

WISCONSIN  
FELLOWSHIP  
OF POETS

wfop.org

Museletter  
SUMMER 2015



*Next Issue Deadline:*  
**AUGUST 1, 2015**

MUSELETTER EDITOR  
F.J. Bergmann  
W5679 State Road 60  
Poynette WI 53955  
(608) 566-9087  
wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

*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

Please send only publication notices, not acceptances, when sending in items for Regional News. Also, omit mention of *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* publication, since all members receive it.

*Welcome!*

*to new members since the Spring 2014 Issue:*

Kimberly Blaeser, Burlington  
Bruce Bonner, Minneapolis  
James Einum, Williams Bay  
Joan M. Giusto, Tomahawk  
Peter Wehrle, Madison  
Lily Winslow, Green Bay

Join WFOP at  
wfop.org/join.html

**PRESIDENT**  
Michael Kriesel  
301 East Kent St Apt C  
Wausau WI 54403  
(715) 610-3848 (new!)  
krieselmichaela@gmail.com

**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Jan Chronister  
3931 South County Rd O  
Maple WI 54854  
janchronister@yahoo.com

**SECRETARY**  
Richard Swanson  
7320 Cedar Creek Trail  
Madison WI 53717  
rwsfansong@gmail.com

**TREASURER**  
Colleen Frentzel  
229 Ba Wood Lane  
Janesville WI 53545  
layersofmoments@yahoo.com

*President's Message*

I hope you're looking forward to June's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference at Green Lake as much as I am. The last anniversary conference was in 2000, also held at the Green Lake Conference Center in south central Wisconsin. This conference will have a slower pace, with plenty of extra time for reflection and fellowship amid a tranquil 1,000-acre setting by the state's deepest lake. The details are posted on the website, so I'll just mention the highlights:

Nationally-acclaimed poet Dorianne Laux reading / workshop.

Printing workshop by The Mill of Rhinelander.

Lorine Niedecker presentation by **Ann Engleman**, Friends of Lorine Niedecker.

At the conference, we'll be electing new officers. Vice-President **Jan Chronister** will present a slate of candidates whose terms will run from January 1 of 2016 through the end of 2018. After five years of sterling service, Secretary **Richard Swanson** will be stepping down. Also, I will not be running for a second 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! If you'd like to join the team that helps guide WFOP, contact **Jan Chronister**.

Webmaster/*Museletter* Editor **Jeannie Bergmann** has agreed to assume the additional duties of Membership Chair from **Gillian Nevers**, who has been helping us grow as an organization since 2008. Thanks for all your time and hard work, Gillian!

Our recently developed mini-grant program continues to foster poetry across the state. In January WFOP awarded \$100 to the Door County Poetry Anthology project initiated by Door County Poet Laureate **Estella Lauter**, to defray printing costs.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate three WFOP members who were among this year's Council for Wisconsin Writers award winners. **Margaret Benbow** won the Zona Gale Award for Short Fiction; **Catherine Jagoe** won the Kay W. Levin Award for Short Non-Fiction; and **Cathryn Cofell** won the Lorine Niedecker Poetry Award!

See you at Green Lake!

—MIKE

**CELEBRATE THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WFOP**

June 5–7, Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI. Keynote poet, Dorianne Laux. Details at [wfop.org/confnrcs/65conf.html](http://wfop.org/confnrcs/65conf.html)

\$75 registration fee including Sat. and Sun. meals with full breakfast. Cash bar at the Saturday night banquet. You may not bring your own alcohol onto the Conference Center grounds. Register online at [wfop.org/store](http://wfop.org/store)

Reserve rooms directly with the Conference Center. \$125 per night; suites \$150. Call 920-294-3323 and mention the WFOP event.

## 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](mailto:pses@sbcglobal.net)

**Wendy L. Schmidt** had “Daughter of the Dark Fairy,” “End of the Fairytale,” “Single,” “Swan” and “Midnight in the Garden” published in *Moon Magazine*. She will feature at The Reader’s Loft, Green Bay, April 30.

**Kathryn Gahl’s** poem “Telomeres” is in *Cottonwood* 71 and she received the 2015 Mill Literary Award for Fiction for her story “Sunday Morning.”

Poet and scholar **Kimberly Blaeser**, Wisconsin Poet Laureate for 2015–2016, will read at Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts, 7 pm, Tuesday, May 12. Drawing on literal observation and the power of metaphor, Blaeser crafts poems that dwell deeply on a complex, natural world—which includes the power of human imagination.

**Sarah Gilbert** reads at Thelma 7 pm, May 5, in the Foot of the Lake Poetry Collective reading series. The Fox Cities Book Festival, April 20–26, featured **Karla Huston**, **Cathryn Cofell**, **Sarah Gilbert**, and **Kimberly Blaeser**.

In celebration of Lynch Syndrome Awareness Day, **Sarah Gilbert** held a book release party March 22 for her new chapbook, *Tendrils: Living With Lynch Syndrome* (Finishing Line Press). She also read at the Coloma Hotel Original Voices series April 8.

