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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Clougherty, Barneveld
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Jonathan Iwanski, Appleton
Ruth Lovejoy, Chippewa Falls
Dennis Murphy, Beloit
Karen Ostrov, Madison
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Teresa Ritzinger, Chippewa Falls
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Kathryn Schowalter, Random
Lake
Barry Slavis, Milwaukee
Annette Towler, Milwaukee

President's Message

With the recent bitter cold, it is nice to think ahead to the Spring conference in Eau Claire on the last weekend in April. Complete details and registration information on pp. 5–6. Many thanks to **Sandy Lindow** for putting together a stellar event. I hope many of you can attend and take time to reconnect with fellow poets and enjoy the theme of “Confluence.”

If you are receiving this *Museletter*, you are a member in good standing. Take advantage of this to create a Member Page on the WFOP website, **wfop.org**. Instructions are at the bottom of the Member Pages. And if you are not already receiving the weekly Events mailing sent on Mondays, please contact **Jeannie Bergmann** at **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com** to be added to the list of recipients. This weekly email is a good way to keep up with events around the state as well as opportunities for publication that can come and go quickly.

Wisconsin's new Poet Laureate is **Margaret “Peggy” Rozga**, a long-time WFOP member from Milwaukee. To learn more about her, please visit **wisconsinacademy.org/current-poet-laureate**. We look forward to the energy and expertise she brings to the position. Outgoing Poet Laureate Karla Huston will be “passing the torch” to Peggy on Friday night at the Spring Conference. We are grateful to Karla for all her work on behalf of poetry in Wisconsin. WFOP's new representative on the Poet Laureate Commission is **Ed Werstein**, who is taking over from **Mark Zimmermann**. Many thanks for their service.

The 2020 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* editors, **Erna Kelly** and **Karen Loeb**, are hard at work on the upcoming edition. With the help of a grant from the Packer Foundation, *Calendar* publication readings will be held in all corners of the state. If you have ideas, suggestions for venues, or would like to help with a reading, please contact your regional vice president. *Calendar* readings can be combined with a workshop and funds used to pay featured poets and instructors. It is a continual challenge to reach poets, raise awareness of WFOP, and recruit new members. Regional readings and events help us reach this goal.

If you use Facebook, please “like” the official WFOP page in addition to the “group” page. During National Poetry Month (April), daily submission calls (no fee whenever possible) will be shared. Challenge yourself to submit to at least five journals during NaPoMo. Regular submissions increase your chances of getting published. Obvious, but I often hear people bemoan that they don't get published, only to find out they don't submit! Submitting is a great way to revise and “clean up” poems with potential that have gathered dust. April is also the perfect time for poetic events and readings; promote these on the Events email as well as the FB pages. Remember to post .jpg flyers on Facebook.

I hope to see many of you in Eau Claire in April. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, or ideas regarding WFOP.

Yours,
—Jan

**A Note from the
Membership Chair**

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

**Triad Contest
DEADLINE
August 15**



Info in summer issue, or
**wfop.org/annual-
contests/**

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets is online at **wfop.org**

What's Happening in Your Region?

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

CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VP: Christina Kubasta, ckkubasta60@marianuniversity.edu

Your regional VP wishes to share your news! Please send. Email her to be added to the area events list. Regular readings are at Thelma, Fond du Lac (thelmarts.org), Evergreen Manor, Oshkosh, and The Draw, Appleton.

Michael Belongie's poem, "Suffer the Children" was published in the international journal *Taj Mahal*, December, 2018. **C. Kubasta** had poems in *Whale Road Review*, *Always Crashing*, and *Memoir Mixtapes* this fall.

EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Join the Milwaukee Public Library in celebrating National Poetry Month with an open mike at the East Library, 2320 N Cramer St, Saturday, April 13, 1–4 PM. Read your favorite poems, sing your favorite songs, or just listen to your neighbors read and perform, emceed by Milwaukee poet Kavon Cortez Jones. Free and open to the public.

