

Museletter Editor

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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Ingrid Andersson, Madison  
Kay Augustine, Milwaukee  
Peter Burzynski, Milwaukee  
Christopher Chambers, Madison  
Angela Emmert, Manawa  
Jennifer Fandel, Madison  
Meredith Hess, Stevens Point  
Daniel Kennedy, Madison  
Chloe Kessenich, Rio  
Matthew Kleman, Milwaukee  
Tim Moder, Superior  
Margaret Nielsen, McFarland  
Rebekah Palmer, Duluth MN  
Charles Payne, Madison  
Connie Roop, Appleton  
Carrie Schonhoff, Reeseville  
Linda Tiboris, Middleton  
Karen Utech, Jackson  
Kathleen Vandemark, Kewaskum  
Elizabeth Wise, Stevens Point  
Catherine Young, Blue River

Co-Presidents' Message

Greetings and best wishes for a bright new year. As your new co-presidents, we look forward, finally, to getting together at our spring conference in Minocqua, our first gathering in two years. It's been a long time. As this *Museletter* goes to press, we're still hoping the conference is a "go." Thanks to organizer Nancy Austin for moving forward so confidently and cautiously in a time of great uncertainty.

Before speaking more about the future, we'd like to say a few words about the past. We want to thank our outgoing officers, president **Jan Chronister** and vice-president **Michael Kriesel**. Jan was president for two terms and held many other offices before that, as did Michael. Jan's last term was a particularly rough period. She is the glue that held us all together, taking on many tasks that would have been delegated to others under normal circumstances. She has left WFOP on a solid footing not only financially but organizationally. *Calendar* editors and conference planners have been lined up for several years. Michael's calm demeanor and long leadership experience were equally invaluable. Neither will fade from the footlights. Jan will remain the *Calendar* business manager ([wfopcalendarbiz@gmail.com](mailto:wfopcalendarbiz@gmail.com) is her new email in this role) until someone else steps forward, and Michael will help with the transition of our new leadership team.

A word about us in our new jobs—we never anticipated being co-presidents. In fact, we tried to recruit each other for the job only to recognize that it would be easiest if we just both did it. So here we are, along with other able officers. **Christina Kubasta** will be a wonderful Vice-President while continuing to shepherd WFOP's literary magazine, *Bramble*. Thanks to **Dennis Collier** and **Colleen Frentzel** for continuing as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, and to those who hold down other important posts in membership, communications, and regional coordination.

Looking ahead, there's a lot we want to accomplish. As WFOP moves toward its 75th anniversary, it's impossible not to marvel and honor where we've been and what we've done. But we acknowledge that we are no longer the small organization pioneered by a few poetry lovers who gathered at the UW Memorial Union in Madison in 1950. One of the most

Remember ...

Notify *in advance* of address change. Only first-class mail forwards; bulk is returned at WFOP's expense. Request e-mail instead; it's sent earlier, and you'll save WFOP \$! And for the weekly Events e-mail: [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

Our gratitude for your generosity! Donations received:  
**In memory of Ethna McKiernan, from Thomas Murtha**  
**In memory of Barb Cranford, from Linda Aschbrenner & Vlasta Karol Blaha**  
**In loving memory of Helen Padway—friend, poet, and founding member of The Sparks—from Phyllis Wax, Margaret Rozga, Mara Ptacek & CJ Muchhala**  
**From Sheryl Slocum, Bob St. Louis, and Susan Fiore**

obvious differences between then and now is technology. We believe it's time to update how we communicate with one another—whether it's paying dues, voting, submitting to contests, or sharing news and poetry. Another key difference has to do with equity. We need to find ways to ensure our organization is reflective of a disparate population, developing tools to bring us together in celebration of poetry, through scholarships for example, and a broader view of what defines poetry.

We've got a lot of ideas, but we can't implement anything without you. No kidding. We look to you for suggestions and, importantly, for helping us get the jobs done. This is your Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. Join us in being part of the action and the fun.

—Cat & Ronnie

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## What's Happening in Your Region?

