

Next Issue Deadline:  
November 1, 2019

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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

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DG Clearing, Menasha  
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Stephen Kalmar, Racine  
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Burlington  
David Simmons, Madison  
Josef Stubler, De Pere  
Melissa Tedrowe, Wauwatosa  
Michael Wertel, Oshkosh

President's Message

Where did summer go? By the time you read this, August will be well under way. Can back-to-school be far behind? Fall brings cooler weather and, for Wisconsin poets, many opportunities to attend workshops, readings and conferences. Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Margaret (Peggy) Rozga** will be appearing around the state at various events. The Central Wisconsin Book Festival in Wausau is hosting Peggy for two workshops and a reading on September 27 and 28. A reading on Sunday September 29 featuring the 2020 *Wisconsin Poets Calendar* and guest Bruce Dethlefsen rounds out the weekend. Full information can be found at [mcp1.us/events/central-wisconsin-book-festival](http://mcp1.us/events/central-wisconsin-book-festival). Several ideas were discussed at the conference that members will be hearing more about in the coming months. Peggy will also be doing a workshop and reading in Menomonie on October 11 and 12, hosted by the Chippewa Valley Writers—and the workshop is already full! Keep up with Peggy's appearances at the Wisconsin poet laureate website ([wisconsinpoetlaureate.org](http://wisconsinpoetlaureate.org)).

If you miss the old SOA that was held in Rhinelander, take heart! Now in its third year, the School of the Arts Legacy program, under the auspices of ArtStart in Rhinelander, is well on its way to becoming a quality adult learning experience. Two poetry classes are being offered this year. I've already registered and can't wait to get some of that SOA vibe back! Complete information can be found at [artstartrhinelander.org/programs/soa2019/](http://artstartrhinelander.org/programs/soa2019/)

All of these website links are a good reason to receive your *Museletter* through e-delivery! Not only is it efficient and "green," but the savings to WFOP can be used for programs that benefit poets in Wisconsin. Past *Museletters* are archived on the website. If you still get your *Museletter* via U.S. Mail, please consider switching: contact [wfopmuseletter@wfop.org](mailto:wfopmuseletter@wfop.org).

The WFOP fall conference will be held at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn on October 25 and 26. **James Roberts**, South Central regional vice-president, has done a bang-up job planning a conference that is sure to be full of "magic." Registration forms and more information can be found in this *Museletter*. Due to a family obligation, I regret that I will not be able to attend. Michael Kriesel, executive vice-president, has graciously agreed to handle presidential duties at the conference.

WFOP lost a great poet and person when **Richard Roe** passed away on July 6. Everyone who met Richard was influenced in some way. His presence at conferences was something I always looked forward to. I did not know him as well as others, but I will remember him for his warmth, humor, and musical presentations.

Due to receiving a grant from the Packer Foundation, WFOP has the luxury of being able to host numerous events around the state related to the 2020 *Wisconsin Poets Calendar*. The hard-working regional vice-presidents are already planning some of these, but more suggestions are welcome. Members have been requesting regional workshops, and there is money available for these when connected to a calendar reading. Please contact your

A Note from the Membership Chair

We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions regarding membership! Please contact Naomi Cochran at [wfopmembership@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets is online at [wfop.org](http://wfop.org)

regional vp if you have an idea for a speaker or instructor. Have a great summer!

Keep on writing and keep in touch!

—Jan

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*What's Happening in Your Region?*

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

**CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY**

VPs: Cathryn Cofell, ccofell@gmail.com, & Christina Kubasta, ckkubasta60@marianuniversity.edu

Please send news. Email to be added to the area events list. Poetry Unlocked's readings at The Draw, usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays, 7 PM, include open mic. Cash bar available. Find them on FB. 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday reading series at Evergreen Manor, Oshkosh, 6:30 PM with feature & open mic.

**Cathryn Cofell** has poems up at *The Crossing: a Lit Mag*, and in three anthologies: *Poets To Come*, an anthology of Walt Whitman inspired work, *Constellation of Kisses*, and *Local News: Poetry About Small Towns*, edited by Tom Montag. Cathryn's latest poetry collection, *Stick Figure With Skirt*, was selected by Main Street Rag for the 2019 Poetry Book Award; it will be available in November.

