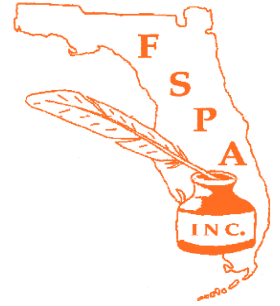




Of Poets and Poetry

Newsletter of Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring Fling is coming! Spring Fling is coming!

Are you ready? Have you registered?

No? You can still register when you arrive in Tampa.

Do you have a hotel room? Even though room registration with discount ended March 31st, you might still be able to get a room at the Clarion (the Conference hotel) at regular rate. If not, there are lots of other hotels in the immediate area.

This is going to be the most wonderful Spring Fling. Lola Haskins, Lee Bennett Hopkins, and Peter Meinke *are all going to be there!* Come hear what they have to tell us. Find out what they have been up to. You might be surprised.

Janet Watson and John Foster are going to wake up our senses. How are they going to do that? If we are going to be as "Young as Spring", we need to come out of our winter nap. The best way to do that is come to the Spring Fling on April 21-22. As poets we need to grow and expand. I do not mean getting older. I mean *evolving*. Sometimes evolving can mean regaining your youthful eye and attitude to think, write, and enjoy the rebirth of spring. New River Poets and Sunshine Poets have set their minds on fire to create a Spring Fling bursting with new ideas. Will you learn something to help your poetry sprout like the new green leaves and flowering buds? Not if you don't join us in Tampa. Janet, Cheri, John, Lola, Lee, and Peter are waiting to see you there!

Come find out what is happening with FSPA—your organization. Tell us what you need us to be. Find out what is new. We will be watching for you. We know you want to be there!

Mary-Ann Westbrook, president

2017 October Convention: A Taste of Orlando

The Orlando Area Poets will be hosting the annual FSPA Convention from Friday, October 13 to Sunday, October 15 at the Altamonte Springs Hilton. Highlight of the Convention will be a Celebration of Bob Dylan, 2016 Nobel Laureate; with FSPA Chancellors Lola Haskins and Peter Meinke, current Poet Laureate of Florida.

Workshop leaders will include Dr. Stephen Caldwell Wright and Webb Harris, Jr. And Saturday would not be complete without the annual Grand Poetry Slam. Complete program plans, registration information, and hotel reservation details will be included in the August issue of FSPA's *Of Poets & Poetry*. Save that date NOW: October 13, 14, and 15, 2017, in Altamonte Springs, FL!

~ by Alice Friedman, Secretary FSPA & OAP



*Still Time to Come to
Spring Fling 2017!*

'Young as Spring Fling'

April 21-22, 2017

*If you can get to Tampa—you
can register at the door!*

*Come for the poetry & the fun!
Come for the fantastic program
with Peter, Lola, Lee, & others!*

**Clarion Hotel & Conference Ctr.
2701 East Fowler Avenue
Tampa, Florida**

See the Jan/Feb issue of OPAP or the FSPA website for full details for the two day event on Florida's West Coast! For other questions see New River Poets or Sunshine Poets for contact information on p.2 of this issue.

INSIDE OPAP

2017 Anthology ORDER FORM, p8

Board Members and Publishing, p2

Committee & Officer Reports, p3-4

From the Editor, p7

FSPA 2017 Anthology Rules. p8

FSPA 2017 Poetry Contests, p 3

Chapter News, p 5-7

Members-at-Large News, p4

Don't forget to visit **On-Line OPAP & Supplement** on the FSPA website for more NEWS!

Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

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

2016-2017 Officers**Executive Board**

President: Mary-Ann Westbrook, 6 Juniper Dr, Ormond Beach, FL 32176; 386.441.1839; 1poetry.3@gmail.com

Vice President: Al Rocheleau, 3903 Township Square Blvd, Orlando, FL 32837; 407.592.4527; ARR040@aol.com

Secretary: Alice Friedman, 603 Woodridge Drive, Fern Park, FL 32730; 407.260.6786; arf603@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kevin Campbell, 532 Hemingway CT, Deland, FL 32720; 386.717.8324; noirjente@aol.com

Appointive Board

Anthology: Gary Broughman, 725 Laurel Bay Circle, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169; 386.690.9295; chbmedia@gmail.com

