

WISCONSIN
FELLOWSHIP
OF POETS

wfop.org

Museletter
SPRING 2015



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Welcome!

to new members since the
Winter 2014 Issue:

Jeffrey Anderson, Milwaukee
Christopher Austin, Milwaukee
Vlasta K. Blaha, Colby
Gayle Bull, Mineral Point
Dennis Collier, Madison
C.X. Dillhunt, Madison
Anne Emerson, Fish Creek
Michael Forecki, Eau Claire
Eva M. Hagenhofer, Madison
Debra Johnston, Marshfield
Julie Kramer, Madison
Ronald Margis, N. Fond du Lac
Tonya McKenna-Trabant,
Deerbrook
Jessi Peterson, Eau Claire
John Redell, Sister Bay
Gayle M. Roth, Webster
Carrie Shippers, Marshfield
Frances Wiedenhoft, Madison
Therese Wilson, ?
Janet Wullner-Faiss, Appleton
Friends of Lorine Niedecker, Inc.

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President's Message

Congratulations and welcome to Wisconsin's newest Poet Laureate, **Kimberly Blaeser!** Kimberly will serve the state as an ambassador of verse for 2015 & 2016. She's a professor at UW–Milwaukee, teaching Creative Writing, Native American Literature, and American Nature Writing. Her poetry, short fiction, essays, and critical works have been widely anthologized in national and international collections

On January 1st WFOP made its annual \$500 donation to the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Fund, which helps pay travel expenses as the PL visits schools, libraries and other venues.

Thanks to Nancy Rafal's donation of time and funds, WFOP will once again have a table at Arts Day this year—the biggest day for the arts in Wisconsin, Wednesday, March 11, at the Central Library in downtown Madison. Come to speak up for the arts, arts education and creative economy in your community and state. WFOP will have a ¼ -page ad in the event's printed material and will share a table with the Wisconsin Writers Association, where we'll have membership brochures and *Calendars*.

In December, a \$200 WFOP mini-grant helped fund publication of *An Ariel Anthology*, in conjunction with a concert and poetry reading. More on page 7.

Thanks to Fred Kruetz and other member facilitators, WFOP was present at the annual UW–Whitewater High School Creative Writing Festival in November. Fred distributed poetry contest fliers and WFOP information pamphlets to students and teachers.

I know we're all looking forward to the 65th Anniversary Conference in June. Details are posted on the website, so I'll just mention the highlights:

- Nationally-acclaimed poet Dorianne Laux reading / workshop.
- Paper-making workshop by The Mill of Rhinelander.
- Lorine Niedecker presentation by Ann Engleman, Friends of Lorine Niedecker.

Also at the conference, we'll be conducting the election of new officers. After five years of sterling service, Secretary Richard Swanson will be stepping down. If you might be interested in serving as Secretary, please contact Richard to discuss what the job entails. Also, I will not be running for another term as President. It's been a great experience, one that helped me grow as a person, and a lot of that came from all the super teammates I have on the WFOP board! AND from our cool membership!

Last, and sadly ... long-time Wisconsin poet and past WFOP Conference presenter Jeff Poniewaz passed away Dec. 13th. He was serving as one of Milwaukee's co-Poets Laureate, and was Antler's partner for many years. Jeff was a fascinating person, and deeply dedicated to all things ecological. See jsonline.com/entertainment/books/jeff-poniewaz-advocated-tirelessly-for-poetrys-place-in-the-world-b99415204z1-286868981.html

Join WFOP at
wfop.org/join.html

Best Wishes for Spring!
—MIKE

CALL FOR SHORT POEMS: The Third Annual Artists Muse: Wisconsin Artists-Wisconsin Poets" exhibition for 2016 for the Howard Young Art Gallery poetry entries now being accepted for the spring 2016 exhibition through the end of April. This is a collaborative exhibition between Wisconsin artists and poets the exhibition will be on display at the Howard Young Art Gallery in the spring of 2016. Poets will read their poetry at the artists reception. Exhibition will be submitted as a traveling exhibition to other galleries throughout Wisconsin.

Contract Christine Alfery at christine@alfery.cc for more information.

CELEBRATE THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF WFOP

June 5–7, Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI. Keynote poet, Dorianne Laux. The schedule is still tentative; send suggestions to Michael Belongie, poetpow@charter.net. Details at wfop.org/confnrncs/65conf.html

Reserve rooms directly with the Conference Center. \$125 per night; suites \$150; cutoff for this block of rooms is April 10, 2015. Call 920-294-3323 and mention the WFOP event.

\$75 registration fee including Sat. and Sun. meals will be processed later. Cash bar at the Saturday night banquet. Alcohol is not permitted to be brought onto campus.

