

WISCONSIN
FELLOWSHIP
OF POETS

wfop.org

Museletter

SPRING 2017



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Advertise books, etc., to the WFOP membership in the *Museletter* or Events e-mail at the following rates:

\$15 eighth page \$40 half page
\$25 quarter page \$75 full page
\$10 100 wds in Events e-mail

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

- Taylor Amell, Coleman
- Dawn Anderson, Edgar
- Bud Andrews, Green Bay
- Jodie Arnold, Eau Claire
- Shirley Barker, Milwaukee
- David Benson, Madison
- Sylvia Bowersox, De Pere
- Emily Bowles, Appleton
- Marianne Canter, Milwaukee
- Patricia Carney, Cudahay
- Christopher Chambers, Madison
- Paul Creswell, Madison
- Jean Detjen, Appleton
- Aaron Doeppers, Madison
- Roy Dorman, Madison
- Felicitus Ferington, Madison
- Douglas Flagel, Menomonee Falls
- Rosemary Gantz, Plover
- Angeline Haen, Sobieski
- Richard Hedderman, Wauwatosa
- Laurie Immekus, Endeavor
- Mary Strong Jackson, Kimberly
- Gundega Korsts, Madison
- Paulette Laufer, Sturgeon Bay
- Donna Lewein, Fitchburg
- Kurt Luchs, Stevens Point
- Celeste May, Sheboygan
- C.J. McMahon, De Pere
- Kelly Morse, Ashland
- Nancy Runner, Weston
- Sara Sarna, Oconomowoc
- Karen Turner, Trego
- Maureen Walrath, Waunakee
- Amanda Werhane, Madison
- Michelle Zaroni, Arbor Vitae

President's Message

Welcome to 2017 and another year of poetry! If you are like me, you made some resolutions (though somewhat loose) to write more, submit more and join a poetry group if possible. Hopefully you are on your way to reaching these goals. It's important to remember that poets do not work in a vacuum. We need other poets and friends to listen to and read our work and offer constructive criticism when asked. We need opportunities to attend workshops, publish and reach a wider audience. Being exposed to nationally-recognized poets is another way to improve our craft.

I strongly believe that WFOP is key in filling these needs for Wisconsin poets and helping them achieve success. Recent donations will go a long way towards continuing our mission. We are grateful for these contributions.

Each of us can support WFOP in smaller yet just as important ways. One, of course, is by renewing membership in a timely manner. Another is opting to receive the *Museletter* electronically. This saves WFOP postage and saves paper clutter on your end. A final way to strengthen WFOP is by volunteering to take a leadership position, whether it is helping on a committee (we always need help at conferences), working on a contest, editing the calendar or being a regional vice-president. Opportunities are posted in the email newsletter as they open up. Members can always ask conference planners and their vps what they can do to help.

The Spring conference in Milwaukee will be one to remember. Mark Doty will be the featured poet on the afternoon of Saturday, April 29, and at a special post-conference reading that evening. Plan to stay in Milwaukee Saturday night and attend this event.

Until April when I hope to see many of you, please "like" WFOP on facebook. My goal is to have 400 "likes" by the conference. I am working on making the page more useful and informative. Please send your regional VP news of events and readings as they all have the ability to post on our facebook page. It is important now more than ever that we stay connected and support each other.

Write on, Wisconsin poets!
—JAN

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Looking Ahead to the Triad Contest

Triad entries will open June 1, 2017. The theme for the themed portion of the contest is *Rules and Laws*: Quote a rule or law as the title or epigraph for your poem. Judges' bios, along with rules and entry form, will be in the next *Museletter* and on the website later this spring. Deadline: September 1.

The *Museletter* used to frequently publish essays and columns on poetry craft, publishing and poetics. We want to revive the custom, and look forward to your poetry-related articles in the future! Send to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

Join WFOP or renew at wfop.org

What's Happening in Your Region?

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

CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VP: **Christina Kubasta**, ckubasta@new.rr.com

Cathryn Cofell was a guest lecturer and featured poet at Carroll University and had poems appear in *Steam Ticket* and *Bramble*.

Karla Huston, Appleton, is Wisconsin's 2017–18 Poet Laureate. See wisconsinpoetlaureate.org.

