



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

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April 2011

President's Message



Dear NFSPS Poets:

Come to convention. You will seriously love it. In 2000, when I was first time president of the Poetry Society of Tennessee, Betty Grugin, who was at that time national treasurer, told me that no one from Tennessee ever attended and encouraged me to come. I went to Minnesota that year with a sense of duty and the idea that if I did not like it I would not have to come back. I found that I loved it. Where else can you spend several days associating with poets

from all over the country, listening to speakers who advance your knowledge of the art of poetry; and, yes, even socializing and having fun. There are always wonderful tours to acquaint you with a different convention location each year. The Poetry Society of Michigan has planned a spectacular convention this year. I don't have space here to read you the details, but they are all in *Strophes*. I know there are some people that complain about travel expenses and use that as an excuse not to travel from another part of the country. Don't listen to them. These same people do not attend when we locate a convention in a neighboring state. I challenge you to come this year, but warn you. This will be my twelfth consecutive convention. NFSPS conventions are addictive.

I have had some wonderful feedback from poets around the country concerning such varied topics as convention topics and the possibility of placing poems in *Strophes*. My thanks to those who responded to my message, but I would still like to hear from many more people between now and convention. I have started calling state presidents to get their opinions. It may take months before I can talk to all of them. If you are a state president whose phone number is difficult to find, you might want to email me to let me know how to reach you.

I have appointed Christina Foster of Tennessee to a new position on our executive board. She will be our planning coordinator.

At the request of our editor, Bethany Ng, I have appointed Paul Ford to the executive board to the position of associate editor. He deserves this title as he does a superb job. Helen Beaman has asked to be relieved of her duties as College/University Contest Chairman. I hated to hear this because of the wonderful enthusiasm she put into that position, but I will announce in the future a successor to replace her in June.

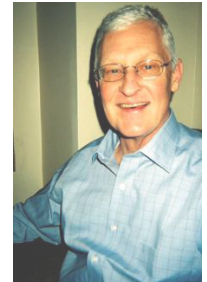
We would still like to see an affiliated society in every state. If you know of groups in unaffiliated states that would like to join, let me or our membership chairman Eleanor Berry know about them. We do have to stress, however, that the entire group must join. NFSPS is an association of poetry societies not of individuals; so any group joining must be willing to pay dues on all their members.

As always, I wish much happiness for all who join me in the joy of creative poetry. Poets are special people.

Russell H. Strauss ~ 29th NFSPS President

COLORADOAN WINS STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION

The winner of the Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition is *Lines from the Surgeon's Children, 1862-1865*, by Rawdon Tomlinson of Denver, Colorado. He has been awarded \$1,000, and his manuscript will be published this spring by NFSPS Press. This will be Tomlinson's third full-length book of poetry. His earlier volumes are *Geronimo After Kas-ki-yeh* (LSU Press 2007) and the prize-winning *Deep Red*, which won the Colorado Book Award for Poetry in 1995. Tomlinson holds a PhD from the University of Denver, and recently retired from a career of teaching English and Creative Writing to spend time with his wife and three daughters.



Lines from the Surgeon's Children centers on the children of one family as they experience the Civil War, using the form of letters and journals to provide a powerfully convincing and multifaceted exploration of a Louisiana regiment from the initial muster to final surrender.

Lola Haskins was the judge. The author of 10 volumes, including her recent *Still, the Mountain* (Paper Kite 2010) and the well-known guide to writing, *Not Feathers Yet* (Backwaters 2007). Ms. Haskins also has these forthcoming books: *Fifteen Florida Cemeteries* (Florida) and *The Grace to Leave* (Anhinga Press). Haskins selected Tomlinson's manuscript from roughly 200 manuscripts from all over the United States. She also selected the following manuscripts of special merit for honorable mention:

- *Family Law*, by Susan Stevens Chambers, Minnesota
- *Light Shadow Tide*, by Wendy Chin-Tanner, New York
- *Amfibio*, by Heather Maki, California
- *The Infant Scholar*, by Kathy Nilsson, Massachusetts
- *The Constant Visitors*, by Will Schutt, Pennsylvania

Concerning Rawdon Tomlinson's *Lines from the Surgeon's Children*, Haskins was deeply impressed by the clarity and historical accuracy of the manuscript, and she commented that "a field doctor is the perfect metaphor for a story like this. On some occasions, there is nothing he can do but witness; on others, he must cut a wounded soldier open, even though he knows the soldier may die, or especially because he knows that. The skill of a poet, like that of a doctor, depends on observation, and Rawdon Tomlinson has observed his world in such convincing detail that when we, his readers, close the book, we feel that, though we know it's physically impossible, we must have been there." Rawdon Tomlinson's new book will be available for purchase at the 2011 NFSPS Convention in Dearborn, Michigan. He will also be there to read from the book at dinner on Saturday, June 18th, and sign copies.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.**

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder

Honorary Chancellor: Ted Kooser
(Appointment made June, 2010)

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ARKANSAS: Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

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Lexa, AR 72355 ~ bettypoet@yahoo.com

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FLORIDA: Florida State Poets Association

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Wesley Chapel, FL 33543 ~ ba_whitney@juno.com

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LOUISIANA: Louisiana State Poetry Society

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~ moimarta@comcast.net (Marta's e-mail address)

MASSACHUSETTS: Massachusetts State Poetry Society

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01905 ~ msps.jcmaes@comcast.net

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Billy Pennington, Co-President, P.O. Box. 7842,

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STROPHES

Strophes, the newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., is published four times a year: August (*June 25th) ~ October (*August 25th) ~ January (*November 25th) ~ April (*February 25th). News items and information on contests may be sent via regular mail or e-mail, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

Bethany Ng, *Strophes* Editor

5217 S. Heath Ave., Kearns, UT 84118

bepoteach_1@netzero.net

Strophes is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$5.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a #10 SASE and \$1.00 per copy.