The Green Lake Conference Center is on a thousand acres overlooking the deepest lake in Wisconsin. permitting a mini-vacation in addition to a memorable 65th celebration.

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Michael Kriesel won *North American Review's* annual Hearst Contest, judged by D.A. Powell, which pays \$1,000, with "Aleister Crowley Lipogram." Kriesel has also been invited to give a reading at the University of Northern Iowa as part of *NAR's* 200th anniversary conference. His poem "Falling Asleep on a Cambrian beach, I wake up covered in trilobites" appeared in *Star*Line*. His poem "Biography of Everything" appears in *Pedestal* (pedestalmagazine.com), which paid \$40. He had poems in the *Halloween Haiku II Anthology* (Popcorn Press). His poem "Doppelganger Roses" has been nominated for a Pushcart by *Seems*.

Nancy Rafal had an article in *Wisconsin People & Ideas*.

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigw@twc.com

Nancy Rafal read in the Poetry Marathon at Woodland Pattern Book Center in Milwaukee on January 31st. Nancy is also a member of the committee which selects the 2015–2017 Door County Poet Laureate in April.

NORTHWEST

VP: Jude Generaux, heyjudegx@gmail.com

Peggy Trojan had three poems in *An Ariel Anthology*, and read at the release December 20th. Her poem "First" was published on Little Eagle's *Re-Verse*. Three poems received honors in the annual LOMP contest, and she will read at Writer's Read, Northland College, January 31st.

Jan Chronister's poem "Diminishment" appeared in the *Ariel Anthology*, and she read at the release in Washburn. She also had poems read at the "Writers Read" competition, Northland College, Ashland, January 31st.

Jude Generaux's essay "Avalon" was included in the *Rice Lake Chronotype* and her poem "Indian Summer" was on Little Eagle's *Re-Verse*. Poems "The Mobile Bay" and "High Ridges" were in *Soundings*.

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

Central/Fox Valley members, have any readings or publications to publicize? Please send your news for your VP to compile for the next *Museletter* issue. Make us look like the poetically active region that we are!

The monthly Poetry Series in Appleton, after the closing of Harmony Café, is now the Copper Rock Café Poetry Series or, as we like to call it, Poetry Rocks. The well-attended January reading featured **Tom Erickson**.

EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

4 poems from **Mark Zimmermann's** forthcoming book, *Impersonations* (Pebblebrook Press) appear in *Stoneboat*.

Georgia Ressimyer and **Marilyn Zelke-Windau** will read at the Paradigm, 1202 N. 8th St., Sheboygan, 2–4 p.m., Saturday, February 21 and sign their new books, *Waiting to Sail* and *Momentary Ordinary*, respectively. They invite other poets to read during the open mic.

Carolyn Muchhala has poems in *Halloween Haiku II* and *Soundings: Door County in Poetry*.

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Jim Pollock, jimpollock@charter.net

Linda Aschbrenner has an essay and interview in the anthology *Local Grounds Midwest Poetics: Selected Prose Verse Wisconsin 2009–2014* (Cowfeather Press).

Elmae Passineau had two poems, "A Good Charity" and "A Love Poem," published in *An Ariel Anthology*.

Kathleen Serley had a poem, "Lovepoem," published in *An Ariel Anthology*.

Joan Wiese Johannes had a poem in *Star*Line*.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Gillian Nevers had two poems in *The Merida Review*.

Suzi Godwin had a haiku, "hare moon" in *The Heron's Nest*. She also has four tanka in *Bright Stars, An Organic Tanka Anthology*.

Catherine Jagoe has a new poetry book, *News From The North* (Finishing Line Press.)

Jeanie Tomasko has a new poetry book, (*Prologue*), Concrete Wolf Press's 2014 Editor's Choice.

Araceli Esparza was featured on the cover of *Brava Magazine* in January.

Robin Chapman and **Jeanie Tomasko** read as part of the Chazen Museum of Art's exhibition The Human Condition on November 13th.

Tim Walsh and **Susan Elbe** read from their collections, *When the World Was Rear-Wheel Drive: New Jersey Poems* and *The Map of What Happened*, at the Sequoia Public Library in Madison on December 13th.

E. J. Bergmann held a poetry workshop, Playing With The Write Brain, at the Monroe Street Library, Madison on January 14th. Her poem "Perfect Discontinuity" was in *Cleaver* (cleavermagazine.com/perfect-discontinuity-by-f-j-bergmann/).

James P. Roberts, F. J. Bergmann & her husband Fred, **Catherine Jagoe** and **Araceli Esparza** read poetry in translation as part of the t & t Open Mic at Lakeside St. Coffee House in Madison on January 29th.

