Of Poets & Poetry A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION VOL. 47.1

January/February 2020 See page 4

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*Recently deceased

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BEYOND WORDS

The journey



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Florida State Poets Association

An affiliate of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies



Al Rocheleau

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK by Al Rocheleau

IN MEMORIAM: LESLIE HALPERN

It is difficult to write anything, or sometimes, even to talk about poets losing poets. For groups like ours, such departures take place too often, and it has happened for us several times in the past year. We miss these people. It seems there aren't enough of them in this world to afford to lose. And for each loss, when it happens, there's that feeling. That strange mix of anesthesia and pain that comes with our shock, and our loss.



Leslie Halpern

Leslie Halpern was one of us. She was first well-known as a prose writer in Florida, a writer of stories, memoirs, travelogues, reviews of the arts, especially of film, and also of works for children. All these genres in which she was expert somehow left enough threads of gold rime for ventures into the "undiscovered country" of poetry.

Leslie regarded that last approach, the less-travelled-to poet's destination as one a writer treads toward carefully. Leslie knew that poetry has another construction and aim, and that verse indeed posed many different risks, yet held a great power. She became an accomplished writer of children's poems. Working with a simplified age-group vocabulary (a challenge for someone whose education made her exceedingly literate and erudite) she linked pure, simple objects in chains to actually demonstrate concepts rather than just name them with unreal generalities, and so those poems worked. With the assistance of able illustrators, the pieces clung to each other and became lovely books. Over the years that I knew her, Leslie also became increasingly comfortable and daring with her mature verse, adding color and depth to her inventories of memory which, while often made free in form, were never prose broken into pie-plate fragments. Unlike other accomplished writers who are daunted and intimidated by poetry, she understood the differences, and she grew into another career with its accompanying credits and accolades.

Leslie was deeply thoughtful, poignant at times, funny, yet always a person of order and decorum. Little wonder she played important roles in various organizations: the Florida Writers Association, the Orlando Area Poets (she was their President), and the Florida State Poets Association, where she was the Board's Secretary. When we also needed a parliamentarian, Leslie accepted that job, too. Always duty with her, always decorum. Leslie Halpern was competent at anything she did. Her degree from the University of Kentucky ultimately led to the unique classes she taught at Rollins College; her teaching for FSPA informed our conventions, and her engagements around the state at local FSPA chapters contributed to the effectiveness of our Speakers Bureau.

Without betraying confidences, as many who knew her likely cherish some of those and will likewise keep them, I can say that Leslie loved her son, and was hopeful for his future, as well as for her own. I think she was hopeful for all of us. Going back to that phrase from Shakespeare, that same hope remains with and for Leslie, and I trust, for you and me; it extends beyond what we do here in this art, this thing of ours, to that greater "undiscovered country" we seem so often impelled to proffer ideas about, fused with our emotions and our coveting for those who have already ventured there ahead of us, the poets we lose but are not lost, living the poetry of the spirit we so try to wind into our lines, in awe and wonder.

FLORIDA STATE POET LAUREATE UPDATE

As last reported, the 2019 State Laureate Program to name the new State Poet Laureate has moved slowly, and now extends into 2020. But, there IS a plan. The step by step process leading to that selection is now taking place. The plan, as outlined (coming from official state issue from the Division of Arts and Cultural Affairs), goes this way:

Florida's Poet Laureate - 1 appointment to be made

Background:

Established by the Florida Legislature and revised in 2014, the Florida Poet Laureate is an honorary position created in the Florida Department of State. Florida's Poet Laureate promotes reading, writing and the appreciation of poetry throughout the state and encourages students to express themselves through poetry and reading out loud. State Poet Laureates must serve a term of four (4) years. Florida's current Poet Laureate is Peter Meinke, who was appointed by former Governor Rick Scott in 2015.

The process for selecting the Poet Laureate involves the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, in accordance with procedures adopted by the Department of State. The Council solicits and accept nominations for appointment as the State Poet Laureate. Florida Statute 265.2863 outlines specific qualifications needed to be considered as a nominee. The Council reviews the nominations and recommends at least five nominees to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State reviews the Council's recommendations and submits three nominees to the Governor. The Governor then appoints one nominee as the State Poet Laureate.

Proposed Timeline:

January 2020 Division of Cultural Affairs meets with the Florida Humanities Council to discuss

publicity for the Poet Laureate nomination process

January 2020 Open online nominations

February 6 Deadline for nominations

Submit nominations to the Florida Council on Arts and Culture for review February 13

March 2 Florida Council on Arts and Culture meeting for reviewing nominations

March 3 Florida Council on Arts and Culture submits recommendations (five)

to the Secretary of State

March 17 Secretary of State submits recommendations (three) to the Governor

April 2020 The Governor appoints the State Poet Laureate

NOTE: April is National Poetry Month

In case you were wondering, I have clarified with the Division that Peter Meinke shall remain State Poet Laureate until the new Laureate's appointment in April.

FSPA's own Laureate nominees, among others around the state who may be added to the list for consideration, include: Lola Haskins (second nomination), Carol Frost, Silvia Curbelo, Denise Duhamel, David Kirby and Virgil Suarez. All of the new FSPA nominees have agreed to join Peter and Lola as FSPA Chancellors, with Silvia Curbelo to be installed Spring 2020, Denise Duhamel and Virgil Suarez in Fall 2020, and David Kirby in Spring 2021. Carol Frost was installed at our Fall 2019 Convention.

TWELVE CHAIRS COURSES, DISTANCE LEARNING

While certain events as noted in this issue have slowed the progress of this project, FSPA is committed to using the resources of the FSPA-accredited Twelve Chairs Courses (the 12-hour Short Course, and the full 180-hour Advanced Course) for which the group has now been given control for its own educational purposes and fundraising. At the Fall Convention it was made clear that our group would need additional funding for convention PA equipment and other projects, and that sale of distance learning versions of the courses would be made available to FSPA members at group-discounted rates.

To date, 31 members have already taken the Advanced Course live. 25 people have already completed the Short Course live.) The distance learning versions of these courses contain the complete courses on flash-drive audio playable on your computer, plus all the accompanying handouts that can be viewed in real time. You complete the courses at your own pace, and when completed, FSPA will accredit that completion and issue a diploma to you. Several members have recently begun both of the distance learning courses.