**EAST**

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Poets Monday at Linneman's, 1001 E Locust St, Milwaukee: featured readers and open mikes every Monday. Check Events mailing for upcoming features. Doors open 7:30 PM; open mike 8 PM; featured reader 9 PM. \$3 cover charge.

The Waukesha Open Poetry group meets on second Sundays, 3 PM, at Martha Merrell's bookstore, 231 W Main St, Waukesha. Bring poems to share. No fees.

On October 3, 6 PM, Carmelle Liepins will screen her film *Imprinted with Lake Light: The Life and Poetry of Susan Firer*. The event is free and open to the public. The screening will be held at Milwaukee Public Library Central Library, Centennial Hall, 733 N. 8th St.

**Dawn Hogue** has her own imprint—Water's Edge Press. Her latest publication is *From Everywhere a Little: A Migration Anthology*, which she co-edited with **Lisa Vihos**. The full-length poetry collection features poems by Sheboygan-area writers who attended a 100 Thousand Poets for Change event, led by Vihos. The remainder (and bulk of) the poems were gathered from submissions across the nation and beyond, though many fine poems by WFOP members are also included. The poems look at migration from a human perspective but also consider

how nature migrates. The topic has never been more timely, the poems never more poignant. Margaret Rozga, Wisconsin's newest poet laureate said "These poems urge us to pay heed." Please consider purchasing the book from the publisher rather than from Amazon. Water's Edge Press is on FB, and **waters-edge-press.com**, where you will find other fine books, as well.

**Jerome J. Jagielski's** play *Intentions* won the Women's Empowerment play festival in Evanston, Illinois. It was performed over three weekends in May. Jerome also served as a committee member and contributor to the Fontana Library latest chapbook, *Frog Hollow*, celebrating the city of Fontana with student and adult poems and stories.

**CJ Muchhala** has had poems published in *Water Mask*, a memoir by Monica Devine (U of AL Press); *Local News: Poetry about Small Towns* (T. Montag & D. Graham, eds.); JerryJazzMusician.com; *Split Rock Review*; *Waters Deep: A Great Lakes Poetry Anthology*; *Vitamin ZZZ* Spring 2019; *Your Daily Poem* Feb. 27 & May 19; *Bards Against Hunger*, *Ariel Anthology* 2018; and shown at the MOWA Members Exhibit (through 9/13/2019).

**MID-CENTRAL**

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

September 29, 2–4 PM, 2020 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* Reading at Marathon County Public Library 300 N. First St, Wausau. Poets with poems in the 2020 *Calendar* are welcome to read. **Bruce Dethlefsen**, Westfield, 2011–12 Wisconsin poet laureate, will be the featured reader. His poetry books include *Small Talk* (Little Eagle Press). Please RSVP to **Kathleen Serley** at **kserley@dwave.net** if you plan to read. This reading is funded in part by a grant from the Green Bay Packers Foundation. 2020 *Calendars* will be for sale at the event and poets who read may bring their own poetry books to sell.

**Mike Kriesel's** "Like Archery" appears in the July issue of *Right Hand Pointing*. His "Walt Whitman Lipogram" is in *Poets to Come: Walt Whitman Anthology*. Mike also recently judged the 2019 *Rosebud* poetry contest.

**Joan Wiese Johannes** and **Jeffrey Johannes** were the featured readers at the Open Mic at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Wausau on July 11th. Joan had a poem accepted for *Hummingbird*. Jeffrey has a poem teamed with an artwork for a show "Paper to Wall" at Out of the Woods Winery in Hayward.

**Patricia Williams** has had work published in *Poetry Hall Bilingual Journal* (Chinese Poetry Assoc.) and *About Place Journal* (Black Earth Institute).

**Linda Aschbrenner** had poems published in *Bramble* and *Poetry Hall*. She read at the the UU Church open mic in Wausau on July 11.

## NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, [torigw@twc.com](mailto:torigw@twc.com)

The Green Bay Public Arts Commission selected a poem by **Doris Bezio** for their 2019 Sidewalk Poetry Project along with three other poets. Her poem was read publicly on July 16 at the Common Council meeting in Green Bay.

**Doris Bezio** and **Nancy Rafal** read their poetry to the Inishfree Tour group at Fitz's in Doolin, Ireland on July 25. The evening began with a concert by the Irish folksinger Luka Bloom.

