



Of Poets and Poetry

Newsletter of Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! Twelve years ago when I went to my first Tomoka Poets meeting, this was not something I foresaw or even imagined. I had just moved to Florida and had 'tinkered' with poetry. I couldn't believe I was asked to join Florida State Poets. This just seemed so far above me—but join I did.

Now, I want to thank all of you for having the confidence in Al, Alice, Kevin and me to elect us as your new officers for FSPA. We are very excited and eager to get started.

Last spring I wrote a poem for my Happy Wanderer's Walking Club's 25th anniversary titled "Steps". The poem talks about taking a first step to get started. That step leads to more until you have gone much further than you thought you could.

We have just taken our first step and I can't wait to see where it is going to lead us. Each President who has served this organization, starting with Henrietta Kroah, who took the first step, has propelled it forward. Each one in their turn worked with all the officers and members to make Florida State Poets a little more advanced, a little more important, a little more active, a little stronger, and a little more "today" without losing yesterday.

A scary thing—change. But necessary to keep growing. Al, Alice, Kevin and I will do our best to continue this trend, but we need you—every one of you—on this walk with us. Many poets, many steps. Let's see where we can go. I bet there will be surprises for all of us. Ready? Set... STEP!

Mary-Ann Westbrook



New FSPA Officers – 2017!



Joe Cavanaugh passes the gavel to new President, Mary-Ann Westbrook

New Officers—L to R:
Kevin Campbell, Alice Friedman, Al Roucheleau, & Mary-Ann Westbrook.



Convention Photos by Linda Eve Diamond.

Highlights from the FSPA Convention in Daytona Beach!



(Article & Photos Inside)

INSIDE OPAP

Anthology Thirty-Four, p.8

Board Members and Publishing, p.2.

Committee & Officer Reports, p.3 & 8

FSPA Convention Highlights, with Photos, p.4 & 8

From the Editor, p.7

Member News, p.5-7

OPAP Survey Project by Judy Krum, p.8

INSERTS: Membership Form; 2017 Contests; Anthology Naming Project by Al Rocheleau.

Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

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

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**A Chronology of FSPA Presidents:**

Mary-Ann Westbrook 2016
Joseph Cavanaugh 2012-2016
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

**❖ NEW CHAPTER FORMING ❖**

A new Florida State Poets chapter is be-
ing formed in the Jacksonville area. **The
North Florida Poetry Hub**, 3886 At-
lantic Blvd, Jacksonville, has four FSPA
members at present; Steffani Fletcher,
Stephanie Durham, Char-Leah Hen-
dricks, and Connie Worthy. Three were
published in the most recent *FSPA An-
thology*. The group is led by Steffani
Fletcher. For more information,
Contact Steffani at 904.868.4673 or
steffani@hopeathand.org.

**GET SOCIAL WITH FSPA!**

[Facebook.com/FloridaStatePoetsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaStatePoetsAssociation)

[Twitter.com/FSPA_Poets](https://twitter.com/FSPA_Poets)

Save the Date!

April 21-22, 2017

Spring Fling 2017

**Co-Hosts: Sunshine Poets &
New River Poets**

Location TBA. Details in January.

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).

**ALL Member News due by JAN 10, 2017
for NEXT issue. Officer & Committee
Reports due by JAN. 20th. MUST submit
via the Internet as an email attachment:**
Word (.doc or .docx), RTF, TXT, or PDF for-
mat files. **NO** embedded html files. Any pho-
tos should be high resolution in JPEG (jpg)
format. If you are unable to do this, contact
the **Editor** at 850.445.1302. Leave message
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Reports

FSPA CONTEST REPORT

It has been another outstanding contest year for FSPA. By March 31, 2016, twenty-four judges had enthusiastically consented and confirmed their willingness to participate in the annual Florida State Poets Association Contests. The submission period, attracted an increasing number of poetry entries as evidenced in previous years. Among the twenty-four contests, entries totaled 1,103. Remarkably and admirably, there were poets who entered all twenty-four categories. As a result, several of them won in multiple categories.

The convention was a commemorative time for celebrating each other, presenting winners with awards and checks, and adorning them with color-coded beads indicating their winning placement. John Foster, B.J. Alligood, Cheri Herald, and Robert Blenheim delivered exceptionally beautiful cold readings of winning poems for authors who were unable to attendance. First place winners from this year's categories have been published in the 2016 *FSPA Anthology Thirty-Four*.

A wealth of thanks and accolades to our loyal sponsors who continue to support FSPA Annual Contests and to our new sponsors. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

The 2017 Florida State Poets Association Contests continue to be as progressively interesting as previous years. We have twenty-seven categories for the 2017 contest year, an increase of three new categories from 2016.