C. Kubasta had poems in *The Matador Review*, *Hematopoiesis Press*, and the anthology *Poetry from the Finger Lakes*.

EAST

VP: **Ed Werstein**, wersted@gmail.com

Nancy Harrison Durdin, Glenbeulah, had poems in the 2016 *Ariel Anthology* and the Brick Street Poetry anthology *Words And Other Wild Things*, which, through a grant, will be distributed to children's hospitals, libraries and schools.

Jo Balistreri won third place in the Jade Ring contest in WWA; the poem appears in *Creative Wisconsin*. She also had two poems in the new *Ariel Anthology*.

Patricia Foldvary had two haiku in the fall *Avocet*.

John Sierpinski has a poem, "The Winds of Rhyolite, Nevada," in **GNU Journal** online.

CJ Muchhala has had work published in *Your Daily Poem*, *All We Can Hold* (allwecanhold.com), and the anthologies *Birdsong* (foothillspublishing.com), *The Absence of Something Specified* (a 4-presses collaboration) and *Words & Other Wild Things*. Two art/poetry collages created with an artist friend were exhibited in ARTiculate (Bay View Arts Guild) at Gallery M in the Intercontinental Hotel, Milwaukee.

MID-CENTRAL

VP: **Kathy Serley**, kserley@dwave.net

Jim Pollock has resigned as Mid-Central VP. He has enjoyed working with and for the poets of our region and in the interest of transparency assures you he was not forced to resign as a result of a salacious sex scandal nor surreptitious emails. If he has offended any poets during his tenure, it was probably due to a peculiar sense of humor for which he is currently receiving therapy. If, on the other hand, he praised your performances, either written or oral, beyond what humans are realistically capable of, he confesses to being, at times, emotionally swept away by talent.

Kathy Serley, from Wausau, has graciously agreed to be your new VP. She is an accomplished poet and a tireless

organizer, as poets who have participated in her Open Mics and other poetry events in Wausau will attest. 2nd Thursday poetry open mic 6–8:00 PM, Marathon County Public Library, 300 North First St, Wausau. The second hour will feature guest poets. Free; no registration required. For more information or to be a featured reader, call 715-261-7230.

Read **Mike Kriesel's** new electronic chapbook *Every Word in the Book* at <http://www.righthandpointing.net/michael-kriesel-every-name.pdf> available from Mike at Krieselmichaela@gmail.com.

Mike was one of three finalists for 2017–18 Wisconsin Poet Laureate. He's guest editing the spring *Bramble*, WFOP's new online journal. Along with **Kimberly Blanchette**, he's co-judging WFOP's Student Poetry Contest. He was the featured reader Jan. 29 at Wausau's Unitarian Church. His poem "Halo Effect" oscillates in *Star*Line* 40.1.

Victoria Lindsay had her poem, "I Wonder if You Could," published in **Words and Other Wild Things**.

Kurt Luchs has recently had poems published in the following magazines: *Into the Void*: "I long to enter the unholy ..."; *Minetta Review*: "Homunculus"; *Otis Nebula*: "What's-Her-Face," "Story," "Meditation"; *Right Hand Pointing*: "The Heart Goes Out"; *Sheila-Na-Gig*: "Summon the Stones," "Still."

Joan Wiese Johannes has a poem and prose piece about meeting and being influenced by Ms. Brooks in the new anthology *Revise the Psalm: Work Celebrating the Writing of Gwendolyn Brooks*. She also had poems featured on *Your Daily Poem*. She will be the featured reader at Original Voices Open Mic at the Coloma Hotel May 10.

Linda Aschbrenner has poems in *Lupine Lunes*, ed. Lester Smith (Popcorn Press, 2016) and a tribute to poet Louis McKee in *Schuykill Valley Journal* 43.

NORTHEAST

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

Three of **Ronald L. Winter's** poems, "The Mirror," "On Wisconsin," "Move to Amend," were published in the *Shawano Area Writers' 50th Anniversary Anthology*.

Annette Grunseth had "Theory of Choir" in The Poetry Box's anthology *Poeming Pigeon* (Portland, OR), and "Mighty Oak Love" in the 2016 *Ariel Anthology*.

NORTHWEST

VP: **Nancy Austin**, austin10929@gmail.com, & **Andree Graveley**,

Elizabeth Tornes had two poems published in the 2016 *Ariel Anthology*, *Inward and Outward*. Her poem "Sandy

Bay Residential School,” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by Five Oaks Press. “Bapakine” appeared in the drought-themed anthology *The Absence of Something Specified*.