A reading from *Bards Against Hunger: Wisconsin Edition* was held December 9 at Good Harvest Market, Pewaukee, which collected food and money to benefit the Waukesha Food Pantry. A second reading took place February 2 to benefit Project Concern in Cudahy. Other events are planned. To purchase a copy of the anthology or to plan a benefit in your local area, email **Ed Werstein** at **wersted@gmail.com**.

Poets Monday at Linneman's, 1001 E Locust St, Milwaukee, continues to feature 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. If you are in Milwaukee on a Monday evening, show up and sign in. First-time readers are roundly applauded.

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.

Eileen Mattmann had two poems published recently, one in *Spank the Carp*, and one in *Motherscope*.

Van Gogh Dreams, poems about the life and art of Vincent van Gogh, edited by **Lisa Vihos**, includes, in addition to Vihos, East Region poets **Mary Jo Balistreri**, **Sylvia Cavanaugh**, **Tom Erickson**, **Dawn Hogue**, **Kavon Cortez Jones**, **Frederick Kreutz**, **Bobbie Lee Lovell**, **Mary Lux**, **CJ Muchhala**, **Mara Ptacek**, **Margaret Rozga**, **Paula Schulz**, **David Southward**, and **Sister Irene Zimmerman**.

Cristina M. R. Norcross had a poem in *Bards Against Hunger: Wisconsin Edition*; "Just Sip" in the January *Visual Verse*; and "Escape into the Blue" in the February *Ekphrastic Review* as part of the Joseph Cornell Ekphrastic Writing Challenge.

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

Jim Pollack gave a great farewell reading at the Wausau Unitarian Church January 27 in VP Kathy Serley's bi-monthly poetry reading series.

Victoria Lindsay had a poem published in *Trace* and participated in a reading during the Central Wisconsin Book Festival. She also was in *Bards Against Hunger: Wisconsin Edition*. She has led an Evocative Writing workshop and A Few Choice Words workshop.

Joan Wiese Johannes and **Mary "Ray" Goehring** had poems featured on *Your Daily Poem*.

Patricia Williams had a poem in the *Trace* poetry and art exhibit in Wausau, two poems in *Your Daily Poem* and presented a program to the LIFE group in Stevens Point on Writing in Retirement.

Kathleen Serley's poem "Connections" was published in *Ariel Anthology*.

Sue Twiggs won 3rd place Viewers Choice Award in the *Trace* exhibit. Her poem "Leonardo Ponders the Mona Lisa" was paired with *The Oracles Leonardo Ponders the Mona Lisa*, a photomontage by Robin O'Flynn. Her poem "Walk from the Subway at Prospect Park" was published in *Bards Against Hunger, Wisconsin Edition*. Sue's haiku "Autumn Trees Are Bare" appeared in the fall issue of *Avocet*.

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigw@twc.com

Kathryn Gahl published the following: "Helen's Hairdo" placed second for the 2018 Hal Prize and appeared in *Peninsula Pulse*, August; "The Dying Farmer," Honorable Mention 2018 Poetry Contest, *Wisconsin People & Ideas*; "Paper Towels" in *Stoneboat*, Fall; "Old Woman of Arles" in *Van Gogh Dreams*, ed. Lisa Vihos (HenschelHaus, 2018); "Roxy," a hybrid piece, in the inaugural issue of *Wallopzine*; "I Went With My Brother" appears in *From Everywhere A Little: A Migration Anthology* (Water's Edge Press, 2019).

Annette Langlois Grunseth had a poem in *Bards Against Hunger: Wisconsin Edition*.

Tori Grant Welhouse had "Intuition," "Sex," and "Solitude," published in *50/50: Poems & Translations by Womxn Over 50*.