* Submission Deadlines

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~ A Note From the NFSPS President ~

To: Attendees of the 2011 NFSPS Annual Convention (An Invitation) ~ Re: 1st and 2nd Plenary Sessions ~

You are encouraged to attend both Plenary Sessions (i.e., Friday, June 17, 9:00 a.m. and Sunday, June 19, 9:30 a.m.). After you are welcomed and given an overview of the Convention, NFSPS Board members will be introduced and deliver their reports on the running of NFSPS and its various programs/projects. You might witness discussion and voting on a motion by the appointed State Delegates. State societies' activities of the past year will be learned via the reading of State Reports. So, your presence is requested, as NFSPS is your organization.

To: State Society Presidents (A Reminder)

~ Re: State Delegates to the 2011 NFSPS Annual Convention, State Reports & the State Presidents' Meeting ~

You are entitled to name up to five State Delegates, who are expected to be present at the 1st and 2nd Plenary Sessions to be available to vote on motions that might be brought before them by the NFSPS Executive Board. Certification of their status must be brought to the Convention by each Delegate in order to be seated. A letter listing the Delegates should be mailed prior to the Convention to NFSPS Secretary Christine Delea with a copy being mailed to NFSPS President Russell Strauss, also. State Reports could be mailed at the same time. These need to be as brief as possible (limited to two typewritten or computer printed pages in standard number 12 font), filled only with interesting highlights of state society activities in the past year. Reporters need to be assigned, and if it is known that no one from a state society will be attending the Convention, notice should be given in advance. If you attend the Convention, plan on coming to the State Presidents' Meeting scheduled on Friday, June 17, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Great Lakes...Great Poetry Convention

June 16 – 19, 2011 Dearborn Michigan

Program

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

6:30 PM—**Buddy's Pizza – Detroit's**
original deep dish pizza since 1935

Thursday, June 16, 2011

9:30 AM Registration
9:30 AM Book Room
9:00AM Tour Henry Ford Museum
1:00 PM - 4:00PM Board meeting
5:30 PM Terry Wooten Poetry
Jukebox/Darolyn Brown performance

Friday, June 17, 2011

7:00 AM Open readings
9:30 AM Registration
9:30 AM Book Room
8:00 AM State Pres. Mtg.
9:00 AM Plenary Session
10:45AM Mary Jo Firth Gillette "From the
Muddle"
10:45AM Terry Wooten "Elder's Project"
12:30PM Lunch Invocational Poem
Manningham Awards
2:30 PM David James "Absurdity and
Humor in Poetry"
3:45PM Readings by Margo LaGattuta
/Mary Jo Firth Gillette
Break
5:30 PM Dinner
Invocational Poem
Readings by
David James/Martha Doody
10:00 PM Open readings

Saturday, June 18, 2011

7:00 AM Open readings
9:00 AM Registration
9:30 AM Book Room
9:30 AM Martha Doody
10:45AM Robert Fanning "Hammer
Anvil, Stirrup, Soul"
Break

12:30 Lunch

College/University winners
2:45 PM Margo LaGattuta /
Sheila Landis Trio
4:00PM Readings by Robert Fanning &
Terry Blackhawk
5:30 PM Shiela Landis Trio music
5:30 PM Dinner
Stevens Winner
10:00 PM Open readings

Sunday, June 19, 2011

7:00 AM Open readings
8:00 Business Meeting
8:30 AM Book Room (closes at 2:30 PM)
9:30 AM Plenary Session
11:00 AM Marie Howe
12:30PM Lunch
Featured poet M. L. Liebler
2:30 PM Panel Discussion
4:00 PM Autographs
Break
5:00PM Performance by John Lamb
5:30 PM Reception
6:30 PM Dinner
Keynote speaker –
Marie Howe
10:00 PM Open readings

Monday, June 20, 2011

8:00A Open Poetry readings
9:00 AM Tour - Greenfield Village

Important notice to published authors

We will be utilizing a computerized tracking system to manage the 2011 NFSPS bookstore. This system has been successfully used in prior events and will allow for a more prompt payout process. As with any computer program, good output requires good input. If you plan to sell your books at

this convention, please provide the bookstore manager with the following information as soon as possible:

- Author's name
- Book(s) title
- Book sale price
- Quantity(s) to be displayed

Please forward the above information to:

Ingrid D'Angelo
8470 Stout
Grosse Ile, MI 48138
Email: ingrid2@comcast.net

Your early cooperation will benefit everyone.

Our Presenters

Keynote speaker, Marie Howe is the author of three volumes of poetry, *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time* (2008); *The Good Thief* (1988); and *What the Living Do* (1997), and is the co-editor of a book of essays, *In the Company of My Solitude: American Writing from the AIDS Pandemic* (1994). Stanley Kunitz selected Howe for a Lavan Younger Poets Prize from the American Academy of Poets.



She has, in addition, been a fellow at the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College and a recipient of NEA and Guggenheim fellowships. Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Poetry*, *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *Harvard Review*, and *The Partisan Review*, among others. Currently, Howe teaches creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College, Columbia, and New York University.