The following South-Central poets participated in the Woodland Pattern reading in Milwaukee on January 31st: **Martha Kaplan, Brenda Lempp, Richard Merelman, Ronnie Hess, Judith Zukerman, and Wendy Vardaman.**

Marilyn L. Taylor's villanelle "Subject to Change" features on Bucknell University's Poetry Path, poetrypath.edu, where visitors can hear the poem read by the poet. Her poem "To My Neighbor John, Who Is Completely Happy" appears in *Urban Voices: 51 Poems from 51 American Poets* (San Francisco Bay Press).

Jo Scheder had poems in *Hybrid: Transported By Word and Image*, Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf's **Up to the Cottage** project, *Verse Wisconsin*, and the *Ariel Anthology*.

The Winter Festival of Poetry is ongoing at the Fountain Restaurant, State St., Madison, every Sunday at 2 pm through March 22. The last reading begins at 1 pm.

WEST CENTRAL

VP: Sandra Lindow, lindowleaf@gmail.com

The Eau Claire Memorial Library *Calendar* Reading was well-attended, particularly for a cold January night. Readers included **Yvette Flaten, Linda Frank, Erna**

Kelly, Sandra Lindow, Jessi Peterson, and Jeannie Roberts. First Thursdays 7–9 pm: the Writers' Group; 2nd Tuesdays 7–8:15 pm: Writers Read; both at the Eau Claire Memorial Library, 400 Eau Claire St, (715) 839-1648. Featured Writers and "Themed Readings" Free to the public. ecpubliclibrary.info/index.php. Feb. 10 will be an open mic for poems about love.

Thursday, Feb. 5, 5–6 pm, **Erna Kelly** will read at the Eau Claire Regional Arts' Carson Gallery.

Bruce Taylor has agreed to another year as Eau Claire's poet laureate. We are grateful to him for all his work promoting the arts.

Sandra Lindow's poems "Total Engagement" and "How to Write Your Own Peony" have been published in *An Ariel Anthology: Transformational Poetry and Art*. She is still looking for pictures of poetry readings from the '50s, '60s and '70s for the WFOP 65th Anniversary Poetry Quilt. Send them to her at lindowleaf@gmail.com.

Jane-Marie Bahr, Menomonie, had a poem, "On Saint Valentine's Day," in *Hummingbird* 24:2.

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WLA AWARD: The Wisconsin Library Association annually awards an Outstanding Achievement in Poetry designation to up to 5 poetry books. If you have published a book of poetry in 2014 please consider sending a copy to the Committee.

- A. To be considered for this award a book must:
 1. Normally be more than thirty-two pages in length.
 2. Be published in the previous calendar year.
- B. For a single book, not for the body of a poet's work.
- C. The poet must be 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. (If you wish to have your submission returned, please provide a self-addressed envelope with the appropriate amount of postage.) Please also tell us the author's connection to the state of Wisconsin. Send nominations before April 1 to:

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

WFOP members, we need your help

to ask local businesses and individuals to support our 65th Anniversary celebration in June. You too are welcome to be a sponsor! Here's how—

\$25: acknowledgements page in the 65th Anniversary History. Each sponsor will be listed in the booklet by name, contact information, city. Print booklet to attendees and sponsors in June; archived on wfop.org as a .pdf.

\$50: small ad with the company logo in our 65th Anniversary Program Booklet. Larger ads for \$100 can include text or graphics supplied by the sponsor; the booklet editor will help with design. The booklet will include photographs of the guests of honor and samples of their poetry. It will be archived on wfop.org as well as being a keepsake for conference attendees. Sponsors will receive the booklet.

\$75+: inclusion in both the History and Program Booklets.

Deadline April 2! Sponsors need to send:

- Optional: Company logo in EPS or hi-res .jpg
- Optional: ONE photo or illustration (or two if no logo) in hi-res .jpg (it is sponsor's responsibility to secure permission to reproduce; WFOP or designer will not be responsible for copyright/licensing violations)
- Name and contact details to be included in the ad
- Any other message, subject to space limitations
- OR print-ready .pdf (contact bobbie@bobbie-lovell.com for size info)

History booklet sponsors need to send the name/info to be included to Nancy Rafal at mrsticket@gmail.com

This is a good way to support WFOP and for members to ask the greater writing community for support. Checks to WFOP, c/o Colleen Frentzel, 229 Ba Wood Lane, Janesville, WI 53545 or go to wfop.org/store/ and follow instructions.

Kimberly Blaeser is the Wisconsin Poet Laureate for 2015–2016; see wisconsinpoetlaureate.org.

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Dig through your WFOP files and find items for the Archives, especially before the 65th celebration. Send to:

**Lewis Bosworth
2829 Barlow Street
Madison, WI 53705-3621**

Mailing costs can be reimbursed by WFOP. You may arrange to drop them off in Madison.

