



# Of Poets & Poetry



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

Volume 46, Issue 1

October/November 2018

## Special points of interest:

- New Officers
- Editorial
- Upcoming Events
- Veteran's Poem

## Inside this issue:

Chapter & MAL News	5-8
DATES for Jan OPAP Events	3, 7,
Save the Date	8
Editorial	7
FSPA Officers & Boards	2
OPAP Info	3
Media Accounts	3
New Officers	8
President's Message	1&4
Youth Report	3



## From Your President

**To all members,** thank you for the responsibility you have handed to me and the trust placed in me. In the years that I have been a member, I have acquired many good friends and colleagues within our group, as well as in the Orlando Area Poets and Osceola Poetry Society. I have played various roles, from speaking at events, developing various teaching resources that have been certified by FSPA, helping to found its Education Committee, and serving for the past term as FSPA's Vice President. As Vice President I was immersed in the challenges that have faced the organization in recent years, especially those of ensuring financial stability, membership growth, effective officer and chair turnovers, and changes of technical nature that were necessary and ongoing. In my time we've had great presidents in **Joe Cavanaugh** and **Mary-Ann Westbrook,**

and I was happy to be of help to them and our members in any way I could. That help to you continues in this new role and challenge as your president.

Organizations such as ours go through constant change, and there are periods especially where we must find replacements of long-time committee chairs and other key people where we had settled into that "counting on you" mode of many years. Well, we all get older, things happen to us and to our families, and new people must be found. (Yes, even such stalwarts as **Janet Watson, Judy Krum,** and **Patricia Stevenson** should be allowed to smell the roses sometime!) Replacing such service isn't easy. Yet we have indeed recently found capable replacements for the Website, **Dina Tanner;** the Youth Contests, **Carolynn Scully** and Membership Committee, **Jane Peterson.** Somehow good people always step up in the end. **Robyn Weinbaum,** who stepped in as Treasurer last year (with

**Kevin Campbell** moving to Slam Coordinator), has now been elected to a full first term in that position, and **Mary Marcelle** has moved from Membership Chair to Vice President—all good progress. And to round out your slate of officers for 2018-2-2020 is **Leslie Halpern** as Secretary.

So here we are, setting up for the executive term of 2018-2020. My focus as president will be to continue our expansion with stronger chapters and some new chapters, to assure the stability of our funding, to solidify our future member base among several younger generations of poets (including students and teachers), and to enhance member benefits. One such initiative I started as Vice President was the Speaker's Bureau, which

*(continue on page 4)*

their own locales. To date, we have completed events for the North Florida Poetry Hub, Poetry for the Love of It, Big Bend Poets, and the Osceola Poetry Society, with several other

**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:** Al Rocheleau, 3903 Township Square Blvd, Orlando, FL 32837; 407.592.4527; ARRO40@aol.com

**Vice President:** Mary Marcelle, 107 Magnolia Dr, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 407.832.8603; marymarcelle@earthlink.com

**Secretary:** Leslie C Halpern, 2195 Catbriar Way, Oviedo, FL 32765; 407.365.6304; LCHwriter@cfl.rr.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:** Jane Peterson, 1304 Augusta National Blvd, Winter Springs, FL 32708

**OPAP Editor:** This position is OPEN. Contact Al Rocheleau at 407-592-4527 to VOLUNTEER!

**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; Rocjeleau2018noirjente@aol.com

**Youth Poetry Chair:** Carolyn J Scully, 2929 Pine Ave, Apopka/Forest City, FL 32703; 321.274.3369; cscully27@gmail.com

**Webmaster & Social Media Coordinator:** Dina Tanner; 262.751.9610; dinatanner1951@icloud.com

**Board of Directors (Chapter Presidents)**

**Big Bend Poets & Writers:** Pat Stanford, Tallahassee, FL:

wordhacker@centurylink.net

**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

**Osceola Poetry Society:** MacKenzie Riley, 5136 Caspian Street, Saint Cloud, FL 34771; 407-595-0387; mach8454@gmail.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; ipoetry.3@gmail.com

**Chronology of Presidents:**

Al Rocheleau—2018

Mary-Ann Westbrook—2016—2018

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

## Committee Reports

### FSPA 2018-2019 Student Poetry Contest

As of the beginning of October, all Florida counties have been informed of the Contest via the Secondary Language Arts Supervisors and the School Superintendents. In addition to the schools, all interested teachers and other persons have been informed of the contest and sent the rules.