Jan Chronister had two poems published in *OVS Magazine* and was selected to read at the annual WritersRead event at Northland College in Ashland.

Diana Randolph, Drummond, had one poem and three drawings published in the *Ariel Anthology*. One of her poems was selected for the 7th Annual WritersRead “The Dark Side” theme, which she read at the Northland College event. It was recorded by Wisconsin Public Radio.

Peggy Trojan read at the *Ariel Anthology* book release and concert. Had poems published in *Talking Stick* and the children’s anthology *Words and Other Wild Things*.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

The 2017 Winter Festival of Poetry, “I Sing To The Trees,” is held at the Fountain, 122 State St, Madison. All readings begin at 2 PM.

JANUARY 22: “I Pine For You”—Judy Washbush, Bridget Birdsall, Dominic Holt, Angie Vasquez, Lynn Patrick Smith, Martha Kaplan.

JANUARY 29: “Under The Willow”—Judith Zukerman, Jo Scheder, Kathy Miner, Marilyn Annucci, Jacki Martindale, Lori Lipsky.

FEBRUARY 5: “Spruced Up”—Gary Powell, Gillian Nevers, Antonio Re, Robin Chapman, Tim Walsh, Alice D’Alessio.

FEBRUARY 12: “Sacred Oak”—Margaret Benbow, Dave Benson, Rosemary Zurlo-Cuva, Eugenia Highland, Mark Lilleleht, Araceli Esparza, Kinbria (from Ireland).

FEBRUARY 19: “Fir Will Fly”—Richard Roe, Neshia Kriv Ruther, Andrea Potos, Jo Simons, Sharon Daly, Beth Ann Workmaster.

FEBRUARY 26: “Crackin’ A Walnut”—Sara Parrell, Jeffrey Z. Rothstein, John Lehman, Steve Tomasko, Jeanie Tomasko, Fabu, Fran Rall.

MARCH 5: “Sugar Maple Time”—Dave Scheler, Marilyn Taylor, Anja Notanja, Freesia KcKee, Lewis Bosworth, Mark Kraushaar.

MARCH 12: “Ashes All Fall Down”—Gordon Glass, Nydia Rojas, Esther (Catherine) Cowie, Bill Scanlon, Marlon Howard Banks, Frandui.

Fabu and other writers were awarded a Beyond the Page grant to present on “African American Voices, Past and Present in Wisconsin” at 13 Wisconsin libraries. Fabu highlights poet Sarah Webster Fabio, Sherry, novelist Jean Toomer and Catrina, playwright and novelist Lorraine Hansberry, all writers who lived and wrote in Madison. Their presentations include continuing the African American literary history in Wisconsin and will take place in 2017 and 2018. Check local libraries for more details.

Suzi Godwin’s haiku, “amish dolls,” appeared in the December *Heron’s Nest* and “granite ware ladle” in the December *Hummingbird*.

Richard Merelman had the following poems published: “Decorum” in *Stoneboat* 7.1; “In The Museum Of The Future,” in *Star*Line*, and “Spot Me Not” and “FDR Resorts To Poesy,” in *The Road Not Taken*; “A

Career Of The Senses” in *Lake Effect*; “Christmas Eve, 2014: Berkeley, California” and “At The End” in *Common Ground Review*; “Heat Lightning” in *InScape*, also winner of the Inscape Fall 2016 Poetry contest; and a poem in *Third Wednesday*.

Dave Benson had a first-ever published poem; “The Chic Cafe” in the online journal *Locust Magazine*.

Marilyn Taylor had a poem appear in *American Life in Poetry* online November 14. She also had a book launch reading for her new collection, *Step On A Crack*, at Mystery To Me in Madison November 22.

F.J. Bergmann had poems “UFOlogy” in *Analog* Jan-Feb 2017, “What Goes Wrong with Cyborg Poetry” in *Eye to the Telescope* 23, “Foreseeable Future” and “Invisible Stigmata” in *Futures Trading* 4.3, and “Sonnet from the Portuguese” in *Uut Poetry*. Her manuscript *A Catalogue of the Further Suns* won the Gold Line Press chapbook contest.

James P. Roberts and **Rita Mae Reese** participated in the Pinney Branch Library Mini-Book Festival in Madison, November 12.