**Carol Lee Safiotti Hughes** published "Redwing" in *Haiku Journal* 63.

**Annette Langlois Grunseth** had "Olly, Olly, Oxen Free" published in *Poets to Come: Walt Whitman's 200th Birthday Anthology*; "In My Mother's Recipe Box" in *Everywhere A Little: A Migration Anthology* (Water's Edge Press, 2019); "Cranberry Harvest" in *50 Haikus*; "How To Live Like a Water Lily" in *Poetry Hall*; and "Ongoing War" in *Portage Magazine*. She was a workshop presenter at UWGB's Transgender Education Day with her book *Becoming Trans-Parent: One Family's Journey of Gender Transition*.

## NORTHWEST

VPs: Nancy Austin, [austin10929@gmail.com](mailto:austin10929@gmail.com), & Andree Graveley, [graveley@newnorth.net](mailto:graveley@newnorth.net)

**Jan Chronister** has poems appearing in *Soul-Lit*, *Talking Stick*, *Zingara Poetry Review*, *Local News: Poems about Small Towns*, and *Loon Magic* (Outrider Press). Her poem "Night Sounds" was awarded second place in the *TallGrass Writers Guild Anthology* contest. Jan's full-length poetry book *Caught between Coasts* was recognized by the Wisconsin Library Association as a collection of Outstanding Poetry.

**Peggy Trojan** has poems appearing in *Soul-Lit*, *Ariel Anthology*, *Goose River Anthology*, *Upon Waking: 58 Voices Speak Out From the Shadows*, *Allegro and Adagio: Dance Poems II*, *Your Daily Poem*, and *Local News: Poems about Small Towns*. Two of her poems were interpreted by artists for the Paper to Wall exhibit in Hayward.

**Lucy Tyrrell** co-organized (with Howard Paap) a poetry evening at the Bayfield Carnegie Library on June 6 commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. In addition to poems about D-Day, poems read by participants spanned wars from the American Revolution to Iraq and Afghanistan. Lucy has poems published in *Cirque Journal* ("Waiting for Low Tide") as well as three photos, *Alaska Women Speak* ("Shinrin-yoku" in the Root, Tree, and Leaf summer issue), *Ekphrastic Review* ("Blue hooves"), and the weekly *Avocet* ("2019—Remembering Our Lady of Poetry").

**Lucas Alan Dietsche** hosted "In the Fervors of July: Readings at Red Mug Coffeehouse" July 24, one of many monthly poetry events. During National Poetry Month, Dietsche was interviewed on local news: [fox21online.com/2019/04/19/readings-at-red-mug-for-national-poetry-month/](http://fox21online.com/2019/04/19/readings-at-red-mug-for-national-poetry-month/). Poets read from Plath, Kerouac, Tennyson, Byrant, Wordsworth, and others, as well as their own work. Thanks to members of WFOP and Duluth Poetry Chapter!

**Elizabeth Tornes'** poem "In the Old Village" was published in *Local News: Poetry about Small Towns*. Her poem "At the Circus" appeared in *Arts, Culture and Entertainment Scene—Long Island*, with featured work from Christine Alfery's series of paintings "At the Circus."

A Poem in My Pocket/A Song in My Heart (course #64584) will be offered this fall online and at WITC—Ashland October 1–November 12, and will explore the fascinating, intertwining history of lyricism and poetry and engage in workshops for poems and songs-in-progress. To register, please contact 715.682.4591, x 3050 or visit [witc.edu/continuing-education-and-training](http://witc.edu/continuing-education-and-training)

Seven Saturday Morning Workshops: for works-in-progress. Respond to writing prompts, and submission/collaboration opportunities. Washburn and Ashland locations every other week September 14–December 7. Workshops run 2–3 hours. \$25/drop-in; \$100/series (before 8/15; \$125 after). For info on both workshops, contact instructor **Parker Sterling** at 715.292.6532 or [cdownyocean@aol.com](mailto:cdownyocean@aol.com).

## SOUTH CENTRAL

VP: James P. Roberts, [jrob52162@aol.com](mailto:jrob52162@aol.com)

First Tuesdays Featured Poets and Open Mic continues at Suzy's Steakhouse, Portage, 6:30 PM. June 4: **Mary Jo Balistreri & Elayne Clipper Hanson**; July 2: **Marilyn Annucci & Jeanie Tomasko**. [suzysportage.com](http://suzysportage.com)

**Steve and Jeanie Tomasko** and **Ronnie Hess** were the hosts at 'A Night To Recite' at Mystery To Me Bookstore in Madison June 6. Other WFOP poets who participated were **James P. Roberts**, **Joe Lutz**, **Marilyn Annucci**, **Catherine Jagoe**, and **Gillian Nevers**.