Judges have been contacted and confirmed via email. They will receive their poems in late December.

*Entries have started to arrive in my mail box!*

*~Carolynn J. Scully  
Student Contest Chair 2018-2019*

***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 **this column!** Send content prior to the January deadline to: Al Rocheleau, Interim OPAP Director (addresses below).

**ALL reports and news, as well as any photographs** for the Jan/Feb issue are due to the Editor by **January 20, 2019. 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 407.592.4527 or Email: ARRO40@aol.com Mail: 3903 Township Square Blvd, Orlando, FL 32837

**NEXT ISSUE**  
**early February, 2019**

*Mark your Calendar—  
to send Reports and Articles  
By January 20, 2019  
Send by email or post to Al Rocheleau.*

### FSPA 2018 Poetry Contest

Florida State Poets Association appreciates the generosity of our new and loyal sponsors for your support of our annual contests. We also appreciate the enthusiasm of first time and annual poets who enter our contests. This was an amazing 2018 contest year with a total of 835 entries.

First place winners are published in *Cadence*, our 2018 anthology.

We grow forward!

*~Mary Rogers-Grantham, FSPA Contest Chair 2018-2019*

### Media Accounts

Does your Chapter have an event or contest coming up that you would like posted on the website?

Send your flier (preferably the original Word or Publisher document) to me, your new Webmaster, Dina Tanner: [dinatanner.dt@gmail.com](mailto:dinatanner.dt@gmail.com). I would prefer to receive your information at LEAST 4-6 weeks in advance of the event.

We will also be updating our Facebook page soon. Fliers sent for website publishing, will then be published as an EVENT on our Facebook page.

Be SURE to include your contact information on the email to me (Dina), so that if there are any questions, you can be reached quickly.

*~ Dina Tanner, webmaster*



**GET SOCIAL WITH FSPA!**

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

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

*“From your President”, continued from p. 1.*

## Two Soldiers

to date has delivered selected live educational programs directly to chapters in their own locales. To date, we have completed events for the **North Florida Poetry Hub, Poetry for the Love of It, Big Bend Poets,** and the **Osceola Poetry Society,** with several other events planned to take place around the state before the end of the year. That well-received program will continue in 2019, even as we work to attract new and noted speakers and workshops for our standard Spring Fling and October conventions.

Reaching out to students and teachers will become a priority in the coming year. To that end, I am donating a special, 12-hour version of the Twelve Chairs Course to FSPA that can be offered to secondary level English teachers under FSPA auspices, and that will also involve the procurement of continuing education credits for those teachers. In doing so, we give the teachers resources they have asked for with regard to taking up poetry in their classes, while at the same time enhancing the effect of our excellent Youth Contest programs. While the project is likely to involve many steps and take a while to achieve, we hope to strengthen the student and teacher base of FSPA membership and make FSPA a “go-to” organization in the state for all things poetry.

We also expect to be involved again in the state poet laureate program as we were four years ago. We must thank **Peter Meinke** for four great years as State Laureate and for his service as one of our own chancellors, along with **Lola Haskins** and **Lee Bennett Hopkins**. These poets are among the country’s great masters, and we treasure them in their roles as speakers and benefactors. Our involvement in the laureate program led directly to our relationships with Peter, Lola, and Lee, and we look forward to continuing that valuable process with other laureate candidates.

In closing, let me tell you what an honor it is to have been elected to the office of president. Lots of work ahead. As you can, your help is also needed, but know you have mine. I want you to enjoy our fellowship, to learn more, to get published more. That’s why we’re here, and why I wanted to become your president. Please contact me at any time with any question, comment, or issue at [ARRO40@aol.com](mailto:ARRO40@aol.com) or call me at 407-592-4527.

~ Al Rocheleau, FSPA President

I.  
The old man fought in the ‘Big War’  
when those at home read headlines and  
saw newsreels at the picture shows;  
when soldiers came home as heroes.