NORTHWEST

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

Jan Chronister's poems appear in *Talking Stick*, *Ariel Anthology* and *Your Daily Poem*. She has poems in *Sloth*, *Wrath*, and *Envy*, three of the Seven Deadly Sins anthologies from Pure Slush Books (Australia) as well as *Allegro and Adagio: Dance Poems II*, and two poems appeared in the Jan/Feb. issue of *The Bottom Line*.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Next First Tuesday Poetry Reading and Open Mic at Suzy's Steakhouse, 2701 County CX, Portage, will be March 5, 6:30–8:30 PM, featuring **Antonio Re**. suzysportage.com

June Paul had two poems "Unlimited" and "Shifting Frames" in the *Ekphrastic Review*, ekphrastic.net

New WFOP member **Claude Clayton Smith** won the *American Aesthetic* annual sonnet competition for the second time.

Mary C. Rowin has been busy! "Una Mujer Illegal" received a prize from the Nebraska Writer's Guild Cultural Integration on the High Plains Poetry Contest and was published in *Voices from the Plains*, Vol. 2. "Alternative Medicine" appeared in *Solitary Plover*. *Ekphrastic Review* published three poems about Vincent Van Gogh: "La Guinguette," "My Dear Theo," and "Great Bouquets of Roses." "The Work Room" and "Satellite Image" appear in *Ariel Anthology 5*; "Nebraska to North Dakota: Three Haibun" in the anthology *Ancestors, Place, and Memory: The Land Lives Forever* (Pochino Press); "Sunflower Medley" in *Van Gogh Dreams*, ed. Lisa Vihos; and "The Gift" in *Zingara Poetry Review*, December. "Centering," in the *Winter Blue Heron Review*, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Ron Czerwien read from his new chapbook *a little rain, a little more* at Mother Fool's Coffeehouse November 2. He also read as part of the Watershed Reading Series at the Arts & Literature Lab, Madison, on January 19.

Palmer Haynes read his "A Diary of Dates" and "Mr. Mori" on November 11 during the Zwingli Mt Vernon UCC worship service. His "On Snowdrops Lead" and "Digging with Andrew" were published in the 2019 *Mount Horeb Mound View Garden Club Yearbook*.

James P. Roberts read 2019 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* poems at the Original Voices in Coloma November 14.

South Central Region members who read at the Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon in Milwaukee on January 26 were **Angela Voras-Hills**, **James P. Roberts**, **Kimberly A. Blanchette**, **Ron Czerwien**, **Ronnie Hess**,

Fred Kreutz, **Marilyn Taylor**, and **Martha Kaplan**.

F. J. Bergmann had poems "Long Time No See" in *Vastarien*; "Finale" and "With Benefits" in *Dreams and Nightmares*; "Regardless" in *Tales from the Moonlit Path*; [cyborg teambuilding], [dawn chill on Enceladus], [Earth a blue speck], [fossil star in shale], [like the moon] and [lingerie fetish] in *Star*Line*; "Focal Length" in *Wild Musette*; "True North" in *Unbroken*; and "A Model That Could Be Predictive" in *Unlost*. "Starry Night" was nominated for a Pushcart by *Sleet*.

WEST CENTRAL

VPs: Sandra Lindow, lindowleaf@gmail.com, & Alex Zitzner, amzitzner@gmail.com

After the last polar vortex blast, the Chippewa Valley is hoping for an early spring but probably won't get it; nevertheless, there continue to be many ways to write, read and enjoy poetry. The Writer's Group at the Library meets at the EC Library on first Thursdays; in April we will return to our regular hours of 7–9 PM. Writers Read continues on second Thursdays; sign-in 6 PM in the Eau Claire Room. "Local Lit: Off the Page" is a reading series Feb–June and Sept–Dec, held on first Mondays at 5 PM at the Local Lit Gallery in EC. The Spring Equinox White Pine Celebration will be held at Simply Dunn in Downsville in March. The WFOP Spring Conference will be held April 26–27. The theme is "Confluence." See pp. 5–6. Finally, the Chippewa Valley Writers' Guild has announced that registration is now open for the Cirenaica Writers' Retreat July 18–21. This year we are in new accommodations at the Priory just outside of Eau Claire.