We grow forward!

~Mary Rogers-Grantham, FSPA Contest Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The total number of FSPA members for 2016 was 232. This included 94 members-at-large; nine state chapters; and four members of the proposed new chapter 'North Florida Poetry Hub.' To date, there are 69 paid members for 2017. Use the inserted form to renew your membership and/or to make copies for others who would like to join FSPA. Fees remain \$25 per person and \$10 for students. Send membership renewals NOW!

~Mary Marcelle, Chair

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 30, 2015, FSPA had a bank balance of \$6,454, and now at the end of October, 2016, our balance is \$8,844.02. There are a few small, outstanding bills from the convention, but in reality, we are closing the year with a healthy account balance. We are currently receiving membership dues renewals for 2017. Donations of \$325 to the FSPA Youth Contest were recently received, and we thank two contributors, Terry Hagans and the New River Poets, very much. The 2017 Poetry Contest shows a total of 27 contest categories, an increase of three over 2016.

As I close out my four-year term as Treasurer, I thank all the members who have so graciously supported FSPA with

talent and treasure. On December 10, I will be turning over the financial records and responsibilities to our new Treasurer, Kevin Campbell. Please give him the support and encouragement that you have accorded to me over the past four years.

Thank you so very much,

~Judith Krum, Treasurer

YOUTH REPORT

The 2016-2017 FSPA Student Poetry Contest is underway! Letters and rules went to all Florida middle and high school language arts supervisors as well as interested teachers and individuals. Emails were also sent to all Florida school superintendents. We are grateful to Lib O'Brien of Santa Fe, NM and Marilyn Downing of Hershey, PA, who will be our judges this year.

For this contest, we were pleased to announce that first-place winners in each grade level will receive the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Young People—a larger monetary prize, thanks to Mr. Hopkins, than we had presented in the past. We were able to raise the amount of all the awards with the generous donation this fine poet has made to our youth program, and he continues to support all our activities in this area.

The contest deadline is December 1, 2016, but we began to receive entries as soon as the contest opened on September 15th—a good sign that participation will be lively. We encourage chapters and members-at-large to publicize the contest in your local areas. Announcements in local newspapers, church newsletters, library programs, etc. could help us spread the news. Contest rules are posted on the FSPA website and can be printed for distribution. We still appreciate donations, even though our award costs have been covered, because postage and other expenses tend to go up as entries increase. Promoting poetry among our young is such an important goal.

The 2015-2016 Student Contest will wrap up with the mailing of Anthology 34, in which winning poems are printed. The anthologies will be mailed to all our winners, their teachers, and the judges of that contest.

Members and chapters: Please send me reports of any poetry activities you are doing with young people (workshops, open mic readings, competitions, etc.), since NFSPS regularly requests that information. In 2015 FSPA received a Youth Award at the national convention, commending what our organization had accomplished.

~Janet Watson, Youth Chair

ALICE FRIEDMAN—Secretary for 2017

"I am honored to have been invited to serve as State Secretary. The past couple of years with Florida State Poets has been amazing. As an incoming officer, I hope to be part of the continuation of the great direction set by the retiring board." —Alice is a member of the Orlando Area Poets where she has been their secretary for the past several years.

2016 Annual Fall Convention in Daytona Beach, Florida



1. Joe Cavanaugh, Lola Haskins, & Peter Meinke. 2. Host, Bob Blenheim. 3. A Room Filled With Poets. 4. Chancellor Lola Haskins after the Laurel Wreath Ceremony. 5. Passing of the Gavel—from Joe C to new president, Mary-Ann Westbrook. Photos by Linda Eve Diamond.

The 42nd annual FSPA Poetry Convention

was held the weekend of October 21, 22 and 23 at the Plaza Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach. It was an event of such unqualified success that hopefully it will be long remembered in FSPA history.

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach, agreed to host the event almost a year ago when member Cherelyn Bush twisted our arms into accepting the challenge. Since that moment we have worked tirelessly, lining up speakers and emcees for various workshops and presentations and planning every detail to provide the warmest fellowship, and inspiration for lots of creative work, as well as to share poetry. The results exceeded our wildest expectations.

After a well-attended Honorary Chancellor's Dinner and board meeting, the convention officially was opened Friday night by President Joe Cavanaugh who said a few opening remarks, followed by my own "Welcome" as President of the host chapter. Then came the "Poets' Jeopardy Game Show" emceed by Cherelyn Bush and myself. After a somewhat slow beginning when it seemed hard to round up volunteers for the three teams, it quickly became a wild and crazy saturnalia of uproarious high-jinks, with slide whistles blown at the wrong times, money cards refusing to be torn off the board without a struggle, and various gaffs while observers rolled out of their chairs in laughter. It was an event to remember for all the right (and wrong) reasons.