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

### CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VPs: Mike Gadzik, mgadzik@yahoo.com & Kathryn Gahl, kathryngahl@gmail.com

Poetry Unlocked (coordinated by **Bobbie Lovell**, **Cathryn Cofell**, and **Sarah Gilbert**) continues readings with open mics via Zoom. Email poetryunlockedappleton@gmail.com or find on FB.

**Fredric Hildebrand** had poems appear in *The MacGuffin*, *Loud Coffee Press*, *Red-Headed Stepchild*, *Amethyst Review*, and *Verse-Virtual*.

**Ron Houssaye's** "The Wristwatch" was in the October *Moss Piglet*, and "Painter and Poet" in the Summer *Bramble*.

### EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

**CJ Muchhala** has had work published in *They Call Us Sluts & Prudes* (theycallus.com), *Jerry Jazz Musician*, *Gyroscope Review*, and *Poeming Pigeon: From Pandemic to Protest*.

**Scott Lowery's** poem "How Light Asks" (after lines by W. S. Merwin) can be found in the debut issue of *RockPaperPoem*, <https://rockpaperpoem.com>, a new, free online journal from southern Minnesota. He has poems forthcoming in the spring issues of *Briar Cliff Review* and *Nimrod International Journal*. An older poem, "And Then", is in the 2022 volume of *Bright Light Stories in the Night* (Rochester, MN), a regional poetry e-chapbook with visual artists' responses. Online lunch reading Friday, March 2; see <https://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternMNPoets> for details about livestreaming.

**Debra Monthei Manske's** poem "A SandPiper Shares His Beach" received honorable mention in *Nature*.

**Jim Landwehr** had poems published in Sweetycat Press' anthology on Beauty, and in *Moss Piglet*.

For National Poetry Month (April), BONK! is hosting a virtual poetry festival on Zoom, to be live-streamed on Facebook. Local poets will present different styles of poetry. We are looking for individuals to perform at this event. Each presenter will be expected to do the following:

- Choose a style of poetry to present.
- Explain the origins/history of that poetry form.
- Teach how to create a poem in that style.
- Read 1-2 examples of poetry in that style.
- Read 1-2 original poems in that style.

Poetry styles we hope to present at the event: Sonnet, Haiku, Cinquain, Sestina, Slam Poem, Villanelle, Ballad, Acrostic, Visual Poetry, Found Poetry/Blackout Poetry, Ode/Elegy, Free Verse, Instapoetry, and Ekphrastic.

**Christy Schwan's** poem "Slipping" won Honorable Mention in Wilda Morris's January Poetry Challenge.

**Elisabeth Harrah's** poem "The Great Escape" was an Editor's Choice in the 2021 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards Contest and was in *Paterson Literary Review* 50. Her poem "Cars" was in the Fall/Winter *Comstock Review*.

**Patricia Carney**, Cudahy, presented a program, "Ecological Cycles & Ecofeminism: Poetic Responses," at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee and read from *A Kayak is My Church Pew*: [youtube.com/watch?v=98dKhbRNRiU&t=2775s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98dKhbRNRiU&t=2775s)

**Maryann Hurtt** was a featured reader at Oklahoma's Chikaskia Literary Festival, where she read from her new book, *Once Upon a Tar Creek: Mining for Voices*. She received a Best of the Net nomination from *Halfway Down the Stairs* for "Agent Orange and Purple Orchids." She also received Cornerstone Press's Portage Poetry Prize for "My Grandfather Tells a Story of Outlaws and Flowers" and a second place in Wilda Morris's January Poetry Challenge for "Glass Bottles and Ice." She was also part of WFOP's contribution to Woodland Pattern's Poetry Marathon.

And, speaking of the Poetry Marathon, Regional VP **Ed Werstein** curated the WFOP's sponsored hour. Ten WFOP members read during the hour, including new co-presidents **Ronnie Hess** and **Cathryn Cofell**. Watch it here (2 PM on Day One): [youtube.com/watch?v=hhQtZ8zwNTY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhQtZ8zwNTY)

### MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

**Sue Twigg's** poem "Great Wave Off Boothbay Harbor" was in *Ariel Anthology*.

**Mike Kriesel's** poem "Clark Kent's Vacation" was in *Nerve Cowboy* 49.

**Linda Aschbrenner** had nine haiku published in *Avocet Weekly* and “Icing the Night” and “Crows at 10,000 Feet in Fraser, Colorado” in the winter *Avocet*.

