

OPAP Online Supplement

August 2017

FSPA Anthology Thirty-Four Photo Contest

In 2016, over fifty photographs were submitted to the contest for the anthology. We had space for only eleven different photos in the book so, we have been showcasing many of the best "non-used" submissions in this and other online issues of OPAP since last November. I do hope you have enjoyed seeing your fellow FSPA member's additional talents. **This is the fourth and final showcase grouping.**



Lake Virginia by Stan Sjuka, Orlando Area Poets



4th of July by Frank T Masi, Orlando Area Poets

Colonial Kitchen by Linda Eve Diamond, Tomoka Poets



Florida Christmas by Elaine Person, Orlando Area Poets



Last OPAP Supplement to Printed Newsletter!

Dear FSPA Members,

A new era is beginning for Florida State Poets Association. With the November issue of *Of Poets & Poetry*, we join the vast number of other organizations and associations delivering their newsletter via electronic medium. FSPA did not make this decision lightly. Research was done concerning cost and members were polled. As most of you already know, the membership voted for this delivery method. Not only will it get the newsletter to you in a more timely manner, it will save from \$750 to \$1000 per issue—money that can be used towards costs for our twice yearly conferences and also for youth scholarships and other worthwhile association causes and expenses.

Beginning this November, you will receive your first electronic OPAP. It will still be published four times per year, on the first business day of November, February, April, and August. Each issue will be from 10-12 pages in length. Right now the consensus is that you will receive an email with a link to the newsletter provided as a PDF. This allows you to print it out or download it to a desktop file. If this changes, all members will be notified. Our FSPA members without Internet access will receive a copy printed and mailed by the Editor or other FSPA officer.

I think that you will find that the electronic distribution of OPAP will allow for the sharing of more timely news and the making of last minute additions. I still have to do the layout which can be a challenge with the issues that are 'chock-full' of info, so for now we will stick with the timetable of Oct. 1 for Chapter News, and Oct. 20 for Conference, Officer, and Committee Reports for the upcoming November issue.

It is my pleasure to continue serving as your editor for *Of Poets & Poetry* and helping implement this change for you and Florida State Poets Association.

Patricia Stevenson Gingrich, editor

Call for Poems

If you have a poem that you are especially proud of and would like to share it with your fellow FSPA Members, send it to me for consideration (when space is available)!

Patricia Stevenson Gingrich

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"Young as... Spring Fling 2017"

A few photos from Tampa! Enjoy!

See all photos on the FSPA Facebook page.



Mary-Ann
Westbrook



Peter Mienke



Lee Bennett
Hopkins



Lola
Haskins

(See more photos on p. 4.)

A Feather Has Fallen: In Remembrance

Remembering Lenny Schneir

In his relatively short time being active in the area's poetry, Lenny Schneir permanently affected each one of us with his human warmth and compassion.

When Lenny first appeared at a meeting of The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach several years ago, he brought with him a joyful sense of humor but also a deep sadness, a heavy weight that had resided on his shoulders since the death of his life's love, author and feminist Merlin Stone, in 2011. As regrettable as this sadness was, it gave him a formidable sensitivity and a compassionate empathy that made him and his work shine like a light that was pure and unblemished.

He proceeded to join The Live Poets Society and became one of our most loved members. In fact, in my decades of leading the group I have never seen anyone so quickly embraced by the membership. His every shared poem seemed a paean to his eternal love for Merlin, and each one he read with a characteristically sincere and charming, methodically-paced syllabic articulation like a sculptor slowly chipping a work of cherished marble. Often his eccentrically slow and dramatic reading style lifted a really humorous poem up to the uproarious, and I am sure everybody who has heard him read shall never forget his unique verbal interpretation which communicated a rare and innocent joy in being alive. I have met lots of poets in my over 35 years of poetry societies but I have never met anyone like Lenny Schneir, and I am confident I never will.

When Lenny first visited The Live Poets Society he handed each one of us a one-page handout from Merlin's benefit memorial celebration with a poem and her picture. This made such an impression on me I later told Lenny he made me feel as if I had known her personally. Since that time I have carried that photo of her in my bag to every meeting, and carry it still. His deep and fully expressed love for Merlin I feel has now become iconic almost to the level of the great love stories, from Pelleas and Melisande; Lancelot and Guinevere; Romeo and Juliet; to Rhett and Scarlett; and Rick and Ilsa.

Now, **Lenny and Merlin.**

And that is the one true consolation in the sadness of his painful loss: that now he has joined her in whatever world or plane of existence there is after death.