Friday night continued with Janet Watson providing a really illuminating presentation on "How to Approach Poetry Contests", and most of the attendees hoped that after her talk they would have all the secrets to win as many awards as Janet has. The highlight of her segment was when it was 'crashed' by a 'contest judge' (seemingly a barrister from a British Court) played by John Foster with a white paper wig whose curls were formed by rejection slips. He brought the house down, and I don't mean the House of Lords. Friday night ended with the first group of annual contest awards brilliantly handled by first-time Contest Chairman Mary Rogers-Grantham as if she had done this her whole life and an open mic reading.

Saturday began with another open mic and the FSPA general membership meeting which culminated in Al Rocheleau's honorable graduation of his "12 Chairs" students. Im-

mediately following was a presentation by 'Live Poet' Judith A. Lawrence, "What a Publisher Looks For," and, due to Judith's vast experience and editorial acumen, it delivered just the kind of insight and information anyone who dreams of finding a publisher would find invaluable.

Next came a presentation by our keynote speaker, Lola Haskins, that precisely exemplified our goals of this convention, the theme of which the Live Poets somewhat obliquely called "Shaking the Tree," a theme aimed at widening all of our own cultural horizons. Lola's talk on "Poets of the Middle East" did what the best teachers do: motivate listeners to passionately follow up with future studies from her energized and edifying exposure to the subject.

After a lunch-break came the second group of FSPA Contest awards, then Dr. Stephen Caldwell Wright gave a presentation on Langston Hughes that will long be remembered. Delivering fascinating information on the great black poet-chronicler of the shameful Jim Crow era, He spoke with a deep and dynamic voice rich with an elegant cadence that kept all attendees spellbound throughout, reaching its zenith in his reading of Hughes' masterpiece, "I, Too." (Judith Krum echoed our feelings when she declared Dr. Wright "stupendous.")

On a much lighter note, Mary Rogers-Grantham followed with an original workshop that provided first-rate entertainment. Her "Writing from the Ears" presented a various array of common-day sound effects, each followed by several minutes for attendees to write a short poem inspired by the sound. Sounds included a car that wouldn't start, a garbage truck, a dentist's drill and others, highlighted by the sound of a woman kissing and moaning, one that produced uproarious and somewhat shocking poems that those who didn't attend could only imagine. This was followed by an Open Mic reading and a break for dinner and enough time to freshen up for the night's activities.

Saturday night began slowly due to late arrivals, but the convention contest awards (judged by Lola Haskins) were announced. The excellent raffle prizes were also awarded. Following this, I tried to entertain all attendees with a 30-minute recital of eight poetry parody songs from my "Poetry Parody Songbook" which resulted in laughter and applause while, thankfully, not requiring me to dodge any ripe tomatoes or rotten eggs. (*continued p. 8*)

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 led by **Summer Hill Seven**, continue to work on 7-syllable poems and writing poems with others. On Oct. 9th, **Summer** and several other BBP members attended the 'Longest Table' event in Tallahassee. This now twice yearly event is for the purpose of "breaking bread to break barriers" by sitting down with over 400 neighbors and strangers to share a meal. Poems were written about the event.

The group also honored International Mental Health Day on Oct 11, by reading poems from *Notes of A Neurotic* by **Summer Hill Seven**. **Norma Sundburg** had a Tree story and poem read on Marshall Cook's "Writers & Their Words" online radio show on the first Tuesday in Oct. at sunprariemediacenter.com. **Bryan Pitchford**, a Master's student in Creative Writing participated in the '100,000 Poets for Change' event in St. Augustine in September. **Bryan** read four poems at the event. BBP members and poetry friends have become very active in the sharing of poems, photos, and local poetry activities via social media—the BBP FB page and their FB group. All poets are welcome to join-in the FB dialog. **Patricia Stevenson** still serves as the manager of the BBP website and editor of the BBP newsletter, *Scribbles*.

~ 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. Mag-nolia Ave near Jackie Robinson Stadium.

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach holds its workshop meetings each month in the Board Room of the Daytona Beach Regional Library. Since 1993, the

group has shared and critiqued hundreds of poets' work enthusiastically as it continues to encourage work that is experimental and unconventional.

