldwide, in such journals as *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Deep Water*, *Expound*, *The Muse: India*, *Red River Review*, *Snakeskin*, *Voices Israel*, *Ygdrasil*, and many others. Several of his poems have been nominated for Best of the Net and the Pushcart Prize (including three in 2017). He has also done several collaborations with composer Richard Lavenda of Rice University in Houston, including a one-act opera, *Barricades*, for which he wrote the libretto. Klepetar is the author of thirteen poetry collections and chapbooks, the most recent of which include *Family Reunion* (Big Table), *A Landscape in Hell* (Flutter Press), *How Fascism Comes to America* (Locofo Chaps) and *Why Glass Shatters* (One Sentence Chaps).

Kay Saunders New Poet: **Anita Skeen** is currently Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at Michigan State University where she is the Director of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities Center for Poetry and the Series Editor for Wheelbarrow Books. She is the author of five collections of poetry, co-editor of an anthology and co-author of two books of poetry and visual art. She has served for over 30 years as the coordinator of the summer Creative Arts Festival at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico and the annual Fall Writing Festival.

WFOP TRIAD POETRY CONTEST RULES 2018

1. Contestant must be a current WFOP member in good standing (dues current).
2. There is no entry fee. Do not send SASE. Entries will not be returned.
3. Entry Form must be completed and included with the submissions. If you enter more than one contest, record all poems on a single entry form. Contest opens **June 1**. Entries must be postmarked by **August 15**. Please use a business (#10) envelope for last-minute entries; large envelopes often do not arrive until after the packets have been sent to the judges.
4. Contestant may enter only one original, unpublished poem in each category. To clarify: "published" includes any print or electronic presentation except copies of drafts shared with critique groups. The same poem may not be entered in more than one category. Categories are described on the Entry Form.
5. Manuscript must be typed on 8½"x11" white paper, one side only, one poem to a page. Type the category in the upper left corner.
6. Writer's name should **NOT** appear on the page with the poem.
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the Fall Conference, where the presentations will be made. The names will be posted on wfop.org and included in the *Museletter* following the conference.
8. The First Place winner in each category will be ineligible to enter that category the following year.
9. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the judge determines that an entry warrants an award.
10. Sorry, but WFOP cannot accept responsibility for lost manuscripts and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow the rules. Author retains all rights to her/his work.
11. Please do not post your entries on your webpage until after the contest has been judged.
12. For each category below, prizes are \$100, \$50, \$30.

Theme: Small Talk

Poet's Choice

Kay Saunders Memorial New Poet

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 TRIAD CONTEST ENTRY FORM ~ **DEADLINE: AUGUST 15, 2018** (postmark)

Printed Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

THEME: Small Talk (75 lines maximum)

Poem Title: _____

First Line: _____

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

Poem Title: _____

First Line: _____

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

Poem Title: _____

First Line: _____

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

Mail entry postmarked by August 15 to:

**Jeffrey Johannes
800 Ver Bunker Ave
Port Edwards WI 54469**

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*, and to have a page on wfop.org. Contact the *Museletter* Editor if you are not sure when your membership expires. If you winter elsewhere, please use your main address and indicate "1st class" for forwarding. Also consider adding \$5 to your dues to cover extra postage.

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 _____

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
\$10/100 wds in Events e-mail			

F. J. Bergmann

Poetry book design and layout
Manuscript editing and poem critique

Inquire for rates:

(608) 566-9087 • fibitz@gmail.com

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 ^{BY} Our Membership

—ELMAE PASSINEAU, EDITOR

Ways & Means Prompt: Instead of "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird," submit a poem with "seven ways of looking at ..." something. Or six, or eight.

FOUR WAYS OF LOVING LITTER

I

At first melt, before crocus,
a Red Bull can sprouts
from a sheet of white,
glittering silver.

II

Warm breeze,
stray cur for friend . . .
Roadside cleanup,
more than civic duty.

III

Marlboro packs, Big Mac wrapper,
and used Pampers:
a ditched trash bag
reveals so much.

IV

Two eagles and a crow,
in uncommon harmony, startled away
from purposefully strewn fish guts—
A surprise feast for bird and man!

—Macy Washow, *Lac du Flambeau*

HISTORY OF A WEEK

1. The actions between us
are one-word sentences.
2. There are bears outside. Many of them.
They are soft, but heavy. Sometimes
their claws get caught in the bird feeder.
3. Buildings standing
empty like the mind.
4. I am not a rock. I am not an island.
Just as the moose is not a moose,
but a head on the wall with no body.
5. I was looking for a sign then the sun sat down,
and I heard a flock of geese pulling north.
6. The waves pound harder against the rock
than our hearts do in our chests.
7. I won't think of it as an end.
Time travel has more to do with loss
than quantum physics.
We aren't supposed to count backwards.

