



Of Poets & Poetry



Florida State Poets Association, Inc.
www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org

Volume 45, Issue 2

January/February 2018

Special points of interest:

- Spring Fling Highlights & Schedule
- Speakers Bureau
- Fund Raiser
- Poems from Poetry Challenge

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Happy New Year From Your President

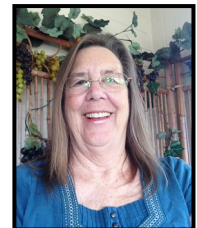
What a busy year we have had! Two outstanding conventions; one in Tampa; the other near Orlando. The FSPA newsletter *Of Poets and Poetry*, aka OPAP, edited by Member-at-Large Patricia Stevenson Gingrich and National Federation of State Poetry Societies newsletter *Strophes* are now electronic and on-line. Thanks to Linda Eve Diamond and Mary Marcelle for making this happen. Tomoka poet Linda Eve also got us *facebooking* and *tweeting* along with using our website. Orlando Area Poet Robyn Weinbaum, a professional accountant, became our Treasurer, and Deland Poet Kevin Campbell became our Slam Coordinator.; Orlando Area Poet Leslie Halpern signed on as Parliamentarian. Our Speakers Bureau is well on its way to becoming a reali-

ty. Chapters will be able to request a speaker on a specific topic to visit their chapter. We hope all of you will take advantage of this program. PayPal for FSPA will soon be in place. Members will be able to pay their membership and register for conventions on line.

Spring Fling events are almost finalized. We will be at the Holiday Inn Viera in Melbourne. Host chapter is the new Space Coast Poets. We asked for that location and we will be there! One of the events will be a *Plein Air* Poetry and Picnic in the Park led by Lola Haskins. The in-house poetry 'spoken word' competition was so much fun we decided to do it again. So pick your poems and start practicing. For the rest?? You will just have to come and see.

The Fall Convention is in the early planning stages

and will be held in the Daytona area. Tomoka Poet Diane Perrine is our new Electronic Media Coordinator and Web master. Thank you Linda Eve Diamond for giving so much time, work, and talent to move us a little further into the modern world. As you can see, we have been and are working very hard to bring you quality poetry and the words of other poets to inform, instruct and delight. Let's make this next year even more productive than the last.



Love and poetry forever,

~Mary-Ann Westbrook, President

New Speaker's Bureau Being Established

FSPA's new Speaker's Bureau is accepting profiles (Form on last page) prospective teachers/speakers within the organization to serve our members locally. Once approved by the Education Committee, these speakers will be available to go to local chapters and do programs without charge in those locales. The idea is to make use of FSPA teaching resources apart from what is always planned for the two annual conventions, bringing additional education directly to our members wherever they are in the state. When the speaker list is ready, it will go out to chapter presidents to share with members so local events can be planned in concert with a speaker selected by the chapter. We plan for this effort to be ongoing and to help local chapters gain additional membership by advertising such events. And we hope to further strengthen the bond between FSPA and its local chapters as poets working together.

~Al Rocheleau, Vice President

Florida State Poets Association, Inc.

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

2017-2018 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, Orlatyndo, FL 32837; 407.592.4527; ARRO40@aol.com

Secretary: Alice Friedman, 603 Woodridge DR, Fern Park, FL 32732; 407.260.6786; arf603@gmail.com

Treasurer: Robyn Weinbaum, 2629 Whalebone Bay DR, Kissimmee, FL 34741; 407.432.2714; wingedunicorn0205@hotmail.com

Appointive Board

Anthology: Gary Broughman, 741 S Palmetto Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32114; 386.690.9295; chbmedia@gmail.com

Contest Chair: Mary Rogers-Grantham, 23 Zorro Ct, 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 Dr, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 407.832.8603; marymarcelle@earthlink.com

OPAP Editor: Patricia Stevenson Gingrich, 184 McGowin Rd, Wilsonville, AL 35186; 850.445.1302; patriciasg.bbp@gmail.com

Parliamentarian: Leslie C Halpern, 2195 Catbriar Way, Oviedo, FL 32765; 407.365.6304; LCHwriter@cfl.rr.com

Slam Coordinator: Kevin "Noir Jente" Campbell, 532 Hemingway Ct, Deland, FL 32720; 386.717.8324; noirjente@aol.com