He had been a paratrooper from the  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne; elite military men  
liberating Italy, then all of Europe...  
so very long ago.

He lived a life of opportunity;  
personal goals mostly met,  
gaining financial success, but  
living life on-the-edge.

II.  
A younger man soldiered-on  
over two decades later; the ugliness  
of war exposed on television each night and  
at the end—there were no ticker-tape parades.

He was also an elite soldier; an LRRP; a Ranger  
slithering through jungles on his belly and  
liberating no-one; it was called  
*a conflict*, not a war.

He too lived life on-the-edge,  
but with few opportunities;  
suffering from PTSD and Agent Orange;  
a pariah to society.

III.  
They both served well;  
fought heroically. And they both  
continued to fight unseen demons;  
demons that followed them home  
from their wars.

Now both soldiers have found peace  
among green grass and bronze plaques  
nine years, one row and three  
grave markers apart—  
Father and Son.

by Patricia L Stevenson, ©2014



## Chapter Reports

### Big Bend Poets & Writers

Meeting: 2nd Tues @ 7pm  
Tallahassee, FL

Big Bend Poets & Writers continues to meet at Barnes & Noble. Poets of all ages and levels are welcome to attend. There is NO further report this issue.

### The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Meeting: 3rd Wednesday @ 4:00–6:30pm  
Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island

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 Tankas as well as Luc Bat poems (a Vietnamese form), both previously unfamiliar to most chapter members. Also meetings included a presentation on how to increase a poet's odds for publication as well as a study and discussion of Oliver Goldsmith's poem "The Village Schoolmaster", and Anders Carlson-Wee's controversial award-winning poem, "How-To". Most notably, however, was an extraordinary presentation on the life and works of New Hampshire Poets Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon presented by Live Poet **El-len Nielsen**.

Monthly challenges have included writing a poem from the point of view of an animal, a poem on racism or some kind of prejudice, a "fly on the wall" poem, a Halloween poem, an anger poem, as well as poems utilizing the Luc Bat and Tanka forms. It's always exciting to see what every Live Poet comes up with.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** **Vicki Iorio** just published her new book of poetry, *Something Fishy*, and **Jesse Sam Owens** has put out a compan-

ion CD to his fast-selling poetry book, *The Way of Dreams and Other Musings*. **Jesse** also recently performed at Dan Pels' show at the Hub in New Smyrna Beach to a full house. As far as awards, **Bob Blenheim** managed to fool judges in two different states by winning ten poetry awards: 3 first place; 4 second place; 3 third place in the Massachusetts State Poetry annual contest, along with seven awards: 2 first place; 4 second place; 1 honorable mention in the annual Florida State poetry contest. The latter was given out at the FSPA October convention held at the Plaza Resort in Daytona Beach. Live Poet **Jesse Sam Owens** served as moderator for that illustrious event with his usual warm and personable style.

Anyone who manages to attend the meetings of The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach should feel right at home, and find it to be one of the most creative and entertaining poetry groups in the State of Florida.

~ Robert E. Blenheim

### Miami Poets

Meeting: 1st Wednesday, 1:00-3:00 pm.  
Pinecrest Branch Library

Miami Poets celebrate poetry during our monthly *Miami Poets Soirées*, moderated by **Tere Starr**. We gather each first Wednesday at the Pinecrest Branch Library from 1 to 3 to share poetry and inspiration. During September's soiree, we welcomed Phillip Church, professor at FIU's theatre department and artistic director of *What if Works*, who presented the theatre and poetry projects, "The Belle of Amherst" and the *Dickinson's Young Poets Festival*. On second Mondays from 1 to 3, we join Group 10, the critique group founded by Jnita Wright and now facilitated by **Steven Liebowitz**. The Miami Poets continue to spread our love of the written word as we share poetry throughout Miami and beyond.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** **Connie Goodman-Milone** received an Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime

Achievement Award for 2017-2018. She was one woman among eight distinguished men recognized in *The Wall Street Journal*. The feature can be found at <http://conniegoodmanmilone.me>. Connie's letter to the editor, "Give in tribute," was published in the *Miami Herald* and her poem, "Ode to an Alligator," was awarded first place in poetry in South Florida Writers Association's monthly writing contests. **Tere Starr's** poem, "The Trickster Chronicles," won first place for Social Commentary. **Ricki Dorn** received second place honors for her poems, "Crinkling Eyes Above a Smile" and "In My Thoughts." **Ricki** will be featured in October's *Authors Showcase Series*. She presented a writing session, "Memoir: Leave Your Legacy," at Killian Pines United Methodist Church and read seasonal Jewish poems at the Beth Am Sunday Salon from her book, "The Joys of Jewish Holidays in Rhyme." In September, **Tere Starr** led a poetry gathering for the Brandeis Women's Organization. **Tere** and **Steve Leibowitz** were honored to read Sherwood Ross's poems during the poetry tribute organized by **Sheena Szuri** at the Betsy Hotel on South Beach. **Steve** was also a featured speaker at South Florida Writer's September meeting and at the first *Authors Showcase Series* at Books & Books in Suniland. **Patricia Asuncion** presented "Live, Breathe, Write" at the Riverside Writers *Celebrating 100th VWC Anniversary* in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Her poem, "Gray Haired Children" was published online at *vox poetica* and her poem, "Extant," appears in South Florida Writer's Association's *Authors Voice* along with **Jo Christiane Ledakis'** (continued on p.6)

**Introducing the Remainder of the**

**2018 — 2020 FSPA Officers**

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

(continued from p.5)

poem, "Concert in Words." **Mervyn Solomon** was a reader during *Downtown Arts Day* at the Mind Warehouse. *Poetry remains our priority.*

~Tere Starr, president

### New River Poets

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

In October, six of our members attended the FSPA Convention hosted by Tomoka Poets at the Plaza Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach. We agreed that it was one of the best conventions ever, with many opportunities to share poetry, attend workshops, and socialize with some of the best poets on the planet, including FSPA's honorary chancellor, Lola Haskins! We took pride in the fact that 26 of the FSPA's annual contest awards went to members of New River Poets. Congratulations to **John Foster, JC Kato, Meg Roman** and **Janet Watson**, who penned those winning poems.

On November 17th we are hosting a workshop that will be presented by **Al Rocheleau**, our new FSPA president. It will be held at the Old Richland Schoolhouse home of member Meg Roman, and those attending were asked to bring their own brown bag lunches, just as though they were going to school. Our chapter is providing drinks and desserts.

Individual members are promoting poetry in their own ways. **John Foster** partnered with a fellow poet in a series of comedy sketches and humorous poetry that John authored, and almost \$2,000 was raised to benefit an in-house scholarship program... **Joe Barcelo** has been writing articles for the *Tobacpipes.com* website and has had an article and poems published in the Autumn Oaks Association newsletter. ~Janet Watson & New River Poets

### North Florida Poetry Hub

4th Thursday, 6:30-8:00 pm.  
Hope at Hand in Jacksonville

North Florida Poetry Hub is steadily growing! We partner with a beloved local used bookstore, Chamblin's Uptown for a monthly Open Mic night and a blackout poetry workshop. Our main meeting is dedicated to sharing published poetry for discussion and personal poetry for feedback. Find all of our poetry opportunities on MeetUp under Jacksonville Poetry MeetUp which has 891 members.

NFPH is sponsored by the charity [www.HopeAtHand.org](http://www.HopeAtHand.org) which provides poetry therapy for at-risk youth populations in North Florida.

Meetings are on the 4th Thursday at 6:30-8p.m.

For more information, contact **Steffani Fletcher** at: [steffani@hopeathand.org](mailto:steffani@hopeathand.org)

### Orlando Area Poets

Meeting: 3rd Thursday @ 6:30 pm  
Maitland Public Library

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** **Teresa TL Bruce's** unpublished flash fiction entry, "Pickup at Alligator Station," was selected as a finalist for the Royal Palm Literary Award competition. **Mary Flynn's** debut novel, *Margaret Ferry* was awarded one gold and two silver medals for General Fiction, Religion and Christian categories in the Florida Authors and Publishers Association President's Awards.