Karen Loeb participated in the Chippewa Valley Writers Guild 6x6 reading series in December (6 writers read for 6 minutes). January 4, **Linda Frank**, **Erna Kelly** and **Sandra Lindow** participated in the Winter Solstice White Pine Celebration at Simply Dunn in Downsville. On January 11, Writers Read at the Library was hosted by Loeb and included Frank, Kelly, Lindow, **Yvette Flaten**, and **Candace Hennekens**.

The winter-themed *Avocet* published **David Blackey's** poem "Skimming Stones on the Marsh"; the poem had previously been in the 2011 *Calendar*.

Lindow's poem "Sex and the Theory of Everything" appeared in *Dreams and Nightmares* 111.

Bruce Taylor published poems "Shakespeare's Children" in *American Journal of Poetry*, Winter; "Clickbait," "Shelter in Place" *AJP* Summer; "Why I Still Write Poetry," *Crosswinds*, Spring 2018; "could have been a bluesman," *Dash* 11; "If You Knew Then What You Know Now," "Next Door," *Postcard Poems and Prose*, Spring 2018; "The Poem in Progress," *New Poetry from*

the Midwest, 2017 (New American Press, 2018); “One Liner,” *Short on Sugar, High on Honey: Micro Love Stories* (International Short-Short Story Press, 2018).

Jeannie Roberts has four poems and accompanying photos in *Nature Writing*: Nov. 8, “The Awakening” Jan. 2, “For Love of Osprey, a Villanelle,” Jan. 10, “The Nature of Enjambment,” and Jan. 23, “A Chippewa Woodchuck.” The *Ekphrastic Review* published three of her poems: Nov. 23, “Trapped,” Dec 21, “Romancing Blue,” and Jan. 25, “The Afternoon Nap.” “The Tao of Headdress” appears in *Visual Verse* Dec. 15, and “January” appears in the January *Quill & Parchment*.

Museletter submissions: Send news to your regional VP or to **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*, *Bramble* or *Calendar* appearances. **Please** don't double-space after periods.

Publications by Our Members

Beauty in the Broken Places, Cristina M. R. Norcross's 8th poetry collection (Kelsay Books, 2019).

Bird's Nest, 96 haiku & short poems by Gary Busha (Wolfsong Press, 2019). \$5. garybusha.wordpress.com

Midwest Medley: Places & People, Wild Things & Weather, Patricia Williams' poetry collection, was published by Kelsay Books/Aldrich Press.

Love Affairs At The Villa Nelle, an anthology of villanelle poems, eds. James P. Roberts & Marilyn L. Taylor (Kelsay Books, Dec. 2018). 80 pp. \$14; email mlt@mltpoet.com

The Plains of Heaven, a chapbook of ekphrastic poems by F. J. Bergmann with paintings by Kelli Hoppmann, handsewn and fully illustrated in color. 2018, available at fjbergmann.com/sales.html. 28 pp. \$30 + \$2 ship.

Poetry Love Sex Music Booze & Death is Bruce Taylor's latest collection (Upriver Press, 2018).

Rhyme the Roost! A Collection of Poems and Paintings for Children by Jeannie Roberts (Daffydowndilly Press, 2019). 77 pp. \$14. kelsaybooks.com/products/rhyme-the-roost

New Wisconsin Poet Laureate

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters magazine features Wisconsin's new Poet Laureate, **Margaret (Peggy) Rozga**. It's a fine article, written by **Wendy Vardaman**, about Peggy and her work, at wisconsinacademy.org/magazine/winter-2019/profile/margaret-rozga-wisconsin-poet-laureate. A more formal biography is at wisconsinpoetlaureate.org, where Peggy's event schedule will be posted. Peggy will be the featured reader at the Wisconsin Academy's Poetry and Pi(e) celebration, March 14, 5:30–7 PM, 1922 University Ave, Madison. For details, wisconsinacademy.org/evenings/poetry-pie-peggy-rozga

Michael Belongie has been studying and building a network with significant persons in the life and world of poet Robert Lax: his notable biographer, Michael McGregor, author of *Pure Act*, and Lax's literary executor, Marcia Kelly.