Youth Poetry Chair: Janet Watson, 7908 West Dr, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544; 813.973.0763; JMPWAT@aol.com

Webmaster & Social Media Coordinator: Diane Perrine, 11999 SW 141st Place, Dunnellon, FL 34432-6627; mypassioniswriting@yahoo.com



Board of Directors (Chapter Presidents)

Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach: Robert Blenheim, 515 Silver Beach Ave #10, Daytona Beach, FL 32118; 386.506.9930; rblenheim@aol.com

Miami Poets: Tere Starr, 9925 SW 97th PL, Miami, FL 33176; terestarr@mindspring.com

New River Poets: Janet Watson, 7908 West Dr, 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: Oral Nussbaum, 209 Buttonwood Av, Winter Springs, FL 32708; 407.620.5289; nuttree3@aol.com

Poetry for the Love of It: Charles Hazelip, 3011 Barclay Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32309; 850.878.0412; dochazelip@comcast.net

Space Coast Poets: Janna Schledorn, 1990 Ontario Cir, North Melbourne, FL 32935; mschledorn@cfl.rr.com

Sunshine Poets: Cheri Herald, 18SJ 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 Presidents:

Mary-Ann Westbrook—2016-
Joseph Cavanaugh—2012-2016
Cheri 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*—1978-19978
Beatrice Branch*—1976-1978
Henrietta Kroah*—1974-1976

*Deceased

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

All Chapter & Member-at-Large News due by March 25, 2018, for the April/May issue. **All other reports, news, and photos due by April 10, 2018. ALL MUST** submit via the Internet as an **email attachment. Word (.doc or .docx), RTF or TXT** are the preferred file formats. News embedded in an email will not be accepted unless it has been okayed by the editor. 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 Mail: Patricia Stevenson Gingrich
184 McGowin Road
Wilsonville, AL 35186

April is National Poetry Month

It's never too early to start planning for National Poetry Month. Whether you are a member-at-large or an FSPA Chapter, you will want to celebrate your passion for poetry in some manner. You can make plans to attend the Spring Fling in the Melbourne area; write a poem a day; participate in the annual Poem in Your Pocket Day (this year on April 26); host a local event; support a poet by buying their book; or participate in so many other ways. Check out the many suggestions at: www.poets.org Send activities to the OPAP Editor. Thank You.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

FSPA's financial standing is acceptable for an organization of its size. The Board is working to improve our situation by cost containment and evaluating expenses to ensure that FSPA is using its resources in the best way possible.

Changing from a print version of OPAP to digital will save at least \$2000.00 per year. Adjusting the price on Spring Fling and Fall Convention to reflect the value to the membership will also help.

The Board has discussed accepting debit/credit/PayPal as payment for books and events. This will be implemented in the near future.

~Robyn Weinbaum, Treasurer

"Let's Do a Fundraiser!"

Would you like to help make our Spring Fling more exciting? How would you like to present the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winners of the in-house Spoken Word Competition with an award that has your personal name or chapter name on it? For example: The "John Doe (or ABC Chapter)" award for First Place in the 2018 FSPA Spring Fling Spoken Word competition is presented to "Jane Jones".

1st Place = \$100

2nd Place = \$50

3rd Place = \$25

We also have a Poetry/Picnic in the Park event. Example: The Poetry/Picnic in the Park is Presented by "Jane Doe (or XYZ Chapter).

Park Shelter rent = \$65

This is the perfect opportunity to help promote FSPA Poetry. Chapters and Individuals are encouraged to participate. Please contact **Mary-Ann Westbrook** to be a sponsor. **Do not delay** – only four sponsorships are available!

Newest Chapter to Host Spring Fling—2018

Space Coast Poets

Presents

"The Nature of Poetry"

Space Coast Poets will be hosting the Spring Fling this year as it meets in Viera, Florida. The new chapter led by Janna Schledorn and assisted by FSPA officers and long time members have planned what I think will be a memorable Spring Fling.

Members and guests will once again have the opportunity to explore nature and poetry with a picnic at Erna Nixon Park and a two part session on *Plein Air* will be led by Lola Haskins.

Other presenters are Joe Cavanaugh and David Axelrod.

The host-hotel will be the Holiday Inn Viera-Melbourne with easy access from I-95, exit 191. See hotel information on page 8. Registration form and information is on page 9.

