



Of Poets and Poetry

Newsletter of Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Florida State Poets Association has planned an exceptional annual conference at the beautiful beachside Plaza Hotel in Daytona Beach on October 21-23, 2016. Daytona Live Poets President Bob Blenheim, predicts a lively and dynamic group of poets will enjoy the historic hotel in the heart of the world's most famous beach. We continue to offer our members access to the best and brightest poets in the state for a very low price of \$25 per member registration for the 3 day weekend. Registration includes below market (\$99) hotel rates including resort fees, free valet or self-parking, ocean front pool and direct access to a no drive ocean front beach. The excitement will include our 2nd annual Florida Invitational Slam Tournament (F.I.S.T.) that will feature 50 of the finest performance poets from around the country with preliminaries beginning on Thursday, 10/20/16 and the finals including the top 12 as part of the late night Saturday program.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating our newest Honorary Chancellor, Lola Haskins who will be the keynote speaker. She will join Peter Meinke and Lee Bennett Hopkins, our two current Chancellors, at a special dinner following her acceptance of the Honorary Chancellor's laurel wreath in recognition of her contribution to poetry in the state. She will be the first woman to receive this honor. This has been a great four years for me as your president. We have accomplished a lot of good things together and I thank each of you again and again for all your good work. For me it has been a great pleasure to move forward creating a way to accomplish our objectives including our Poet Laureate Program and instituting our Honorary Chancellor Program coupled with our increased activity in promoting the growth of young poets and their opportunities in sixth to twelfth grade written poetry competitions and in State Championships for performance poets. For me, it has been a very exciting year including my election to the NFSPS Board as a vice president with the task of bringing the National board new opportunities and directions. I know that the nominating committee members liked what they saw happening in Florida.

We have been working very hard on goals that we set for ourselves a couple of years ago to improve our membership benefits and expand our outreach to younger poets. I want to thank again to the many generous donors who helped by becoming individual and business sponsors.

Although this will be my last President's Report, I hope to stay in touch with all of you and provide an open line of communication between our National organization and you.

At the October Convention you will elect a new group of officers. The Nominating committee, chaired by Alice Freidman did an excellent job of selecting outstanding candidates. I hope you will join me in offering them our support and input. I look forward to seeing you in October.

All the Best,

Joe Cavanaugh

*The Florida State Poets
Association Presents
The 42nd Annual Convention*

With Keynote Speaker:

Lola Haskins



October 21-23, 2016

Plaza Resort & Spa

600 N. Atlantic Ave.

Daytona Beach, Florida

(More Information Inside)

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Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

An affiliate of the National Federation
of State Poetry Societies
Organized October 1974
Henrietta Kroah, Founder

2015-2016 Officers**Executive Board**

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Treasurer: Judith Krum, 2614 S. Marshall Avenue, Sanford, FL 32773; 386.624.3402; judithkrum@att.net

Appointive Board

Anthology/OPAP Editor: Patricia Stevenson-Gingrich, 108 Chesser Loop Rd., Chelsea, AL 35043-8191; 850.445.1302; patriciasg.bbp@gmail.com

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National Poetry Day/Month: Coleen Ward, 955 Thompson Court, Melbourne, FL 32935; 321.242.2815; cojeward@bellsouth.net

Student Award Chair: Janet Watson, 7908 West Drive, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544; 813.973.0763; JMPWAT@aol.com

Website:

www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org
Randall Krum, 2614 S. Marshall Avenue,
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**Nominating Committee
for 2017 Officers:**

Alice Friedman, Chair. arf603@mail.com

Board of Directors (chapter presidents)**Big Bend Poets—Tallahassee**

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213.537.5887; poemedy@gmail.com

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#11, Orlando, FL 32808; 407.298.9636;

Poetry for the Love of It —Tallahassee

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Tomoka Poets

Mary-Ann Westbrook, 6 Juniper Drive, Or-
mond Beach, FL 32176; 386.441.1839; 1po-
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A Chronology of FSPA Presidents:

Joseph Cavanaugh 2012-
Cheri Neuman Herald 2010-2012
Betty Ann Whitney 2008-2010
Robert E. Blenheim 2004-2008
Caroline Walton 2002-2004
Coleen Ward 1998-2002
Gail Teachworth 1994-1998
Carolyn Walton 1992-1994
Virginia Martin* 1989-1992
Ruth Cunliffe* 1989-1989
Gwen Thomas 1988-1989
Madelyn Eastlund 1984-1988
Agnes Homan* 1982-1984
Robert DeWitt* 1978-1982
Harvey Winters* 1978-1978
Beatrice Branch* 1976-1978
Henrietta Kroah* 1974-1976
*Deceased

Treasurer's Report

As of July 15, 2016, the FSPA Suntrust Account shows a balance is \$5,147.80. We anticipate receiving and depositing the checks from the FSPA Poetry contests and the Anthology pre-orders in late July and August. We will also be looking for dues from Membership renewals and new members during the Fall months.

~Judith Krum, Treasurer

**Membership Report**

As of this printing, FSPA had a total of 226 members for 2016. We have nine official chapters with Orlando Area Poets attaining the highest chapter membership with 32 members. Members-at-Large number a total of ninety-six poets. **Enrollment for 2017** FSPA membership begins officially on October 1st, 2016, and runs through the end of the year. There is already one paid member for 2017. However, we urge you to renew, or join for the first time, as early as possible in order for you to be included in the January mailing of newsletters from FSPA and NFSPS.

~ Mary Marcelle, Chair

Of Poets & Poetry is published four times per year: August, November, January, and April. The deadline for submitting Chapter and Member-at-Large News is usually the first of the previous month. Deadlines for Special Reports may vary. Send content prior to the deadline to: Patricia Stevenson-Gingrich, *OPAP* Editor (addresses below).

The next issue to be mailed early Nov. **ALL Member News due by Oct. 1st. Reports & Convention news due by Oct. 25th.** Submit via the Internet as an **attachment**: Word (.doc or .docx), RTF, TXT, or PDF format files. **NO embedded html files.** Any photos should be high resolution in JPEG (jpg) format. If you are unable to do this, contact the Editor at 850.445.1302.

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108 Chesser Loop Road
Chelsea, AL 35043-8191

Reports

YOUTH REPORT

The 2015-2016 FSPA Student Poetry Contest will not be officially completed until winners receive a copy of this year's anthology in October, with their poems included. However, work has already begun on the 2016-2017 Student Poetry Contest. Information pages were revised to include our exciting announcement about the **Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Young People**. This award will be presented to first-place winners in each grade category. This year's contest information will be mailed and e-mailed to all Florida school districts in late August.

The top winners of our state student contest are always entered in the national Manningham Trust Contest as well. This year we are happy to announce that we had a Florida winner. Martina Brady of Miami Palmetto Senior High in Dade County won 5th Honorable Mention in the Senior Division. Along with a cash award, Martina received copies of the winning-poems anthology.

We are most grateful for Lee Bennett Hopkins' generous monetary support, which will cover the cash awards for the FSPA Student Contest. Obviously, our expenses increase every year—mainly for postage, as more and more students enter our contest. A number of chapters and individual members have made donations to our Youth Program in the past, and such donations are always appreciated.

We ask members and chapters to continue publicizing our student contest in your own areas and to refer interested young people to our website. Rules for the 2016-2017 contest will be posted there by early-September.

~ Janet Watson, Youth Chair

PS: Send your chapter's youth activities to Janet so they might be included in future reports and shared with other FSPA members and chapters.

Anthology Thirty-Four

The 2016 edition of the FSPA's annual anthology is expected to be another outstanding publication for us. With over eighty FSPA members contributing again, and some of the most fantastic photographs yet, the book will be a welcome edition to anyone's poetry library! Elaine, Gary, and Patricia will be in hiding very soon as we work on completing the poetry and photo selections, as well as add all the contest winning poems to the layout. We will come up for air in October! Have a great summer. ~PSG

MEET FSPA'S NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR!