**Karyn Powers** was invited to “For the Birds,” the second open mic night sponsored by The Wausau Bird Club. Six poets participated, reading bird-related poems.

*The Avocet* published “Hoarfrost Haiku,” a series by **Vlasta Karol Blaha**, in its winter issue.

**Joan Wiese Johannes** had poems published in *Bramble*, *Hummingbird*, *Moss Piglet*, and *Third Wednesday*. She placed second in the Hal contest 2021.

**Jeffrey Johannes** had poems published in *Ariel* and *Moss Piglet*.

## NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com

**Annette Grunseth** had four poems published in two issues of *Moss Piglet*, and presented a Book Talk on Zoom for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (Madison) with her book *Combat and Campus: Writing Through War*.

**Carol Lee Saffioti Hughes** had an untitled poem in *Three Line Poetry* 58, “Angel Procession” in the January *Ekphrastic Review*, “When Wilding Returns” in the fall *Poetry Quarterly*, a poem in *Moss Piglet*, February, gave a reading during Woodland Pattern’s January Marathon and participated in the Artery reading and show in December at Spectrum School of Arts and Gallery.

**Peggy Turnbull** changed her writing name to **Margaret Coombs** and has published these poems: “Grateful” in *Silver Birch Review*, “Morning Bird Feeder” in *Three Line Poetry*, and “The Responsibility of Good-bye” and “The Post-Holiday House” in *Verse-Virtual*.

**Tori Grant Welhouse’s** poem “Haircut” earned an honorable mention in the Hal Prize.

## NORTHWEST

VP: Nancy Austin, austin10929@gmail.com

**Jan Chronister** has a poem in *Last Stanza Poetry Journal* 7, *Ariel*, and the Fall *Bramble*. Two poems appeared in January on the Facebook page of *Highland Park Poetry*. “New Year’s Eve” was featured on the *Nemadji Review* website. Three poems appear in the “Wintering” issue of *The Wild Word Magazine*. Jan published her fifth chapbook, *Heartsick*, in December as a Christmas gift to friends and family.

**Lucy Tyrrell** had the following poems in print: “Questions for a Monarch” in *Bramble*, “Snowshoe Hike” in *Avocet* (winter), [too late for fall chores] haiku in *Weekly Avocet* 475, and “Virtual Joy Harjo” in *Alaska Women Speak*. Lucy organized the December 2 virtual reading of *Ariel*, which opened with two Ojibwe water protectors singing a water song and ended referencing water poems by past

Wisconsin poets laureate and Dasha Kelly Hamilton reading “Ocean Water.” To close out her Bayfield Poet Laureate role, Lucy read two poems at the November 23 meeting of the Bayfield City Council, and two poems at the December 15 meeting of the Bayfield Carnegie Library Board. She read “Gold Joinery” and “Autumn Pastime,” written in response to Steve Geer’s photographs, at a January 27 P2 Collective virtual reading. She read “I Dwell in Possibility” on January 28 to a virtual meeting of *Cirque Journal* contributors. She participated in the virtual “Turning a Corner” workshop on January 20 led by Angela Voras-Hills. Lucy was the editor and graphic designer for a book of haiku, *as i see it* by Carrie Grove. Lucy and other Wisconsin municipal poets laureate and writers-in-residence were honored with the Wisconsin Creative Community Champion Award for 2021, presented by Arts Wisconsin.

**Peggy Trojan** won first place in Wilda Morris’s December Poetry Challenge for “Last Dance.” She won an Honorable Mention in the January Challenge for “Assurance.” She has just released her fifth chapbook, a collection of poems about her father, called *PA*.

**Elizabeth Tornes** published two poems, “Glacial Erratics” and “Gijigaaneshiinh” in the Canadian journal *The Antigonish Review*.

