



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

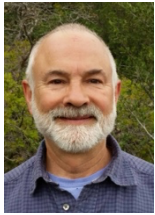
An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

Vol. LIX No. 1

www.nfspd.com

August 2022



Paul Ford
35th NFSPS
President

Dear NFSPS Poets,

The just-completed NFSPS annual convention, *Renewal through Poetry*, was hosted by the Ohio Poetry Association. OPA President Chuck Salmons, joined by a supportive crew, provided the in-person attendees with a wonderful venue (full of poets!) while at the same time they enabled Zoom participation from coast to coast. The combined registration between in-person and Zoom participation was 130+, a number not reached in most in-person NFSPS conventions over the past decade. This first hybrid NFSPS convention is a prototype for future poetry gatherings, both for our state societies' poetry festivals and for future NFSPS conventions. Kudos to OPA leadership for demonstrating courage to go beyond the traditional in-person convention.

As your 35th NFSPS President, I stand before you on the base laid by 33 prior Presidents (yes, Julie Cummings was both the 33rd & 34th NFSPS Presidents, a model of service!). There is little new and uplifting I can say that many of our prior presidents have not said as they started out their presidency. I can say I admire all the ones I have had the pleasure of getting to know: Amy Jo Zook, Susan Stevens Chambers, Clarence P. Socwell (my guide here in Utah, now departed), Budd Powell Mahan, Nancy Baass, Russell H. Strauss, Jeremy M. Downes, Jim Barton (gone as well), and Julie Cummings (my new mentor!). Each President brought new insights to NFSPS, rallied like-minded poets to serve, and encountered challenges no President had faced before (e.g., Julie and the pandemic). Together with the newly Elected and Appointed NFSPS Board members and with our state poetry societies, we will work together to keep our societies vibrant and meet the critical challenges of today (e.g., our societies' aging demographics).

As to what I hope to do for NFSPS and our participating state societies, I feel called to facilitate the sharing of strategies some societies have found work well (aka, "good practices") with other NFSPS poetry societies interested in improving in these specific areas: for example, what some societies have found to be effective for bringing in new members (e.g., younger poets interested in performance poetry). I also want to improve the benefits of membership our societies deliver to members, such as hosting poetry readings and open mics, making major poetry events accessible via video conferencing technologies such as Zoom and partnering with other arts groups engaged in hosting public events/programs. These are just a few examples that come to mind, perhaps not the best of our current good practices. We only need for our poetry societies to build on good practices relevant to their state and membership to better reach a wider variety of audiences with the humanizing qualities of poetry. If I could wave a magic wand, NFSPS and all 32 state societies would have the technical expertise to, as OPA did recently with the hybrid convention, enable "Poetry Accessibility." I imagine our accessibility motto would be *no matter where you are on your poetry journey and whatever your physical and fiscal situation, we are so happy to welcome you.* (Yes, perhaps a little too wordy and bordering on schmaltzy, but it says we have a heart to share poetry with all who are interested.) (continued on page 12)

NFSPS 2022 Convention Report

This year's NFSPS convention, held in Columbus, Ohio, celebrated a return and a renewal of the annual gathering of poets from throughout the country. The first-ever NFSPS convention to offer both in-person and virtual attendance options, poets could convene in the Buckeye State for four days of workshops, readings, a hike, and countless opportunities to listen to and support their fellow poets.

With more than 130 total registrants, convention attendance was robust, with 23 states represented. Taking place on the heels of the summer solstice, the event saw long sunny days of gorgeous late-June weather, perfect for the opening EcoPoetry Hike at Highbanks Metro Park, just across the street from the Nationwide Hotel. The first day was capped by a terrific reading by some of Ohio's Appalachian voices, led by Ohio Poet Laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour.

From there, convention attendees were treated to several engaging workshops and a very special trivia night filled with laughter and also a bit of head scratching as they teamed up to answer questions about forms and first lines, famous poems and the poets who wrote them. We enjoyed open mics in the hotel courtyards, where clear, starry skies loomed above us as we shared our poems. We savored the insights of the panel discussions, which included some of Ohio's local and regional poets laureate.

Our keynote, Columbus' very own Hanif Abdurraqib, was not to be missed. As he reflected on how his own sense of place informs his work, he moved us with his wisdom as a writer—perceptions full of profundity, especially for a writer of such a young age.

We celebrated numerous winners from across the country, including the Stevens Manuscript, College Undergraduate Poetry, and BlackBerry Peach competition winners. We also congratulated Paul Ford as he took office as NFSPS President, and thanked outgoing president Julie Cummings for all her hard work and dedication, and her leadership during the past two terrible years of the pandemic. And we congratulated Diane Glancy as recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of service to NFSPS.

OPA is grateful to have welcomed all of our extended family of poets to central Ohio. We learned a great deal about how to present the convention in cyberspace and look forward to sharing our knowledge and recommendations to those state societies that will do so in the years to come.

Personally, I want to thank all of my colleagues and the volunteers who put in so much effort to make this a memorable convention. And special thanks to our sponsors, including the Ohio Arts Council, without whose support the event would not have been possible.

If you could not visit us this year, we invite you to come to Ohio for one of our other programs, or join us online for one of our virtual workshops, and learn why our state has one of the most dynamic poetry communities in the country. Until then, keep writing.

~ Chuck Salmons, Ohio Poetry Association President

HM1: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
 HM2: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 HM3: Mary Miceli, Rowley, MA
 HM4: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
 HM5: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 HM6: Matthew Feeney, Moose Lake, MN
 HM7: Elaine Person, Orlando, FL

16. Poet's Work Award

Entries (118)
 Judge: Charmaine Pappas Donovan
 1st Place: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 "Lon Chaney"
 2nd Place: Jane Kretschmann, Piqua, OH
 "Christine de Pisan Writes to Her Granddaughter"
 3rd Place: Jo-Anne Rowley, Lafayette, CO
 "In Retrospect"
 HM1: Pegi Shea, Vernon Rockville, CT
 HM2: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM3: Joshua Barreto-Mathews, Los Angeles, CA
 HM4: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM5: Eleanor Berry, Dallas, OR
 HM6: Dawn Kawahara, Lihue, HI
 HM7: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX

17. The Listening Poem Award

Entries (142) Judge: Marleine Yanish
 1st Place: Lea Killian, Mountain View, AR
 "Whispers"
 2nd Place: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 "the distraction"
 3rd Place: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 "Listening for What the Walls Might Say"
 HM1 : Mary Ellen Orvis, Sun City Center, FL
 HM2: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
 HM3: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada
 HM4: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
 HM5: Henry Panowitsch, Mankato, MN
 HM6: Pamelyn Casto, Granbury, TX
 HM7: Diane Neff, Oviedo, FL

18. Power of Women Award

Entries (128) Judge: Julie Johnson
 1st Place: Shari Crane Fox, Grass Valley, CA
 "Taking off Billy Collins' Clothes"
 2nd Place : Henry Panowitsch, Mankato, MN
 "Unworthy"
 3rd place: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
 "Spellbound"
 HM1: Christina Flaughner, Rochester, MN
 HM2: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM3: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM4: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City , UT
 HM5: Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM6: Sheri Anderson, San Antonio, TX
 HM7: Ana Reicens, Sant Just Desvern, Spain

19. The Virginia Corrie-Cozart Memorial Award

Entries (137) Judge: Val Szarek
 1st Place: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX
 "Scintillation"
 2nd Place : Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 "Sitting by the Lake at Chattanooga"
 3rd Place: Julie Kim Shavin, Fountain, CO
 "Pentaprism"
 HM1: Marilyn LT Klimcho, Reading , PA
 HM2: Carol Clark Williams, York, PA
 HM3: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 HM4: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada
 HM5: Harvey Stone, Johnson City, TN
 HM6: Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM7: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL

20. Mildred Vorpahl Baass Remembrance Award

(Members Only) Entries (87) Judge: John W. Coppock
 1st Place: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 "Because You Choose Me"
 2nd Place: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
 "Cats Rule"

3rd Place: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 "Taste-Test"
 HM1: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
 HM2: Randy K. Schwartz, Ann Arbor, MI
 HM3: Judith Tullis, LaGrange, IL
 HM4: Janice Freytag, Souderton, PA
 HM5: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 HM6: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 HM7: Wesley Sims, Oak Ridge, TN

21. League of Minnesota Poets Award

Entries (154) Judge: Emily Strauss
 1st Place: Randy K. Schwartz, Ann Arbor, MI
 "Eclipse of the Pagan Spirits"
 2nd Place: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN
 "Driving at Night in Disappearing Farm Country"
 3rd Place: Julie Martin, Saint Paul, MN
 "Jeffers Petroglyphs"
 HM1: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM2: Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
 HM3: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM4: Sunny Bridge, Fort Collins, CO
 HM5: K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA
 HM6: Eleanor Berry, Dallas, OR
 HM7: Janet Kamnikar, Fort Collins, CO

22. Jessica C. Saunders Memorial Award

Entries (90) Judge: Steven Concert
 1st Place: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH
 "A March Night in Mariupol"
 2nd Place : Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 "Blink of an Eye"
 3rd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "Entropy"
 HM1: Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ
 HM2: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 HM3: Peter Gordon, Orlando, FL
 HM4: Elaine Person, Orlando, FL
 HM5: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
 HM6: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM7: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO

23. Poetry Society of Indiana Award

Entries (118) Judge: Alida Rol
 1st Place: Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
 "Each Night"
 2nd Place : Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 "ritual of want"
 3rd Place: Markay Brown, St. George, UT
 "Fry Bread"
 HM1: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
 HM2: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM3: Connie Green, Lenoir City, TN
 HM4: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 HM5: Michael Spears, Plain City, UT
 HM6: Janice Freytag, Souderton, PA
 HM7: Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights, MN

24. Nevada Poetry Society Award (Members Only)

Entries (38) Judge: Susan Stevens Chambers
 1st Place: Diane Neff, Oviedo, FL
 "Write Slowly, Dream Large"
 2nd Place : Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
 "Cold Winter Winds Swirling"
 3rd Place: Charles K. Firmage, Eloy, AZ
 "She Was Always Riveting"
 HM1: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 HM2: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 HM3: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM4: Linda Reiss-Volin, Denver, CO
 HM5: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 HM6: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM7: Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

25. William Stafford Memorial Award

Entries (155) Judge: Frank Iosue
 1st Place: Michael Spears, Plain City, UT
 "Elsa's Dreams"
 2nd Place : Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX

"Last Bell"
 3rd Place: Jon Sebba, Murray, UT
 "My Sister Sharbat"
 HM1: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
 HM2: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM3: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 HM4: Veronica Schorr, Sherman, CT
 HM5: Connie Green, Lenoir City, TN
 HM6: Nick Sweet, Shepherd , TX
 HM7: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

26. The New York Poetry Forum Award

Entries (142) Judge: Sharon Fox Sweeney
 1st Place: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 "Bonsai Poem"
 2nd Place: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 "What I Want at My Funeral"
 3rd Place: Gwen Gunn, Guilford, CT
 "Poets Will Survive"
 HM1: Mary Beth Magee, Poplarville, MS
 HM2: Marilyn LT Klimcho, Reading , PA
 HM3: Lynn Schiffhorst, Winter Park, FL
 HM4: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM5: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
 HM6: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM7: Julie Kim Shavin, Fountain, CO

27. Columbine Poets of Colorado Award (Members Only) Entries (70) Judge: Eleanor Berry

1st Place: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 "After the Funeral"
 2nd Place: Kathleen McIntosh, New Haven, CT
 "Primera Comunion"
 3rd Place: Russell Straus, Memphis, TN
 "Musings of a Picture Bride (1941)"
 HM1: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 HM2: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO
 HM3: Lorie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 HM4: BettyAnn Whitney, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM5: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 HM6: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 HM7: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT

28. Morton D. Prouty & Elsie S. Prouty Memorial

Award Entries (185) Judge: Joseph Cavanaugh
 1st Place: Joyce Gregor, Westcliffe, CO
 "The Sanctity of Snow"
 2nd Place: George Wylie, Wyandotte, MI
 "The Soaring of Mornings"
 3rd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "At Spring Creek Forest Preserve on Her Birthday"
 HM1: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN
 HM2: Curt Vevang, Palatine, IL
 HM3: Karen Morris, Huntsville, AL
 HM4: Christopher Minton, Gahanna, OH
 HM5: Diane Neff, Oviedo, FL
 HM6: Mike Wilson, Lexington, KY
 HM7: Kenneth Michaels, York, PA

29. Louisiana State Poetry Society Award

Entries (168) Judge: Karen Kay Bailey
 1st Place: Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
 "Act III"
 2nd Place: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN
 "Ghostflowers"
 3rd Place: Jenna Pashley, Richmond, TX
 "The Poet is Antimony"
 HM1: Robert V. Davis, West Haven, UT
 HM2: Randy K. Schwartz, Ann Arbor, MI
 HM3: Pamelyn Casto, Granbury, TX
 HM4: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM5: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 HM6: Mary Rogers-Grantham, Palm Coast, FL
 HM7: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX

30. J. Paul Holcomb Memorial Award (Members Only) Entries (138) Judge: Sue Brannan Walker

1st Place: Crystie Cook, Sandy, UT
 "Quiet Meanderings of Chopin"

2nd Place: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 "Garden Sale"
 3rd Place: Diane Neff, Oviedo, FL
 "A Sonnet for the Old House"
 HM1: Brenda Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS
 HM2: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 HM3: Connie Green, Lenoir City, TN
 HM4: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM5: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 HM6: Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL
 HM7: Pamelyn Casto, Granbury, TX

31. Utah State Poetry Society Award

Entries (76) Judge: Julianza Shavin
 1st Place: Connie Green, Lenoir City, TN
 "Aubade in Late October"
 2nd Place: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 "Seeing Inside Out"
 3rd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "Two Visions of a Garden"
 HM1: Christopher Hasara, Rensselaer, IN
 HM2: Lisa Romano Licht, Congers, NY
 HM3: Betsy M. Hughes, Oakwood, OH
 HM4: Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS
 HM5: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 HM6: Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM7: Janet Kamnikar, Fort Collins, CO

32. Illinois State Poetry Society Award

Entries (100) Judge: Budd Powell Mahan
 1st Place: Julie Kim Shavin, Fountain, CO
 "Snake"
 2nd Place: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 "The Open Book"
 3rd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 "One Must Belong to a Book Club"
 HM1: Adrienne Braun, Geneva, NY
 HM2: Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM3: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 HM4: William Quist, Minneapolis, MN
 HM5: Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
 HM6: Julie Cummings, Conifer, CO
 HM7: Wendy Visser, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

33. The Robbie Award

Entries (94) Judge: Julie Cummings
 1st Place: Patricia Tiffany Morris, Bondurant, IA
 "somehow - somewhere"
 2nd Place: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
 "Ruth and Myrtle Wood"
 3rd Place: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 "Sunday Expectations"
 HM1: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM2: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 HM3: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
 HM4: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM5: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM6: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 HM7: Greer L. Fox, Knoxville, TN

34. Iowa Poetry Association Award

Entries (105) Judge: Susan Gundlach
 1st Place: James D. Neiswender, Denton, TX
 "Minnow"
 2nd Place: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
 "Training"
 3rd Place: Viktor Tichy, San Mateo, IA
 "Genius Parrot"
 HM1: Janice Freytag, Souderton, PA
 HM2: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 HM3: Vicki Wilke, Clarkston, MI
 HM4: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 HM5: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 HM6: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM7: Julie Martin, Saint Paul, MN