Every month the Live Poets decide on monthly challenges for the next meeting. Recently, they have written poems on subjects such as "Looking backward and forward," "Yesterday," and Spoon River poems. It is amazing how varied and accomplished the resulting poems turn out as each member of The Live Poets Society displays amazing talent on a regular basis. All members of The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach have been working tirelessly preparing for the FSPA Convention held at Daytona's famous Plaza Resort & Spa on October 21, 22 & 23. It is hoped this event will go down as one of the greatest in FSPA history, with everything from a Poets' Jeopardy game show to a poetry slam competition, and a wonderful array of workshops and presentations by such renowned speakers and poets as Janet Watson, Judith Lawrence, Mary Rogers-Grantham, Stephen Caldwell Wright and Lola Haskins. RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS: **Jesse Sam Owens** appeared as a featured poet for Dan Pel's Poetry Show and brought the house down. Other recent activities of The Live Poets include the publishing of **Llewellyn McKernan's** new book of poetry, *Getting Ready to Travel*; publisher **Judith Lawrence's** new Spring/Summer issue of her *River Poets Journal* literary magazine; **Bob Blenheim** released his own CD, "Poetry Parody Songbook," singing his own original lyrics about poetry to popular songs; and **Len-ny Schneir's** beautiful memoir of his late wife, *Merlin Stone Remembered* continues to sell as it garners new awards from various quarters.

~ Robert E. Blenheim

Miami Poets

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

Miami Poets celebrated poetry throughout the summer during their monthly *Miami Poets Soirées*, moderated by **Tere Starr**—sharing poetry and inspiration. "Anticipating Autumn" was the theme for September's soiree. On second Mondays, we join *Group 76*, the critique group led by **Janita Wright**. Poetry continues to be our priority.

Achievements: **Janita Wright's** newest book, *Yabit Habit*, is a modern day fanta-sy with illustrations by Nanuli Burduli (of Poland). It is listed on Amazon as a five star book, available in hardback, paperback, or Kindle. Janita's reading at East Ridge Village was well attended and well received. She is published in poetry and prose, but this is her first fiction for children. **Irv Milowe's** poem, "Uncle Bosco," received an award from the NFSPS Winners Circle Award group. **Ricki Dorn** had two poems published in the online Silver Birch Press. "Poolside," in their *Beach and Pool Memories* series and "Atlanta, 1970: My Golden Year" in their *Moving* series. Her poem, "The Sea's Agenda," appears in South Florida Writer's Association's *Au-thors Voice*. **Sampson Mathis** received five first place poetry awards in recent South Florida Writers Association's monthly writing contests. **Mervyn Solo-mon** was awarded a first place and a second place in Free Verse Poetry. **Con-nie Goodman-Milone's** baseball letter to the editor, "Way to go, Ichiro!" was published in the *Miami Herald*. Both **Mervyn** and **Connie** participated in Miami's DOWNTOWN ARTS DAYS, read-ing their poems at the Mindwarehouse. **Patsy Asuncion** continues to host an open mic each fourth Wednesday at The Bridge in Charlottesville, VA. The events can be viewed on YouTube's *Patricia Asuncion Channel*. Patsy also held read-ings for her book, *Cut on the Bias*, at The WriterHouse and The Colonnades in Charlottesville and at The French Press in Waynesboro. A good review appeared in September's *The Echo World* of cen-tral Virginia. **Jo Christiane Ledakis** presented her e-book, *Wild Sea-Salt of Life, InNerviews with Soul - A Woman's Jour-ney to Empowerment*, during a literary cruise from Geneva to Morges, orga-nized by the Geneva Writers' Group. Our love of the written word is apparent as we share poetry throughout Miami and beyond.

~Tere Starr, president

(chapter news continues on page 6)

"The best way to have a good idea
is to have lots of ideas."

~ Linus Pauling

(continued from p.5)

New River Poets

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

What's new with **New River Poets**? We must be doing something right! Our meetings are lively and well-attended. We find that we are having wonderful discussions about the craft of writing poetry, stemming directly from our monthly challenges. Members are now rotating the responsibility of planning these challenges, and we've had some very interesting ones.