**James P. Roberts** and **Marilyn Taylor**, editors of *Love Affairs at the Villa Nelle*, read from the anthology with a group of contributors from this region, including **Richard Merelman**, **Richard Roe**, **Eileen Mattmann**, **Nancy Jesse**, **F. J. Bergmann** and others at the Alicia Ashman Library in Madison May 31.

**Eve Robillard** and **Rosemary Zurlo-Cuva** read during the LunArt Festival at Common Ground Cafe June 9.

**Margaret Benbow** read short stories from *Boy Into Panther* and Robin Chapman read from her new book of poems, *The Only Home We Know*, at Room of One's Own in Madison June 11.

**Paul Creswell** played music and read some poems at Giant Jones Brewing during Make Music Madison on June 21.

**Marilyn Annucci** and **Jeanie Tomasko** were the featured readers (with **Nathan J. Reid** as host) at Poetry in Portage at Suzy's Steakhouse on July 2.

Bent Paddle Press & Design has a new website! Read some sample poems at [bentpaddlepress.com](http://bentpaddlepress.com).

**F. J. Bergmann** had poems "Covert" and "The Ghost Factory" in *Spectral Realms*; "Spoken Word" and "What I'd do with my spare time, if I had any" in *Red Coyote*; "first frost" and "Rapunzel" in the 2019 SFPA *Dwarf Stars* anthology; "Deception" was a finalist in the *New Millennium Writings* 47th poetry contest; "3-Minute Future" won 3rd place in the SFPA Rhysling Awards; "New Stars" won an award in the Faust Sonnet contest: [sonnetcontest.org/2019-winners/2019-laureates-choice-group-one/](http://sonnetcontest.org/2019-winners/2019-laureates-choice-group-one/).

## WEST CENTRAL

VPs: Sandra Lindow, [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com), & Alex Zitzner, [amzitzner@gmail.com](mailto:amzitzner@gmail.com)

October 12, 10 AM–noon, Poetry, Let's Go Out and Make a Difference: Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Margaret Rozga** will discuss her inspiration, poetic process, and activist poetry, including new poems and some from her latest book, *Pestiferous Questions: A Life in Poems*. Including book sales and signing, at First Congregational UCC Church, 420 Wilson Ave, Menomonie.

Summer winds down in the Chippewa Valley with thunder storms and wind damage but many beautiful days. The Writers' Group at the Library continues to meet 7–9 PM, first Thursdays at the Eau Claire Public Library (Winter hours of 2–4 begin in November). The Congo Writing group meets 9:30–11 AM at 1st Congregational in Menomonie. Congo Writers will not meet in September. October 11–12 **Peggy Rozga** will be giving a workshop and a reading at 1st Congregational Church, 420 Wilson Ave., Menomonie. The workshop is filled; contact **Susan Kirch-Thibado** at [Thibadosue@wwt.net](mailto:Thibadosue@wwt.net) to be placed on the overflow waiting list. The Chippewa Valley Book Festival will be held Oct. 15–27 in various places throughout the Chippewa Valley; [cvbookfest.org](http://cvbookfest.org). Particular note for poets is the Nadine St. Louis Memorial Poetry Conversation with Kim Blaeser & **Margaret Rozga**: Active Voices: Poetry & Social Justice, Friday, Oct. 25, 4 PM, Unitarian Universalist Sanctuary, 421 S. Farwell St, downtown Eau Claire.

**Erna Kelly's** poem "Curling Inward," originally published in *Ariel Anthology* 2016, was reprinted and translated into Chinese in *Poetry Hall* 4.

**Bruce Taylor** has poems in *American Journal of Poetry*, "Clickbait" and "Shelter in Place"; "Marilyn Reading 1,490,000 Results," "At Irv and Lill's Last Chance," in *Blue Heron Review*; "Many an Untold Year from Now" in *Local News: Poetry About Small Towns*; "Sunday Afternoon," "Our Back Yards" in *Magnum Opus: A Poetry Anthology on Universal Oneness* (Authors Press, New Delhi, 2019); in *Spectral Lines: Poems about Science and Scientists* (Alternating Current Press, 2019) (*Flight; from the Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci.*)

**Sandra Lindow's** poem "Creation: Dark Matter Dating App" appears in the July/Aug. *Asimov's SF*; "At Last" and "Negative Space" in the 2019 *Dwarf Stars* anthology for best micro speculative poems first published in 2018.