Contest Chair: Mary Rogers-Grantham, 23 Zorro Court, Palm Coast, FL 32164; 816.536.2569; merlee1992@att.net

Historian: Elaine Person, 3707 S. Lake Orlando Pkwy., #11, Orlando, FL 32808; 407.298.9636; LnPrsn@aol.com

Membership: Mary Marcelle, 107 Magnolia Drive, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 407.832.8603; marymarcelle@earthlink.net

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

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

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

Website:

www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org
Linda Eve Diamond, Webmaster & Social Media Coordinator; LindaEve@mac.com



Deadline for the next OPAP
is July 10, 2017, for ALL reports & news!

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

Summer Hill Seven, 2125 Jackson Bluff Rd., Apt H102, Tallahassee, FL 32304; 213.537.5887; poemedy@gmail.com

Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Robert E. Blenheim, 515 Silver Beach Avenue, #10, Daytona Beach, FL 32118; 386.506.9930; rblenheim@aol.com

Miami Poets

Tere Starr, 9925 SW 97th Place, Miami, FL 33176; 305.595.9452; terestarr@mindspring.com

New River Poets

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

North Florida Poetry Hub

Steffani Fletcher, 3886 Atlantic Blvd, Jacksonville, FL; steffani@hopeathand.org

Orlando Area Poets

Elaine Person, 3707 S. Lake Orlando Pky, #11, Orlando, FL 32808; 407.298.9636;

Poetry for the Love of It —Tallahassee

Charles Hazelip, 3011 Barclay Court, Tallahassee, FL 32309; 850.878.0412

Sunshine Poets —Crystal River

Cheri Herald, 18 SJ Kellner Blvd, Beverly Hills, FL 34465; 352.746.3394; c_herald@hotmail.com

Tomoka Poets

Mary-Ann Westbrook, 6 Juniper Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32176; 386.441.1839; 1poetry.3@gmail.com

**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

**Where Have All the Poets Gone?**

Does anyone know where all the **Ocala Poets** have gone? From six FSPA members in 2016 to none in 2017. Has anyone been in touch with any of the members or their chapter leader, Janet Griffin?

If you know something, please contact Membership chair, **Mary Marcelle** or **Mary-Ann Westbrook**. Their contact info is in the left most column of this page. Thank you.

**GET SOCIAL WITH FSPA!**

Facebook.com/FloridaStatePoetsAssociation

Twitter.com/FSPA_Poets

NFSPS**National Convention**

June 29—July 2, 2017

Fort Worth, Texas

"City of Cowboys & Culture"

Complete Information in *Strophes* and on the NFSPS website: nfsp.com

Of Poets & Poetry is published four times per year: August, November, January/February, and April/May. The **deadlines for submitting News and Reports can vary** so always check [here](#)! Send content prior to the deadline to: Patricia Stevenson-Gingrich, OPAP Editor (addresses below).

ALL Member News due by July 10, 2017 for the **August** issue. All other reports, news, & photos **also due by July 10**. **MUST** submit via the Internet as an email **attachment**: Word (.doc or .docx), RTF, TXT, or PDF format files. News embedded in an email will not be accepted unless it has been okayed by me. Any photos should be high resolution in JPEG (jpg) format. If you are unable to do this, contact the Editor at 850.445.1302.

Email: patriciasg.bbp@gmail.com
or Mail: Patricia Stevenson-Gingrich
184 McGowin Road
Wilsonville, AL 35186-8033

Officer & Committee Reports

FSPA 2017 Poetry Contests Begins in May

Another exciting spring season! Another exciting time of “fresh and new” —for vegetation and for poetry! Florida State Poets Association Poetry Contests 2017 offer **twenty-seven** provocative entry categories. Twenty-seven enthusiastic judges are set and ready to read and judge wondrous poetry submissions. Low entry fees with cash prizes. All twenty-seven first place winning poems will be published in the 2017 FSPA anthology. Submission period **opens May 1** and **ends July 15** (July 15 is the “postmarked” date). The contest brochure can be accessed at FSPA website www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org along with web links that give additional information regarding form and topic clarifications.

Happy Writing!

