



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

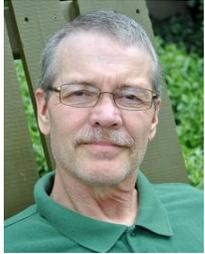
An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

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www.nfspd.com

April 2017



James (Jim) Barton
32nd NFSPS
President

Dear NFSPS Poets:

A Special Place

In 1984, the King of Country Western music, George Strait, sang a haunting tune by Darlene and Sanger Shafer called “Does Fort Worth Ever Cross Your Mind?” It’s one of many hits for George, and I can’t help but sing along with him in the privacy of my car as the song unfolds. It is indeed a classic.

As we prepare to assemble in Fort Worth for our annual convention this summer, I hope we will do some “pre-gathering” research on this fascinating city and area of Texas. I have long been a proponent of the “poetry of place”, and before each year’s meeting, I try to study the history and the important sites and sights that can be found near the chosen city. I have been attending the conventions since the one in Memphis, hosted by Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas. Although I had visited Memphis on several occasions before, that was my first time to really explore some of the city’s high points. I did the same in Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis and Tampa, and all the others.

Each year, we are fortunate to enjoy a different host city, mingle with the members of another state society, and gather “poetic ammunition” through exploration of the area. My family roots run deep in the heart of the Lone Star state, with my older brother, both parents, my grandparents, aunts, uncles and assorted cousins all hailing from there. I was the first Arkansan in our family. I am still proud to be called an honorary Texan.

The city of Fort Worth is home to many exciting and interesting reasons to arrive early and stay awhile. Where else can you see, up close and personal, a real live cattle drive every day, twice a day? Or cheer on the cowboys and cowgirls at a championship rodeo every Friday and Saturday night? Where else can you visit a museum that features the western art of the great masters Frederic Remington and Charles Russell? You can even walk a catwalk above billions of dollars at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving!

Fort Worth features the culture of a modern city combined with the down home charm and history of a true western cow town. I dare any of you to explore this vibrant hub of activity and come away unimpressed. I challenge you to carry pen and pad, camera and recorder, and load up with a ten gallon hatful of poem ideas. You’ll be glad you did.

The poetry of place has always played a large part in our written art. From Walt Whitman’s “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” and Maya Angelou’s “Harlem Hopscotch” to Naomi Shihab Nye’s “Alaska”, American poets have been recording their place and their sense of place in wildly different and fascinating ways. I fully expect to hear, read and share some wonderful poetry about our host city and its surroundings this summer. I would love to receive poems from all over this country describing and reacting to the Fort Worth experience.

Come to Texas with us this midsummer. Come with open eyes, ears and minds. Come with pen in hand and prepare to write your way through a great American city. I guarantee you, Fort Worth will definitely continue to cross your mind long after the convention.

I look forward to seeing y’all in the big state with the big heart.

It’s gonna be a rootin’, tootin’, six-gun shootin’ good time.

James (Jim) Barton ~ 32nd NFSPS President

THE ART AND SOUL OF POETRY NFSPS Convention ~ June 29 to July 2, 2017

The Poetry Society of Texas invites you to Fort Worth—city of Cowboys and Culture—as we celebrate *The Art and Soul of Poetry*. Our convention headquarters is the historic Hilton, located in the vibrant heart of downtown. The schedule below lists our complete line-up of excursions, programs, and activities. In this issue of *Strophes* you will also find bookroom information, speaker bios, and our registration form, which includes hotel information, menus for our convention meals, and details of our excursions to: Billy Bob’s, the world’s largest honky-tonk; the Stockyards to view a longhorn cattle drive; the Cultural District, site of six museums; and the Water Gardens for a poetry reading and the creation of our Poetree. Thursday night we kick off the convention with a meal, convention contest announcements and reading, followed by special entertainment. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the convention moves into full Texas Swing. You don’t want to miss a thing!

2017 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 28

6:00 pm – Billy Bob’s

Thursday, June 29

8:00 – 5:00 Registration
9:30 – 1:00 Stockyards Excursion
Lunch (On Your Own)
1:30 – 5:00 Cultural District Excursion
3:30 – 5:30 NFSPS Board Meeting
6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
7:00 – 7:15 Break
7:15 – 8:00 Convention Contest Results
8:00 – 9:00 Entertainment ~ Doc Gibbs
9:00 – 10:00 Open Mic

Friday, June 30

7:30 – 8:30 Open Mic
8:00 – 5:00 Registration
8:00 – 9:00 State Presidents Meeting
9:15 – 10:15 Scott Wiggerman, “Words at the Speed of Sounds: Poetic Effects through Sound”
10:30 – 11:30 Urania Fung, “Building Momentum”
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 Manningham Winners and NFSPS Contests Results
3:00 – 4:00 Anne McCrady, “Line Dancing – Setting Meaning and Metaphor to Music”
4:30 – 5:30 Plenary Session
6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
7:00 – 9:00 College Undergraduate Winners, NFSPS Contests Results
9:00 – 10:00 Open Mic

Saturday, July 1

7:30 – 8:30 Open Mic
9:00 – 9:45 Diane Glancy, “Extract the Signature, How to Shape a Manuscript”
10:15 – 11:30 Nathan L. Brown, “Poetry Masterclass: Tools for Deep Editing”
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 NFSPS Contests Results

[Convention schedule continued on page 3]

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

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

Honorary Chancellor: Peter Meinke

EXECUTIVE BOARD ~ 2016-2018

Elected, NFSPS Convention ~ Chaska, MN, June, 2016

PRESIDENT: James Barton

Membership Coordinator

P.O. Box 263, Huttig, AR 71747

jbob214@yahoo.com

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3RD VICE PRESIDENT: Charmaine Pappas Donovan

Special Awards

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4TH VICE PRESIDENT: Joseph Cavanaugh

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3722 Longford Cir., Ormond Beach, FL 32174

jcavanaugh1@gmail.com

CHANCELLOR: Steven Concert

Youth Chair

49 Kitchen Ave., Harveys Lake, PA 18618

paperlesspoets@gmail.com

1ST VICE CHANCELLOR: Dena R. Gorrell

Poetry Day/Poetry Month Liaison Co-Chair,

14024 Gateway Dr., Edmond, OK 73013

thepoetlady@cox.net

2ND VICE CHANCELLOR: Valerie Martin Bailey

Editor Emeritus, Encore

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Eleanor Berry

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22614 N. Santiam Hwy., Lyons, OR 97358

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APPOINTIVE BOARD

Board Liaison to State Societies: Russell H. Strauss

18 S. Rembert St., Memphis, TN 38104

RSTRpoet@cs.com

College Undergraduate Poetry Competition Chair:

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87031 ~ sonneteer@earthlink.net

Contest Chair: Emory D. Jones

608 N. Pearl St, Iuka, MS 38852 ~ pianot@bellsouth.net

Contest Sponsors/Brochure Chair:

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Encore Editor: Kathy Cotton

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2563 Twin Woods Cove, Memphis, TN 38134

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57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037

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Manningham Trust Competition Chair:

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Manningham Trust Advisor: Sam Wood

1570 Auburn Way, Reno, NV 89502

Publicity Chair, Traditional Media, and Poetry Day

/Poetry Month Liaison Co-Chair: Amy Jo Zook

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NFSPS MEMBER STATE SOCIETIES AND PRESIDENTS

ALABAMA: Alabama State Poetry Society

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Deatsville, AL 36022 ~ adamsjo75@hotmail.com

ARIZONA: Arizona State Poetry Society

Carol Hogan, President ~ 10401 N. Cave Creek Rd #116,

Phoenix, AZ 85020 ~ carolhogan@cox.net

ARKANSAS: Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

Dennis R. Patton, President ~ 2512 Springhill Cir.,

Alexander, AR 72002 ~ patton_dr@hotmail.com

CALIFORNIA: California State Poetry Society

Dr. John Forrest Harrell, Treasurer ~ P.O. Box 7126,

Orange, CA 92863 ~ JFHarrell@gmail.com

COLORADO: Columbine Poets

Julie Cummings, President ~ 9428 Fallen Rock Rd.,

Conifer, CO 80433 ~ jcummings3@gmail.com

CONNECTICUT: Connecticut Poetry Society

Tony Fusco, President ~ 311 Shingle Hill Rd.,

West Haven, CT 06516 ~ tfusco357@gmail.com

FLORIDA: Florida State Poets Association

Mary-Ann Westbrook, President ~ 6 Juniper Dr.,

Ormond Beach, FL 32176 ~ 1poetry.3@gmail.com

GEORGIA: Georgia Poetry Society

Michael Diebert, President ~ 1605 Windsor Walk,

Avondale Estates, GA 30002 ~ crazyquilt67@gmail.com

ILLINOIS: Illinois State Poetry Society

Susan T. Moss, President ~ 1209 Michigan Ave.,

Evanston, IL 60202 ~ stm48@hotmail.com

INDIANA: Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs

Deborah Petersen, President ~ 718 S. Bennett St.,

Bluffton, IN 46714 ~ djpetersen57@yahoo.com

IOWA: Iowa Poetry Association

Jerrold J. Narland, President ~ 122 S. 7th Ave.,

Winterset, IA 50273 ~ chiefjer@aol.com

KENTUCKY: Kentucky State Poetry Society

Julie Hensley, President ~ 204 Clay Dr., Richmond,

KY 40475 ~ julie.hensley@eku.edu

LOUISIANA: Louisiana State Poetry Society

Pat Juelg, President ~ 12972 Arlingford Ave.,

Baton Rouge, LA 70815

MAINE: Maine Poets Society

Carol Willette Bachofner, President ~ 12 Center St.,

Rockland, ME 04841 ~ mainepoet@me.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Massachusetts State Poetry Society

Jeanette C. Maes, President ~ 64 Harrison Ave.,

Lynn, MA 01905 ~ msps.jcmaes@comcast.net

MICHIGAN: Poetry Society of Michigan

Polly Opsahl, President ~ 7316 Huntington,

Oscoda, MI 48750 ~ pollyopsahl@gmail.com

MINNESOTA: League of Minnesota Poets

Peter Stein, President ~ 5612 23rd Ave S., Minneapolis,

MN 55417 ~ pwilliamstein@yahoo.com

MISSISSIPPI: Mississippi Poetry Society

John Michael Shelton, President ~ 354 D. East Lee Blvd.,

Starkville, MS 39759 ~ poetsail5@gmail.com

MISSOURI: Missouri State Poetry Society

Dawn Stiller-Harmon, President ~ 351 Oak Rd., Cuba,

MO 65453 ~ inafieldofdaisies@hotmail.com

NEVADA: Nevada Poetry Society

Phyllis Peacock, President ~ 35 E. York Way,

Sparks, NV 89431-2424 ~ pbtwo@earthlink.net

NEW MEXICO: New Mexico State Poetry Society

Andrea M. Penner, President ~ P.O. Box 21825,

Albuquerque, NM 87154 ~ president@nmpoetry.com

NEW YORK: New York Poetry Forum

Daniel Fernandez, President ~ 3604 Ave. S,

Brooklyn, NY 11234

OHIO: Ohio Poetry Association

Chuck Salmons, President ~ 6519 Crab Apple Dr., Canal

Winchester, OH 43110 ~ charles@ohiopoetryassn.org

OKLAHOMA: Poetry Society of Oklahoma

Patti Koch, President ~ 5101 N.W. 20th St,

Oklahoma City, OK 73127-2312 ~ pkoch7@cox.net

OREGON: Oregon Poetry Association

Tiel Aisha Ansari, President ~ 1724 NE Prescott St.,

Portland, OR 97211 ~ tielansari@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Poetry Society

Sandra L. Polvinale, President ~ P.O. BOX 354,

Fairfield, PA 17320 ~ sandralpolvinale@hotmail.com

SOUTH DAKOTA: South Dakota State Poetry Society

Bruce Roseland, President ~ 16894 US Highway 47,

Seneca, SD 57473 ~ bbroseland@venturecomm.net

TENNESSEE: Poetry Society of Tennessee

Russell H. Strauss, President ~ 18 S. Rembert St,

Memphis, TN 38104 ~ RSTRpoet@cs.com

TEXAS: Poetry Society of Texas

Budd Powell Mahan ~ President, 7059 Spring Valley Rd,

Dallas TX 75254 ~ buddmahan@att.net

UTAH: Utah State Poetry Society

O. William (Bill) Asplund, President ~ 2262 East 1200

North, Layton, UT 84040 ~ wasplund@comcast.net

WYOMING: WyoPoets

Myra L. Peak, President ~ P. O. Box 404, Green River,

WY 82935 ~ myrapeak@gmail.com

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 email, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

Paul Ford, *Strophes* Editor

10239 Hickory Pt. Dr., Sandy, UT 84092-3960

pmford3@gmail.com

* Submission Deadlines

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 \$4.00 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.

NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS (Presidential Advisors)

*Cecilia Parsons Miller

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*Wauneta Hackleman

*Jack Murphy

*Barbara Stevens

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Pat Stodghill

*Wanda Blaisdell

*Ralph Hammond

Amy Jo Zook

Susan Stevens Chambers

Clarence P. Socwell

Madelyn Eastlund

Budd Powell Mahan

Doris Stengel

Nancy Baass

Russell H. Strauss

Jeremy M. Downes

Eleanor Berry

* Deceased

2017 CONVENTION SCHEDULE*(continued from page 1)***Saturday, July 1**

- 3:00 – 4:15 Karla Morton, “The Birth of Our Words: Perceptions, Locales, Origins”
- 4:45 – 5:30 Mark and Beth Ayers, “Love is in the Air” Magic Lantern Show
- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
- 7:15 – 8:00 Stevens Book Manuscript Award Winner
- 8:00 – 9:00 NFSPS Contest Results
- 9:00 – 10:00 BlackBerry Peach Awards Results

Sunday, July 2

- 7:30 – 8:30 Open Mic
- 8:00 – 10:30 Water Gardens Reading and Poetree Project
- 8:30 – 10:00 NFSPS Board Meeting
- 10:00 – 10:30 Poetree Project in Hotel
- 10:45 – 11:30 Pat Stodghill, “Down a Dark Path”
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:30 NFSPS Contest Results
- 3:00 – 4:00 Nathan L. Brown, “Poems, Songs, & Stories: Poetry as Performance”
- 4:00 – 4:30 Book Signings for all Authors
- 5:00 – 6:00 Reception
- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner
- 7:15 – 8:30 Carmen Tafolla, Keynote Presentation, “My Heart Speaks a Different Language”
- 8:30 – 9:00 NFSPS Contest Results
- 9:00 – 10:00 Open Mic

Monday, July 3

- 8:00 – 10:00 NFSPS Strategic Planning

NFSPS 2017 CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Dr. Carmen Tafolla will deliver the keynote presentation. She is an award-winning poet and children’s author, storyteller, performance artist, motivational speaker, scholar and university professor. Named Poet Laureate of the State of Texas in 2015, Dr. Tafolla is loved throughout the world for her moving performances and poetry readings. The author of more than 20 books and a Professor of Transformative Children’s Literature at UT San Antonio, she holds a Ph.D. in Bilingual Education from the University of Texas and a B.A. in Spanish and French, an M.A. in Education, and a Doctorate Honoris Causa in Humane Letters of Education from Austin College. Tafolla’s work appears internationally in high school and university textbooks, newspapers, journals, magazines, elementary school Big Books, posters on city buses, and engraved on sidewalks and museum walls. Chosen in 2012 as the first Poet Laureate of the City of



San Antonio, Tafolla has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Americas Award, presented to her at the Library of Congress in 2010, five International Latino Book Awards, two Tomas Rivera Book Awards, two ALA Notable Books, a Charlotte Zolotow Award, the Art of Peace Award, a Junior Library Guild Selection, the Tejas Star Listing, the Texas 2 by 2 Award, Top Ten Books for Babies, and has been recognized by the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies for work which “gives voice to the peoples and cultures of this land.”

Doc Gibbs is a multitalented entertainer—a singer, pianist, comedian, impressionist, songwriter, and author who provides his own brand of motivational and musical presentations that entertain and inspire. He has traveled around the world, provided musical accompaniment for many well-known singers and entertained audiences with his witty humor and ear-catching musical impressions. Doc’s life goal: “Using my God-given talents to lift people up and encourage.” His motto is *Doc Makes You Feel Good!*



Scott Wiggerman is the author of three books of poetry, *Leaf and Beak: Sonnets, Presence and Vegetables and Other Relationships*; and the editor of several volumes, including *Wingbeats: Exercises & Practice in Poetry*, *Lifting the Sky: Southwestern Haiku & Haiga*, and *Bearing the Mask*. Recent poems have appeared in *A Quiet Courage*, *Naugatuck River Review*, *Red Earth Review*, *bosque*, *shuf*, *Yellow Chair Review*, as well as such anthologies as *Far Out: Poems of the 60s*, *The Doll Collection*, and *Texas Weather*. He is an editor for Dos Gatos Press of Albuquerque, NM, former publisher of the popular Texas Poetry Calendar, now in its 20th year.



Urania Fung is an English professor at Tarrant County College, Northeast campus. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Texas State University, and her MA in English from Sam Houston State University where she saw a power in poetry that she employs in her fiction to this day. Her short stories have been published by DAW in the anthologies *Ages of Wonder* and *The Dragon and the Stars*. She has also been a panelist at Polarix 24 and ArmadilloCons 34, 36, and 38.



Anne McCrady’s writing appears in her own poetry collections, *Along Greathouse Road*, *Under a Blameless Moon* and *Letting Myself In*, as well as in literary journals, newspapers, magazines, and anthologies.



Among her honors are the top prizes of both PST and NFSPS, as well as PST’s annual book award. Anne has editorial, review and critique publication credits and is a frequent poetry judge, contest sponsor and workshop presenter. Anne posts on social media, at her website InSpirity.com, and at PoetwithaPressPass.com, where she writes news-related poems. Her other endeavors include storytelling, inspirational speaking, peace advocacy and grandmothing four little girls. Anne lives in Tyler, Texas, with her physician husband, Mike.

Diane Glancy won the first Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize from the Poetry Society of Texas for *QWERTYUIOPASDFGHJKLZXCVBNM*,



The Keyboard Letters, which acknowledges the different letters of the alphabet that enable our search for meaning. In 2106, she also published *The Collector of Bodies: Concern for Syria and the Middle East*, and co-edited an anthology, *The World Is One Place: Native American Writers Visit the Middle East*. Glancy’s 2014 book, *Report to the Department of the Interior*, won the Willa Poetry Award from Women Writers of the West. Glancy is professor emerita at Macalester College. She has lived in Gainesville, Texas, since 2014. She also visits Kansas.

Nathan Brown is an author, songwriter, and award-winning poet living in Wimberley, Texas. He holds a Ph.D. in English and Journalism from the University of Oklahoma where he taught for seventeen years. He served



as Poet Laureate for the State of Oklahoma in 2013/14 and mostly travels now, performing readings and concerts, as well as speaking and leading workshops in schools, libraries, and community organizations on creativity and creative writing. Nathan has published thirteen books. Most recent is *Don’t Try*, a collection of co-written poems with Austin Music Hall of Fame songwriter, Jon Dee Graham. *Karma Crisis: New and Selected Poems*, was a finalist for the Paterson Poetry Prize and the Oklahoma Book Award. His earlier book, *Two Tables Over*, won the 2009 Oklahoma Book Award. He has taught memoir, songwriting,

performance, and creativity workshops for the Sisters Folk Festival in Oregon, the Taos Poetry Festival, the Woody Guthrie Festival, the Everwood Farmstead Foundation in Wisconsin, as well as Blue Rock Artist Ranch near Austin, Texas.

Karla Kay Morton, the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate and a member and Councilor of the Texas Institute of Letters, is a celebrated poet, author, speaker and photographer. A Betsy Colquitt Award Winner, Eric Hoffer Award Winner, Montaigne Medal Finalist, two-time Indie Book Award Winner, North Texas Book Festival Award Winner, nominee for the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and a Pushcart Prize nominee, Ms. Morton has been widely published in literary journals and is the author of eleven books of poetry. Her 12th book, *Wooden Lions* (Texas Review Press) is scheduled to be released in April of 2017. Described as "one of the more adventurous voices in American poetry," Ms. Morton has been featured on Good Morning Texas, NPR, ABC News, CBS News and in countless newspapers, blogs and magazines. An avid photographer, Morton has also had many showings of her black and white artwork, has been nominated for the honor of the Texas 2D Artist, and loves to mix poetry with other art forms. Morton holds a Journalism degree from Texas A&M University and currently resides in Fort Worth.