Marie Howe wowed readers and critics alike with her first book of poems, *The Good Thief*. Selected by Margaret Atwood as the 1989 winner of the National Poetry Series, the book explored the themes of relationship, attachment, and loss in a uniquely personal search for transcendence. Howe's equally acclaimed second book, *What the Living Do*, addressed the grief of losing a loved one. Part of the urgency and importance of Howe's poetry stems from its rootedness in real life. Howe's poetry is intensely intimate, and her bravery in laying bare the music of her own pain—but never the pain alone—is part of its resonance. Inside each poem there is also a joy, a new breath of life, some kind of redemption. "Each of them seems a love poem to me," says Howe.

Martha Modena Vertreace-Doody is a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, a Distinguished Professor of English, and Poet-in-Residence at Kennedy-King College, Chicago, IL. She received her MFA at Vermont College. Her many books include *Second House from the Corner*, *Under a Cat's-Eye Moon*, *Oracle Bones*, *Cinnabar*, *Smokeless Flame*, *Kelly in the Mirror*, *Maafa: When Night Becomes a Lion*, *Dragon Lady: Tsukimi*, and *Glacier Fire*. *Light Caught Bending* and *Second Mourning*, published by Diehard Publishers, Edinburgh, won Scottish Arts Council Grants. Named the Glendora Review Poet, Lagos, Nigeria, she was twice a Fellow at the Hawthornden International Writers' Retreat in Scotland. Eastern Washington University chose her as Poetry Fellow, in residence at the Writers Center, Dublin, Ireland. She was a Fellow at St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, Wales, on a bursary. She has poems in *Illinois Voices: An Anthology of Twentieth-Century Poetry* (University of Illinois Press, 2001) and *Poets of the New Century* (David R. Godine Publisher, 2001). Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein published her poem, "Walking Under Night Sky" in his cassette "Bread & Steel: Illinois Poets Reading from Their Works." She lives in Chicago with her husband, Tim, and their cats, Fred and Patrick Samuel.



M. L. Liebler is an internationally known and widely published Detroit poet, university professor, literary arts activist and arts organizer. He is the author of 13 books including the Award winning *Wide Awake in Someone Else's Dream* (Wayne State



University Press 2008) featuring poems written in and about Russia, Israel, Germany, Alaska and Detroit. *Wide Awake* won The Paterson Poetry Prize for Literary Excellence and The American Indie Book Award for 2009. In 2005, he was named St. Clair Shores' (his hometown) first Poet Laureate. Liebler has read and performed his work in many countries around the globe and most of the 50 States. He has taught at Wayne State University in Detroit since 1980, and is founding director of both The National Writer's Voice Project in Detroit and Springfield Arts: Metro Detroit Writers Literary Arts Organization. He was recently selected as Best Detroit Poet by *The Detroit Free Press & Detroit's Metro Time*, and he was the nation's first ever Artist in Residence for a Public Library at The Chelsea District Library for 2008-2009. In 2010, he received The Barnes & Noble Poets & Writers for Writers Award with Maxine Hong Kingston & Junot Diaz. www.mlliebler.com.

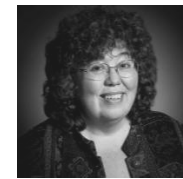
Terry Wooten: Michigan Poet Bard. As Michigan's poet-bard Terry Wooten has taken his performance poetry and writing workshop program to thousands for the past 27 years. He has twice won the Michigan Creative Artist Award, was the MC for Michigan's Poetry Out Loud Program for two years, and is currently a columnist. His most recent work, the Elders Project, links oral histories with literature using interviews to create poetry. Terry is also the builder and host of the Stone Circle, a triple ring of 88 large boulders with a center fire. Its layout is reminiscent of a time when bards spun their tales to an enchanted audience. Offering more than a hundred poets' work from which his audience can select, Terry recites in jukebox fashion their requests. Performing from a nine-hour repertoire, he has become a living anthology of ancient through contemporary literature, as well as his own work, rich in humor and lore. As a Michigan poet with a bioregional focus on people and places, Wooten has written poems on diverse topics that range from Ernie Harwell, Springwells Mound, shipwrecks, and voices of the Great Lakes Region.



Robert Fanning is the author of *American Prophet* (Marick Press, 2009), *The Seed Thieves* (Marick Press, 2006) and *Old Bright Wheel* (Ledge Press Poetry Award 2003).

His poems have appeared in numerous journals, including *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Shenandoah*, and *The Atlanta Review*, among others. A professor of Creative Writing at Central Michigan University, Fanning's writing awards include a Creative Artist Grant from ArtServe Michigan, the Inkwell Poetry Award, and the Foley Poetry Award. He lives in Mt. Pleasant, MI, with his wife, sculptor Denise Whitebread Fanning, and their two small children. For more information, visit www.robertfanning.com.

Margo LaGattuta, 2005 winner of The Mark Twain Award for her contribution to Midwestern Literature, has her MFA from Vermont College and four published collections of poetry, *Embracing the Fall*, *The Dream Givers*, *Noedgelines*, and *Diversion Road*. Her poetry and essays have been published in many national literary magazines and anthologies. In 2002/2003 she received a Michigan Creative Artist's Grant from ArtServe Michigan to complete her newest poetry collection, *Bridge of Birds*. A two-time winner of the Midwest Poetry Award and many National Federation of State Poetry Societies Awards, including a recent Founders Award, she was nominated by Naomi Shihab Nye for a Pushcart Prize for her work in small press publishing. Margo writes for *Community Lifestyles* in Rochester, MI where she creates a weekly creative nonfiction column, featuring articles and theater reviews. She teaches writing at University of Michigan-Flint.



