

# Wisconsin Fellowship Of Poets Museletter

founded 1950



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Editor: Christine Falk

## Welcome

Welcome to the following new members of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets that have joined since the Summer *Museletter* issue:

Jac Anderson	Menasha
Nancee Ariagno	Cedarburg
Thomas Boykoff	Madison
Camden Coberly	Madison
Candy Constable	Elm Grove
Sylvia Gilbert	Cable
Brent Goodman	Madison
Doris Ann Hayes	Burlington
Michael Koehler	Appleton
Sundra Larsen	Menasha
Marcie Leitzke	Shawano
William McConnell	Madison
Rick Allen Rock	Sun Prairie
Beverly Scott	Waupaca
Charlene Sexton	Madison
Shoshauna Shy	Madison
Patricia Summerfield	Washburn
Mark Turcotte	Fish Creek
Sue Twiggs	Marshfield
Herbert Williams	DePere

### Editor's Note

Thank you to Nancy Rafal, new Associate member of the WFOP for shedding some light on the history of the *Museletter* masthead. The following is an excerpt from her letter regarding the engraving which is included in the masthead.

"...The illustration is of an engraving by Frank Utpatel. Mr. Utpatel did much work for August Derleth. I located the engraving in my copy of *Hawk and Whippoorwill Recalled* published after Derleth's death by WFOP."

"The book, *The Only Place We Live*, is a collection of Utpatel's wood engravings with prose and poetry selections by Derleth, Jesse Stuart, and Robert Gard..."

"...A brief biography of Frank Utpatel

## President's Message

By the time you read this, those of us who are teachers will be back in the classroom. In this, my last week of leisure, I'm struck by how my students' misconceptions about academic writing sound uncannily similar to my superstitions about poetry writing.

1) "You either have the gift, or you don't." I do not doubt that some people have more of a gift for poetry writing than others. Conversely, I'm sure that there are people for whom writing a poem seems utterly out of character. However, I'd guess that most of us are between these two extremes. I'm equally sure that many of the poets you and I admire were actually less "gifted" than some brilliant stars who burnt themselves out in a flash or frittered away their talent on a lesser pursuit. Many poets "make it" because they use what gift they have and keep at it—that's all.

2) "Someday, when I write well, it'll come naturally." We have all experienced the perfect poem that came to us as easily as breath. But most good poems don't come "naturally," unless by "naturally" we mean the way a baby comes: a little fun and a lot of gestation, blood, sweat, pain. Most good writing is the result of that old adage: one-tenth inspiration and nine-tenths perspiration.

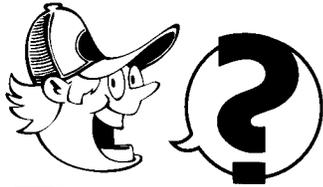
3) "My writing doesn't pass because the teacher doesn't like me." We all feel as if publication depends on the quirks of some curmudgeonly editor. It's easy for us to fall into the students' way of thinking: The teacher gave me an F. But later, I got an A. Same teacher, same student. If my work is being consistently rejected by a magazine I consistently admire, I have more homework to do.

So, as I go back to school, I'm relieved that hard work and persistence can make up for my lack of natural brilliance. I'm ready to keep reading the presses I like, keep submitting to them, keep revising, revising, revising. . . After all, it's no less than I ask of my students every day.

is available in *Return to Derleth: Selected Essays, Volume Two*, edited by James P. Roberts, White Hawk Press..."

"...My 'vote' would be to keep a sharper version of the Utpatel engraving as part of the masthead. It makes that connection with the fellowship's roots. Just give Mr. Utpatel the credit he's due."

As you may have read in the President's Message of the summer *Museletter* issue, there is a search on for the original engraving which is metal and mounted on a wood block. If anyone knows the whereabouts the 50th Anniversary Committee would like to include it in a display. Thank you to Jo Alderson for providing a clearer image for me to scan for the masthead. Nothing is ever as good as the original but I feel the image at the top of this issue is clearer than the past. Finally, thank you to Nancy Rafal for her contributions to this discovery.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### West-Central Region

In honor of poetry day, April 15, WFOP poets **Sandra Lindow** and **Yvette Flaten** hosted an invitational poetry celebration at and cosponsored by the L.L. Phillips Public Library. Sixteen poets from the West Central Region shared their work in a room decorated like a coffee house. Other WFOP members who participated were **Nadine St. Louis**, **Peg Lauber**, **Gail Sosinsky Wickman**, and **Marian Morris-Zepp**. Refreshments were served and a splendid time was had.

Wednesday, April 28 **Yvette Flaten** and **Sandra Lindow** read their poetry as part of the UW-Eau Claire's 1999 English Festival.

**Sandra Lindow** has had poems selected by *Sheila-na-gig*, *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 2000* and *Kaleidoscope Magazine*.

May 1, **Peg Lauber** and **Nadine St. Louis** participated in a reading at the Grand Avenue Cafe, honoring the "Origins and Migrations of Poets."

**Peg Lauber** has had poems chosen by the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 2000*, *Windhover*, *Eratica*, *The Baybury Review* and *The Lyric*.

In July, **Gail Sosinsky Wickman** attended a writing workshop on Revisions at Iowa State University.

July 22, **Nadine St. Louis** read the poetry of Marge Piercy at Border's Books in an invitational reading entitled "Poets on Poets."

