

WISCONSIN
FELLOWSHIP
OF POETS

wfop.org

Museletter
FALL 2015



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Remember ...

Notify editor IN ADVANCE of address changes. If you are on vacation (“temporarily away”) or your mail has to be forwarded for any reason, it must be sent first-class, or the *Museletter* will be returned at WFOP’s expense.

The .pdf link is sent before the print *Museletter*; sign up for e-mail instead and you’ll also save the Fellowship money!

Get the weekly Events e-mail: muselettereditor@gmail.com

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Due to misuse, the WFOP mailing list will no longer be available. Those who wish to advertise books, etc., to the membership may purchase ads in the *Museletter* or the Events e-mailing at the following rates:

- \$15 eighth page
- \$25 quarter page
- \$40 half page
- \$75 full page

\$10 100 words in Events e-mailing

Ad copy to *Museletter* editor. PayPal fee to wfoptreasurer@gmail.com or mail check to Treasurer.

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Join WFOP at
wfop.org/join.html

President’s Message

WFOP’s 65th Anniversary Conference was a leviathan success! June 5–7 106 people attended at the beautiful Green Lake Conference Center. Presenters included nationally recognized poet **Dorianne Laux** and Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Kimberly Blaeser**. Photos are posted at wfop.org/news.html, along with a more detailed write-up of events.

New officers were elected at the conference. As of January 1st, your new President will be **Jan Chronister**. New VP will be **Michael Belongie**. **Ronnie Hess** will succeed sterling **Richard Swanson** as Secretary, while **Colleen Frentzel** will continue as Treasurer.

The 2016 *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar* is available. Super job by editors **Brenda Lempp** and **Coral Bishop**! Order extras at wfop.org/calendar.html ... they make great gifts!

Also available at the conference was WFOP’s 65th Anniversary History Booklet—courtesy of a generous donation of time, work and \$ from member Nancy Rafal, who updated the 50th Anniversary booklet and printed 500 copies. Each member is entitled to a copy: ask your regional VP or send \$2.00 to cover postage to the Treasurer, or via PayPal to wfoptreasurer@gmail.com. New members will get a copy in their membership packets.

Three people were recognized for their service to WFOP with Lifetime Memberships: **Susan Godwin** (member 21 years) served as a Regional VP. She also provided assistance at conferences, as well as being a tireless behind-the-scenes volunteer for poetry.

Frank Konieska (member 19 years) was VP of South Region. He hosted conferences in 2005 & 2009 and sponsored a Rhinelander School of the Arts scholarship for several years.

Helen Padway (member 18 years) served as WFOP’s Vice President, and was very active in Milwaukee area poetry events.

At the conference, members voted to approve a change to our by-laws regarding the definition of membership. The change reads: Membership in the Fellowship shall terminate if a member is delinquent in the payment of dues, is not a Continued member, and has been appropriately notified in writing or by e-mail. An Active member is one whose dues are paid for the current year, starting Jan. 1 and ending Dec. 31. Delinquent members will be notified of their delinquency by Jan. 31 and those who have not renewed by Feb. 15 will be dropped from the membership roster.

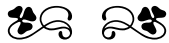
Only new members joining at the fall conference or later become members for the rest of that year plus the following one (for example, Nov. and Dec. of 2015 and all of 2016). Previous Active members who renew or rejoin at any time during a calendar year will have their dues applied to that year only.

Delinquent members are disallowed from participating in certain WFOP activities and receiving communications and benefits normally granted to currently paid members, as determined by the Board.

The right to vote and hold office in the Fellowship is restricted to Life members and Active members not delinquent in the payment of dues.

A Big Thank You!

Thank you to Alice D'Alessio, Linda Aschbrenner, David Blackey, Jo Ann Chang, Robin Chapman, Cathryn Cofell, Mardi Fries, Ronnie Hess, Jeffrey Johannes, Joan Wiese Johannes, Judy Kolosso, Barbara Larsen, CJ Muchhala, Kathleen Phillips, Georgia Ressmeyer, Judith Ristow, Richard Swanson, Marilyn Taylor, Peggy Trojan, Ed Werstein and World Gifts for funding the door-prize gift certificates for the 65th Anniversary Conference.



What's Happening in Your Region?

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

CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VP: Sarah Gilbert, pses@sbcglobal.net

Cathryn Cofell's poems appeared in *Really System, Portage Magazine*, and she was a finalist for the Mill Poetry Prize.

EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Poets Monday continues every Monday at Linneman's, 1001 E Locust St, Milwaukee. Doors open 7:30. Open mike 8 pm. Featured reader 9 pm. \$3 cover.

John Sierpinski's poem, "VW Micro Bus, Burning" is in *Into the Teeth of the Wind/Spectrum Literary Magazine*.

Sylvia Cavanaugh and **Ed Werstein** will feature at Poetry Rocks! September 21. Copper Rock Coffee Company, 210 W. College Ave., Appleton.

Stephen Anderson will read from his new book, *Navigating in the Sun*, at Whitefish Bay High School on August 20, 7 pm, followed by a musical composition for the same poems sung by an opera singer. He will also be the September featured poet for *Blue Heron Speaks* online.

