



of Poets & Poetry



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Image: Submit, Nikki Fragala Barnes



Al Rocheleau

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In-house team slams begin at the local level, then compete at Spring Fling!

Dear poets,

Making a strong bond between local chapters and FSPA is important to us. In addition to holding ongoing local events involving our Speaker's Bureau, FSPA wants to build the spirit of friendly competition, both where you live and at our state conventions.

On the first evening of this year's Spring Fling (Friday, May 17 — see pages 6-8) we are pleased to be putting on our first in-house Team Slam. It is our hope that we will have many of our chapters forming three-person teams for this event, to be held with the same casual and fun intent as we have already been enjoying in our now-popular individual in-house slams. It is my suggestion that at upcoming local chapter meetings, our chapter presidents take up the idea of such competition among their members on the home level, and this interplay will select three poets (and perhaps a few alternates) who might make the trip to Orlando for the FSPA competition. For large chapters, there's no reason not to create more than one competitive team!).

I think the reason for the popularity of our in-house slams is that not only are they a lot of fun, but they also give more poets more chances to read their work. We know that most of us love to read, and our attitude toward competition is that poets in this collegial setting need not memorize their work nor worry about displaying (or hearing) overly provocative content, but rather, just have a very good time appreciating their fellow poets. The individual and in-house slams may alternate between conventions, with an occasional programming break, but it looks like they will be part of what we do going forward. So ask your chapter presidents when you might be able to soon compete locally for a slam team (basic rules are in this issue). Those who don't end up competing at the Fling we hope can be judges at our Spring event. And yes, as with our individual in-house slams, there will be prizes!

Once this idea is sorted for you on the local level, let us know if your chapter may be sending a team to Spring Fling. Please contact Peter Gordon at: petermgordon1@gmail.com

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TBD

Youth Chair and Student

Contest Chair:

Carolynn Scully

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Kevin Campbell

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Dina Tanner



FSPA RECOMMENDS SEVEN NOMINEES FOR STATE POET LAUREATE

After much board research and discussion, as well as sending names for comment to the current Poet Laureate, our Chancellor Peter Meinke, FSPA contacted this group of leading poets in the state and gained the affirmation of seven to be represented on an FSPA list of recommended nominees for the state post. FSPA's general letter of recommendation, accompanied by hard copies of detailed CVs for each nominee, was forwarded to Sandy Shaughnessy of the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs in mid-January.

As you may know, FSPA was instrumental in promulgating Florida's current State Poet Laureate statute, 265.2863 f.s., and from FSPA's past recommendations came our current Laureate, Peter Meinke. Peter later became an FSPA chancellor, along with two other nominees, Lola Haskins and Lee Bennett Hopkins. With the latter two returning as nominees, FSPA has forwarded five new names, for a total of seven.

The FSPA's list of seven recommended candidates includes, in alphabetical order:

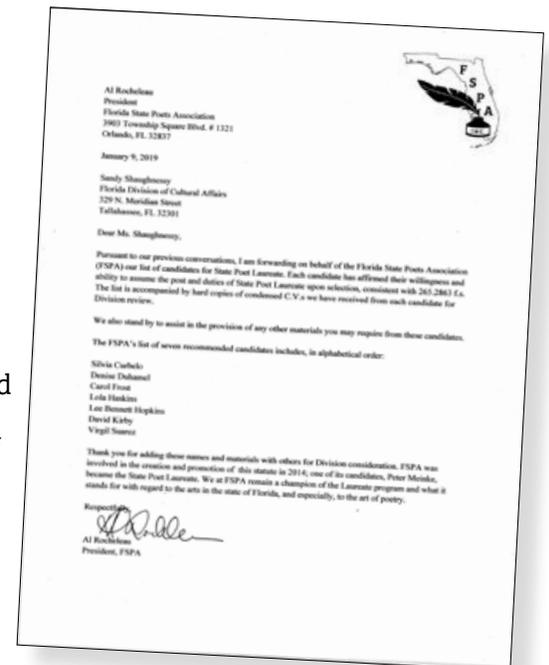
Silvia Curbelo
Denise Duhamel
Carol Frost
Lola Haskins
Lee Bennett Hopkins
David Kirby
Virgil Suarez

Additional names may be forwarded from other groups and individuals; candidates' materials will be reviewed by the fifteen-member Board of the Division of Cultural Affairs. Names of five finalists will then be sent to the Secretary of State, from which the appointment of a new State Poet Laureate will take place.

FSPA congratulates all of the 2019 nominees. We look forward to working with them and with the new Laureate for the benefit of all the arts and, specifically for the art of poetry within the state of Florida.

Don't forget to register for Spring Fling, and keep writing!

Al



Profiles in Poetry

TERRY GODBEY—ON DOORS AND DIGGING DEEP

The author of four poetry collections, she will be a special guest speaker at the FSPA Spring Fling convention in May. Terry sat down with her old friend, Al Rocheleau, to share her thoughts on artistic expression.

Al: Terry, did you come to poetry early or later? Did it come originally as a pastime or as a drive?

Terry: I wrote a few poems in my early 20s after I discovered Joni Mitchell and began playing guitar, but I don't really count them because they were terrible. I didn't want to be a poet then; I wanted to be Joni. I was too poor to afford a typewriter, so I wrote the "poems" by hand on paper and taped them to the walls of my ratty little garage apartment. I have always read constantly, but that was the first time I had put words to paper for pure pleasure.

I stopped, though, for a couple of decades as I focused on my journalism career and starting a family. I immersed myself in poetry, though, and that's important. You can't write well if you don't read what others have written. Stephen Dunn, Sharon Olds, Linda Pastan, Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton were early favorites, but I felt no inclination to write anything myself.