Individual members are perfecting their own poetry and enjoying much success. **Ken Clanton** has begun writing lyrics for bluegrass music, and the rhyming, narrative, and grammatically-incorrect phrasing of his writing style seem to be a perfect fit for that. His interest in that kind of music goes back to his advertising career, when his company sponsored country and bluegrass shows on radio and TV (including The Grand Ol' Opry), and he often hired bluegrass bands for promotions. Ken's new bluegrass poetry was a highlight at one of our recent meetings. **John Foster** has a new book, now available on Amazon. *A Gesture of Words—Poetry Forms and Formulas*, published by CHB Media. In it he invites writers to experiment with more than 30 different kinds of poetry which are options to rhyming stanzas or free verse-- everything from the Burmese Than Bauk to the Welsh Clogyrnach, with descriptions and examples of each form. The book has endorsements by Peter Meinke, Joe Cavanaugh, Al Rocheleau, and Janet Watson and is instructionally entertaining. **Robert Powell**, a member who comes to us from Tarpon Springs, recently read his work at an open mic forum at the Dunedin Library, and he often entertains us with a unique genre of nautical poetry. He has been a regular attendee of the annual FisherPoets Gatherings in Astoria, Oregon. Who knew that poetry was encouraged among those in the commercial fishing industry? Bob, who retired from a career as an educator at the University of South Florida, qualifies for membership in the FisherPoets because he has also been a

commercial fisherman. **Coleen Ward**, a New River member who travels across our state with Stephanie Andrews to attend our meetings whenever she can, is a longtime member and past president of FSPA, as well as FSPA contest chair, etc. etc.. She has also held positions in NFSPS. This year she was a judge in the national organization's CUP Competition for college undergraduates. Coleen was actually the first Meudt Memorial Award winner, which is one of the prizes awarded in the CUP. **Janet Watson**, whose poem about Saint Leo, Florida was included in the 125-year anniversary celebration of that town, will have two poems—*From Hand to Hand* and *A Day on Old Tampa Bay* included in the centennial journal *Odet*, to be published in 2017, commemorating the founding of Safety Harbor, Florida.

Once again New River is sponsoring two memorial contests in the 2017 FSPA Poetry Contests, and we encourage all to meet the challenges we have set forth in memory of deceased members, June Owens and Randall Cadman.

We will host a holiday gathering and book-signing event on December 3rd at the Richland Schoolhouse home of member Meg Roman. And just that quickly another year goes by!

~by New River Poets

Orlando Area Poets

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

Orlando Area Poets have all been very busy! **Jacinta "Joey" Everest** has a po-em in *The Light Within: A Collection of Peace and Prose*, the 2016 anthology published by the Spiritual Writers Net-work available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. **Leslie C. Halpern's** poem on Orlando Brown has been selected for the upcoming 2017 Burrow Press anthology featuring other people and places named "Orlando." Leslie also enjoyed the publication of her newest non-fiction book, *200 Love Lessons from the Movies*, Taylor Trade Publications. August 2016. **Peter Gordon** presented a workshop "Self-Publishing Your Poetry" in October at the Herndon Library in Orlando. He

also participated in the Orlando Public Libraries kick-off celebration of Banned Books Week, by reading from *Huckleberry Finn*. **Russ Golata** is releasing his latest "Fragments of Other Worlds" to coincide with his 60th birthday. The collection looks at life and death through poetry "in a light hearted manner." The book will be on Amazon or contact Russ for a signed copy at blacksox3000@yahoo.com. Happy Birthday, Russ! **Andrew Jarvis** will have a book signing of his latest poetry book at the Artegon Book Warehouse in the Artegon Mall in Orlando on December 3rd. **Elaine Person**, OAP president, was published in the digital *Haikuniverse*. She also presented an afternoon of poet-ry and music at the Winter Park Library in September and led the open-mic Cof-fee House at the Maitland Public Library on September 30th where poets read poems about sandals and scandals

~Alice Friedman, secretary OAP

Editor's Note: Alice Friedman was installed as the 2017 Secretary of FSPA.

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

Poetry for the Love of It (PLOI) is diligently working on its second anthology. Planning is also underway for our presentation at the annual "Grand Relations Art Show Reception" held every January at the Tallahassee Senior Center. Attendance is holding at a solid seven, and occasional visitors. Four members had poems published in this year's *FSPA Anthology*.

~Linda Whitefeather, secretary

(member news continued on p. 7)

KEVIN CAMPBELL—2017 Treasurer

Kevin lives in Deland and is an FSPA member—at-large. He is best known for his work with Slam Poets and as the Slam-Master 'extraordinaire'.

(continued from p. 6)

Sunshine Poets

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

Sunshine Poets continue to meet at the Crystal River Public Library on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10 AM. All poets are welcome, whether you're a seasoned poet, or if you've never written a line and want to learn. The chapter continues holding monthly challenges on new forms; however, poets feel free to write and share any form they wish. Free verse poetry is welcome, as well as traditional rhymed, experimental, or haiku. We encourage polishing before publishing. If you wish to have your poems critiqued by the group, please bring copies of each poem (about 6) so we can write suggestions on them. Critique is always voluntary, so please feel free just to share your poetry with the group. Join us!