For more information on West Central events, contact Sandra Lindow at [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@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.

Community Poet Laureates are popping up throughout Wisconsin. State Poet Laureate **Peggy Rozga** and Door County Poet Laureate **Nancy Rafal** are working together to compile a listing of all the Poet Laureate positions around the state. If you are involved in any community poet laureate program please send the information to Nancy: [mrsticket@gmail.com](mailto:mrsticket@gmail.com) or PO Box 340, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202-0340. Please include as much of the following as possible 1) when was program established? 2) names of people who have had the position and dates they held post. 3) procedure for selection, 4) any other significant information.

## 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](mailto:lewisabosworth@gmail.com) ~ 608-238-3648

## In Memoriam

**Richard Roe**, Middleton, WI, a well-known and beloved WFOP Life honorary member who joined in 1978, died in hospice care on July 6, 2019. He was born in 1941 in Cleveland, Ohio. Richard served in the U.S. Navy as a Hospital Corpsman 1960–1962. He had a B.A. in Business Administration from Marietta College, Ohio, and an M.A. in American History from UW–Madison. He worked in the Legislative Reference Bureau 1983–2005 and was active in Grace Episcopal Church and St. Dunstan's, and many service organizations. He sang in several civic and church choirs in Madison. He married Barbara Kuhl in 1967; they had two daughters, eight grandsons and one great-grandson. Richard published three books of poetry: *What Will You Find at the Edge of the World*, *Bringer of Songs*, and *Knots of Sweet Longing*. His final work will be published in the fall of 2019: *Poems of Song, Tango, and Jazz*. He was also a member of the Wisconsin Tango Society. A celebration of Richard's life will be held later in 2019.

## GOING HOME

First warm days brought trail time  
hiking boots backpack and field guides  
loading the car tent and cook stove  
lantern and sleeping bag ground cloth  
looking for a camp site trail maps  
bugs and new buds vireo and thrush  
tramping about unlimbered rhythm  
section and sax guitar and mandolin  
my open air sound tracks lute song  
over there wooden flute from wherever  
moonlight crooning torch songs  
scatting jazz tunes a concert aria

Today I can hardly walk around the block  
camping gear given away field guides sold  
disc player iPod radio stations  
hearing music sketch my trail maps  
gypsy swing hard bop Beethoven quartet  
my boot steps on dirt and stone trails  
opera chorus for kingfishers in cottonwoods  
a vocalese for warblers nests in thistles  
recalling all outdoors with a sigh  
daydreams playing a Chopin nocturne  
slow walking toward darkness

—Richard Roe  
May 2019

## Publications by Our Members

*Benediction and Baseball* (Fireweed Press), a new chapbook by Ed Werstein, is available from Ed at wersted@gmail.com.

*The Dream Angel Plays The Cello* (Aldrich Press/Kelsay Books, 2019) by Stephen Anderson is available at Boswell Book Company in Milwaukee, Amazon, the Kelsay Bookstore online, and from the author: stephen.anderson724@gmail.com. 85 pp. \$17.

*Letter to my Daughter: Poems* by Jackie Langetieg, a chapbook, is available at Amazon (amazon.com/Letter-my-Daughter-Jackie-Langetieg/dp/1084197286) or from Jackie: jackieblang77@gmail.com. 49 pp. \$12 + shipping.

*You Can Get Here from There* by Mike Orlock, a collection of poems centered on Door County, is available in e-book format on Amazon and Barnes & Noble or hard copy from Lulu.com.

### NOTE TO MEMBERS WITH NEW BOOKS

When you announce a new book, send title, publisher, date, # of pages, price, and a place to buy the book, or your email, to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

## WFOP's Literary Journal

**Bramble**, WFOP's literary magazine, is open to submissions from Wisconsin writers for the Fall Issue through **September 15**. Guest editors Kim Parsons and Sheryl Slocum invite you to explore black holes and lacunae.