Then, one morning in 1998, as I rushed to get my son to preschool on time (we were always late), he insisted we stop and watch a passing train. He taught me, not for the last time, the importance of living in the moment. I wrote a poem about it called "Trains," which launched me into two decades of intense, nearly constant writing and publishing. I was driven and went all in. As with every creative pursuit I embrace, be it photography, cooking or guitar, I became a bit obsessed, worked hard and aimed high. Nothing halfway for me.

Most of all, though, writing is enjoyable, especially the first drafts. I wouldn't do it otherwise. Since writing "Trains," I've placed in the neighborhood of 160 poems in literary magazines and published four poetry collections. I'm not writing as many poems now, partly, I think, because I write eight hours a day as lead writer at Darden. It's the perfect job, but it's still a lot of sitting at a desk, and when I'm off, I'd rather play guitar or wander off with my camera.

Al: In its more direct form, personal narrative can become "confessional" in its cast. Does your work tend to cut deep or do you tend to observe or comment from a distance?

Terry: I bristle at the term "confessional poetry" because it implies that all the poet does is spill secrets or recount the past – and it overlooks the artistry involved. That term has been used to denigrate women writers. I tell stories – and although most of them

(Continued on next page)

Photo by Judy Watson Tracy



Do I Look Fat in These Feathers? Tiny burrowing owls ham it up, Cape Coral, Florida, February 2017, Terry Godbey



Bubbly. Guerlain perfume shop attracts attention along the Champs-Élysées, Paris, May 2016, Terry Godbey

are mine, I also write persona poems. Even in the poems conceivably sprung from my experiences, they are not all about me. I make things up; I borrow from other people's lives.

I'm writing poems, not memoir. My truth is the emotional heart of the poem, not a careful accounting of this happened, then that happened. My poems had better be universal and evoke emotion or I have failed. I am drawn to narrative poetry because I love stories, but I'm proud of the one lyric poem I've written, "Night." It was inspired by the Patty Griffin song "Florida," and I end most of my readings with it. I'd like to write more lyric poems. I sat down once to write a lyric poem about apples, and the next thing I knew, two girls were climbing a tree and vowing not to be like their mothers. I seem to need action in my poems and quite a bit of conversation as well.

Al: Can you give us insight into the provocative title of your book *Behind Every Door*?

Terry: It was as difficult to title that first book as it was to arrange the poems, but the collections that followed came together easily. *Behind Every Door* is an excerpt from my poem "Fourteen," but I also chose it for the title because I noticed there were many doors in my book (they also feature prominently in my photography). Not only are doors distinctive and beautiful (especially in Paris), but they serve as entrances and exits at the same time. All of us are different people behind the door than we are once we step through it into visibility. I'm fascinated by those contradictions.

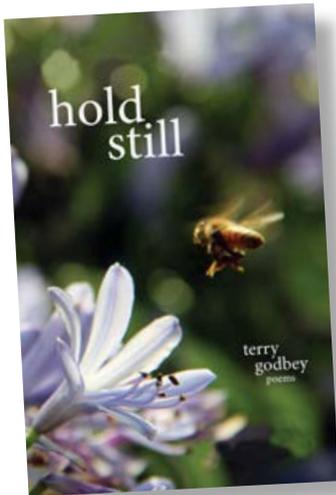
Al: How much bravery comes with saying in a poem what you really want to say?

Terry: Several reviewers have mentioned how brave I am. That always perplexes me, and I wonder if they think I'm too forthcoming. But I write for myself, first, and I dig deep and try to be honest even when it's painful. I don't worry about what anyone will think about me. If I did that, my poems would lack heart. Some of my poems cast me in a bad light, but I'd rather explore being a flawed wife or mother than a perfect one. I've got sweet poems about my son, but I've also got ones about how incredibly difficult and frustrating parenting is. That's honest and more compelling. When I start a poem, I don't know what I'll discover. If I knew ahead of time, I wouldn't bother. It wouldn't be any fun. And, to paraphrase Robert Frost, "No surprise for the writer, no surprise for the reader." I'm fond of "pow" endings – very few of my poems end quietly.

Al: How important is humor and irony in your work?

Terry: It's very important. It's part of my voice because I see humor even in the darkest places. I was kind of a class clown in school, and to this day, if something is funny, I have to share it with whoever is nearby, even a stranger. I enjoy the humor in Billy Collins' work and in the late Tony Hoagland's. My dear friend, Susan Lilley, writes wonderfully funny poems. Even my latest book, *Hold Still*, which is mostly about my cancer battle, contains a surprising amount

(Continued on next page)



[Link to purchase her latest book](#)

Godbey offers signed copies of all four books from her website.

[Here is a link](#)

Visit her online at:

www.terrygodbey.com

Her website also has a photos tab that links to [her Flickr page](#).

of humor, even if it's dark. Once, during a radiation treatment, the song "Disco Inferno" by The Trammps began to play. "Burn, Baby, Burn!" Priceless! Another experience calling out to become a poem. If I can't laugh and be sarcastic, then let me out of this cage right now. I'm done.

AI: How has your poetry changed over the years, from the work of your first book on to *Beauty Lessons* and *Hold Still*?

Terry: That's a good question and difficult to answer. Many poets dislike their first books and wish they had waited to publish. I don't feel that way about *Behind Every Door*, but some of those early poems do seem to lack a bit of depth as I look back. I'm proudest of my latest book, *Hold Still*, but that pride may be tangled up with my complicated feelings about surviving cancer. When I share those poems at readings, even the young people react and relate to them. People tell me that it's about time someone was honest about what it's like to have cancer.