**Diana Randolph**, Drummond, had one poem and four art images in *Red Cedar*, and a poem in *Ariel*, which she shared at the *Ariel* Zoom reading. Diana also read her poem “Forest Cathedral” during a meeting at Cable UCC.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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

**Robin Chapman** had “The Door-To-Door Saleswoman” published on the Academy of American Poets website November 22. She also had “The Tyranny of the Discontinuous Mind” in *Verse/Virtual* in January, and a poem “Bumblebees” in the *Valparaiso Poetry Review*.

**Steve Tomasko’s** poem “A Eulogy of Sorts” took First Place in the 2021 HAL Prize Competition.

**Charles Payne** read with Matthew Charles at A Room Of One’s Own via Crowdcast December 9.

**Jess L. Parker** had “Moon Deep” in *Ariel*.

**Marilyn L. Taylor’s** “Reading the Obituaries” took 2nd place in the “Better Than Starbucks” sonnet contest.

**Angela Trudell Vasquez** had “The Farewell Tour” published in the *Yellow Medicine Review*.

**Jo Scheder** had poems in the fall *Bramble*, the *Beat Generation* anthology, *Leaves of Peace* anthology, and 3 haiku hung in the Poets Tree of Peace project.

**Richard Merelman’s** collection *A Door Opens* (Fireweed Press) was awarded the Wisconsin Library Association’s Outstanding Achievement Award in Poetry.

F. J. Bergmann had poems “Exploring the Food Pyramid” in *Switchgrass Review*, “Afterlife” in *Eye to the Telescope*, [the enchanted internet] in *Haikuniverse*, “Horror Fantasy & Speculative Fiction” in *Dreams and Nightmares*, [Earth a blue speck], [full-moon stroll], [sounds good to me] and [you call it] in *Failed Haiku*, an essay on poetry gender-ratio changes at [specpo.wordpress.com/2021/12/09/planning-for-the-new-ascendancy/](https://specpo.wordpress.com/2021/12/09/planning-for-the-new-ascendancy/), was a finalist in Oprelle’s “Matter” poetry contest and received honorable mention in the Steve Kowitz Poetry Prize.

## WEST CENTRAL

VP: Sandra Lindow, [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com)

Negative 6°, and frost flowers dance on my bathroom window, but the Writers’ Group continues to meet on first Thursdays via Zoom. Attendance has been excellent and interaction dynamic, despite occasional problems with reception. The Winter Solstice White Pine Celebration was cancelled due to local COVID issues. We are hoping to celebrate the spring equinox in March.

David Blackey’s poem “Ice-Fog” appears in the winter issue of *Avocet*.

Karen Loeb has published “First Night” in the December *Quill and Parchment*, “At the Back Fence” in *Panoply—A Literary Zine* (January) and “Hope is the Stars in Alignment” in *Hope is the Thing* anthology (2021).

Philip Venzke’s poetry is in *The Deronda Review*, *Shift: A Journal of Literary Oddities*, and *The Wild Word* (Berlin).

Erna Kelly’s poem “Remainder” was in *Ariel*; she participated in the December 2 Virtual Reading hosted by the *Ariel* editors and Bayfield Public Library.

Bruce Taylor’s recent publications include “Meanwhile In Related News,” *The American Journal of Poetry*; “The Last Place You Look,” “Old Men Shopping for Groceries,” “While Standing in Line” in *Notes to Yourself*; and “Doors,” *Main Street Rag*. *Ravens Perch* features “At The Window,” “It’s About Time,” “The Winter That Will Never End,” and “Dark, My View From My Window”; *Versé Virtual*, “Poem In That Language,” and “Maybe In This Poem.” Taylor’s work also appears in *Sheltering With Poems: Community And Connection During Covid* and “Here to the top of the tower,” “See how everything is passing by” in *Wild Gods, The Ecstatic in Contemporary American Poetry and Prose*.

Yvette Viets Flaten’s poem “Commitment” appears as part of Silver Birch Press’s How to Heal the Earth Series.