I am sure that we will miss this wonderful, loving man beyond what we even now imagine. Even when he was unable to attend meetings due to his illness (which he kept secret from most), his warmth kept permeating our interactions and our work. Our hearts are mourning today, but eventually that will somewhat dissipate to leave the good



Lenny Schneir

memories of Lenny (and his life's love, Merlin) to remain clear and alive in our hearts.

Along with sincere condolences to his family and friends, and to all who loved him, we now honor and celebrate Lenny Schneir's life and, above all, his immeasurable love.

~ Robert E. Blenheim, President
The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach



A Few Words about Carol Thomas

by Stephanie Salkin, Mary-Ann Westbrook, and Patricia Stevenson Gingrich

"Our longtime friend and avid Tomoka Poet Carol Thomas passed away Monday morning July 10th. She loved to write and had published several books of poetry along with others. Carol, along with David Axelrod and Lenny Schneir won a Florida Gold Medal for Best Non-Fiction for their collaboration, *Merlin Stone Remembered*. Carol loved Tomoka Poets, was thrilled to be one and kept pushing us to reach higher and higher. She was an inspiration to every one of us and her loss is deeply felt. We love you Carol."

~ Mary-Ann Westbrook, FSPA President
Tomoka Poets



Carol Thomas

"Carol Thomas was also well liked as a member of the Flagler County Art League and won numerous awards for her photography in FCAL shows. She and I were in discussions about sharing some responsibilities as poetry chair (*note: Stephanie is current Chair at FCAL*), and Carol co-judged one of the competitions with another prestigious member of Tomoka Poets, Janet Sage."

~ Stephanie Salkin, Tomoka Poets

"I like many others knew Carol Thomas of Tomoka Poets as a wonderful poet and photographer. She contributed faithfully to the FSPA Anthology and from the first also contributed to the FSPA Photography Anthology Contest each year. Her poetry was delightful and her photography certainly captured that Florida Spirit. Carol sent me handwritten notes each year that I have kept and do cherish. I know she will be missed, but she will also be remembered by me and so many members of Florida State Poets Association."

~ Patricia Stevenson Gingrich,
FSPA Editor, *Of Poets & Poets*

More Remarks about Carol Thomas

"I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Carol Thomas. On behalf of the Live Poets Society, I wish to send sincere condolences to all her family and friends for their loss. She will be missed by all of us who love poetry."

~ Robert Blenheim, President
Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

"This is on the order of a shock following Lenny Schneir's very recent death. May Carol rest in peace. My wife and I extend our sympathy to Frank, Carol's family and her friends."

~ Carol and Terry Michael Hagans
MAL, Palm Coast



Verna Thornton

It should be mentioned again that Verna Thornton of Zephyrhills and charter member of New River Poets passed away in April. A brief tribute was included in the Chapter News section of the August printed issue of OPAP. As a member of one of FSPA's most active chapters, she will be missed, but her poetry will remain.

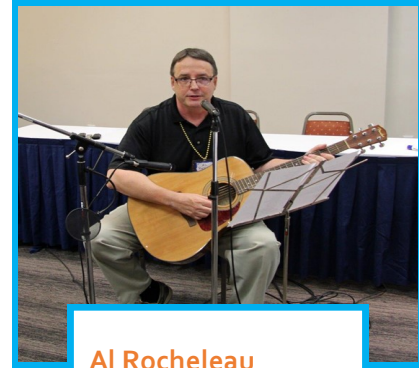
~ The Editor

(from p. 2) "Young as... Spring Fling 2017"

Spring Fling Attendees



Panel Discussion



Al Rocheleau

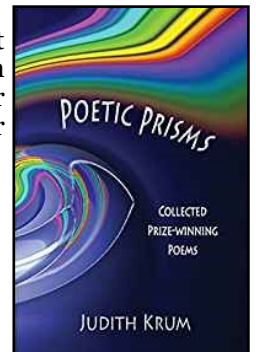
New Books: This is a new section for OPAP. If space permits and you send me an image and a very brief description of the poetry book you published within the last year of the next OPAP, I will list it, as shown here.

Judith Krum, MAL

For fans, a collection of the very best of Judy's poetry over the years from prize winners to poems selected for publishing in journals, magazines, or anthologies.

ISBN: 978-1946088512

Available on amazon.com



Judy, front left, at book signing in Bennington, VT, 2017, with former students.

Patricia L Stevenson, BBP

A Matter of Perspective and Other Poems

ISBN: 978-1545503669

Patricia's love of nature, people, and places is evident in this collection of poems; some humorous and others quite serious about nature and life. Her first book *South of 30° North* was published in Dec. 2016 with mostly Florida poems. Both books are available through most online book outlets.