When I was diagnosed, I wanted to read artistic depictions about what I faced, but I found overly optimistic versions from people who said they were grateful for their cancer. That drove me nuts and still does. I wrote the book that I had wanted to read. I didn't intend to write at all then because I was so ill. I didn't want to deepen my experience, I wanted to dull it. But the words kept coming so I had to write them down. I wrote in the depressing chemo room. I wrote in my bed and in the bathtub. My purse was stuffed with poem drafts, along with the bottles of anti-nausea drugs that didn't work well. The poems worked, though. I processed my experience and emotions through the prism of language, the one thing I could control. Are these poems better than my early work? I don't know. That's a question for others to answer.

AI: How has your recent foray into photography informed your art? What are the differences and similarities of the two arts, and how do they complement each other?

Terry: As a poet, I tend to wallow in the past, mining for narrative jewels, and as an overachiever and recovering journalist, I'm hard-wired for deadlines and schedules, the enemy of spontaneity. Behind my camera, though, I can quiet my mind's incessant play-by-play, be cradled only in this moment, and then the next, and then the one after that. Photography became my meditation, and it gets me out of the house.



The hardest part of writing has always been keeping my butt in the chair, looking out the window while wanting to be on the other side of the glass. I am starting to move on from wild-life and nature photos to travel photography, and I enjoy my favorite photos every day. My house is filled with framed prints from Paris and Alaska, and I'm leaving a space for Italy, which I'll visit next year. Photography hasn't really informed my poetry, but it's expanded my creative life in new ways. It's pure joy and instantaneous.

Skeptic. This gray wolf has seen photographers before, and it's not impressed, near Anchorage, Alaska, July 2017, Terry Godbey

FSPA © 2019

Spring Fling

Hosted by the
Orlando Area Poets
and
Osceola Poetry Society

FSPA POETS INVAD E O-TOWN

May 17 & 18 in Orlando

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday

3:00 to 5:00 pm — Registration

5:00 to 6:30 pm — Dinner on your own

6:30 to 7:30 pm — Program — Actor/poet Summer Hill Seven to perform

Break

8:00 to 9:30 pm — Team Slam lead by Peter Gordon

Saturday

8:00 to 10:00 am — Registration

9:00 to 9:45 am — General Session

Break

10:00 to 10:45 am — Personal Narrative Poetry Workshop presented by Terry Godbey

Break

11:00 to 11:45 am — Speaker (to be announced)

11:45 to Noon — Announcements and 12 Chairs students' graduation

Noon to 1:30 pm — Lunch (box lunches will be available for purchase)
with our bookstore authors' display and readings

1:45 to 2:45 pm — Painted Word Workshop, presented by Osceola County School for the Arts

Break

3:00 to 4:15 pm — Open readings with a pastel artist responding to the poetry with visual art. The session will close with an auction of the artwork created, proceeds benefiting the Osceola County School for the Arts programs involving visual art and creative writing.

Registration Information

Registration fee is \$35.00 for FSPA members. Non-members are welcome. Registration for non-members is \$45.00 and includes a one-year membership to FSPA. The Registration Form and PayPal link is on the next page.

Accommodations

Comfort Inn and Suites Downtown — Orlando
(directly across Orange Avenue from Florida Hospital)
416 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32804
(480) 725-1679

If you are able, please book your room as soon as possible. State you are from FSPA or Florida State Poets Association. To receive the group rate, you must book by April 14, 2019.

[Click to book](#)



FSPA © 2019

Spring Fling

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and
Osceola Poetry Society

REGISTRATION FORM

GO AHEAD, REGISTER TODAY

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Chapter _____ Member at Large _____

Guest _____

Fees:

Members: \$35.00..... _____

Non-Members: \$45.00 (Includes a one-year membership to FSPA).... _____

Lunch: \$10 per person..... _____

TOTAL:..... _____

You may pay by check/money order or by PayPal.

1. Check/money order

Please send registration form and check/money order, made payable to FSPA, to:

FSPA

c/o Robyn Weinbaum FSPA Treasurer

2629 Whalebone Bay Dr

Kissimmee FL 34741

Mail NO LATER than **May 10, 2019.**

2. You may also pay online with PayPal.

Go to <https://www.PayPal.com/us/home>. We are listed as **FSPATreasurer@AOL.com**.

Forward e-mail receipt to FSPATreasurer@aol.com with registration form attached

or with the registration information in the body of the e-mail.

FSPA © 2019

Spring Fling

Hosted by the
Orlando Area Poets
and
Osceola Poetry Society

Team Slam

May 17, 8:00 to 9:30 pm

Summary of the Rules

1. Each team will consist of three poets.
2. Each bout of poetry will consist of 3 or 4 poems, number to be determined when we see how many teams have signed up.
3. Poems must be the original work of the reader.
4. Poets will be allowed to read their work off paper or an electronic device. Memorization is not required for our FSPA Team Slam.
5. Group performances are allowed, provided one of the poets performing is the original author of the piece.
6. Poems will be judged on a scale of 1-10; the score for each poem in a bout will be added up, and the highest scores will advance.
7. Exact number of bouts and rounds of poetry will be determined by the Slam Master.
8. Poets may not use props or costumes.
9. Following National Federation of State Poetry Societies rules, poets are allowed a maximum of three minutes, ten seconds per performance. Time starts when the performance starts, not with the first spoken word.
10. Decisions of the judges and Slam Host are final.