**Leslie C. Halpern** recently published a book of humorous essays titled *Scantly Clad Truths*, a collection of true stories from her personal life and professional career as an entertainment journalist. Leslie read a selection from her book at "Femme Du Monde: A Celebration of Female Artists" at The Venue in Orlando. **Diane Neff's** article, "It's Not Just About the Books," will be published in the November/December 2018 issue of Seminole County city magazines (*Altamonte/Wekiva Springs Life, Lake Mary Life, and Oviedo/Winter Springs Life*) highlighting the Seminole County Public Library's Paint Night programs. **Carolynn J. Scully's** article, "Grand Roles" will be published in

GrandsMatter Magazine, where her children's poetry book, *Something Good Inside of Me*, will also be promoted.

Five members of Orlando Area Poets read original World War I-themed poetry at the Maitland Art & History Museum's Culture Pop event in September. Participating poets were **Nikki Fragala Barnes, Alice R. Friedman, Peter M. Gordon, Leslie C. Halpern, and Oral Nussbaum.**

~ Diane Neff, Secretary

### Osceola Poetry Society

Kissimmee/St Cloud area. Check page 2 to contact Mackenzie Riley for date, time and meeting location.

NO NEWS THIS ISSUE

### Poetry for the Love of It

Meetings: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2:45-4:45pm, Tallahassee Senior Center, Tallahassee

NO NEWS THIS ISSUE.

### Space Coast Poets

Meeting: 2nd Monday@4:30 PM, Titan's Table Food Court, Bldg 10 Eastern Florida State College, Melbourne

#### SPECIAL FOR DECEMBER:

Sean Sexton of Vero Beach announces the Community Church Series: Poetry and Organ Advent Concert dates. The concerts take place on Thursday mornings at 11 a.m. and include: Sean Sexton, Dec. 6; Cherie Clark, Dec. 13; and our Florida Poet Laureate, Peter Meinke, Dec 21.

The concerts comprise approximately 45 minutes and include a reading followed by an full-blown

(continued on page 7)

(continued from p.6)

pipe organ improvisational interpretation of the poem or something parallel to, and then another poem and another organ piece and so on, for about 6-8 poems and music selections on the themes of Advent i.e. "hope, anticipation, introspection, joy," etc. The organ interpretations are devised and performed by our resident organist and music director, Andrew Galuska.

Community Church: 1901 23 St,  
Vero Beach  
~ Janna Scheldorn

### Sunshine Poets

Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 10 AM  
Central Ridge Public Library, Beverly Hills

**Sunshine Poets has a new meeting place.** We now meet 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. Lunch and fellowship follow the meeting at one of our local restaurants.

**ACHIEVEMENTS: Joyce Shiver** placed in three categories of FSPA's annual contest, including a first place in category 2. In addition, **Joyce** judged for: Poets and Patrons. Members **Joan Clark** and **Natalie Warrick** continue to have their poetry published in their church newsletter. Sunshine will again sponsor a humor category in our next FSPA state contest and contributed to the youth contest. Sunshine Poets has a Facebook page. Contact: sunshinepoets@gmail.com

~ Cheri Herald, president SSP

### Tomoka Poets

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 5-6:45 pm.  
Ormond Beach Library

Tomoka Poets had great fun hosting the FSPA Annual Convention at the Plaza Spa and resort in Daytona

Beach this year. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We tried to make it a fun convention with limericks, surrealism, movies and, of course, the beach. It was a lot of work but we hope you feel it was worth it. We continue to have our monthly meetings at the Ormond Beach Library that include a short business meeting with reminders of upcoming events and critique sessions for anyone who wants feedback on a poem in progress. We host an open mic on the 4th Tuesday at the Copperline Coffee and Cafe in Port Orange from 7:00pm to 8:30p that we are able to do for free. We often have a featured poet who may have 20 minutes at the mic if they wish. Everyone gets to do at least 2 poems. This is open to the public, all poets and poetry lovers. Do poetry or just come listen. We need an audience.

We look forward to a short rest before we become involved with Creative Happiness Institute, Ormond Beach Main Street, and Ormond Beach Art for Chriskwanzukkah. An ecumenical and light hearted holiday festival with music and song, poetry, recitation, and open mic for all styles. Included are other area poetry groups, local colleges and universities, young poets in a mentoring program, musicians and maybe an actor or two. This is a free event. Watch for it on the website and Facebook page.

