Greetings from the Board of the California State Poetry Society (CSPS) to you all! We hope you’re finding a little time to write!

This first issue for 2014 comes to you in April of 2014 with Vol. 40 No. 1 of the *California Quarterly* (*CQ*), edited by Margaret Saine.

**2014 Membership Drive (Repeating from the Last Newsbriefs)**

Please renew your membership for 2014 – and please give the second, bottom copy of the membership form to a relative, a friend or a neighbor who desperately needs more poetry in his or her life! And this should be all of us, I think. The deadline for updating the list of CSPS poets with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (and therefore being allowed to participate in their many contests this year) has past, but renew anyway!

**The Year Just Past**

The CSPS Executive Board elections concluded last year with the following results:

- **President**: Vacant (I continue to serve as the Acting President)
- **Vice President**: Keith Van Vliet
- **Secretary**: Ute Margaret Saine
- **Treasurer**: John Forrest Harrell
- **Membership Chair**: Richard M. Deets

The elections are held in the fall of odd-numbered years and the offices are held for two years beginning January 1st of the subsequent even-numbered year. Officers can succeed themselves (I have been the Treasurer, for instance, for over twenty years and Profs. Torre Houlgate-West and Kate Ozbirn each served as President and Managing Editor for over a decade).

When you have news you’d like to share with the members of the CSPS, please email me at the email address below my signature and I’ll try to include it in an upcoming Newsbriefs.

**News from Members and Contributors**

CSPS editor Margaret Saine has been busy in Italian, as it were. Her introduction to the poetry of Italian poet Graziella Ardia has been published in *I Miei Spazi d’Anima (Spaces of my Soul)* by Vertigo Edizioni, Rome. She also translated the work of the Italian poet Adriana Scanferla; the poems in Italian and English were published in *Mentre Berlino Felice Danzava (While Berlin Was Happily Dancing)*. Finally, her first book of Italian poetry, *Paesaggi che Respirano (Breathing Landscapes)* will be published shortly by Teseo Editori, Frosinone, Lazio, Italy.

While visiting Cuba in January under a cultural program sponsored by the United States Department of State, CSPS editor Maura Harvey met members of the Havana and the
Cienfuegos chapter of UNEAC, Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba, (Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba). The energy and excitement with which they shared poetry with Americans – and specifically over the possibility of publication in the CQ – has engendered a commitment in her to getting to know them and perhaps developing an ongoing poetry exchange program.

**Contests, Contest Databases and Others**

The Alabama State Poetry Society has announced its *2014 John and Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition*. The deadline for submission of 20-24 pages of poetry is May 31st; the winner gets $100 and twenty-five copies of his or her chapbook. For more information write to:

New Dawn Unlimited, Inc.
Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition
1830 Marvel Road
Brierfield, AL 35035

or email Jerri Hardesty at WtRabbit1@aol.com.

The 2014 Arkansas Writers’ Conference will be held June 6-7 at Pulaski Technical College. There are 35 contests, submissions for which must be postmarked on or before April 18th. For more information, email Sara Gipson at SaraGipson@aol.com.

The Great River Shakespeare Festival’s Maria W. Faust Sonnet Contest is accepting submissions of up to three sonnets for $5. Checks should be made out to Ted Haaland/Maria Faust Contest and everything mailed to:

Great River Shakespeare Festival Sonnet Contest
c/o Emilio DeGrazia
211 West Wabasha Street
Winona, MN 55987

Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1st and winners will be announced by August 2nd. Email Ted at FaustTed@gmail.com for more information.

**The Mailing**

This CQ mailing includes the Newsbriefs, a 2014 CSPS Membership Form, the 2014 CSPS Publication Guidelines, the 2014 CSPS Monthly Contest Topics and Rules, two issues of Strophes (the NFSPS will no longer be using the USPS for its mailings, as packages are simply lost – this is not a problem with FedEx or UPS) and the Poetry Letter.

It is my prayer that unbelievable poetry just bust out of you! On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Editors, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Dr. John Forrest Harrell
PRESIDENT (Acting)
TREASURER
JFHarrell@gmail.com