



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

Newsbriefs **2018, No. 4**

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

I know this seems like it should be the first *Newsbriefs* for 2019, but it's not. This fourth *Newsbriefs* for 2018 comes to you with Vol. 44 No. 4 of the *California Quarterly* (*CQ*), edited by Margaret Saine. This extra-long missive is my last as the acting President of the CSPS, as Dr. Maja Trochimczyk will assume the office for the remainder of this year (at least). ☺

News from the CSPS

In the coming year, several important changes will take place pursuant to the decisions the Board made at its meeting in September of 2018. We will no longer be sending the *Newsbriefs* as a separate enclosure, as instead we will include it at the beginning of each *CQ*. Monthly contest topics and rules will also be included in each *CQ* issue, as well as publication guidelines and a tear-out membership form in the back. The *Strophes* newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) is now available on their website (nfsp.org) and we will no longer be sending out copies of it with our *CQ* issues. If you want paper copies, please contact Richard Deets at:

CSPS Vice President/Membership,
2560 Calabria Court
Dublin, CA 94568

and he will arrange to send them to you. Membership dues or orders for *CQ* copies may also continue to be sent to the same address.

Finally, we will be closing our post office box in six months and encourage all of you to submit poems or otherwise transact or communicate with the CSPS via our website (californiastatepoetrysociety.org), its services and the links it provides.

Monthly Contest submissions may continue to be sent to:

CSPS Monthly Contest (Specify Month)
721 Huerta Verde Road
Glendora, CA 91741

and submissions to the CSPS Annual Contest may continue to be sent to:

CSPS Annual Contest
3371 Thomas Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94303

To repeat, although physical mail may still be used as described above, all information and transactions regarding the CSPS can take place on our website (californiastatepoetrysociety.org).

Russell Salamon, a prolific and well-known poet, a Board member of the CSPS and an Editor of the *CQ* for upwards of two decades, died this last December in Florida, where he was living with his daughter and grandchildren. Those of us who worked with him for so many years have lost a friend and colleague of considerable wit, talent, congeniality, and capability. I very much appreciated his skill and kindness as an editor, a teacher and mentor, and so did many others.

Maura Harvey, a long-time Editor of the *CQ* and CSPA Board member, had a bilingual (Spanish/English) poem published in *Amaravati Poetic Prism 2018*, a compendium of 1,111 poems by 630 poets from 76 countries in 107 languages. It is published by the Cultural Centre of Vijayawada & Amaravati (CCVA), Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India. Not too shabby! ☺

In the months since the last *Newsbriefs*, two new editors have joined the Board—John Brantingham and Alice Pero. We are delighted to have them with us and look forward to many years of working with them.

John Brantingham is Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park's first poet laureate. His work has been featured in hundreds of magazines and *The Best Small Fictions 2016*. He has written ten books of poetry and fiction, including *The L.A. Fiction Anthology* (Red Hen Press) and *A Sublime and Tragic Dance* (Cholla Needles Press). He teaches at Mt. San Antonio College.

Alice Pero's poetry has been published in many magazines and anthologies, including *Nimrod*, *National Poetry Review*, *River Oak Review*, *Poet Lore*, *The Alembic*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, *The Distillery*, *Fox Cry Review*, *The Griffin*, and *G.W. Review*, and others. Her book of poetry, *Thawed Stars*, was praised by Kenneth Koch as having "clarity and surprises." Pero teaches poetry and is a member of California Poets in the Schools, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering students to express their uniqueness through writing, performing and publishing their own poetry. She is also the founder of *Moonday*, a reading series that has been on-going in the Los Angeles area for upwards of sixteen years. Ms Pero has created dialogue poems with more than twenty poets, including the late Russell Salamon. She also created the performing group, Windsong Players Chamber Ensemble and performs with them as a flutist.

CQ Editor Terry Ehret received the following from Evan Anders, one of the poets selected for her issue (Vol. 44 No. 3):

Just received my copy of *California Quarterly* Volume 44, Issue 3, and I wanted to thank you again for including my poem "crawl along roses."

The issue is truly a joy to read. The poems flow seamlessly together. There is a real beauty in this motion. I can tell this issue was labored over with much love and respect for the written word. It shows with each turn or page.

I am very honored to be included in this issue.

We received the following very kind and thoughtful message from one of our Silver Circle members:

Please convey my concern and sadness to the CSPA members who may have suffered damage from fires and floods. Wishing you and the CSPA members well!

Amanullah Khan MD
President, Poetry Society of Texas

Dr. Khan also urged me to let him know if there were any way he and the Poetry Society of Texas (PST) could assist in the recovery efforts. The PST, by the way, is the oldest state poetry society in existence (formed in 1921) and also one of the largest—about 300 members.