Sandra Lindow’s poem “A Corona of Women” appears in Volume One’s Local Lit, January. In December she was interviewed about her new collection, *Chasing Wild Grief*, as part of the Eau Claire Public Library’s Dabble Babble podcast series, “Finding Peace in Poetry with Sandra Lindow”: [ecpubliclibrary.info/captivate-podcast/dabble-babble-finding-peace-in-poetry-with-sandra-lindow](https://ecpubliclibrary.info/captivate-podcast/dabble-babble-finding-peace-in-poetry-with-sandra-lindow)

## Keynote Speaker: Dasha Kelly

Dasha is a writer, performance artist and creative change agent, applying the creative process to facilitate dialogues around human and social wellness. The author of two novels, three poetry collections, four spoken word albums and one collection of personal vignettes, she has taught at colleges, conferences and classrooms and curated fellowships for emerging leaders. An Arts Envoy for the U.S. Embassy, Kelly has facilitated community building initiatives in Botswana, Toronto, Mauritius, and Beirut. Her touring production, *Makin’ Cake*, uniquely engages communities in a forward dialogue on race, class, and equity. Kelly is a national Rubinger Fellow and, concurrently, Poet Laureate for the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin. For appearances and updates, visit [wisconsinpoetlaureate.org](https://wisconsinpoetlaureate.org) or follow her on Facebook at @WisPoLo.

Apply for **Wisconsin’s Own Library Poet in Residence** at Ripon College. Looking for a poet with Wisconsin connection to work on a manuscript in progress, teach, and be in residence at Ripon. Deadline to apply 3/11. Full details at <https://ripon.edu/job/wisconsin-own-library-poet-in-residence-fellowship/>

### In Memoriam

*These members will be missed.*

**Barb Cranford**, 93, passed away on November 22 at Our House Assisted Living in Wisconsin Rapids. Born in Chicago, Barb worked as an editor for Britannica Junior Encyclopedia and later worked as an artist and gallery owner in Chicago. In the early 1970s Barb and her husband Walt settled in Big Flats, building by hand the home that she had designed. A lifelong learner, Barb was a charter member of the Brush and Palette Club and the writers’ group, Riverwood Roundtable. For the past 20 years, she conducted poem-making workshops in her home. Several years ago Barb was honored with a lifetime membership in WFOP.

**Laurel Mills**, Neenah, passed away on December 4, 2021.

The East Region and the Fellowship lost a beautiful poetic voice on January 13 with the passing of **Helen Padway**, 95, Mequon. A welcoming person, each time you saw her she was ready to spend time with you, always encouraging and supportive. Helen was a long-time member of The Hartford Avenue Poets and The Sparks, two Milwaukee-based critique groups. She also served the WFOP in several capacities including Regional VP and *Calendar* Editor. Helen lived a long, generous, and meaningful life. Everyone fortunate enough to have known her will miss her.

Former member **Marie Tonnon**, Green Bay, died November 23.

## WFOP Spring Conference April 29-30, 2022\*

### Getting the Word Out

#### Spring Conference Schedule

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 29

- 3:00 PM Registration begins  
4:00–7:00 Book Fair (continues through evening)  
5:00–6:30 Reception: Mix and mingle, meet WI Poet Laureate Dasha Kelly, followed by a reading by Dasha  
6:30–8:00 Dinner on your own  
6:30–8:00 Executive Board Meeting (note: we will eat during meeting)  
8:00–10:00 Open Mic: share poems and any tips on Getting The Word Out to communities, schools, institutions, publications, writing groups, etc.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 30

- 7:15–8:15 AM Breakfast, Registration, Book Fair  
8:15 Welcome/Announcements  
8:30–9:15 General Business Meeting  
9:15–10:00 Roll Call Poems (20-line limit)  
10:00–10:15 Break / Book Fair  
10:15–11:30 Keynote Speaker: Dasha Kelly: *How to Get the Word Out*, including spoken word, use of “respectful intentionality” to promote dialog, build community, become agents of change.  
11:30–12:00 PM Muse Prize/Chapbook Prize Awards  
12:00–1:00 Lunch  
1:00–2:00 Former WI Poet Laureate Bruce Dethlefsen, Write On, Door County’s Jerod Santek, Gillian Nevers, and

- 2:00–2:15  
2:15–3:15 PM

James P. Roberts on bringing poetry to communities, jails, schools, and other institutions.

Break/Book Fair

Break-Out. **Group A:** *Getting the Word Out: Traditional Publishers*, featuring *Bramble* guest editor Sylvia Cavanaugh, book and journal publishers including Brain Mill Press. Speakers will discuss what they look for in submissions, how to increase odds of acceptance. Q&A to follow.