Your Archivist, Lewis Bosworth

In Memoriam ~ Norbert Blei

Norbert Blei was Door County's best-known novelist, essayist, journalist, short story fiction writer, publisher, teacher, and lesser-known watercolor artist—but did he consider himself, a Poet? And if so—why wasn't he “one of us”, the WFOP?

We lost his bright light in April 2013. Sporadic published poems are scattered throughout a number of anthologies, *Spoon River Quarterly*, and his own books—*Winter Book*, *Paint Me A Picture*, and *The Second Novel*. Hundreds more are in personal letters, within his watercolor paintings and journals. But did he identify himself “a poet”?

In his 1987 “Painted Journal,” preparing for a presentation at Southwest State University, he clearly answers that question, introducing himself first as a poet. Journalist, novelist and author followed.

But what Norbert was not was a joiner of associations, alumni clubs, churches, guilds or any group that met regularly. Not because he viewed them negatively, although it sometimes hurt people's feelings. He did not disregard the importance of such alliances and had great respect for many of them. However, Norb was a slave to instinct, his own timelines, gargantuan curiosity, and the whims of spontaneity. His internal clock ticked to his solitary habits and fairly rigid routines: rise at 5:30 a.m., be IN the Coop with a thermos of coffee by 6. Write until 11:00, then to the Post Office, lunch at Al's or coffee at Base Camp after. Back to the Coop by 1:00 to work until PBS Newshour, 6:00. Dinner. Reading, music, maybe a film, more reading, often until the wee hours. Sleep (some). And start over. We took breaks for breakfast in local cafés and time with our people, potluck dinners and rides through the county, but the pattern of our every day life was solidly formatted. Weekends, Christmas, Fourth of July? Didn't matter. The routine of his writing life allowed few interruptions and fewer excursions as the years went by.

The result of his somewhat hermitic lifestyle did not net prolific memberships in organizations, even as he valued the network and camaraderie they offered. Norb's drumbeat marched him to the Coop—then back to the house, to rest and revive and—start over.

It also left us with eight years of his Poetry Dispatch still found online (poetrydispatch.wordpress.com), covering topics that would fill a bountiful course in Great Literature and beyond, sixteen published books and related awards, the Cross+Roads Press books he published of other's work, and a mountain of works-in-progress which may never see publication, but for the archives at UW–Madison.

No, Norb was not a joiner nor a member of any group except for the fraternity of writers, of spirit and teaching. Norb was merely a writer. A beautiful, prolific, poetic, writer.

—Jude Genereaux, Norb's life partner, 1995–Always.

Terry Andre Dukerschein donated \$20 to WFOP as a memorial to friend and fellow poet **Dina St. Louis**.

Markets

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

LOOKING AT MARKETS

In the last Markets Column (Winter, 2014), I put out a request for your comments about working with editors. As you may recall, this was prompted by a message I had received from a poet friend bemoaning the fact that, in his experience, many poetry journal editors were “unresponsive to legitimate inquires about submitted work ...” I asked that you send me your experiences (good and bad), as well as suggestions for dealing with editors who may not always be as responsive as we poets would like. This must not be a big issue for most of you, as I only received one message on the subject. Shoshauna Shy provided an excellent historical perspective on submitting simultaneously, as well as her strategy for dealing with non-responses. Below, unedited, is Shoshauna’s response:

“I started submitting my work to editors 18 years ago, and can remember when there was a big debate about submitting simultaneously, which was something editors did not want poets to do, and poets wanted to do because of the many months it could take to hear back from someone.

“Why wait 6–9 months for a rejection slip? Conflict ensued because editors didn’t want simul-subs yet knew that poets were simul-subbing anyway, and there would be hard feelings when editors *did* want something only to learn too late that it was already taken, and they weren’t notified because the poet knew simul-subbing was ‘against the rules.’

“Now, editors understand work will be simul-subbed, and it has become the norm to state that they accept this, with the simple mandate that poets notify them when

something is accepted elsewhere. This has leveled the playing field, and it helps me deal with non-responses. If I don’t hear back from one journal (I do grant them 7–9 months), at least my work is still being circulated at two other places. If I don’t receive a response to a follow-up query within 2–3 weeks, I chalk that one off my list.

“I’ve had work accepted after 2 years. A friend of mine got an acceptance recently after 4 years had gone by!”

While I, too, have been frustrated by unresponsive poetry journal editors, I’ve had experiences where editors have been *very* responsive—getting back to me quickly, answering questions, making suggestions, informing me of delays, etc. Cynthia Brackett-Vincent, editor of *The Aurorean*, stands out as one of the best, not just for her timely responses to submissions and questions and her ability to make suggestions that truly make a poem better, but for her willingness to help in other ways. Let me explain.