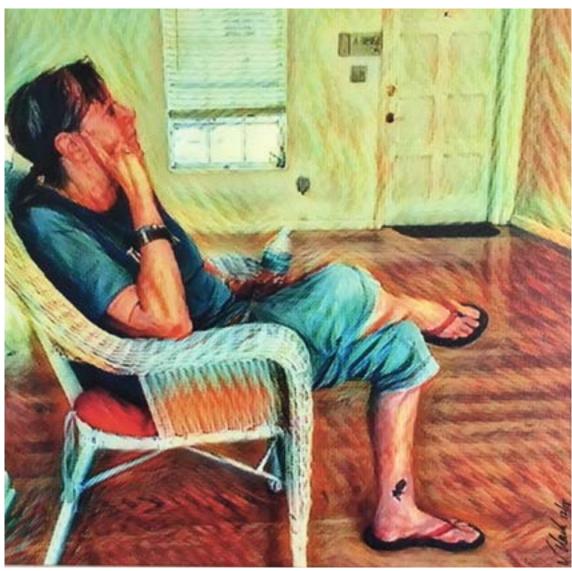
The Short Course is available to members for a discounted, single payment of \$50.00, with check payable to FSPA. The Advanced Course is currently being piloted at a cost of \$295.00 for the entire course. While the latter commitment may not be right for you right now, the Short Course, which distills the content of the Advanced Course down to a consecutive series of aphorisms and maxims, is something every member can and should complete. As anyone who has taken either course will tell you, this material is comprehensive and includes aspects of poetry writing that will be new to most poets, even those who are already accomplished.

More information and testimonials about these courses will be forthcoming. Again, these are now FSPA's courses, your courses. Take advantage of them, and help both FSPA and your own work. For more information, contact Al Rocheleau at ARRO40@aol.com or call 407-592-4527.

Keep writing.



PROFILES IN POETRY



A Portrait of the Poet, Digital Image by Larry Clark

A conversation with the poet...

C.M. Clark and FSPA member Janna Schledorn

C.M. Clark's poetry has appeared in *Painted Bride Quarterly, Prime Number Magazine, The Paddock Review, Ovenbird, The Lindenwood Review, the South Florida Poetry Journal* and *Gulf Stream* magazine. Her work is also featured in Demeter Press's anthology, *Travellin' Mama*. She served as inaugural Poet in Residence at the Deering Estate Artists Village in Miami, and has been a featured presenter at the Miami Book Fair. Author of full-length works *Charles Deering Forecasts the Weather & Other Poems* (Solution Hole Press, 2012) and *Dragonfly* (Solution Hole Press, 2016), Clark's chapbook, *The Five Snouts*, was released by Finishing Line Press (2017). Her forthcoming new collection, *Exoskeletal*, was published in May, 2019. Clark has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Miami, and has taught writing and literature at Miami Dade College.

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"...poems emerge
from a rag and bone
shop,
where I find myself
most often both
deaf and dumb..."

— C.M. Clark

Schledorn. You have four books of poetry out now. Can you tell us a bit about the process – from idea inception to completion and publication?

Clark. Yes, the issue of process! And the most humbling question for me as a writer. It embarrasses me to admit the stumbling and uncertain directions my work habits seem to follow. Unlike many writers I know – and know of – for me, individual poems emerge from a rag and bone shop where I find myself most often both deaf and dumb, where the language I hear is being simultaneously translated by non-native, untrained linguists, while I do my best to handwrite the dictation as it's given to me! It's only later when these raw materials are unearthed and laid bare that I am able to sit with them – with an editor's eye – and shape the words into a more pleasing and comprehensible form.

Over time, I learned that my work as a poet actually parallels the strategies used more often by novelists. In another life, I would have chosen fiction as my poison of choice, inasmuch as it is narrative sequencing – plot, character, setting – that catalyzes my creativity.

Given the narrative quality of my process, readers often ask how do I know when a collection is done, insofar as there is no real beginning, middle and end to these stories? I suppose I just know a collection is complete when the characters are done speaking.

Schledorn. Your latest book, Exoskeletal, takes as its premise the narrative of a group of travelers on an updated and somewhat ethereal Silk Road. Can you tell us about some of the characters (Alice Lin is my favorite) and their relationships?

Clark. I hope this doesn't sound evasive, but Exoskeletal's characters often elude me, as well. Whereas Alice Lin may seem to be the central protagonist, by no means is her identity easily discernible. Like the rest of us, she is someone to whom life happens. Her mutability, really, is no different from the porous and shapeshifting boundaries of our own most secret selves.

My hope in framing the scaffolding of this collection was that readers could identify with some, if not all of the speakers. Like most of us, Alice has a family: at least two daughters, a grandmother whose iconography contains Alice's childhood memories, a partner/husband who moves fitfully in and out of her days. There are other family groups and voyagers we meet along the road, including Tirza, a young Muslim girl, even a cameo appearance by Temujin – aka Genghis Khan – along with his wife, Borte. They are all fictitious or fictionalized, they are all imagined – as the book's disclaimer warns. They are all no one but themselves.

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Schledorn. We've talked some about how you start with an idea for a book. I would imagine not everyone starts with an idea for a book, but rather we have piles of poems from workshop prompts or powerful overflows of feeling. Surely, you have those too? How does one cull through, know what to keep or toss?

Clark. Not trying to be stubborn here, but I intentionally make every effort to subvert the lyric/ personal thrust that much poetry assumes. My poems are neither lyrical nor personal; in fact, anything personal that finds its way into my writing is then transformed into something else: repurposed, recycled into something a character enacts. As T.S. Eliot reminds us, poetry is not an expression of emotion, but an escape from it; as if baleful and toxic experience can be sanitized, and brought under a surefire control by the rendering of these human struggles into the language and architecture of poetic making. So, every emotion experienced can be made "useful," and lose its power to terrify and threaten, by attributing it to another voice that lives and manages life within a poem. Good thing those voices are far more adept at living than I am.



Schledorn. This is hard work! What are some specific tools, tricks, traits that are most valuable for compiling and completing a book of poetry?

Clark. As I mentioned earlier, for me, the most important technique each collection presents is its architecture. Even when individual poems seem to arrive in a more random, iterative manner, there always must be a home for them eventually within the larger framework of a collection's narrative. For example, my current new collection in progress with a working title of "State Road 60," is designed to contain the history of a Florida extended family whose lives are scattered somewhere along this highway – from Tampa in the west, to Indian River. Along the way I happened to be working on a seemingly unrelated piece about how we experience our body's uncertainties, especially as we mature and age. One thing led to another, and there it was: a poem about sea birds on the Atlantic terminus of the road - "Thyroid Insinuations and the Sand Hill Cranes." It's not about forcing poems to comply with a pre-existing intention, but rather about keeping the larger picture in mind.