**Cathryn Cofell’s** poems appeared in *Really System* and online at the Loft Literary Center. She got an honorable mention in the Loft’s Winter Contest, and the Lorine Niedecker Poetry Award for poems published in 2014. Appearances included performing with Obvious Dog at Words on Fire in Door County and at De Pere Public Library.

### EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, [wersted@gmail.com](mailto:wersted@gmail.com)

**Mark Zimmermann** reads from his book *Impersonations* (Pebblebrook Press, 2015), a collection of lipogrammatic portraits, each poem’s words are comprised of only the letters contained in the title character’s name, at the Milwaukee School of Engineering’s Alumni Partnership Center, 1120 N. Broadway, May 7, 7 pm, and at Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust Ave., Milwaukee Thursday, May 28, 7 pm, with *Tom Erickson* (*The Lawyer Who Died in the Courthouse Bathroom*) and *Ed Werstein* (*Who Are We Then?*)

**Sylvia Cavanaugh** and **Janet Leahy** participated in the second annual Artists Muse Wisconsin Artists–Wisconsin Poets Exhibition at the Howard Young Art Gallery, Minocqua. **Sylvia Cavanaugh** and **Ed Werstein** feature May 4 at Poets Monday at Linneman’s, 1001 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. Doors open 7:30. Open mike 8 pm. Featured readers 9 pm. \$3 cover.

Saturday, May 2, 10 am–noon: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Language of Nature” Poetry Reading and Discussion. Maywood Environmental Park, 3615 Mueller Rd, Sheboygan. Free program; \$1 donation for materials appreciated. Led by **Maryann Hurtt**, **Georgia Ressimyer**, and **Marilyn Zelke-Windau**. We’ll read from our poetry and encourage you to bring 1–2 nature poems of your own or favorites by others to read and discuss. Call Maywood at 920-459-3906 for pre-registration (preferred) and directions. Park tours afterward, weather permitting.

East Region poets participating in Woodland Pattern’s month-long celebration of National Poetry Month include **Susan Firer**, **Antler**, **Angie Vasquez**, **Ching-In Chen**, **Sylvia Cavanaugh**, **Freesia McKee**, **Ed Werstein**, **Keith Gaustad**, **Stephen Anderson**, **Roberto Harrison**, and Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Kimberly Blaeser**. Read the poetry at [woodlandpattern.org](http://woodlandpattern.org).

### MID-CENTRAL

VP: Jim Pollock, [jimpollock@charter.net](mailto:jimpollock@charter.net)

**Jeffrey Johannes** and **Joan Wiese Johannes** have poems in the anthology *Soundings: Door County in Poetry*. Joan also has two poems in the inaugural issue of *Portage Magazine*, [portagemagazine.org/poetry](http://portagemagazine.org/poetry).

Original Voice at the Coloma Hotel, run by Barb Cranford and Julie Eger, hosted **Karl Garson** (March), **Sarah Gilbert** (April). Call Barb at 1-608-564-7701 if you would like to read at Coloma during 2016.

**Patricia Williams**, Iola, had several poems published: “Everything Useful I Know About Life I Learned from Margaret Mitchell,” *Negative Capability Press Anthology of Georgia Poetry*, “Some Things Die before Called,” *Best of Red Booth Review 2009–2014*, “Homage to Art: Abstract and Conceptual,” *Midwest Prairie Review* 2015.

**Bruce Dethlefsen** and **Jim Pollock** had poems in the Second Annual Wisconsin Artists–Wisconsin Poets exhibition at the Howard Young Art Gallery in Minocqua. A reading by the selected poets was held April 17.

As part of ARTi GRAS, a poetry slam was held in the Wisconsin Rapids Mall on February 15, co-sponsored by **Mary “Casey” Martin**, Home Brew Press and WFOP Mid-Central Region. Certificates and cash prizes were awarded. Bruce Dethlefsen emceed.

**Mary “Casey” Martin’s** interview with **Kimberly M. Blaeser**, Wisconsin’s new Poet Laureate, appeared in the April issue of *HOOPLA* magazine, from Central Wisconsin, edited by Kris Rudd-Clark; Martin, a long-time WFOP member, writes a monthly poetry column.

**James Botsford**, **Victoria Lindsay** and **Greg Galbraith** were featured poets at the first poetry luncheon at 319 Gallery and Bistro, Wausau, on April 18.

**Barbara Germiot** has three poems and a book review

in *Portage Magazine* from Carroll University. She judged the regional Poetry Out Loud contest at Wrightstown High School with Sarah and Emily Gilbert.

**Victoria Lindsay** judged the 11th–12th grade division of a forensics contest (many categories, including poetry) at Faith Christian Academy, Wausau, on April 16, and was a judge at the poetry slam held in Wisconsin Rapids in February. She worked on ekphrastic poetry at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau on Random Acts of Poetry and Art Day.

## NORTHEAST

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

**Annette Grunseth's** poem "Fishing" is in the spring issue of *Portage Magazine*, and her photo *Icy Blue* featured in the Winter 2015 *Blue Heron Review*.