Last October, as I was preparing to leave for Italy to visit my family, I sent Cynthia an email asking if there was any chance that my contributor copies (and a few I’d ordered) would be available before I left. As luck would have it, the issue was due to arrive from the printer a few days before my departure. Cynthia offered to mail copies to Italy, at no extra charge, but wanting to take them as gifts and not trusting the Italian postal service, I asked if she’d be willing to send them to me by priority mail. Although Cynthia was on her own tight schedule,—she was leaving for her first “real” vacation in 23 years at the end of the week, and wanted to pack and mail all

About Your Membership

Renewal payments are due December 31st each year. Your membership expires at the end of the year shown on the *Museletter* mailing label. To receive e-mailed reminder notices, make sure we have your current e-mail address: send to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com.

No double addresses for bulk mail anymore; if you winter or summer elsewhere, please let us know which is your main address; your mail must be sent first class, which forwards. We are charged for all returned bulk mail.

Signing up for e-mail-only *Museletter* delivery (a .pdf link, where you can download or read online) not only saves WFOP money but arrives about 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify wfopmuseletter@gmail.com to opt out of print delivery.

The WFOP Events weekly e-mailing is a separate opt-in list. If you wish to receive it, notify wfopmuseletter@gmail.com. **DO NOT** send social media invites (e.g., LinkedIn, FB) to this address.

contributor copies before she left,—she took the extra step of packing and sending my copies separately.

Because many Wisconsin poets have been published in *The Aurorean*, I decided to feature it in this issue's "Where Our Members Are Publishing" section. As you know, I have been trying to include comments from the editors of the publications featured. I usually ask editors to respond to a variation of the following three questions: 1. What inspired you to start publishing poetry? 2. What keeps you going?, and, 3. What do you especially like about the job? Reading Cynthia's thoughtful response to these questions, I realize that she is the antithesis of the editor(s) my friend wrote about in the last column. When you read her comments below, I think you will agree.

"What inspired me to begin publishing poetry was submitting poetry, and the replies—or non-replies that I received when I first began. I found myself discouraged when editors did not reply at all to my submissions, or if they replied well beyond the time promised, and, more generally, the feeling of not dealing with a human being at the other end. I made a promise to myself to treat poets the way I'd want to be treated and to remember that without poets submitting to me, my dream would never become a reality. It was as simple as that. A secondary desire was to publish an uplifting journal as opposed to a ranting journal. I found that most "inspirational" journals were highly sentimental or had a particular religious agenda. But an uplifting journal that welcomed all seemed rare in the mid-'90s.

"What keeps me going is my love for poetry and that opportunity to be that "human being" as an editor. I have always told myself that the day I am not excited to open the mail is the day I quit. Now, we receive most submissions online, but it is the relationships I have developed with

poets from all over the world that continues to excite me. The chance to give a newer poet a chance. The chance to find a rare gem in a big pile—and the hope that the poetry that speaks to me will somehow touch others.

"My favorite part of my job is when I can reach out to help someone who was in the place I was when I first started. Equally as exciting is when I find a perfect group of poems that become Featured Poems, and I make it a practice to telephone our Featured Poets to give them that welcome news. Last, but probably the most fulfilling, is making and keeping relationships with people that end up going well beyond poetry and turn into cherished friendships, whether or not we have actually met in person."

WHERE OUR MEMBERS ARE PUBLISHING

I first learned of *The Aurorean* (encirclepub.com/poetry/aurorean) when Steve Tomasko gave me a copy of the issue his poems appeared in. I was impressed by the journal—the beautiful cover and the quality of the poetry within. I had some poems that I felt would fit, so sent them off; two were accepted.

According to *The Aurorean* website, Cynthia Brackett-Vincent started it in 1995 "by asking for submissions from fellow classmates in a community-college Creative Writing class; her only desires were to treat poets the way she'd like to be treated as a poet herself, and to give poets a venue for their work that they would be proud of."

Published continuously since 1995, *The Aurorean* is a biannual journal appearing in April and October each year. Although *The Aurorean* focuses on "poetry of New England and poetry of the seasons (including haiku)," it is open to other subjects as well, being especially partial to "poetry that uplifts, inspires, and is meditational, but is not religious or denominational.

Membership Renewal Form

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT. Pay 2015 dues before January 1. The expiration follows your name on the mailing label—if it's not P, L or a number larger than 14, you need to renew. Dues MUST be current to enter WFOP contests, to be published in the *Museletter*, and to have a personal poet page on the WFOP website.

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.

Many Wisconsin poets have had work published in *The Aurorean*, including the following WFOP members: **Mary Jo Balistreri, Cathryn Cofell, Sharon Foley, Ronnie Hess, Jane E. Kocmoud, Jackie Langetieg, Georgia Ressmeyer, David Scheler, Guy Thorvaldsen, Steve Tomasko** and **Kenneth Zahorski**.