Schledorn. So, once this architecture is completed, what then? How important is networking? How did you find publishers? What resources, and institutions and people, are there to help?

Clark. As someone who began a poet's career rather late in the day, I quickly realized that networking was everything. Building some form of reputation – getting your name and work known - these would be the steps needed to ensure audiences, readers, acceptance emails (instead of rejections), invitations to literary events, and eventual publication.

I realized it would not be enough just to be a good poet. You had to be a known poet, as well. Many poetry journals today have expanded to include online formats, and this practice has been a blessing and a curse for emerging writers, both young and old. There would be more publication opportunities (even if online publication exclusively), but also more competition for that cherished page or two where your poem could finally leave your aching parental hands to exist in the wider world as a finished work and life-on-its-own.

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I learned quickly that poetry friends and literary colleagues would be the best source of information regarding publishing opportunities of all kinds. And unless you are one of those lucky writers whose ultimate satisfaction derives from the creation alone, you need to find readers somewhere to complete the process of poetic creation. If a poem is made and there's no one to hear or read it, has its true intention been realized?

Reading a lot of contemporary poetry, becoming knowledgeable about how, where and when to submit your work - these journeyman activities are also vital. Print resources such as the AWP Writer's Chronicle and Poets & Writers magazine, as well as the invaluable online resource and submission engine, Submittable.com, are also stock and trade for a working poet who considers their writing to be more than a means of self-expression, or a casual hobby. To be taken seriously means you must take yourself seriously. And do the work of submitting, submitting, submitting.

Schledorn. You have worked with Miami Book Fair and the Florida Literary Arts Coalition: How does work with these kinds of organizations contribute to your success and enjoyment as a poet?

Clark. Writing is lonely work. I've always envied artists – dancers, musicians, actors – who get to work in teams, to inspire each other, share creative practices, and interact during the process of creation. Having opportunities to encounter other writers, to work side by side with them, is very important for me personally. It is too easy to get lost inside my words, to lose perspective.

Working as a professor of writing and literature at Miami Dade College for years, I enjoyed an extremely close connection to the Miami Book Fair through the many years as it grew from a small gathering in downtown Miami, to the world-class event it is now, each November hosting hundreds of authors and over half a million visitors during this ten-day event. This is a writer's dream – to read their work alongside the greatest poets, novelists and non-fiction writers working today; to participate in amazing panels and programs – as both presenter and audience – virtually from morning to night.

In a more modest setting, but no less meaningful, I have also enjoyed reading and presenting at the Florida Literary Arts Coalition annual conference "Other Words," where mostly in-state writers – along with some from throughout the southeast region – have an annual opportunity to gather and debrief. These occasions serve as a writer's professional trade show: we share war stories, bemoan frustrations, enjoy each other's successes. The publication of my sister – or brother-poet's new collection means that somewhere there will be a literary press interested in my work, too.



Schledorn. When you read last year for National Poetry Month at Eastern Florida State College in Melbourne, you mentioned how much you enjoy public readings and working in a collaborative environment. Your move from Miami to Sebastian, to a less-populated, less urban area certainly affects the opportunities for participating in that poetry community. What are some ways smaller communities could work toward building and fostering a vibrant and supportive poetry scene? What would you like to see in your town?

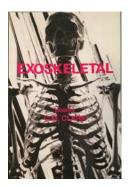
Clark. You're right! It's been a huge change moving from Miami to Indian River County. I have found that even though the opportunities to take my show on the road may be fewer, there seems to be more intimacy and real connections made with audiences within the closer-knit environment of the East Central Coast.

I was very fortunate early on to connect with the Indian River Poet Laureate Sean Sexton through a mutual friend. Sean introduced me to the Laura Riding Jackson Foundation, an amazing group of selfless literary devotees dedicated to enhancing the literary life of Indian River in honor of the mid-20th century poet Laura Riding Jackson, who lived and worked in the Wabasso area.

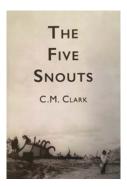
The Foundation has provided me with an unmatched opportunity to meet local writers and to participate in their activities, such as a wonderful weekly writers group I attend, and the annual Poetry Bar-B-Q, which celebrates poetry every year, spreading the word, building new audiences. Let's face it. Poetry is a tough sell during the best of circumstances. Sometimes we all feel we are reading and writing for ourselves, for each other alone.

I would love to see more opportunities for local poets to read to the public and share their work – maybe at local bookstores and libraries. And, to move beyond the occasions of Poetry Month in April. Why can't poetry be on tap twelve months a year?! It may be an acquired taste – after all, poetry is like the sushi of literature. But once you try it, you can learn to love it, and to crave it.

BOOKS BY C.M. CLARK



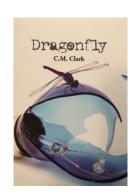
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POEMS BY C.M. CLARK

THYROID INSINUATIONS & THE SANDHILL CRANES

It was before she saw the dunes and the paved roadways, the symphony of zippers that give way, electrifying twin concrete lanes cracked in the corners, sugared with sand, and as sure

as magnetic poles rule the longitude line from Greenwich mean to a gated mews facing 60 West, the silvered teeth snap shut, clacking their reluctant closure, now a soldered wound overheated and healed, but only

for now.

Such simpering, the bored diagnosis. Adamant to trust those calculations of enzyme and excess, triglyceride pressure quotients, the drip drip

drip of aortal determination. Better try elsewhere with your stents, the calipers and speculums always colder than promised. It's

just a small gland, like others pocketing their endocrine rhythms in secret adherence to a lodestar, a set of mirrored instructions as yet

unencrypted.

She remembers the katydid calls and who can resist? A voice that falls into the soprano's cleaved register. But

alona the curve as the road curls west and away from the known cleared lots, also in their time silenced by concrete's slump and pour,

never wasting one peck or one misplaced feather, their slender necks -uninterrupted -- lean like sand dune grasses, waiting without hope.

lust a seamless blur in their massed grouping, the collective stubbornness imitating what passes in some circles

for hunger.

POEMS BY C.M. CLARK

CONGRUENCE

"We triangulate." Alice sees them in her mind. The pink one and the citrine. Tang then

sweet. The curved dunes of Kinzu Pass seem insurmountable in this light. But the air is light lighter

than sand.