Poets inspired by Dmitri Shostakovich’s Fifth Symphony who read at the Overture Center November 13 included **Richard Merelman, Marilyn Taylor, Sarah Sadie, Eve Robillard, Tim Walsh, and Rita Mae Reese**.

Celebrating Shakespeare’s First Folio, poets who read at the Chazen Museum in Madison December 8 included **Robin Chapman, Wendy Vardaman, Susan Elbe, Eve Robillard, Rita Mae Reese, and Marilyn Taylor**.

Madison’s Writers Resist reading on January 15th featured **Marilyn Annucci, Moises Villavicencio Barras, Araceli Esparza, Fabu, and Oscar Mireles**.

South Central poets who read at the Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon in Milwaukee January 28 were **James Roberts, Angie Trudell-Vasquez, Charles Trimberger, Judith Zukerman, Wendy Vardaman, Martha Kaplan, Sarah Sadie, and Rita Mae Reese**.

2017 BILINGUAL BUS LINES POETRY CONTEST

Attention Madison area residents, students, transit riders and writers: Metro Transit and Madison’s Poet Laureate invite you to send short poems, haiku, prose poems, or excerpts from longer poems, 3-5 lines total, to the Bus Lines 2017 open call for poetry. Poems may appear on Metro promotional materials, including the exterior of the bus!

The theme is “Imagine Madison”—what do you want to be different? What do you want for Madison in the future? Submit up to 3 poems in English or Spanish. All entries must include poet’s name, phone, and email address. Students also include school, grade and contact information for a sponsoring adult. Send entries to mymetrobus@cityofmadison.com by **Friday, March 17**.

WEST

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

The Menomonie Poetry Critique group is a new group open to anyone who wants to improve their poetry. Two potluck meetings have been held. We hope to meet monthly. A public reading will be held in spring.

The Writers' Group at the Library continues to meet the first Thursday of every month, usually at 7pm in the Chippewa Room. During the winter months we may meet from 2-4 on that day. E-mail Sandy for more information on either group.

Winter has been eccentric in the Chippewa Valley—sun, snow, thunder, graupel, hail and sleet all in a little over an hour, but poetry behaves more reliably. **David Blackey's** poem "Good Company" appeared in *Avocet* online 216. **Laurel Devitt** had two poems, "Fall is Coming" and "First Snow" in Franciscan Spirituality's *Reflections from the Center*. Her poem "Cleaner Upper" appeared in *Today's Daily Poem* and her poem "Seeker" appears in the 2016 *Ariel Anthology*. The anthology *Words and Other Wild Things: A Collection for Children* from Brick Street Poetry includes **Phyllis Beckman's** poem "Someday." Devitt's poems, "Once Upon a Fish" and "Hurray for Holes", and **Jeannie Robert's** "Remembering," "The Toad in the Beehive," and "The Grumble Rumble." **Sandra Lindow's** poems appear as follows: "The Venus of Letting Go," *Dreams and Nightmares* 105 and "A Calculus," *Snakeskin Review*, January 2016. In October, Roberts' "Horse Power" appeared in *Yellow Chair Review*; in November "Rush River Valley" appeared in *Quill and Parchment* and "The Artistry of Andrew" in *Silver Birch Press*; in December, "At Home with Emily" in *Snapdragon: a journal of art & healing*.

Publications by Our Members

Walking the Tracks by Alice D'Alessio (Fireweed Press, full-length). Order by mail:

Fireweed Press, 638 Gately Terrace, Madison 53705

\$15 + \$2.61 postage.

Checks made out to Alice D'Alessio.

Razed Lutheran by Naomi Cochran, \$7. A look at religion at its best and worst. Available through naomicochranpoetry.wordpress.com and Amazon.

Grief Bone by Karla Huston (Five Oaks Press, chapbook). See karlahuston.com to purchase your signed copy.

POETRY CRITIQUE GROUPS

Looking for a group to join? Contact your regional VP. If your group is open to new members, notify the *Museletter* editor.

IN MEMORIAM

Yvonne Yahnke

–December 2, 2016

Yvonne Yahnke, poet, artist and Lifetime Member of WFOF, passed from this life into Shakespeare's "undiscovered country." Yvonne, who was widely published, cherished the time spent with her circle of poet and writer friends, who will miss her dearly.