Mary Jo Firth Gillett's poetry collection, *Soluble Fish*, won the '07 Crab Orchard Series First Book Award. Her three award-winning chapbooks are: *Not One* (Detroit Writer's Voice), *Tiger in a Hairnet* (Small Poetry Press, Select Poets' Series), and *Chandeliers of Fish* (Poetry West). Mary Jo's poems have been published widely in journals such as *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Southern Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Sycamore Review*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Third Coast*, *Passages North*, and *Margie*. She has won the N.Y. Open Voice Award and teaches poetry workshops for Springfield Arts, Metro Detroit Writers. Her MFA is from Vermont College.





Terry Blackhawk is the founder and director of Detroit's acclaimed InsideOut Literary Arts Project, a poets-in-schools program, serving over 5,000 youth per year. She began teaching English in 1968 after graduating from Antioch College, and took up writing poetry, herself, when she was already teaching it to her students. Terry's poetry collections include *Body & Field* (Michigan State University Press, 1999), *Escape Artist* (BkMk Press, 2003), selected by Molly Peacock for the John Ciardi Prize; and *The Dropped Hand* (Marick Press, 2007). She has published two chapbooks, *Trio: Voices from the Myths* (Ridgeway Press, 1998) and *Greatest Hits 1989-2003* (Pudding House Press). Her poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and journals, including *Marlboro Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Florida Review*, *Borderlands*, *Artful Dodge*, *The MacGuffin* and *Nimrod*. Her essays have been published in *Review Revue*, *An Emily Dickinson Encyclopedia*, *Language Arts Journal of Michigan* and anthologies from the Teachers & Writers Collaborative. She was a finalist for the 2009 Pablo Neruda Prize from Nimrod Press for "Out of the Labyrinth" and other poems. She has received many recognitions for her teaching, including Creative Writing Educator of the Year from the Michigan Youth Arts Festival (2008), a Humanities Award from Wayne County Arts, History and Humanities Council (2008), and 2007 Detroit Bookwoman of the Year from the Women's National Book Association. Terry is the recipient of the 2010 Pablo Neruda Poetry Prize from Nimrod International for her poem "Chambered Nautilus, with Tinnitus and Linden."



David James. After writing poetry for over thirty years, I've recently tried my hand at playwriting with some success. I've had six one-acts plays produced off-off-Broadway in New York, and roughly a dozen other plays produced in Massachusetts, Michigan, and California. As a lifelong poet, it's been a rush to have other people "say" my words in the plays. I highly recommend it! David James has published six books: *She Dances Like Mussolini* (March Street Press, 2009), *Trembling in Someone's Palm* (March Street Press, 2007), *I Will Peel This Mask Off* (March Street Press, 2004),

I Dance Back (March Street Press, 2002), *Do Not Give Dogs What is Holy* (March Street Press, 1994), *A Heart Out of This World* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 1984) His poetical works have been published in such journals as: *Bryant Literary Review*, *Caliban*, *California Quarterly*, *Iowa Review*, *Literary Review*, *North American Review*, *Poem*, *Quarterly West*, *Rattle*, and *Taproot Literary Review*. In addition, David James has received a Michigan Council for the Arts grant, and 2nd place in the Nantucket Short Play Festival, 2008.

John D. Lamb's CD, *Feel That*, is the winner of the 2007 Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Acoustic/Folk Recording. "...Lamb nails the exhilaration of the Up



North experience as the driver in one song heads for the ski slopes and the good times, while wary of the whitetails on the road....With a laid-back, made-in-Detroit drawl, his voice and lyrics invite comparisons to populist songwriters ranging from Mellencamp to Steve Earle, with roots buried in the heart of the country..." according to John Gjaltema in the Northern Express Weekly, Traverse City. Lisa Wexton of the Metro Times review of *A Novel Day* states that Lamb "...writes songs as if he's spent his whole life on the road ... demonstrates Lamb's finesse with simple, evocative and catchy song crafting."

2011 NFSPS
Great Lakes, Great Poetry
Convention Poetry Contest
Theme: Anything Michigan or Lakes

First Place: \$200, Second Place: \$100, Third Place: \$50. Deadline May 1, 2011. Any form, Theme: Anything Michigan or Lakes. 40 line limit. Judges: Margo LaGattuta and Polly Opsahl. Entrants must be members of an NFSPS-affiliated state poetry society. Awards will be announced and the top ten poems read during Thursday evening's activities. Entries may be published and may or may not have placed in contests elsewhere. Entries must be titled. Winners need not be present to win. Send two copies of each poem. On one copy, provide poem only. Second copy should include entrant's name, address, phone number, e-mail if you have one, and state poetry society in upper left hand corner. Limit 3 poems per entrant. Entry Fee: \$5 for one poem, \$10 for up to 3 poems per entrant. Make checks payable to: PSM (Poetry Society of Michigan).
Mail entries after January 1, 2011 to: Polly Opsahl, Michigan Convention Poetry Contest, 270 Brewster Rd, Rochester Hills, MI 48309-1507.