Paul Scott August had 2 poems featured in *Atticus Review*: atticusreview.org/author/paulscotaugust/

Lisa Vihos represented the state of Wisconsin at the first world conference of 100 Thousand Poets for Change in Salerno, Italy June 3–8, and is gearing up to start planning the next 100TPC event for Sheboygan and will be reaching out to poets and friends all around the state to participate in the next world gathering Saturday,

I am pleased to announce that Northeast Region Powerhouse VP **Tori Grant Welhouse** has volunteered to be our new Webmaster! Thanks both to Tori, and to **F.J. Bergmann** for creating and maintaining the website since 2000!

A diversity committee has formed to recommend ways WFOP can attract younger and more ethnically diverse members. Contact **F.J. Bergmann**, demiurge@fibitz.com, or **Ed Werstein**, wersted@gmail.com, if you'd like to be included.

On April 21, the godmother of Wisconsin Poetry, **Ellen Kort**, passed away. Ellen was our first Wisconsin State Poet Laureate, serving 2000–2004. Besides being a top-notch poet, she was a wonderful person who inspired everyone she met in her travels as Wisconsin's poetry ambassador. A wfop.org page is planned to honor Ellen, like Lorine Niedecker's.

WFOP is assembling a Memories Book in Ellen's honor. We all can recall special moment we shared with Ellen. This book will give WFOP members the opportunity to share those memories with the fellowship. We want your contributions in prose or poetry (or both). We will eventually add the book to our official archives and may print some remembrances in the *Museletter*. Send up to 4 pages, typed or handwritten, to Nancy Rafal, PO Box 340, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202, or e-mail mrsticket@gmail.com. You give WFOP permission to display, print, and archive your remembrance of Ellen when you send it. Also, volunteers are being sought for a committee to form an award in Ellen's name, to honor mentor poets. Contact Nancy Rafal or WFOP Treasurer Colleen Frentzel if interested.

Best,
—MIKE

September 26, in Sheboygan and elsewhere in Wisconsin. To learn more contact Lisa on Facebook. Lisa was awarded first place in the 2015 *Wisconsin People and Ideas* Poetry Contest for "Lesson at the Checkpoint." Lisa will be a panelist at the Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival in Fort Atkinson on Saturday, October 17.

CJ Muchhala has 2 poems in the August edition of *Voices on the Wind*, voicesonthewind.net

Peggy Rozga's interview with poet Barbara Crooker as well as Wendy Wisner's interview with Peggy were both published in *Delphi Quarterly*: delphiquarterly.com/current-issue/interview-with-margaret-rozga

Angie Trudell-Vasquez was accepted into the MFA poetry program at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, and will study with Natalie Diaz and Sherman Alexie. She will organize a 100 Thousand Poets for Change reading in Madison in early August.

Robert Vaughan conducted a reading and taught a course on Witty Dialogue for the Small Prestivus Event in Griffith, IN, August 1–2. He also is co-authoring *Rift* with Kathy Fish. See robert-vaughan.com for more.

Robert Nordstrom was the July featured reader at 2nd Wednesdays in Coloma and Last Thursdays at the Readers Loft in Green Bay. He will be the featured reader at Innisfree Poetry Book Store & Cafe, Boulder, CO, September 3.

East Region poets who have poems on *Verse Virtual* (verse-virtual.com) include **Kimberly Blaeser**, **Sylvia Cavanaugh**, **Tom Erickson**, **Bob Nordstrom**, **John Sierpinski**, **David Southward** and **Ed Werstein**.

Burdock will take submissions during October. E-mail

3 poems to burdockmagazine@gmail.com between 10/1 and 10/31. Put "submission 2015" in the subject line.

MID-CENTRAL

VP: **Jim Pollock**, jimpollock@charter.net

Original Voice at the Coloma hotel in Coloma, hosted by **Barb Cranford** and **Julie Eger**, will have as their featured readers **Lou Roach**, August 12; **Mary Wehner**, September 9; **Guy Galbraith & James Botsford**, October 14; and **Bill Lawlor**, November 11.

Joan Marie Giusto had 2 haiku in *Bear Creek Haiku*.

Elmae Passineau had "Refusing Buttermilk" and "Little Woman" published in the *Goose River Anthology*.

Joan Wiese Johannes will teach a 2-session class, "Writing the First Poems of Your Life," in September as part of the LIFE program for adult learners, hosted by UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education and Outreach.

Carrie Shiper's second full-length book, *Cause for Concern*, will be released October 26. Winner of the 2014 *Able Muse* Book Award, it was selected by Molly Peacock.

Victoria Lindsay was a featured poet at the "Art that Blooms" exhibit at the Portage Center for the Arts. This is the 6th year that her work has been published in the visual art exhibit booklet and that she has read at the event.

Jim Pollock and **Lauren Shimulunas** participated in the 5th Annual River Front Rendezvous Poetry Slam July 5 as part of the 2015 Stevens Point Fourth of July Celebration. Jon Gadbois, Stevens Point Poet Laureate, emceed the event. Shimulunas won first prize.

Patricia Williams, Iola, has poems in *The Inquisitive Eater* (The New School), *Blue Heron Review*, *Lake City Lights*, *Silver Blade*, *Plum Tree Tavern*, *Third Wednesday*, *Journeys Along the Silk Road Anthology*, *Wisconsin DNR 2015-16 Calendar*, and *sideboard*.

Mike Kriesel has a blog post on Abecedariums at *North American Review*: northamericanreview.org/throwback-thursday-featuring-michael-kriesel-from-issue-292-2/

NORTHEAST

VP: **Tori Grant Welhouse**, torigw@twc.com

Annette Grunseth has two poems, "Door County is my Italy" and "Surrender" in *Soundings: Door County in Poetry*, and one poem, "The Cup," in *Blue Heron Review*.