Mark and Beth Ayers started collecting Magic Lanterns a couple of years ago, after seeing a Magic Lantern show. This antique slide projector is their perfect shared hobby. Beth appreciates the history and Mark likes to work with gadgets. Together, they enjoy bringing history to life. In real life, Mark is a geologist and Beth serves on PST's Executive Board and is the 2017 NFSPS Convention registrar. She is also a talented storyteller and musician.

Pat Stodghill received degrees from the University of North Texas and the University of Texas. She taught for 34 years in the Dallas and Rockwall Independent School Districts, at Yavneh Academy, and at Southern Methodist University. She is a former Poet Laureate of Texas, was the first woman to serve as president of the Poetry Society of Texas, and is a former president of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Her book *Mirrored Images* won the first Nortex Book Publication Award and

Kaleidoscope Pieces won the William E. Bard Memorial Book Award. Her children's book is *Jake's Snapping Catastrophe*.



2017 NFSPS CONVENTION CONTEST

A new "deal" for
Convention Attendees!
E X T E N D E D Deadline
for
2017 NFSPS Convention
Texas Hold 'Em Poetry Contest
Postmarked by May 1, 2017

**Unpublished, Any Subject, Any Form
36-Line Limit**

Winners announced at the convention.

Yep, you gotta be there to win!

Prizes: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50,
and three (3) HMs \$25 each.

Enter as many times as you want.
\$10 entry fee for each group of three
(or fewer) poems.

Make checks payable to
Poetry Society of Texas.

Snail mail entries only!

Postmark by MAY 1, 2017.

Send two copies: one with Name,
Address, Phone Number, Email Address,
State Society Membership; one with no ID.

Send to J. Paul Holcomb, Texas Hold 'Em
Convention Contest Chairman, 235 Shady
Hill Lane, Double Oak, TX 75077-8270.

BOOKSTORE FOR 2017 NFSPS CONVENTION

All poets registered for the 2017 convention may sell their books in our safe and secure bookstore at no cost. If you are shipping books to the hotel, the following rules must be followed:

- 1) All shipments must arrive at the hotel by June 29th; note, if boxes arrive earlier than June 29, boxes will be stored and handled for a fee of \$5.00 per box per day (hotel policy);
- 2) **Shipments must include hotel's receiving form, available from the hotel**

or downloaded from nfsp.com
Convention page;

3) Ship books to Hilton Fort Worth, 815 Main St., Fort Worth, TX 76102, NFSPS Convention, "Hold for (name of guest who will receive package)".

All shipments received will be placed in safe storage until the bookstore is set up. Those authors and publishers bringing their books for sale at the convention should bring them to the bookstore as their first order of business to be sure they are processed and placed on the tables, along with any promotional signs furnished by authors and publishers. If you are bringing books to sell, please email before Friday, June 23 our Bookstore Director, Michaud Lamroux lamroux@sbcglobal.net, the following information:

- 1) Book Title,
- 2) Author's name,
- 3) Price of book,
- 4) Number of copies you will bring.

He will enter this information in his laptop computer and create a spreadsheet to track all your sales. For every book placed in the bookstore, please attach a sticky tab to the inside cover of each book before you arrive. Print legibly the following information on the sticky tab:

- 1) Book title,
- 2) Author's name,
- 3) Price of the book.

This must be done for every book sold in the bookstore. Books will not be placed in the bookstore for sale until they are properly marked and identified. Checks, cash, and credit cards may be used for purchases in the bookstore. Each credit card sale will include a 2.6% surcharge that is paid by the customer to cover the credit card company charge to the bookstore. This way, it is a "break even" proposition for the bookstore.

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS' Saline County Branch will host this year's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration on April 22nd in Benton. Featured speaker will be Russell Strauss, current President of the Poetry Society of Tennessee and past President of NFSPS. PRA will announce its new officers at the event. PRA is promoting the Jeanie Dolan Carter Collegiate Contest, sponsored by her husband Roger Carter. We are also promoting the Sybil Nash Abrams Student Poetry Contests for middle and senior high school students. All of these winners will be announced at the spring event. President Dennis Patton and Newsletter Editor Donna

Smith delivered sets of approximately 15 PRA anthologies spanning years from 1991 to 2015 to the Arkansas State Archives and the Arkansas State Library (see pictures on PRA's Facebook page). PRA members get to enter monthly contests free of charge as one of their perks of membership. Liz Faulkner is the Monthly Contest Chair. PRA members who do not have a branch near them are encouraged to join our Online Group led by Kate Lacy. For details, contact her at voicedancer2002@yahoo.com. ~ *Laura Loughridge, Secretary*

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION is preparing for our "Spring Fling" April 21-22, 2017. It is co-hosted by New River Poets, Wesley Chapel, and Sunshine Poets, Beverly Hills. The theme is "Young-As-Spring Fling." We will meet at The Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Tampa. Among the special programs will be an address by Peter Meinke, Florida's Poet Laureate and NFSPS Chancellor, a luncheon address by Lee Bennett Hopkins and a program by Lola Haskins, both FSPA Chancellors. Young poets are a special focus for Florida poets and the 2016-2017 FSPA Student Poetry Contest received 632 entries from all over the state. For the first time we awarded seven first-place winners in each grade level with the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Young People. We thank poet-anthologist, Lee Bennett Hopkins for his generous support of our youth program. We look to October when the Orlando Chapter will host the annual convention at the Altamonte Springs Hilton on the 13th - 15th. The program is in planning but the Contest has already been announced with 27 categories. Detailed information is available on floridastatepoetsassociation.org. ~ *Alice Friedman, Reporter*

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY installed officers at the January meeting at Georgia Perimeter College in Clarkston, followed with readings by the fall 2016 contest winners. GPS conducts seven contests each fall that members and nonmembers may enter. See the society's web site for details. Sharon Strange, author of *Ash*, spoke on "Poetry and Empathy." She was a founding member of the Dark Room Collective in the Boston area, the Bruce McEver Visiting Chair in Poetry at Georgia Tech, and faculty at a summer session at Smith College. She teaches creative writing at Spelman College. Her talk included audience participation in mapping an emotional experience in an activity entitled "Four Ways of Looking at Lynching." Andrea Jurjević, a native of Croatia and translator of contemporary Croatian poetry, spoke about "Poetry in