**Group B:** Facilitated networking session on pros and cons of various small press book publishers including book promotions, royalties, editing, followed by a panel discussion on self-publication, including award-winning poets Jan Chronister and Naomi Cochran.

Roll Call Poems (20-line limit)

- 3:15–4:30

\*See WFOP Conference COVID Protocol on our website.

#### To reserve rooms:

**The Pointe Inn and Suites**  
**8269 Hwy 51 South**  
**Minocqua WI 54548**

Call 715-356-4431 or 888-356-4431 and ask for WFOP conference rate by April 8 to get a rate of \$119 per suite. Rooms will be sanitized upon arrival. We may require that attendees not only wear masks during all sessions, but show proof of vaccination (3).

## About Your Membership Renew NOW before you forget!

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 your 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, only first-class mail forwards. We are charged for returned bulk mail. Signing up for e-mail-only *Museletter* (.pdf) saves WFOP \$ and arrives at least 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com) to opt out of print delivery.

The Events weekly e-mail is separate and opt-in; request from [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com). Send all address changes or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

WFOP SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Friday-Saturday, April 29-30, 2022

All inquiries should be directed to: Nancy Austin at nancy.austin0116@gmail.com or 715-356-1610. Visit wfop.org/conference-registration/ to register and pay registration fee online, or mail to the address below.

\*Conference registration is non-refundable.\*

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Region \_\_\_\_\_

Members \$65 (if received before April 15; \$75 after or at door) Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
(includes Saturday breakfast and lunch, boxed meals which can be taken elsewhere, due to COVID)

Non-members: \$90.00 (if postmarked by April 3; \$100.00 at the door) Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
(includes meals and WFOP membership, if desired)

Please list any dietary concerns \_\_\_\_\_

First time at a WFOP conference? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Room reservations must be made directly with hotel.

If paying by check, please mail registration form to: Nancy Austin
10929 Fork Rd
Hazelhurst WI 54531

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. Contact wfopmembership@gmail.com 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.

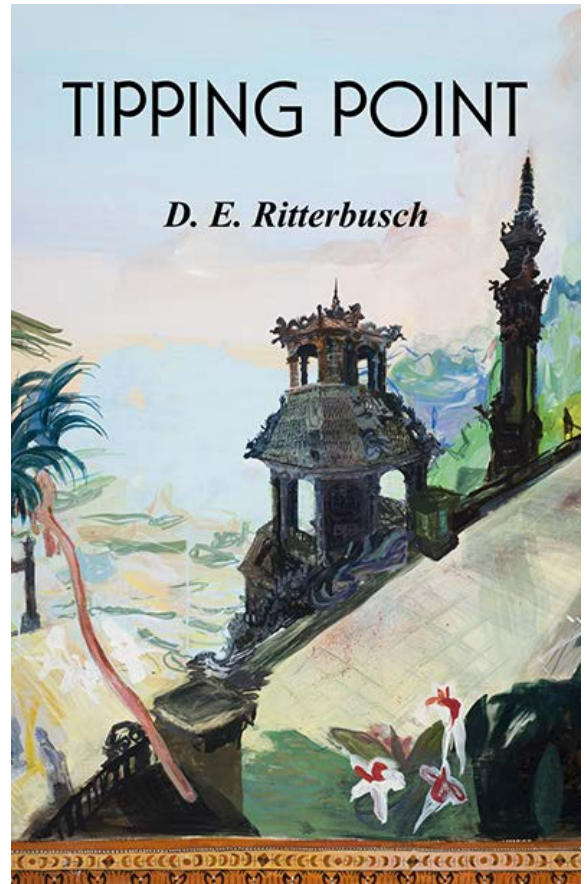
# TIPPING POINT

by *D. E. Ritterbusch*

(cyberwit.net, 2021) 91 pp, \$15

Tipping Point is available on Amazon, but if purchased from the author, \$5.00 of the purchase price of \$15.00 will be donated to WFOP.

email: [ritterbd@uww.edu](mailto:ritterbd@uww.edu).