The Aurorean does not accept email submissions; only by postal mail or online via Submitttable. Because they have “a near-perfect record of replying to submissions when promised (90 days maximum),” *The Aurorean* does not accept simultaneous submissions.

NEW MARKETS

Fox Adoption Magazine (foxadoptionmag.org), online-only, co-edited by Joshua DeGrasse-Baumann and Alicia Zuberbier, Waukesha. No indication as to their tastes in poetry, as the first issue was not yet up.

POETRY CRITIQUE GROUPS

Looking for a group to join? Contact your regional VP to see what's available. If your online or live crit group is open to new members, notify the *Museletter* editor for the Events e-mail.

THE ARIEL PROJECT

Co-sponsored by WFOP, the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council and the Messiah Lutheran Church carried out an anthology, aptly named *An Ariel Anthology*, and a concert and reading held at Messiah on December 20th. Poets, singers and musicians performed for an audience of about 150, and included **Sharon Auberle, Jan Chronister, Rob Ganson, Ted Gephart, Ralph Murre, Peggy Trojan** and Deanna Yost, the Ariel Project Coordinator. Posters and flyers featured the work of **Diana Randolph**. The poetry and music sets combined for tone and connection of themes; magical, spiritual and profound. Poems by Steve Tomasko, who was unable to make it, were also read.

The project was inspired by the original Ariel poems published between the World Wars by writers of the day. The committee obtained an original copy of Thomas Hardy's poem, “Yuletide in a Younger World,” the first in the Ariel series, from 1927. The *Ariel Anthology*, published by Ariel Woods Books, a company created for the *Anthology*, represents 45 Wisconsin poets and includes 57 poems and 4 images. The size tripled from the grant estimate of about 20 poems. The committee received about 150 submissions, most from WFOP members. The decision to publish as perfect-bound delayed production by a few weeks. *An Ariel Anthology* is a 5x7 paperback with a green marble cover featuring a winter tree set against a night sky. Order copies from arielanthology@gmail.com, Deanna Yost at 715-373-5000, or Amazon.

Publications by Our Members

On Lake Winnebago, by **Gary Busha**, is the latest book in Wolfson Press's Little Chapbook Series, which now numbers ten books. Contact gbusha@wi.rr.com.

* * *

Ribbon of Sand, by **Ronnie Hess**
\$10 plus shipping/handling

A Woman in Vegetable, by **Ronnie Hess**
\$12 plus shipping and handling
Kattywompus Press: kattywompuspress.com/contact/

Copies of both available from Ronnie, 1819 Summit Ave, Madison, WI 53726. rlhess@wisc.edu

* * *

Marilyn Zelke-Windau has a new full-length, self-illustrated book of poetry, *Momentary Ordinary* (2014, Pebblebrook Press, imprint of *Stoneboat*), \$15.

Order through stoneboat.com or from Marilyn at 126 Giddings Ave, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

* * *

Peggy Trojan's chapbook *Everyday Love*, a collection of poems about her parents, is available on Amazon and Kindle.

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General Announcements

DONATIONS FOR DOOR PRIZES FOR 65TH ANNIVERSARY REQUESTED

In order to make winning door prizes at the 65th Anniversary Celebration more fun, less time-consuming, and a way to show our support for each others' work, Jeffrey and I are asking for financial contributions. Once we know how much money we have to give away, we will make gift certificates, which can be used to buy books from the poets at the conference book fair. The sellers will then turn the certificates in to us and receive their money before leaving the conference. This way, winners will not get books they have already purchased and will have the fun of choosing from the full range of books being offered at the conference. If you are willing to join us in funding this conference activity, please make checks out to WFOP and send them to us at 800 Ver Bunker Avenue, Port Edwards, WI 54469 by May 1st, or donate online at wfop.org (see sidebar PayPal donation button and put "door prizes" in the note. We would really appreciate your help to add some fun to the conference and stimulate the economy!

Joan Wiese Johannes and Jeffrey Johannes

Poems BY Our Membership

—JEANIE TOMASKO, EDITOR

The poem prompt was to use all of these words: *thumb, silver, twelve, window, eddies, leftover.*

MEASURING

I've dropped twelve stitches
since I started this scarf
and my ball of pink
is a jumble of snarls.

I put too much garlic
in the company hotdish:
the leftover plateful
will have to be dumped.

When I open the window
to let morning in
dust eddies form letters:
YOU HAVE NOT MEASURED UP.

A full moon shines silver
in a pristine eastern sky,
small enough that my thumb
just covers its face.

Forget the damn scarf.
I'll order out dinner
and I'll dust tomorrow
or maybe next year.