And there's their beaten highway. The weigh station where trucks get put on pause and protein cells conspire

to the thirty-ninth maternal generation. "I hear her breathe." Alice breathes, the light curls off

her dun cheek. We are here, the sisters commensurate, the female gone to ground and

utterly isosceles.

POEMS BY C.M. CLARK

YOU WILL NOT MAKE RELICS

This time Le-Ah brought flowers. She wrapped them in oiled paper to discourage the black flies, the army ants, the

rampaging legions of the under core - set to work their spell. This chained plot she named her garden, not hers really

just plowed and pruned by one blunt-cut grandmother dressed in cotton and knit socks, one never-mirrored face

to face. Yet the gardening gloves fit hand to glove like a glove. Le-Ah

never saw the irony in the empty day. There were clouds obscuring the sun and their eyes gazed sideways the wind.

Now the day is daylight's end. There are no geese to separate, their plucking subdued - the light

closed in cloud cover - the shade clear across the yard of sandgrain and slide. Le-Ah slips

away, dogged to stealth in the corners of traffic - last feed last peat ember - bed and food

a reluctant camouflage.

The condo in Xi'an was spacious, the garden cool and two flights down. In summer insects flew, finding the pinholes

in the kitchen screen. But room to wander from room to room.

(Continued on next page)

POEMS BY C.M. CLARK

Movement to a space framing absolution, cheek by jowl enumerated - and slip-streaming site by site, small, one key cut the illusion

of security. The papers of note keep company decomposing watermarks, fingerprints under black light

the milestones and threshold markers, the mule's retort. Joint tenants of an old world

limned by paper.

The sand has a voice, the raptors, the wings of falcons sheering cloud wool. The spring coats of young camels, the males.

In Xi'an the desk drawers opened and closed, the fires banked, the windows oiled hinges oiled, newsprint, cleaning casements

with vinegar, its presence loud, loud the street traffic, the feet of females prosaic and secular, the males bouncing angels' virtual choirs.

Dinner tables and low-riding clouds in spring. Basso profundo, the fathers and brothers, the sons by marriage, like clouds interred.

The grounding horizon, the limit line – a scarab that entered the wrong ear, the wrong untraveled

voyagers, the singing higher, the loss of range and hormone and sheer

accompaniment.

POEMS BY C.M. CLARK

THE UNDERTAKING OF ALICE LIN

My father says remember the ace of spades. He called for the burial on a windy morning, the wind like March gruff along the steppes, the wind

before rain and end of drought and frost and stasis. Utter lethargy that crimps the eyebrow hairs to curl. The crimp and cramp of organ and tissue

unused to adapt any longer. The blood readings showed no catastrophe, but pain oh pain said otherwise. The spade

was handled often and well, nicks in the wood, dents in the metal curvature, hungry for dirt for more for

earth. The tradition of this tribe, these nomads who knew little of earth, just sand, called for the upside first signaling

reluctance. No, no one no one wants to heap earth on the plain pine wood, but

we must we must turn turn and shift the shovel rightside, deep hungry and concave

side up. And this earth is the flip side of reluctance - this we must. And flowers

flowers to soften the absolute purity of earth, the frail color and softness saying

we must.



Mary Rogers-Grantham, FSPA Contest Chair

Please see the contest page on the FSPA website for rules and restrictions.

Here is a link

2020 FSPA Contests List

#1 FSPA FREE VERSE AWARD

Subject: Any.

Form: Free Verse. 1 page limit. 1st PL \$100. 2nd PL \$75. 3rd PL \$50. 3 HM. Entry fee \$3 per poem for FSPA members, \$4 for non-members. Limit 2 poems. Sponsored by FSPA, Inc.

2 FSPA FORMAL VERSE AWARD

Subject: Any.

Form: Formal Verse. 1 page limit. (Include form name at top of page.) 1st PL \$100. 2nd PL \$75. 3rd PL \$50. 3 HM Entry fee \$3 per poem for FSPA members, \$4 for non-members. Limit 2 poems. Sponsored by FSPA, Inc.

#3 LISTENING AWARD

Subject: Listening. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$50. 2nd PL \$35. 3rd PL \$15. 3HM Sponsored by Linda Eve Diamond

#4 TOMOKA POETS AWARD

Subject: At the Beach. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Tomoka Poets

#5 WILLARD B. FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

Subject: Threat to the Environment. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by John F. Foster

#6 ORLANDO AREA POETS AWARD

Subject: Theme Parks and Attractions. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Orlando Area Poets

#7 JUNE OWENS MEMORIAL AWARD

Subject: "Secret Languages"
Form: Any. 40 Line Limit.
Note: This is the title of one of June's poems.
Poets may interpret it as they wish.
1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM
Sponsored by New River Poets

#8 THE POET'S VISION AWARD

Subject: Any. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Janet Watson

#9 NEW RIVER POETS AWARD

(In Honor of our Deceased Members) Subject: Any. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by New River Poets

#10 VILLANELLE AWARD

Subject: Any. Form: Villanelle. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Joyce Shiver

#11 HUMOR AWARD

Subject: Humor.

Form: Rhymed & Metered. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Sunshine Poets

#12 THE LIVE POETS SOCIETY AWARD

Subject: The Dark Side. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

#13 MIAMI POETS AWARD

Subject: Trees. Form: Any. 50 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Miami Poets

#14 KATE KENNEDY MEMORIAL AWARD

Subject: Any.

Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by B. J. Alligood

#15 WEINBAUM/GLIDDEN AWARD

Subject: Issues and concerns faced by LGBTQ Community and those who love them. Form: Any. 50 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Robyn Weinbaum

#16 HENRIETTA & MARK KROAH FOUNDERS AWARD

(Free to FSPA Members)
Subject: Wedding.
Form: Any. 40 Line Limit.
1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM
Sponsored by FSPA, Inc.

#17 PAST PRESIDENTS AWARD

Subject: Answers. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Past Presidents of FSPA

#18 FRANK YANNI AWARD

Subject: Books. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit. 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Frank Yanni

#19 JANET BINKLEY ERWIN MEMORIAL AWARD

Subject: Any. Form: Any. 40 Line Limit 1st PL \$25. 2nd PL \$15. 3rd PL \$10. 3HM Sponsored by Poetry for the Love of It (PLOI)



Save the date: **April 18, 2020**

"Come to School!" for the 2020 FSPA Spring Fling, on April 18, 2020. It will be a one-day event in Zephyrhills, Florida, hosted by New River Poets. This unique schoolhouse setting will stimulate your senses and inspire your writing.