~Patricia Stevenson Gingrich

Committee Reports

Youth Report

The 2017-2018 FSPA Student Poetry Contest received 611 entries from middle and high school students throughout Florida. This number was only 20 entries less than last year. It was expected that we would have much fewer submissions due to Hurricane Irma's disruption of the school curriculum in many Florida school districts, so I was pleased to see that I was as busy as ever—up to my neck in poems. As always, I was amazed at the quality of the poet-

ry from our state's young poets and look forward to the judging results.

This year's judges are Zachary Kluckman of New Mexico and Barbara Green Powell of Texas. All place winners will receive cash awards. First-place winners in each grade division will also receive the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award for Young People, and 20 of the best poems will be entered in the national Manningham Trust Competition.

Our winners, as well as their teachers, are always appreciative when they see their own poems published in the FSPA anthology. I also send copies of the

book to our judges, and this year I was happy to get a note from one of the judges of last year's contest, praising our 2017 issue of *Cadence*. "...a wonderful collection of poetry," she wrote, and "a grand project for students as well as adults." We owe much to Gary Broughman and his editorial staff for their efforts in producing such a beautiful volume. To be included with the exceptional work of more mature poets is very encouraging to our winning students.

~Janet Watson, Youth Chair

Contest Report for 2018

Florida State Poets Association's 2018 Poetry Contests offer another exciting year. We have twenty-seven categories which include four \$100.00 top-prize winnings. Submission period begins **May 1 and ends July 14, 2018**. July 14 is the "Postmarked By" date.

Our 2018 contest brochure can be accessed at:
www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org

along with web links for additional and more specific information in several categories.

Our judges always look forward to reading poetry submissions and choosing the winning poems.

Happy Writing!
Mary Rogers-Grantham,
Contest Chair

Historian's Report

As historian, one of my responsibilities is to distribute the FSPA anthologies to libraries to keep the history of poetry alive.

More news in later issues.

~Elaine Person

Website and Social Media Report

It's been a great year for FSPA online. We've had approximately 17,000 website visits and over 500,000 total website hits in 2017. Our social media presence

continues to grow, with 60 Twitter followers and 471 on Facebook.

I've enjoyed my time as Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator, but I'll be moving on to new projects in this new year. I am pleased to announce that **Diane Perrine** will be taking over the position. I look forward to following her posts online.

All best wishes for a happy, poetic New Year!
~Linda Eve Diamond, outgoing Webmaster



GET SOCIAL WITH FSPA!

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

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

Give a "Welcome" to Diane Perrine, FSPA's new Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator via email or US mail—see addresses on page 2.

Chapter Reports

Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Daytona Beach, FL

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach has its workshop meetings on the third Thursday of each month at the Ormond Beach Regional Library. Meetings start at 4:00 p.m. and runs to after 6 p.m., and the group welcomes all poets, and anybody interested in poetry, to attend.

Most members have been so busy during the holidays, writing as well as with the conventional holiday activities. And all were happy to have snowbirds **John** and **Llewelyn McKernan** return, as well as many new attendees. As far as members' publishing, **Jesse Sam Owens** has been preparing his new book of poetry, "The Way of Dreams and Other Musings" and **Judith Lawrence**, hot off winning 1st honorable mention in FSPA's

"Crescendo Award", has been producing short stories as well as poetry while publishing her River Poets Journal. Cherelyn Bush ran a slam with her LIT students at the Flagler/Palm Coast Daytona State College campus that amazingly brought out 52 participants. **Bob Blenheim** recently was honored to judge the "Horror/Dark Humor poetry" category for the Illinois State Poetry contests and had to admit the entries he received were much more daring and less conservative than most of the dark poetry written by FSPA members. As expected, Bob was in heaven reading them!

Recently the Live Poets' monthly challenges have included writing cowboy poems, song parodies, attempts at blank verse as well as poems on various themes including "Reflections," "Libraries," and "Violence." Most interestingly, members were challenged to write a poem in reaction to David Lynch's classic film, "Mulholland Drive," a formidable assignment. As usual, members came up with some really interesting and accomplished work.

Hearing all members read their new works at the Live Poets workshop always produces provocative and rewarding discussions, as well as being a joy for all attending.