Quarterly issues are guest edited by WFOP members and open to all Wisconsin poets. For queries about artwork, guest editing, and all other things Bramble, please email [bramble@wfop.org](mailto:bramble@wfop.org). *Bramble* is now web and print. Full guidelines at:

**[wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit](http://wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit)**

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

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

## 2021 Wisconsin Poet's Calendar

Heads up: the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets will begin accepting poems for the 2021 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* beginning November 1, 2019. The theme is "Home."

Home is where you hang your hat, where they have to let you in, and where the deer and the antelope play. They say you can't go home again, but we all call earth our home. There are homes for orphans, unwed mothers, and old soldiers. Dress up fancy for the homecoming dance. Have some home cookin'. Do some home repairs, and show home movies. Retirees and snails keep mobile homes. Home is where you face the toughest pitchers, and score when you hit a homerun. You can run away from home, be homeless, and be homesick. Hold the gem of "home" in your hand, turn it slowly in the light, and see your reflection and inspiration in each of its facets.

*Thanks to Bruce Dethlesen for his inspiration.*

Poets must be at least 18, a resident of Wisconsin or have a close connection to Wisconsin.

Submission guidelines will appear on [wfop.org](http://wfop.org) in late October. Submissions received prior to November 1st will be returned.

The submission deadline is **January 31, 2020**.

Thank you! Keesia Hyzer, Nancy Jesse & Gillian Nevers, 2021 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* Editors

## Fall Conference Presenters

*Featured Poet:* **CYNTHIA MARIE HOFFMAN** is the author of three poetry collections, *Sightseer*, *Paper Doll Fetus*, and *Call Me When You Want to Talk about the Tombstones*, as well as the chapbook *Her Human Costume*. Hoffman is the recipient of a Diane Middlebrook Fellowship in Poetry at the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Wisconsin Arts Board, and a Director's Guest fellowship at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Italy. Her work has appeared in *Fence*, *diode*, *The Journal*, *The Missouri Review Online*, and elsewhere. Collections have appeared as an intro feature in *Pleiades*, a featured chapbook in *Mid-American Review*, and in the annual Introductions Reading Loop online at *Blackbird*. Cynthia has taught creative writing and composition at George Mason University, the University of Wisconsin, and Edgewood College. She works at an electrical engineering firm in Madison, WI, where she lives with her husband and daughter.

**QUAAN LOGAN** is Artist-In-Residence at The JVN Project in Madison, Wisconsin. He works with various recording artists as an audio engineer and producer. This includes anything from singles and EP's to full album musical projects. Always open to collaborations and clients for mixing and mastering.

**ROBBY JOHNSON (ROBBY THE MAGICIAN)** is a magician from Schofield, Wisconsin. "I have been performing magic for the past five years including walk around, close up, small groups, and even large scale stage performances. Two years ago I started doing a fire eating act that interacts along with my magic act. The magic that I perform is comedic, energetic, and interacts with the audience to make sure that everyone enjoys the act and leaves with a sense of wonder and astonishment."

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

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

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	



# WFOP 2019 Fall Conference

## THE MAGIC OF POETRY

FRIDAY–SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25–26, 2019

All inquiries should be directed to James P. Roberts at [JRob755HA@gmail.com](mailto:JRob755HA@gmail.com)

Visit [wfop.org/conferences/](http://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

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

*Hotel reservations:* at WFOP site, or 715-344-0200 ext. 3, ask for FOP group block rate by **September 26, 2019**

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

**Registration form on the next page.**

*We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!*

## 2019 Fall Conference Schedule

### Friday, October 25

- 3:00–4:00 PM Executive Board Meeting
- 3:00–6:30 PM Registration Opens/Book Fair
- 4:00–5:00 PM Cynthia Marie Hoffman workshop
- 5:00–6:30 PM Dinner on your own
- 6:30–7:15 PM Robby The Magician
- 7:30–10:00 PM Open Mic



### Saturday, October 26

- 7:00–9:00 AM Continental Breakfast
- 8:00–NOON Registration/Book Fair
- 9:00–10:00 AM General Business Meeting
- 10:00–10:15 AM Break/Book Fair
- 10:15–11:15 AM Quaan Logan: Podcast
- 11:15–NOON Roll Call Poems (under 20 lines)
- 12:00–12:45 PM Lunch
- 12:45–1:15 PM Triad Contest Winners Announced
- 1:15–1:30 PM Break/Book Fair
- 1:30–2:00 PM Cynthia Marie Hoffman
- 2:00–2:15 PM Richard Roe Remembered
- 2:15–3:00 PM Roll Call Poems
- 3:00–3:15 PM Break/Book Fair
- 3:15–4:00 PM Magical Group Poems
- 4:00 PM End of Conference

## About Your Membership

**All memberships are CALENDAR YEAR—January through December.** Only new memberships October–December are automatically extended through the following year. **Renewal payments** are due by **December 31** each year. Your membership expires at the end of the year on your *Museletter* mailing label. Contact [wfopmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmembership@gmail.com) with any questions. To receive reminders and official news, make sure we have a current email address.