Mary Downs

June 23, 1923–December 8, 2016

A longtime Appleton resident, Mary helped run the library and read at poetry slams. She relished involvement with a poetry round robin. Her poems have been published in numerous Wisconsin poetry collections. Her own best-known compendium is *A Hundred Miles to Go*.

Anonymous donation of \$1,000 in memory of:

Anne Stubbe

Ellen Kort

Art Madison

Shelly Hall

Yvonne Yahnke

*Thanks to the following who donated
in memory of Yvonne Yahnke:*

Lenore Coberly

Lynn Patrick Smith

Christine White

Rose Yahnke

The Madison Police Association

Members' Pages on wfop.org

As part of your membership to Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, poets are entitled to a member's page on the website: wfop.org/member-pages

If you would like a Member's Page, please send the following to wfopweb@gmail.com:

- Contact info (address, email, website)—one or all, your preference
- Bio
- List of publications
- Sample poems—1 or 2
- Pictures—poet photo, any book or chapbook covers

2017 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendars* still available!

wfop.org/poets-calendar/

Past *Calendars* still available at impressive discounts!

Tentative Spring Conference Agenda

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017

- 4:00 p.m. Registration Opens
4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Book Fair
5:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. Kim Blaeser & Karla Huston
(Poet Laureate torch-passing and reception)
7:30 p.m. Open Mic Poetry
8:30–9:00 p.m. Milwaukee Voices
(Short performance presentations)
9:00 p.m. More Open Mic Poetry

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast & Book Fair
8:15 a.m. Welcome & Announcements
8:30 a.m. General Business Meeting
9:15 a.m. Karla Huston Reading
(State Poet Laureate)
10:00 a.m. Break/Book Fair
10:15 a.m. Roll Call Poems
11:30 a.m. Milwaukee Poets Laureate Read
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Muse Prize/Chapbook Prize
1:15 p.m. More Milwaukee Voices
1:45 p.m. Break/Book Fair
2:00 p.m. Mark Doty Reading/Q&A
3:15 p.m. Break/Book Fair
3:30 p.m. Roll Call Poems
4:30 p.m. Book Fair
5:00 p.m. Conference room closes for set-up
7:00 p.m. Mark Doty Evening Reading and
Presentation. This reading is free to conference attendees,
but will be open to the public.

WFOP Spring Conference April 28 & 29

Park East Hotel

916 E State St, Milwaukee WI 53202

(414) 276-8800

Mention WFOP Conference for special rate.

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 2016 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. Textbooks 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

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

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

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

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

Send membership inquiries to Naomi Cochran, Membership Chair, **wfopmembership@gmail.com** or W1598 Lee Rd, Hayward WI 54843

WFOP SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
Friday-Saturday, April 28 & 29, 2017

All inquiries should be directed to Ed Werstein: wersted@gmail.com or call (262) 617-0860.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Members \$60.00 (if received before April 1; \$65.00 at the door) Number _____ \$ _____
(includes breakfast and lunch)

Non-members: \$90.00 (if received before April 1; \$95.00 at the door) Number _____ \$ _____
(includes meals and 1-year WFOP membership)

Student or first-timer, complimentary registration Number _____ \$ *no charge*

Meals: First-timer, student or guest *Breakfast* \$10.00 Number _____ \$ _____

Lunch \$15.00 Number _____ \$ _____

Total Enclosed: TOTAL _____ \$ _____

Do you need table space to sell books? Yes No

If "Yes", please list name(s) to be posted on book sales table: _____

Payment: Online at <http://wfop.org/store> (include requested information)

If paying by check, include this form.

Mail to: Ed Werstein, 1732 N Prospect Ave #908, Milwaukee WI 53202

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 in the *Museletter*, and to have a page on wfop.org. Contact the *Museletter* Editor if you are not sure when your membership expires.

SAVE POSTAGE and renew or join online at wfop.org

or mail to: Colleen Frentzel, 1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr, Janesville WI 53546

Please make checks payable to: WFOP

Active \$30.00

Student \$15.00

***** 5 for 4 Deal *****

\$120 paid now will give

5 years of membership

for the price of 4! Save \$30!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

E-mail address _____

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

General Announcements

WFOP's Literary Journal

Bramble, WFOP's online literary magazine is open for submissions for Spring 2017 February 1–March 15. Guest editor: Michael Kriesel. Please send one submission of 1–3 poems (any length and style) to **bramble@wfop.org**. Put your last name and “Bramble Submission” in the subject line. Include cover letter, poet pic, brief bio and poems in the body of an e-mail. No attachments please. No previously published poems; no simultaneous submissions. More info at **wfop.org/bramble-lit-mag/**

Poems must be received by March 15.