Anyone who attends should discover that The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach is one of the most vibrant and entertaining chapters of FSPA!

~Robert E. Blenheim

Miami Poets

Pinecrest, FL

Miami Poets celebrated the ninth anniversary of the *Miami Poets Soirée* in January. **Tere Starr** moderates the monthly gatherings each first Wednesday from 1 to 3 pm at the Pinecrest Branch Library. On second Mondays we meet from 1 to 3 pm with *Group 10*, the critique group founded by **Jnita Wright** and now facilitated by our new member **Steven Liebowitz**. Steven is well-known as a novelist and motivational speaker. His poetry and insight add to the essence of our group.

Achievements: **Zoraida (Ziggy) Pastor** was chosen by Z Publishing House as one of Florida's Best Emerging Poets. Her poem, "Royal Flamenco Dancer," will appear in their January anthology. **Connie Goodman-Milone's** letter, "Gun Violence," appeared in the *Sun Sentinel* and "Honoring the Blind," was published in the *Miami Herald*. **Steven Liebowitz** was part of South Florida Writers' Association's panel at November's *Miami International Book Fair* where he presented his novel, *Devorah*. Steven's poem, "Political Porn and the Metaphysical Shift," was published in *Coffin Bell*. **Tere Starr** held a *Poetry Soirée* for the Brandeis Women's South Miami Chapter and in December, for the book review group, *Agnes of Pages*. **Ricki Dorn** hosted a *Poetry Night* at Miami-Dade Community College's South Campus. She will chair the *Eighth Annual Mango Writers Conference* for the South Florida Writers Association on February 17. **Tere, Zoraida** and **Steven** will lead breakout workshops. **Mervyn Solomon** read his poetry at the *DWNTWN Art Days 2017 Poetry Slam* along with **Connie** and **Steven**. His monthly "President's Message" appears in *Author's Voice*. Miami Poets stay connect-

ed no matter how far away. Jo Christiane Ledakis' poem "No Second" was the editor's choice in *OFFSHOOTS 14*, a collection of poems and short stories published by the Geneva Writers' Group of Geneva, Switzerland. It was read at the party launching the journal. **Patsy Asuncion's** poetry appears in *Voxpoetica*, *Snapdragon*, *Artemis Literary Journal*, *Fredericksburg Literary Review*, and *Indiana University's Literary Journal*. She was a presenter at the Indiana Writers Conference and the Virginia Writers Club and was a featured poet in a Social Justice Poetry event at Harrisonburg's Artful Dodger. **Patsy's** open mic boasts 9000+ views on her YouTube Channel. She serves on the board of Writer House and The Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative. The *Miami Poets* continue to share our poetry throughout Miami and beyond.

~Tere Starr, president

New River Poets

Wesley Chapel, FL

Our chapter began a new year in poetry by writing poems themed on the subject of "New Beginnings". The poetry that members wrote revealed how each day brings a variety of new opportunities, and we hope to discover such inspiration on all 365 days that 2018 offers us.

As we are launched into the new year, we look back on the accomplishments of the past year, during which many of our members won awards in contests, had poems published, and participated in literary activities, including the FSPA Spring Fling and Convention.

John Foster, who lives at Freedom Plaza in Sun City, led a poetry workshop there seven years ago. He got the idea that participants in the workshop and other resident poets needed a place where their work could be displayed and enjoyed. The woodworking shop at the community crafted a stylized tree and bulletin board (see photo) which became known as the

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Poet-Tree. John solicits and edits submissions and posts new poems each month.

JC Kato has embarked on several literary projects. A novel in verse, about Herman Melville, is currently "in the works," and she is now represented by agent Rubin Pfeffer. Her narrative non-fiction book about Ulysses Grant was requested for consideration by Kelsey Murphy of Balzer & Bray (HarperCollins). We are crossing our fingers with JC on that one.

Janet Watson was invited to read poetry at a Christmas Season Gala at her church, and she wrote two poems especially for that occasion. Several New River members created their own Christmas cards to send this year and some included their own verses. What a great idea!

Sadly, we lost two of our members in 2017. Longtime member, **Verna Thornton**, passed away in April, as reported in a previous newsletter. **Marjean Baumgardner**, a fine poet who will be remembered for her wise and witty verses, died on November 27. The talents of all our past members continue to inspire us as we promote the reading and writing of poetry in 2018.