Our congratulations go to Tomoka Poets **BJ Alligood** and **Pame Boseman** for placing in the in-house spoken word competition at the convention. Congratulations to **BJ Alligood, Kyra Von Brokoph** and **Joe Perrone** for their winnings in the Annual FSPA poetry contest.

**Pame Boseman**, member of Tomoka Poets and a long time poet passed away very recently. Pame was very well known for her stained glass images with poetry in the glass. Tomoka poets' open mic regulars will miss her gentle voice.  
~Mary-Ann Westbrook, President

### Members-at-Large News

There were no contributions for this issue after so many in August.

Hope you remember to contribute to the January/February issue. Read the instructions on page 3 of this issue for submitting your articles.

**Chriskwanzukkah: December 9, 2018, Ormond Beach** (see Tomoka Poets)

**NFSPS Poetry Contests:** begin January 1, 2019 – March 15, 2019



### From the Editor's Desk

What does one write for a final editorial? Years ago Joe Cavanaugh approached me about editing the newsletter, I had to give it some long and serious thought because I was still editing the anthology at the time and I just did not know how I could do both. But for all of you that know Joe, it is very difficult to tell him NO.

I finally said, "Yes" to OPAP and soon retired from the Anthology. Now, I need to tell you what I took away from my FSPA volunteer work—friends; lots of friends—even members whom I had never met. We would talk on the phone and exchange emails and poems. And sometimes the phone calls were quite lengthy, as though we had known each other for years.

At the end of November, I am moving to Savannah, GA. Elaine Person has already informed me that I can take the train from Savannah to Orlando, so who knows, FSPA may yet see me again! Love you and miss you!

~ Patricia Stevenson



Mary Marcelle is a member of Orlando Area Poets. She is a former journalist and copywriter who has served as FSPA Membership Chair since April of 2016. Working closely with members of FSPA has been a pleasure for Mary, and she wishes to thank everyone who helped her over the years. She leaves the Membership Chair in the capable hands of Jane Peterson and moves on to the office of FSPA Vice-President.



### SECRETARY

Leslie C. Halpern is a member of Orlando Area Poets and is a most prolific writer as a poet, author, and essayist with more than 4,000 published articles and ten published books. Her most recent book releases are



*Scantly Clad Truths* (2018), *Silly Sleepytime Poems* (2017), and *200 Love Lessons from the Movies* (2016). Her poetry has appeared in numerous anthologies including *Encore Prize Poems 2018*, *The Journal of Graduate Liberal Studies*, *Revelry*, *Other Orlandos*, *SciFaiKuest*, *Haikuniverse*, *A Poet's Haggadah*, and *Poetry to Feed*

*the Spirit*. Winner of the Gwendolyn Writers Association Editor's Award for Poetry, Leslie earned a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from Rollins College and a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from University of Kentucky. For more information, visit her website: [www.lesliehalpern.com](http://www.lesliehalpern.com)

### TREASURER

Robyn Weinbaum, EA, MBA, is the treasurer for the Florida State Poets Association, and is the former treasurer of the Florida Writers Association. She is proud to be a graduate of the Twelve Chairs Advanced Poetry



Course. A high level tax accountant, Robyn enjoys tilting at IRS windmills during the day, and all things creative and bicycle on nights and weekends. Poet, flash fiction writer, tax accountant and 'avowed non-cyclist', she

averages 4,000 miles per year on her bicycles and is a Top Banana fund raiser for Bike MS.

**Congratulations to Our  
New Officers:  
Al Rouchelleau  
Mary Marcelle  
Leslie C. Halpern  
Robyn Weinbaum**

**LOOKING AHEAD...**

**SAVE THE DATE IN 2019**

**FSPA SPRING FLING 2019**

**COMFORT SUITES- ORLANDO**

2416 N Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32804

(across from Florida Hospital)

**FRIDAY MAY 17, 2019**

4 PM-10 PM

**SATURDAY MAY 18, 2019**

9 AM -5 PM

**MORE INFO TO COME.**