~ by Mary Rogers-Grantham, FSPA Contest Chair



OPAP Polling Update

The planned polling of FSPA members is still underway to determine whether the FSPA membership is ready to transition from a paper newsletter to an electronic one. Volunteers Ruth Van Alstine, Niki Byram, JC Kato, Shirley Kent, Jennifer Grant, and Betty Prisendorf have been calling the Members-at-Large and Chapter Presidents are questioning their chapter members with a list of questions regarding a member's ability to access the Internet and email to print materials such as membership forms and contest listings. We hope to have preliminary results to present at Spring Fling in Tampa, with definitive results completed by the next fiscal year.

If FSPA decides to make this change, the cost savings each year for the organization could be as much as \$1700, according to Judith Krum, former FSPA Treasurer. For members who are not able to access an electronic newsletter, arrangements could be made to receive a mailed paper copy.

Thanks to all the Chapter presidents and the volunteers for their great work.

~Judy Krum, OPAP Project Coordinator



Website & Social Media Report

Visit the Website to see what's new! We've streamlined menus and added new pages and content, including a list of regular chapter events and a page on social media.

Visit the Website at:

<http://www.FloridaStatePoetsAssociation.org/>

Visit social media pages at:

<http://www.facebook.com/FloridaStatePoetsAssociation/>

http://twitter.com/@FSPA_Poets/ (also linked from the Website).

We welcome your posts to the social media pages and appreciate your comments, likes, and shares. Even if you're not on social media, those pages are available to anyone, so bookmark the pages for ongoing, up-to-date posts, opportunities and information.

~Linda Eve Diamond, Webmaster

NOTE from Editor: Welcome to Linda Eve Diamond of Tomoka Poets for filling the position of Webmaster for the FSPA website. Randy Krum stepped down the end of February from the position after creating the new website several years ago and brought a much needed resource to FSPA. Linda Eve brings another dimension to the position by placing all FSPA electronic activities under one umbrella. Linda will continue to coordinate the Facebook and Twitter pages for FSPA. She can be reached by email at: LindaEve@mac.com



Membership Report

As OPAP goes to press, the 2017 FSPA membership numbers total at 207. Paid memberships total 201 with six (6) complimentary memberships. 80 of the total membership are Members-at-Large. This year we have ten (10) authorized chapters spread over the state from Pensacola and down both coasts. The newest chapter is the North Florida Poetry Hub, strong with 7 members in the Jacksonville area. Other chapters are Big Bend Poets and Poets for the Love of It, both in Tallahassee; New River Poets and Sunshine Poets located in the central Gulf region; Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach and Tomoka Poets in Ormond Beach on the east coast; and Orlando Area Poets; and Miami Poets in their respective metro areas.

FSPA is hoping to build up **New Chapters** in Pensacola, Gainesville, and Tampa this year. We also hope for the rebuilding of Space Coast Poets in Cocoa, the Ocala Poets chapter, and in other communities where poets live and gather. If you live in one of these areas and want to help organize (its very easy) a new chapter, please contact Mary Marcelle: p. 407.832.8603 or email: marymarcelle@earthlink.net

~ Mary Marcelle, Membership Chair

On-Line OPAP & Supplement

Brings you more color; more photos; and extended content to *Of Poets & Poetry*!

Go to the FSPA website:

www.floridastatepoetsassocoation.org

(Reports continued from p.3)

Youth Report

The 2016-2017 FSPA Student Poetry Contest received 632 entries from middle and high school students throughout Florida. We appreciated the fantastic job done by judges Marilyn Downing of Pennsylvania and Elizabeth O'Brien of New Mexico. Twenty of the top poems have been submitted to the Manningham Trust contest sponsored by NFSPS. We are grateful to the teachers who encouraged student participation. Amy Peterson of W.R. Thomas Middle School in the Miami-Dade School District wrote a letter to accompany the submission of her students' poems. In it she thanked us for sponsoring our contest and explained that a number of her students had been winners in the past, and the FSPA contest was their first successful creative experience. These students, she said, have gone on to consider themselves "writers." (Two of her students were winners this year, also).