Mary Marcelle published her first poem at age 12. Her career in Journalism included working at both the Orlando Magazine and the Orlando Weekly Newspaper, where she was entertainment editor. Marcelle was recently included in *Revelry*, the literary publication of the Gwendolyn Brooks Writers Association of Florida. She currently writes not only poetry, but short stories and essays as well. Mary is a member of Orlando Area Poets and has stepped right up as a new member of FSPA to volunteer as our new Membership Chair!

CHASKA WELCOMES NFSPS TO MINNESOTA!

Patricia Lieb and I climbed into our cars, then airplanes, then a shuttle bus to finally arrive at the Oak Ridge Hotel and Conference Center in beautiful Chaska, Minnesota for the 2016 National Federation of State Poetry Societies Annual Convention during June. While there, besides too much food, we were treated to four days of outstanding poetry and poetry education. Panel discussions included tips on better organizing for your organization, a particularly interesting and informative event for anyone who has ever been in charge of anything; a small press conversation by four local small press publishers regarding what, why and how they publish poetry and other books; and lastly, a few ideas and suggestions about how to go about writing.

Workshops dealt with presenting your poetry, making your own brand as a writer, using a word wheel for inspiration, kick starting your writing by free writing, and *Walking with Words* - an outdoor walk to learn what is around you everywhere followed by a short meditation and writing session. We also broke into groups of four and had a poem critiqued by the group. Very interesting to hear what other poets see in your work. Entertainment consisted of Poetry with music at the Thursday night Bar-B-Q, poetry read at certain spots along the *Walking with Words* event, morning and night open mics and, of course, the thrill of hearing the winning poems from the NFSPS poetry contests, and poetry read by several of the event presenters. Keynote Speaker Matt Rasmussen held us rapt with his, 'from the heart' poetry and Keynote speaker Natalie Goldberg regaled us with stories about how she came to poetry and writing while we watched a slide show of her paintings. Finally after absorbing so much of the beautiful countryside around the hotel and too much food we climbed back into the shuttle bus, airplanes, and cars to return home full of poetry, knowledge and inspiration.

~ Mary-Ann Westbrook

SPRING FLING 2016

The 2016 Spring Fling held this past April in Orlando received a wonderful write-up in the *College Park Community newspaper* in May, by Teresa Bruce. Teresa is a new member of FSPA through the Orlando Area Poets. Her article is being reprinted here for you!



Florida Poet Laureate presents in College Park by Teresa TL Bruce

If you overheard people speaking in verse—or the sound of bagpipes—in College Park during the weekend of April 15 & 16, chances are you encountered the Florida State Poets Association (FSPA) Spring Fling, which has been held annually since 1974.

Florida Poet Laureate Peter Meinke addressed this year's theme, "Found in Translation: An International Journey," urging participants to broaden their knowledge of other cultures. "Being writers, you need to have open windows, and travel is one of those windows."

Event chair Elaine Person, president of the Orlando Area Poets chapter, brought elements of intercontinental travel into the statewide gathering inside the Comfort Suite's Downtown Orlando.

—Reginald Lyle, pipe major with Rosie O'Grady's Highlanders, performed bagpipe tunes (while dressed in traditional regalia) and classic poems (with Scottish pronunciation and dialectical terms) by Robert "Robbie" Burns and Robert Service.

—Paintings and photographs depicted scenes from one of Volusia County's sister cities, Bayonne, France.

—Workshops included the tricks (and trials) of translating poetry from one language to another.

—Open mic readings relayed poems inspired by subjects spanning Spain's Don Quixote to China's Miao people, and the themes ranged from somber to whimsical.

Observing participants after one workshop, Meinke said, "They're serious about poetry, but they like to have fun."

Approximately one-fourth of the FSPA's statewide 200-plus members attended. "The intimacy of having around 50 people increases the camaraderie," said Person, whose Orlando Area Poets comprise the largest FSPA chapter. "We look forward to seeing each other every year."

Person added, "I always learn something new."

According to Joe Cavanaugh, FSPA president, the non-profit is the fourth-largest organization within the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. He looks forward to increasing the ranking through the addition of youth memberships.