35. Ohio Award

Entries (163) Judge: Jennifer Horne
 1st Place: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO

"Black Shoes"
 2nd Place: Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS
 "New Year II: A Golden Shovel Poem"
 3rd Place: Shari Crane Fox, Grass Valley, CA
 "Ditching Therapy"
 HM1: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM2: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
 HM3: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM4: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 HM5: Lynn Schiffhorst, Winter Park, FL
 HM6: Dom Fonce, Boardman, OH
 HM7: Janet Tyner, Tyler, TX

36. Wallace Stevens Memorial Award (Members Only)

Entries (49) Judge: Rita Aiken Moritz
 1st Place: Betsy M. Hughes, Oakwood, OH
 "Before I Sleep"
 2nd Place: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 "Absent"
 3rd Place: Julie Kim Shavin, Fountain, CO
 "In Pastures Gold"
 HM1: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 HM2: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM3: Diane Neff, Oviedo, FL
 HM4: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 HM5: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 HM6: Linda R. Payne, Fairfield, OH
 HM7: Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK

37. WyoPoets Award

Entries (74) Judge: Jon Sebba
 1st Place: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
 "a memorial to red"
 2nd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "The Great Sioux War"
 3rd Place: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 "Household Chores"
 HM1: Jo-Anne Rowley, Lafayette, CO
 HM2: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 HM3: Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
 HM4: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM5: Julie Martin, Saint Paul, MN
 HM6: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
 HM7: Michael Spears, Plain City, UT

38. Florida State Poets Association, Inc. Award

Entries (63) Judge: Barbara Blanks
 1st Place: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO
 "I Do Not Know the Potter."
 2nd Place: Courtney Moody, Ellenton, FL
 "Florida Anatomy"
 3rd Place: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 "Butterfly Effect"
 HM1: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 HM2: Mark Hammerschick, Naples, FL
 HM3: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM4: Crystal Barker, North Las Vegas, NV
 HM5: Christina Flaughner, Rochester, MN
 HM6: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX
 HM7: Mary Ellen Orvis, Sun City Center, FL

39. Poetry Society of MI Award

Entries (123) Judge: William "Bucky" Ignatius
 1st Place: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX
 "Foreshadowing You"
 2nd Place: Crystal Barker, North Las Vegas, NV
 "Diamonds and Deodorant"
 3rd Place: Vicki Arnett, Preston, MO
 "Turtles"
 HM1: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 HM2: Lea Killian, Mountain View, AR
 HM3: James D. Neiswender, Denton, TX
 HM4: Mike Wilson, Lexington, KY
 HM5: Jane Kretschmann, Piqua, OH
 HM6: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 HM7: Janet Kamnikar, Fort Collins, CO

40. Mississippi Poetry Society Award

Entries (80) Judge: Nancy Susanna Breen

1st Place: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 "Forever"
 2nd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Twelve Hours in the ER"
 3rd Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "The Cello and the Bow"
 HM1: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM
 HM2: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM3: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 HM4: Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ
 HM5: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 HM6: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
 HM7: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

41. Jesse Stuart Memorial Award

Entries (123) Judge: Lisa Fosmo
 1st Place: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 "The Memory of Cells"
 2nd Place: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 "A Community of One"
 3rd Place: Lea Killian, Mountain View, AR
 "I've Noticed"
 HM1: Stephen Curry, Jackson, MS
 HM2: Peter Gordon, Orlando, FL
 HM3: Janet Kamnikar, Fort Collins, CO
 HM4: Mike Wilson, Lexington, KY
 HM5: Charles K. Firmage, Eloy, AZ
 HM6: Jenna Pashley, Richmond, TX
 HM7: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO

42. Missouri State Poetry Society Award

Entries (46) Judge: Terrie Jacks
 1st Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Show and Tell"
 2nd Place: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
 "Hearing Is Not Enough"
 3rd Place: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
 "Show Me Missouri"
 HM1: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 HM2: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX
 HM3: Vicki Arnett, Preston, MO
 HM4: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 HM5: Paula Sweeney Kowszik, Millbury, MA
 HM6: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
 HM7: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

43. Barbara Stevens Memorial Award

Entries (165) Judge: Louis Brown
 1st Place: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 "Stradivarius"
 2nd Place: Beth Ayers, McKinney, TX
 "The Bouquet Taped to the Street Light"
 3rd Place: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
 "Russian Invasion of Ukraine 2022"
 HM1: Judy Krum, Sanford, FL
 HM2: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM3: Tina Sacco, Orlando, FL
 HM4: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
 HM5: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM6: Sandra McGarry, Ft. Collins, CO
 HM7: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI

44. Poetry Society of Oklahoma Award (Members Only)

Entries (36) Judge: Florence Bruce
 1st Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Hot Air"
 2nd Place: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 "When Comets Fall"
 3rd Place: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH
 "The Phantom Children of Morrow Inn"
 HM1: Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK
 HM2: Betsy M. Hughes, Oakwood, OH
 HM3: Julie Kim Shavin, Fountain, CO
 HM4: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM5: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM6: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 HM7: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA

45. Save Our Earth Award

Entries (103) Judge: Lori Goetz
 1st Place: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX
 "Tears of Sea"
 2nd Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "Crops"
 3rd Place: Marilyn LT Klimcho, Reading , PA
 "Weather"
 HM1: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City , UT
 HM2: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM3: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 HM4: Geraldine C. Felt, Layton, UT
 HM5: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
 HM6: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada
 HM7: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL

46. Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award

Entries (129) Judge: Lorrie Wolfe
 1st Place: Janet Kamnikar, Fort Collins, CO
 "This Morning"
 2nd Place: Nancy LaChance, Lebanon, MO
 "Cleaning Out the Refrigerator"
 3rd Place: Jenna Pashley, Richmond, TX
 "Collector"
 HM1: David Gaberman, Farmington Hills, MI
 HM2: Mary Rogers-Grantham, Palm Coast, FL
 HM3: Laura Rodley, Shelburne Falls, MA
 HM4: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX
 HM5: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 HM6: Michael Owens, Cypress, TX
 HM7: Christine Irving, Denton, TX

47. Poetry Society of Tennessee Award (Members Only)

Entries (129) Judge: Jerri Hardesty
 1st Place: Michael Spears, Plain City, UT
 "Bread Day Helpers"
 2nd Place: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN
 "Birthing Pain"
 3rd Place: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 "Legacy for Your Children"
 HM1: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
 HM2: Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK
 HM3: Judith Tullis, LaGrange, IL
 HM4: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM5: Laura Trigg, Little Rock, AR
 HM6: Janet Kamnikar, Fort Collins, CO
 HM7: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL

48. Maine Poets Society Award

Entries (108) Judge: Paul Ford
 1st Place: Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT
 "Six Observations"
 2nd Place: Daniel Liberthson, Cottage Grove, OR
 "The Lighthouse"
 3rd Place: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
 "Considering Apples by the Sea"
 HM1: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 HM2: Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL
 HM3: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM
 HM4: James D. Neiswender, Denton, TX
 HM5: Wesley Sims, Oak Ridge, TN
 HM6: Jim Brosnan, Assonet, MA
 HM7: Matthew Feeny, Moose Lake, MN

49. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award (Members Only)

Entries (103) Judge: Sandra Nantais
 1st Place: Maxine B. Kohanski, Tomball, TX
 "Poor Sadie"
 2nd Place: Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO
 "Thrift Store Odyssey"
 3rd Place: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City , UT
 "Just Rewards"
 HM1: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM2: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL
 HM3: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 HM4 : Nancy LaChance, Lebanon, MO
 HM5: Mary Jane Pories, Grand Rapids, MI
 HM6: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
 HM7: Jan Ohmstede, Salida, CO

