

Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought
and the thought has found words.

— Robert Frost

Sunset on Lake Dora, Mark Terry

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear members,

With the year just dawning, I thought it opportune to talk to you about our focus for the coming year. We will be empowering you, our members, in a variety of ways, enhancing public outreach, and solidifying our revenue bases, which of course gives us a greater ability to achieve those goals. The initiatives include:

1. Foster Camaraderie: We will be encouraging member engagement through event segments that have recently proven successful, and expand upon them. This includes our successful in-house slam competitions, which will include, at the next Spring Fling, a segment for team slams. We will invite our local societies to hold their own competitions in the coming months that would in turn field for each a team of three competitors and two alternates, and that the team would compete with other teams at our Spring Fling Team Slam. (The individual slams would continue at the Fall Convention.) Note that in no way will these competitions take the place of our group readings or contest readings.

2. Expand Our Speakers Bureau: We want to add new speakers and programs, and to assure each chapter gets at least one program delivered to their local society. Recently I did a half-day program for the New River Poets, that included members of the Sunshine Poets and several at-large FSPA members. Other speakers will be added to the roster, with the programs offered to various chapters.

3. Gain Additional Speakers for Our Conventions: We are seeking speakers who have not before presented to us, and are expanding our capacity to find and adequately compensate our speakers. Part of expanding our revenue will go toward this effort, as well as to the providing additional projection equipment for program segments that might require it—an effort that, in the end, will easily pay for itself.

4. Improve Our Sources of Revenue: We are looking at developing an internal and external ad program, as well as providing separate individual services that can be elected by our members, revenues for which would go straight to FSPA's operational bottom line. (Continued on page 2)

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Al Rocheleau



Please join us
on Facebook



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Secretary: Leslie Halpern

Treasurer: Robyn Weinbaum

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Elaine Person, JC Kato

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Jane Peterson

Contest Chair:

Mary Rogers-Grantham

Newsletter Editor:

Mark Terry

Historian:

Elaine Person

National Poetry Day/ Month Chair:

TBD

Youth Chair and Student

Contest Chair:

Carolynn Scully

Slam Coordinator:

Kevin Campbell

Webmaster:

Dina Tanner

FROM OUR PRESIDENT (continued from page 1)

5. Outreach In Education: To this end, I am donating the Twelve Chairs Short Course to FSPA, for use in accrediting our own members as well as offering that program directly to high school English teachers in Florida, with the long-term purpose of gaining continuing education credits for them while adding additional teachers and students to FSPA membership roster. To date, 25 FSPA poets have already taken the live course, which has now been put into a distance learning flash-drive.

6. Promote Member Books: As an additional member service, we want to encourage our members to publish their books and assist in their promotion. At this time we are developing a linked section of the website that would go directly to selected books of our members that are otherwise displayed on Amazon.

7. Improve Member Communications: With our new editor of OPAP, we are expanding the newsletter and its publication schedule to give members more useful and interesting material more often throughout the year.

With some of these efforts, we may need time, but know that all of them are already underway. We welcome your help and suggestions as we proceed. Now, how about selecting a speaker to speak at your local chapter in 2019. Start thinking about raising a little slam team on your local level, and, while we're at it, start planning to attend the **FSPA Spring Fling, May 17-18, 2019** at the Comfort Suites-Downtown, Orlando. If you're planning to stay over Friday or Saturday, call to reserve early, but the first step—mark your new calendar! And best wishes for a great new year.

Best,

Al



[Click to book](#)



FSPA Spring Fling

May 17-18, 2019

Hosted by Orlando Area Poets

Available room nights are limited.

Please book soon!

2416 N. Orange Ave., Orlando, FL 32804

Information regarding registration for the convention will be posted online soon.