Award checks and certificates were mailed to the teachers of all the winners, so that they could present them at their respective schools. First-place winners in each grade level received the first annual Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Awards for Young People. In addition to the award money, a beautiful award certificate, and a congratulatory letter from FSPA, Mr. Hopkins wrote a personal letter to each winner and included a brochure describing his own body of work. We wanted the student to understand that this award was very special, and because the entire packet was quite impressive, we must have achieved that goal. A school district official from Lee County was kind enough to send a letter of gratitude to Mr. Hopkins for supporting our contest and informed him that Grantham Norris, who won the LBH award for the 11th grade, was additionally recognized at Ft. Myers High School. In the fall the poems of first, second and third place students will be printed in our FSPA anthology, and each student and their teacher will receive a copy. Those winners have also been given FSPA youth memberships for this year.

As of this writing, we look forward to this year's Young-As-Spring Fling, which will have a focus on connecting with youth. If FSPA is to continue as an organization, we must nurture a love for reading and writing poetry in our young people. They are our future members.

~Janet Watson, Youth Chair

NOTE: Due to space limitations in this issue, the **Youth Poetry Contest Winners List for 2016-2017** is being posted in the *On-Line OPAP & Supplement* on the FSPA website: www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org. Title of their poems, along with their school and county is also included. Please check out these poets of tomorrow!

Members-at-Large News

TO ALL FSPA MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: This column is for you. Send in your poetry achievements. We will print as many as possible. Your contest winning poems may find a spot in the On-Line OPAP Supplement!

Madelyn Eastlund, Beverly Hills, FL

Lyn has won two Honorable Mentions in the Pennsylvania Poetry Society's 2016 Contest, but her big NEWS is her First Place win for "A Latchkey Kid Speaks Out". The winning poem will be published in Pennsylvania's anthology and in the OPAP online supplement. Lyn, the former Membership Chair and Editor of OPAP for many years, retired from those duties several years ago, but continues to write poetry and win contests!

Jane Hutto, Bagdad, FL

Jane is to be the featured poet in the spring issue of *West-Ward Quarterly* magazine, edited by Shirley Leonard and published in Illinois. A biography and several of Jane's poems will be included. Jane's poetry will also be featured in the Milton, FL Library during National Poetry Month. Framed poems and excerpts will be arranged throughout the library. Additionally, the Bagdad Community Center will be having weekly drawings during NPM with the winner receiving a copy of Jane's chapbook, "Little Bits of Everything".

Evelyn Ann Romano, Tampa, Florida

Evelyn Ann Romano recently participated in "On the Lighter Side, an evening of poetry" presented by the Box Theater in Ybor City, Tampa. She was one of five poets invited to read their 'lighter poems' and also create some on-the-spot poetry from audience suggestions. Improvisation and poetry reading made this a very memorable event. Evelyn also had another poem published in *Palettes and Quills: Pencil Marks*, an on-line literary publication.



Chapter News

Big Bend Poets

www.bigbendpoets.weebly.com

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

Big Bend Poets (BBP) continues to use their Group and Community pages on Facebook to stay in contact to alert one another of upcoming poetry & literary events in the Tallahassee area. At recent meetings, BBP has studied different poetry forms from Sonnets to Pantoums to Haiku and have written poems inspired by Love, Winter, Music, and "Sheroes" (female heroes). The March meeting provided a surprise presentation from award winning poet **Ali Bilir** of Mersin, Turkey. Ali is both a member of BBP and FSPA. In his presentation, translated into English by daughter Defne Bilir, an instructor at FSU, Ali gave a tribute to the co-founders of BBP's second incarnation, Michael Carducci and Beth Stevenson. With his wife Sadeet, the Bilirs recited Turkish folk poems by Turkish poet, Karacaoğlu. Ali then recited and read a variety of his own poetry including two pieces from his book *Migration Ballads*, that has been translated into English. All poems were presented in Turkish and English. **BBP** members added to the evening by reciting and reading poems by Rumi and Neruda. They also read poems of their own.

Norma Sundberg, though unable to attend meetings due to a prolonged illness, keeps busy writing poetry and articles about poetry. She is a regular contributor to *Extra Innings with Marshall Cook*, an online literary journal from the Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison... **Patricia Stevenson** has had two poems, "Walking in Rain" and "Who Am I?" selected for translation into Turkish for publication in a Turkish literary journal later this year or in early 2018. **Patricia** has been the editor of *Scribbles*, the newsletter of the BBP and has produced over sixty issues since she created the newsletter. However the time has come for her to step-down and the June 2017 issue will welcome **Cynthia Portalatin** as its new editor. Cynthia plans to continue providing BBP news and information as well as covering a variety of poetry topics and local literary events.