**NB:** If you lapse, then renew, 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 online) saves WFOP \$ and arrives 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com). Send all address changes or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

WFOP 2019 Fall Conference—Registration form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ WFOP Region \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Current members \$55 (if received by October 10; \$60 at the door) Number \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Includes breakfast and lunch)

Non-members \$75 (if received by October 10; \$80 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 or other merchandise? \_\_\_\_\_

Name for sales table sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I want to participate in Cynthia Marie Hoffman’s Friday workshop \_\_\_\_

No, I would prefer *not* to have my Roll Call poem recorded for podcast \_\_\_\_

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

**Colleen Frentzel**  
**1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr**  
**Janesville WI 53546**

“Magic” is in the air this year! The Fall 2019 Conference features hands-on activities, including a Friday afternoon workshop by Cynthia Marie Hoffman on “Using Family History in Your Poetry.”

Friday night, local magician Robby Johnson will awe and mesmerize you with a performance, followed by the Open Mic. On Saturday morning, Quaan Logan will give a workshop on how to “Podcast Your Poetry Over The Internet”; also, the Roll Call Poems will be podcast—a feat never done

before at a WFOP Conference! [Note: if you do not wish your poems to be podcast, you can indicate that on the registration form, and your poem will be edited out.] Finally, at each table you will find a Top Hat decoration. Inside the Top Hat will be pages from fairy tales, from which you can compose a group poem with others at your table and, at the end of the conference, have the opportunity to share your “Magical Group Poem”!

Join us for “The Magic of Poetry”!

*Membership Renewal Form* KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

All 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](http://wfop.org). Contact [wfopmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmembership@gmail.com) if you are not sure when your membership expires.

SAVE POSTAGE and renew or join online at [wfop.org](http://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.



# Poems BY Our Membership

—ELMAE PASSINEAU, EDITOR

In “The Summer Day,” poet Mary Oliver wrote, “Tell me, what is it you plan to do/with your one wild and precious life?” What have you done, what are you doing, or what will you do? ≤18 lines.

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

## FINDING A ROAD TO HOPE

My anxieties hang like overripe plums  
ready to tumble, splatter my mind's gears  
that are already jammed with thoughts  
of a black hole swallowing our planet  
and those nearly invisible black ticks  
ramping up tick-borne diseases.

I must aspire to hope, find peace.  
I will rejoice in the cheerful songs  
of the wrens tending to their birdhouse nest,  
laugh at the catbird's ingenious meows  
as he alights on the feeder,  
find inspiration in our blueberry bushes' tenacity—  
how they have survived forty consecutive  
freezing winters: springing to life, producing fruit,  
living fearlessly. Living.

—Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield

## LOVE, ALL THE LILACS

I want to love all the lilacs; to feel the way they smell  
Beneath their shade, sans loneliness, protected.

To bloom in the way of the cherry blossom while everyone  
Is sleeping. And to leave something etched, be a bearer of meaning  
against an altogether empty Monday morning.

I won't see everything a little but will do each important thing  
before I'm ready— they will say that to know myself to the last drop  
was to love completely.

I will sing in my key and keep my time, humble like a memory  
*Making and going and seeing and doing* while I recover from your loss

Recover from your loss

Recover from your loss...

Again.

—Jess L Parker, Fitchburg

## THAT'S LIFE

Shortly after the halcyon high school days,  
I decided to fly  
First step, aviation mechanic's license from Lewis College  
Gotta learn how planes work. Done.

Next, learn to pilot a plane.  
Soloed in seven hours. Done.

Third, buy an airplane, build up flying hours. Done.  
But the engine was so worn out,  
it barely took off with one person on board

Sold plane, built gyrocopter  
First flight, joystick broke on takeoff  
A single bolt was supposed to hold me up in the air!  
Not good.