**Ethel Mortenson Davis's** poem "Rabbit" appears in *Portage Magazine*; "Rabbit Hole," in the *Ariel Anthology*.

**Thomas Davis's** poems "The Raven's Croak" appear in the *Ariel Anthology* and "Makwa Fits You Good" in the *Tribal College Journal*.

**Nancy Austin** has four poems featured in the Artist's Muse 2015 painting and poetry exhibit at the Howard Young Gallery in Minocqua.

## NORTHWEST

VP: **Jude Generaux**, [heyjudegx@gmail.com](mailto:heyjudegx@gmail.com)

**Peggy Trojan** read at the St. David's Day reading in Duluth. Her chapbook *PA* was a semi-finalist in the Mary Ballard chapbook contest and was an Honorable Mention in the Concrete Wolf contest. Five of her poems are included in the spring issue of *Evening Street Review*. Evening Street Press has published her chapbook *Homefront: Childhood Memories of WWII*.

**Diana Randolph** had a poem and three art images included in the *Thunderhead Review* (Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College). Her review of *A Rock Can Be* by Laura Pudie Salas appeared in Redbery Books March Newsletter and website. Another of her art images was published in *Aqueous*, a free literary, visual & performing arts magazine for the Lake Superior region.

**LaMoine MacLaughlin** traveled to UW–Marshfield/Wood County in April to read from *Secrets from the Wings*, a series of sonnets on Shakespeare's plays and characters.

Five of **Elizabeth Tornes's** poems, illustrated by painters & photographers, appeared in the ekphrastic exhibit The Artist's Muse at Howard Young Medical Center Gallery, Minocqua. Beth read at the April opening.

**Bruce Dethlefsen**, Wisconsin Poet Laureate 2011–12, read at the UW–BC Center, Rice Lake, for Poetry Month.

**Jane Yunker** featured with three poems in the *Oshkosh Independent* "Poetry Corner": [oshkoshindependent.com](http://oshkoshindependent.com).

Several of **Ann M. Penton's** poems appeared in the 2014 AZ State Poetry Society's journal, *Sandcutters*, two of which won Honorable Mentions in its annual contest. Her work appeared in the Haiku Society of America's Anthology *Take-out Window*, the Southwest Haiku Association's anthology *Small Canyons 9*, *Goose River Anthology*, and regularly in the Poetry Pages of *Connection*.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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

**Richard Swanson** had poems in *MadSwirl*, *Midwest Prairie Review*, *Red Cedar Review*, and *Portage*.

**Sandy Stark's** new collection, *The Toolbox Poems*, can be pre-ordered at Finishing Line Press.

**Lenore Coberly** was the subject of a recent article by Doug Moe in the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

John Evangelist Walsh (the father of WFOP member **Tim Walsh**), a noted writer of literary biography and criticism who recently passed away, was the subject of a *Wisconsin State Journal* article by Doug Moe.

**James P. Roberts**, **Shoshauna Shy**, **F.J. Bergmann**, and **Alex Harwood** joined **Peter Wehrle** in celebrating the release of his book *Love Poems For Carol*, Mystery To Me, Madison, on February 14.

**Margaret Benbow**, **Araceli Esparza**, **Jessica Frank**, **Richard Merelman**, **Rita Mae Reese** and **Wendy Vardaman**, along with other Madison area poets and **Kimberly Blaeser**, Wisconsin Poet Laureate, read poems inspired by Eric and Heather ChanSchatz: 22nd Century at Madison Museum of Contemporary Arts March 6.

**Marilyn Taylor** and **Bruce Dethlefsen** held a poetry workshop with open mic at the Mt. Horeb Library March 14.

**Catherine Jagoe** read from her new poetry chapbook, *News from the North*, and **Tim Walsh** read from *The Book of Arabella* March 19 at Mystery to Me, Madison.

A most challenging Winter Festival of Poetry ended March 22. The following poets read, while others were victims of the 'poet virus': **Andrea Musher**, **Jeanie Tomasko**, **Steve Tomasko**, **Marilyn Annucci**, **Lynn Patrick Smith**, **Kimberly Blanchette**, **Jo Scheder**, **Lenore Coberly**, **Tim Walsh**, **Martha Kaplan**, **Catherine Jagoe**, **Judy Washbush**, **Guy Thorvaldsen**, **Richard Merelman**, **Araceli Esparza**, **Jessica Frank**, **Brent Christianson**, **Lori Lipsky**, **Gillian Nevers**, **F.J. Bergmann**, **Fran Rall**, **Fabu**, **Gary Powell**, **Robin Chapman**, **Jeri McCormick**, **Lewis Bosworth**, **Patricia Jameson**, **Eileen Rosensteel**, **Ron Czerwien**, **Jody Curley**, **Lisa Marie Brodsky**, **Marilyn Taylor**, **Dave Scheler**, **Mary Rowin**, **Judith Zukerman**, **John Lehman**, and **James P. Roberts**.

**James P. Roberts**, **Sandy Stark** and **Mary Rowin** were among the readers at the first-ever Poetry Open Mike at the Middleton Public Library April 8.