50. The Poets Northwest Award (Members Only)

Entries (74) Judge: Christina Flaughner
 1st Place: Janet Ohmstede, Salida, CO
 "Wildfire"
 2nd Place: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 "Backdraft"
 3rd Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 "Like No Other Season"
 HM1: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 HM2: Christopher Hasara, Rensselaer, IN
 HM3: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
 HM4: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
 HM5: Alison Chisholm, Southport, UK
 HM6: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM7: Christian Shute, Cheyenne, WY

51. Student Award: Grades 9 – 12

Entries (43) Judge: Susan F. Glassmeyer
 1st Place: Hannah Giuffria, Paron, AR
 "Living in the Shadows"
 2nd Place: Adelaide Spradling, Little Rock, AR
 "My Muse"
 3rd Place: Marion Nebab, Raleigh, NC
 "A Locker's Lament"
 HM1: Donna Zhang, Rye, NY
 HM2: Gracie Limmer, Little Rock, AR
 HM3: Ava Stork, Ankeny, IA
 HM5: Amy Monahan, West Des Moines, IA
 HM6: Arianna Davis, Texarkana, AR
 HM7: Dianna Ramos, Little Rock, AR

52. Poetry in the Classroom Award:

Grades 6 – 8 Entries (11) Judge: Julia L. George
 1st Place: Eleni Mai, Houston, TX
 "My Yiayia"
 2nd Place: Parker Heisterkamp, Council Bluffs, IA
 "The Aftermath"
 3rd Place: Kate Laura Kotta, Mason City, IA
 "United"
 HM1: Brady Lancaster, Alden, IA
 HM2: Jack Krotz, Ainsworth, IA
 HM3: Magdalene Heiden, Alden, IA
 HM4: Aidan Schumann, Polk. City, IA
 HM5: Bridget DeMelfi, Cheyenne, WY
 HM6: Hannah Haaland, Polk. City, IA
 HM7: Luci Kucera, Baxter, IA

53. Poetry in the Classroom Award:

Grades 3-5 Entries (14) Judge: Julia L. George
 1st Place: Brittany Wyatt, Albuquerque, NM
 "St. George"
 2nd Place: Bianca Serao, Ames, IA
 "Life"
 3rd Place: Tiffany Zhou, Ames, IA
 "Snowflake"
 HM1: Tresina Johnson, Urbandale, IA
 HM2: Hannah Kim, Ames, IA
 HM3: Rose Schares, Ames, IA
 HM4: Elliott Coffey, Ames, IA
 HM5: Kaden Clausen, Ames, IA
 HM6: Owen Merrill, Ames, IA
 HM7: Meenakshi Murthy, Irving , TX
 HM8: Lyla Douglas, Baxter, IA

NOTES FROM THE CONTEST CHAIR

Carla Jordan

We received a total of 6045 eligible entries: paper entries, 3106, electronic (Submittable) entries, 2939. There were 531 winning poems selected from the 6045 poems entered. We had a total of 297 poets entering the 53 contests. We received entries from 271 member poets, representing 28 state societies. We had 26 non-member poets enter (excluding the children's entries). Of the 271 member poets, 135 entered via paper US Mail and 136 entered electronically, via Submittable. Of the 26 non-member poets, 19 entered electronically, via Submittable and 7 entered via US Mail. Of the total of 297 poets entering the 53 contests, 214 of them won at least one award.

Those 531 winning poems were distributed across 214 individual winners. The most winning poems were awarded to Budd Powell Mahan, from the Poetry Society of Texas, with 15 winning poems; Lorrie Wolfe, Columbine Poets of Colorado, with 12 winning poems; Alison Chisholm, Ohio Poetry Association member, residing in the UK, with 11 winning poems; and Cheryl Van Beek of Florida State Poets Association, with 10 winning entries. We received entries from 42 states, including Hawaii, and entries from 11 other countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Canada, Czech Republic, Ghana, Greece, Mexico, Philippines, Spain, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Of the 6045 combined entries, the state societies representing 200 or more entries per society were as follows:

Texas - 906
 Florida - 518
 Colorado - 497
 Utah - 476
 Minnesota - 304
 Michigan - 259
 Arkansas - 217
 Iowa - 200

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

Poets Roundtable of Arkansas: Governor Asa Hutchinson announced in October 2022 that PRA member Suzanne Underwood Rhodes was chosen as the new state Poet Laureate. She received a bachelor's degree in English from James Madison University and a Master of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University in the Writing Seminars where she held a teaching fellowship. She taught creative writing at King University and St. Leo University, and has given poetry workshops to students ages five to eighty. Currently, she conducts remote poetry workshops and classes at the Muse Writers Center in Norfolk, Virginia. She owns and operates a small, independent communications business, PR Flair. Her latest book is *Flying Yellow* (Paraclete Press, 2021). PRA had its Spring Poetry Celebration in April and hosted Harding University teacher Paulette Guerin Bane as the guest speaker. In the event, all student contest winners were announced. PRA had twenty-three entries in the Senior Division and seventy-six entries in the Junior Division for the spring annual Sybil Nash Abrams Youth Poetry Contests. The annual PRA Collegiate Poetry Contest drew eight entries. PRA is planning its Poetry Day Celebration for the fall now. To learn more, see our website: <http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/>. ~ *Laura Bridges, PRA Vice President*

Arizona State Poetry Society: We are still holding board meetings and open poetry readings via Zoom. This allows for greater participation from the membership, but we will be having our annual conference in January, in person, in Tucson, with a Zoom option! Our annual contest with 18 categories includes two special youth categories, one for poets aged 13-18 and one for 12 and under. The contest closes Aug. 15, and all poets are encouraged to submit and to let their poetry communities know about the contest. Please review categories and guidelines on our beautiful new website, <http://azpoetry.net/>. Our poets have been publishing, editing, and reading on podcasts, and are glad to be interacting in person at various venues again! ~ *C. Christy White, President*

California State Poetry Society: We granted lifetime membership to Margaret Saine, in honor of the manifold contributions she has made to the Society as Editor of both the California Quarterly and *The Poetry Letters*, and, for many years, as Secretary/Historian. I was introduced to CSPA by Margaret, and owe her a huge debt of gratitude. It has also been a pleasure to work with her, publishing her books, *Lit Angels* (2016) and *Garden of the Earth: According to Nature* (2018) (Moonrise Press.) As I wrote in the 2021 tribute: "To me, she is the embodiment of extensive, expert knowledge of all the arts, as well as languages and history. I admire her deep, unyielding love of poetry in as many languages as can be brought together for the cause of peace and coexistence without violence, without wars – to seek beauty, inspiration and appreciation of the world as is, in all its darkness and light, in all its riches. She writes and publishes poetry in English, her native German, as well as French, Italian and Spanish." She is also a translator and photographer – a Renaissance woman! I'm so glad to be working with her and with my CSPA Board members, to mention only, with particular gratitude, John F. Harrell – a Bishop, double doctor, and dedicated CSPA Treasurer, making sure our organization survives and thrives. ~ *Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, President*

Illinois State Poetry Society: In April, two ekphrastic events shared separately with Downers Grove Artists and Elk Grove Village artists were successful creative programs of reading poetry based on artists' paintings and collages. The artwork was exhibited with accompanying poems in various libraries for the month. Members were

invited to another poetry celebration presented by Paddy and Jon Lynn, professional actors, who performed selections from Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*. The Zoom production was well received and was an entertaining celebration of one of Illinois' best-known poets. An open mic followed a reading by state Manningham contest winners via Zoom. Both students and adults were invited to participate. June 30th is the deadline for active ISPS members to submit original poems for the next biennial society anthology, *Distilled Lives, Vol. 6*. Board meetings and some of the seven chapters continue to meet by Zoom, and the monthly featured poetry readings at Brewed Awakening in Westmont are hybrid presentations. Our website, illinoispoets.org, offers information for membership and has other pertinent information, including members' poetry and publications. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