If you were not aware of who poet and contemplative Robert Lax is and Lax's current international prominence with his original form intent, enjambment, and impact—neither was Michael.

Please contact Michael, and a conversation via email or phone will initiate your exploration.

poetpow@gmail.com or 920-210-6073

Sometimes a Scrap and a Star is a self-published book of poems by Julia Rice. Contact ricejulia@hotmail.com

Soul Soup, a chapbook by Dave Benson, was published by Cholla Needles Arts & Literary Library.

Van Gogh Dreams, poems about the life and art of Vincent van Gogh, edited by Lisa Vihos, and published by HenschelHAUS Publishing, Milwaukee, is now available. The book includes 31 poets, many of whom are members of WFOP.

Where I'm From: poems and stories by Marjorie Pagel, with the assistance of David Gawlik, Caritas Communications, Mequon, is available at Amazon and, with author's discount, from Marjorie.Pagel@gmail.com.

NOTE TO MEMBERS WITH NEW BOOKS

Surely the point of publishing your book is for others to be able to read it? There is little point in listing books here without making it possible to buy them. 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

Confluence:
When people and poetry come together

Presenter: Heid E. Erdrich

Spring Conference Agenda

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019

7–8:30 PM Heid E. Erdrich Presentation
UW–Eau Claire Davies Center, Woodland Theater

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019

3:00 PM Registration opens
4:00–6:00 PM Executive Board Meeting
5:00–7:00 PM Dinner on your own
6:45 PM Haiku competition begins
7:00 PM Poet Laureate introduction
7:30–10:00 PM Open Mic

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

7:15–8:15 AM Breakfast, Registration, Book Fair
8:15 AM Welcome & Announcements
8:30–9:15 AM General Business Meeting
9:15–10:00 AM Roll Call Poems (under 20 lines)
10:00–10:15 AM ecWit (Eau Claire Women in Theater)
Readers Theater collaborative poems explore “Confluence”
10:15–10:30 AM Break/Book Fair
10:30–11:30 AM Panel: Chippewa Valley Confluence Poetry
Chippewa Valley Writers’ Guild
Cerenaiica Writers Retreat
Barstow and Grand
Sky Island Journal
11:30 AM Muse Prize/Chapbook Prize
NOON Buffet Lunch
1:00–2:00 PM Roll Call Poems
2:00–2:15 PM Break/Book Fair
2:15–4:00 PM Heid E. Erdrich presentation
4:00–4:30 PM Book signing and sales

WFOP Spring Conference April 26–27, 2019

Holiday Inn Eau Claire South

**4751 Owen Ayres Ct,
Eau Claire, WI 54701**

Phone: 715-830-9889

Rooms are **\$104.95**. Room reservations must be made directly with hotel, by 3/26/2019 for discount. Mention Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets for group rate or use Group Block Code: **WFP**.

Book reservations online 24 hours a day:
ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/eau-claire/eauhi/hoteldetail

or go to **wfop.org** and click on *Events*, then *Conferences*, then *Booking Link*

Presenter: Heid E. Erdrich

HEID E. ERDRICH is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently *Curator of Ephemera* at the New Museum for Archaic Media from Michigan State University Press. She is editor of two anthologies of literature by Native writers including *New Poets of Native Nations* (Graywolf Press, 2018). Her recent non-fiction work is *Original Local: Indigenous Foods, Stories and Recipes*. Heid’s writing has won awards from Native Arts and Culture Foundation, Loft Literary Center, Minnesota State Arts Board, Minnesota Book Award, and more. See her award-winning, collaborative poem films on her Vimeo channel. Heid grew up in Wahpeton, ND, and is Ojibwe enrolled at Turtle Mountain. She teaches in the low-residency MFA Creative Writing program of Augsburg College.