*"Spring Morning Pastoral"
by Sean Sexton, Oil on Canvas*

Profiles in Poetry

Poet Laureate Sean Sexton



Sean Sexton working his cattle

Many poets have “day jobs.” It is a common struggle to balance the demands of our careers and the pursuit of poetry. So I thought, who better to talk with about maintaining that balance than Sean Sexton, Poet Laureate of Indian River County. On a rainy Saturday afternoon in December, I caught up with Sean. His day job is ranching, a life requiring 24/7 attentiveness. Over the past 40 years, Sean corralled enough time to become established as an esteemed poet and visual artist. As you can see by the painting illustrated above, he is an amazing artist, but today, we’re talking with him about his poetry.

Q: So Sean, what did you do this morning?

A: This morning we fed our growing stock, and then treated an injured calf out in the pasture. We tried to get her to her feet, but she’s suffering from a skeletal injury. So we treated her with some medications and fed her milk-replacer in a bucket as she’s unable to nurse from her mother presently.

Q: How do you approach the creation of a poem?

A: Often I’ll have ideas come to me, triggered by something I do or see. When that happens, I make accommodations. I now know you have to get them down when they occur, so I keep journals with me at all times. The idea for a poem might disappear forever if ignored. Sometimes I use my iPhone’s voice-memo texting capability and record an idea if my hands aren’t free. I have drafted entire poems with the voice app giving dictation as the details fly by. Sometimes, if at 3:00 AM I’ve wakened and can’t go back to sleep, I’ll get up and transcribe these ideas from journal or phone into my computer. It’s all process, the editing light is always blinking in my mind, and a poem is only done when I feel it has reached a kind of true form. I rework poems often, subtracting or rearranging words, sometimes whole lines working toward greater economy and of course beauty of what is said. Some poems come to completion more readily than others. “Descent,” (see sidebar on the next page) first drafted in an airport on my way home from the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering after several revisions, seems finished to me.

(Continued on next page)



Sean Sexton with fresh-picked greens

Descent

She has her father's hands,
small and delicate on him,
and ears of the old man
made in pearly skin.

His features, fair and slight,
best imagined on another,
have crossed a great divide
reaching from his mother.

We walk around our lives
a panoply of parts,
all with the he and she of it
tangled in our hearts.

~ Sean Sexton

Sexton has two published
volumes of poetry:

• *Blood Writing*
— Anhinga Press ([link](#))
and

• *May Darkness Restore*
— Press 53 ([link](#))

Also, some of his art is currently
in a group show at the Albin
Polasek Museum & Sculpture
Garden in Winter Park ([link](#))

Q: How do you cope when inspiration and work conflict?

A: The first thing you do is suffer. I have come to the realization work and my life on the land is where poetry originates. I do what's necessary to keep art alive in my life. I would never quit the ranch in order to write.

Q: Can you remember the first time you realized, "Hey, I'm a poet!"

A: I come from a family with a literary tradition. My mother, also an artist, wrote poetry and shared it with us. She always encouraged me. Her sister, my Aunt Doris [Herold Lund], was a professional free-lance writer and wrote a New York Times Best Seller, *Eric*, about her son who was a soccer star and battled leukemia. When my first full poetry volume, *Blood Writing* (Anhinga Press), was in the finishing stages, Lynne Knight, one of the editors, called me and said, "We have your Library of Congress number and information for the book and you're listed as a poet, so now it's for real!" That moment had an impact on my thoughts about myself. I wrote from an early age, perhaps because that was what we did in my family. People around me valued it, and I was enabled to value it myself. Cathy Turner, my first English teacher in college, infected me with her love for literature, it is partly her fault I'm a poet.

Q: Are there similarities between your painting and your poetry?

A: There are a lot of similarities. In both I seek a true form. What I mean is, I winnow through the subject matter: words in a poem or visual content of a painting, to find a formal construct. This narrowing reveals questions the creative process answers. It is true for poems and paintings. You have to become very specific with language—choice of imagery, words and their cadence, obeying the constraints of language, visual language included. However, it is not always a process of reduction, it can be a building process too.

Q: Have you ever been blocked?