~ Cheri Herald, president

Tomoka Poets

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

Tomoka continues to write, read, discuss and critique at our monthly meetings. Our 3rd Tuesday open-mic at Java Jungle, emceed by **BJ Alligood**, has been a little more intimate over the summer as we have kept it strictly "Open Mic" without a featured poet. Everyone has had a little more time at the mic to "strut their stuff" Unfortunately, Java Jungle is changing hands and Tomoka sponsored its last event at the venue. Ending the wonderful sojourn at Java Jungle was Volusia County Poet Laureate **David Axelrod** with some of his young poets entertaining us. What a great way of "brings the curtain down." We thank Java Jungle for inviting us into their shop free of charge and providing us with a sound system so we could all showoff. If has been a wonderful time.

Several Tomoka poets participated in a celebration of the Beat Poets hosted by **David Axelrod** at Cinematique Thea-

ter in Daytona Beach. We all came in costume and after a very informative movie and an open mic of Beat Poetry, **Lenny Schneir** won the prize for most capturing the essence of the Beat Generation. September brought us a return of **Travallion's Poetry in the Park** at the Fairchild Oak Bulow State Park in Ormond Beach. It was a perfect day under the shade of this amazingly beautiful 500 year old Live Oak with the best poetry ever. Congratulations to **Carol Thomas** and **Jesse Owens** for being featured and entertaining us at the **Dan Pels** Poetry Show in September at "95 & Vine" Wine Shop in Port Orange.

~ Mary-Ann Westbrook

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Gail Denham, Sun River, Oregon.

Gail has been winning poetry contests across the country. She won a 1st and two 2nd prizes in the Massachusetts annual contest; prizes and an H.M. in the Oklahoma spring contest; 2nd place with "Geezer Band" in *Dancing Poetry*; several Arizona monthly wins; two H.Ms. in the National contest—and that was just through this past June! She has been busy with publications, also. *Highland Park* used her Clerihew poem; a fall poem was in *Avocet*; a Lune form was in *ISPS*; "Old Man and His Bench" was published in *Pegasus* anthology; *Poets and Patrons* used "Squash"; and several other poems were used by *Pennessence*. Additionally Gail has had photos published and was a category judge in the MSPS contest.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gail also had a winning poem in the FSPA annual contest and had poems and a photo published in *Anthology 34*.

Your are Viewing

OPAP: Online

More Color; More Content; More Photos

See Added Pages!

ENJOY!

From the Editor

As we end one FSPA year and begin another, we are all looking ahead to how we can continue to grow our organization. Many changes have already taken place; new officers, new chair-persons, new members. But how many of those new members could be counted as a 'young person'? How do our chapters compete with the rap and the hip-hop of slam poetry? Should we even try? Well if we don't find ways to combine the different poetic cultures, we may gradually fade into one of the large bodies of water surrounding our state. Yes, we are breaking records with the number of school students entering our contests, but is there any local outreach to invite them to attend a local chapter event or meeting? We also sponsor major Slam contests each year, but what do we do beyond that? Do you invite them to your meeting as a featured "poet"? I don't have the answers to these questions. But I do know that for a variety of reasons, many teachers barely cover poetry and when they do, most students think it's 'lame'. I just read an article in *From the Catbird Seat, Poetry & Literature at the Library of Congress*. While the article was written for the classroom teacher, we as poets should know just what the teacher is facing for the future of our beloved poetry. The article, "The Journey to Poetry: Do We Teach Poetry for Format or Feeling?" is brief, but well worth the read. It speaks to the importance of both, but to involve the student first at the emotional level. This could be applied to anyone learning about poetry for the first time or taking a second look years after leaving the classroom. Now go forth and try to touch someone's soul with poetry before explaining why it is poetry!

Read the article: <http://blogs.loc.gov/catbird/2016/10/the-journey-to-poetry-do-we-teach-poetry-for-format-or-feeling/?locl=eaapl>

(Remember URL addresses have no spaces.)

~ Patricia Stevenson Gingrich, editor

Fun Times in Daytona!



1. Cherelyn Bush begins Poetry Jeopardy. 2. Playing Jeopardy! 3. Jeanne Meinke & husband Peter, Florida Poet Laureate! 4. Janet Watson, Lola Haskins, Bob Blenheim, & JC Kato. 5. Jeff Novick & Dan Pels. Photos by Linda Eve Diamond.

(continued from p.4)

Finally, the highlight of the convention: our keynote speaker Lola Haskins who led us through a remarkable journey of her life experiences in a presentation called "Voices: The Pleasure of the Journey." It was provocative and perceptive, scattered with beautiful short poems that only could have come from Ms. Haskins. Hers was a perfect culmination to a convention filled with inspiring speakers, workshops, and entertainments that seemed to provide the very essence of what FSPA is all about. But this was not the finale.