Kentucky State Poetry Society: In January, KSPS kicked off a monthly Zoom reading series, held on the third Tuesday of each month. Odd-month events are an open mic for KSPS members, who sign up in advance to read, although anyone can watch/listen. Even months have a featured poet who reads from his/her work, engages in conversation with the host/moderator, and fields questions from the audience. Our August 16 featured reader will be Marianne Worthington, whose latest collection is *The Girl Singer*. Both types of events have been well-received and well-attended. Please join us October 8-9 for the KSPS 2022 Poetry Conference! It will be a hybrid event hosted online and at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY. The program will feature a keynote address by Kentucky Poet Laureate Crystal Wilkinson; generative workshops with Bernard Clay, Dave Harrity, and Asha French; hybrid readings and panels on Poetry in Translation, Poetry Chapbooks, and Breaking the Well-Worn Rules; and two open mics (one in-person, one virtual). Details and registration information can be found at <https://kystatepoetrysociety.org/>. ~ *Jennifer Barricklow, Secretary*

The Maine Poets Society will meet next on September 24, 2022. We hope this will be a hybrid meeting (our very first). Time, location, and contest details have yet to be determined. When available, they will be shared on our website: <http://mainepoetsociety.com/>. A link will be emailed to members by September 22 for those wanting to join us on Zoom. Membership in the society is slowly increasing, at least partly due to the inauguration of our Prize Poem Contest five years ago, which is open to all residents of Maine, whether MPS members or not. We have had excellent judges and have been allowed to announce our winners at the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance Literary Awards evening, alongside presentation of the Youth Poetry Award we sponsor through MWPA. During the pandemic, meetings and workshops have been conducted over Zoom. ~ *Sally Joy, Reporter*

The Massachusetts State Poetry Society was able to have an in-person meeting in April. Discussion ensued, with members' sharing latest endeavors regarding their poeeting ventures. Susan Piccole and Mary Micelli continue to be active producing books as well as exhibiting projects in local venues. Colleen Getty shared info for writers and illustrators.

President Jeanette Maes taught an Acrostics workshop, and attendees wrote and shared their acrostic poems. Members shared fond memories of beloved members Gwendolyn and Lloyd Carr, who both recently passed away.

Our poets were given an opportunity to write one or two poems to coordinate with paintings exhibited May-June by the Peabody Art Association.

We look forward to our next meeting in August. Our National Poetry Day Contest brochure listing 25 contests is available with SASE thru

Jeanette Maes, 64 Harrison Ave., Lynn, MA 01905-1350. Many of our members have commented that it has many advantages. We are a fairly rural state, except for some small cities, and distance as well as winter travel are issues for many older members.

To encourage entries, and facilitate membership requests and renewals, later this year we will partner with a local bank to offer secure online payment. ~ *Beverly Barnes, Reporter*

Mississippi Poetry Society: In April, we held our Spring Festival at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville, MS, sponsored by North Branch. Janice Canerdy, state President, won "Best of the Fest" in the adult contest. We were thrilled that many student winners were present to read their poems. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Benjamin Morris from Hattiesburg, speaking about the poets, poetry, and poetics of Mississippi. Ann Carolyn Cates, our 2022 Poet of the Year, presented her chapbook, *Prize-Winning Poetry of Ann Carolyn Cates*. We congratulated Mark LaFrancis for his appointment by mayor of Natchez as Poet Laureate for one year. Our poetry project with Mr. Ted Evanoff's new weekly newspaper, *Tunica Voice*, is going well. Each week a different Mississippi poet will have a poem published in this paper. We are excited about our oral poetry project, "For the Record," in cooperation with the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and the Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History. Jason Ervin will be heading this project for MPS, and all three MPS branches will participate by recording our own poems. Our website is www.misspoetry.net. ~ *Dorothy Wiman, Secretary*

Nevada Poetry Society has a new contact e-mail address: nvpoetry@earthlink.net NPS members are becoming more involved in determining the direction of the group, as we have introduced a new process for our monthly challenge format. Members now take turns to choose, develop and present each monthly challenge. This has resulted in experimenting with new forms, fresh ideas and imparts a personal connection, all of which, I feel, has revamped and revitalized our meetings. ~ *Phyllis Peacock, President*

Pennsylvania Poetry Society membership is up to about a hundred. Mid-May, we celebrated the annual spring conference with a business meeting, a poetry presentation by a special guest, and poetry readings. PPS has completed its annual poetry contest, and awards and certificates were gifted the winners. We published and distributed to winning poets and members the new 2022 poetry contest book. PPS is currently organizing its fall conference, which will be in October of this year. Elections are expected to take place during the conference. ~ *Emiliano Martins, President*

Poetry Society of Oklahoma is looking forward to celebrating National Poetry Day on October 6th with a meeting, luncheon, poetry reading and awards. The theme for National Poetry Day this year is "The Environment." This is also the time of our annual meeting. PSO continues to share its bi-monthly newsletter, "The Oklahoma Rose," with members and other writing groups. Our members enjoy and are enthusiastic about participating in PSO's poetry contests, despite having been unable to meet in person. Hopefully, life is getting back to normal, and we will once again be meeting non-virtually. PSO was saddened to have several members pass away this last year. But we were happy and excited to welcome several new members to be a part of our PSO family. We at PSO encourage all poets to enjoy, discover and share their poetry. We invite everyone to check angelfire.com/poetry/ps/ and our Facebook page for current PSO information. As always, we welcome all to "Come and grow at PSO." ~ *Patti Koch, President*

Poetry Society of Tennessee: Hopefully the pandemic is behind us, and in Tennessee we are up and running again at full strength. We have streamlined our organization, doing away with our chapter structure, and establishing one great statewide society. This is helping us by eliminating redundant offices and committees. We are already on better financial footing, and we look forward to more active membership. Our PST Board members for the 2022-23 year are as follows: William Hill and Calvin Ross—Co-presidents; Clare Webb—secretary; Howard Carmen—Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair; Russell Strauss—Monthly Contest Committee Chair; Lisa Kamolnick—Media Committee Chair; and Jerry Buchanan—Regional Connections Committee Chair. The Regional Connections Committee is a new position. When we decided to do away with our chapters, we knew we would need to maintain a presence in local areas. Jerry agreed to head a committee that would have representatives from all parts of the state. As of this writing, we have Ruby Jones in Memphis and Fred Tudeviver in the Northeast, with others soon aboard. Our monthly contest will resume again, with our September winners, and our anthology is in good hands again this year with Howard Carman, Rose Klix, Janet Qually and Matt Gilbert. Thank you to JoAn Howerton and Russell Strauss for serving along with me as delegates to the fantastic NFSPS Convention this year. *Poets are to literature what Jazz Men are to music.* ~ *William Hill, President*

Poetry Society of Texas: Our Spring Fling, Poetry in Bloom, originally planned for Poetry Month in April was held at the Dallas Arboretum on a Sunday later in May. Planned and emceed by director JDarrell Kirkley, with input by President Irene Robertson, and other board members, it provided for free admittance and parking at the Arboretum, time to tour the gardens, poetry readings by those in attendance, a contest for the best flower poem, a Mexican box lunch with enchiladas, and a slide show by an Arboretum docent. It was enjoyed by the 52 who attended, including a member from Louisiana and another one from Oklahoma.

A reception was held for the opening of the thirteenth Merging Visions Exhibit on the first Friday evening in June in Denton, Texas. A pairing of poetry from members of Denton Poets Assembly and varied art work from members of the Visual Arts Society of Texas will be on display through June 25th at the UNT CoLab for the viewing pleasure of the community. The catalog showing the poems and art work in the exhibit can be viewed on the Denton Poets Assembly website.

We are excited to finally be able to have a PST Summer Conference this year. It will be hosted by the Mockingbird Poetry Society in Allen, Texas July 14th-16th. ~ *Catherine L'Herisson, Reporter*



2022 NFSPS Lifetime Achievement Award

During the 2022 National Convention, Diane Glancy was presented the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award by JoAn Howerton.