Our chapter meets on the third Saturday of each month at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wesley Chapel.

~ Submitted by New River Poets



The 'Poet Tree' at Freedom Plaza

North Florida Poetry Hub Jacksonville, FL

The monthly meetings of **NFPH** meet at Hope at Hand facility, 3886 Atlantic Blvd in Jacksonville. All poetry enthusiasts ages 16+ are welcome to attend. Meetings are on the 4th Thursday at 6:30-8p.m.

For more information, contact Steffani Fletcher at: steffani@hopeathand.org

Orlando Area Poets Maitland, FL

The Orlando Area Poets celebrated the season with a special poetry games and challenges meeting on December 21st, sharing treats, writing poems based on Christmas cards and winning candy prizes in the "Who Wrote This?" game. The Maitland Library continues its outstanding support of our work, providing the venue for our monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month, and will host the quarterly coffee-house on January 26th with the theme "Bearing the Torch."

Peter M. Gordon's poem, "My Therapist Told Me to Change My Socks," received Honorable Mention in the Cultural Weekly Jack Grapes Poetry Contest (October 11, 2017). His poem "Confidence Man" appeared in the November 6 issue of *The Five-Two*.*

Leslie C. Halpern will be teaching a course titled "Dreams on Film" at Rollins College Center for Lifelong Learning. The course is based on her nonfiction book of the same name about movie dream sequences, published by McFarland & Company, Inc...

Carlton Johnson's poem, "Broken Sky" appeared in the December 11 issue of *The Five-Two*.*

William C. Oelfke recently published two novels. *The Sod House*, for young readers, includes questions to encourage study and enhance understanding of its historical period. *Speaks to Water* continues the series

that includes his previous two books *Three*, and *Reunion*.

Elaine Person continued leading the writing workshops at the Maitland Library the third Sunday of each month, Wednesday evening writing workshops at the Winter Park Library, and workshops on writing to art at the Crealde School. She accepted the role of vice-president of Adventures in Christian Writing, a monthly writing group, and will teach at the Road Scholar in Winter Park in January and February, including "Humor in a Hurried and Harried World," "Music of the Gilded Age," and "Techniques to Use to Write Memoir." A short story with the required first line of "As she watched the alligator float slowly towards Winter Park's Dinky Dock, Zora remembered..." won second place from the Winter Park Branch of the English Speaking Union.

Carolynn J. Scully's poem, "Sandals," won first place in the Florida Tapestry Awards (October 27, 2017).

Shelley Stocksdale's poem, "Mister Wordsworth's Words" won second place in the War and Peace Contest and will be published in *Time of Singing, A Journal of Christian Poetry*, 2017/18 Winter edition.

Four of our members were recently published in the Florida Writers Association Anthology, *What a Character*. Included were **Teresa TL Bruce's** "Gray-Haired Guard, Unlikely Kin," **Frank T. Masi's** "The Good Doctor," **Elaine Person's** "The Last Supper," and **Lynn Schiffhorst's** "Unforgettable."

**The Five-Two* (<http://poemsoncrime.blogspot.com>)

~Diane Neff, Secretary

Poetry for the Love of It Tallahassee, FL

Poetry for the Love of It (PLOI) continues to meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month on the 3rd

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floor of the Tallahassee Senior Center, 2:45 - 4:45 pm. Visitors are welcome. Attendance continues to average about seven participants.

For 2018, members continue to present original works for comment and feedback. In addition to periodic poetry exercises, members will also focus on the works and life of a well-known poet each month during 2018. The first three notable poets selected include Robert Frost, Billie Collins, and Langston Hughes.

On January 19th, PLOI members provided the entertainment for the annual Grand Relations Art Show Reception at TSC by reading a variety of humorous poems, both members' original poems and those of other poets. Also on display are copies of the poems submitted to the first PLOI Senior Poetry Contest. These poems are accompanied by works of art created specifically for each poem by seniors participating in art classes at TSC.

~Linda Whitefeather, Secretary

Space Coast Poets Melbourne, FL

Space Coast Poets meets the second Monday of every month at 4:30 p.m. at the Titan's Table food court in Building 10 on the Eastern Florida State College-Melbourne campus.