2011 NFSPS Convention
Great Lakes, Great Poetry
Invocational Poem Contest Guidelines

Invocational poems will be read by winners at the beginning of Convention meals. The paramount consideration is poetic value, not religious orthodoxy. The poem must be, first of all, a poem, and should be suited to a religiously diverse membership, and should use gender-inclusive, contemporary language. Six poems will be chosen for a \$25.00 award each. These six poems will not be ranked. They may be any form and should not exceed 20 lines in length. The contest is open to all poets and must be the original work of the poet, unpublished, not submitted elsewhere for publication, and not a previous host-contest winning poem. It should be typed or computer generated. Fee for poems is \$2.00 per poem for a limit of three poems. Checks must be made payable to: PSM (Poetry Society of Michigan). Send entries after January 1, 2011. Entries should be postmarked no later than March 1, 2011. Winners will be notified in April 2011. Judges will be Mono D'Angelo, PSM Vice-President, and Carolyn Walker, Peninsula Poets Editor. We place a high value on the winner reading his/her own poem, but a substitute reader will be provided if you cannot be present at the Convention. If this is the case, please add a note that you will need a reader. Send two copies, both with the name of the contest in the upper left corner. One copy only should have your name and address, with e-mail address if you have one, in the upper right hand corner. Poems will not be returned. The Poetry Society of Michigan reserves the right to have this poem read at the 2011 Convention. The poet retains all other rights.

Mail entries to: Carolyn Walker, 2011 Convention Invocational Contest, 54 W. Washington St., Clarkston, Mich. 48346

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY met on January 29, 2011, at Kennesaw State University. The featured poet was Jenny Sadre-Orafai, Assistant Professor of English at Kennesaw State University. J. C. Reilly was a featured member reader. GPS member Ron Self presented a workshop on writing, rewriting, and editing. Lou Jones, Chairperson of the GPS Contest Committee, recognized contest winners whose poetry will be published in *The Reach of Song 2011* by the Georgia Poetry Society. Retiring President Keith Badowski introduced the new president, Robert S. King, along with other new officers and board members. ~
Ann K. Gillespie, GPS Reporter

Tour Information

The Henry Ford complex has grown into the ultimate place to explore what Americans have imagined and invented. Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum are second only to the Smithsonian in annual attendance. See <http://www.thehenryford.org>

THE HENRY FORD MUSEUM is filled with history that tells the stories of men and women whose vision and courage changed the world around them. It's a vast building, 12 acres under one roof, that is home to everything from the bus where Rosa Parks sparked the nation's social conscience to R. Buckminster Fuller's dazzling Dymaxion House, from the Kennedy presidential limousine to a rare reproduction of the Declaration of Independence. There is even the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile.

GREENFIELD VILLAGE whisks attendees back in time. Its 81 acres are filled with the sights, sounds and even the tastes of 300 years of American life. There's the workshop where the Wright brothers created their groundbreaking flying machine, Thomas Edison's Menlo Park laboratory, and the courthouse where Abraham Lincoln first practiced law. Try your hand at glassblowing or clamber under a 40-ton railroad engine. Learn to play rollicking 19th century games or take a ride in a genuine Model T. Watch master potters at work or baseball teams playing by the 1867 rules, or ride a train pulled by a 19th century steam engine. And if you're after culinary adventure, select a meal from an 1850s menu.

1. Refer to THE HENRY FORD (THF) packet of information that you received in your Convention handouts for general information.

2. Nearly all attendees may walk the ten-minute, three blocks to the tour site. (See the map inside your handout pack)

3. The Dearborn Inn has a van to drive those attendees, who have physical limitations, to THF Imax theater. The Inn also has a car for use in case the van is in use by the Inn for some other purpose. Contact the Inn Concierge at the lobby desk. In addition, if an attendee has access to a car, he/she may drive to THF. There is ample free parking.

4. THF has scooters for rent at \$20 per day and wheelchairs at \$4 per day. They may be acquired at the lobby of the Imax Theatre, as are all "extra" tickets that an attendee may wish to buy.

5. Those attendees that have not pre-purchased tickets, but wish to go on a tour may have to pay for tickets at general public prices.

6. THF opens at 9 AM on both Thursday and Monday.

7. If there are any questions about the tours during the convention, please contact Ed Van Slambrouck by asking for him at the registration table. Please, read THF info pack before contacting Ed.

8. To visit other places of interest in the Detroit area, it is necessary for the attendee to make his/her own personal plans.

9. Your tickets are good for one year. However, we encourage you to use them as indicated on the front of the registration form.

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY is nearing the completion of its first members' anthology which will hopefully be complete by the national convention. This collection will celebrate the ISPS' 20th anniversary in June. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

KENTUCKY STATE POETRY SOCIETY members met in Lure Lodge at Lake Cumberland State Park, Jamestown, KY, on a beautiful autumn weekend, October 15 – 17, 2010, for the society's Annual Meeting and Poetry Conference. The weekend began on Friday evening with 2010 President Tony Sexton leading the members in a discussion of new ideas and possible directions that the society might pursue. Throughout the weekend, Contest Chair Irma Cooper outdid herself in carrying out the theme, "Purple" (her favorite color), by providing purple decorations, writing pads and pens, totes and prizes. Attendees were greeted by a stylish bird created from a giant purple egg and were challenged to submit a "purple" poem to the weekend contest, the winner to be announced at the awards ceremony following the banquet. Saturday morning was devoted to a meeting of the Executive Board and the Annual Meeting of the society. On Saturday afternoon, Katerina Stoykova-Klemer, founder and Senior Editor of Accents Publishing, led two workshops, "From Draft to Craft" and "Bigger than They Appear—A Close Look at the Very Short Poem." On Saturday evening, members gathered for a delicious banquet, after which awards were presented to winners in the annual poetry contest. Winners who were present were invited to read their winning poems. Regardless of whether a winning poet was present or not, all winning poetry was read at some point during the weekend. Larry Moore topped off the awards presentation by naming the five winners of Broadstone Media's "Hats off to Jane" prize (Jane Chancellor Moore Award). Each evening ended with members tired from the activities of the day, but not too exhausted to gather and share their poetry in Round Robin reading. ~ *Rebecca Lindsay, President*

LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY held its Annual Business Meeting and Fall Festival on October 17, 2010. Business included an election of new officers: President: Charles Egedy, Jr.; 1st Vice-President: Mary C. Galvin; 2nd Vice-President: Carolyn Files; 3rd Vice-President: Luberta Boeke-Farrell; Recording Secretary: Sarah Johnson; and Treasurer: Linda McCullough. Poetry Day was celebrated with the a round-table poetry reading by attendees and announcement of the Fall

Contest winners. The Greater New Orleans-Fleur de Lys Chapter will be hosting the Louisiana State Poetry Society Spring Festival on April 16, 2011. ~ *Mary C. Galvin, 1st Vice-President*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY in February gathered in Portland for their all-day meeting. Extensive written critiques for the haiku entries provided by member judge Cynthia Brackett-Vincent, editor of the *Aurorean*, were read aloud in the morning session. In the afternoon, Martin Steingesser, Portland's first poet laureate, gave detailed commentary on entries on the subject "Namaste" interspersed with recital of some of his own work. The society normally meets three times a year. Next meeting will be May 21st in Augusta, with judges Dawn Potter and Tom Carper. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Non-members are welcome and may stay to participate in a reading-in-the-round at about 3:00 p.m. This year, we are planning a fourth meeting--a workshop, in October, open to all. For more information, contact co-President Marta Finch: moimarta@comcast.net. For membership information, contact Membership Chair Cynthia Brackett-Vincent. Visit the MPS info page on her website, www.encirclepub.com/poetry/mps or e-mail Brackett-Vincent@encirclepub.com, or call 207-778-0467. ~ *Sally Joy, Publicity Chair*

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY will hold its March 5 meeting at the West Branch of the Peabody Institute Library. Morning program will be a writing workshop, "IMAGINING A RESULT...IF" conducted by President, Jeanette C. Maes. Beverley Barnes and Roberta Hung will unveil "Poets' Gallery" with a collage of photos of Society members with the "Get Acquainted" theme. Afternoon will be the presentation by the Wordcrafters Chapter of "POETRY ON CANVAS" with artists interpretation of poems of poets which was on exhibit and on local television stations. Winners of the "Arthur Potter Memorial contest" and the "Of Thee I Sing Contest" will be announced and winning poems read. A list of our six annual poetry contests is available on our web-site: mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com with complete information and rules of contests. ~ *Jeanette C. Maes, President*

NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY Annual Poetry Contest Guidelines for 2011 - Deadline: 15 July, 2011. Categories: #1 Rhymed, #2 Free Verse, #3 Southwest (theme, reference, or setting), #4 Humor, #5 Youth (by poets 18 and under). 1st Prize: \$40, 2nd Prize: \$25, 3rd Prize: \$15, prizes in each category. Any form, 40 line limit. Poems must be: Original work of the entrant (please no poems that have won in the past in any NMSPS Contests only); previously published accepted, including electronic; typed or computer generated (not hand written or printed), and single-spaced; without illustrations; written in English; and titled, unless a haiku. No more than 6 poems per entrant. Send 2 clear copies of each poem on 8 1/2" X 11" white paper in black ink. On BOTH copies, place category # and description at upper left. For poems over 1 page, put page number on upper left, just below category designation. On second copy ONLY, add poet's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if any) at upper right. Flat entry fee: \$20 for 1-6 poems. Check or money order payable to NMSPS. Include an SASE on a white legal sized envelope. Mail to: NMSPS 2011 Annual Poetry Contest, c/o Annmarie Pearson, 454 Diana Dr. NE, Los Lunas, NM, 87031. First Class or Priority Mail only-no delivery requiring a signature. ~ *Annmarie H. Pearson, Contest Chair*, altbalance@msn.com

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS' 54th Annual Awards Banquet was held in the Bistro Room of the Crowne Plaza Suites - Dallas Park Central on November 13, 2010. The theme was "Happy Poetic Trails." Mildred Vorpahl Baass and Nancy Baass were Co-Chairmen of the event and welcomed attendees; it was announced that the mother-daughter team would not be seeking chairmanship reappointment for 2011 having been proudly and happily in charge of twelve banquets (1994-1998 and 2004-2010). After the meal was served, President Catherine L'Herisson made introductions. Nancy Baass, Immediate Past President of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., brought greetings from NFSPS. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award, announced that of three worthy nominees, there was a tie for 2010, the recipients, in alphabetical order, being Valerie Martin Bailey and *Don R. Stodghill (*award given posthumously); Mary Margaret Carlisle was the third nominee. Nancy Baass, Chairman of the 2010 PST Annual Contests, gave her report. Vice President Jimmye Inez Sessions and President Catherine L'Herisson announced

the names of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners. 1st Place winners who were present read their poems. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman of the 2010 Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award, announced that the winner was Alan Birkelbach. 2nd Place went to Lynn Lewis and 3rd Place went to Loretta Diane Walker. ~ *Nancy Baass, Reporter*

UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY presents Poetry In the Park, March 25, 2011, at Zion National Park featuring Diane Glancy. Her Reading and poetry conversation at Zion National Park on March 25 will be followed by a challenging workshop: "Inside the Lines-- Getting Close to the Fire That is Within." Poets attending are in for a day of stimulating conversation, readings, workshop activity, writing, and walking with friends in undoubtedly the most beautiful poetic setting in the world. To register, scroll down at www.zionpark.org. Poetry in the Park is a partnership of Utah State Poetry Society and Zion Natural History Association, and is supported in part by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, with funding from the State of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information: poetaken@gmail.com. Linda Pastan, featured poet at Utah State Poetry Society's annual April Awards Festival April 22-23, grew up in New York City, graduated from Radcliffe College, and received an MA from Brandeis University. She has published 12 volumes of poetry, most recently *Queen of a Rainy Country*. Two of these books have been finalists for the National Book Award. Her new book, *Traveling Light*, was published by Norton in January. Ms. Pastan is reading from her latest book at 7 p.m. Friday, April 22, and presenting a conference workshop Saturday, April 23. This year's statewide gathering of poets at the Salt Lake Airport Hilton initiates a new tradition of Friday afternoon workshops, thus extending the poetry conference weekend. Utah's distinguished State Poet Laureate, Katharine Coles, is presenting the first of this new series Friday at 2:00 p.m. Both days, winning poems will be read. Utah's 2011 Manuscript Contest winner will be announced Saturday afternoon, April 23, 2011, with a new poet taking the lead from 2010 Poet of the Year, Rosalyn Ostler, who won with *Walking the Earth Barefoot*. Saturday evening, before a packed room of excited students and parents, Utah State Poetry Society's Jr. Creative student awards will be announced. To attend this state conference of Utah poets, see www.utahpoets.com for program details and registration information. ~ *LaVerna Johnson, President*

WYOPOETS contest chairman, Eugene Shea, announced the results of the Eugene V. Shea National Poetry Contest as follows: First place and \$50 goes to Lauren Donley of Casper, WY for her poem, "Winter Ponies;" second place and \$30 to Genevieve Didier DeWitt of Baton Rouge, LA for "Summer Solstice Intact;" third place and \$20 to Theda Bassett of Salt Lake City UT for "Running The Ridges." This year's judge was Betty Grugin of Ripley, WV. All award-winning WyoPoets will be acknowledged at our Spring Workshop scheduled to meet on April 23, 2011 in Casper, Wyoming. Lee Ann Roripaugh is the featured presenter. Among those to be honored are Nancy Curtis and Patricia Frolander. Curtis, a charter member of WyoPoets, accepted the Wyoming Literary Arts award for "excellence and outstanding service to the arts in Wyoming" at a gala banquet at Cheyenne's Little America. Frolander received the prestigious Neltje Blanchan Prize of \$1000 for her series of poems, "Married Into It." Linda Coatney may be contacted at Lcoatn@state.wy.us for workshop information and registration forms. Poets world-wide are invited to visit www.wyopoets.com and get acquainted with Wyoming's poetry community. ~ *Lee Ann Siebken, Strophes correspondent*

CONTESTS

ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY's Annual Fall Poetry Contest will offer cash prizes for poems in varied categories, with several awarding \$100 in prize money. Winning poems will be read at our Fall Conference and may be published in *Sandcutters*, our quarterly journal. Contest rules will be available by April, with an entry deadline of early September. For details on entering, visit on-line, www.azpoetry.org or contact contest chairperson, Shirley Griesbach at 12811 W. Beechwood Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375.

KENTUCKY STATE POETRY SOCIETY 2011 Annual Contest. Deadline: postmarked by June 30, 2011. A variety of categories with cash prizes are offered. All poems must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant and cannot have won a cash prize. 32 line limit (unless otherwise stated) with 56-character line length. First place poems will be published in *Pegasus*, the KSPS journal. For complete guidelines visit the KSPS web site: www.kystatepoetrysociety.org/Contests.html

LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY
Fall Contest theme: "Conditions" with 7 categories. Deadline to request guidelines, May 15, 2011. Contest entry deadline: August 15, 2011. FMI: Pat S. Juelg, 12972 Arlingford Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, 225-275-2171.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY has a change of address for contest entries: M.S.P.S. Contest, 64 Harrison Ave, Lynn, MA 01905-1350. Please check MSPS web site for complete information about our contests: mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com