We thank Diane for her many years of service to NFSPS.

COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE POETRY COMPETITION

As a first-time chair of the College Undergraduate Poetry Competition, I've been learning as I go with the help of the previous chair, Steven Concert. We had 32 entries from 14 states this year. It was a pleasure working with the winners as we prepared the manuscripts, and both winners, along with their families, were present at convention to share their work. They are impressive young poets, and we hope they will be active in their state societies in the years to come!

Melanin Sun (-) Blind Spots by Danae Younge is our 2022 Florence Kahn Memorial Award. Younge is from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and studies English Literature at Occidental College in Los Angeles. This year's judge, Danèlle Lejeune, described the collection as "a complex work, written with exquisite craft, tackling a not easy to talk about a series of subjects. Shining a light on the intersection in which we the reader are asked to sit with her for a moment, she skillfully crafts with strikeouts and redactions, leaving us sometimes to guess what has been stricken and other times creating an emphasis on what we are not supposed to talk about. This is a technique many poets shy from, but Younge painted these words beautifully, carving out a place for herself on this generation's shelves."

Our 2022 Edna Meudt Memorial Award winner is Ingrid Piña of Houston, Texas, a humanities major at the University of Texas at Austin. The judge commented that "*Ragweed Body* by Ingrid Piña is a beautiful collection that weaves the natural world with the generational magic and traumas, a map of a neighborhood, a childhood, and of everyday life. These poems read like songs, like arias, and stay with us like Ragweed. Form and function wriggle down the page like a ballet of words and breaks, giving voice to motion and meaning."

I look forward to reading more poetry from both of the winners in the future! ~ *Jessica Temple, 4th Vice President and CUP Chair*

THE CRAFT OF WRITING POETRY

Poetry writing can be viewed as a musical composition. With the author as composer, we can look at poetry as we might review a piece of sheet music. We begin by breaking down the relationship of its parts, identifying any that do not serve a purpose. Just as all the parts of a human body serve a purpose, the parts of the composition must contribute to the greater whole.

In order to not outwit the reader, we must strive to give the reader enough information about whose voice is speaking and whose viewpoint is being conveyed. Are telling details and clues included?

As with music, we might find that the first line written is not necessarily the best place to begin. And that is why the author/composer must have the courage to begin someplace else.

Another important step in understanding what we have on our hands is to read the poetry aloud, which enables the creator to hear the music. After all, within every poem can be found a special musical quality with rhythm and nuance. Hearing its musicality will enable the writer to take out some words, emphasize others, or even delete the final line in search of a better ending. ~ *Vivian O'Shaughnessy*

LORETTA DIANE WALKER

It is with a heavy heart that we must announce the death of recently elected Chancellor, Loretta Diane Walker. Loretta was a great poet and dedicated to serving on the NFSPS Board. Many know Loretta because of her frequent trips to the winner's podium at conventions. Loretta Diane Walker is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently *Day Begins when Darkness Is in Full Bloom* (Blue Light Press, 2021). The recipient of the 2011 Blue Light Press Book Award and the 2016 Phillis Wheatley Book Award for Poetry, she taught elementary music in Odessa, Texas. Diane Glancy said, Loretta "was an integral part of the Poetry Society of Texas, and was ready to be an influence in the national organization." Our hearts go out to her family and friends. ~ *Julie Cummings, NFSPS Past President*

THE ART OF WRITING POETRY

In writing poetry, there is a blending of experience and imagination. That experience can be something we read, something we witness, or a personal encounter seasoned with imagination.

One of the greatest joys in writing a poem is to succeed in creating an emotional response from our readers. For example, if we write a poem about a journey home to bury our mother, our words may stir a memory in the readers as they absorb our sorrow and entwine it with their own. Thus, in a successful poem, poet and reader become as one.

Since poetry is limited in scope as compared to prose, it is important that we use each word carefully to convey our thoughts. Poetry is enhanced when written in concrete form. For example, "a bird in a bush" could be expressed as "a cardinal in the flowering quince." Another important facet of poetry writing is to show, not tell. For example, "the woman stood in the station looking sad and lonely" could be expressed as "the woman watched the train departing, head downcast, wiping away a tear."

As poetry is recited, rhythm and sound effects are important elements. By paying close attention to the meter of a poem and figures of speech, we create the rhythm and sound of our poem. For instance, in lines from my poem, "Yard Sale": "The warning whistle heralds a damp and dismal dawn," the alliteration adds sound effects.

Some poems, such as the ballad, require certain rhyme and meter schemes. This poem is divided into quartets with the second and fourth lines rhyming, adding sound to the poem. The first and third lines are written with a total of eight syllables, accented and unaccented, and the second and fourth lines carry a total of six syllables, accented and unaccented. The variation in meter gives rhythm to the poem. For example, a quartet from my ballad, "Spirit of Marie Laveau:"

Marie then made a man of wood;	a
she dressed him bold and smart.	b smart
She found a sharp and silver pin,	c
and stabbed him in the heart.	b heart

However, the key to writing good poetry lies in reading. By studying different poets and different poetry forms, we improve our skill for creating memorable poems. ~ *Elaine McDermott*

**63rd Convention ~ 2023 Annual Contests
CONTEST RULES**

(Read carefully. Any violation will disqualify entry.)

1. Any poem submitted must:

- a. Be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in any form, including digitally or placed on exhibition, and not under consideration or accepted for publication elsewhere. (Award will be recalled if a winning poem is found to be in violation of rules before publication in the NFSPS anthology of prize poems, and lower prizes and honorable mentions will move up in classification.)
- b. Be written in English, be titled, unless the poem is a form that is supposed to be untitled (e.g. haiku, lune, etc.).
- c. Have a 40 line limit for all contests **not** stating line limit. Line count includes every line, both **printed and blank**. A one line title and its following space is not counted in the line limit. Specific forms (e.g. rondeau, sonnet, villanelle, etc.) should follow required format spacing and line limits.

d. Be typed, photocopied or computer generated (not handwritten or hand printed) and without illustrations.

2. Poets give NFSPS exclusive first printing rights to all poems entered in the NFSPS annual contests. Poems winning a cash prize of \$15 or more will be printed in the NFSPS prize poems anthology, *Encore*, at the discretion of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to alter line breaks in poems having more than 50 characters per line, including punctuation marks and spaces. Printing rights revert to the poet after the anthology is published (approx. August of 2023). All prize winners will be notified, and others may obtain a list of winners in August 2023 by sending \$1 and a #10 SASE to:

Julie Cummings *Strophes* Editor
9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433-4007

Submitted poems will not be returned, poets should retain copies.

3. An eligible poem **may not be withdrawn** after submission.
No simultaneous submissions.

4. Except as indicated in Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award, contestants may submit only one entry in any contest, and may not submit the same poem in any other contest.

5. Enclosed check or money order must be made payable to NFSPS, Inc. (initials are sufficient) rather than to any individual.

- a. Non-members may enter most contests at \$1 each (except \$10 for each entry in Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award). Non-members may not enter contests marked with an asterisk (*) and which are designated members only.
- b. Members may enter up to 10 contests for \$1 per poem or \$10 total for entry in more than 10 contests (except for Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award which is \$5 per poem).
- c. Entrants from outside the U.S. must send checks drawn on U.S. banks or branches, payable in U.S. Funds, or send U.S. Currency.

6. First Prize winner in Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award is not eligible to enter that contest the following year (NFSPS Founders Award only).

7. Judges will be selected by NFSPS, Inc. No ties will be awarded, and the decisions of the judges will be final.

8. When to submit:

- a. **Start date:** entries must not be postmarked before **January 1, 2023**.
- b. **Deadline:** entries must be postmarked by **March 15, 2023**.