NORTHWEST

VP: **Jude Generaux**, heyjudegx@gmail.com

Beth Tornes helped plan and program monthly Poetry Readings at the Minocqua Public Library; the first; July 23, featured **Emily Bright**, **Elaine Hohensee**, **Elaine Strite** and **Janet Taliferro**.

Jan Chronister has recently been published in *The Great Gatsby Anthology* (Silver Birch Press), *The Way the*

Light Slants (Silly Tree Press), *Embers and Flames* (Outrider Press) and *Pan's Shadow*. Two of her poems are on *A Quiet Courage* website. She received an Honorable Mention for poetry in the forthcoming *Talking Stick*.

Peggy Trojan's full-length collection, *Essence*, was published by Portage Press. Five artists have picked her poems to illustrate for *Muse 2016*. *Talking Stick* will publish "In the Attic", *Goose River Anthology* has accepted "Childhood Duty", and "Baseball Mom". Two of her poems were displayed at the Superior Council for the Arts watercolor/poetry exhibit.

William Tecku poems "The Cloud" and "Trending in 51 B.C." were recently published in *Lake City Poets*, lakecitypoets.com/Issuefourteen.html; more at roadreflections.com.

Diana Randolph has poems in an exhibit at North End Arts Gallery, Superior Council for the Arts through Sept. 5, and watercolors at Northcoast WI – new regional watercolor/poetry exhibit. **Diana** and **Jan Chronister** will host a poetry reading on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2 PM, at Art Market 63, one mile south of Cable. Open mike, then 2016 *Calendar* poets will share their work; **Peggy Trojan** of Brule will feature. Sponsored by Cable Hayward Area Arts Council (CHARAC).

Jude Genereaux organized a Poetry Month reading at the UW Center Barron County in April, featuring former Poet Laureate Bruce Deflethsen, sponsored by WFOP and the UW Center. Monthly Poetry Readings at the Minocqua Public Library, 6:30–8 PM, refreshments served. Monday August 24 features **Bruce Dethlefsen**, and Thursday September 24, **Nancy Austin**, **Jan Bosman**, **Andree Graveley** and **Beth Tornes** will feature.

Naomi Cochran recently published *Finding Ourselves in Alzheimers*. These 21 poems chronicle the journey of a family who face Alzheimer's together, finding grace and joy amid the struggles and pain. Cochran will read at the Forest Lodge Library, Cable, Thursday, August 20, 6:30.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Jeri McCormick received an Honorable Mention in the 2015 *Wisconsin People & Ideas* Poetry Contest.

Lewis Bosworth has a piece in a new free e-book, *Little Libraries, Big Hearts: The Wit And Wisdom of Little Library Keepers*, available at weeweathervanes.com.

New WFOP member **Bill Tecku** read baseball poetry at the Hits! Runs! Metaphors! reading April 24 at the Madison Central Library. He was also interviewed about his work on WKOW's "Wake Up Wisconsin" broadcast.

Marilyn Annucci read at Woodland Pattern, Milwaukee, with David Trinidad on April 25.

Robin Chapman and **Shoshauna Shy** were among

the readers at the Eat Local, Read Local poetry reading at Craftsman Table & Tap in Middleton on April 20.

CX Dillhunt and **Ronnie Hess** read at Mystery to Me bookstore, Madison, May 7. CX read from *Hummingbird*; Ronnie from new chapbooks *Ribbon of Sand* (Willet Press Prize) and *A Woman in Vegetable* (Kattywompus Press).

Wendy Vardaman (*Reliquary of Debt*) joined **Margaret Rozga** and Illinois writer Jane L. Carman for a book launch at Mystery To Me in Madison May 9.

James P. Roberts read at the Coloma Hotel May 13.

Many poets read at the 23rd Annual Olbrich Gardens Poetry Reading in Madison May 17, including **Wendy Vardaman**, **Gayle Bull**, **Fran Rall**, and **James P. Roberts**.

Gillian Nevers and **James P. Roberts** did mini-poetry workshops with 3rd and 4th graders at Lakeview Elementary School in May.

Nancy Jessie, **Keesia Hyzer**, **Bruce Dethlefsen** and **Gillian Nevers** taught “Exploring the Writing In You” for a week in April at Green Lake Conference Center, sponsored by Road Scholars. **Marilyn Taylor** was the guest speaker and did an afternoon workshop. Marilyn also held a workshop at the Pyle Center, Madison June, 15–19 on “The Music Of Poetry: Sound, Rhythm and Voice.”

E. J. Bergmann’s “100 Reasons to Have Sex with an Alien” won the 2015 SFPA Rhysling Award for the Long Poem. “During the Long Night” and “Photographing Snow” appeared in *Eye to the Telescope*; “Imperative” in *Farrago’s Wainscot*; “The Doorman” in *Grievous Angel*; “Summer Palace” in *Kaleidotrope*; “Palimpsest” and “Revenant” in *Spectral Realms*. She was interviewed for the Horror Writers Association blog, and “*Vade Mecum*” appeared in the HWA *Poetry Showcase*.