About Your Membership

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

NB: *If you allow your membership to lapse, then renew without paying dues for the intervening time, you will be entered as a new member. Continuous membership is required for service awards.*

If you vacation elsewhere, mail must be sent first class in order to forward. We are charged for returned bulk mail. Signing up for e-mail-only *Museletter* (.pdf to download or read online) saves WFOP \$ and arrives 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com** to opt out of print delivery.

The Events weekly e-mailing is a separate opt-in list; to receive it, notify **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com**.

DO NOT send social media invites (e.g., LinkedIn, FB) to the *Museletter* editor; they will be ignored.

Send all address changes, membership or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com**.

WFOP SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Friday-Saturday, April 26-27, 2019

All inquiries should be directed to: Sandra Lindow at lindowleaf@gmail.com or 715-309-2084

Visit wfop.org/conference-registration/ to register and pay registration fee online, or mail to the address below.

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-mail _____

Member? _____ Region _____

Members \$65.00 (if postmarked by April 15; \$70.00 at the door) Number _____ \$ _____
(includes Saturday breakfast and lunch)

Non-members: \$90.00 (if postmarked by April 15; \$95.00 at the door) Number _____ \$ _____
(includes meals and WFOP membership, if desired)

Family Special, Saturday lunch only: \$16.00 Number _____ \$ _____

Vegetarian meals preferred? _____ First time at a WFOP conference? _____

Would you like to share your room if another member is willing to share the cost? _____

If table space needed to sell books, please provide author name _____

Payment: Online at wfop.org/store or by check payable to WFOP. TOTAL \$ _____

If paying by check, please include this form.

Room reservations must be made directly with hotel.

Mail to: Sandy Lindow, 1308 16th Ave E, Menomonie, WI 54751

Membership Renewal Form KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

Renewals are due by December 31. Expiration year follows your name on the mailing label. Dues MUST be current to enter WFOP contests, be in the Museletter, receive mailings, and to have a page on wfop.org. Contact the Museletter Editor if you are not sure when your membership expires.

SAVE POSTAGE and renew or join online at wfop.org
or mail to: Colleen Frentzel, 1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr, Janesville WI 53546
Please make checks payable to: WFOP

Active \$30.00
Student \$15.00
*** 5 for 4 Deal ***
\$120 paid now will give
5 years of membership
for the price of 4! Save \$30!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

E-mail address _____

Check to get weekly Events e-mail.

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

WFOP's Literary Journal

Bramble, WFOP's literary magazine, is open for submissions for the Spring issue until **March 15**. Open to all forms and styles, but the guest editor, **Ed Werstein**, is especially interested in poems that speak to and about the news.

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. *Bramble* is now web and print. Full guidelines at:

wfop.org/bramble-lit-mag/how-to-submit

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

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

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2019 Student Poetry Contest Results

Judges: **Michael Kriesel** and **Crystal Gibbins**

Lewis Bosworth, Coordinator

Number of Entries: Grades 9–12 = 136

1st Prize: “Papillon,” **Serena Suson**, 10th grade, Brookfield Academy, Brookfield, Karen Schleicher, teacher.

2nd Prize: “The 5 Senses,” **Celia Robayna**, 12th grade, Arrowhead Union High School, Hartland, Elizabeth Jorgensen, teacher.

3rd Prize: “In a School,” **Taylor Rich**, 9th grade, Coleman High School, Coleman, Sarah Thomas, teacher.

Honorable Mentions:

“Wooded Walk,” **Samantha Currey**, 12th grade, Arrowhead Union High School, Hartland, Elizabeth Jorgensen, teacher.

