



California State Poetry Society
Post Office Box 7126, Orange, California 92863

Newsbriefs ***2017, No. 1***

Greetings and salutations from the Board of the California State Poetry Society (CSPS)!

This first issue for 2017 comes to you in April with Vol. 43 No. 1 of the *California Quarterly* (**CQ**), edited by Margaret Saine.

News from the CSPS

Some of you may have noticed warnings in February about our website if you use Chrome or Firefox as your browser (Internet Explorer was fine with us). Our website had in fact been hacked, but the inserted links were to malware sites that had already been shut down. The links couldn't resolve in this case, which explains why those of us who use the website regularly didn't notice anything amiss. We removed the stinky, smelly code from our website templates and Google's malware team cleared it, so ... not to worry! ☺

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

After eight years on the Editorial Board, the years during which the **CQ** solidified its reputation as a quality poetry journal, Jeanne Wagner has announced her retirement. Her first issue was Vol. 34 No. 4 (2008 Fall) and her most recent, Vol. 42 No. 3 (2016 Summer). Among several other issues, Jeanne edited one of the two double volumes produced during the "catch-up" year of 2012—that is, Vol. 38 Nos. 3 & 4 (2012 Summer & Fall). She has also served as a proofreader since 2012 and for the past several years she has coordinated the submission of our CSPS nominations for the Pushcart Prize. We will miss her, of course, but we wish her *much* success in her future endeavors!

Editorial Chair Pearl Karrer edited **CQ** Vol. 42 No. 4 and reports a nice response from Kit Kennedy, one of the contributors: "I have been savoring CQ Volume 42, Number 4. I especially love the conversations that so many of the poems seem to be having with each other. I love your 'Poinsettia.' [On the front, and perfect art for the holiday season—JFH] Thank you for including my two poems."

The CQ is becoming known in Europe for its translations. German poet Karl Greisinger was mentioned in an article of the *Augsburg News* as follows:

Karl Greisinger, Bertolt Brecht specialist and professed 'literature freak', can be very proud. From his volume "Den Tagen das Licht" [Light for the Days], published in 2014 by the Wiesenburg Verlag, the poem "Ozeannacht" was translated in the United States, in July 2016. The quarterly poetry journal *California Quarterly* printed "Ocean Night," the only German poem to be translated in this issue."

The poem, translated by Margaret Saine, was published in the **CQ** Vol.42 No. 4.

CQ Editor Margaret Saine conducted a well-received poetry reading at the Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga on Sunday afternoon, February 26th. She read from her recent book of poems, *Lit Angels*, published by Moonrise Press and for sale on Lulu.com.

On a personal note, *The Hand of the Midnight Moon*, a collection of my poems from 1964 through the last two years or so, was published in March. It's available on Amazon. ☺

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2017! Pay via our website or send it to the address on the enclosed membership form. Check the mailing label on the package you've received and get in touch with us if it says 2016.

Contests, Contest Databases and Others

The CSPS Monthly Contest winners in 2016 and the titles of the winning poems are listed in the Attachment to this *Newsbriefs*. The monthly contest topics and rules for 2017 are the same as they are for 2016; they are posted on the website and included in this mailing. Four of last year's monthly contests had sufficient participation (\$100 or more in reading fees) for monetary awards to all three placing poets (\$50, \$10 and \$5).

The CSPS has not heretofore announced the judges for its Annual Contests, an unfortunate practice we intend to rectify this year and henceforth. It is an oversight I am embarrassed to admit, because we have had *many* outstanding and highly accomplished judges over the years and identifying them would have generated a great deal more excitement for and participation in the contests. In any case, I am delighted to announce that the poet Kevin Hearle will act as the judge for the 2017 CSPS Annual Poetry Contest.

He has earned degrees from Stanford University, the University of Iowa and, finally, a PhD in Literature from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He has taught at several colleges, including UC Santa Cruz, San Jose State University, Notre Dame de Namur, and Santa Clara University. A noted Steinbeck scholar, he won the Burkhardt Award in 2005. For the five years ending in 2013 he served as a Visiting Scholar at the *Bill Lane Center for the American West* at Stanford, where he shared his passion for California literature and history. He began writing poetry in 1979. His poems have appeared widely in journals such as *The Yale Review* and *The Georgia Review* and in anthologies such as *A Bird as Black as the Sun: California Poets on Crows & Ravens*. His book of poems, *Each Thing We Know Is Changed Because We Know It*, was published by Ahsahta Press in 1994.