Christine Alfery at New Visions Gallery is looking for **poems or short stories inspired by the work at christinealfery.net/art-and-poetry/** for 2017–18 exhibits. Let her know if interested so that two people aren't writing for the same work. Readings will be held at the receptions for the exhibitions. The exhibition book will be available to writers at cost. christinealfery@christinealfery.com

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Please send WFOP correspondence, photos, memorabilia, personal mementos, etc. Returnable; postage reimbursed!

Lewis Bosworth, WFOP Archivist
2829 Barlow St, Madison WI 53705-3621
lewisabosworth@gmail.com ~ 608-238-3648

Are you on Facebook?
Like WFOP's page: **facebook.com/wfopoets**
Join the WFOP public group:
facebook.com/groups/1088414487891479/

BLUE HERON REVIEW CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for *Blue Heron Review's* Summer issue are open March 20–April 20, 2017. This will be our first THEMED ISSUE. As always, we welcome meditative, reflective, and metaphysical poetry. We specifically want poems about HEALING in any form: physical, emotional, spiritual or global healing, and the healing of our planet. Search deep within your heart, and submit poems about how we can heal ourselves and heal the world. We look forward to reading your work. Let us lift up our words to create a new realm—together. Please visit the *BHR* Guidelines: **blueheronreview.com/submission-guidelines/**

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A clarification for *Museletter* submissions

Send news either to your regional VP or directly to **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com** (include region!), in the body of an e-mail; format as in *Museletter*; no .pdfs or press releases. Poetry news only; send only publications, not acceptances; don't bother including WFOP awards or *Bramble* or *Calendar* appearances, which are available to members. *Please* don't double-space after periods.

Poems ^{BY} Our Membership

—JAN CHRONISTER, GUEST EDITOR

The prompt was “*Nothing important happened today except ...*” Limit 15 lines.

NOT QUITE JUST ANOTHER ORDINARY DAY

I woke up joyful about being given another day.
I looked out the window and saw the sky
turn orange with the light of the sun rising,
which reflected on the ice covered road
turning it brilliant in color;
starting this day off in a wonderful way,
making me feel the quiet peace that was
all around me.
Another exquisite day given,
and received with amazing gratitude.

—Nancy Durdin, Glenbeulah

SUNRISE AT GREEN LAKE

First a blanket of vermillion
smears across the horizon
followed by a golden flame
floating on the inky lake.
At last the orb rises.
An afterthought—
the prelude eclipses the main act.
Gathered in my pocket
I accept this impromptu gift.

—Sue Twiggs, Marshfield

AFTERMATH

An ordinary day like the others except for the sunrise.
Rain in the night had dissipated the customary grey shadow haze.
Amazement unfolded before us the sun the colors
we had never thought to see again.
So long had silence pervaded the world.
Words of angry rhetoric dissolved in wind.
Scrabbling, scrabbling, scrabbling
for food for water for futile survival
the only sound remaining
Soon it would be gone
as we ourselves would be gone.
We stopped. We stared. We wondered
at the sun at the colors
at the promise of rebirth.

—*JoAnn Chang, Milwaukee*

THE PLUMBER DIDN'T GET HERE UNTIL NOON

before which the dog ran off to visit neighbors
down the road, requiring a car trip to pick him up
without any satisfaction that he understood his sin
and delaying my chore of clearing workspace
for the impending replacement of conduits
that served for years to carry away our water and waste
so I was happy if that is the word that the plumber was late
but my stress level had peaked and my nerves were frayed
The jolly big man arrived with no apologies for lateness
and got right to the job, as if it no big deal
which to him it was not, all in a day's work
whereas I was a basket case until he left
and was handed a bill somewhat less than I feared

—*Karen Wilson, Egg Harbor*

PASSING

Another moon bays and beckons,
children dream, wood ashes sink on the
hearth, wind comes and goes at will,
memories pile up like dust on fading frames.

Too small to catch, tiny moments,
silent flakes of days, untallied.