—Crystal S. Gibbins, *Washburn*

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

WAYS TO SEE A CONEFLOWER

As a welcome strong-petaled wheel
color in profuse summer green
echoing the rose spark of sunrise
to pleasure the eye.

Or a handy pantry of seeds, pollen and nectar
sturdy perch for the flying things
finch-feathered, bee-legged or
stained-glass-butterfly-winged.

Relic of vanished vast rolling prairies
still sending roots deep into tangles
of cover to anchor a tall grassy freedom
along random roadsides.

Survivor, you put forth
your simple beauty
again and again. . . .
I could learn from you.

—*Karen Haley, Wauwatosa*

SEVEN WAYS OF LOOKING AT A TOWHEE III

I
Winter's gone
and the rufous-sided towhee
leaps from tree to tree.

II
Loud at the feeder, the towhee is
a sure proof spring
cannot be far away.

III
Eye of towhee rimmed with white.

IV
Still the towhee must be flying.

V
The bag of dark birdseed round which
even now three rufous-sided towhees fly.

VI
Voluble the redwing's trill, sweet the robin's chirp;
easily the towhee's treble is the truer?

VII
Now the day is long, but still the towhee
Sings in the magnolia tree.

—*Ed Block, Greendale*

SEVEN WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE NOW

The city of Sheboygan has been given the green light by the Sheboygan County Circuit Court to continue development plans for land annexed into the town of Wilson for a Kohler golf course.

—*The Sheboygan Press*

Rather than build another golf course
encroaching upon the flight path and layover
for migratory birds—egret, merganser,
trumpeter swan, variegated colored warbler,
geese pairs returning to their birthplace—
all these and more, confused by the landscape
changes, gigantic metallic earth-eating insects,
prairies set aflame to make way for undulating
carpets of lime-green golf fairways,
grass sprouting strange water spouts
at the break of dawn—

Instead, think like the indigenous people
who considered seven generations hence
before uprooting a tree, picking a blueberry patch,
fishing a pristine stream or settling a village.
Think not in virtual dollars
but pray the spring rains come
to cleanse this land.

—*Robert Chesney, Cedarburg*

SEVEN WAYS OF LOOKING AT YOURSELF

A student of experience.
A victim of desire.
Believer in the cold, hard truth.
Habitual white liar.
The one who runs for cover.
The one who sees things through.
The double in a darkened window
saying, "Oh, it's you."

—*David Southward, Milwaukee*

SEVEN WAYS TO LOOK AT FORSYTHIA

I
Golden tones flow up and out.
Earth trumpets the spring.

II
Fountains of scrambled eggs
splatter.
Petals pool, sunny side up.

III
Sulfur crystals cling
to long, dark veins.

IV
I make so many pretty excuses.
Truth nests within forsythia branches.

V
A multitude of canaries
flock, flutter, and perch.

VI
The corps de ballet sways,
curved arms covered
in ruffled lemon gloves.

VII
Exploding yellow bursts.
Spring's first fireworks.

—*Linda Kroll, Neenah*

SIX WAYS OF LOOKING AT A RED SQUIRREL

I
The red squirrel
surveys frozen lands
from atop the black spruce.

II
When the red squirrel
hangs upside down to eat,
time and space
become more real.

III
O thin women of Mellen,
admire the red squirrel.
She eats for six.

IV
The river is not moving.
The red squirrel must be mating.

V
The red squirrel is the idea
and the origin of the idea.

VI
She woke from a dream
of a red squirrel
that purred like a cat.

—*Elizabeth Tornes, Lac du Flambeau*

NOTHING HAPPENS ~ DEADLINE JULY 15

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.

Send to: etp1024@gmail.com

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

WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS
938 E DAYTON ST APT 1
MADISON WI 53703-4618
WFOP.ORG

Forwarding Requested.

Next Issue Deadline AUGUST 1, 2018

SEVEN WAYS TO LOOK AT A QUILT

Broken dishes, New York beauty, monkey wrench
the quilt knows
I break the code
Worn clothes cut, pieced in pattern
remember what we thought
we could dispense with
Rinse fabric over-steeped in dye, we find
what has been bled
of excess is more stable
Antique quilt in the basement of the resale shop
though time flows
not all is lost
Thousands of stitches, white on white, invisible
a map where places pressed down
raise the rest, rich in shadow and light

—*Eileen Mattmann, West Bend*

SIX WAYS OF LOOKING AT CLOUDS

Clouds paint the cerulean sky
fleeting, wispy strokes.
Clouds congregate, white, puffy
changing face, shadowing the sun.
Clouds darken, pregnant with moisture,
obscuring sky's blue.
Clouds blanket the earth
threatening with thunder.
Clouds mist and torrent
cooling, refreshing, revitalizing life.
Clouds retreat, spent
giving way to the cerulean sky.

—*Patricia Smith, Knapp*