A: Yes. Mostly by depression. With ranching, weather and finances are factors. I've learned it's never about the art or its source—it's always my internal state that's wrong. This land is an inexhaustible source of inspiration. For me, sometimes painting is a refuge from writing, and sometimes the opposite, but having these channels keeps me functioning creatively. I once asked my friend, Claude Wilkinson, also a writer and painter, if he ever had trouble deciding which thing to do each day. He said, "Usually."

Q: Who are some of your favorite literary figures, past and present?

A: Seamus Heaney! Also, Donald Justice, who may have been the greatest formalist writing during our lifetime. Early on, I was inspired much by William Carlos Williams, who said "No ideas but in things!" and Walt Whitman, who was capable of saying anything! I consider him the greatest American artist of the last century, and Wendell Berry, who wrote *Jayber Crow*, is one of today's greats.

Q: What is the most personally rewarding poem you have written?

A: I hope it's the next one.

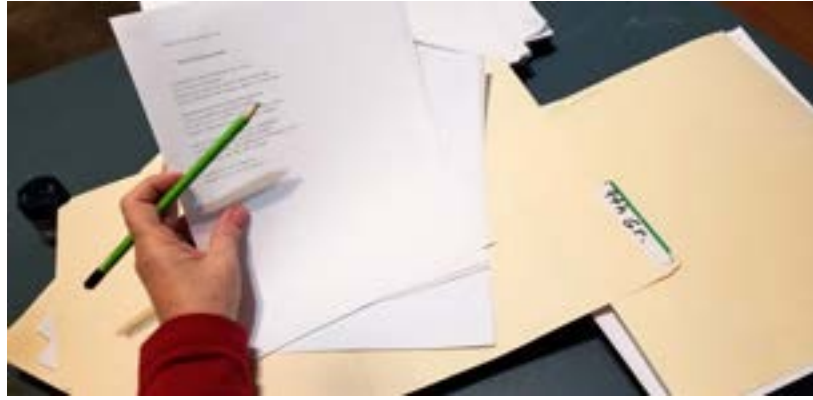
Q: What has 40 years of poetry taught you?

A: To mean more fully what I say. Poetry has given me a greater appreciation of, and reverence for the beauty of language. I wouldn't have understood that, had I not become a poet.

~ Mark Terry with Sean Sexton



Carolynn J. Scully



2018-2019 STUDENT POETRY CONTEST REPORT

Our Student Poetry Contest is an important step in reaching future members for FSPA. It is a way to encourage interest in poetry and to give our young people a voice for issues for which they are passionate. As I have sorted and prepared the entries to be sent to judges, I have noticed that we have many counties in Florida that have no participants. This tells me we have a large portion of our student population that needs to be reached in order to give them the opportunity to experience poetry in a personal way.

I would like to find ways of reaching teachers in the non-participating counties. If you have any ideas please contact me, Carolynn Scully, at cscully27@gmail.com. This is a big job and though I am willing to wade through paperwork etc. I would greatly appreciate the membership reaching out to teachers, homeschooling groups or even individual students to collect their email addresses so I can send them information.

Emails are preferred because of the cost to mail so many letters. Let's increase our email contact list. Please be aware that some school districts restrict emails coming to their servers. If possible, get personal emails.

As of this publication date, all entries for the 2018-2019 contest have been received and sent to the judges.

~ Carolynn J. Scully, Committee Chair

SOCIAL MEDIA



Let's Connect!

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

https://www.twitter.com/FSPA_Poets/

~ Dina Tanner, Social Media and Webmaster

Chapter News & Updates



Robert E. Blenheim

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.

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Recently, The Live Poets Society had workshops (with handouts) on writing tankas, luc bat poems, and pantoums with brave members attempting them. Also meetings included a study and discussion of Edward Arlington Robinson's poem "Richard Corey." Most notably, however, was an extraordinary presentation on the life and works of New Hampshire Poets Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon given by Live Poet Ellen Nielsen. Monthly challenges have included writing a "fly on the wall" poem, a poem using the theme "Homemade with Love," and anger poems.