We began accepting submissions for the CSPS 2017 Annual Poetry Contest on March 1st and will continue accepting them through June 30th. Reading fees are \$3 a poem for members and \$6 a poem for nonmembers. Winning poems will be published in the fourth issue of the **CQ** this year (Vol. 43 No. 4).

The West Chester University (Pennsylvania) Poetry Conference will be held this year June 7th – 10th. See <http://www.wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/poetry/poetryConference.aspx> or email Ann Mascherino, the Programs Manager, at poetry@wcupa.edu.

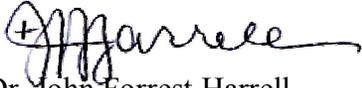
By the way, if you mail your submissions and include your email address in them, there is no need to supply a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) for a response from us.

The Mailing

This **CQ** mailing includes the 2017 No. 1 CSPA *Poetry Letter*, a 2017 Membership Form, the 2017 Monthly Contest Topics and Rules, the CSPA 2017 Annual Contest announcement, the 2017 CSPA Publication Guidelines, the October 2016 NFSPA *Strophes*, and this 2017 No. 1 CSPA *Newsbriefs*.

Praying you *all* are having a *great* spring and have *much* success with your writing, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Editors, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Harrell", with a small plus sign to the left of the first letter.

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

Attachment

The CSPS Monthly Contest Winners for 2016

Month	Poet	1st Place Home	Poem	Poet	2nd Place Home	Poem	Poet	3rd Place Home	Poem
January	Patricia Dreyfus	Corona del Mar, CA	<i>Dakota Spring</i>	George E. Samerjan	N. Chatham, NY	<i>When She ...iv</i>	Kathy Lundy Derengowski	San Marcos, CA	<i>Stonehenge, and the HOA Landscape Cmte</i>
February	Ed McManis	Larkspur, CA	<i>The Affair</i>	Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX	<i>Forty Four Years Later</i>	Jerry Douglas Smith	San Luis Obispo, CA	<i>Night Train</i>
March	Katharyn Howd Machan	Ithaca, NY	<i>Poetry Didn't Save My Brother</i>	Georgette Unis	Claremont, CA	<i>The Ever Presence</i>	Ed McManis	Larkspur, CA	<i>Lunch Room Monitor</i>
April	Ruth Adams	San Pedro, CA	<i>A Long Farewell</i>	Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX	<i>Cyrus Avery, Father of Route 66</i>	George E. Samerjan	N. Chatham, NY	<i>Gate A-16</i>
May	Rose Ann Spaith	Columbus, OH	<i>Vincent As Roulin Family Artist</i>	Von S. Bourland	Happy, TX	<i>Ancient Guardian</i>	Allegra Silberstein	Davis, CA	<i>Egypt Cat</i>
June	Von S. Bourland	Happy, TX	<i>The Lady in White</i>	George E. Samerjan	N. Chatham, NY	<i>That Morning</i>	Catherine Lucas	Berkeley, CA	<i>Boy Not Seeing Whales</i>
July	Kathy Lundy Derengowski	San Marcos, CA	<i>Blindsided</i>	David Anderson	Lincoln, CA	<i>Moonrise, Silence</i>	Mary Jo Lofiego West	San Clemente, CA	<i>Simple Pleasures</i>
August	Rose Ann Spaith	Columbus, OH	<i>POEMKIN</i>	Katharyn Howd Machan	Ithaca, NY	<i>Firm</i>	George E. Samerjan	N. Chatham, NY	<i>Dr. Monkash's Office (2262)</i>
September	Von S. Bourland	Happy, TX	<i>Twins by Date</i>	Katharyn Howd Machan	Ithaca, NY	<i>Autism</i>	Lillian M. Fisher	Alpine, CA	<i>Reunion</i>
October	Bruce T. Gallie	Rancho Cucamonga, CA	<i>Colors, Iraq</i>	Kathy Lundy Derengowski	San Marcos, CA	<i>Memorial Day</i>	Ellaraine Lockie	Sunnyvale, CA	<i>Silent</i>
November	Jane Stuart	Greenup, KY	<i>In Lethe's Shadow</i>	Von S. Bourland	Happy, TX	<i>Asthmatic Dreams</i>	Nick Sweet	Shepherd, TX	<i>Barbara, Marian and the Elder</i>
December	Kathy Lundy Derengowski	San Marcos, CA	<i>Wordworker</i>	Michael Fraley	San Francisco, CA	<i>The Bumble Bee</i>	Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX	<i>The Women's Orchestra at Auschwitz</i>