Translation: The Impossible and the Possible," considering translation as an art and its practical possibilities. She used examples of poetry translations from several languages and involved the audience in a challenging translation activity. Andrea is the author of *Small Crimes*, winner of the 2015 Philip Levine Prize. Members of the society were saddened to learn of the death of poet Thomas Lux on February 5, 2017. Many members had participated in Poetry at Tech under his direction. ~ *Ann Kuykendall Gillespie, Reporter*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY has plans to again display members' poems in various public libraries throughout the state during April Poetry Month. This year's theme is "travel." Also during Poetry Month, ISPS will share a table with Poets and Patrons Club at the Chicago Poetry Fest in the Harold Washington Library on the 29th. Another shared event will be a members' poetry reading and personal book sales with Poets and Patrons at the After-Word Bookstore in Chicago on April 13. Brewed Awakening coffeehouse in Westmont continues to be the venue for featured poets and open mic on the fourth Sunday of the month. News, members' poetry and membership information can be found on our website: illinoispoets.org. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA is now our name! We are transitioning from our name of 75 years. Our Annual Poetry Contest will now include our new moniker and logo, with a reference to ISFPC (in case anyone missed the change). As a tribute to all our past and current members, we are in the process of compiling our '75th Anniversary Anthology' which will include accounts of the Society's contributions to poetry locally and state-wide, and all members, past and present, are asked to send two poems, a brief biography, and contact information in .docx format for inclusion. Deadline for submissions was April 1st. We still have available on Amazon.com our recent anthology of the winning poems from our poetry contest, Ink to Paper. PSI is very active in our communities with events such as: performing with musicians and entertaining at assisted living venues; making presentations for young people; planning for our Spring Gathering in May; sharing poetry in gatherings all over the area; and publishing and being featured in literary journals. We meet frequently with other poets to share ideas and activities 'put the word out' to celebrate the poetic pen. PSI is online at isfpc.org and poetrysocietyofindiana@gmail.com. ~ *Deborah Petersen, President*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY—in place of a general meeting in February, MPS again this year held three regional gatherings in different communities, each with a workshop format. The first of these was in Gorham with Jenny Doughty, the second in Augusta with James Breslin, and the third in April with Carol Bachofner. The next general meeting will be the second Saturday in May (the 13th) at the Continuum for Creativity, 863 Main Street in Westbrook. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$12 registration fee for all attendees. Lunch is complimentary. Non-members are welcome. Election of officers will take place during the business portion of the meeting. The morning session will include an open mic and a mini workshop. The format of the meetings has changed to include only one contest, open to members only. The May contest is on the topic of "Food," any form, with a 24-line limit. Alice Persons will be the judge. As always, new membership is encouraged. For more information and to learn about the Society, please visit mainepoetsociety.com, our Facebook page, or contact MPS President Carol Bachofner at mainepoet@me.com or at 207-594-8954. ~ *Sally Joy, Reporter*

OHIO POETRY ASSOCIATION is excited to announce the release of its newest anthology, *A Rustling and Waking Within*, a celebration of art and poetry in Ohio. The 139-page, perfect-bound book contains ekphrastic poems by nearly 50 friends and members of OPA written in response to various works of art, from Impressionist masters to contemporary artists featured in Ohio's museums, galleries, and other venues. We celebrated the book release with a reception and multimedia reading at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, and a second reading at the Toledo Museum of Art in March. We're eager to work with other organizations and venues for additional readings. Further details and purchasing are available through the OPA website: ohiopoetryassn.org. ~ *Chuck Salmons, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA held its annual Spring Awards Banquet, in Oklahoma City. Winning poems were read, poets recognized, and awards presented—including a presentation of engraved plaques to past PSO Poet Laureates. PSO was sad to announce the passing of member Carol Meeks in January. She was a long-time member of PSO and will be missed. PSO is looking forward to the OKC City Council proclaiming April as National Poetry Month in OKC for the sixth year. Our State Legislators will present a Resolution stating April as National Poetry month for the sixth

year as well. PSO is honored to welcome William Bernhardt and wife Lara as our newest members. Bill is the bestselling author of more than forty books and hosts writing workshops and seminars and is one of the most in-demand, national writing instructors. Lara is a writer, editor, and audiobook narrator. They reside in Choctaw, Oklahoma. In May we will have workshops in OKC that will include two speakers who will encourage our members to work and participate in a learning and educational day of poetry. In July, PSO will host another in-house morning and afternoon workshop presented by members. We will also be presenting awards to the July contest winners. Both workshops will include a lunch buffet. ~ *Patti Koch, President*

OREGON POETRY ASSOCIATION'S 2017 fall conference is scheduled for October 13–15 at the University Place Hotel in Portland. Emmett Wheatfall is the keynote speaker. The weekend will offer multiple tracks of workshops, presentations, open mics and a book fair. A call for conference proposals for workshops and/or panels will go out in spring with a June 1 deadline. Watch oregonpoets.org for conference updates and registration info as well as the call for proposals. A workshop on how to submit poems for publication was conducted by Sara-Lynne Simpson and Linda Barnes, members of the Rogue Valley Unit of the OPA, in February. Called "Submission Party, Party, PARTY!," the workshop included party hats, balloons and party favors for participants. Tables were staffed by other Rogue Valley OPA members who helped attendees learn how to send their poems to print and online journals, magazines and poetry contests across the country (including the NFSPS contests). Each time a poem was submitted during the workshop, whistles were blown to celebrate the entry. Within 90 minutes, 20 poems were submitted from among the 17 attendees, and follow-up handouts were emailed so the submission process could continue. ~ *Lynn Otto, Reporter*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS' 2016-17 Executive Board is comprised of President Budd Powell Mahan, Vice President Catherine L'Herisson, Corresponding Secretary Jessica Gonsoulin, Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks, Treasurer Aman Khan, and Directors Beth Turner Ayers, Susan Maxwell Campbell and Barbara Terrell Goerdel. Meetings are held September through May on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library in Dallas, Texas. The Annual Awards Banquet, held at a Dallas hotel, takes the place of a November

meeting. In June, attendance at the NFSPS Convention is always encouraged. This year, the event is hosted by PST. (The 3 day PST Summer Conference which is usually held in July at different sites around the state is not held in years that the NFSPS Convention is held in Texas.) NFSPS Convention Chairman Linda Banks and the Convention Committee join with all PST members in extending to all NFSPS members a warm invitation: "Y'all come to Fort Worth, Texas, for the 2017 NFSPS Convention, Thursday, June 29th through Sunday, July 2nd!" ~ *Nancy Baass*

WYOPOETS—It's that time of year again! WyoPoets' spring workshop, featuring David Mason will be held in Buffalo on April 29th. It will offer a welcome relief from winter's grip. WyoPoets are holding our annual meeting in conjunction with the workshop and will get a long-awaited report from the Chapbook Committee announcing the theme for the 2018 publication. There is no fee for submitting poems for the chapbook (published every other year in April), but only active members may enter their work. Guidelines will be available at the spring workshop and included in the spring newsletter. Joining is not the only opportunity for members to have their work published. We publish four full-color newsletters containing tips for entering contests, announcements of coming events around the state, news from writers' groups and a dozen or more poems submitted to the editor, Echo Kalproth. For just \$20 per year members are eligible for contest prize money, may submit news, photographs and art work for the newsletter, and also poems for consideration by the Chapbook Committee. Send checks to Art Elser, 1730 Locust St., Denver, CO 80220. Join today. ~ *Lee Ann Siebken, Reporter*

CONTESTS

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS 2017 ANNUAL CONTESTS. Deadline: August 15, 2017 (Postmark). The brochure listing all contests, procedures and rules can be obtained from poetrysocietyoftexas.org, or by mailing a SASE to PST Annual Contests Chairman Nancy Baass, 408 E. Warren Ave., Victoria, TX 77901-4847.