F.J. Bergmann's "Audible" is in the music-themed *Eye to the Telescope* 16, [eyetothetelescope.org](http://eyetothetelescope.org), "Lost" and "100 Reasons to Have Sex with an Alien" in the 2015 *Rhysling Award Anthology*, and "Break Glass in Emergency" and "Chronopatetic" in *Dreams and Nightmares* 100.

## WEST CENTRAL

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

Crocuses bloom in the Chippewa Valley, stores have put out gardening tents and the WFOP 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poetry Quilt is nearly done. The Writers' Group, in its 27<sup>th</sup> year, meets 7–9 pm on first Thursdays at Phillips Memorial Library, 400 Eau Claire St, Eau Claire, (715) 839-1648. Poetry Month Celebration at Volume One Local Store, Eau Claire, April 21 featured **Erna Kelly**, **Peg Lauber**, **Jeannie Roberts**, **Karen Loeb**, **Sandra Lindow**, **Yvette Flaten**, and **Warren Lang**. The Summer Solstice White Pine Celebration will be Sunday, June 21 at Simply Dunn Poetry, Downsville.

**Karen Loeb** gave a solo reading of poetry and prose at the Eau Claire Library April 7, and her poem "The Ends of Stories" appeared in the Spring *New Ohio Review*.

**Yvette Flaten**'s poem "On The Third Day From The End" appeared in the *Midwest Prairie Review*.

**David Blackey** had poems in *Plainsongs* and *Peeking Cat Poetry* (UK; [peekingcatpoetrymagazine.blogspot.com](http://peekingcatpoetrymagazine.blogspot.com)).

**Erna Kelly**'s poem "Nights East" appeared in *Volume One* ([volumeone.org/articles/2015/03/23/8811\\_nights\\_east](http://volumeone.org/articles/2015/03/23/8811_nights_east)), and "Autumn, Whitefish Dunes" in *Soundings: Door County in Poetry*.

**Sandra Lindow**'s poems "Little Cthululu and the Theory of Opposites" and "Of Lycanthropy and Lilacs" appeared in *Words for Worlds* anthology (Porkbelly Press, 2015). "Driving After Chemo" appeared in *Blue Heron* 3, and "Too Many" and "Waltzing with Windigo" appeared in *Dreams and Nightmares* 100.

**Terry Andre Dukerschein** celebrated Random Acts of Poetry and Art Day February 20, providing art galleries in Ladysmith with cards printed with favorite haiku from poets including her friend the late Eleanor Roraff of LaCrosse, who published several fine haiku in *Wisconsin Poets' Calendars* in the '80s and '90s.

.....

### 65TH ANNIVERSARY DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS STILL NEEDED

Please donate \$ for door-prize gift certificates to be used for poets' books at the conference book fair. Poets will be able to turn in the certificates to be paid before leaving. This way, winners won't get books they already own, and will enjoy choosing from all books offered at the conference. Help fund prizes! Checks payable to WFOP to Johannes, 800 Ver Bunker Avenue, Port Edwards, WI 54469 by May 1, or via sidebar PayPal donation button at [wfop.org](http://wfop.org) (put "door prizes" in note).

## IN MEMORIAM

**Ellen Kort**, Wisconsin's first Poet Laureate 2000–2004, died peacefully on April 21, 2015, in Appleton. She was well known as poet and teacher throughout the United States, New Zealand, Australia and Japan. The author of 12 books, she was awarded the Pablo Neruda Literary Prize for Poetry and the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Prize for Poetry, among many others. Ellen was a beloved teacher at the Renaissance School for the Arts for 13 years and organized workshops for cancer survivors, at-risk teens, physicians, AIDS patients and domestic abuse survivors. Writing poetry from an early age, she quietly welcomed the windfall of words and composed her poems of nature, heritage and spirituality. Ellen has left us a legacy of her poetry reflecting her love of family, courage and giving spirit.

—Susan Kileen

*Tell me of your river*, Ellen asked  
when I saw her last,

and I said mine brought things  
and took things away.

*I'm so glad you know a river*,  
she smiled.

—Ralph Murre

---

## WITHIN REACH

Geese lift like fever  
from the lake  
Four herons circle  
and with backthrust  
of wings  
drop down  
in the marsh  
feathering  
body's network of nerves  
ragged years of welcome  
and goodbye  
the heartbeat  
impulse to let go  
fold back

—Ellen Kort

*Letter from McCarty's Farm*

# Markets

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

## LOOKING AT MARKETS

I am always on the lookout for publications where our members might want to send their poems. There are many places poets can go, especially on the internet, to find out about publications—I have mentioned several resources in previous columns and a list of some of them is on the WFOP website. But my best source of information has come from you, the members. I try to focus on where members are publishing, because I believe that even with such a diverse group of poets, there may be a shared sensibility that comes from being a poet in Wisconsin. If one member's poem appears in a certain publication, another member may have a poem or two that might also fit.