Richland School was built in 1938 through the WPA (Works Progress Administration) established by President Franklin Roosevelt as part of his New Deal plan to provide jobs for people during the Depression.

The school housed students in classes from first grade to sixth grade well into the 1950s and was later used for the Headstart program in the 1980s.

In 1997 it was purchased and renovated by Clark and Meg Roman.

> ~ Meg Roman, New River Poets member



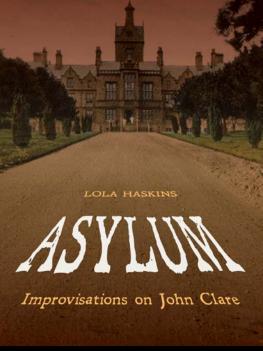
The schoolhouse is a magical place where light, coming through the large windows, sets the spacious rooms aglow. Artwork by the owners adorns the walls, and it is truly a gallery of eye-pleasing displays. The building has served as a venue for many events, including FSPA and New River Poets celebrations. Remembering that this was once a place where children gathered to learn, Janet Watson, president of New River Poets, wrote the following poem::

The Old Richland Schoolhouse

Shoes scuff bare floorboards and are followed by the sounds of slamming desktops, clearing throats, and sniffling noses. A choral murmuring of lessons begins. You hear whispering behind open books, the scratch of pens, and muffled giggles. Words squeak as they are written across the blackboard. and stiff scissors chew curls of construction paper. Smell the spilled ink, the peanut butter sandwiches, and the damp jackets as they dry on backs of chairs pulled close to the pot belly stove. Rainy daylight stretches into the room through tall windows. As fragile as clouds of chalk dust, spirits have become students again and are hoping that the sun will come out for recess

~ lanet Watson

Lola Haskins Poetry



Published by University of Pittsburgh Press

Asylum presents the journey John Clare might have taken in 1841 if, when he escaped the madhouse, he'd been traveling in his head rather than on his feet. Ms. Haskins starts out with as little sense of direction as Clare had yet, after wandering all over the map, she too finally reaches home. The book's four sections are where she rests for the night. The first is a tender look at life and death. The second paints the world through which she walks. The third digresses to the supernatural and in the process is laugh-out-loud funny. In the fourth, she arrives in her dear north-west England, having learned from Clare that she too can be happy anywhere.

Now available on Amazon — Click here.

Learn more at lolahaskins.com



Carolynn Scully

FSPA Student Contest Report

The entries for the 2019-2020 contest have been received, sorted and sent to our two contest judges. There were only 204 entries and two grade levels were combined because of few entries. We had fewer disqualifications, but the students did not follow my instructions as to how to set up their pages, most were still centered instead of left aligned. I have not determined the reason for fewer entries this year. It may be attributed for the short lag in getting out the information due to **Lee Bennett Hopkins** passing. I, again, call on all members to help promote this contest. It is a source of encouragement for our next generation of poets.

~ Carolynn Scully, Student Contests Chair

MBERSPOTLIG



Breathtaking Landscapes

show up while ferrying or cruising St. Johns River

where

diversity in the ecosystem is awe-inspiring

where

I met the South Florida Alligator Lily, with its soft white jagged bloom with six white spikes extending from underneath it like protective sentinels.

I wonder

how this radical looking bloom attracts dainty butterflies to pay terse visits before lifting off to their next adventure

~ Mary Rogers-Grantham

Mary Rogers-Grantham is an Arkansas native, award-winning educator and an accomplished poet. She adores family and teaching, respects nature and humanity, enjoys writing and exploring, and employs daily fitness and meditation.

Mary describes her first year of teaching in Kansas City, Missouri: "It was a colorful experience, teaching English to a super energized group of seventh graders. Together, we established a classroom environment for learning, continued to learn from each other and soon fell in love with each other."

Her career includes teaching middle school, high school and community college. Her awards include Excellence in Teaching, Crystal Apple, Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

She still loves teaching. "It is one of the joys of my life." She currently teaches at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida where she is also the Academic Success Lab Coordinator.

"It is my pleasure to be the Contest Chairperson for Florida State Poets Association for the past four years. I get to meet and communicate with contest judges who are delightfully willing to take on their categorical roles. Although I send them thank you notes, I receive some of the most thoughtful thank you responses from them along with their winning poem selections."

Mary's poems capture and commemorate, cherish and celebrate the precious gift of life. Her books of poetry include It's Okay: Poetic Memoirs, Clear Velvet, Under a Daylight Moon and When the Sun Sails. She is working on her next book of poems, Tracing Rainbows. Her books are available on Amazon (see links on page 17.)

Beginning

"If you go anywhere, even paradise, you will miss your home." ~ Malala Yousafzai

I come from a place where time slowly simmered like a fresh cut of lean roast beef in an unforgiving oven.

Where

the audacity of weekday mornings strummed my nostrils awake with the arrogant aroma of brewed coffee searching for a hot country breakfast.

Where

Saturday morning sleep ended with fluffy homemade biscuits topped with farm butter and wild berry jelly, and a side of skillet red potatoes.

I come from a place where I picked wild blackberries by the gallon, walked bare foot with scorpions and scaled trees that dared me to fall.

Where

steamy Sunday afternoons welcomed a sweaty cold glass of sweet sun tea with a fresh brilliant yellow lemon slice clinging to the rim waiting to be dunked.

Where

poetry basked in dialect and culture, emerged during family mealtime, showed up during prayer time, and grew wild in fields along highways.

I come from a place where hours in the dog days of summer moved at the pace of a charming garden snail navigating its purposed destination.

~ Mary Rogers-Grantham



Mary Rogers-Grantham at her desk at Flagler College

I can get there from anywhere, and I'm going there.

I'll drive along coastlines, and then on country roads and meet the river that was never there.

Sometimes it follows me, or shows up beside me, like a friend who was never there.

I can get there from anywhere, and I'm going there.

I'll cross the aged wooden bridge and say goodbye to the river that was never there.

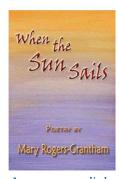
I'll savor the fresh scent of sawdust. follow the landscape of the night sky and find the seven stars that were never there.

I can get there from anywhere, and I'm going there.

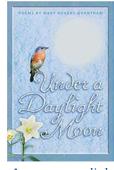
I'll inhale the smell of promise, and wet my weathered windpipe with the sweet spring water that was never there

I can get there from anywhere, and I'm going there.