POETRY ARTICLES

Literary Dynamics and W.H. Auden

By Ron Weber, Poetry Society of Michigan
—Previously published by the Poetry Society of Michigan, September 2016

I've always defined literary dynamics (i.e., the dynamics of being literate) as reading and writing well, with the added

dynamic for the writer of originality. Whether a poet or prose writer, we all begin as readers. We do learn to read so that we may read to learn. W.H. Auden focuses on these dynamic elements in his posthumously collected essays entitled *The Dyer's Hand and Other Essays*. It's a peek inside the mind of one of the most influential poets of the 20th century.

In these essays he focuses on his ideas about art and literature, defining his values and his creative process. He addresses originality, the writing process, being a good reader, self-criticism and other aspects we poets have contemplated and/or been periodically exacerbated by as we have pursued our attempts to satisfy the various muses that serve as our unrelenting captors.

Personally, I have always been intrigued by the transcendent melding of writing and reading. To be so fascinated and enthralled by what we may be reading that we enter a shared zone of creativity with the writer. It's like two separate activities become one, carried inexplicably on some compelling flow of inspiration—reader and writer moving forward together. Isn't that, after all, what it means to be evocative? And isn't that the challenge all of us poets wrestle with as we pursue our craft? Don't we strive to replicate the feeling of an experience for the reader; someone who wasn't present at the original impact of an experience?

Auden looked at good reading as an art in itself. He writes that "To read is to translate, for no two persons' experiences are the same. A bad reader is like a bad translator: he interprets literally when he ought to paraphrase and paraphrases when he ought to interpret literally. In learning to read well, scholarship, valuable as it is, is less important than instinct; some great scholars have been poor translators."

It strikes me that this is not something that is easy to learn. We have our group and cultural entrapments that often narrow our vision to the contexts within which we have lived, thus limiting our audience. Consequently, to become more of a universal person than one may otherwise be permitted to be by the limitations of our social milieu, we must broaden our experience. My own "Ron's Rule for Unlocking Creativity" is to look beyond what you see; peek behind what you're looking at. Live and read widely.

I love Auden's take on the creative process and its inner workings. He alludes to the "mystique of inspiration." He believes that all creative work is in a sense commissioned. "All works of art are commissioned in the sense that no artist can create one by a simple act of will but must

wait until what he believes to be a good idea 'comes' to him." Mystically.

On the nature of self-criticism, Auden is insightful and even a bit entertaining. I can't help but think that he had his tongue firmly lodged in his cheek with regard to some of it. He writes that "To keep his errors down to a minimum, the internal censor to whom a poet submits his work in progress should be a Censorate." What is that? you ask. It's a varied and diverse group of potential readers and includes, in Auden's own words no less, "a sensitive only child, a practical housewife, a logician, a monk, an irreverent buffoon and even, perhaps hated by all of the others and returning their dislike, a brutal, foul-mouthed drill sergeant who considers all poetry rubbish." Go figure, but that's W.H.

The *Dyer's Hand and Other Essays* offers good advice, all in all. To which I add: Remember, life is short. Do what makes you smile.

Writing The Cameo

By Florence Bruce, Poetry Society of Tennessee

Our Poetry Society of Tennessee poets have found the cameo one of the more challenging of the many, many short poem formats. By definition, the cameo is a thumb-nail sketch, expressed in one sentence which breaks into seven lines with a required syllable count for each (2-5-8-3-8-7-2). Hence, the poem's total syllable count is 35. Because the poem is a sentence, it opens with a capital letter and closes with a period. The more descriptive the sentence, the better.

I find it challenging to attempt to construct cameos on tangible as well as intangible subjects. Here's one of my contest winners as an example of a cameo on a tangible subject:

SPIDER

Spider,
brilliant architect,
producer of multiple silks
for weaving,
traps the fly on his web's wet lines
and walks himself on the dry,
safely.

Intangible subjects may be a little harder to describe, but they make equally good subjects for the cryptic little cameo, as illustrated by the next example:

BOREDOM

Boredom
seeps into my bones,
wraps my central nervous system
in cotton,
canceling all motivation,
befuddling concentration,
yawning.

It's a good idea to avoid use of the semicolon in this form. A contest judge might interpret two related thoughts separated by a semicolon as two sentences.

The cameos above were published some years ago in *Writers on the River*, a publication of Mid-South Writers Association of Memphis. Try your hand at the cameo. It's fun to see how much poetic message can be packed into one well-constructed sentence. Good luck!

The Mugging of Emily Dickinson

By Ron Weber, Poetry Society of Michigan

The popular myth held by members of the general public who read poetry, or who happen to know of Emily Dickinson by way of their education, is that she was a solitary, reclusive and perhaps even troubled soul her whole life. A woman of poetic genius who chose to lock herself away from society in general. That is unfortunately where she ended up, but it is not where she started.

When Emily attempted to communicate with the world through her poetry, she was mugged by the paternalistic and chauvinistic society in general and by the even more closed system of poetry in particular. The attitude of the publishers of the day and, in my opinion, that of one Boston literary critic named Thomas Wentworth Higginson, mugged Emily Dickinson no less than if she had been accosted on the street and robbed of her valuables. It was a mugging of the spirit, a mugging of hope, a mugging of optimism and of the possibility of literary fulfillment in her own lifetime.

The American literary world of the time did not bar female writers, but it did not welcome them either. Harriet Beecher Stowe was the notable exception to the unspoken rules restricting women from the club. Gains were being made by women but poetry was still considered a man's world, which was reinforced by the New England region's heavyweights like Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, et al.

In the years before her solitary and reclusive existence at the house in Amherst, Emily was quite social. It was not unusual for her to attend parties, and she was known to have impressed her father's Washington political friends on trips there. The record indicates that she was witty, amusing and

fun, as well as being a "fiercely intelligent young woman."

Sometime around 1850, which would make her 20 years old, she began to write poetry. Her major effort to openly connect with the literary world in pursuit of recognition for her poems was in 1862. She wrote a letter to Thomas Wentworth Higginson, a writer, critic, editor and champion of liberal causes. She sent him the first of many packets of poems.

She was reacting to the advice Higginson had provided to young writers in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Emily's correspondence with him continued almost until her death. I think she was desperately seeking a mentor and nurturer in terms of her poetic and literary needs and desires. Instead, he replied in what could be considered the condescending and paternalistic attitude of the day toward female poets.