Orlando Area Poet Peter Gordon will officiate as Slam Host

TIME TO FORM YOUR TEAMS

CONTESTS CORNER

- FSPA 2019 Poetry Contests — Submit May 1 to July 13 — [link](#)
- Maitland Public Library Annual Poetry Contest — Submissions start March 1 — [link](#)
- NFSPS BlackBerry Peach Prizes for Poetry — Submit January 1 to March 15 — [link](#)
Pick your 4 best poems and submit them to the BlackBerry Peach contest before the March 15 deadline. Win \$1,000, a performance at the NFSPS Convention in Santa Fe, New Mexico in June, publication of your poems, a YouTube video of your performance, and recognition as winner of a national spoken and written word competition. All of the information is available on the NFSPS website (nfsp.com) under contests, BlackBerry Peach prizes for Poetry contest. Follow the instructions, pick your 4 best poems, send written and spoken copies to Submittable.com, and be a part of the festivities and excitement of the BlackBerry Peach Awards this year. In addition to the NFSPS BlackBerry Peach Prize, NFSPS offers over 50 contests with a deadline of March 15 to members (Membership in FSPA includes membership in NFSPS). Most contest entry fees are \$1 per poem, and there are lots of cash prizes. ~ Joe Cavanaugh



Carolynn J. Scully

STUDENT POETRY CONTEST

Our Student Poetry Contest is an important step in reaching the future of poetry. I want to thank our judges, Barbara Blanks and Lynn Roberts Grice, for their diligent and generous giving of their time and energy to our contest.

The results have arrived from our Judges. Winners will be announced soon.

~ Carolynn J. Scully, Committee Chair



Dina Tanner

WEBPAGE NEWS

Our webpage is a “work in progress.” One area that we need to be sure is ALWAYS updated is the “Chapter Locations and Chapter Contact Information” section. Chapter Presidents, PLEASE click on this link to see if it is accurate! [Here is the link](#)

We also need to keep the information regarding regularly scheduled Chapter meetings accurate. Please take a look at this page, and see if it is current: [Here is the link](#)

Please email dinatanner.dt@gmail.com with any corrections.

We would LOVE to hear more about your future local events. These will be posted on our Web Events page ([Link to Events page](#)) when we have at least one month lead time. Once you’ve had an event, please send a brief (one paragraph) synopsis of it, and one to two pictures. When time and space permits, we will also post to our Web/Facebook/Twitter pages. Email this information to: dinatanner.dt@gmail.com

Our President, Al, mentioned in our January 2019 Newsletter Issue that we are considering adding a page on our website where authors can “advertise” ONE book they are currently promoting. We are still working on the logistics of doing this. More information will be in the next newsletter.

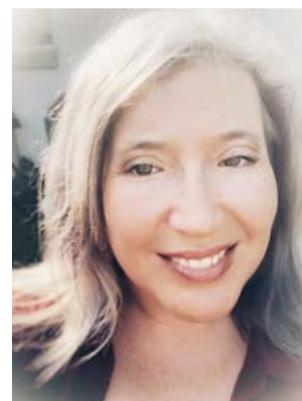
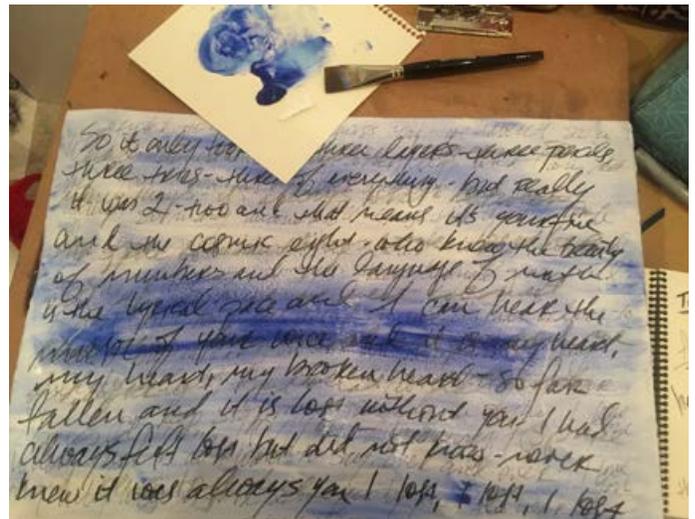
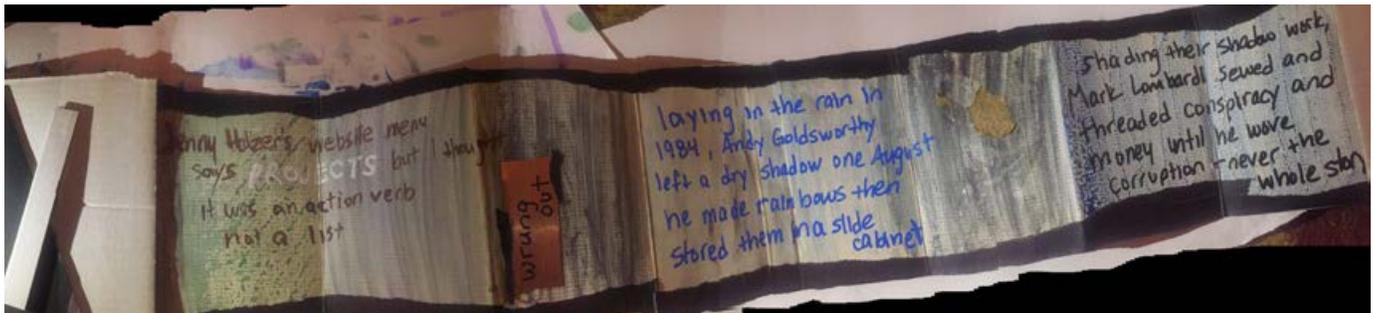
~ Dina Tanner, Webmaster and Social Media

MEMBERSPOTLIGHT

MEET EXPERIMENTAL POET NIKKI FRAGALA BARNES

I recently had an opportunity to experience FSPA member Nikki Fragala Branes' poetic art and I thought you might enjoy it as well. Nikki is an experimental poet/artist and editor. Her work is often collaborative and community-based. Featured work has been exhibited at the Atlantic Center for the Arts (New Smyrna Beach, FL) and is forthcoming at the Orlando Museum of Art and The Liminal (Valencia, Spain). She has served as editor of *Obra/Artifact*, literary journal for the MFA of the Americas and is an independent book editor.