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<http://www.community-paper.com/>

~ We thank Teresa "TL" Bruce for this fine article.
Pictured, L to R: Chair, Elaine Person and Presenter, Reg Lyle.

FSPA's 42nd Annual Convention

October 21, 22, & 23, 2016

Theme: "Shaking the Tree"

Hosts: The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Main Highlights:**"Voices: The Pleasure of the Journey"**

Keynote Speech by Lola Haskins

"How to Approach Poetry Contests"

A Presentation by Janet Watson

"What a Publisher Looks For"

A Presentation by Judith A. Lawrence

"Langston Hughes in Florida & Elsewhere"

A Presentation by Dr. Stephen Caldwell Wright

"Poets of the Middle East"

A Presentation by Lola Haskins

"Writing from the Ears"

A Workshop by Mary Rogers-Grantham

"Poets' Jeopardy"

A Game Show by Chereilyn Bush

"A Recital of Poetry Satire Songs"

A Performance by Robert Blenheim

And a Poetry Slam Competition

Hosted by Kevin Campbell

Contact for Convention Questions: Bob Blenheim,
386.506.9930 or rblenheim@aol.com

Convention Poetry Contest**Subject: "The Savage Rooted Within"**

Any Form, 24 lines or less.

Two copies of poem typed on one side of 8 1/2" X 11" paper. NAME ON SECOND COPY ONLY!

Poems must be original work of the poet and unpublished.

DEADLINE: MUST BE DROPPED IN CONTEST BOX AT CONVENTION BY NOON, SAT. OCT.

22nd

JUDGE: Lola Haskins. Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

Member News

STATE CHAPTERS

Big Bend Poets

www.bigbendpoets.weebly.com

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday at 7pm
Barnes & Noble, N Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL

Big Bend Poets continue to have monthly poetry challenges for meetings as well as offer poetry prompts to stimulate member writing for new topics and forms. Their **Third Wednesday Open Mic** night at Black Dog Café on-the-Square has been on a summer hiatus, but plans to resume again with the start of the new school year. But BBP members have remained active in the expanding literary scene in Tallahassee by giving public poetry readings and participating in various open mic venues. **Cynthia Portalatin**, one of BBPs best ambassadors, attended a bi-lingual poetry reading at the Black Dog Café Literary Night in July headlined by Tallahassee poet Julius Rios. An open mic followed his reading by other bi-lingual poets in a variety of languages. BBP stays active in the local scene via its website and through social media as a FB page and a FB group. All poets are welcome to join in the FB dialog. At a recent meeting, president **Summer Hill Seven** led a discussion on the use of humor in poetry and the 7-line and or 7-syllable structure that is the hallmark of the form of Poemedy, created by **Summer** over 30 years ago while living in New York City. **ACHIEVEMENTS:** **Bryan Pitchford** had two entries in the O' Miami Zip Code poetry contest and has contributed two poems in the upcoming anthology, *Clay County Writers*. **Charles Conaway** and **Eileen Sperl-Hawkins** had poems published recently in *Scribbles*: the Newsletter for Big Bend Poets. **Charles** was also published on the BBP website. **Norma Sundberg** continues to be a strong supporter of poetry to her many grandchildren—writing and publishing her adventures in *Extra Innings* from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. **Patricia Stevenson Gingrich** is in the midst of editing this year's *FSPA Anthol-*

ogy Thirty Four. **Patricia** has decided that this year will be her third and final year as Chair of the FSPA Anthology Editorial Board to give an opportunity for others to express their creative ideas for the publication.

~ Patricia Stevenson

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Meetings: 1st Wednesday, 4:30pm, Daytona Beach Regional Library, Board Rm., City Island Library in Daytona Beach, 105 E. Magnolia Ave near Jackie Robinson Stadium.