Ali Bilir had poems recently published, "Just Smile" in *Scribbles*, the *Newsletter for the Big Bend Poets* and "Greetings from Home" in *First Literary Review-East* (in NYC). Ali's book of short stories, already published in Turkey, is being translated to English for publication in America in late 2017.

~ Patricia Stevenson Gingrich

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, 4:00pm, Daytona Beach Regional Library, Board Rm., City Island Library in Daytona Beach, 105 E. Magnolia Ave., off Beach St., near Jackie Robinson Stadium.

The **Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach** group welcomes any and all to attend. Since 1993, the group has shared and critiqued hundreds of poets' work enthusiastically as it continues to encourage work that is experimental and unconventional.

Recently the Live Poets' monthly challenges have included group members writing poems from an animal's point of view, as well as on what we see and hear sitting alone in a room, and poems on such subjects as inanimate objects, "When I wake up", and Lune poems. The quality and varied style of the many amazing poems by all members in our group have continued to astonish all who attend our meetings.

Live Poet **Llewelyn McKernan** and her husband John have returned to our meetings after her successful heart surgery, and we are so glad to have both of them back... Member Activities: **Judith Lawrence** not only continues to publish her *River Poets Journal* literary magazine, but she also has started an incredible Live Poets Society Facebook page which is now building a base of members and guests. **Cherelyn Bush** has just emceed an exciting Slam Poetry event at the Flagler/Palm Coast campus of the Daytona State College, and member **Ed Mikulski** has just published two interesting chapbooks: *39 Social Poems: Looking to Meaning* and *55 Coincidences: Was that God Knocking?* Both are worth checking out. And President **Bob Blenheim** is now exhausted after writing and circulating his definitive annual "Guide to the Academy Awards", and he is recuperating, of course, by watching more movies.

Each member of The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach makes this group one of the most vibrant and exciting chapters of FSPA!

~ Robert E. Blenheim

Miami Poets

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

Miami Poets will welcome National Poetry Month during April's *Miami Poets Soirée*, **Tere Starr** moderating. At each monthly gathering we share poetry and inspiration. During February's *soirée* we remembered Barbara Weston by sharing her lovely words. In March, we explored the meaning of truth with poetry. On second Mondays from 1 to 3 pm, we join **Jnita Wright's Group 10** to critique our creations. We welcome our newest member, **Zoraida (Ziggy) Pastor**. Her poetry and presence enhances our group. **Achievements:** **Mervyn Solomon**, South Florida Writer's Association's new president, was interviewed in March's *Author's Voice*. **Sampson Mathis** received first place in three poetry categories during February's writing contests. **Zoraida Pastor's** "A Love Poem to Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera" was honored and published in March. **Connie Goodman-Milone** judged the 2017 *Miami VA Creative Arts Festival* and the *Junior Orange Bowl Creative Writing Contest*. She also led a break-out poetry workshop on haiku during the *Mango Writers Conference*. **Ricki Dorn** directed the well-attended conference. Her second book, *Joy of Jewish Holidays in Rhyme*, was published. Ricki was interviewed on Dr. Billy Jones' "Every Day Folks" radio program. **Tere Starr** presented a March *Poetry Soirée* for the Brandeis Women's Organization. **Patsy Asuncion's** poem, "One," was featured in January's *New York Times*. She was a finalist in the Jo Harjo Poetry Contest. Patsy has been a featured poet during the *Bridgewater International Poetry Festival*, the *Colonnades Women's History Month* reading, and the *International Mother Language Celebration*. She emceed the spoken word artists during the *Women of Color Exhibit*. Her fourth Wednesday open mics at The Bridge in Charlottesville, VA can be viewed on YouTube's *Patricia Asuncion Channel*.