Next came the installation of officers. In the last act of his four-year presidency, Joe Cavanaugh swore in the new officers, then passed the gavel to Mary-Ann Westbrook, the newly-elected President of FSPA. All of us congratulated all the officers, then I was given the humble honor by my fellow members of The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach to surprise Mary-Ann by presenting her with a bouquet of a dozen red roses to commemorate her new office.

Following the ceremonies was a spectacular conclusion to the Saturday night festivities: our 2nd annual Poetry Slam Competition emceed by Kevin Campbell, Slam-Master extraordinaire. Many stayed for the entire event which ended close to 1 a.m. with attendees extremely excited (if joyfully drained) by the marvelous talent on display. Those who stayed through this event were amply rewarded with an array of young artists dramatizing their extraordinary creativity.

Sunday morning was on a lighter scale with an open mic reading and a convention wrap-up—a nice, quiet 'chaser' to a totally memorable event.

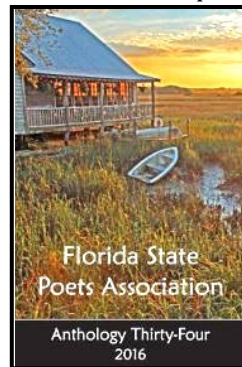
In closing, so many deserve sincere thanks for doing so much to make this convention such a success. Too many to list here, but I need to single out Chris Capozzi and her excellent staff at The Plaza Resort & Spa for providing us virtually perfect service in fulfilling our many needs during the entire event at their beautiful venue. And I also want to add, on behalf of The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach, how extremely honored we are to have hosted this event for the Florida State Poets Association, and hope the FSPA will long continue to provide fellowship and support to the art of poetry in the State of Florida.

~ Robert E. Blenheim, President of Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach & Host for the 2016 FSPA Fall Convention.

REPORTS (continued from p.3)

ANTHOLOGY 34

Florida State Poets Association's *Anthology Thirty-Four* has been published and can be purchased



online from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or Books-a-Million, and through your local book seller. All who pre-ordered the book did so at a discount and have had their books mailed to them. Distribution of the book at the convention was not possible this year due to printing delays caused by Hurricane Matthew, but those books have also been delivered or mailed.

Anthology Thirty-Four is another fine book of poetry with 212 pages and 136 poems by FSPA Members, FSPA Cptest winners, and Student Contest Winners. The book has been enhanced with original photographs taken by FSPA members. The cover photograph, "Saltwater Cowboy" was taken by Stephanie Salkin of Tomoka Poets in Ormond Beach. Order extra copies for personal (or chapter) gifts and prizes! The book will be a worthy addition to anyone's library.

~Patricia L Stevenson,, 2016 Chair, Editorial Board

ELECTRONIC OPAP SURVEY

In early 2017 volunteers will be conducting a survey to determine the validity of using an electronic newsletter for the majority of our members. Please answer the six questions when you receive your survey. Return the survey as instructed. It will be months before answers are known, but it is important that every member completes the survey.

~ Judy Krum

AL ROCHELEAU – 2017 Vice President

Al has been a member of Orlando Area Poets since its inception. He came to it and to FSPA as a well published and well awarded poet. In 2012, Al launched his Twelve Chairs Advanced Poetry Seminars. The program is available to students of all ages and it is accredited by FSPA. As vice-President of FSPA Al expects to focus on enhancing our members' education and publishing opportunities, and expanding the youth base of FSPA.

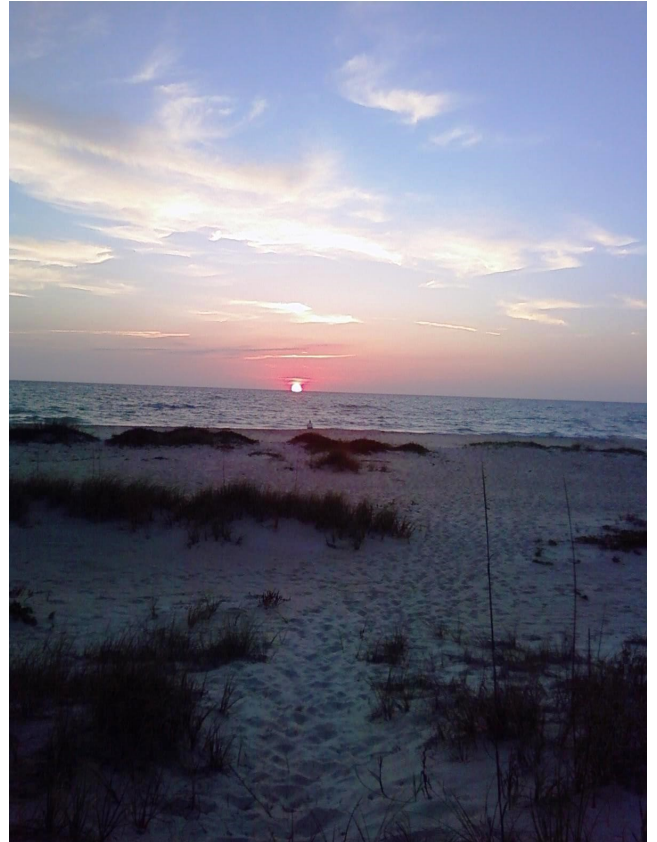
*OPAP Online Supplement**November, 2016***FSPA Anthology Thirty-Four Photo Contest**