—*Judy Barisonzi, Rice Lake*

SNAKE RIVER

Broke the surface, one hand clutching
my paddle, the other sporting a big thumbs-up.
Whitewater eddies promptly sucked me back under.

This time, I and my leftover confidence, stayed below.
Staring up at the sky through a silver watery window,
I wondered, briefly, who would get my twelve-speed.

—*Karyn J. Powers, Wausau*

TWELVE

Twelve leftover leaves the size of my thumb sail round the river's silver eddies.

—*Peg Lauber, Eau Claire*

KEPT IN

Thoughts drain
Twelve days confined
Roily silver eddies
Window of leftover despair
Thumbtacked

—*S. P. Mautz, Portage*

WOMAN IN SHORT-SHORTS AND HIKING BOOTS

all the time
lookin' out
the window, nervous like

she finished a plate
of leftover
something

the special
down at Eddie's
then threw down

her 12 pieces
of silver
stepped back

on the road
& stuck out her thumb
& always

under her breath
something like
a Janis Joplin tune

—*Ralph Murre, Sister Bay*

DAWN ON WISCONSIN'S THUMB

At a mere twelve degrees
outside my window,
I watch the sun scale
mountains of cumulous clouds
at the eastern edge
of this great lake's horizon
to silver water
with leftover lambent light
that lolls in troughs and eddies.

—*Francha Barnard, Baileys Harbor*

THE LEFT THUMB SPEAKS

Splitting a board, the table saw
kicked me out, flying
like a wren into the forest.
The wife drove me to the hospital, detached
from the one roaring in eddies of pain.
He held me in the silver box
where he'd kept his christening bracelet.
Trees whispered conspiratorially
outside the car window.
Twelve stitches held me back
to a bleeding stump: the blood escaped
through thick bandages. That night
when they came home, they ate leftovers
and prayed that I would live.
All night long, I suckled
his hand like a hungry baby.
It would be weeks before they
found out if I would live or die.
All I wanted to do was fly.

—*Elizabeth Tornes, Lac du Flambeau*

12-FINGERED CHILD'S PLAY

My twelve fingers span vast
And, when I play the steeple-people game.
My hands lift open to leftover cathedral window
(two)
For that game I prefer eddies of silver lace
Asea to the elbow on finger-exposed bridal gloves—
With escaping wee-est digits painted silver
(to accessorize)
When do twelve become ten? When those final,
Vestigial fingers enter some roomy glove
With a neighbor
(two by two into spaces of one)
Although, of course, those same twelve become as two
In adorable, blue angora mittens—
A game of hop o' my thumb
(hop o' my two thumb)

—*Katarzyna Rygasiewicz, Racine*

THE TWO EDDIES

When I was twelve, the knowledge
that there were no left-handed third basemen
in the major leagues did not dampen
my dreams and aspirations.

All summer, when the chores were done
I'd take a rubber ball and practice
the art of fielding by throwing it
low against the bricks of our house,
trying as it skidded on the sidewalk

or caromed around the yard I'd just mown
to will it into the webbing of my glove,
the glove with Eddie Matthews' autograph
scrolling in silver script down the thumb.

Then grabbing the ball and wheeling my left over
my head, I'd fire it back high aiming
for an imaginary first baseman standing halfway
between the dining room and kitchen windows.

If his career lasted long enough
and I worked hard, I'd be ready
to take his place when he retired.
Future fans when asked to name their favorite
third basemen would all respond. "The Two Eddies."

—*Ed Werstein, Milwaukee*

SILVER FISH

Below my cabin window
where the stream eddies
around a pile of rocks
sticking up like a thumb,
twelve silver fish
swim in lazy circles.
They seem to be lost,
or leftover from the schools
that have already passed by here
on their way down to the sea.

—*Bob Kimberly, Bellevue*

DANCING THE PIGEON RIVER

My mother and I turned up
at Maywood nature center
with its lofty room and plate glass window
overlooking wild grasses
for a program called "Moving Field Guide"
led by a dance troupe from Maryland

we were outnumbered
of the twelve present
seven were dancers
and the program turned out to be
"choreographing nature into our lives"
my mother almost left over it

but the dancers would not be denied
we stumbled down the steep slope
to the Pigeon River
gliding its late April silver
as though it were the pool of Narcissus
but with eddies of booze
and nervous breakdown

my mother and I crouch and twirl
rising together from chill mud to sky
and, as if we were artists,
thumb for perspective on the sun

—*Sylvia Cavanaugh, Milwaukee*

ANOTHER RAINY DAY

The garden wears a silver curtain of rain
eddies puddle next to the twelve sweet corn plants.

I watch out my kitchen window for it to stop
stirring the pot of leftover stew from yesterday.