~ Mary Rogers-Grantham



Amazon.com link



Amazon.com link



Amazon.com link



Amazon.com link

FSPA CHAPTER NEWS & UPDATES

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Big Bend Poets & Writers

Gordon Magill tallyman01@comcast.net

Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Robert Blenheim rblenheim@aol.com

Miami Poets

Tere Starr terestarr@mindspring.com

North Florida Poetry Hub

Steffani Fletcher steffani@hopeathand.org

Orlando Area Poets

Diane Neff, acting president d.i.neff@gmail.com

Osceola Poetry Society

Mackenzie Riley

Poetry for the Love of It

Charles Hazelip dochazelip@comcast.net

Space Coast Poets

Jim Peterson outdabox@aol.com

Sunshine Poets

Cheri Herald c herald@hotmail.com

Tomoka Poets

Mary-Ann Westbrook 1poetry.3@gmail.com

New River Poets

Janet Watson JMPWAT@aol.com



Tere Starr

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.



Tere Starr and Zorina Frey at the Miami Book Fair

Miami Poets

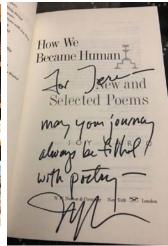
Miami Poets will celebrate the eleventh anniversary of the Miami Poets Soirée in January. **Tere Starr** moderates the monthly gatherings each first Wednesday from 1 to 3 pm at the Pinecrest Branch Library. On second Mondays we meet from 1 to 3 pm with Group 10, the critique group facilitated by **Steven Liebowitz**. During November's soiree we shared poems by featured Miami International Book Fair poets and planned meetups at the fair's many poetry presentations. Especially exciting were readings by **Joy Harjo**, our new United States Poet Laureate and **Sharon Olds**, a past recipient of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

Achievements: **Zorina Frey** performed during Lip Service Stories at the book fair. Her screenplay, Harley Quinn, had a cold reading at Speak Easy Theater on December 10 in Miami Beach. Zorina welcomes submissions to her online magazine, 45 Magazine Women's Literary Journal at https://45magazineiwa.com. Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk's poem, "Do I have the right to kill a cockroach?" appears in Eber & Wein's Best Poets of 2019. Tere Starr held a Poetry Soirée for the Brandeis Women's South Miami Chapter and for the book review group, Ages of Pages. Tere, Elizabeth, Pat Bonner Milone, Rosa Douglass and Ricki Dorn shared their poetry during Books & Books at Suniland's Five Minute Pieces. Pat also participated in Ricki's Poetry Delight Night at Miami Dade College. Pat's letter "Unsafe waters" and **Connie Goodman-Milone**'s letters, "Ho-ho-ho? No. Boo!" and "New Flavor" were published in the Miami Herald. Jo Christiane Ledakis' poem, "From Dreams," appears in South Florida Writers Association's Author's Voice. Congratulations to Cyndee Levy-Angulo's first place in the Past Presidents Award, to Pat Milone's second place in the Tomoka Poets Award and Connie Goodman-Milone's two honorable mentions in FSPA's 2019 Contests. The Miami Poets continue to spread our love of the written word as we share poetry throughout Miami and beyond.

~ Tere Starr, President



Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk and Joy Harjo, United States Poet Laureate at Books and Books



Autographed book



Robert E. Blenheim

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 pm and end at 6:30 pm and the group welcomes all poets, and anybody interested in poetry, to attend.

The Live Poets Society of Daytona Beach

Wednesday of each month at the Daytona Beach Regional Library at City Island. Meetings go from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., and the group welcomes all poets, and anybody interested in poetry, to attend.

Actively bouncing back without members resting on their laurels after hosting the October FSPA annual convention, attendance at meetings has soared recently. The chapter has had a workshop on writing In Memoriam stanzas (from the long poem by **Alfred, Lord Tennyson**), as well challenges to write poems on various subjects including "secret languages," "new beginnings," and "something I am thankful for." The Live Poets Society also analyzed Hong Kong poet Mary Jean Chan's famous controversial poem, "The Window."

Most of the members have been extra busy on many personal projects, and Vicki Iorio is a featured reader on Dan Pel's poetry show at the Hub in New Smyrna Beach in January. Bob Blenheim continues to sell copies of his recent "Poetry Parody Songbook" CD, much to his astonishment.

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

~ Robert E. Blenheim, President



Llewellyn and John McKernan, and Vicki Iorio at a recent chapter meeting



Bruce Woodworth



Bob Blenheim



Diane Neff

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.





Amazon.com link

Orlando Area Poets

Our chapter is deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our dear friend and chapter president, **Leslie Halpern**, who unexpectedly passed away on December 20, 2019. She recently taught a course in the Rollins College STARS Program titled "Dreamscapes in Art," in which she discussed (among other things) how dreams are used in poems by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Keats, and Edgar Allan Poe. We will miss her steady hand in guidance at chapter meetings, and her dedication to poetry and FSPA.

Carlton Johnson won the two first place prizes and Honorable Mention in the Fall event held in Daytona Beach. He also had a win with his entry for the on-site contest of "Why I write Poetry" which was reprinted, along with the notes from the judge in the last issue of OPAP.

Elaine Person will be published on *The Five-Two Poems* on Crime online, (*Crime Poetry Weekly* since 2011), on one Monday in December. Elaine's haiku will appear written with Elaine's vocal recording of her crime poem as well. Accompanying the poem, *The Five-Two* will publish the thought processes that made her create this poem.

Elaine took part in the first annual Créalde School of Art Holiday Art Stroll, Friday Dec 6, 2019 and Saturday Dec 7, 2019. She included her writing and photography. In addition, Elaine will led an Inspired Words—Writing to Art workshop at Crealdé School of Art's Hannibal Square Heritage Center location on December 14. This workshop had attendees writing to art and going home with solid writing.

Elaine also led a workshop at the Maitland Public Library on December 15 and will do so again on January 19 (third Sunday of the month) at 3:30 pm. The theme is Double Vision and will be free and open to the public. The quarterly Coffeehouse at Maitland Public Library for Double Vision, emceed by **Elaine Person**, will be Friday, January 24 at 7 p.m. https://www.maitlandpubliclibrary.org/events/ ... or call 407-647-7700.

Carolynn Scully won 3rd place in the Tomoka Poets contest of FSPA "Playing at the Beach." Her photograph "Yikes" and poem "Empty Nest" were published in the 2019 Cadence. Honorable Mention from FSA-NLAPW was given for her poem "Pebbles and Boulders."