WEST CENTRAL

VP: **Sandra Lindow**, lindowleaf@gmail.com

Rain in the Chippewa Valley has been plentiful this summer producing burgeoning gardens. **Sandra Lindow** reports an onion the size of a soft ball and zucchini the size of an infant. Poetry has flowered as well. The Writer’s Group at the Eau Claire public library continues to meet at 7:00 the first Thursday of every month, usually in the Chippewa Room on the lower level. The Summer Solstice White Pine Celebration of music and poetry was held June 21 at Simply Dunn in Downsville. In early July **Sandra Lindow** led a poetry workshop and open mic at Convergence Science Fiction Convention in Bloomington, MN. July 26 she participated in a speculative poetry reading at Diversicon in Saint Paul. Lindow’s poem, “Under the Cancer Tree” has been published in *Tales of the Talisman*.

Yvette Flaten won First Place for poetry (a group of 4 poems) in the 2015 Bo Carter contest, sponsored by the Waukesha Writers' Workshop.

Sandra Lindow still has poetry quilts available at a discounted price of \$5 per quilt (includes mailing costs). Write her at lindowleaf@gmail.com or send a check to her at 1308 16th Ave. E., Menomonie, WI 54751.

IN MEMORIAM

Marion Brimm Rewey died Thursday June 4 at the age of 95. She was an outstanding poet who garnered many prizes in her writing life, including the *Writer's Digest* Grand Prize for poetry. She was a member of WFOP for more than 40 years. Her obituary appeared June 7 in the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

Ellen Kort April 21 (see President's Message)

Kay Prosser passed away in late March

In memory of **Marion Brimm Rewey**, Madison Emergency Physicians donated \$100 to WFOP.

Lenore McComas Coberly donated \$250 to WFOP in memory of **Marion Brimm Rewey**.

2017 WISCONSIN POETS' CALENDAR GUIDELINES

Editors: *Francha Barnard and Estella Lauter*

Water is the 2017 Calendar theme. Keep in mind how pervasive water is in Wisconsin lives. Interpret this broadly—surprise us!

- Poets must be at least 18, a resident of Wisconsin or have a close connection to Wisconsin, but do not have to be current WFOP members.
- Submit 1–3 poems, single-spaced, not centered. Shorter poems are more likely to be accepted. No poems longer than **24** lines.
- E-mail submissions *strongly preferred*; send to: wfopcalendar2017@gmail.com
- Please paste poems into body of e-mail unless format is unusual; then send as attached .doc, .docx, or .rtf only. Put all poems in one document.
- Previously published poems accepted, but please include publication information.
- In the body of the e-mail, include your name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address, followed by a bio of no more than 30 words.
- If you have no e-mail, send postal submissions to:
Francha Barnard
7877 Frogtown Rd
Baileys Harbor WI 54202
- We will confirm receipt by e-mail. (Please send a stamped post card for postal confirmation.) We will respond on or about January 31, 2016.

Submissions accepted September 1–December 1, 2015

Deadline DECEMBER 1, 2015

Markets

GILLIAN NEVERS • 2022 JEFFERSON ST • MADISON WI 53711 • NEVERSGILLIAN@GMAIL.COM

LOOKING AT MARKETS

A member said she liked the comments and observations from editors. I've enjoyed the brief interactions with editors who respond. Not only have they been helpful in writing this column, but I appreciate more what goes into editing first-class online and print publications. I decided that more in-depth information would be helpful to members. The first editor I interview is our own **F. J. Bergmann**. In addition to everything else, Jeannie edits two journals. My questions and her answers are below:

Gillian Nevers: What inspired you to start editing poetry journals?

Jeannie Bergmann: I had been on the staff of Madison College's *Yahara Journal*, then Tom Neale invited me to replace him as poetry editor of *Mobius: The Journal of Social Change*, once a local free street zine and now online at mobiusmagazine.com, and then was asked to edit *Star*Line*, the journal of the Science Fiction Poetry Association (see sfpoetry.com/sl/slarchive.html). Really, all it takes is definite individual tastes and a determined sense of grammar.

GN: What do you like about the work? Are there any downsides? What keeps you going?

FJB: As a result of receiving submissions, I've ended up in e-mail friendships with a number of poets. The downsides are those who respond unpleasantly to rejections, or inundate editors with unsuitable work and make no effort to improve. Not following guidelines is also annoying. But the longer I edit, the easier it gets.

GN: You edit both *Mobius* and *Star*Line*. What do you look for in poems submitted to each?

FJB: As the subtitle of *Mobius* indicates, we look for

poems that connect to social and political issues. *Star*Line* publishes only speculative poetry; that is, science fiction, fantasy or horror. In both cases, literary quality is foremost.

GN: What are your submission standards (font size, form, that kind of thing)? Are they the same no matter the nature of the publication?

FJB: For both, postal submissions are only accepted from those without e-mail. I prefer poems in the body of the e-mail. Any ordinary format is fine; note that fonts will default to something weird if an editor does not have the same font. Everybody's got Times New Roman.

GN: What are your recommendations/suggestions to poets? What does a good submission look like? What submissions, if any, will you not even look at?

FJB: Read at least a few poems in a journal before submitting. Read the guidelines on the journal website. A good submission is one that has obviously followed the guidelines and contains good poems. The only work I won't look at is anything coming from a known plagiarist.

GN: Do you ever comment on a submitted poem, whether you accept it or not?

FJB: Generally, I only make suggestions if the work is very close to what I want. Otherwise, appropriate comments would often be "Read more," and "Take remedial English," which are unlikely to have the desired effect.

GN: How has being an editor influenced your poetry?

FJB: I've learned to attach little importance to wording of rejection letters. Never revise based on one rejection.

GN: Do you have a preference for online or print publications? Are there positive or negative aspects to both?