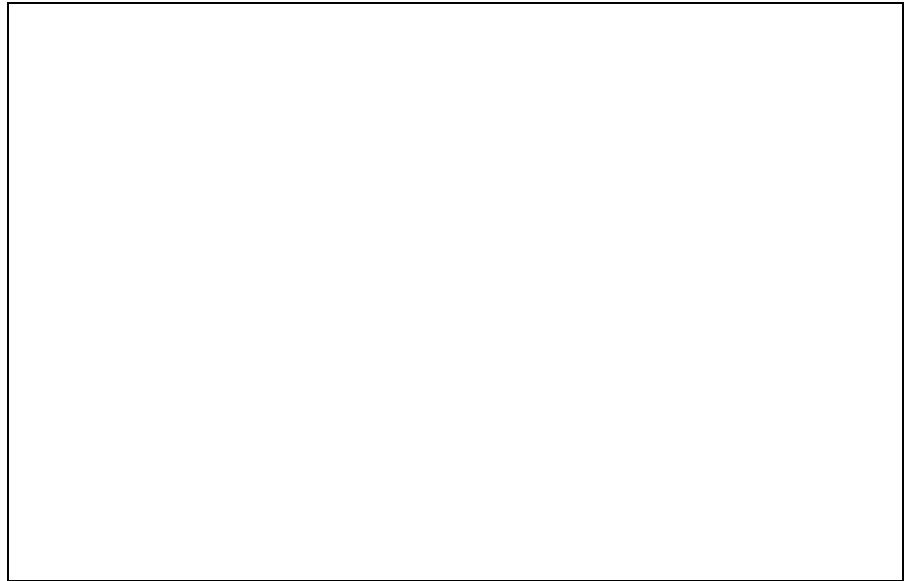
SAN ANTONIO POETRY FAIR is sponsored by the UTSA Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the UTSA English Department, the San Antonio Poetry Fair proudly announces its Fourteenth Annual SAPF Contest. The national contest has \$350 in cash awards. Please see www.sanantoniopoetryfair.com for entry details. Deadline is June 15; electronic entries only.

SENIOR POETS LAUREATE **COMPETITION's** 19th annual contest for state/national poets laureate age 50 and older. \$500/\$100. Deadline 6/30/11. Rules at www.amykitchenerfdn.org or send SASE to SPL 2011, P. O. Box 1821, Monterey, CA 93942-1821.

SPRINGFIELD WRITERS' GUILD
Annual Poetry/Prose Contest - Deadline: October 1, 2011. Awards \$5-\$100. Eleven categories in poetry, fiction and non-fiction, unpublished. Fees \$2.00 -\$3.00, depending on category. Poetry limit, one page. Prose limits 750 - 1,000 words. For more information: www.swgsite.org/Contest_2011.pdf

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE
contest brochure for the 54th Annual Mid-South Poetry Festival at Memphis, sponsored by the Poetry Society of Tennessee, will be available after June 1, 2011. Request a copy at fbruce1@comcast.net.

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS 2011
Annual Contests. Deadline: August 15, 2011 (postmark). Of the contests offered, 52 are open to PST Associate Members and Non-Members. First Place poems win monetary awards and publication in PST's *A Book of the Year*. The brochure listing all contests, procedures and rules, can be obtained at: www.poetrysocietyoftexas.com, or by mailing a SASE to: PST Annual Contests Chairman, Nancy Baass, 2306 N. De Leon St., Victoria, TX 77901-4812.



Remembering Wanda Bindrup Blaisdell
President of NFSPS from 1992 to 1994. She died peacefully on her 89th birthday, April 17, 2010 in Sandy, Utah. She was born April 17, 1921 to John and Ellen Bindrup in Logan, Utah. Wanda graduated from Logan High School, married James Pershing Blaisdell on Sept. 5, 1941 in the Logan LDS Temple. She traveled with Jim to several states while he was in the service during WWII and later in his work with the U. S. Forest Service. They settled in Ogden, Utah, parents of seven children, five sons and two daughters. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jim, and two sons; survived by two daughters and three sons, 17 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. Wanda loved the arts and serving others with her talents, which included composing and performing song lyrics, drama, and poetry, especially light verse. She sponsored light verse categories in Utah State Poetry Society and NFSPS contests and was lovingly remembered by many as "The queen of light verse." She directed the UTSPS Junior Creative Writing program for ten years, served as president of the Utah State Poetry Society from 1991-1993. Wanda was a natural leader, gracious, friendly and capable. She was president of the League of Utah Writers and president of the Utah National League of American Pen Women, as well as national president of NLAPW. She organized and promoted the collection of books by Utah authors known as SUBS, "Save Utah Books Sensibly" which now has hundreds of first edition books by Utah authors. So much more could be written and said about Wanda's life and accomplishments. All who knew her felt greatly enriched by the smiling warmth, enthusiasm and energy she radiated. In her own words we can say, "No words measure friends we treasure."

Remembering Ralph Hammond
President of NFSPS from 1994 to 1996. February 1, 1916 - December 10, 2010. Poet Laureate of Alabama (1991-1995). President of Alabama Writers' Conclave (1987-1989). President of Alabama State Poetry Society (1981-1984). He was the first U.S. Army Military War Correspondent in World War II and was awarded five battle stars for his almost three years of military duty across the entire sweep of Europe through the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, he was active in Alabama politics: Publicity Director of the State of Alabama (1946-1949), Press Secretary and Chief of Staff under Governor James Folsom (1950-1955). In 1960, President Eisenhower appointed him to the United States Study Commission, a position he held until 1966 when he was elected Mayor of Arab, Alabama (1966-1972). In May 1992 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters for his commitment to public service, dedication to literary arts, and friendship to Livingston University. Among his over 32 books: *My GI Aching Back* (1946) followed by *Ante-Bellum Mansions of Alabama* (1951) -- long considered a classic, two poetry books edited for Alabama State Poetry Society (*Edging Through the Grass*, 1985; *Alabama Poets: A Contemporary Anthology*, 1990 -- used by Livingston University as a poetry text book), six poetry chapbooks and many more poetry collections.

Remembering Melba Dungey
Longtime NFSPS Archivist passed away in January, 2011. Condolences and prayers are extended to her family. ~ *Nancy Baass, 28th President of NFSPS*