Two of Carolynn's devotions previously published by her church in 30 Days of Thanksgiving have been republished on the church website - "Remembering the Good" and "The Giver is More than the Gift". There is a possibility of another one could show up in the future.

Mark Andrew James Terry has released his new book, *Magnolia's Bloom*—a memoir in poetry and story form illustrating what it was like growing up on the vast Magnolia Ranch in Central Florida.

~ Diane Neff, Acting President



Janet Watson

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



John Foster

New River Poets

In March, 2020, New River Poets will be celebrating 20 years as a chapter of FSPA. We look forward to celebrating those years in poetry during the FSPA Spring Fling, which we will host in Zephyrhills, Florida, on April 18, with some special "anniversary" activities. As of this writing, we have an agenda with exciting presenters, and the day will be filled with surprises. Find more information about the unique venue in the special article on the Old Richland Schoolhouse that is included in this issue of OPAP (on page 16). The registration form will be in the March/April issue of OPAP. We look forward to welcoming FSPA members from all over the state.

We were particularly proud of our chapter's many wins in the 2019 FSPA Contests—30 awards in all! Congratulations to John Foster, Beverly Joyce, JC Kato, Andrea McBride, Meg Roman, Susan Stahr, Cheryl Van Beek, Janet Watson and Betty Ann Whitney. The 2020 contest pamphlet has been distributed, and our fine poets will be submitting their work again. In November we welcomed a new member Peggy Burgess, a lifelong poet and talented musician. We are fortunate that she has found her way to us. **John Foster** continues to promote poetry in his independent-living community. He just concluded a series of six poetry workshops. Poetry generated will be displayed on the "Poet-Tree" bulletin board at Freedom Plaza.

Our January meeting always includes a potluck party to begin a new year in poetry. At our first meeting in 2020 we also shared our poetry challenge for the month—writing parodies of famous songs. It should be at least as entertaining as the poems shared in November—inspired by the dreams we had when we were young, about what we wanted to be when we grew up.

We wish all FSPA poets a Happy New Year and encourage you to keep writing! The world needs poetry.

~ Janet Watson, President



Evelyn Ann Romano

Members at Large

Evelyn Ann Romano

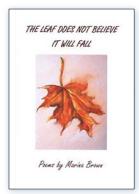
Member-at -large, **Evelyn Ann Romano** organized a <u>Mary Oliver</u> poetry reading on October 12th at the New Tampa Library. She, along with four other local poets, including New River Poet, Janet Watson, read their favorite Mary Oliver poems. The event was very well attended and broke Library attendance records for a poetry event!

Gordon Magill

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



Mark Mustian



Amazon.com link

Big Bend Poets & Writers

Our work is rooted in the belief that literature is vital to sustaining a vibrant culture. We focus on nurturing literature's source: creative writers. Our mission is to foster the professional development of poets and writers, to promote communication throughout the literary community, and to help create an environment in which literature can be appreciated by the widest audience.

We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at Barnes & Noble bookstore. Meetings begin at 7pm. Many members meet between 6-7pm in the store's Cafe to network.

Recent meetings have featured **Mark Mustian**, best selling author and founder of Word of South Festival, and **Meri Culp**, a creative writing teacher at Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College for over 30 years, Meri's poetry has been extensively published in numerous poetry journals. In early 2020 we are pleased to have **Marina Brown**, a writer, poet, musician and artist. Marina will read from her newest release, a volume of poetry entitled, *The Leaf Does Not Believe It Will Fall*. This collection recently won a Silver Medal at the Florida Authors and Publishers Association awards, and is a finalist in the Royal Palm Literary Award.

In addition to our regular monthly meetings, we now have two other venues in which local poets and writers can participate at open mic readings. These venues have featured **Michael Rothenberg II**, co-founder of 100 Thousand Poets for Change, **Terry Galloway** poet, author of *Mean Little Deaf Queer*, director and performer for stage, radio, video and film, and **Jo Anne Richardson** a poet, photographer, and public speaker. Jo Anne's first volume of poems is scheduled for publication in 2020.

~ Linda Wright, Secretary for Gordon Magill, President



Meri Culp



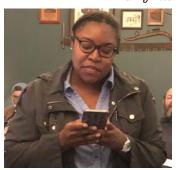
Jo Anne Richardson



Mary-Ann Westbrook



Barry Kite



Nicole Jenkins



Linda Eve Diamond

Tomoka Poets

Tomoka Poets continue, as always, to meet, read, critique, and learn poetry at the Ormond Beach library.

The owner of our Open Mic Coffee Shop opened a second location, Copperline Coffee in One Daytona on International Speedway Blvd. across from the race track and invited us to do a night of poetry to help open the new facility. It was a fun night in a new fun location. We had a few new readers arrive and what a thrill that was for all of us. We welcomed Barry Kite, Nicole Jenkins and Kay Stanton to our fold, and are hoping to hear a lot more from them in the future. December open mic was canceled due to its falling on Christmas Eve. We will open the new year, January 28, back in Copperline Coffee in the Pavilion in Port Orange.

By the time you read this we will have partnered with <u>Creative Happiness</u> Institute and Ormond Beach Main Street to participate in our Ninth Annual Chriskwanzukkah. The event featured a solstice celebration, poetry, music, stories, gifts, prizes and refreshments. Chriskwanzukkah happened on December 15, 12:45-4:00pm at The Casements, 25 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach. Hope we saw you there.

Linda Eve Diamond was honored with both a 2019 Grand Prize and a First Prize in Artists Embassy International's Dancing Poetry Contest "for exceptional poetry that inspires dance and for furthering intercultural understanding and peace through the universal language of the arts."

Linda Eve's Grand-Prize-winning poem, "Lost Gloves," was costumed, choreographed, and performed by Natica and Richard Angilly's Poetic Dance Theater Company at the annual Dancing Poetry Festival in San Francisco, CA. Her First-Prize-winning poem, "Notes," was also read at the festival. Visit http://LindaEveDiamond.com to read the poems and find event photo links.

~ 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.



Held the 4th Tuesday,

Tomoka Poets Open Mic

7:00-8:30 pm at the Copperline Coffee and Café, South Williamson Blvd. in the Pavilion Shopping Center. For more information email: Mary-Ann Westbrook, 1poetry.3@gmail.com



Cheri Herald

The Sunshine Poets meet the second Saturday each month at 10 am at the Central Ridge Public Library, located at 425 W Roosevelt Blvd. Beverly Hills, FL 34465

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 is in its 31st year of membership with FSPA. Sunshine Poets sponsored a humor category in FSPA's annual contest, and also donated to the youth contest. Member, Joyce Shiver, sponsored the Petrarchan Sonnet category.