**Bramble**, WFOP's literary magazine, is open to submissions from any Wisconsin writers for the Winter/Spring Issue through **April 1–May 15**.

Guest editor: **Kathleen Serley**. For this issue the Guest Editor is especially interested in reading epistolary/letter poems. Think emails, online chats and texts as well as that all-too-rare, but special gift, the traditional letter. Write to the “the person next door” or—as in an apostrophe poem—to an absent or inanimate subject. Explore literary and visual form. Inspire us. Make us laugh. Warm our hearts. Send us your missives. Maybe poems are just unsent letters to begin with.

Issues are guest-edited by WFOP members. For queries about art, editing, etc., please email [bramble@wfop.org](mailto:bramble@wfop.org). *Bramble* is now web and print. Full guidelines:

**[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

## *Publications by Our Members*

*High Wire* by Stephen Anderson (Kelsay Books, 2021). 79 pp. \$19 from [kelsaybooks.com/products/high-wire](http://kelsaybooks.com/products/high-wire), Amazon, or from me directly at [stephen.anderson724@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.anderson724@gmail.com)

*The Satisfactory Nothing of Girls* by Emily Bowles (Finishing Line Press, 2021). 29 pp. \$14.99. [finishinglinepress.com/product/the-satisfactory-nothing-of-girls-by-emily-bowles/](http://finishinglinepress.com/product/the-satisfactory-nothing-of-girls-by-emily-bowles/)

*Snowfall* by Jackie Langetieg (2021), 41 pp. \$15 from [jackieblang77@gmail.com](mailto:jackieblang77@gmail.com) or Amazon.

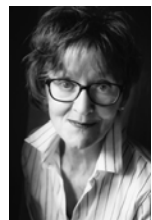
*Tipping Point* by D. E. Ritterbusch (cyberwit, 2021) 91 pp. \$15 on Amazon, but if purchased from author \$5.00 of the purchase price of will be donated to WFOP. email: [ritterbd@uww.edu](mailto:ritterbd@uww.edu).

### **NOTE TO MEMBERS WITH NEW BOOKS**

Have a new poetry book or chapbook? Send the title, publisher, date, # of pages, price, and a place to buy the book, or your email, to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

# Meet the Central VPs!

**Mike Gadzik** is an engineer by day and poet by night. As co-VP of the Central-Fox Valley region, he hopes to pay forward the work of those poets who created a space for him to re-engage with his art. His work has appeared in *Bramble*, won Honorable Mention in the 2020 Triad-Kay Saunders Emerging Poet contest, and been highlighted as a featured reader at Poetry Unlocked. As chaplain of his son's Boy Scout troop, he recalls a favorite moment fulfilling a request to share his poetry after it was discovered on the Poetry Unlocked Facebook page. His favorite spoken word artist is Bob Uecker. He's proud of his chili, pierogies and brats. Born in Milwaukee, he grew up on the Iowa banks of the Mississippi River and lives in Appleton with his wife and two teenage children.



**Kathryn Gahl**, a high-spirited, accessible, and courageous writer, looks forward to serving as co-VP of the Fox Valley region to keep storytelling vibrant. She has traveled the Inside Passage, waited tables in Switzerland, and cared for the poor as an RN at Johns Hopkins.

Her multi-genre works have won awards from *Glimmer Train*, *Chautauqua*, *Margie*, *Talking Writing*, *The Mill Prize*, *New Millennium Writings*, The Hal Prize (both fiction and poetry), *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, plus The Lorine Niedecker Poetry Award. *The Velocity of Love* (Water's Edge Press, 2020) received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Library Association. Works forthcoming include *Hard Life*, *Hard Love* (Dancing Girl Press), *Messengers of the Gods* (Cornerstone Press) and *The Yellow Toothbrush: A Memoir* (Two Shrews Press). When not writing, she cooks, yields to yoga, and dances mad hot ballroom.

348 poems were submitted to the 2023 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar!