Meetings included tributes to two previous Live Poets Society members who sadly passed away. First, Jean Fatica, a charter member who helped start the chapter when it was formed in 1993, who had died in 2016 in Syracuse, New York. Then, past member Pame Bosman, a sweet and loving poet, who died shortly after attending the recent 2018 FSPA Convention in Daytona Beach. Deep condolences to their families.

In December, five Live Poets took part in David Axelrod's annual Winter Solstice Ceremony at the Casements in Ormond Beach.

But the biggest news of the Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach is that it is the host chapter to the upcoming 2019 October FSPA Convention to be held in Daytona Beach at the famous Plaza Resort & Spa!

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

FSPA Announces the Plaza Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach will be the location for the 2019 Fall Convention in October...



...and, it will be hosted by The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach.

Chapter News & Updates



Tere Starr

Miami Poets

Miami Poets will celebrate the tenth 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 Steven Liebowitz. During November's soirée, we shared poems by featured Miami International Book Fair poets followed by readings during the fair by two United States Poet Laureates, Billy Collins and Juan Felipe Herrera. In December, guest poet Steve Kronen shared his poetry and led an interactive session. Achievements: Connie Goodman-Milone's letters, "Give in tribute" and "Honor the winner," were published in the Miami Herald and her poem, "Where is My Hair Colorist?," appeared in 45 Magazine Women's Literary Journal. Poems by Connie, Jo Christiane Ledakis, Ricki Dorn and Steven Liebowitz were published in the Author's Voice, South Florida Writers Association's newsletter.

Connie, Ricki, and Steven participated in An Afternoon of Poetry, Books and Fashion with the South Florida Writers Association at Chico's in the Falls Shopping Center. Patricia Asuncion's four poems were posted by *TUCK Magazine* on what matters to her: Yemen genocide, humanity disconnect, the first to die at a wall, and US-born babies of immigrants. She was featured for an evening of POETRY & BOURBON! at Rugged Branch Distillery in Charlottesville, Virginia. In December, Tere Starr held a Poetry Soirée for the Brandeis Women's South Miami Chapter and for the book review group, Ages of Pages. Congratulations to Cyndee Levy-Angulo whose photo appears in *Cadence 2018*, FSPA's anthology. The Miami Poets continue to spread our love of the written word as we share poetry throughout Miami and beyond.

~ Tere Starr, President

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.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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Osceola Poetry Society
Mackenzie Riley

Tomoka Poets
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Chapter News & Updates



Janet Watson

When we meet:
The New River Poets meet the third Saturday each month from 1 to 4 pm at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wesley Chapel.



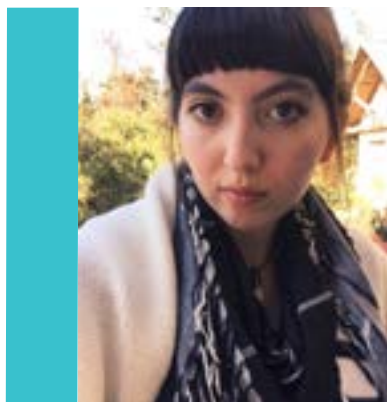
New River Poets

The NEW RIVER POETS chapter was pleased to host a “Poetry Workshop in the Schoolhouse” on November 17, 2018, with Al Rocheleau (pictured above) presenting an afternoon of enjoyable instruction. Our member, Meg Roman, offered her home—the Old Richland Schoolhouse, for the occasion. Members and guests (22 total) brought “brown bag lunches” which helped us to feel like school kids again. We were probably more eager to learn than we were back then.

Member John Foster was pleased to report that one of his poems was accepted by the poetry journal, *Light*, and several of our members were asked to read their work at various holiday celebrations. The New River Branch Library was pleased to receive our donation of *Cadence, Anthology 36*.

We did not meet in December, but we will celebrate “A New Year in Poetry” with a potluck lunch at our regular meeting place on January 19. We wish all FSPA members a Happy New Year and challenge them to keep writing and sharing—the world needs poets!

~ Janet Watson, President



Dakota Boyer

When we meet:
The North Florida Poetry Hub Poets meet the third Thursday each month from 6:30 to 8 pm at Hope at Hand, 3886 Atlantic Blvd. in Jacksonville.