After CSPA member Wilda Luttermoser suggested that CSPA and *CQ* apply for a grant that Amazon awards to nonprofit literary organizations, Editorial Chair Pearl Karrer gathered data for editor Maja Trochimczyk, who has grant application experience. Editors Nancy Cavers Dougherty, Maura Harvey, and Margaret Saine offered inputs for the draft; member Stephanie Pressman provided technical help. Maja filed our application on January 14th, 2019. CSPA has applied for funds to improve its marketing, communications and social media presence, with the goal of expanding its membership and enhancing its editorial process, as well as its production of the *CQ*.

Amazon Literary Partnership Grants are given with “the goal of helping writers tell their stories and find their readers,” adding support to “nonprofit literary organizations that empower writers to create, publish, learn, teach, experiment, and thrive.” They fund “innovative groups that amplify diverse voices . . . ” and strive to have an impact on “the broader literary and publishing communities.” Awards will be announced on May 15th, 2019.

Keith Van Vliet, our CSPA Vice President/Communications and the Monthly Contest Chair for many years, has also been busy documenting the history of poetry in the fair burg of Glendora here in southern California in a small book. He sent me the following for the *Newsbriefs* this time:

There are more ways than one to profit from writing poetry. Besides the personal satisfaction gained from turning an original phrase, there are the associations one can pick up as part of a poetry group. The *Valley Poets* was founded in 1983 by Keith Van Vliet from a want ad in the local paper. A few interested local poets agreed to meetings every Tuesday evening in a local office building Van Vliet had recently built.

From that beginning, the group has continued for 35 years, meeting 17 years in the office and, after Van Vliet retired, the last 18 years in the Van Vliet living room. The poets who have come and gone over those years have provided both a wealth of good poetry and a wealth of entertainment. Van Vliet is the Vice President/Communications of CSPA and, besides many years as a *CQ* editor, is the chair of the CSPA Monthly Contests.

In 2017, Van Vliet was reflecting on all the interesting poets the 34 years of the group had brought him and began writing up their stories. From copies he'd saved of every poem that had been read over the years, he was able to provide a sample of the best work of each of the members. The recent enthusiasm of the poetry group for the history provided the aging Van Vliet with inspiration for the written account. As the story grew, the appreciation for the poets grew. The inspiration for telling the tale became a six part serial during the 2018 production of *The Glendora Magazine*, a local publication.

Van Vliet maintains the 18,000-word account is one of the major joys of his 92-year life—just as poetry has been for many decades and continues to be a fulfilling part of it. By the way, back copies of *The Glendora Magazine* can be obtained from Liberty Enterprises, PO Box 1174, Glendora, CA 91740-1174. ☺

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

Finally for this section, the CSPA will need quite a bit of help in the future to prepare the mailings. If you have any experience (or are willing to try), from preparing Excel spreadsheets for uploading to the USPS.com website, to stuffing the envelopes, to pasting the labels and the nonprofit stamps on the envelopes, to putting together the presorted mailing groups, to mailing the presorted trays of packages, please contact me at the email address below my signature—or talk to any of the others on the Board whom you know.

Contests, Contest Databases and Others

The 2019 Maria W. Faust Sonnet Contest is under way and is accepting submissions until June 1st. Their website (SonnetContest.org) has been updated with complete information for the 2019 Contest. Over \$2,000 in prizes are offered, with a \$5.00 entry fee for up to three (3) sonnets (or \$5.00 for every three sonnets if you submit more). Submissions should be made through their online process, with payment options either by *PayPal* or a mailed check. If this presents a hardship, please send an email to entries@sonnetcontest.org for instructions for entering via the post office mail. There is no fee for entrants in the *17 and Under* category, by the way.

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The poems of the winners of the 2018 CSPA Annual Poetry Contest are included in the current issue (*CQ* Vol. 44 No. 4).

1 st Place	Peter Parker	Carmel, CA	Moonlight
2 nd Place	Kathleen McClung	San Francisco, CA	Two Boardwalks
3 rd Place	Clare Scott	Oakland, CA	Stitching Shadows
Honorable Mention	Claire Millikin	Charlottesville, VA	How to Build a Mirror
Honorable Mention	Ed McManis	Larkspur, CA	The Fall

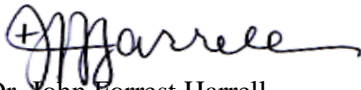
The Mailing

This *CQ* mailing includes the 2018 No. 4 CSPA *Poetry Letter*, the 2019 Monthly Contest Topics and Rules, the 2019 Annual Contest announcement, the October 2018 NFSPA *Strophes*, the January 2019 NFSPA *Strophes* and this 2018 No. 4 CSPA *Newsbriefs*.

After almost eight years, I'm signing off as the President and Managing Editor, but hanging on for another year as the Treasurer and the Webmaster. As the new President, Dr. Maja Trochimczyk is already a talented and very capable nonprofit executive; she is also better at this stuff than I am. I leave the office in *very good hands!*

God bless you all in your lives and your careers in poesy. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Editors, I remain

Very truly yours,



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