



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

Newsbriefs ***2018, No. 1***

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

This first *Newsbriefs* issue for 2018 comes to you in March with Vol. 44 No. 1 of the ***California Quarterly (CQ)***, edited by Maja Trochimczyk. Of particular interest is the use by AE Hines in his poem on p. 23 of a nickname for the city of Portland that was first used in the 1840s; “Stumptowners” refers to the residents of that fair burg. The marks in the poem by Lia Brooks on p. 29, by the way, are musical notations – dynamics markings. This is the first time I’ve seen them in a poem and they make for an interesting reading experience.

News from the CSPS

Our website has been migrated to a new hosting service offered by GoDaddy. It is up and running and now accepts .docx, .doc, .rtf, .pdf, .odt, and .txt files. The problem before with .docx files was from an older version of PHP (an underlying language compiler), which the new service replaced with a more recent version that made it all better. ☺

The results of the CSPS biennial election are the following: Vice President/Communications, Keith Van Vliet; Vice President/Membership, Richard Deets; Secretary/Historian, Margaret Saine; Treasurer, John Forrest Harrell. No one stood for President, so yours truly will continue to act in that capacity. ☺

Jude Hopkins, a contributor to ***CQ*** Vol. 43 No. 4, sent her thanks to the editor, Nancy Cavers Dougherty: “... a beautiful issue. I loved reading it. Thank you again for choosing my poems to be part of it.” And from Sherrie Lovler comes the following about the same issue: “I just received my issue of the ***California Quarterly*** and it is beautiful! This is one of the highlights of my painting and poetry [career]. Thank you again.” Briahn Kelly-Brennan, a new member of the CSPS, posted the following on Facebook about the same issue: “It is so wonderful! Magnificent poetry, a well put together treasure. I am enjoying it so much. Subscribe, everyone, you’ll love it!”

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*.

Ken Solomon, a former Monthly Contest Chair, has resigned from the Board to pursue other interests in his retirement. We will miss his balanced perspective on the various issues we will in all likelihood continue to encounter, but we wish him Godspeed and much happiness.

CQ Editor Margaret Saine is once again on travel, this time in Nicaragua, where she has been invited to read her poems at the 14th *International Poetry Festival* in the city of Granada. The

festival was founded in 2002 by the Nicaraguan poet, Ernesto Cardenal, whom she met in 2009 at a conference in Michigan.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2018! 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 2017.

Contests, Contest Databases and Others

The CSPS Monthly Contest winners in 2017 and the titles of the winning poems are listed in the attachment to this *Newsbriefs*. The monthly contest topics and rules for 2018 are the same as they were for 2017; they are posted on the website and included in this mailing. Three 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 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd, respectively).

Our flyer for the 2018 CSPS Annual Contest this year is included in this mailing. ***Please put copies of it up in whatever environs you frequent!*** ☺ I am delighted to announce that the Bay Area poet, writer and teacher, MaryLee McNeal, will be our Annual Contest judge this year.

Her novel, *Home Again, Home Again*, won San Francisco State University's 1989 Clark award. *The Space Between Us*, a chapbook of her poetry, won the Bear Mountain Press Award for poetry in 2002. Her short fiction and poetry have appeared in literary journals such as *Atlanta Review* and *Chautauqua!* Her second poetry chapbook, *The Way We Fall*, was published in 2014. She began teaching creative writing at San Francisco State University after receiving her MA there almost twenty years ago and has continued teaching all ages in a variety of academic, public and private milieus ever since.

We begin accepting submissions for the CSPS 2018 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. 44 No. 4). Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd are \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively.

I received the following from the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS):

Dear NFSPS Sate Presidents,

It is that time of year where I ask you to submit nominations for the NFSPS Youth Award. At the 2018 convention in Denver, CO, I will be awarding certificates to states and state chapters for their efforts to engage, lead, and inspire our youth to carry on our poetic torch.

Past examples have included, but are not limited to: 1) hold a youth poetry contest, 2) publish a youth poetry anthology, 3) poetry displayed on public transportation, 4) participating in a youth poetry festival, and 5) offer reduced membership rates for youth.

Send me the details of your efforts.