FJB: I do both, but prefer online; the distribution

About Your Membership

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

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

If you winter or summer elsewhere, let us know which is your main address; mail must be sent first class to forward. We are charged for all returned bulk mail. Signing up for the e-mail-only *Museletter* (.pdf link to download or read online) not only saves WFOP \$ but arrives about 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 this address.

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

is generally much larger, and it is never too late to fix an error. On the other hand, like most journals that publish speculative poetry, *Star*Line* pays contributors a minimum of \$3 as well as a copy of the issue.

GN: Who are WFOP members you have published?

FJB: **Margaret Benbow***, **Lisa Cihlar**, **Lenore Coberly**, **Ron Czerwien**, **Jeffrey** and **Joan Wiese Johannes**, **Gary Jones**, **Martha Kaplan***, **Mike Kriesel***, **Sandra Lindow***, **Bobbie Lovell**, **J. Mirio**, **Ralph Murre**, **James P. Roberts**, **Richard Roe**, **Mary Rowin**, **Richard Swanson**, **Jeanie** and **Steve Tomasko**, **Wendy Vardaman**, **Phyllis Wax**, and **Ed Werstein** (* = in both journals)

GN: Anything else you want to mention?

FJB: I'm also the poetry editor for Dark Renaissance Books, darkrenaissance.com, and my first full-length selection, *Crowned*, by Mary Soon Lee, was just released. The first book of a fantasy epic in verse, it draws on Chinese and Celtic culture. Let's just say that there are horses in it. And dragons! The book's first poem, "Interregnum," won last year's SFPA Rhysling award and originally appeared in *Star*Line*—read it online at sfpoetry.com/sl/edchoice/36.4-3.html.

CX Dillhunt, editor of *Hummingbird*, has agreed to be the next interviewee. Let me know if there's something that I didn't cover with Jeannie. I'm always open to your ideas.

WHERE OUR MEMBERS ARE PUBLISHING

In the last *Museletter* I read that **Sandra Lindow** and **F.J. Bergmann** had poems in *Dreams and Nightmares* (<http://dreamsandnightmares.interstellardustmites.com>), a print magazine of science fiction and fantasy poetry, founded by David Kopaska-Merkel in 1986. David also edited *Star*Line* many years ago. Sandy's experience follows:

"*Dreams and Nightmares* published its 100th issue in 2015. It pays for well-written speculative poetry that is

fantastic and surreal, including the scary as well as the transformative, short as well as long. I met the editor at a science-fiction convention. A past president of the Science Fiction Poetry Association, he treats poets as he would like to be treated by corresponding promptly and professionally. This is particularly amazing because David is quadriplegic from a motorcycle accident and communicates via his computer's Dragon Speak program because he can no longer type."

The website states "also publish a small amount of short short fiction. The genres of fantasy and SF are preferred." Kopaska-Merkel is "interested in experimental formats and content, and prefers fantastic horror à la Lovecraft or Blackwood to the blood and gore type. Any SF or fantasy is appropriate if it isn't sappy or trite." If you rhyme, he asks that the "rhymes are not forced, and that the meter is consistent."

Submissions should be e-mailed, with the work in the body of the message. And, get this—*Dreams and Nightmares* pays! \$12 on acceptance plus two contributor's copies.

David Blackey was published in *Peeking Cat Poetry* (peekingcatpoetrymagazine.blogspot.co.uk), a British literary magazine that publishes a "fusion of poetry and flash fiction written by people from all walks of life." David responded, "My finding out about *Peeking Cat* was totally fortuitous. I'd written a quirky cat poem and searched for cat journals. *Peeking Cat* came up, and I sent the poem in. When I got my copy I discovered mine was the only cat poem. The only glitch was that if I wanted a copy I had to pay through Lulu.com."

A footnote to the last column about *The Avocet* and Charles Portolana, its editor. **Patricia Foldvary** wrote "... in every respect creates a personal and welcoming environment for nature poets. It was especially gratifying to receive email feedback from readers of *The Weekly Avocet*. Please add my name to the list of WFOP members who are grateful fans..." Submission guidelines can be found at avocetreview.com.

Membership Renewal Form KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

Renewals are due by January 1. Expiration year follows your name on the mailing label. Dues MUST be current to enter WFOP contests, be published in the *Museletter*, and to have a personal poet page on wfop.org.

Renew or join online: wfop.org/store/

or mail to: **Colleen Frentzel, 229 Ba Wood Lane, Janesville WI 53545.**

Please make checks payable to: **WFOP**

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

E-mail address _____

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!

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

General Announcements

The presence and participation of the 110 attendees of the 65th Anniversary Celebration and Conference was testimony of the vigor within WFOP. Dorianne Laux's poetry reading and workshop, along with Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kimberly Blaeser's reading, were remarkable touchstones for riveting delivery of powerful and exquisite poems.

The program of workshops and study groups met a wide range of poetic interests. Harpist Rosalie Gilbert and pianist Lincoln Hartford provided fine musical ambiance for the Saturday evening banquet. Dancing accompanied the Big Talkers jazz/blues quartet with lead singer Bruce Dethlefsen.

The contributions of many Fellowship members set the foundation for this 65th Celebration. Nancy Rafal updated a 15-year span in the history of WFOP. Sandy Lindow created and endowed a poetry quilt broadside, and Bobbie Lovell, poet and graphic artist, edited and embellished the conference program pro bono, befitting this anniversary.