My main sources for finding out where members are publishing are the "What's Happening in Your Region?" section of each *Museletter*; Facebook postings; my poetry critique group; poetry readings; conversations with other poets; and, as in the case of the publication I am focusing on today, a member's suggestion that I write about a publication where they had a good experience. And I do not want to forget one of the best resources—WFOP Conferences. Opportunities to learn about publications, from perusing the book fair to workshops on enhancing craft or getting published to informal conversations with fellow poets abound at a WFOP conference. The conference in celebration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WFOP is coming up (June 5–7). If you haven't already registered for it, please do. I guarantee that you will have a great time, and that you will also come away with a few ideas of places you can submit your best poems.

## WHERE OUR MEMBERS ARE PUBLISHING

**Mary Jo Balistreri** commented on a previous column about the *Aurorean* and how she also found the editor, Cynthia Brackett-Vincent, wonderful to work with. Jo went on to mention a few other publications where she has had positive experiences. One of those is *The Avocet: A Journal of Nature Poetry*. Jo wrote, "Editor Charles Portolano is very receptive and, unlike anything I've experienced, has created a community of writers. Not only does he publish a print journal four times a year, but every Wednesday he offers *The Avocet* online with poems by contributors, offers challenges on various topics, includes interesting quotes, etc. He encourages his poets to write to each other—if you like a poem, write to the poet and tell them. Many of us have taken that to heart and I have made some lasting e-mail friends. The *Avocet* community is like a small village."

I wrote Portolano and asked for information on *The Avocet* and his experience as an editor, what he likes about the job and what he looks for in the poems he publishes. Charles was finishing up the spring issue but agreed. Here, edited for space, are his comments:

"*The Avocet* began publication in 1996. In spring 2013, I was asked by Peter Leverich to take over as editor. It is such a great honor to be the editor/publisher of *The Avocet*. I believe the main purpose and focus of being an editor is to promote the best poetry possible in each issue. I believe poetry is everywhere, in everyone. I believe if everyone wrote poetry we would have a better, kinder, more caring planet Earth to live on. I believe we as poets belong to a community that has a fiduciary duty to spread the word of poetry.

## About Your Membership

Renewal payments are due December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 where you can 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.

"*The Avocet* is devoted to poets who find meaning in their lives from the world of nature; poets who write of the beauty, the peace, and the fury of nature in all its glory.

"Think of the season when you send me your work. We want summer-themed poems for the summer issue, but, of course, there are those universal poems that transcend season; they are always welcome at any time of the year.

"I love poems with people interacting with nature. I love poems with animals in their element. I love poems with a message! I believe the purpose of poetry is to provoke thought!

"Our Mission Statement: We, nature poets and nature-lovers, are keeping a watchful eye on our disappearing natural world around us and, hopefully, provoking others to rethink about how truly special and vitally important nature is to all of us and our future generations."

Charles also publishes *The Weekly Avocet*, with ten nature poems, quotes and articles about poetry and nature, "sent by e-mail every Wednesday to all supporters of the *Avocet* to read and enjoy Nature poetry for those-middle-of-the-week-blues."

Submission guidelines and information on subscribing to *The Avocet* and *The Weekly Avocet* can be found at [avocetreview.com](http://avocetreview.com), or by contacting Charles Portolano at [cportolano@hotmail.com](mailto:cportolano@hotmail.com). Reprints are welcome.

In addition to **Mary Jo Balistreri**, several other WFOP members' poems have appeared in *The Avocet*, including **Ronnie Hess, Judy Wucherer, David Scheler, Jeanie Tomasko, Steve Tomasko, Judy Kolosso, Mara Ptacek, Paula Schultz, Cristina Norcross, and Lou Roach**. (If I left anyone off this list, let me know, and I'll make sure to credit you in the next column.) I asked some of these poets to comment about their experience with *The Avocet*. Here, again edited, are a few of their responses:

"He is a very 'personal' editor, often exchanging e-mails with the poet that are not entirely publication-related. You can include your e-mail with the poem and get comments from people on your work." (**Paula Schultz**)

"I've had six poems in *Avocet* over the past several years. Always a delight to read the many fine poems. One of the most wonderful things with *Avocet* has been their rapid responses to my submissions. Equally pleasing was the rapid response to poems not selected. As a general rule, I received responses within a month, occasionally two months—even after just a couple of weeks." (**David Scheler**)

"Charles Portolano is thoroughly in love with poetry and very eager to publish our poetry." (**Judy Kolosso**)

"His devotion to creating a haven for nature poems, in both his print journal and *The Weekly Avocet* via email, shines through. It is always a pleasure to meet someone who loves what they do." (**Cristina Norcross**)

"He is very responsive to poets and requests in each issue, 'if you like a poem please let the poet know it.' I have had many poems published both online and in print, and this 'request' has warmed my heart by the responses I receive. We are, after all, a small community and should strive to support each other; as a poet himself, he recognizes this. It is a real pleasure to work with him." (**Judy Wucherer**)

Judy wrote, "**Jo Balistreri** told me about him, I told **Paula Schulz**, and just had a thank-you from Charles for sending **Cristina Norcross** his way. (I was sure that his readers would enjoy her wonderful nature-themed, inspiring poems)."