My rubber shoes and flowered gloves are laid
side by side by the back door ready for weeding

beans, radishes and thinning the carrots to
give them room to grow. I don't profess to have

a gardening thumb; my plants seem to stay in miniature
not eligible for the tables at the county fair. But

retirement and gardening go hand in hand
so I till the soil and reap the harvest, but not in the rain.

—*Jackie Langetieg, Verona*

VIEW FROM SANGRIA 212

Thirteen palms
planted strategically back in the '70s
so as not to block window views
twelve still tall
the thirteenth just a shadow of its former self
short stubby closest to the ocean
leftover victim of the last hurricane
a thumb flanked by tall men

Trimmed and pruned over the years
tall slender trunks of twelve shine
silvery-grey in the sunlight
each one topped with eight or nine spiky fronds
nature's weather vanes

Beyond the palms
low brush covers the dunes
hiding the waves and eddies
of this evening's high tide

—*Patricia Smith, Knapp*

TWELVE DAYS INTO OUR LOVE

you gave me a silver ring
which fit only my thumb
but oh how I cherished it
twelve years into our love

I began dreaming of windows
but tried not to think
what that might mean
for most were secured

with leftover nails
from the life we had constructed
finally at number fifteen
I dreamed of prying one open

using the hammer
you gave me that year
and out I jumped
into swirling eddies below

—*Sharon Auberle, Sister Bay*

with eddies of leftover fabric
lying around her feet
she sits by the window
silver needle
between thumb and forefinger,
bright thimble deftly
guiding the slim shaft
in and out
of the soft triple layers
quilting the twelve small bits
of her life
back together....

—*Lorelee Sienkowski, Packwaukee*

LESSON LEARNED

I was twelve when
he took me fishing with a
tiny silver minnow for bait

Holding its wiggly body between
thumb and index finger
I inserted the hook through his eyes
looking through the window to my soul

Dropping him in the stream
eddies flowed out while
he fought a last good fight

There were leftovers that night
as I vowed to

NEVER GO FISHING AGAIN!

—*Doris Ann Hayes, Burlington*

EVICITION NOTICE TO MYRA AND CARLTON EDDY

Open up! It's the law!
Vamoose! Like the Lone Ranger on Silver!
Anything leftover? Out the window!
Sans transportation? Use your thumb!
No rent, no room, no Eddies!
I'm counting to twelve!

Move it!

—*Phyllis Beckman, Onalaska*

THE REGATTA

She filled her silver goblet
with wine and raised her thumb
to propose a toast to her team,
of twelve women, seated by the window.
Two gulps and the wine was gone—no leftovers.
The race around the Canary Islands
was harrowing and the eddies
off the West coast of Africa, hair-raising.
But the victorious Scots shrugged it off,
"That's sailing" is all they said.

—*Phil Hansotia, Ellison Bay*

ICING THE NIGHT

There, right there. See?
A print of Jack Frost's thumb
on my morning window
amidst all his etchings—all those
curlicues, swirls, and eddies of silver.

I didn't see him, of course,
lost in my stale leftover dreams,
submerged under ancient quilts,
oblivious to night's icy twelve degrees,
the magic just outside my pane.

—*Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield*

CALLING ALL SCIENCE GEEKS:

Submit a poem incorporating a science theme.
Biology, Geology, Entomology, Physics, Botany,
etc. welcome. Broad interpretation. 20 lines max.

Send poem to: jeancarsten@gmail.com

Or snailmail to:

Jeanie Tomasko
6725 Century Ave
Middleton WI 53562

DEADLINE: APRIL 10

PRIVATE COLLECTION

Twelve strokes from the clock tower: the book thief breaks a library window, silently, and climbs through it. Silverfish the size of her thumb skitter away, leaving eddies of dust. Something growls in the darkness. She trips—not a trap, but the gnawed skeleton of a previous thief (no leftovers). But a complete, signed first-edition Harry Potter set? Worth the risk.

—F.J. Bergmann, *Poynette*

Next Issue Deadline:

APRIL 15, 2015

send to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

TWO THUMBS UP!

Liquidsilver slid through her brother's kitchen window. She had a thumb for pasta and her left one led her straight to the leftover lasagna. Quicksilver had warned his sister about its addictive qualities, so he suggested that she consider attending the Twelve-Step Mutant Preservation of Power Program, but Liquid wouldn't listen. If she continued to overindulge, Liquid would become a solid, compromising her superpowers, especially her gift of flow—creeks, rivers, and whirlpools would suffer greatly without her cleansing presence. Mindful of this, she decided to empower her right thumb as stopper, an adult pacifier that would calm her cravings for pasta. With her right thumb cancelling out her left, Liquidsilver would ever be whirling down eddies with ease!

—Jeannie E. Roberts, *Chippewa Falls*