He saw her as a sensitive and imaginative person but just could not see her work as poetry. He described it as beautiful thoughts and words and cautioned her against attempting to publish. I believe he was also uncomfortable with, if not put off by, her innovative style and the departure she took from traditional poetic structure and form. He was always trying to steer her toward more conventional form and expression. Trying to make her what he wanted, not nurturing who she was.

During her lifetime, only seven of her nearly 2,000 poems were published, five of them in the *Springfield Republican* newspaper. All were unsigned and all were altered and damaged by editors. After her death, her niece and sister collected and published some of her poetry and their popular success greatly improved Higginson's opinion of them. Emily very well could have experienced poetic accomplishment in her own lifetime.

In closing: "It really matters that great poems get written, and it doesn't matter a damn who writes them"(attributed to Ezra Pound).

Craft of Writing Poetry

By Dave Stocking, Past President of the Poetry Society of Indiana

A quotation by Bill Heller is scotch taped onto the surface of my desk: "I prefer craft to spontaneity, accessible to esoteric, and poems that engage both head and heart, but that's just me."

His advice seems to come from a person who has written hundreds of poems over many years, and in so doing has learned the difference between "having potential" and "proven." Generally speaking, most junior high school students write drafts of poems that are spontaneous, replete with

Craft of Writing Poetry—continued

contemporary lingo from their social peer group, and engaged with their hearts more than their heads. These drafts do not take long to write, and they are rarely revised.

The teacher may give such a student a high grade, but grades are used as encouragement rather than assessment. If the teacher were to tell the student, “Good start, but it needs about five more re-writes over the next ten days if you want it to be your best work,” chances are the student would not say what she/he really felt and thought. In her or his imagination, the 7th grader would probably start throwing darts at a picture of the teacher. To the student, the idea would sound like *work*, defined as what you do when you’d rather be doing something else.

A good teacher knows that if a student can be shown how crafting a poem can be enjoyable process, like reading or painting or acting can be an enjoyable process, then the attractiveness and value of *work* changes and the student is a willing participant.

When a student is smitten by poetry, and finds the process of writing and re-writing and re-writing a poem to be a labor of love, and draws ever closer to an appreciation of Mr. Heller’s concepts of diligent craft, coherent diction, and the winning chemistry of intellectual and emotional engagement, then the writing and reading of poetry can be an exquisite pleasure for all learners, be they young or old.

Passionate About Poetry

By Valerie Martin Bailey, *Encore* Editor Emeritus

There’s been concern lately about the fact that many formally organized poetry societies are aging and declining in membership. We know that poetry itself will never die—the need for it beats in the human heart. Poetry pre-dates literacy and is found among the earliest records of most cultures. Poetry was here before we were; it will be here after we’re gone.

It is not poetry that is declining; it is the formal organizations that are declining. Poetry is alive and well, but the venue is changing. A big reason for this is a cultural change in our society. Many people no longer want to make commitments. They would rather visit an open mic session at a Barnes & Noble than join a local poetry society. This is because they can drift in and out of an open venue at will with no responsibilities or commitments to attendance or service.

It’s happening everywhere, not just in poetry organizations. Many people don’t join a church for the same reason—they want to

be free to visit around and attend wherever and whenever they feel like it. If their names are on a roll, someone may call and ask them to do something. They don’t want to be obligated. We’ve become a nation of “testers and tasters.” We don’t want to make commitments that infringe on our time.

In all our poetry organizations we find that the same people have to wear many hats and fulfill many duties. There are not enough people who are willing to make a commitment to serve. In my local organization every officer except one doubles as a committee chairman. It’s hard to get anyone to serve in an office or on a committee. They just want to come and enjoy. This is not new—there have always been those who want to enjoy benefits without contribution, but today this attitude permeates our whole society.

How do we get an uncommitted society interested in our organizations that are dedicated to perpetuating poetry? One thing is sure, we can’t sit around and wait for people to come and join. We must be passionate activists and take poetry to the people. Once we get people excited about poetry, then we can channel them into our formal organizations, where they can grow and learn more about their craft and then, in turn, can help promote poetry.

The big question is why do we want to do this? Why do we really care if other people are interested in poetry? As long as we enjoy it, why do we need to be so passionate about sharing it with others? I think those who really believe in the benefits of poetry to the human soul will be passionate to share. If you are convinced that poetry not only fulfills the human need for expression and creativity, but also provides healing for the wounded human psyche, you will feel the need to share it.

Claude Stanush, former writer and editor

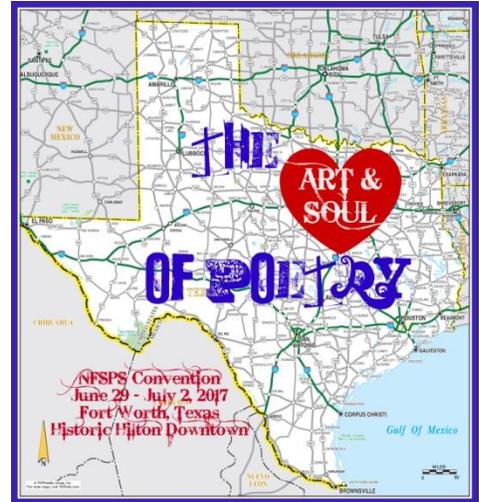
for *Life Magazine* and author of *The World in My Head*, calls poetry the “pulse of life.” In an article in the *San Antonio Express-News*, Stanush explains the therapeutic power of poetry. “Modern medicine is becoming ever more marvelous. It cures supposedly incurable illnesses and has lengthened human life beyond anything hoped for only a few decades ago. But a longer life does not necessarily mean a more fruitful or happy life. There is, in fact, one big gap in modern medicine, at least as practiced in America: the tendency to treat human bodies as if they were automobiles or machines. If the heart or kidney becomes diseased or wears out, put in a new heart or kidney as you would a new carburetor or fuel pump. But human beings are more than bodies with replaceable parts. They are psychosomatic-spiritual beings with illnesses and needs that go far beyond the physical.” The article by Stanush goes on to extol the healing powers of poetry.

I can vouch for the truth of this because for the past fifteen years I’ve been immersed in promoting poetry in the San Antonio area, through poetry festivals and bookstore venues, and I can tell you many stories of people whose lives have been vastly improved by getting involved in poetry—I have heard glowing reports from teachers and parents about students whose self-esteem and self-confidence have improved dramatically, and I’ve talked to adults who were closet poets yet encouraged to share their poetry for the first time, and it has been an exhilarating and affirming experience for them. We need to share poetry with our fellow human beings. We don’t need to be pushy, but we do need to be passionate about the positive power of poetry.