At the beginning of this column, I suggested that one of the best ways to learn about places to submit is by talking to and networking with other poets. Thanks, Judy, for helping me tie this column together.

## Membership Renewal Form

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT. Renewals are due by 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.org](http://wfop.org) website.

Renew or join online: [wfop.org/store/](http://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

**CALL FOR SUBS!** *Blue Heron Review* is an online poetry magazine specializing in mystical and spiritual verse. *Blue Heron* provides a space for poets who offer a positive message about living fully and engaging with the world through beauty, a sense of community, and acceptance. Our current call for the summer issue ends May 15.

*Blue Heron* welcomes all writers. For complete guidelines, and to read samples from past issues, please visit [blueheronreview.com](http://blueheronreview.com).

### WINE & WORDS POETRY CONTEST

Robert Louis Stevenson famously said:

*"Wine is bottled poetry."*

WFOP and Captain's Walk Winery are partnering in a one-of-a-kind poetry contest. A winning poem will be featured on 1,000 Captain's Walk wine hangtags to be included wherever the wine is sold. The winner will also receive a case of Captain's Walk wine valued at \$150.

#### How to enter:

- Submit a poem of 100 words or less about wine by May 15 to [torigw@twc.com](mailto:torigw@twc.com).
- Captain's Walk Winery will pick the winning poem.
- Other entries may be featured in Captain's Walk newsletters and/or other publications.

- All poems should celebrate wine and/or wine gatherings. (Please don't mention any competing wine brand names. Wine types are okay: Merlot, yes; Robert Mondavi, no.)

## Publications by Our Members

*Factory Rejects: Two for a Nickel, The Skeptic* (questions, doubts, musings of self-awareness pondering philosophical ideas), and *Bullheads* (aging, nostalgia, bullhead-cleaning), by **Gary Busha**, are the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> books in Wolfson Press's Little Chapbook Series. Free flyer from [gbusha@wi.rr.com](mailto:gbusha@wi.rr.com). Order from [garycbusha.wordpress.com](http://garycbusha.wordpress.com)

\* \* \*

**Robert Nordstrom's** full-length collection, *The Sacred Monotony of Breath* (Prolific Press, 2015) was released in early April and is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and [prolificpress.com](http://prolificpress.com). More at [robertnordstrom.com](http://robertnordstrom.com)

\* \* \*

*a berserker stuck in traffic* (Pebblebrook Press, 2014) is available from author **Erik Richardson** at [berserkerstuckintraffic.wordpress.com](http://berserkerstuckintraffic.wordpress.com)

\* \* \*

(*Prologue*) by **Jeanie Tomasko** (Concrete Wolf, 2015), Editor's Choice Award Winner. Read sample poems and/or order at [jeanietomasko.com](http://jeanietomasko.com) or from [concretewolf.com](http://concretewolf.com)

# WFOP 65th Anniversary Conference

Celebrating 65 years of Fellowship!

PRESENTERS: *Dorianne Laux & many more!*

All inquiries should be directed to Mike Kriesel at [krieselmichaela@gmail.com](mailto:krieselmichaela@gmail.com) or 715-610-3848. For more information, see [wfop.org/confrncs/65conf.html](http://wfop.org/confrncs/65conf.html)

Conference registration: \$75 for all three days (including Sat. banquet) if postmarked by May 29th, 2015.

FREE REGISTRATION for spouses, students and 1st-time attendees! (We ask you to pay \$52.50 for your meals)

Indicate if this is your first conference, or if you need book table space.

Visit <http://wfop.org/store/> to register and pay online, or make check payable to WFOP and mail to:

Colleen Frentzel  
229 Ba Wood Lane  
Janesville, WI 53545

Friday–Saturday, June 5–7, 2015

Location: Green Lake Conference Center  
W2511 State Road 23, Green Lake, WI 54941

Rooms \$125 per night for single or double; \$150 for suite. Make room reservations directly with the hotel (920-294-3323). To receive the group rate, ask for a room in the WFOP block.

Bring books / art / photography / antiques / hand-made crafts to sell! Oddments and arcana! Wondrous curios! Think swap meet! Contact Jan Chronister, [janchronister@yahoo.com](mailto:janchronister@yahoo.com) for details.

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



# Poems BY Our Membership

—JEANIE TOMASKO, EDITOR

*The poem prompt was to incorporate a science theme. Biology, Geology, Entomology, Physics, Botany, etc.*

## THE VERNAL HAZELNUT

Fuchsia red are the flower filaments  
she throws from her swollen cone of a budding.

His are long scaly fingers that hum a few days  
while her egg chambers attend.

Then he puffs, all swollen and yellow polliniferous;  
breezes take his givings to her.

What merges is sweet fruit  
not always to be eaten, but contemplated.

Such wise nuts crack open to give cindery Mouse-skin  
slippers, dress, a bath, and carriage:

The *hax pax* of the hazelnut  
is to wish to the universe upon it.