North Florida Poetry Hub

North Florida Poetry Hub chapter supports Hope at Hand, a North Florida nonprofit that brings positivity to at-risk youth through their unique poetry programming. The chapter is very involved with the 2019 Jax Poetry Fest that will kick off April 3rd at Art Walk. It will continue throughout the month of April with free workshops on Thursdays and Saturdays. The event closes on Saturday, April 27th with a full day of poetry workshops and performances.

For more information contact Dakota Boyer at dakota@hopeathand.org.

~ Dakota Boyer on behalf of Steffani Fletcher, president.

Chapter News & Updates



Oral Nussbaum

When we meet:

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

Orlando Area Poets

Nikki Fragala Barnes will be a moderator for the Winter Park Library Book Festival on March 9, assisting with author panels, keynote speakers, crafts and story time.

Peter Gordon's poem, "Far Rockaway, Queens, Four Months after Hurricane Sandy," was accepted by a magazine called *The Poeming Pigeon* for their April special issue on sports.

Leslie Halpern was the featured speaker for the Orlando Florida Writers Association meeting on December 5, 2018, speaking on "Entertainment Writing Basics."

Elaine Person's haiku was featured poem on October 29, 2018, on Haikuniverse.com. Another of her haiku was part of the Haikuniverse Halloween collection on October 30. She participated in FusionFest in Downtown Orlando on November 24, 2018, performing diversity haiku, and celebrated her eighth anniversary of teaching writing at Winter Park Public Library.



Diane Neff

Lynn Schiffhorst won first place for her humor-category novel, *Pretty Words Don't Feed the Cats*, at Florida Writers Association's annual Royal Palm Literary Awards.

Three of Stan Sujka's poems, "Tenderness," "The Attempted Escape," and "The Patient" were published in the mid-December issue of UCF Arts in Medicine Literary Art magazine, *The Script*.

Samoyed Tales Trilogy by Jim Cheskawich, Annie Reid and Cheryl Lynn West is one of three finalists in the category "BOOKS: Single, Related, or All-Breed" for the Dog Writers Association of America's 2018 competition. DWAA will announce the winners at the DWAA Awards Banquet on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, at the Hotel New Yorker in Manhattan.

The Orlando Area Poets were invited by Mark Terry to participate in a poetry reading based at the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens in Winter Park during the Florida Cattlemen's Foundation's art exhibit reception on March 24, 2019. Mark will be the emcee for the afternoon of poetry, focusing on ekphrastic and narrative poems written in response to the exhibit.

~ Diane Neff, Secretary
for Oral Nussbaum, President



Peter Gordon

Chapter News & Updates



Mary-Ann Westbrook

Tamoka Poets

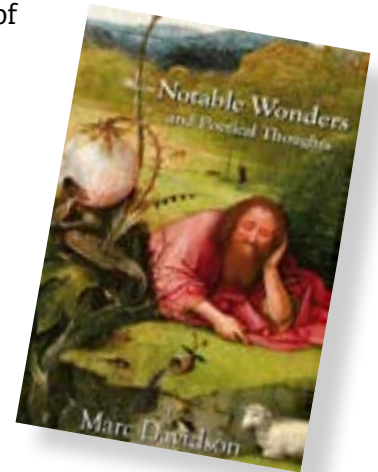
Tomoka Poets, Creative Happiness Institute and Ormond Beach Arts District teamed up to celebrate the holiday season with an event titled Chriskwanzukah at The Casements on Sunday, December 9th. The Casements is the former winter home of John D. Rockefeller in Ormond Beach on the Halifax River. This event was free and open to the public. Features included gifts, a raffle, refreshments, and open-mic readings by local poets and writers. All styles of performance were invited: music, stories, songs, poetry, drama. There were book sales and signings, storytellers, and a solstice ceremony,

We were busy: Kwanza folk poems, lighting of a Hanukkah candles, Christmas trees, musical presentation by Marc Davidson and his sister Julia Truilo, a dramatic reading by John Sbordone of City Repertory Theater, poetry by your poets from the Creative Happiness Young Poets mentoring program, poetry from members of Tomoka Poets and Live Poets of Daytona Beach and Florida State Poets Slam Coordinator Kevin Campbell.