It is with gratitude and pride that the chairs, Michael Belongie, Jan Chronister and Mike Kriesel, praise the many members who contributed to this memorable celebration.

WFOP Contest Winners

The Poetry Quilt Contest was judged by John C. Rezmerski. 50 contestants submitted 103 poems.

First Place: "The Poetry-Writing Group," Ronnie Hess

Second Place: "The Elders," Elizabeth Tornes

Third Place: "An Ambulance Stops by the Park," Jeffrey Johannes

Honorable Mentions: "Waiting for Stanley," Phyllis Wax, "Declaration of Dependence," Naomi Cochran, and "Writers' Groups," Peter Piaskoski.

The 65th Anniversary Contest was judged by Barbara Crooker. There were 81 entries.

First Place: "Climacteric," F.J. Bergmann

Second Place: "To *Canis lupus*—A Lament," Judy Kolosso

Third Place: "Eleven Ways of Looking at Me," Peggy Trojan

Honorable Mention: "Moving ... on ...," Richard Swanson, "Moon Shadows," Peter Piaskoski, and "November: Great Horned Owl," Ronnie Hess.

The 2015 Chapbook Contest was judged by Joyce Brinkman, Indiana Poet Laureate 2002–2008. There were 15 entries.

First Place: *The Book of Arabella*, Timothy Walsh

Second Place: *Everyday Love*, Peggy Trojan

Publications by Our Members

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker and Woodland Pattern Book Center announce the first two monographs in the What Region? series. Their launch was held at Woodland Pattern, Milwaukee, on May 12, Niedecker's birthdate. The series will feature new articles about Niedecker, exploring her poetics, with occasional reprints of scholarship no longer readily obtainable.

The first monograph is *Lorine Niedecker's Century, 1903–2003*, a new work by Jenny Penberthy, Niedecker's preeminent scholar and editor of her *Collected Works*. The second volume, *Increase Lapham & Lorine Niedecker*, co-authored by Paul G. Hayes & Martha Bergland, shows how subtle Niedecker was at incorporating her reading into a short poem. Hayes and Bergland have discovered the underlying sources of the poems "Asa Gray" and "Poet Percival" in the correspondence of Increase Lapham and in his scholarly papers.

\$10 each, + \$5 shipping for one or both. Checks to Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E Locust St, Milwaukee WI 53212

| **2016 Wisconsin Poets' Calendars for sale!** |
| Order extras for gifts now; see wfop.org/store/ |
| Past Calendars still available at impressive discounts! |

SOUNDINGS

The Door County Poets Collective debuted their first project in May. **Soundings: Door County in Poetry** is an anthology of more than 80 poems penned by over 50 poets. The works are divided into sections which evolved through the poem selection process. Each section begins with an evocative black and white photograph, the work of multi-talented Ellison Bay artist and poet, Sharon Auberle.

The collective is the brainchild of former Door County Poet Laureate, Estella Lauter, who gathered a core group of poets for the project. The selection committee worked diligently to assemble a sampling of works which celebrate the county, its nature, and its inhabitant. The group will be traveling around the state to promote the book. They have appeared in Fish Creek, Ephraim, and at the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets' 65th Anniversary conference in Green Lake. Look for them in Madison, Waukesha, and elsewhere.

Soundings is currently available at The Clearing in Ellison Bay, The Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor, the Peninsula Bookman in Fish Creek, and the Velvetene Rabbit in Ft. Atkinson. Retail price is **\$15**. It can also be ordered by mail for **\$20** (shipping and handling included). Checks should be made out to Door County Poets Collective and mailed to:

DCPC
PO Box 340
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

WFOP DIVERSITY AND THE CONFERENCE SURVEY

The Board-appointed diversity committee, currently Ed Werstein, Peter Piaskowski, and F.J. Bergmann, thinks our focus should be on recruitment and retention of younger members and members of color, the two groups least represented. WFOP has lost 100 members since 2013 (currently 466 members).

A recent conference survey was limited to the first 100 respondents; results are at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JTWV5BTY/> (if you posted after noon August 5 or did not receive the survey link, please send your input as well as comments on this article to Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com). Main objections were distance and overnight stays; workshops were the most preferred activity.

The committee feels that WFOP can become more welcoming to under-represented minorities. The current structure actively discourages most members from participating in the decision-making process by making it difficult or impossible for the majority of members to be present for discussion or voting. We recommend the following:

State-wide conference changes: Offer multi-track activities during entire conference. Judging from the 65th anniversary, increased attendance will not allow time for traditional roll call. One track could provide a roll-call venue for those to whom it is an important tradition. Other possibilities: Readings (eminent poets read), Performance (slam and performance workshops), Publication (submissions, publishing, etc.), Editing (include future *Calendar* editors), Poetry-writing (forms, etc.), and WFOP Business.

A better system for ride sharing and room sharing to enable non-local members with limited funds to attend.

Add one-day regional workshops/conferences: Each region not hosting a state-wide conference that year to hold a 1-day conference with activities for members at all levels. Past workshops with illustrious poets have attracted new members and even generated funds. This should be part of the VP position (delegate!).

Financial support for young poets and poets of color, regardless of membership; our mission is to promote Wisconsin poetry, not just WFOP poetry. Proposals: Sponsor prizes for local poetry slams; hold a yearly poetry slam at a state-wide conference, with prizes comparable to Muse/Triad, open to non-conference attendees;

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NEBRASKA BOUND

So, I'm moving to Nebraska. In fact, I'm writing this at an Iowa rest stop. The move has been vaguely planned for some years, but it gelled all of a sudden. For details, check out the "Ch-ch-ch-changes" post at lestersmith.com.