~Tere Starr, president

(more on page 6)

(continued from p.5)

New River Poets

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

Much of our energy for the first months of the new year was spent preparing for the FSPA Spring Fling in Tampa. Together with members of Sunshine Poets, we believe we planned an interesting program to rejuvenate our interest in poetry today and to confirm our hopes for poetry in the future. I want to thank NRP members **Stephanie Andrews, Ken Clanton, John Foster, and JC Kato** for taking on particular responsibilities while we planned the Fling. As this is being written, some of our members are scrambling to submit the best of their poetry to the NFSPS annual contests. We are so proud of the success members have had in previous years and wish them good luck in this one. We always look forward to the announcement of winners in June and enjoy reading all the award-winning poetry in the *Encore* anthology.

Our members continue to immerse themselves in literary pursuits. **Stephanie Andrews** attended the Amelia Island Book Festival in February and highly recommends this annual event, which features presentations and workshops by well-known authors and poets. She has been teaching creative writing classes and is already planning two 8-week courses for the 2017 fall/winter season at The Shepherd's Center... **Ken Clanton** has been writing bluegrass lyrics and "Skinny Dippin" was recently recorded. He says he hasn't heard from the Grammy Awards Committee—yet!!... **John Foster** participated in a "Meet and Greet" for local authors in February, and he has formed a subgroup within his community poetry group, The Southshore Poets, to study and create haiku. A delightful surprise—a bookstore in Arlington, Virginia recently ordered a dozen of John's book, *A Gesture of Words*.

***NOTE:** The May meeting will be on May 27, the 4th Saturday, as several members are planning to attend Saint Leo University's Sandhill Writers' Retreat.

~Janet Watson, President

North Florida Poetry Hub *NEW!*

FSPA has a new chapter in Northeast Florida. The North Florida Poetry Hub has seven (7) members for 2017 and is led by Steffani Fletcher. The group began organizing last summer and had three member-at-large poets published in the 2016 FSPA anthology. Many of the members are instructors at the Help At Hand organization which brings art and poetry therapy to at-risk youth and underserved populations. For information on meeting details, contact Steffani by post or email:

Steffani Fletcher
3886 Atlantic Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL 32207 OR
email: steffani@hopeathand.org.

~from the Editor

Orlando Area Poets

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

Each month the **Orlando Area Poets** meet to share and critique their own original poetry. OAP members have been very busy over the winter writing and being published.

Peter Gordon's poem, "Baseball," was accepted by the *Sandhill Review* for its 2017 edition... Twelve Chairs founder **Al Rocheleau** has poems in *The Cortland Review*, *Wild Violet*, *The Potomac Review*, and *Wild Goose Poetry Review*. **Al** also presented at the University of Florida's Oak Hammock speaker series on the Nobel Laureates. His subject was the work of the 2016 Laureate for Literature, Bob Dylan... Twelve Chairs Scholarship student, **Katie O'Malley**, age 17, is the Featured Poet in the May 2017 issue of *Contemporary American Voices* (other past Featured Poets have included Robert Pinsky, A.D. Winans, and **Al Rocheleau**). A story of Katie's will also appear in the fall issue of the *Evansville Review*, one of the top print journals in the country... Katie is joined in the May issue of CAV by fellow Scholarship students **Sophia DuRose**, 17, and **José Garcia**, 16, who was also published in the *Creative Communications Student Poetry Anthology*. **Sophia** received Two "Honorable Mentions" for the Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards for prose, poetry, and an essay... **Sophia** and **José** have joined Scholarship students **Car-**

los Rosario, 16, **Mackenzie Riley**, 15, and **Gerald Salcedo**, 15, as featured presenters in the Osceola School for the Arts' "Painted Words Night," a collaboration with OSCA's Visual Arts Department. This amazing collaborative art and poetry event will be repeated in April for the general public at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Arts in Orlando... **Elaine Person's** collaboration with the Maitland Public Library continues with free monthly Sunday workshops. "I Heard It" was the spring theme for the annual poetry contest. Winners will be announced April 28th after press time.

~Alice Friedman, Secretary

Poetry for the Love of It

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2:45-4:45 pm, Tallahassee Senior Center, N. Monroe St, Tallahassee. Visitors are always welcome.

PLOI is sponsoring its first poetry contest for seniors 55+ who participate in programs at the Tallahassee Senior Center (TSC) or who are TSC staff members aged 55+. Submissions will be accepted starting March 15, 2017. Contest information and a handout will be available at the receptionist's desk. The contest deadline is June 30, 2017.