2017 NFSPS Convention ❁ REGISTRATION FORM ❁ June 29-July 2 Fort Worth, TX



Our convention headquarters will be the Hilton Fort Worth. This historic hotel is located in the heart of downtown, a bustling area with interesting sites and shops within walking distance. Call 1-817-870-2100 for room reservations, and mention that you are with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Single and Double rooms are \$119, Triple is \$129, and Quad is \$139. **Cut-off date for these special convention rates is June 6, 2017.**



Please note, the hotel offers valet parking only: Day rate-\$15, Overnight-\$18.

Public parking is also available, which is free on Friday night and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Please note, the Hilton has no shuttle service. DFW

Airport to Hilton: Taxi, Super Shuttle, Uber.

For meal menus and excursion information, please see the reverse side of this form. Read carefully before filling out your registration form. When completed, mail it with your check payable to Poetry Society of Texas to: **Beth Ayers, Convention Registrar, 8117 Alderwood Place, Plano, TX 75025.** We will confirm your registration via email.

Should you have questions, contact Beth Ayers at beth.ayers55@gmail.com or Linda Banks at bankslinda@att.net.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest(s) _____

Note: *Guests may purchase meals and excursions, but do not receive Encore or other convention handouts. Adjust registration form accordingly or use separate form for guest.*

Registration Fee, Full	_____	@ \$75.00 per person	= \$ _____
Registration Fee, Single Day (Circle 1: Th F Sa Su)	_____	@ \$40.00 per person	= \$ _____
Thursday Dinner	_____	@ \$36.00 per person	= \$ _____
Friday Lunch	_____	@ \$26.00 per person	= \$ _____
Friday Dinner	_____	@ \$36.00 per person	= \$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____	@ \$26.00 per person	= \$ _____
Saturday Dinner	_____	@ \$36.00 per person	= \$ _____
Sunday Lunch	_____	@ \$26.00 per person	= \$ _____
Sunday Dinner	_____	@ \$36.00 per person	= \$ _____

Please check any that apply: _____ Vegetarian _____ Sugar Free _____ Gluten Free _____ Other*
*If other, please explain: _____

Billy Bob's Transportation (Wednesday evening)	_____	@ \$5.00 per person	= \$ _____
Stockyards Transportation (Thursday morning)	_____	@ \$5.00 per person	= \$ _____
Arts District Transportation (Thursday afternoon)	_____	@ \$5.00 per person	= \$ _____
Water Gardens and Poetree Art Project (Sunday morning)	_____	@ No charge	= \$ _____

I need transportation to the Water Gardens _____ (otherwise, ten-minute walk)
I need transportation back to the hotel _____ (otherwise, free trolley or ten-minute walk)

Note: *Guests are welcome to take excursions. Adjust registration form accordingly or use separate form.*

TOTAL (Please make check payable to Poetry Society of Texas) = \$ _____

We will be unable to provide refunds after June 6, 2017.

MENUS 🤠 COME AND GET IT 🤠 MENUS 🤠 COME AND GET IT 🤠 MENUS	
<p>Te Deum</p> <p>Not because of victories I sing, having none, but for the common sunshine, the breeze, the largess of the spring.</p> <p>Not for victory but for the day's work done as well as I was able; not for a seat upon the dais but at the common table.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">~ Charles Reznikoff</p>	<p>Welcome to Cowtown Convention Kickoff!</p> <p>Thursday Dinner: \$36.00</p> <p>Potato Salad Cole Slaw Smoked Brisket of Beef BBQ Chicken Ranch Style Beans Buttered Corn with Red Pepper Confetti Cornbread Muffins & Rolls with Butter Texas Pecan Pie Iced Tea Coffee</p> 
<p>Friday Lunch: \$26.00</p> <p>Caesar Salad Pasta Primavera Garlic Sliced Bread Cannoli Iced Tea Coffee</p>	<p>Friday Dinner: \$36.00</p> <p>Spinach Salad Roasted Breast of Turkey Southern Style Cornbread Stuffing Harvest Fresh Vegetables Rolls with Butter Carrot Cake Iced Tea Coffee</p>
<p>Saturday Lunch: \$26.00</p> <p>Chili Lime Chicken Fajita Salad Bed of Chilled Crisp Romaine Grilled Red and Yellow Capsicums Creamy South Texas Avocado Marfa Tomatoes & Crispy Tortilla Strips Key Lime Pie Iced Tea Coffee</p>	<p>Saturday Dinner: \$36.00</p> <p>Tossed Green Salad Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Rolls with Butter Chocolate Cake Iced Tea Coffee</p>
<p>Sunday Lunch: \$26.00</p> <p>Turkey and Ham Club Wrap Turkey, Ham, Bacon, Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Flour Tortilla Herb Orzo Salad Strawberry Shortcake Iced Tea Coffee</p>	<p>Sunday Dinner: \$36.00</p> <p>JFK Salad (field greens, tomatoes, pecans, cucumber) Panko Crusted Chicken, Mustard Sauce Oven Roasted Parsley New Potatoes Sautéed Summer Vegetables Rolls with Butter Italian Cream Cake Iced Tea Coffee</p>

Note: Guests are welcome to purchase meals. Adjust registration form accordingly or use separate form.

EXCURSIONS 🤠 COWBOYS AND CULTURE 🤠 EXCURSIONS 🤠 COWBOYS AND CULTURE 🤠 EXCURSIONS	
<p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY EVENING</p> <p>🌟Wednesday Evening, June 28, Billy Bob's🌟 <i>Car pool to Billy Bob's will leave the Hilton at 6 p.m.</i> Located in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards, Billy Bob's Texas is the World's Largest Honky-Tonk, offering food, beverages, dancing, bull riding, concerts. Concert schedule not available at this time, but there will be an additional fee if you want to attend. There is an entrance fee. http://billybobstexas.com/</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY MORNING</p> <p>🌟Thursday Morning, Stockyards/Cattle Drive🌟 <i>Leave Hotel 9:30, return 1 p.m. Lunch on your own.</i> This is a National Historic Site with shops, museums, and the world's only twice daily cattle drive, held every day at 11:30 AM & 4:00 PM. http://www.fortworthstockyards.org/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY AFTERNOON</p> <p>🌟Thursday Afternoon, Cultural District🌟 <i>Leave Hotel 1:30, return 5 p.m.</i> The Fort Worth Cultural District is home to six museums in a relaxing, park-like setting. Permanent exhibits, no charge. Fees for special exhibits.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY MORNING</p> <p>🌟Sunday Morning, Water Gardens and Poetree🌟 <i>Leave Hotel at 8:00, return at 10:30.</i> The Water Gardens is a short 10-minute walk from the Hilton. If unable to walk, please notify us you need a ride. Trolleys run starting at 10 a.m. for the return trip. Participants will bring prepared short illustrated poems, which will be read at the site and hung on nearby trees to be "picked" by other visitors that day. Art table and supplies available in the Bookroom to prepare cards, which must be completed prior to the outing.</p>

Another Note: Guests are welcome to take excursions. Adjust registration form accordingly or use separate form.

One More Note: Transportation to and from locations will be provided, but you are responsible for your own entrance fees and meals.