—Katarzyna Rygasiewicz, Racine

## MEDITATION, MĀNOA

Twelve koi shimmer in calm eddies,  
reflected onto louvered window panes:

The white scales of *taisho sanke* now silver  
beside the cadmium of *aka bekko*,  
deepened in the leftover glow of sunset.

The sun now a mere thumb-spot,  
an afterimage indistinguishable from the *sumi*,  
small black markings on the koi, hypnotic,  
a hundred shadow suns floating, tranquil, here.

—Jo Scheder

## WFOP 2015 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference—REGISTRATION FORM

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Members \$75** (if postmarked by May 29; \$80 at the door)

(Includes meals)

Spouse/Student/First-time meals \$52.50

First-time?

Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-members \$105** (if postmarked by May 29; \$110 at the door)

(includes meals and WFOP membership)

Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need table space to sell books?  Yes  No

If so, please list name(s) to be posted on the book sales table: \_\_\_\_\_

½ table is free; this year we are charging for extra space.

Full table \$5; 1½ tables \$10; 2 tables \$15

# of tables \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Online at [wfop.org/store](http://wfop.org/store) (PayPal or credit card;  
include requested information) or by check.

*If paying by check, please print and include this form. Mail to:*

**Colleen Frentzel  
229 Ba Wood Lane  
Janesville, WI 53545**



## ON MELBOURNE BEACH, FLORIDA

Above us, the sky is benediction,  
wider than understanding,

aerial dancers swooping and soaring,  
and the Atlantic is a bellows  
breathing on the shore.

Middle-aged women, colorfully dressed,  
their soft bodies cushioned by comfort,  
test whitecaps with bare toes.

I find the swirled, pleated skirt  
of a bivalve shell, calcium bicarbonate,  
pale as a desert dune, inside, polished smooth.

Nothing remains of the soft animal  
that once lived within the comfortable  
micro climate of this exoskeleton.

An unexpected wave washes  
over our shoes. It is truly  
the best of all possible worlds,

but nothing can franchise  
the center of it.

—*Sandra Lindow*

## IT'S THE CARBON, STUPID

Carbon, vital to life  
plentiful on earth  
sixth most abundant  
element in the universe  
now a double-edged sword  
as we uncover that stored  
over eons of time  
we combust it to excess  
produce potent greenhouse gas  
CO<sub>2</sub> accumulates in the atmosphere  
catastrophic warming draws  
ever more near

we keep on living pleasantly  
believe somehow we'll be okay  
'they' will figure it out someday  
but really, Watson, it IS elementary

—*Karen Wilson*

## ODE TO ASH TREES

You who shade our mortgaged home  
Trio of strength and might  
Threatened by a foreign bug  
You'll disappear from sight

No one knows when you will fall  
With a resounding Thwack!  
But you are doomed to leave us—  
Trunk, bark, leaves, branches, crack

The emerald ash borer's beauty  
Conceals its deadly vice  
To destroy lofty ash trees  
They don't even think twice

I contemplate your absence  
Anticipate your crash  
I had to write this poem  
I Ode it to the Ash

—*Phyllis Beckman*

## HORNET'S NEST

In fall the wind felled a hornet's nest  
from a maple branch in my yard—  
not all at once but in fragments. I held  
the pieces in my hand and admired  
their lightweight construction, their  
functional design for protecting and  
feeding bald-faced-hornet larvae. The  
nest never conformed to a dictionary  
definition of hornet's nests as hotbeds  
of animosity and trouble—unless  
“trouble” must include the few hornets  
who appeared to need rescuing when  
they slipped into the birdbath while  
sipping water. As these wasps demurely  
mounted the stick or leaf I offered, I  
found them to be dignified, not hostile—  
which reinforced my conviction that  
hornets do not attack unless threatened.

—*Georgia Ressmeyer*

## I READ TODAY SOMEONE FINALLY FOUND MAJORANA FERMION

Oh Majorana fermion you come and you go  
Your very nature humbly taking such tiny space  
A quantum wing walker bravely circling the edge of  
Hungry pulling black holes, coincident creation-annihilation  
You, the Ethel Dare of particle physics,  
Finally validated.

—Mary “Ray” Goehring

## AFFINITY

Slow going, she thinks, watching  
the chickadee grasp one seed  
with his toe and fly to the boxwood  
where he delicately eats the morsel.

Is it natural, she wonders, to operate at this pace?  
Take a star, for instance. How slowly  
does it nourish itself?  
Or does it consume itself  
as it slowly collapses at the core?

And when the darkness comes  
does the chickadee still recall  
his fellow travelers—  
a woman at the window  
the sheltering boxwood  
a seed  
a star—  
as he spins  
around the universe  
on one small planet  
tethered by the sun.

—Nancy Jesse, Madison

## PYTHAGORAS

Attuned to the music of the spheres,  
that wily old Pythagoras  
rode his plane geometry  
to heights that simply stagger us.

In the dizzying realm of mathematics  
where some of us turn chartreuse,  
Pythagoras knew all the angles  
all the way from acute to obtuse.