9. Individuals are "Members Only" eligible if a paid-up member of an NFSPS state society and listed in that society's membership roll. State societies must remit their annual dues by **January 15, 2023**, and update their membership information as required by **March 15, 2023**. Dues and membership list must be sent to:

Linda Harris, NFSPS Treasurer
49512 SE Weber Road, Sandy, OR 97055-7425

Update info may be sent via e-mail: Treasurer@NFSPS.com

10. How to submit poems via USPS:

- a. Send **two** copies of the poem on 8.5" X 11" white paper (no onion skin or tissue), in black ink, **single-spaced**. If the poem requires more than one page, staple together at the top **left** corner all pages of each copy.
- b. On **both** copies, place number and name of contest in upper **left** corner.
- c. On **second copy only**, put name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of the poet, state poetry society membership or "Non-member of NFSPS" in upper **right** corner. If a poem requires more than one page, number pages also on upper right corner (both copies).
- d. Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order (1 – 50) with originals on top. Count them.
- e. Include an 8.5 X 11 cover sheet with poet's name, address, phone number, e-mail address (if available), and state society membership (or "Non-member of NFSPS"). List on the cover sheet the category number(s) and the poem title(s) of each contest you are entering. List the total number of poems sent. Do NOT staple the cover sheet to entries or to entry fee.
- f. Mail all entries at one time, unfolded, in a large envelope, including the cover sheet and entry fee. Mail to the Contest Chair by First Class, Priority Mail, or any form of delivery that does NOT require a signature upon receipt.

Mail contest entries to:

2023 Contest Chair
5858 Pintail Way, Frederick, CO. 80504-9668

NFSPS, Inc. will **not** assume mailing costs and will **not** be responsible for any entries lost or delayed in the mail.

11. You may also enter via Submittable.com. **Please read and follow the rules on Submittable as they are slightly different.** Through Submittable there are two separate entry fee transactions: one for Category #1 and one for Categories #2 through #50. If entering Category #1 plus any other Category, there will be two payment forms, pay attention to your payment details. Failure to remit entry fees timely (by March 15, 2023) will result in a disqualified submission.

NOTE: Amazon does not permit the publication of material that contains vulgar language because it is not suitable to minors. The printed edition of *Encore* will include the poetry of school-aged individuals and published via Amazon. **Entries which violate this standard will be disqualified.**

NFSPS, Inc. is a non-profit organization, exclusively educational and literary. Its purpose is to recognize the importance of poetry with respect to national cultural heritage. It is dedicated solely to the furtherance of poetry on the national level and serves to unite poets in the bonds of fellowship and understanding.

The NFSPS anthology of prize poems, *Encore*, containing the winning poems from these contests will be available upon publication in August 2023 on Amazon.com and at the NFSPS convention in June 2024. For information regarding current *Encore* editions, contact: **Encore Editor, Kathy Cotton** at kalcotton@gmail.com. For information regarding available editions and book prices, visit the NFSPS website (select "Publications" in the menu).

- 1. NFSPS Founders Award** (to honor Mary B. Wall)
Sponsored by NFSPS, Inc.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 100.
1st Prize: \$1,000. 2nd Prize: \$500. 3rd Prize: \$250.
Entry fee: **per poem** – members (\$5) and non-members (\$10)
Limit: **4 poems per contestant.**
- 2. NFSPS Board Award**
Sponsored by the NFSPS Executive and Appointive boards.
Subject: Intersection. Form: Any. Line limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$225. 2nd Prize: \$125. 3rd Prize: \$75.
- 3. The Margo Award**
Sponsored by her friends in memory of Margo LaGattula.
Subject: Windows. Form: Any. Line limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- *4. Donald Stodghill Memorial Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by Pat Stodghill.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- 5. Social Critique Poetry Award**
Sponsored by Randy K. Schwartz
Subject: A poem that expresses a yearning for society to advance beyond the oppression of humans by humans.
Form: Any. Line limit: 75.
1st Prize: \$200. 2nd Prize: \$100. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- 6. Winners' Circle Award**
Sponsored by Diane Glancy, Pat Stodghill, Sue Chambers (previous prize winners in the NFSPS Founders Award)
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 80.
1st Prize: \$150. 2nd Prize: \$95. 3rd Prize: \$45.
- *7. Georgia Poetry Society Award** (*Members Only)
Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Society.
Subject: The American South – historical events, cultural aspects, weather, landscapes, etc. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$150. 2nd Prize: \$75. 3rd Prize: \$25.
- 8. Stone Gathering Award**
Sponsored by Danielle Dufy Literary French Press Editions.
Subject: Any. Form: Prose Poem. Line limit: 40.
Winning poems considered for publication in the print quarterly, *Stone Gathering: A Reader*. 1st Prize: \$125. 2nd Prize: \$75. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- *9. Poetry Society of Texas Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Texas.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$125. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
- 10. Jim Barton, Bard of the Pines Award**
Sponsored by the South Arkansas Poets of the Pines. *In Memory of James Nathan Barton, past President of NFSPS and cheerleader to all writers, who saw wonder and poetry everywhere in nature.*
Subject: At the Edge of the Woods. Form: Rhymed. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$60. 3rd Prize: \$40.
- 11. Lucille Morgan Wilson Memorial Award**
Sponsored by Julie Cummings and Carla Jordan
Subject: Garden. Form: Any. Line limit: 40
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$60. 3rd Prize: \$40.
- *12. Al Laster Memorial Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by Diana Gagne. Subject: An Ekphrastic Poem – written in response to viewing a painting, photograph, sculpture, drawing, or other piece of visual art. Form: Any. Line limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$50.
- 13. Arizona State Poetry Society Award**
Sponsored by the Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS).
Subject: Magical Connections. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$100. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
- *14. Jim Barton Memorial Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by the Poets Roundtable of Arkansas
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
- *15. Alabama State Poetry Society Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by the Alabama State Poetry Society. Subject: Breaking the Rules. Form: Choose a form but break it – modify an existing form to make it your own. Note form and modifications on entry. Line limit: 50. 1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
- 16. Land of Enchantment Award**
Sponsored by the New Mexico State Poetry Society.
To honor the memory of Susan Paquet
Subject: A poem related to "borders," real or imagined. Form: Any. Line limit: 40. 1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
- 17. Poet's Work Award**
Sponsored by Paul Ford and Marie Andrews.
Subject: Life as Other. Form: Persona poem. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
- 18. The Listening Poem Award**
Sponsored by Linda Eve Diamond.
Subject: Listening. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$25.
- 19. Power of Women Award**
Sponsored by Sue Chambers and Christina Flaughter.
Subject: The Power of Women. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$70. 2nd Prize: \$50. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 20. The Virginia Corrie-Cozart Memorial Award**
Sponsored by her friends in the Peregrine Writers.
Honoring the author of *A Mutable Place* and *Wavering Reflection*
Subject: Leaving Home. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- *21. Mildred Vorpahl Baass Remembrance Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by her daughter, Nancy Baass.
Subject: Domestic Cats – their endearing habits, intelligence, loyalty, beauty, etc. (no reference to cruelty or abuse). Form: Any. Line limit: 40. 1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 22. League of Minnesota Poets Award**
Sponsored by the League of Minnesota Poets.
In memory of John Rezmerski.
Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 45.
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 23. Jessica C. Saunders Memorial Award**
Sponsored by the Shavano Poets Society of Colorado.
Subject: Any. Form: Villanelle. Line limit: (follow form)
1st Prize: \$60. 2nd Prize: \$40. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 24. Poetry Society of Indiana Award**
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Indiana.
Subject: "Hello, again!" Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- *25. Nevada Poetry Society Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by the Nevada Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Minute. Line limit: (follow form).
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 26. William Stafford Memorial Award**
Sponsored by the Oregon Poetry Association and Friends of William Stafford. In memory of William Stafford, Oregon's late Poet Laureate and twice Honorary Chancellor of NFSPS.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 27. The New York Poetry Forum Award**
Sponsored by the New York Poetry Forum.
Subject: The Art of Poetry. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- *28. Columbine Poets of Colorado Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by the Columbine Poets of Colorado.
Subject: Visions of Peace. Form: Any. Line Limit: 30.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 29. Morton D. Prouty & Elsie S. Prouty Memorial Award**
Sponsored by daughters, Catherine P. Horn and Carol P. Ostberg and their families. *In memory of Morton D. Prouty, Jr. who served as NFSPS Treasurer and Poet Laureate of Alabama, and Elsie S. Prouty*
Subject: A Nature poem. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- *30. Jimmye Inez Sessions Memorial Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Texas.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 28.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20
- 31. Utah State Poetry Society Award**
Sponsored by the Utah State Poetry Society.
Subject: Double Vision, two views of the same thing
Form: Any. Line limit: 45.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 32. Illinois State Poetry Society Award**
Sponsored by the Illinois State Poetry Society.
Subject: Rivers. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 33. The Robbie Award**
Sponsored by Joyce Wilson.
Subject: Loss of a Child (not necessarily by death). Form: Any. Line limit: 40. 1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 34. Iowa Poetry Association Award**
Sponsored by the Iowa Poetry Association.
Subject: Poetry for Children. Form: Any. Line limit: 50.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- *35. Wallace Stevens Memorial Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Inc.
Subject: Any. Form: Rondeau. Line Limit: (follow form).
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.
- 36. Ohio Award**
Sponsored by the Ohio Poetry Association.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$50. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 37. WyoPoets Award**
Sponsored by the WyoPoets of Wyoming.
Subject: Wyoming or the West. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$40. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 38. Florida State Poets Association, Inc. Award**
Sponsored by the Florida State Poets Association, Inc.
Subject: A Celebration of Florida History or Culture—or any other Florida topic, historic or contemporary. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 39. Poetry Society of Michigan Award**
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Michigan.
Subject: Any. Form: Free Verse. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 40. Mississippi Poetry Society Award**
Sponsored by the Mississippi Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Sonnet (include sonnet pattern on entry). Line limit: (follow form)
1st Prize: \$35. 2nd Prize: \$25. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 41. Jesse Stuart Memorial Award**
Sponsored by the Kentucky State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 42. Missouri State Poetry Society Award**
Sponsored by the Missouri State Poetry Society.
Subject: The Show Me State. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 43. Barbara Stevens Memorial Award**
Sponsored by the South Dakota State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any Serious Theme. Form: Any. Line limit: 12.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 44. Poetry Society of Oklahoma Award**
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Oklahoma.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 45. Save Our Earth Award**
Sponsored by the Martha H. Balph.
In memory of David F. Balph.
Subject: Environmental Issues. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 46. Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award**
Sponsored by the Massachusetts State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- *47. Poetry Society of Tennessee Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Tennessee.
In Memory of Norma Young.
Subject: Gardens or Gardening. Form: Any. Line limit: 10—40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- 48. Maine Poets Society Award**
Sponsored by the Maine Poets Society, fostering poetry since 1936.
Subject: An Encounter with Nature. Form: Any. Line limit: 40.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- *49. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by Russell H. Strauss.
Subject: Any. Form: Rubaiyat (linked) - AABA BBBC CCDC etc. final stanza may be EEEE, EEAE, or EEFEE. Line limit: 12—20.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.
- *50. The Poets Northwest Award** (* Members Only)
Sponsored by Poets Northwest, a chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas, celebrating 36 years of encouraging and inspiring poets in their craft. Subject: The City. Form: Any. Line limit: 36.
1st Prize: \$25. 2nd Prize: \$20. 3rd Prize: \$15.