This year over fifty photographs were submitted to be possibly used in the 2016 Anthology. Unfortunately we had space for only eleven different photos in the book. However, I have decided to showcase many of the non-used submissions in this and other online supplements of OPAP through out the year. I do hope you enjoy seeing your fellow FSPA member's additional talents.

Orchid Splendid by Carol Thomas, Tomoka Poets



*Adult Gulf Fritillary on Mexican Sunflower
By Meg Roman, New River Poets*



Sunrise on Vero by Diane Reitz, Orlando Area Poets



Lunar Lake, Cocoa, Florida by Lela Buis, Orlando Area Poets

OPAP Online Supplement

November, 2016

Convention Photos

Lots of photos were taken at the October Convention in Daytona Beach. Linda Eve Diamond took many of the photos and has posted them on the Facebook page for Florida State Poets Association. A few photos were posted in the printed and online editions of OPAP. To see lots more, visit the Facebook page at:

Facebook.com/FloridaStatePoetsAssociation

Also, if you took photos at the convention, and would like them posted on Facebook, send them electronically to Linda.

Social Media Chair: Linda Eve Diamond

3900 Yorktowne Blvd. Apt 5406, Port Orange, FL 3212
954.303.1980; lindaeve@mac.com

Brief Update on Spring Fling 2017

The Spring Fling 2017 committee headed by Janet Watson of New River Poets and Cheri Herald of Sunshine Poets have contracted with a Clarion Hotel in Tampa for the weekend of April 21-22, 2017. Plan for an extra day to enjoy a day or two at one of the beautiful Pinellas County Beaches!



North Redington Beach, Pinellas County
Photo by Patricia Stevenson.

With Janet and Cheri planning the upcoming Spring Fling, it is sure to be informative and fun! And there is so much to do in the Tampa Bay area! Mark Your Calendar Now!!

Details will be announced in the next issue of OPAP—late January/early February.



Don't forget to download a membership form and join FSPA for 2017!

IMPORTANT

NEW INITIATIVE

WE WANT YOUR INPUT

On the agenda for the new FSPA Board is to raise the recognition factor of FSPA and its resources. One of those resources is our ANTHOLOGY. After years of quality enhancements, it is time to treat this anthology as other societies treat theirs—as a full-fledged literary Journal. Poets published in the anthology should be able to use their poem placements in it as a high-level credit that can be represented in cover letters accompanying submissions to other literary journals. As societies have done with their anthologies, our *journal* needs a permanent, evocative TITLE. FSPA Anthology #__ would be the sub-title of the journal, and would be labeled in the future. But the ACTUAL PERMANENT TITLE of our journal should be...

YOU WILL DECIDE

As part of a consensus, we will arrive at that title. As with other top journals, the title could be a concept, or object, or a short phrase. Send us your idea for the journal's title by emailing **Al Rocheleau** at ARRO40@aol.com (subject heading JOURNAL TITLE), or mail your idea to Al at:

Al Rocheleau
PO Box 770640
Orlando, FL 32877-0640

Additional Title ideas will be collected at Spring Fling 2017, and a decision will be announced before the close of that conference, in OPAP, and on the website. *Please, NO clichés.* As some existing journal may already have the same name, **Google** the name and "poetry journal". If you find no match, send your choice to us. Think. Think creatively. Be part of the process. That journal credit will help you get published in other journals, and raise the prestige of our organization. Much more is planned to accomplish these goals, but this is the start. BE PART OF IT.

FSPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ANTHOLOGY/TITLE PROJECT

Al Rocheleau, VP

Initiative is supported by Patricia Stevenson Gingrich.

Send information on your local Poetry Events

To Randy Krum, web manager

randallkrum@att.net