Looking for a poetry critique group to join? Contact your regional VP. If your group is open to new members, notify the *Museletter* editor: [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

**Museletter submissions:** Send news to your regional VP or [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 or forthcoming; 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			

## GOLDEN SHOVEL DEADLINE APRIL 15

Here's a line by Alberto Rios: "this great hot rod skid of the Milky Way across the asphalt night." Use each word in order as the last word of each line of your 13-line poem. Unpublished only; one poem per person. Editors, **Sheryl Slocum & Kim Parsons**. Send to [museletterpoems@gmail.com](mailto:museletterpoems@gmail.com), or by post to:

Sheryl Slocum  
8025 W Oklahoma Ave Apt 2  
Milwaukee WI 53219

## Dermatologist Appointment During Covid

Another skin cancer excision  
Number 44, no big deal, too much sun exposure  
The doctor and I chat baseball while he excises  
The floater CMA says, "you're a bleeder"  
Doctor and I ignore her, discuss the Cardinals  
Clean edges, usual 10 stitches  
Back in a week for stitches removal  
More baseball analysis, thanks doc. for seeing me during Covid.

~ Dennis Murphy, Beloit



## Poems BY Our Membership

—SHERYL SLOCUM & KIM PARSONS, EDITORS

### Living in Interesting Times

Poems based on a newspaper headline.

15 lines or fewer.

## The Full Beaver Moon of November 2021

The full Beaver Moon of November 2021 passed through earth's shadow  
a partial lunar eclipse in what was the longest eclipse of its kind in 586 years.  
The moon took on a red hue, with 99% of its face covered.  
It was photographed behind the statue of Freedom on Capitol Hill  
behind the writing *E Pluribus Unum*, Latin for *Out of many, one*.  
And pausing in my reading, I considered those of us who inhabit this earth  
our light, obscured by so much darkness.  
We should all be standing with our faces ruddied with embarrassment.  
All of humanity needs to stop, stand still, look at each other all bathed in our red.  
Dare to gaze for six long hours, see how we have set traps for one another  
how we have failed to prepare for the winter that is upon us.  
We are now many, fending for ourselves, eclipsing each other.  
Will we be able to see beyond our shadow, our darkness, into light?

~Angela Hoffman, Jefferson

## COME AS YOU ARE!

Curbside convenience—open for business.  
Some may never go back to indoor seating.  
Like the time I got burgers and a bottle of wine  
at Norbert's. It felt I was doing something  
mischievous in my hoodie and sweats for pick-up.  
Another time it was a bucket of fish on a Friday night.  
We got plenty to eat and for the proprietor it was  
a much easier gig to limit the menu and sell big.  
Dining al fresco on a cool evening was another way  
to experience the senses in fresh air and starry twilight,  
adding layered tones to the gastronomy.  
Come As You Are! Sounds so open-minded.  
Reserve my spot for pick-up in PJs and slippers.

~ Suzy Wedeward, West Bend

## Finns Lead in World Happiness Report

I read these articles all the time—  
Finland ranked first in happiness,  
four years running now.  
That could have been me,  
happiest in the entire world!  
But no, just because my four Finnish  
grandparents were starving, they sailed  
to the UP to starve. I can see me in Finland,  
grinning with satisfaction knowing  
I have access to excellent free education,  
healthcare, and equal opportunities.  
But Finns don't smile. They are contentedly  
reticent knowing they have an equal chance  
to a good quality of life. There, in Finland.

~Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield

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*Next Issue Deadline MAY 1, 2022*

## Middle Ground Found

To this elusive, this lost, place,  
distant as Middle Earth  
or Never-Never Land, you come.  
Through woods and bluffs, torrents and bogs,  
climbing and sliding, you tread a tangled course.  
Through mud and sand, across dry barrens,  
you come at last to this new place,  
firm underfoot, and fertile.

Here a garden will blossom,  
if you tend it, all you who come here,  
and together delight in its fruits,  
at once sweet and tart, like rhubarb.

*~Patricia Freres Stinger, Madison*

## No Mourning, Please!

Begin, keep on beginning, begin again,  
opening new chapters in your life  
as you close the book on past failures  
with ribbons of strength, purpose,  
and a sense of humor.

You too will have decades of success creating  
your own "Golden" life characters, if you love  
those closest to you, including animals of  
every stripe and color.

*Leave the world a little better than you found it!*

—Betty White, 1922–2021

*~Susan Anderson, Baraboo*