~ Mark Terry



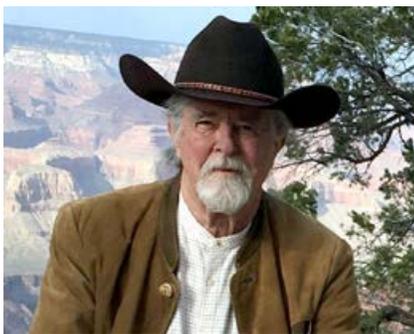
I work with language and the tension created between its form and shape.

~ Nikki Fragala Barnes

Chapter News & Updates



Robert E. Blenheim



Jesse Sam Owens



Llewellyn McKernan



Vicki Iorio

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach holds its workshop meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Meetings start at 4:00 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m., and the group welcomes all poets, and anybody interested in poetry, to attend.

Recently, The Live Poets Society had workshops (with handouts) on writing Trimeric poems, Psalm poems (secular version), and poetry using the themes of “Homemade with love” and “Any month of the year.” Also meetings included a look at commas from Lynne Truss’s book, *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*, as well as from the chapter from Richard Lederer’s *The Miracle of Language* pertaining to “You Can Be a Poet.” And recently the chapter analyzed William Butler Yeats’ famous poem, “The Song of the Wandering Aengus.”

As far as members’ accomplishments, Vicki Iorio is being published in *Mom Egg Review*, and has three poems appearing in *Guttural*; she’s also scheduled to read at Dan Pel’s poetry show at The Hub in New Smyrna Beach in February. Member Llewellyn McKernan will have a poem published in the *2019 Anthology of Appalachian Writers: Vol. XI*, and another one will appear in the *2019 Artemis Journal*. Live Poets Society’s Stetson-wearing attorney-guitarist poet, Jesse Sam Owens, was invited to read at the Museum of Arts and Sciences with Emmy-winning Nashville performer Chris Gantry, also performed at the Victoria Gardens Book Club in DeLand, and will soon read for the DeLand Women’s Club. He’s a busy country boy!

And of course, the Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach will be the host chapter for the upcoming 2019 October FSPA Convention to be held in Daytona Beach at the famous Plaza Resort & Spa. The planning committee is beginning to reach out for speakers and presenters for what promises to be a memorable convention.

All are welcome to attend meetings of The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach and should find it to be one of the most creative and entertaining poetry groups in the State of Florida.

~ Robert E. Blenheim, Chapter President

When we meet:

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach holds its workshop meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Meetings are from 4 to 6:30 pm. All poets are welcome to attend, as well as anybody interested in poetry.

Chapter News & Updates



Tere Starr holding a preview of the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read 2019 selection to be discussed at the March Miami Poets Soirée.

Miami Poets

Miami Poets gather each first Wednesday from 1 to 3 pm at the Pinecrest Branch Library for the Miami Poets Soirée, moderated by Tere Starr. In January, we celebrated our tenth anniversary. During February's soirée we paid tribute to Mary Oliver, sharing her lovely poems before sharing our own. In March, we will host an event for the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read 2019, sponsored by the Miami Book Fair. This year's book, *How We Became Human, New and Selected Poems: 1975-2001* by Joy Harjo, was distributed during our February meeting in preparation for our discussion of the book on March 6th. The event is open to the community. The following night we will attend a live interview with Joy Harjo at Books & Books in Coral Gables. The Miami Poets also gather on second Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. with Group 10, the critique group founded by Jnita Wright and facilitated by Steven Liebowitz. We welcome our new member, William Lawlor. His poetry and insight add to the essence of our group.

When we meet:

The Miami Poets meet the first Wednesday each month from 1 to 3 pm during the Miami Poets Soirée at the Pinecrest Library, 5835 SW 111th Street, Pinecrest, FL.

Bring poems to read, yours or those by favorite poets. We often get philosophical, discuss what poetry means, now and through the ages. And best of all, we share how poetry enhances our lives. Anything goes so long as poetry is in the equation. Each soirée is an act of creation.

Achievements: Ricki Dorn served as chairman of the Ninth Annual Mango Writers Conference on February 9th. The theme, "The Love of Language," offered inspiration for both poetry and prose. Ricki's poem, "Holiday Skies," was published in *The Author's Voice* along with Connie Goodman-Milone's article, "One Typo Can Change Meaning." Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk will be the featured poet on Saturday, March 14th during the Authors Showcase Series of the South Florida Writers Association at the Sunniland Books & Books in Pinecrest. Miami Poets stay connected no matter how far away. Jo Christiane Ledakis shares her talents with the Geneva Writers' Group in Geneva, Switzerland. Patsy Asuncion is the only local female emcee in Charlottesville, Virginia. Her open mic has received 13,000+ views on her YouTube Channel. Patsy's newest publications and poetry readings can be found on her website, <http://patasuncion.wixsite.com/patsy-asuncion>. Poetry continues to be our priority.