Beginning in October, The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach will meet the **third Wednesday of the month** (moved from the first Wed.). They will continue to hold their workshop meetings in the Board Room of the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island Library in Daytona Beach. Since 1993, the group has shared and critiqued hundreds of poets' work enthusiastically as it continues to encourage work that is experimental and unconventional. The chapter has recently had monthly challenges to write double dactyls, minute poems, beer haiku, and on subjects such as "something in the news" and "taking a chance." All members continue to display amazing talent every month in works as varied and accomplished as any in the State of Florida. The Live Poets have had several performances in the Daytona area: first, at a local beer brewery and then at Rossi's Street Side Cafe. **Dan Pels** emceed the open readings at these events after each Live Poet had read a medley of their works. Somehow president, **Bob Blenheim**, managed to coerce four honors out of the NFSPS Annual poetry awards. He was also asked to serve as judge of the poetry competition for the Flagler Art League, the result was that area poet **Linda Eve Diamond** deservedly took the Second Place Prize -- and Bob swears it had nothing to do with the ten dollar bill attached!

But of course the biggest news of the Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach is that all members are preparing for the chapter's hosting of the upcoming FSPA Convention scheduled to be held at Daytona's famous Plaza Resort & Spa on Oc-

tober 21, 22 & 23. Scheduled is a marvelous compendium of superlative workshops and presentations, with **Lola Haskins** signed up as the keynote speaker. Look elsewhere in this issue of OPAP for details!

~ Robert E. Blenheim

Miami Poets

Meetings: 1st Wednesday, Pinecrest Branch Library, 1-3 pm.

Miami Poets summoned their summertime muse during the monthly *Miami Poets Soirées*, moderated by **Tere Starr** to share poetry and inspiration. On second Mondays from 1 to 3 pm, we join *Group 76*, the critique group led by **Jnita Wright**. In June, we honored **Henry Greenfield** who will be promoting poetry in his new North Carolina home. **Achievements:** **Sherwood Ross's** poem, "America the Imperial," has been added to the US Peace Memorial registry and will go into the Peace Memorial when built on the Washington DC Mall. His poem, "Epiphany," appears in *The Veteran*, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War publication. Sherwood participated in a reading at the UVA library in Charlottesville, VA. **Jnita Wright's** poem, "I Haven't Bought Soap in Years" appeared in *The Villages*, Eastridge Retirement Village's newspaper. **Connie Goodman-Milone's** "Ode to your Zip Code" from the *O, Miami Poetry Festival* was published in April's WLRN E-Newsletter. Her monthly "President's Message" appeared in *The Author's Voice* and a letter to the editor was published in the *Miami Herald*. **Mervyn Solomon** placed second twice in South Florida Writers Association's monthly writing contest for his poems, "December Days" and "Bonded." He was

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MEMBERS AT LARGE

Patricia Wentling, Deltona, FL. Trish's poem, "Bringing Home the Farm" was published in the June/July 2016 issue of *PKA's Advocate*, a publication in Prattsville, NY.

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initiated as SFWA's Vice President Elect for 2016-17. Both **Mervyn** and **Connie** participated in the *Broward College Literary Fest*. **Cara Nusinov** poetry collage was juried into the "Art and Poetry" exhibit at the Broward Art Guild Gallery. **Tere Starr** was featured during April's South Florida Writers Association's meeting. She invited participants from the *Miami Poets Soiree* to share their poetry. Tere also hosted an April poetry gathering for the Brandeis Women's Organization. As part of National Poetry Month, **Sheena Szuri** read her poems "Coda" and "The Dance" at the Betsy Hotel's *Soap Box Poetry* event, part of the *O, Miami Poetry Festival*. Sheena also read her poems "The Soprano," "Eighteen" and "Plutzik's Heaven" during the culminating Rooftop at Betsy's Chapbook release party. **Ricki Dorn's** article, "Being a Long-Distance Grandparent," was published in *The Gazette*, the newsletter of Pompano Beach's John Knox Retirement Village. **Patsy Asuncion's** debut poetry collection, *Cut on the Bias* is available on Amazon. Her open mics, each fourth Wednesdays at The Bridge in Charlottesville, can be viewed on YouTube's *Patricia Asuncion Channel*. Patsy was elected VP, Central Region, Poetry Society of Virginia. Her poems were published in the online journal, *Today & Yesterday*, and in the anthologies, *Snapdragon*, *Cutthroat*, and *Their Own Bare Hands*. *The Miami Poets* continue to spread their love of the written word in Miami and beyond.