Kyra Von Brokoph

Tomoka Poet Marc Davidson, a local journalist and prominent businessman has published his first book of poetry *Notable Wonders and Poetical Thoughts*. He is the first author published by Writers Ink Press now that it has been moved to its new corporate home with Creative Happiness Institute.



Marc Davidson

Tomoka Poet Kyra Von Brokoph was featured poet at our last open mic for the year 2018. She entertained the filled room with her wonderful imagery for 20 minutes. You are all invited to join us the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Copperline Coffee and Cafe in the Pavilion Shopping Plaza in Port Orange. Bring a few poems to read or just come listen. We will be looking for you. We want to hear your poetry.

~ Mary-Ann Westbrook,
President

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.

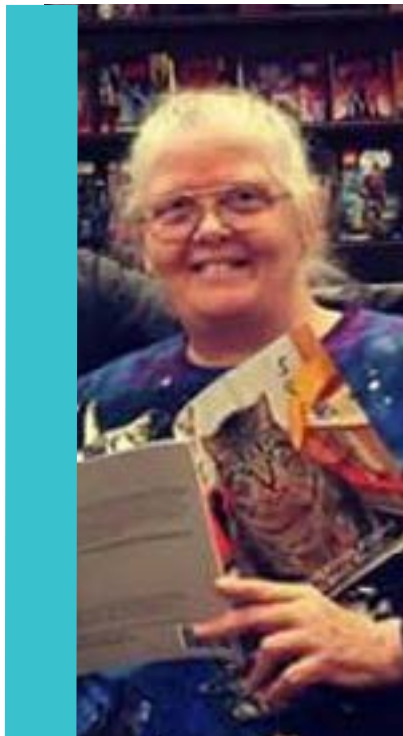
Tomoka Poets Open Mic

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

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, Florida 32303.

When we meet:

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

Poetry for the Love of It

In addition to being one of two FSPA chapters in the Tallahassee area, Poetry for the Love of It (PLOI) is also affiliated with the Tallahassee Senior Center (TSC). Sharing and reviewing members' poems is routine practice at PLOI meetings. In 2018, PLOI also focused on examining the works and lives of notable poets from Maya Angelou and Dorothy Parker to Pauli Murray and Ursula Le Guin, to name a few.

During National Poetry Month in April, members challenged themselves to write or read 30 poems in 30 days. PLOI also held its "2nd Annual TSC Senior Poetry Contest." It is open to anyone 55+ who either attends events at the Tallahassee Senior Center, or serves as a staff member or volunteer. Contest winners will be announced in January.

On January 18, 2019, PLOI members will once again provide entertainment at the TSC Grand Relations Art Show Reception. Members will read light and humorous poems, drama sketches, and song lyrics. Winners of the poetry contest will also be announced, and will read their winning entries.

Until further notice, Chapter Treasurer Norma Plumley and Chapter Recording Secretary Linda Whitefeather are "acting co-chairs" for chapter business while Chapter President, Charles Hazelip, takes a break.

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

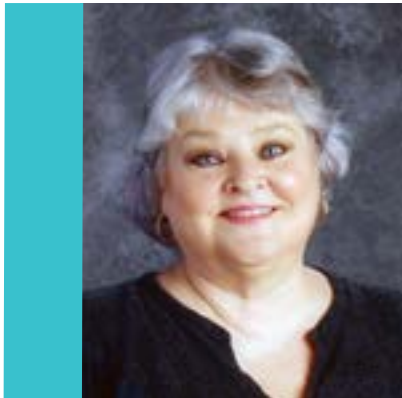
Osceola Poetry Society

Great news! Gerald Salcedo, Osceola Vice President and a senior at the Osceola School for the Arts (OCSA), has just been accepted at Yale University, and plans to attend there next year. Also, Katie O'Malley's first book, *The Other Side of the Moon*, and Sophia DuRose's first book, *Losing Teeth*, will be published by Shantih Press in the first quarter of 2019. Significant accomplishments for poets who are twenty-years old.