“Sinking Feeling,” **Dustin Ewell**, 12th grade, Lincoln High School, Wisconsin Rapids, Nicole Reetz, teacher.

“Corner House,” **Michael McKenna**, 12th grade, Arrowhead Union High School, Hartland, Elizabeth Jorgensen, teacher.

“Traditions,” **Katelyn Prasch**, 12th grade, Fort Atkinson High School, Fort Atkinson, Dan Hansen, teacher.

Note: There were no entries in grades 6-8 category this year.

The Triad Contest

opens on June 1; entry deadline is August 15. The theme for the theme category is *History*. Judges are D. M. Aderibigbe, Lynn Powell, and Michelle Brittan Rosado.

WLA AWARD: wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/read/awards

A. To be considered for this award a book must:

1. Normally be more than thirty-two pages in length.

2. Be copyrighted and published in the calendar year preceding the giving of the award.

B. The award is given for a single publication, not for the body of an author's work.

C. The work must be written by 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. Texts 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. (To have your submission returned, please provide SASE with appropriate postage.) Please also tell us the author's connection to the state of Wisconsin. Send nominations, postmarked no later than April 15, to:

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

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

WFOP volunteer position open: high school/college student or older adult needed to assist the WFOP archivist by scanning documents using existing software and scanner. Must be able to perform duties at the near west side of Madison home of archivist. Typical time commitment: 3 hours/twice a month. WFOP is a not-for-profit organization. For more information and interview call Lewis Bosworth, **608-238-3648** OR email to **lewisabosworth@gmail.com**.

Poems ^{BY} Our Membership

—ELMAE PASSINEAU, EDITOR

In the style of Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*, these poems are first-person "eulogies" for real or imagined persons, maximum 18 lines.

INCREASE CLAFLIN

I, husband to my Mary, she about whom little is known,
So that I speak from the grave of her grave countenance
In the face of all she faced, faithful to me and my wandering
Disposition, soldier I was in a line of soldiers, then overlord
Of many in my employ whom Mary kindly mothered
Along with our children, as, over time, we moved from Boston
To New Orleans, then up Big Muddy to become the first
White folk to settle on the thumb of the high-held hand
That is Wisconsin, haven the Potawatomi called heaven.
In harmony we lived afore a scare. Our eldest's husband's scorn
For our neighbors' ways had him fiddling fools with firewater till
Brothers attacked, and I with my Scots bloodline and barrel chest,
I fought back with a keg they thought was whiskey but black powder
Instead. I say unto you it is strength that staves off annihilation,
That makes for peace. As for Mary, full of charity, she knew
No privilege, save to one day send, she and I, our three sons
Off to Old Abe to help save the country and end slavery.

—Karl Elder, Plymouth

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

THE LOVES OF ANNA LUCENE JONES (1893-1984)

After church I took the newly baptized babe
into my arms to hold and rock, and sing
to this fresh child of the universe
the prophet's announcement of her membership
in the family. Huh. Wasn't my baptism as good
as the preacher's? I should have been a preacher.

Instead, I was a teacher. I taught math.
I loved the wonder of equations, the beauty
of geometry. I believed that math was for everyone,
especially girls.

And I loved my dear husband. He
was "Daddy" to our five. It pleased me to have him
hold me close even in the presence of the children.

Thank you Lord for the enduring loves of my long life.

—Lincoln Hartford, Madison

VERONICA

When I was just 18, I met George at a dance.
He offered to take me home.
When he ran his hand past my knee, I said,
If that's what you want, we're done.
So we dated for a year, and he waited.
We had a double wedding
with my younger sister and Roger in 1925.
George came from a boys-will-be-boys mother.
I came from a you-can-protect-anything-
you-can-put-your-hand-over grandmother.
I don't think I was ever enough for him.
When we had been married 55 years,
he left me for our flirtatious "friend."
Then he came back: no apologies, no discussion.
After George died, I often dreamed
that we had gone to a picnic together;
but when it was time to come home,
I couldn't find him. I could never find him.