Publishing awards:

Space Coast Poets member **Lupita Eyde-Tucker** has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize for her poem, "Año Viejo," published in the Fall 2017 edition of the Naugatuck River Review.

~ Janna Schledorn, President

Sunshine Poets Crystal River, FL

Sunshine Poets continue to meet at the Crystal River Public Library on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10 AM. We welcome all ages and levels of poets. 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 donated a basket to the FSPA Fall Convention raffle, sponsored a humor category and donated to the FSPA youth contest. Members **Val Esker**, **Joyce Shiver**, **Natalie Warrick** and **Cheri Herald** had wins in FSPA's annual contest. **Joyce Shiver** had additional wins in Oklahoma and Indiana contests. Members **Joan Clark** and **Natalie Warrick** continue to have their poetry published in their church newsletter. President **Cheri Herald** moderated the Book Publishing Panel at FSPA's Fall Convention in Altamonte Springs, FL. One of Cheri's photographs was chosen for inclusion in *Cadence*, FSPA's Anthology 35. Sunshine Poets has a Facebook page. Contact: sunshinepoets@gmail.com

~Cheri Herald, President
c_herald@hotmail.com
sunshinepoets@gmail.com

Tomoka Poets Ormond Beach, FL

Tomoka Poets continue to read, write and critique at our monthly meetings on the 2nd Wed @ 5-6:45p.m. Our open mic programs continue to draw a crowd at our **new location**, Copperline Cafe and Coffee shop in the Pavilion Shopping Center in Port Orange. One of our featured poets has been NFSPS Vice President Joe Cavanaugh who talked about Transcendental poetry then read his work which was accompanied by photography taken by his wife Shirley. Another featured poet, Marc Davidson, gave a brief lesson on writing limericks then let us all try it. We had some pretty funny readings. In December we partnered with Creative Happiness Institute, Ormond Beach Main Street, Ormond Beach Art District and Taylor and Seals Publishing to present our annual Chriskwanzakah. This year we also included BAMfest (Books, Art and

Music). This was open to the public and held at The Casements, John D. Rockefeller's winter home in Ormond Beach which was beautifully decorated with a huge Christmas tree in the lobby. A solstice ceremony was performed by Rick de Yampert and his band that everyone was invited to participate in to "bring back the sun". A theatrical reading was given by John Sbourne from a local theater. Poetry was performed by Joe Cavanaugh, FSPA and Tomoka Poet President **Mary-Ann Westbrook**, Volusia County Poet Laureate and Creative Happiness President **David Axelrod**, Tomoka Poet **Kyra Von Brokoph**, **Dan Pels** of Dan Pels Poetry Show, a group of young poets, and Live Poet singer, songwriter, musician **Jesse Owens**. In the lobby around the Christmas tree were Taylor and Seals, authors ready to autograph their books for everyone. Tomoka Poets **Kyra Von Brokoph**, **Linda Eve Diamond** and **David Axelrod** have all been featured poets at the Dan Pels Poetry Show held at The Hip in New Smyrna Beach.

~Mary-Ann Westbrook, President

Members-at-Large News

Mary Rogers-Grantham Palm Coast, FL

Mary was one of two featured poets at Dan Pels' January 2018 Poetry Night at the Hub in New Smyrna Beach. She read poems from her books *Under a Daylight Moon* and *When the Sun Sails* as well as new poems from her current working poetry collection.

Did you enjoy seeing the photo submitted by New River Poets?

You, too, can submit photos of a special event, activity, or members receiving an award or participating in a book signing, etc. See OPAP info on page 3. ~ Your Editor

Poetry Challenge

The poetry challenge from last November's issue was a thematic original poem that responds to and celebrates the work of imagist poet, Amy Lowell.

Two poems have been selected for publication.

Alba*

By B.J. Alligood

a response to Amy Lowell's "Aubade"

If I could stop the cry of dawn's arrival
and throw off the cloaking of our love
our lives of silent desperation
could be shed alongside the
weight of society's judgment
and our souls could breathe again

* "Alba" is a poetic term that describes the longing of lovers who after spending the night together have to separate for fear of being discovered.