The main purpose of this is to say "Thanks!" to WFOP members. I came to Wisconsin from Illinois in the 1990s with a plan of sharing poetry. In 2004, WFOP gave me a boost of hope, partly in the shape of 2 Triad awards, but more importantly in fellowship. My first meeting was like stepping into a family reunion. The WFOP nourished me, introduced me to some of the best friends ever, and gave me the honor of serving as president—twice. You also encouraged my efforts with Popcorn Press.

I'm not certain what I'll find poetically in Nebraska (though coincidentally, longtime poet friend Patrick Randolph is moving there as well, for a job at UN-L), but Popcorn Press will continue to encourage verse via our annual Halloween anthologies, and a fairly regular schedule of poets' collections. Part of this life change is making Popcorn Press a full-time venture.

You've played a large role in making that happen—with your nurturing friendships. I'll miss you all, especially board members, past officers who offered support, and many members I've met and talked with at conferences. I'll miss the fellowship. You may not realize what a special thing you have. Then maybe you do, which is why you keep it going. Onward WFOP!

Sincerely,
Lester Smith

grants for local slam teams to attend national events.

Changes to the WFOP voting process: Currently, all voting is done by those present at the conferences. That restricts decision-making to a small minority (usually <20% of the membership), disproportionately older and white (retired, wealthier members find it easier to attend [see above]). Frequently, the voting is no more than rubber-stamping whatever the Board has presented.

Younger poets and poets of color may be less interested in WFOP traditions and history. Moreover, the recent attrition (nearly the 65th anniversary attendance), indicates that the status quo is not only not attracting new members, but actively losing poets who were once interested enough to join WFOP.

Mandatory discussion prior to voting: Voting should not take place immediately upon presenting an issue. Printing all topics to be voted upon in the *Museletter* prior to announcing a ballot would give four opportunities a year for input from 100% of the members; calling for discussion via e-mail on matters to be voted on would give unlimited opportunities for input from at least 80% of the membership; it appears that at least another 10% do have e-mail, but have not provided the address to WFOP (**if you did not receive the survey e-mail, SEND YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com**).

Eliminate voting at conferences: Both voting and surveys can reliably and easily be accomplished via online forms (membership can be verified). Those without e-mail could be sent postcards and vote via postal mail. (No changes can be implemented without a two-thirds majority vote at the next conference business meeting.)

Selection of Officers: Not only publish a call for candidates, where the positions open and the responsibilities involved should be made clearer, but require candidates to make their qualifications available to the general membership for evaluation and comparison prior to the actual election.

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WANTED: WFOP MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Main duties: sending letters or e-mails welcoming new members to the organization, and sending reminders to lapsed members. Efforts to recruit new members would also be appreciated. If interested, contact Gillian Nevers, neversgillian@gmail.com

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Poems ^{BY} Our Membership

—JEANIE TOMASKO, EDITOR

The poem prompt was to use at least 6 of these words: coat, train, muck, haunted, sponge, animal, beside, smoked.

WALK FROM THE SUBWAY AT PROSPECT PARK

Rising from the train
I see your coat mud-streaked and stained
eyes haunted by a distant past.
You speak in tongues.
Beside you a ragged mutt reclines,
the animal a sponge for your oration.
I pass by you in silence
studying the pavement,
looking anywhere
but
at
you.

—Sue Twiggs, Marshfield

ROUNDELAY IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE

... dust in the roofless train
turned to muck
in the driving rain
and I was haunted
by the urge to scrub. I found no sponge
nor even a scrap of animal
hide to clean the beating heart beside
the bowler-hatted bat who sat and smoked
his water pipe. In my thin coat
I shivered and lost my train
of thought. Why was I holding muck
from the river? I shivered again, haunted
by the bat's reply: *Your brain's a desiccated sponge.*
And all this time, an animal
I couldn't see but felt beside
me, damp and furry, bared its teeth and smoked
a blunt through a thick coat
of ...

—CJ Muchhala, Shorewood

RAINY DAY

Earth is a sponge today.
I slip into my raincoat
and wear old shoes
to feed my animal friends—
two Barred Red chickens
pecking and clucking.
Confined inside,
coop ground is turning to muck.
Rain falls gently,
a thick gray curtain
between here and the train tracks
half a mile away. I pause beside
the coop to watch
a train pad noiselessly along,
whistle rising as silently
as smoke, its haunted cry
washed away by water.

—Candace Hennekens, Fall Creek

HARVEY

Luckies are what Harvey smoked
sitting in the cabin among the mounted
heads of various animals
while the salmon smoked
in the little shed beside the cabin.
Harvey's mucked-up waders stood
just inside the cabin door
and his canvas coat hung just over them
their juxtaposition giving the appearance
of another human in the waning light.
Catching sight of them startled Harvey
as he recalled how his uncle had always
claimed the cabin was haunted.
Harvey smoked. The fish smoked.
The ghost hid. Smoke hanging in the air
always gave him away.

—Ed Werstein, Milwaukee

THE INSTITUTIONALIZED THURSDAY NIGHT

I wear this coat of hot shower water
as the health aide mucks out
my privates with her powers concentrated
upon liquid soap and washcloth
after washcloth.