—JoAnn Chang

## FACTS OF LIFE

on rainy Sunday afternoons  
your parents  
disappear behind a locked door  
curious but mostly content  
you study an old geology book  
dream riverbed trips  
thousand-year-old lives  
mysteries ready to be discovered  
the door swings open  
your kind-of-messy-haired mother  
makes popcorn  
your father is ravenous  
years later  
you figure it out  
realize you really aren't the center  
of their universe  
but know at least  
they always share their popcorn

—Maryann Hurtt

## SCIENCE AT KEN AND SARA'S

One autumn night we gather, candles around tribal fire.  
An honored guest, a hydrologist, becomes our shaman.  
He draws a petroglyph of fat arrows on the wall.  
Obese tributaries of *Myth*, *Inspiration*, *Opinion*, join a thin  
tributary called *Data* to form *Conjecture*,  
a small distributary of the great river *Truth*.  
In his tales the Orinoco, the Amazon, are “six Mississippi,”  
“twelve Mississippi.”

He chooses a red Bordeaux, black in darkness,  
sets it beside a balsam candle, sips slowly.  
I risk migraine for the same; white will not be enough tonight;  
I drink faster than he, read a distant past, as candlelight glows  
through wine,  
red as juice of beets I dug last week.  
I have craved these deep, earthy reds all autumn.  
English fades into Spanish, Portuguese.  
Flames as seen through wine suggest Eden's glow,  
a return to rain forests, anacondas  
undulating through clear green waters warm as angels' skin.

—Terry Andre Dukershein, Glen Flora

## ODE TO SCIENCE PAST

Once we were the center  
of the universe  
sitting high on a turtle,  
now we ride a small rock  
orbiting a common star.

Phlogiston has vanished  
up the chimney,  
ether has evaporated  
leaving light with  
no means of support,  
Pluto has fallen  
to just another dwarf.

The wall of knowledge  
is built one brick at a time,  
but sometimes a brick  
must be removed  
when it no longer fits.

—Larry J. Eriksson, Madison

## DISILLUSIONED

The peaceful skies of childhood fell from grace  
And stars became black holes of energy  
When astrophysicists took over space.

An astronaut is now the public's ace,  
And man-in-moon is just a memory;  
My peaceful skies of childhood fell from grace.

The pulsars, quasars, quirky quarks play chase  
Around the Milky Way, my galaxy;  
The astrophysicists took over space.

The light years multiply at reckless pace,  
The firmament is mass activity;  
My tranquil skies of childhood fell from grace.

It's possible some spaceship may retrace  
The interstellar voyage of E.T.  
When astrophysicists have conquered space.

I mourn the twinkling asterisks, embrace  
The new chaotic order I can't see;  
The peaceful skies of childhood fell from grace  
When astrophysicists took over space.

—Mary L. Downs, Appleton

## MIRACLE

It has become legend in the family  
how the ruby ring dropped in the garden;  
then one year seeds sprang up, and the ring  
was carried up by a radish leaf till its gold hit  
the gold of the sun; thus we found it  
again, miracle. What did that radish  
dream in the plot as it crawled  
slowly toward the light, as it reddened  
under the ground, like an embarrassed  
boy's face, till its leaves  
like green filigree unfolded and,  
as on the carousel, one leaf caught  
the gold ring for a free ride?  
That radish we did not dig up  
but let it live its short seasonal life  
untouched by us, bug, or beast.

—Peg Lauber

## IN PARFREY'S GLEN

Steep walls drip with tangible stories  
divulging secrets  
Layers of quartzite cobble  
embedded in sandstone  
Conglomerate histories tumbled together  
Shallow inland sea  
Glacial tossed rock  
Remnants of spring floods  
deposits of memory  
etched in the crevices  
Geological mysteries revealed

—Sharon Daly

### VERBAL STIMULATION:

Use at least 6 of these 8 words in a poem: *coat, train, muck, haunted, sponge, animal, beside, smoked*. 18 lines max.

Send poem to: [jeancarsten@gmail.com](mailto:jeancarsten@gmail.com)

Or snailmail to:

**Jeanie Tomasko**  
6725 Century Ave  
Middleton WI 53562

**DEADLINE: JULY 15**

WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS  
W5679 STATE ROAD 60  
POYNETTE WI 53955  
WFOP.ORG

*Forwarding Requested.*

### XENO'S PARADOX

tells me I will never finish this poem,  
not in one zillion years. Its formula  
of halving, halving, halving  
will make it smaller,  
smaller, smaller  
yet some part  
will always  
remain  
...

—Erna Kelly

***Next Issue Deadline:***  
**AUGUST 1, 2015**

send to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

### WHO KNEW

Honeycombs have secrets  
like the “waggle dance”  
of the worker bee  
as it guides others  
to satisfy their sweet tooth,  
first scoffed at,  
this sensory perception idea,  
the mystery of all  
those wily figure 8s buzzing  
from violet to violet,  
and rose to rose,  
each apiary forager,  
flower encoded,  
an *Insecta* secret  
even the birds do not know.

—Joan Marie Giusto, Tomahawk