Passing the Tree Farm

By Janet Watson

At noon each day the sun
sends shafts of light
straight down
between the rows
of tall slash pines.
These rigid patterns
flash and catch
my passing glance.
I see how
Nature is imprisoned
in this regiment of trees,
to make more boards,
more poles and posts.
But do the souls of pine
recall at all
the forest-filtered dance
of shine and shadow
through which the winds
of wooded hills may pluck
their random songs?

The sentenced ones
must know no other life,
but as I pass the place
of their confinement,
I see some trees
attempting to escape.
With branches clawing sky,
they pull and stretch
above the needled canopy
of those beside them
for just a glimpse
of far-away.

*Thank You, B.J. &
Janet!*



Spring Fling– 4/20-21

Host Hotel:

Holiday Inn Viera-Melbourne

Holiday Inn Viera

8298 North Wickham Road
Viera, Florida 32940

Directions:

From I-95, take exit 191 East on North Wickham Road. Go .02 mile and turn left on Sheriff Drive between the Chick-fil-A and McDonalds. The Holiday Inn is behind Chick-fil-A and faces the interstate.

Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m.

Reservations:

Room Cost: \$93.00 + 12% tax per day for King or Queen. Price is good for three (3) days before and after Spring Fling.

Cutoff date for discount is April 6. Reservations can be made after 4/6 as available and at regular price.

Phone for Reservations: 321.255.0077. Identify reservation as being for FSPA.

Hotel has all the amenities FSPA members have come to expect and is located near many restaurants and attractions.

Next Issue:

- **A New Poetry Challenge:** Poems will be published in the July/August issue.
- **More on the Speaker's Bureau**
- **And Lots More!**

SPRING FLING REGISTRATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 eMail: _____
 Chapter: _____
 M-A-L: _____
 Guest: _____
 FEES:
 Member Reg—\$35.00
 Guest Reg. — \$45.00
 Saturday Box Lunch—\$10.00
 TOTAL: _____

Please send **Registration Form and Fees** by check or MO. Make payable to FSPA with SF2018 on the memo line.

Send no later than **April 1, 2018** to:

Ms. B.J. Alligood
 688 Branch Drive
 Port Orange, FL 32127

Cut on Line
 ✂ ✂ ✂

FSPA SPRING FLING 2018

“THE NATURE OF POETRY”

April 20 & April 21

Holiday Inn Viera-Melbourne
 8298 N Wickham Road
 Viera, Florida

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018

- 3:00 PM REGISTRATION BEGINS
- 4:00 PM DEEP CRITIQUE SESSIONS
- 5:00 PM DINNER ON YOUR OWN
- 6:30 PM TBA WORKSHOP: SPEAKER FROM EASTERN FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
- 7:15 PM BREAK
- 7:30 PM IN-HOUSE SLAM (WITH PRIZES)

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018

- 9:00 AM GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
- 9:45 AM BREAK
- 10:00 AM EXPLORING DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS: THE INFLUENCE OF AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTAL THOUGHT WITH JOE CAVANAUGH
- 11:00 AM BREAK
- 11:15 AM WORKSHOP: *PLEIN AIR* POETRY WITH LOLA HASKINS—CLASS SEGMENT
- 12:15 PM TRAVEL TO THE PARK
- 12:45 PM PICNIC LUNCH
- 1:15 PM WORKSHOP: “PLEIN AIR” POETRY WITH LOLA HASKINS—
OUTDOOR SEGMENT @ Erna Nixon Park
- 2:15 PM TRAVEL BACK TO HOTEL
- 2:45 PM BREAK / RECONVENE IN CLASS
- 3:00 PM THE CHI OF POETRY WITH DAVID AXELROD
- 3:45 PM BREAK
- 4:00 PM OPEN READINGS
- 4:45 PM WRAP-UP

*Mark Your Calendar
 Spring Fling
 Registration Deadline is April 1st!*

SPEAKERS BUREAU PROFILE

Speaker's Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Local Chapter:

Distance willing to travel (one way):

(a. less than 1 hour - b. one hour - c. two hours - d. more than two hours)

Time of entire presentation:

(a. one hour - b. two hours - c. three hours - d. four hours)

Background (where you have taught or spoken, if you have done so before):

What lectures or workshops you could do (briefly describe), and possible time segment(s) for that particular program:

1. title:

content description:

2. title:

content description:

3. title:

content description:

APPROVED BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE: _____ DATE: _____

[MAKE A PHOTOCOPY IF NEEDED]