I am sponge absorbing the heat;
I am animal living an urge to pleasures
in a drenching, beside the under-rubbings.

I lift each pendulous breast
as the aide speaks haunted directives
in my face:
wash hair, wash underarms, wash groin.

What I am not is de-loused,
Auschwitz-smoked, starved in the run
for Empire future fortunes, unless
it is eldercare Empire right now.

O, health aide, train me, train me not.

—Katarzyna Rygasiewicz, *Racine*

FAMILY HISTORY

She never smoked, as such, though, back then,
we all lived in that murky nicotine haze.
I'm haunted by the memory of her, age 12,
picking up butts from the muck in the gutters,
slipping them in her coat pocket.
Movie stars looked so glamorous lighting up,
and even crew-cut, bow-tied Garry Moore hawked them—
Winston tastes good like a cigarette should.
At age 44, her lungs resembled a speckled sponge;
the train of years could not be reversed.
A week before she died, we ate chocolate cake
in her living room beside her newest photo albums.
When I dropped a crumb and started to pick it up,
she said, *Don't bother. Leave that for his next wife.*

—Linda Aschbrenner, *Marshfield*

PORT WASHINGTON DEPOT 1958

That train curled like an animal along the track
sleek cat
tail of rat
a sudden dinosaur
stood beside me
me in my rain gray coat
me feeling mommy sponge the muck
off my rubber boots
me in the mist
that smoked off steel wheels
sighing reels
metal monster doors to swallow
me
still haunted by that train.

—Tad Phippen Wente, *Port Washington*

SO FAR SAFE, THE INLAND SEAS

So far safe, the inland seas are fringed
by smoked whitefish hung outside huts.
But ocean and gulf are fouled as oil
beaches itself, congregating grains
of sand into sticky clumps. On these
seas, a coat blacker than the soot
of any locomotive hovers, plaguing
all who live or dive beneath.

Near inland seas, no longer haunted
by howling horns, a small animal
wanders beside train tracks choked
with weeds and scat. But I am
haunted by images of hands trying
to sponge oil and tar off millions
of mammals and sea birds: the watery
Augean stable, no mythic creation,
just a man-made mess without
a Hercules to muck it out.

—Erna Kelly, *Eau Claire*

SYMBIOSIS

With howls of pleasure
forgetting arthritic limbs
Jennie and Duke smoke up the trail
through fields, woods, and swamp muck.
Later, I'll tend to sore paws and matted coat
removing burrs, mud, and briars
using a coarse comb and soapy sponge.
Tired, they'll sleep. Haunted by dreams
of escaped prey, their feet
move in the chase.
Beside them, I'll also drowse
and remember the companionship of many hunts
the love, the loyalty, and what's ahead.
This cycle of man and dog.

—*Marge Westrich, Abbotsford*

PRECAMBRIAN

An animal destined to evolve into a sponge
lay under muck beside thousands more
haunting a stratum of future fossils.
The sea smoked.

—*F.J. Bergmann, Poynette*

STATION IN THE RAIN

Despite arriving on time
at the station in the misty rain

I lost my coat
on that haunted train

having smoked the left-handed cigarette
I managed to sponge off an animal I'd met

I found myself beside myself
and placed my coat upon a shelf

a thin haze of reality being
something I imagined in my mind

more muck of bad luck
and a coat I would never find

—*John Patrick Redell, Sister Bay*

REMINISCING

A small rectangle of muck
now the only remains of the little house
(we kids thought haunted)
that stood beside the fence
dividing our yards—
the tiny house where old man Denzel
wore a shabby coat while he tended
the hardwood fire and smoked
a ham or two

until the day it went up in flames
when the mid-day train stalled
at mid-town crossing
and firefighters, unable to reach the blaze,
poured water on the ashes

—*Mary L. Downs, Appleton*

BESIDE MYSELF

A jolt of reality sent
my train of thought sliding
into the muck
of everyday tedium. While
thundering tempests raged,
mundane chores acted as a sponge
sopping up brain cells haunted
by fixing, doing, going.
Pacing like a caged animal
I slipped
into an oilskin coat
and dissolved in the storm.

—*Joan Marie Giusto, Tomahawk*

FAUNA:

Write a poem about an encounter with a large
animal; real, mythical or other; beauty or beast.
20 lines max. Send to: jeancarsten@gmail.com

Or snailmail to: **Jeanie Tomasko**
6725 Century Ave
Middleton WI 53562

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15

THE VISIT

Yet again I visit her in the nursing home,
the college friend I knew so long ago,
the girl who once smoked but now has cats,
animals apparently allowed in the room.

I can't stay long, I said, keeping on my coat
as I sat on the chair beside the hospital bed,
and tried to avoid her hollow, haunted eyes.
A train of thought lost, I forced a weak smile.

A late spring this year, I mumbled softly.
No sign of daffodils yet, only melting snow.
Muck everywhere, muck and mud and muck—
startled, I felt ankle fur: a tail-flicking cat.

Like SpongeBob SquarePants, I grinned,
glancing furtively at a clock ticking mortality.

—Gary Jones, *Sister Bay*

SCRUB DADDY

as seen on *Shark Tank*

The smile a hole
gouged into this modern sponge,
face like the front of a toy train,
hard with cold water, but soft
when hot water chases
the coat of muck
that haunted the countertop,
the artificial animal
stands all day beside the wall,
poised to attack again.

—Julia Rice, *Milwaukee*

Next Issue Deadline:
NOVEMBER 1, 2015
send to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com