~ Tere Starr, President



Miami Poets Tere Starr, Connie Goodman-Milone and Ricki Dorn receiving poetry awards from the South Florida Writers Association's contest chairman, Jeffrey Dorn.



Chapter News & Updates



Janet Watson

When we meet:

The New River Poets meet the third Saturday each month from 1 to 4 pm at The Old Schoolhouse at 8637 Richland School Rd Zephyrhills, FL 33540, USA.

New River Poets

New River Poets did not meet in December, but we met in January and got in touch with “the child within,” writing poetry from a child’s point of view—not a bad way to start a new year. This is our nineteenth year as a chapter of FSPA, and our membership is growing along with our enthusiasm for poetry. In 2018 we were happy to welcome two new members to our chapter—Andrea McBride and Cheryl VanBeek.

We have a new meeting place—the Old Richland Schoolhouse, home of member Meg Roman. It is warm and welcoming and filled with an inspiring ambience. We continue to meet every third Saturday of the month from 1-4:30. Because our meeting time has been expanded, we hope to include some writing exercises along with the reading of our “challenge” poems.

A number of our members are looking forward to the FSPA Spring Fling in May and are organizing their entries for the NFSPS contests.

Individual members have been promoting poetry in their own ways. John Foster is coordinating with the Southshore Library to offer a poetry display in February, which is National Library Lovers Month. Congratulations to Cheryl VanBeek who won First Place in the poetry division of the Romeo Lemay Writing Contest sponsored by Safety Harbor Writers and Poets. Her winning poem, “Revision,” will appear in the 2019 issue of *Odet* along with a second poem, a short story, and a photograph! Two of Janet Watson’s poems will also appear in that literary journal.

We are excited about FSPA’s goals for the future, as outlined by President Al Rocheleau, and we love the new look of OPAP!

~ Janet Watson, President



Nancy Ortiz, Secretary

When we meet:

The Osceola Poetry Society Poets meet at Perkins on Osceola parkway. Dates are flexible. Usually once a month.

Osceola Poetry Society

The Osceola Poetry Society is celebrating Sophia DuRose, author of *Losing Teeth*, and Katie O’Malley, author of *The Other Side of the Moon*. Each is scheduled to launch their books on the evening of Thursday, May 16, one day before the start of the 2019 Spring Fling. The launch will take place at the Osceola School of the Arts where both Osceola Poets Society President Mackenzie Riley and Vice President Gerald Salcedo will attend. The group is also putting together a “Painted Words” ekphrastic art and poetry exposition at the Spring Fling on Saturday afternoon. The Osceola Poetry Society is co-hosting the FSPA Spring Fling convention along with the Orlando Area Poets.

~ Nancy Ortiz, Secretary
for Mackenzie Riley, President

Chapter News & Updates



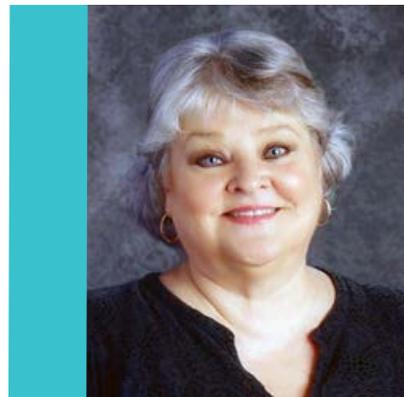
Leslie Halpern

When we meet:

The Orlando Area Poets meet the third Thursday each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Maitland Public Library, 501 South Maitland Ave, Maitland, FL 32751.



Diane Neff



Cheri Herald

When we meet:

The Sunshine Poets meet the second Saturday each month at 10 am at the Coastal Region Library, located at 8619 W. Crystal St., Crystal River, FL 34428

Orlando Area Poets

Peter Gordon's article, "How Tampa Bay Got Their Team" will appear in the latest book from the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), *Time for Expansion Baseball*. Peter's poem, "Island of Misfit Toys" is the poem of the week February 4-10 on the 5-2 Crime Poetry weekly at poemsoncrime.blogspot.com

Elaine Person taught "This is Your Life – Writing Your Memoir" for Road Scholar in January. She will be teaching writing workshops through the Crealde School of Art in February and March, including "Inspired Words," writing to art; "Writing the Artist Resume," and "Crafting and Presenting the Artist Statement and Biography." More information and registration is at crealde.org.

Orlando Area Poets meets on the third Thursday of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Maitland Public Library. In addition to hosting our monthly meetings, the library sponsors a quarterly themed poetry coffeehouse. At the January 25 coffeehouse, we celebrated Robert Burns' birthday with poetry honoring the poet, his country Scotland, and all things Scottish.

The next coffeehouse will include the results of the annual poetry contest and will be held on Friday, April 26, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The theme for that event is "Tune In." To prepare for that evening, Elaine Person leads a free monthly writing workshop at the library focusing on the theme. The next workshops will be on February 24, March 17, and March 31, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

~ Diane Neff, Secretary
for Leslie Halpern, President

Sunshine Poets

Sunshine Poets meets at the Central Ridge Public Library in Beverly Hills 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. We meet for lunch and fellowship after the meeting at one of our local restaurants.

Sunshine Poets will again sponsor a humor category in FSPA's annual contest, and also made a donation to the youth contest. Members Joan Clark and Natalie Warrick continue to have their poetry published in their church newsletter. Natalie also did an interview and read her poetry on Utah Public Radio. Claire Chandler's poem, "The What If" is now a video to be released on YouTube.