Sincerely,

Steven Concert, NFSPS Chancellor/Youth Chair

If any of you is involved in any of the activities Steven mentions above, please send me a description of it/them at the email address below (or the CSPS post office box if you're offline) and I'll pass the information along to him in a state-wide summary. ☺

The West Chester University (Pennsylvania) Poetry Conference will be held this year June 6-9. See <http://www.wcupa.edu/arts-humanities/poetry/poetryConference.aspx> or email Jesse Waters, the Program Manager, at poetry@wcupa.edu.

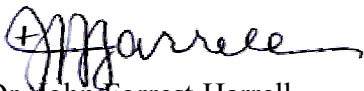
By the way, if you mail your submissions and include your email address in them, there is no need to supply a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) for a response from us.

The Mailing

This **CQ** mailing includes the 2018 No. 1 CSPS *Poetry Letter*, a 2018 Membership Form, the 2018 Monthly Contest Topics and Rules, the CSPS 2018 Annual Contest announcement, the 2018 CSPS Publication Guidelines, the January 2018 NFSPS *Strophes*, and this 2018 No. 1 CSPS *Newsbriefs*.

Praying you *all* have a good time in the rest of the winter and *much* success with your writing, and 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

Attachment

The CSPS Monthly Contest Winners for 2017

Month	1 st Place			2 nd Place			3 rd Place		
	Poet	Home	Poem	Poet	Home	Poem	Poet	Home	Poem
January	Meryl Natchez	Kensington, CA	<i>Apology to Trees</i>	Von S. Bourland	Happy, TX	<i>Fed by Foliage</i>	David Anderson	Lincoln, CA	<i>The Coming Snow</i>
February	Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX	<i>Road Songs</i>	Mary Jo Lofiego West	San Clemente, CA	<i>Looking In</i>	Jane Stuart	Greenup, KY	<i>Remembering Love</i>
March	Sally Clark	Fredericksburg, TX	<i>One Screw, Loose</i>	Kathy Lundy Derengowski	San Marcos, CA	<i>Beginnings</i>	Mary Jo Lofiego West	San Clemente, CA	<i>Tule Fog</i>
April	Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX	<i>The trail where they cried</i>	Mary Jo Lofiego West	San Clemente, CA	<i>Monument</i>	Jane Stuart	Greenup, KY	<i>Tantalizing Maze</i>
May	Jane Gragg Lewis	Laguna Niguel, CA	<i>Mariner 1</i>	Kathy Lundy Derengowski	San Marcos, CA	<i>Grown Up</i>	Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX	<i>Silence of the Sham</i>
June	Kathy Lundy Derengowski	San Marcos, CA	<i>The Others</i>	Mary Jo Lofiego West	San Clemente, CA	<i>Interlude</i>	David Anderson	Lincoln, CA	<i>Another Villanelle</i>
July	Jane Stuart	Greenup, KY	<i>Libellus</i>	Kathy Lundy Derengowski	San Marcos, CA	<i>Child of Mine</i>	Katharyn Howd Machan	Ithaca, NY	<i>Rats</i>
August	George E. Samerjan	N. Chatham, NY	<i>More Of Me</i>	Rudy Paolino	Mission Viejo, CA	<i>Ice Cream Dreams</i>	Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX	<i>Ah-So</i>
September	Janet Lombard	Athens, GA	<i>Cold Storage</i>	Rudy Paolino	Mission Viejo, CA	<i>Stuff and Things</i>	Claire Scott	Oakland, CA	<i>Home Made Gods</i>
October	Amie Ilva Tatem	Staten Island, NY	<i>Good Terms</i>	Jane Gragg Lewis	Laguna Niguel, CA	<i>Tomb of the Unknown Soldier</i>	Nick Sweet	Shepherd, TX	<i>Decent/Descent</i>
November	Lillian M. Fischer	Greenup, KY	<i>The Call</i>	Mary Jo Lofiego West	San Clemente, CA	<i>Best Friend</i>	Barbara Blanks	Garland, TX	<i>In the Hamlet of Yuriage</i>
December	Von S. Bourland	Happy, TX	<i>A Tree Grew in Managua, Nicaragua</i>	Greg Gregory	Antelope, CA	<i>Wetlands</i>	Michael Fraley	San Francisco, CA	<i>The Spring of My Elation</i>