~Tere Starr, president

New River Poets

Meetings: 3rd Saturday, 1:00-4:30 pm, Atonement Lutheran, Wesley Chapel

Our chapter encourages the addition of new members, and when guests decide to join New River Poets, they now receive a "welcome packet" which includes our *Watermarks* anthology, our *Streams* CD, and an introductory "welcome page." As it turns out, existing members appreciate the information about our group and its affiliation with FSPA and NFSPS as much as new members do.

Several of our members attended the Sandhill Writers Retreat at Saint Leo University in May, where a number of poetry workshops were scheduled. **Dore Anderson** and **Evelyn Ann Romano** also took advantage of the retreat's one-on-one consultations with the poet Peter Schmitt, who offered help in organizing poems into collections of work.

A couple of our members have been actively promoting the literary arts: **Stephanie Andrews** has taught winter and spring sessions of creative writing in an "Adventures in Learning" program in the communities of Indian Harbor Beach/Satellite Beach and looks forward to teaching again this fall and introducing attendees to challenges of a poetic nature. For 21 years **Verna Thornton** has participated in a gathering of writers in the community of Betmar Acres. For the past several years she has been facilitator of the group, and she loves the fact that, with her encouragement, many members have begun to write poetry. We appreciate that **Robert Powell** travels quite a distance to meet with us. He also meets with poets a little closer to his home in New Port Richey and shares his poems on his own website—rhymemeisterpoems.com.

In May, **John Foster** was guest speaker at a luncheon for the Scottish Rites Society in Sun City Center, where he presented PowerPoint program on humorous poetry. A similar program was presented when he attended the 65th reunion of his prep school class in Connecticut, for which he also wrote a commemorative poem, "Fast Colors". **Evelyn Ann Romano** and five other poets, who meet twice a month to critique and share their poetry, recently submitted work as a "community of poets' submission" to *The Sow's Ear Poetry Review*. **Janet Watson** was invited to write a celebratory poem that will be included in a display for the town of Saint Leo's 125th anniversary.

Congratulations to the New River poets who won awards in the 2016 NFSPS contests: **Coleen Ward**—one 3rd-place award and four honorable mentions, **Janet Watson**—two 2nd place awards and three honorable mentions, and **Betty Ann Whitney**—one 1st place award. Members are now focusing on the FSPA

contests. New River Poets has a new secretary! **Susan Stahr**, our newest member, has agreed to serve in that position. Thank you, Susan! Her minutes will record that we continue to share what we have learned about the process of writing poetry as much as we share and critique our poems each month.

~ Submitted by New River Poets

Orlando Area Poets

Meetings: 3rd Thursday at 6:30pm
Maitland Public Library

In addition to regular monthly meetings, OAP members regularly participate in the quarterly Maitland Public Library Coffeehouse. The most recent *coffeehouse* was held in June when poets read poems they had written to the theme *Exercise Your Mind* at the Third Sunday Writing Workshop (also in June) led by **Elaine Person** at the Maitland library. Congratulations to **Holly Mandelkern**, **Peter Gordon**, **Lynn Schiffhorst**, and **Linda Kraus**, winners of the annual Maitland Public Library Poetry Contest. They were first, second, third, and honorable mention for the theme *Life Story*. They were honored at the library's Annual Poetry Contest Coffeehouse on April 29, emceed by **Elaine Person**. After the contest, poems were read and awards were given out. An Open Mic followed. More kudos to poets **Holly Mandelkern**, **Peter Gordon**, **Jane Peterson**, **Estelle Lipp**, **Al Rocheleau**, **Joe Dunn**, and **Mary Marcelle** who were published in the annual *Revelry* magazine for 2016. Special honors went to **Holly Mandelkern** as co-winner of the 2016 Thomas Burnett Swann Poetry Prize. They all read at the annual *Revelry* magazine poetry event in Sanford at the Patio Grill on Sunday, June 4. **Peter Gordon's** "Sympathetic Magic" was featured on the 5-2 Crime Poetry Blog in May. The website is poemsoncrime.blogspot.com. **Elaine Person** won second place in East Lake County's Poetry Contest.