STUDENT COMPETITIONS

No entry fee is required for these student competitions. Open only to students in grades 3 thru 12. Include grade with name and summer mailing address on the second copy only (see Contest Rule 1) or enter via Submittable. One poem per student.

Mail entries to 2023 Contest Chair.
5858 Pintail Way, Frederick, CO 80504-9668

Student Award: Grades 9 – 12

Sponsored by Julie Cummings (CO), Catherine L'Herisson (TX)
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 32.
1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20.
7 Honorable Mentions: \$5 each.

Poetry in the Classroom Award: Grades 6 – 8

Sponsored by the New Mexico State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 32.
1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

Poetry in the Classroom Award: Grades 3 – 5

Sponsored by the New Mexico State Poetry Society.
Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line limit: 32.
1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

Related to the above, at our convention-concluding June 27th Board meeting, we authorized two new Appointed Board Positions:

- Performance Poetry Advocate
- Learning Coordinator

This first NFSPS Board role, with its focus on Performance Poetry, is intended to assist interested poetry societies in building up their members' knowledge and skills in performing poetry, whether at poetry readings, open mics or for competition such as the first annual NFSPS BlackBerryPeach National Slam Poetry Competition, scheduled for October 20-23 in Daytona Beach Shores, Florida. I will be reaching out to state society presidents to solicit candidates who might be interested and have the background needed for this Performance Poetry Advocate role.

The Learning Coordinator role is intended to engage our state societies to collect and document good practices in how state societies organize to deliver their services/programs as well as poetry craft tutorials/articles which members may be interested in learning. The form these learning assets take will vary, such as videos, podcasts, and downloadable template documents. Peter Stein, past president of the League of Minnesota Poets, is the first Learning Coordinator for NFSPS. Our hope is that through Peter engaging state societies, we can deliver more value to state member societies and to their members.

On a personal note, I came to poetry later in life. Fifteen years ago, my wife's death led to my joining the poetry society here in Utah (UTSPS, like your state society, is full of wonderfully supportive poets!), then to leading our society's local chapter in Salt Lake, to helping with the society's website and publications, and eventually to President of our Utah society. Also, a dozen years ago I had an opportunity to assist the then current *Strophes* Editor, Bethany Ng, prepare issues; this led to being offered the Editor role in 2012. The April 2022 issue was my last as Editor. Julie Cummings, our immediate past president, has taken on the *Strophes* Editor role.

(President's message continued)

I have enjoyed getting to know poets, first here in Utah and then through NFSPS annual conventions with many poets across the country. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming years. Until we meet (again), please join me in the service of poets & poetry, wherever you are and whatever opportunity calls to you, whatever inspiration calls to you. I am happy to walk with you on our shared poetry journey.

Your servant in poetry,
Paul Ford, 35th NFSPS President

BARBARA STEVENS POETRY BOOK MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION

The Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition submission period opens August 1 and closes November 15, 2022. Complete details are available at <http://NFSPS.Submittable.com> starting August 1 and also at <http://www.nfsps.com/stevens1.html>.

Listening Themed Poetry Digital Anthology

Linda Eve Diamond is compiling a digital anthology of listening-inspired poetry and visual arts. Submissions may include up to five poems and/or up to five visual works of art. Visual arts submissions should relate to listening and can include a brief artist's statement. See <https://www.listenersunite.com/invitation> for more information and to explore the listening-themed poetry prompts.

MONTHLY POETRY CONTEST

Wilda Morris, former president of the Illinois State Poetry Society, posts a contest for other poets each month on her blog. New contests are posted the first of the month; deadline is the 15th of the month. No charge to enter. Previously published poems are okay, but not simultaneous submissions. Winning poems are published. See: wildamorris.blogspot.com.

ENCORE PRIZE POEMS 2022



The 2022 anthology of 159 prize-winning poems awarded at the "Renewal Through Poetry" NFSPS convention is available on amazon.com. All royalties from *Encore* sales support NFSPS.

~ Kathy Cotton, *Encore* Editor

NFSPS Contest Brochure Mailings

The NFSPS 2023 Contest Brochure is being mailed to state contacts and is also available online. You may also request a copy by mailing a SASE to Julie Cummings, 9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO. 80433