Our February 27th meeting was a poetry reading for residents at Westminster Gardens also known as "Georgia Bell Dickinson", one of Tallahassee's oldest senior apartment complexes. Members participating in the reading of original poems and those of well-known poets included Charles Hazelip, Linda Whitefeather, Norma Plumley, Phyllis Wooten, Bernita Mack and Sue Hansen. The reading was well received... For National Poetry Month – April 2017 – members are discussing challenging themselves to 30 poems in 30 days... Recently, our second anthology was retitled *Seasoned Poets* and is now available on Amazon.

~Linda Whitefeather, Secretary

(member news continued on p. 7)

**"Well, write poetry,
for God's sake,
it's the only thing
that matters."**

—e.e. cummings

(continued from p. 6)

Sunshine Poets

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

Sunshine Poets continues to meet monthly and we welcome all ages and levels of poets. Members rotate a presentation of their choice. A new form or technique is described and offered as a homework assignment. Homework and critique are optional, followed by an open reading. Lunch and fellowship follow the meeting at one of our local restaurants. **Sunshine Poets** is working with **New River Poets** in the hosting of the **FSPA 2017 Spring Fling**. **Sunshine** also made a donation to the **FSPA Youth Contest**, and are also sponsoring a **humor category** in the **FSPA State Poetry Contests**. Member, **Joyce Shiver**, judged a humor category for Utah.... Members **Joan Clark** and **Natalie Warrick** continue to have their poetry published in their church newsletter. President, **Cheri Herald's**, Christmas poem was included in her school's December newsletter. **Cheri** also created a Facebook page for **Sunshine Poets**; contact: sunshinepoets@gmail.com OR Cheri: c_herald@hotmail.com for further information.

~ Cheri Herald, President SSP

Tomoka Poets

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

Tomoka Poets have been busy studying a variety of poetry forms and as usual, writing great poetry. **Niki Byram** has been helping make phone calls to members-at-large for the OPAP Survey Project. Many Tomoka poets are looking forward to the Spring Fling in Tampa where their very own **Mary-Ann Westbrook** will be presiding at her first state-wide FSPA meeting since being installed as FSPA President last October. Mary-Ann and her home chapter hope to see many of you on the "other coast" in Tampa!

~ PSG for Mary-Ann Westbrook

From the Editor

In early March after pleasant weather, winter returned to north central Alabama with a vengeance. As I began writing this editorial, I once again experienced a low in the night of 26°F. Ironically, I had recently pulled an old jigsaw puzzle off the shelf to work on while temperatures were still in the lower digits. I was not in a rush to finish the puzzle, as it is a 1500 piece puzzle I have done before; one of my favorites. It was quite appropriate for our frigid weather. The puzzle is of a famous castle in Germany and is titled, "Neuschwanstein in Winter" by Otto Maier Verlag Ravensburg. It is a beautiful image of a real fairytale castle. The sun is reflecting off the castle, some of the snow covered trees, and part of the frozen lake. The rest of the image is in shadow. It is totally amazing! Looking at this castle reminds me of fairytales and princesses, and knights in shining armor from my childhood.

When is the last time you read a fairytale? Do you find any similarities with poetry? Yes? No? What about poetry that has been inspired by fairytales, myth, and folklore? These poems abound. Most of this type of poetry began as Epic poetry and long narratives and are as old as man's written history. Take Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* or Chaucer's *Beowulf*. Each were heroic but also of mythical proportions including heinous beasts. Sound like a fairytale? In Gaelic (Celtic) traditions, the myths and the lore was sung and of a more lyrical style of poetry, yet they were narratives and epic in nature, also. In fact almost every manner of people throughout history have had some form of early narrative poetry. In those societies where oral tradition was the strongest, most of the poetry was unfortunately lost with the coming of Christianity. However some of the stories survived in a prose oral form and were eventually written down in a mythical-poetical style. From these renditions, poets since the 12th and 13th centuries to modern times have been writing poems from the old stories.

Maybe one day, you will try your own poetic hand at writing a poem from an old fairytale, an ancient myth, or some popular folklore! If you do, please let me know!