Joyce Shiver took a 2nd place and three HMs in FSPA's 2019 State Contest; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and several HMs in Ohio's contest; and a 3rd place in Oklahoma. She also judged for <u>Poets and Patrons</u>. President, **Cheri Herald**, had a photo selected for inclusion in the 2019 FSPA anthology, Cadence. Sunshine Poets has a Facebook page. Contact: sunshinepoets@gmail.com

~ Cheri Herald, President



Linda Whitefeather

Poetry for the Love of It

PLOI is a chapter also affiliated with a local senior center, where we continue to meet twice a month. Sadly, due to the passage of time, infirmities of aging, and the increased responsibilities of caregiving, our regular attendance is dropping as we continue to lose delightful members, so one of our primary goals for 2020 is to attract new members.

If you have a friend or relative in the Tallahassee area, please encourage them to try us out by attending one of our meetings. We do not require that anyone actually "write" poetry. One can read the poems of others, or simply listen and comment. We meet on the first floor of the Tallahassee Senior Center on the corner of N. Monroe Street and E. 7th Avenue. Our usual meeting times are the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2:45 - 4:45 pm.

~ 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 Room 1A on the main floor of the Tallahassee Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Visitors are always welcome.

Editor's Choice

Poetry Challenge

Reflections

Wearing a painted smile
She carries on through muddy waters.
Tossed aside like a bald tire, told she was useless,
Her courage falters among the leafless trees
As branches scrape her face and scratch her arms.
Bits and pieces of white memories emerge from the shadows
Like ghosts from a former life
Poking their heads up from the dark past.
Even in the distance, a rickety park bench
Invites her to sit, to rest, to think.
Her thoughts mirror watery transformations
As floods of reflections swirl around her.
Uselessness wears many masks.

~ Judith Krum

In This Together

Life's season oft' defers to the wind; experiences travel freely through the ensuing barrenness.

Disappointment & abandonment fall heavy upon encouragement & contentment; a rivalry in the muck 'n mire.

And when the soul can bear no more, it remembers to mirror the smile of another.

~ Suzanne S. Austin-Hill

In Spite Of it All

Life is surely something more than fearing that a flood might swamp our earthly dwelling's door; and nip us in the bud.

This feeling may we disavow in singing this refrain: Knowing life is knowing how to smile in all the rain.

~ John Foster

Next Issue: Editor's Choice Poetry Challenge

Prompt: Corm **Form**: Any

Line limit: Up to 20 lines

Submit by: February 15, 2020, to Mark@TKOrlando.com

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

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

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

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



Click here to purchase the 2019 FSPA Anthology, Cadence.



M.B. McLatchey

In the News:

Jan. 2020 - M.B. McLatchey's paper "Shifting Definitions of Justice: A Study of Student Veteran Responses to Homer's Odyssey" has been accepted for presentation at this year's Sunshine State Teaching and Learning Conference, January 29 - 31 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Co-hosted by USF and UCF, the three-day event brings together higher education scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers to "raise

awareness of emerging challenges, offer overviews of best practices, highlight research findings, and promote strategies for improving student and faculty success." Her presentation will be at 4:30 pm on Jan. 30, 2020.

The Palm Beach Poetry Festival invites you to submit an original poem inspired by the Art Couture Exhibition at the Cornell Art Museum at Old School Square! There will be five cash prizes and five honorable mentions will be selected by contest judge, Stephen Gibson. First Prize: \$100.00; Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth Prizes: 4 awards of \$25.00 each; Five Honorable Mentions. All five prize-winning poems will be featured in the May issue of South Florida Poetry Journal. All winning poems including honorable mention poems will be published on the website and in press release and social media announcements. For more information: Link **Deadline:** February 28, 2020.



Billy Collins

Billy Collins, widely-acclaimed poet, two-term U.S. Poet Laureate, and Senior Distinguished Fellow of the Winter Park Institute at Rollins College, will present "Poetry, Painting, and the Condition of Music"-March 4, 2020 in the Tiedtke Concert Hall on the Rollins College campus in Winter Park, Florida.



Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation has named **Louise Kennedy** Executive Director effective July 5, 2020. "After completing a milestone move of the Laura (Riding) Jackson historic home to its new location on the Mueller campus on Indian River State College, we felt it is time to step up our Foundation initiatives and enhance what we can provide to our community," said Marie Stiefel, President of the foundation. Stiefel added, "Once our Board made the decision to create this new position to lead us in the coming years, Louise Kennedy was a natural choice."



We hope you enjoyed this issue of FSPA's Of Poets & Poetry. ~ Mark Andrew James Terry, editor

A Little Lagniappe:



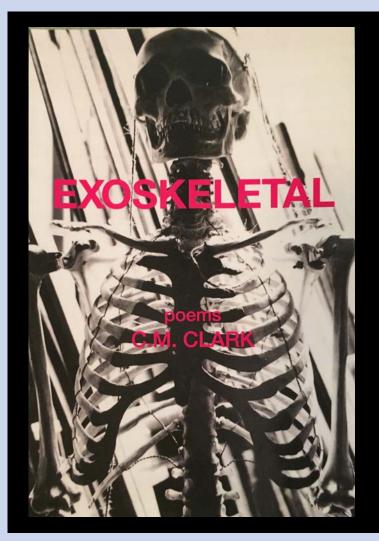
Image: TSO - TPA, December 2018, by Suzanne S. Austin-Hill

First kiss Pyrotechnic Prelude

~ Suzanne S. Austin-Hill

Do you have A Little Lagniappe?

If you have a short poem associated with an image that you created, and would like them considered for publication in Of Poets & Poetry, please send the poem and image to me at mark@TKOrlando.com.



C.M. Clark's EXOSKELETAL

In this new verse narrative, poet C.M. Clark compiles the postings of provocative characters in motion along a hypothetical Silk Road of tweets, memes and other viral oddities. Their stories are strongly grounded geographically - some entangled in a quantum way. Imagine a holographic rendering of the bones, the muscles, the tissue and the DNA all gathered to shape a new archaeology. Whether taken as a whole or experienced individually, these poems chart the unsettling grey area between your favorite escape room and an MRI of the soul.

Some creatures really do wear their bones on the outside.

Buy it now — link

Florida State Poets Association

An affiliate of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

Of Poets & Poetry

www.FloridaStatePoetsAssociation.org