Sunshine Poets has a Facebook page. Contact: sunshinepoets@gmail.com

~ Cheri Herald, President

Chapter News & Updates



Mary-Ann Westbrook

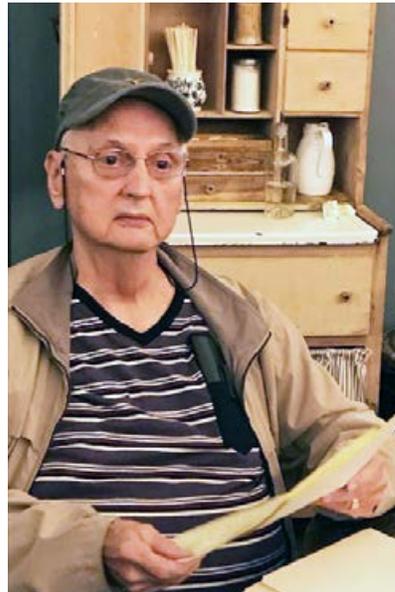
Tomoka Poets

Tomoka Poets with Creative Happiness Institute and Ormond Beach Arts, Emcee'd by BJ Alligood, held their first open mic of 2019 at Copperline Coffee and Cafe in Port Orange. 26 people filled the room with 12 poets signing in to share poetry. Spotlight Poets for the night were Buck and Niki Byram who entertained us with their humorous and "a little on the steamy side" poetry. It was a great night to start off the year, and we will be looking for them to come back soon. Next open mic will be February 26, 7:00 pm at Copperline Coffee and Cafe in the Pavilion Shopping Center on S. Williamson Blvd. Spotlitged will be our favorite poet from Canada and former Orlando Area Poet Al Hubbs. We are just off of Interstate 95 at the Port Orange Exit, so we hope many of you will join us to welcome this once-a-year event and to share your own poetry.

~ Mary-Ann Westbrook, President



BJ Alligood



Buck Byram



Niki Byram

When we meet:

The Tomoka Poets meet every 2nd Wednesday of every month at 5 pm at the Ormond Beach Public Library, 30 South Beach St, Ormond Beach, FL 32174.

Tomoka Poets Open Mic

Held the 4th Tuesday,
7:00-8:30 pm
Copperline Coffee
and Café, South
Williamson Blvd.
in the Pavilion
Shopping Center.



For more information email Mary-Ann Westbrook, 1poetry.3@gmail.com

Chapter News & Updates



Linda Whitefeather



Norma Plumley



V. Earl Lines

Poetry for the Love of It

On January 18, 2019, PLOI held an award ceremony for the winners of its 2nd annual Tallahassee Senior Center (TSC) - Senior Poetry Contest. The ceremony was held during the TSC "Grand Relations Art Show Reception." Award certificates and gift certificates from Barnes & Nobles were presented to:

- 1st Place - V. Earl Lines for "Yesterday's Dreams"
- 2nd Place - Nancy Graham for "The Beach"
- 3rd Place - Georgia Jahns for "My Riding Adventure"

The award ceremony was followed by a reading of light and humorous poetry, and a play monologue, by PLOI members.

All entries submitted to the Senior Poetry Contest will go on display at TSC. It is hoped that participants in TSC art programs will again provide original works of art to accompany each poem submitted.

At its second January 2019 meeting, PLOI members wrote 14 short Valentine poems - mostly Haiku - for the cats at Tally Cat Cafe. All cats living at the cafe are seeking forever homes. The Valentines will help raise funds for their care while they await adoption.

Activities planned for 2019 include: a return to monthly poetry exercises focusing on both poetic formats and a variety of themes; reading and discussing a designated "notable poet" each month; and presenting members' original poems and providing commentary if requested.

For National Poetry Month in April, members have pledged to write or read 30 poems in 30 days. April meetings will be devoted to presenting and discussing those poems.

There is also the possibility of a poetry reading at the local rose society in the spring or summer. Plans are to be confirmed..

In addition to being one of two FSPA chapters in the Tallahassee area, Poetry for the Love of It (PLOI) is affiliated with the Tallahassee Senior Center (TSC).

Chapter Treasurer, Norma Plumley, and Chapter Recording Secretary, Linda Whitefeather, will continue as acting co-chairs for chapter business while Chapter President, Charles Hazelip, takes a break.

~ Linda Whitefeather, Secretary
on behalf of Charles Hazelip, PLOI President

When we meet:

Poetry for the Love of It Poets meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, 2:45 to 4:45 pm in the 3rd floor conference room of the Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Chapter News & Updates



When we meet:

Space Coast Poets meet every second Monday from 4:30-6:30 pm in Building 10 on the Melbourne Eastern Florida State College campus. Bring a friend, and bring poems to share with the group.



Summer Hill Seven

When we meet:

The Big Bend Poets & Writers meet the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 2415 North Munroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32303



Jennifer Siddoway

Space Coast Poets

Space Coast Poets is busy connecting with other writing groups in the Brevard area to establish a vibrant literary arts community – stay tuned for events coming in the spring.

Janna Schledorn read her poem, “Daniel the Prophet Talks to a Psychologist” at a preview reading in Brooklyn, New York, on January 19. The poem will appear in the 2019 issue of *Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry*, coming in April. The reading featured translator Gregory Orfaea reading poems by Syrian refugee poets translated for the first time into English and poems in memory of poets Timothy Murphy and Anya Silver, read by Marjorie Maddox, Susan L. Miller, and Rick Mullin.

Sean Sexton will be reading from his latest book of poetry, *May Darkness Restore*, at the Emerson Center in Vero, 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 17. Some of his artwork will also be on display. It is sure to be an artistic treat!

~ Janna Schledorn, President

Big Bend Poets & Writers

It's a new year! What writing resolutions have you made for this year? I have pledged that this would be the year I will publish a poetry book! Whatever resolution you have made, may it be so!