—*Yvette Flaten, Eau Claire*

WHO

Zeus dropped in today
we shared wine and idle chat
then he bolted off

—*Joan Giusto, Tomahawk*

STARTING THE WEEK

Monday I wash light colored clothes
after checking to see what came up
in the garden overnight.
When the phone rang, I expected
a dental reminder.
It was my son sobbing
“She’s dying. You have to come.”
An aneurysm sent blood
bursting through her brain.
The organ donor team asked
the immobile husband
sitting on a white plastic chair,
“Will you give away her eyes?
Her jawbone and skin?”

Will you give away your heart?

—*Hannah Pinkerton, Madison*

MY DAY OFF

The coffee enhances the sunrise
waking my body slowly
caressing my corpuscles.
Travel by foot to the kitchen
broadens my horizons.
All day long blood runs
up and down and around:
I can feel it
jumping over each speed bump.
Activity fills my lazy day—
the race to the phone
to ignore the robocall.
Air transparent enters,
filling my lungs
that cuddle and feed my heart.

—*Julia Rice, Milwaukee*

SOUND AND SILENCE

Water condensed on dust motes is lifted by wind
falls, catches a draft, whirls aloft,
attracts more water, sails up, then finally down
through clouds covering acres of sky.

Cows bawl, their backs and sides pelted by shards.
A black dog yelps, nips their heels,
chases them toward the barn.

A man drives his truck onto the pasture,
jumps out, calls, waves his arms.
But cows and dog only whirl, mewl, bellow, bark.

The wind drops, rain falls silently
on white ice scattered on green grass.

—*Pauline Witte, Middleton*

DATE NIGHT AT COSTCO

It's Friday—date night
so off we trundle to Costco
where acres of warm space open to us
on a cold winter's eve with only reruns on TV,
so we might as well go somewhere.
We stroll the main boulevard,
blink at the banks of gizmos glittering
like the diamond cases next to them;
goggle next season's ginormous
patio kitchens, bigger than
my modest ranch, lounge
on the seven-piece deck set
fantasizing under Costco's domed sun,
the promise of a free samples buffet
luring us down the aisles.

—*Liz Rhodebeck, Waukesha*

THANKS GIVING

I made a pot of soup
in the sanctuary of my kitchen.
I eased dark meat from drumsticks—
the final step—and, with reverence,
gave thanks to the sacrificed turkey.

—*Jan Bosman, Woodstock, Illinois*

OVERHEARD CONVERSATIONS

At the coffee shop—
... there's nothing in the Bible
about how to handle emotions ...

At the grocery store—
... dinosaurs are only a theory because
they're not mentioned in the Bible ...

I catch threads of conversations
as I weave through my day.
My own thoughts—closed and contained,
begin to unravel as if
I've just opened the invisible pages
of the heart and mind—
the holy book of love and common sense.

—*Diana Randolph, Drummond*

COMING HOME

No swooping arrival on the back of a swan
silvered in the moonlit night, no
horse to pull a carriage home,
with jingling bells and trotting steps, no
writhing boreal light display, no
trumpet fanfare, choral voices raised in joy, no
crowd to gather at the crier's call, no
news crew gets the interview, no
paparazzo snaps the moment--
door flung wide, light spilling out to draw
the wanderer inside.

—*Eileen Mattmann, West Bend*

ANOTHER REALITY DEADLINE APRIL 15

Let's play with reality. The border between real
and surreal. Wander into hyper-reality. Get lost
in an alternate version. Touch on technology,
media, facts vs alternative facts, romance,
dreaming, self-delusion. Which side of the
looking glass is which? 20 line limit.

Send to: erichardson@wi.rr.com

ALEXA

arrived uninvited Christmas morning
Amazon woman
built like a hockey puck
says she is here to play music
answer questions
be useful
when asked to sing a holiday song
happily belts one out
answers questions almost as well
as a magic eight ball
cannot help with the dishes
or prepare dinner
may be asked to testify in court
is always listening

—Naomi Cochran, Hayward

THE FROZEN AIR

The snowplow got stuck in a mountain
of snow when it was still dark;
a voice spoke of ancient legends
when dawn broke, the trees
frosted along every branch;
someone's agile fingers played
Bach through the frozen air;
juncos hopped and pecked
by the back door and cardinals
fed, till dusk dropped down to dark.

—Peg Carlson Lauber, Eau Claire

Next Issue Deadline
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