Member and FSPA president Al Rocheleau recently presented to three local poetry societies in Zephyrhills as part of the FSPA's Speaker's Bureau program. In addition, Nancy Ortiz, is enjoying her first year as a retired Orlando-area teacher, and as our secretary.

~ Mackenzie Riley, President

Chapter News & Updates



Cheri Herald

When we meet:

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

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 critiques are optional, followed by an open reading. Lunch and fellowship follow the meeting at one of our local restaurants.

Joyce Shiver and Sunshine President Cheri Herald attended a workshop given by FSPA President Al Rocheleau, hosted by New River Poets, in Zephyrhills. Sunshine Poets will again sponsor a humor category in FSPA's annual contest, and made a donation to the youth contest. Members Joan Clark and Natalie Warrick continue to have their poetry published in their church newsletter.

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

~ Cheri Herald, President



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

Big Bend Poets & Writers

2018 was an active and engaging year in which the organization has proudly made the following decisions:

- Name change from Big Bend Poets to Big Bend Poets & Writers
- Welcomed Jen Siddoway as our first Writer-in-Residence (www.jensiddoway.com)
- Engaged with candidates for public office via an electoral-poetry forum

2019 brings more opportunities to promote the written works of our members: continue to collaborate with other local poetry groups; engage in civic and policy conversations in our local and state community; and to become better connected with state and national poetry communities.

If you have questions, concerns or want to visit please feel free to contact Summer Hill Seven, current president of BBP&W via email at summerhillseven@gmail.com.

~ Summer Hill Seven, President

Space Coast Poets

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.

~ Janna Schledorn, President

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:

- Spring Fling information
- Reports from FSPA Chapters
- Profiles in Poetry
- January Poetry Challenge Winner

Snippet *from our historian*

To know the history of Florida State Poets Association, one must first know the background of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. which was organized in 1959 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

As a past president of the NFSPS, Hans Juergensen, the seventh president, helped Henrietta Kroah of Deland, Florida to establish the Florida State Poets Association.

Did you notice the Founder's Category in the 2018 FSPA contests? Category 11: Henrietta & Mark Kroah Founders Award–Subject: Wedding/Form: Any. Yes, that's her.

Florida State Poets Association (FSPA) Inc. is a nonprofit, tax-exempt (501c3) organization founded in October of 1974, chartered by the State of Florida in July 1979. More on our history in the next issue.

~ Elaine Person, FSPA Historian

January Editor's Choice Poetry Challenge

Prompt: The other side

Form: No requirement, just make it poetry

Line limit: Up to 20 lines

Submit by: Jan. 31, 2019, to Mark@TKOrlando.com

The winning poem: Will be featured in our March/April issue

Editor's Notes *and other musings*

I hope you have enjoyed all the news from our member chapters, and some of the new features in *Of Poets & Poetry*. It is an honor to take on this position and I am enjoying getting to know all of you better. Thank you to the contributors to this issue. You have been responsive, professional—and fun too. That makes the hours go quickly.

I also want to recognize my predecessor editor, **Patricia Stevenson Gingrich**, for the mountainous work she was able to accomplish. Its organization and depth forms the foundation I will strive to build upon. Ideas and critiques are always welcome.

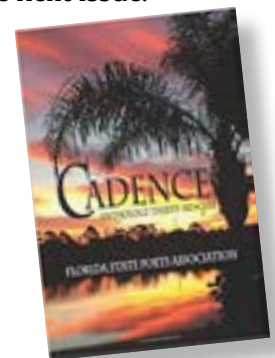
Keep writing, and
Happy New Year everyone!

~ Mark

Mark Terry



Elaine Person



You can still purchase a copy of FSPA's 2018 anthology, *Cadence*. [\(link\)](#)