—Jan Bosman, Woodstock IL

BERNARD MICHAEL SELTING

My habit was to read when I could find time
like history, ancient bones tugged at my sleeve
I built things—houses for a time—then farms
staying lean and rangy in dawn-to-dusk work
hammering the ground green and straight rowed
I could be imperious but knew the word *cherish*
and the mother of my children loved me

the war . . . glad to take me as a carpenter then
now has tracked me down with thick deadly air
breathed daily in the holds of great steel ships
shards of silence worked their alchemy
turned the casings of my lungs alien and massed
here I lie—I build nothing now
except in kind thoughts of those left behind
I'd like to take comfort in the rustle of corn leaves
laid row by row in the field near my stone
but I'd rather be tilling that field.

—Karen Haley, *Wauwatosa*

JENNY JEPSON—1903

My wedding dress of antique
lace and homespun linen
gracefully hangs on the parlor door.

The petticoat's design
and the bustle's culmination
speak of my perfection to detail
as do the pearl buttons
harmoniously matched and fastened
at the nape of my neck.

Sadly, a blissful and abundant life
with husband and children
was not to be mine
for I died too young.

Now, as I gaze at my picture
and gently caress the lace and linen
I wonder, "Do they make love like they used to?"

—Susan Anderson, *Baraboo*

IVAN

I translated Russian poetry, read James Joyce
knew Shakespeare and the classics. I taught
Spanish at Maplewood until my death at age
sixty-one. I did not tell the administrators
that I smoked two to three packs of Camels
or Salem cigarettes for forty years, and that I
could binge-drink a case of Scotch; nonetheless
I could sympathize with students protesting
that Godawful war in Vietnam. Some called me
the mad Russian. What did they know of the
world's great literature, the ideas that should
have changed society, ignored by a willful,
proud, implacable society, people who did not
understand or who chose not to look around at
the selfish world of ego that we had become,
just ships passing in the night. No time to care,
to learn, and to enjoy family and friends.

—Peter Piaskoski, *Shorewood*

WHOOPEE AUCHSTETTER

I was sort of a no-count old guy
in a small country town in northern Illinois.
Local farmers would hire me
to help with odd jobs at haying time.
I was puny, but wiry, so work was fairly easy
(if you think that walking a big horse back and forth,
to start a pulley that hoisted a bundle of hay
to the loft in the barn wasn't tiring work.)
Few people knew or called me by my given name.
(I hardly remember it myself.)
That's because, when I had a few dollars,
I spent most of it at one of the taverns in town.
I was what folks called a "happy drunk,"
hollering "Whoopee!" after every swig of beer.
So, people started calling me "Whoopee."
I whooped it up every chance I got on earth.
In case I get to heaven somehow,
can I holler "Whoopee!" instead of "Hallelujah"?

—Frances Henkel, *Wauwatosa*

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SYLVIA PLATH

I'm unable to greet visitors who read my poetry to me
here in Heptonstall on this field of stones.
Do they hear me repeating my same questions—
Why did I ever think *tall and handsome*
was a prerequisite for a husband?
Why was that the coldest, most miserable
London winter, so that the pipes froze in my flat?
How could I fail my mother after she guided me
to Smith College and Cambridge University?
Why did my husband want to start a new family
with that woman? How did I end up so impoverished
in hope and spirit, unable to persevere another day?
I could not see through tired eyes. I should
have foreseen what I would miss the most—
you, my children. I'll love you as long as daffodils
shine in Devon on earth and in sweet realms yet to be.

—Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield

I REMEMBER ...

DEADLINE APRIL 15

At the fall WFOP conference, we heard part of
an "I Remember" poem. What do you remember
from 20, 40, 60 years ago? Submit your own
version of an "I Remember" list poem. Maximum
20 lines.

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