~Alice Friedman, Secretary
~ Elaine Person, President

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Poetry for the Love of It

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Mondays at the Tallahassee Senior Center (TSC), 2:45-4:45 pm. N. Monroe St, Tallahassee

In celebration of National Poetry Month, PLOI members committed to "30 Poems in 30 Days" during April, and subsequently produces over 150 poems. PLOI continues to maintain notebooks at the Tallahassee Senior Center for visitors to read member's poems. Chapter members recently reviewed their activities since first organizing, and set priorities for 2017. Reading all kinds of poems and pursuing writing exercises continues to be two of the highest priorities. Providing a poetry reading at the annual Grand Relations Art Show Reception is also a top priority. A new priority is developing a poetry contest for other seniors.

~ Linda Whitefeather, secretary

Sunshine Poets

Meetings: 2nd Saturday at 10AM NEW
Crystal River Public Library, Crystal River

Since receiving their charter in 1989, Sunshine Poets have shared and gently critiqued each other's poems. The result has been numerous awards and the publication of many of our poet's work. The chapter has continued to hold monthly challenges on new forms; however, poets feel free to write and share any form they wish. Free verse is welcome, as well as traditional rhymed, experimental, or haiku. Meeting times have been changed. Sunshine Poets will continue to meet at the Crystal River Public Library. The new date and time: the second Saturday of each month at 10:00A.M. The summer meetings will be informal. There are no assignments, member are to just bring poems to read. Those wishing to have poems critiqued should provide copies of each poem for each member (about six). Joyce Shiver took six honors in the NFSPS annual contest. Joyce and Cheri Herald participated in the online mentorship program for eighth-grade writing students for the

2015-16 school year. Former Sunshine president Joan Clark was married on July fourth and joined her new husband in Kissimmee. Joan gave a final presentation at the June meeting on Florida poetry and members read their own Florida poems. Afterward, the group treated Joan to lunch at Applebee's. Cheri Herald was selected to succeed Joan as president.

~ Cheri Herald, president

Tomoka Poets

Meetings: 2nd Wed @5-6:45pm,
Ormond Beach Library, Mtg. Rm.4

Through the "warm you to the bones" Florida summer heat, we have had no trouble keeping busy. Our monthly 'poetry open mic', held the 3rd Tuesday, 7-9pm at Java Jungle Coffee Shop, has featured **Janet Redemann Sage, Al Hubbs** from Orlando, and Leonard Greko who traveled all the way from The Villages to entertain us. In June we did a tribute to the Late, Great Tomoka Poet John Lawell Hall. **Bob Blenheim**, President of Live Poets of Daytona Beach emceed the program as well as read some of John's poetry. Other readers were Daniel Blankenship, **Mitzi Coats, BJ Alligood, and Mary-Ann Westbrook**, all from Tomoka Poets. Some of us participated in the Flagler County Art League's People's Choice poetry contest. **Linda Eve Diamond** was the honored winner which also led her to writing and reading poetry for the Flagler Beach Photography Club. **Carol Thomas, David Axelrod, and Lennie Schneir** participated in the Goddess Event, held at Cinematique Theater, signing copies of their Gold Medal winning book "Merlin Stone Remembered. **Carol** also was a featured poet at the Dan Pels Poetry Show held at Wine Me in Daytona Beach. For April's National Poetry month we had a huge window display in the entrance of the Ormond Beach Library. There was something there from every member. We also sponsored and participated in a National Poetry Month Celebration held at The Casements in Ormond Beach. We partnered with other organizations and had an attendance of 150 people. **Kyra Bro-**

koff and **Mary-Ann Westbrook** attended a poetry reading by Frances Richard, poet in residence at Atlantic Center for the Arts. **Mary-Ann** attended and participated in the annual open mic held by the SeaQuills writing Club at the Flagler Beach Library. Many of our poets attended a reading by Yuyutsu Sharma of Kathmandu, Nepal. This was presented by Volusia County Poet Laureate David Axelrod. Just to stretch outside Florida's borders, **Mary-Ann Westbrook** and **Patricia Lieb**, Member at Large, attended the National Federation of State Poetry Societies National Convention held in Chaska, Minnesota. Four days of poetry bliss. Our congratulations to **BJ Alligood** for her 2nd Honorable Mention in the NFSPS poetry contest.