Jennifer Siddoway is an author from Tallahassee, Florida, with Duncurra LLC. After receiving a degree in theatre from BYU and working as a scenic artist for twelve years, she changed careers to do what she really loves--writing.

Jennifer believes that part of her job as an artist and storyteller is to create a narrative that explores a fresh perspective and leaves the audience thinking. When she's not busy writing or burying her nose in a book, Jennifer enjoys doing medieval reenactment with her husband and two children.

Check out her website at <http://www.jensiddoway.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jensiddoway/>

Writer in Residence Corner: Jennifer is taking a break from her Pirates of Barra series to work on a project in Kathryn Le Veque's Amazon Universe for the De Wolfe family. The story will be set in 15th century England along the Scottish border. The young Lord De Wolfe receives an offer of marriage from a nearby clan and, through a charming case of mistaken identity, seeks out to meet his future bride. The story is still in progress, and she's very excited to share it with the world.

~ Summer Hill Seven, President

Poetry Challenge

January Challenge Winner: "The Secret" by Poet Gail Denham

My first challenge attracted an interesting group of poems. I invited a poet/friend from out-of-state to be my guest judge. He was sent the poems blind to their authors. After consideration, he has selected the winner. I am grateful for his effort. ~ Mark Terry

Guest Judge:



Poet Dana St. Mary
Portland, Oregon.

The Secret

There wasn't a time that
I didn't remember. Gray wisps
blew across my face every night
'round midnight. They left
feather-light droplets, gray dots
on my skin.

What else could explain it? Something
or someone floated in from the other side,
brought hints of that message, the secret
I'd escaped from so long ago,
the happening I'd hidden, secure.

No one could ever see it, unless
they heard the voices as I do,
on the coattails of gray
threatening fog.

~ Gail Denham

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*Remembering the poet
Cathy Giordano*



SAFE HARBOR

**Anchor your sailboat
in the crook of a cove.**

**Make your bed on boards of teak,
in the down, the cocoon
of a sleeping bag.**

**Stare up at the patches of ebony sky
through a milky net of stars.**

Imagine

**this lonely earth
traversing
the immense infinity.**

**Hear the tuneful
tintinnabulation
as metal rigging kisses the metal
of itself, and waves
ungentle enough to be heard
hug the hull
in arms-full.**

**The boat is your rock-a-bye baby cradle,
your throwback, your
wonderful cliché.**

**The sea, yes, slumbering,
is your mother; her salty breath
is fragrant on your face—**

you are safe in her.

**Sleep an innocent sleep.
Sleep as the ancients slept when
the world was new.**

Sleep in the womb of the world.

~ Cathy Giordano

Of Poets & Poetry is published six times per year: January, March, May, July, September & November.

2019 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

Due Dates:

January: Due by December 1

March: Due by February 1

May: Due by April 1

July: Due by June 1

September: Due by August 1

November: Due by October 1

2019 Submittal Specifications:

Format for text:

Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx),

RTF, TXT, or PDF format files

Please do not embed your submission in an email

Format for images:

150 to 300 pixels/inch resolution but no larger than 3.5M in JPEG (.jpg) format. If you are unable to do this, contact the Editor at 407.620.0158.

Note: Please know that we will make every effort to include all qualified submissions, if space allows, and we may choose to edit your submission.

Email submissions to:
mark@TKOrlando.com

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

- Reports from FSPA Chapters
- Profiles in Poetry
- March Poetry Challenge Winner

Snippet *from our historian*

My involvement with FSPA began before I was approached to start a chapter in the Orlando area. Poet Randall Cadman and I were members of the Orlando Poetry Troupe. We read our poetry at (then called) the Maitland Art Center, and shortly after, Randy died at age 81. In 2011, I attended his poetry-themed funeral. Cheri Herald read a poem and then said she belonged to FSPA. I read my poem "He Was Only Passing Through." I approached Cheri afterward and said, "What is this organization—Florida State Poets Association?"

Cheri explained and said, "Randy was fond of FSPA. He attended conventions with his partner and decorated his hotel room with candles and tablecloths." She said it was touching. Randy's partner, Andy died in 1995.

I attended the FSPA Convention in Daytona Beach in 2012. I helped publisher Gary Broughman with his CHB Media booth and joined FSPA then. One never knows where inspiration will come from.

~ Elaine Person, FSPA Historian

March Editor's Choice Poetry Challenge

Prompt: Poet's choice

Form: Blackout poetry [example](#)

Line limit: Up to 20 lines

Submit by: April 1, 2019, to Mark@TKOrlando.com

The winning poem: Will be featured in our May/June issue

Editor's Notes *and other musings*

Okay, my second issue is put to bed. Shwoo! Are we having fun yet? (Yes is the correct answer.) We've added a few new features: a Contest Corner that lists some contests we thought you should know about, a Member Spotlight and a remembrance page dedicated to poet Cathy Giordano.

I can't emphasize more that the Spring Fling is fast approaching, and if you want accommodations, I encourage you to make them soon.

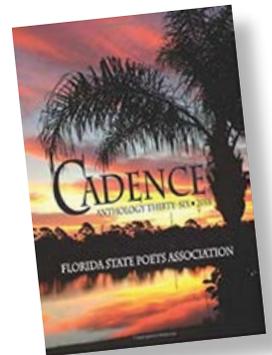
Some of you may have an image you would like to be considered for the masthead of *Of Poets & Poetry* (page 1). Please send me a .jpg to review.

Keep writing ~ Mark

Mark Terry



Elaine Person



Purchase a copy of FSPA's 2018 anthology, *Cadence*. [\(link\)](#)