Sold gyrocopter, built bike rack with remaining parts,  
reluctantly admitted I was not pilot material

Since been blessed with life's most meaningful gifts,  
two marriages, a high school sweetheart and a life-mate,  
six children, seven grandkids, three great-grandkids ...

—*Joseph D. Donalies, Racine*

## THE SECOND HAND LEAPS

The minutes of my life tick off.  
Who matters in this countdown are those I love—  
the grandchildren's bright eyes, my soul mate's soft gaze,  
a bad joke with an old friend, a smile for someone new,  
a hug to comfort a cousin who's lost her son.

I will inhale a mauve lilac,  
listen for the hummingbird's flitting wings,  
build a sand castle with a young architect,  
only to see it disappear as waves lick the shore.

How can I infuse my life with gratitude,  
spreading love like honey  
to drench parched hearts?

—*Susan Twiggs, Marshfield*

## TEACHERS' INSERVICE

At The End Of The Day  
Pivoting With Stakeholders  
Avoiding Triangulation  
Exercising Zero Based Grading  
Implementing Evidence Based Reality  
Always Being Present In The Moment

—*Dennis Murphy, Beloit*

## TIME AND PLANS

There was a time when I had a plan  
when I believed what was needed  
was determination—persistence  
(close to stubborn will) and above all  
great love—  
these I knew I could bring.

That plan went awry, like free fall  
fell in pieces—felt like nothing I knew  
disorienting ..... destroying.

Now the plan has less plan  
more opening to doors in days  
there is still persistence  
more solid, more sure now and above all  
still great love  
to give.

—*Karen Haley, Wauwatosa*

## LOGOS

Looking back,  
I know literature  
grabbed my soul early on;  
Words were my salvation.  
Whenever I felt dejected or  
lonely,  
books showed me the way,  
my escape from life's  
tormentors.  
I read literary greats who  
inspired and uplifted me,  
which is why I grew into  
a poet—I longed to be  
in the company of writers.  
I found my home there,  
nestled in dreams of  
becoming one of them.

—*Jane-Marie Bahr, Menomonie*

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

My Muse looked o'er her glasses  
and asked what were my plans:  
she gave me words and penmanship  
to see where I would land.

I take her words and knead them  
I fold and trim and blend  
and put them down on paper  
to see where they will end.

Sometimes words take a detour  
obtuse from where I planned  
but I have found the best course  
is LET them, to the end.

I feel her on my shoulder,  
controlling arm and pen  
and let HER take the words she gave  
to write what SHE would pen!

—*Lorelee Sienkowski, Packwaukee*

## PLAN B

*What will you do now?*

At a certain age, the urge to celebrate life dims.  
Sometime after retirement comes  
the realization that it will not get better than this.  
Body cells are making mistakes. Another condition erupts.  
Money for travel gets repurposed. Another procedure.  
Physical therapy again.  
(Oh Lord! We had been so able!)  
Gradual, blind eye to the inevitable.  
It started many years ago when the kid  
first outran the parent.  
Buried the cat. Sold the cottage.  
(Have you noticed the cherry tree is dying)  
Good question, what will you do now?

—*Jon Bales, Milwaukee*

### FLYING HIGH DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

Submit a poem with some connection to flight—  
anything from outer-space rocket ships to paper  
airplanes, from fighter jets to hummingbirds, from  
helicopters to mosquitoes. 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**

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

*Return Service Requested.*

*Next Issue Deadline* NOVEMBER 1, 2019

### WHAT A DAY

What a morning  
rising and breaking in  
that sky like that again,  
clouds birds trees,  
our familiar surprises,  
waters still, pooling  
and lunch, just what you  
wanted, just how you like it  
and when, exactly right.  
Nothing to do the whole long  
afternoon so full of  
the nothing you planned.  
Evening evening evening lovely  
to call it that, languid,  
languishing even as it passes.

—Bruce Taylor, Chippewa Falls

### SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY

What I'm going to do is this:  
take a walk with my dog every morning,  
I swear it today, because there he is again  
ear-deep in the dew-morning grass.  
I can't see his smile but when he comes,  
belly-wet, out of the tall Queen Anne's Lace,  
he can't wipe it off his face even with  
a red ball smack in the middle of his mouth.  
Toss after toss, how can a body be this happy?  
I have sorrow, yes, but not right now.

—Jeanie Tomasko, Middleton