~ Mary-Ann Westbrook

From the Editor

Here we are rapidly moving into the 'Dog Days of Summer' as we move into the month of August when the 'feel-like' temperatures can be 110°+. That's when you reach for the iced-cold tea instead of coffee and want to sit in front of the fan or AC vent to cool off after going to the beach or playing a game of tennis or taking your evening walk. What else comes to mind when those hot and humid days are upon you? Do you reach for your notebook, journal, or electronic device to write down your thoughts? To write a poem?

I have quite a collection of poems written in August inspired by the hot days and sometimes even hotter nights, and the anticipated rain storms that might cool the air by a degree or two.

It inspires me just to read of all the activities our FSPA chapters continue to participate in during these very hot months in Florida. And I sit on my deck listening to Cicadas and think of new poems I might write!

~ Patricia Stevenson Gingrich, editor

Florida State Poets Association, Inc.
October 2016 Annual Convention – October 21-23, 2016
PLAZA RESORT & SPA, DAYTONA BEACH

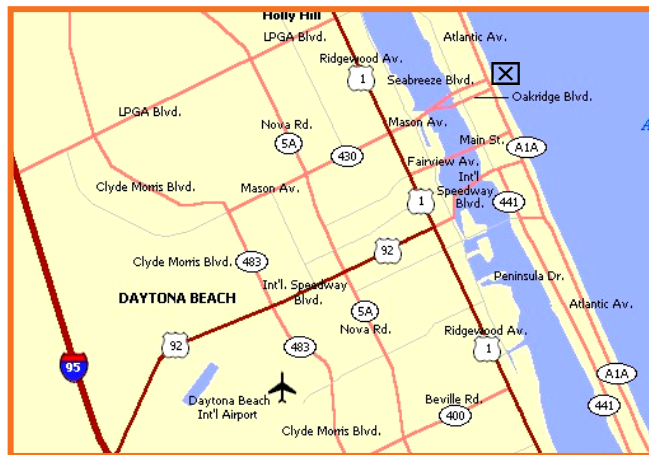
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HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS:

Make reservations directly with the Plaza Resort.
 Call: (386) 255-4471. Mention FSPA.
 Rates: \$99.00 + 12.5% tax (double room).

Make reservations before Sept. 21, 2016 to guarantee rate.
 Any reservations received after that date will be accepted on a space- or rate-available basis.

LOCATION: Located on the “World’s Most Famous Beach”.
 From I-4 or I-95, take US 92 East exit (past the Speedway) across the bridge until you reach the ocean. Turn left (North) on A1A (Atlantic Ave.) The Plaza Resort(☒)is approx. a half-mile on the right.



✂ **CONVENTION REGISTRATION** ✂

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

FSPA Convention Registration Fees (please check your category designation):

____ FSPA Member: \$25.00 Chapter Affiliation: _____ or Member-at-Large _____

____ New Member: \$35.00 (includes 2017 \$25.00 membership & discounted convention fee)

____ Non-Member: \$35.00

____ Member Vendors & Publishers: \$30.00 ____ Non-Member Vendors & Publishers: \$50.00

To order for the Honorary Chancellors’ Dinner (on Friday, Oct. 21st, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.):

____ Chicken Piccata: \$30.00 ____ Fish, “Catch of the Day”: \$30.00 ____ Vegetarian Entrée: \$30.00

(Prices above include 6.5% sales tax & 21% gratuity.)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please mail completed form with check or money order payable to FSPA by Oct. 7, 2016

PLEASE MAIL TO:

Judith Krum, 2614 S. Marshall Ave., Sanford, FL 32773