~ Patricia Stevenson Gingrich, editor

april is...

national

poetry month

Celebrate in so many different ways. Write a poem a day. Do a public reading. Buy a poetry book. Attend a poetry event. Celebrate "Poem in Your Pocket Day" on April 27, 2017! For more ideas, go to: poets.org



Message from your Editor and Membership Chair

If you are a paid member of Florida State Poets Association and have not been receiving a paper copy of this newsletter via US mail, please contact either Mary Marcelle or Patricia Stevenson Gingrich to verify your mailing address. Please use the contact information on p. 2 to call or email. Thank You.

FSPA ANTHOLOGY 35

Editor: Gary Broughman

Co-Editors: Elaine Person & J.C. Kato

Poems must meet ALL Submission and Publication layout requirements, as follows:

RULES FOR POETRY SUBMISSIONS

–ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS–

- Poems must be *owned* by the submitting poet.
- Poet must be a 2017 member of FSPA.
- Poems must be written in *English* as primary language and be *titled*, unless a haiku.
- Poets must submit three (3) poems—one will be chosen. Only one of the poems may have been previously published. (*This rule was added for the 2016 anthology*)
- Subject and language of poem should be *appropriate* for general audience.
- Poems must be *digital files*, such as Word files, or typed if sent by mail. Please use common fonts such as Times New Roman, Calibri, or similar, using an 11 point font size.

PUBLICATION LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS

–ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS–

- Poems submitted *must not* exceed a total of 68 lines including the title, lines between stanzas, and annotations.
- Character spaces within each line (including blank spaces and punctuation) *must not* exceed 58 total spaces.
- Poems should be ‘justified left’ except for needed indentations or if shaped poems. Otherwise, Do not center.
- Include name, address, phone, email address, and chapter name or Member-at-Large in upper right hand corner of each page. (We may need to contact you for editing decisions.)
- Include any award or publishing credits at the bottom of the poem if previously published.

POETRY SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Poems must be submitted between May 15, 2017, and July 15, 2017. This applies to surface mail & email.
- Email is the preferred submission method. *If you have an email account, please use it.* If not, send via USPS.
- Email submissions should be sent as attachments in one of the following formats (listed in order of preference): Word (.doc or .docx), RTF, TXT, or PDF files. **If using a Mac**, do not send as a Pages file. Export your Pages document as a Word file.
- No poems sent embedded in the body of an email message will be accepted.

2017 ANTHOLOGY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The 4th annual contest for the Cover Art and Interior Divisions of *Anthology 35* will run simultaneously with the poetry sub-missions. Winning photos will appear in the 2017 anthology with your name.

2017 Theme: **Florida Life**.

RULES FOR PHOTO CONTEST:

- Photographer must be a 2017 member of FSPA.
- Photos may be submitted in Black & White or Color by email or postal mail.
- **Preferred submission** is a Hi-Res digital image (300 ppi or greater) in JPEG format (.jpg).
- Print Images may be submitted as a 5"x7" print via surface Mail. **NO Photocopies accepted.**
- Photos should convey some aspect of “**Florida Life**” and may be titled. This is for your interpretation.
- May submit a **maximum** of three images.
- Individual must own the photographic rights & include name, chapter, address, email, phone, and when (year) and where the photo was taken with each submission.

(NO EXCEPTIONS.)

Submissions period is from May 15, 2017 - July 15, 2017.

SEND ENTRIES (POEMS and/or PHOTOGRAPHS) TO:

EMAIL: (Preferred submission method.)

fspa.anthology35@gmail.com **NEW for 2017**

Subject Line: Anthology 35 poems OR Photo Contest

SURFACE MAIL:

Gary Broughman

725 Laurel Bay Circle

New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169

NOTE: Inquiries may be made by email or by phone to 386-690-9295.

ORDER Your ANTHOLOGY Now!

Pre-Publishing Price – \$10.00 (After convention, books can be ordered from booksellers.)

Mail completed order form with check/money order payable to FSPA, for Anthology 35. Send Order between **May 15, 2017 and August 31, 2017** to Name and Address on order form.

Anthology 35 Pre-Publishing Order Form

Pre-Publishing Price – \$10.00 ea.

Mail with Payment (check or MO made to FSPA) to:

Gary Broughman

725 Laurel Bay Circle, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169

(Send between: **May 15, 2017 - August 31, 2017**)

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I plan to pick up my anthologies at the October Conference.

YES ____ NO ____ (please √ one)