July 24 and 25 **Marian Morris Zepp** participated by reading her poetry at the gala opening of the Chippewa Valley Cultural Association's Heyde Center for the Arts.

July 29 WFOP poets celebrated summer by meeting for supper and poetry at Camaraderie in Eau Claire.

September 20 **Yvette Flaten** will host an open poetry reading at White

Pine in celebration of the Autumn Equinox.

submitted by

*Sandra Lindow, West-Central Regional VP*

### South Region

On June 19, **Mike Koehler**, **Gary Busha** and **Mary "Casey" Martin** read at the Racine Lakeshore Book Festival, sponsored by the Racine Literacy Council. The event included booksellers, such as Wolfson, Martha Merrill's, Badger Books and Home Brew Press. There were free Golden Books, various speakers, Florence Heide (children's book author), Andrew McLean (bookstore owner and English professor) and Mark Twain (aka Tom Gilding) who authentically portrayed the beloved writer, and brats and beer. This was the 1st annual (if that's possible) Lakeshore Book Festival in the Racine area.

**Erick Sokn** has had a poem included in the Thanksgiving issue of *Mobius*.

### Central-Fox Valley Region

**Mary Downs** had two poems published in *Sidewalks*. She also took 3rd place in her Round Robin for their May contest.

**Rusty McKenzie** conducted a workshop for senior students at Gibraltar High School, Door County, reading from her new book *Never Far from Water* and from work of Mary Oliver.

*The Kaukauna Times* published a fine article, with photos, on **Elmer Otte**.

**Sherry Elmer** will have poems in the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*, *Fox Cry Review* and *Wisconsin Academy Review*.

**Michael Koehler's** new book *Notes from Skinner's Elbow* is now available in bookstores.

**Kay Saunders**, **Helen Fahrback**, **Ellen Kort**, **Michael Koehler** and **Karla Huston** were featured readers at the poet's gathering at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens in July.

Conkey's coffeeshop, *Between the Pages*, continues readings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month often with new poets and a new audience. There will be a WFOP Calendar reading there on October 19.

**Ellen Kort** facilitated a poetry

workshop for teachers at the Fox Valley Writing Project, sponsored by UW-Oshkosh. She also taught poetry workshops for high school students at UW-Stevens Point's ArtsWorld, the Green Lake Summer Writing Program, and at the Rhinelander School of the Arts, sponsored by UW-Madison.

Three of Ellen's poems will be included in the Hospice Poetry Recording Project in Seattle, Washington. It is a program that records the work of national poets on audiotape for patients with terminal illness. The tapes and CDs will be available for hospices, ministers, caregivers, and families, using poetry to encourage healing and understanding of the dying process, bereavement, and loss.

submitted by

*Kay Saunders, Central-Fox Valley Regional VP*

On July 19, **Jo Alderson** gave a poetry reading at Barnes & Noble in Appleton in their open mike series. It was a solo event. On April 25, Jo's daughter Ann Cabezas read one of Jo's poems as part of the first "Poetry Party on the Prairie" at Mazomanie, WI.

### Northeast Region

The July 18 poetry reading at the Botanical Gardens in Green Bay not only drew good weather but also drew a good audience. Poets **Ellen Kort**, **Michael Koehler**, **Kay Saunders**, **Helen Fahrback**, **Peter Sherrill**, **Bruce Dethlefsen**, **Karla Huston** and **Sue DeKolver** were featured readers. An open mike period followed. This year's program was organized and monitored by **Mary Jo Stich** and **Jane Farrell**. The Northeast poets plan to make this an annual event so watch for the date of next year's reading and participate in the fun in the beautiful setting of the Botanical Gardens. It will be announced in the Spring *Mureletter*.

**Mark Turcotte** and **Sue DeKolver** read at the Open Door Passages Live fundraiser at Bjorklund, Bailey's Harbor in May. Sue will also be the featured poet at *Between the Pages Coffee House* at Conkey's Bookstore in Appleton in August. She was recently notified that she received two honorable

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mentions in this year's NFSPS contest.

**Barbara Larsen's** new book *Tea Leaves: History and Delights of Tea Drinking* came out in June. She and illustrator, Gretchen Maring have had book signings at Edgewood Orchard Gallery and The Gift To Be Simple. They have given readings and programs at the Northern Door Book Club annual luncheon, a Meadows of Scandia tea, and Bjorklunden seminar center in Bailey's Harbor.

WFOP member **Bill Olson** recently published his first novel, *The Islanders*. The story is set on Washington Island (Bill's home) in the year 1853.

**Patti Nguyen** has been experiencing great success with her series of children's books featuring Sidney and his teddy bear, Pokono, illustrated by Janet Tlachac-Hanamann. She has recently added a CD and cassette recording, *Make the Music-Tunes to Treasure* which features singers and instrumentalists of her family, including her seven year old grandson Matthew Eliason who provides the singing voice for Sidney. Patti wrote the lyrics for all fourteen songs in the album.

submitted by

Barbara Larsen, Northeast Regional VP

**Lauren Mittermann** along with Jennifer Petry Berns, the mother of a student of Lauren's wrote a book entitled *Moments of Grace* in memory of her student, Jason Petry Berns. Lauren, Jennifer and Jason were the focus of a beautiful and uplifting article in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* on Sunday, June 27. The article can be read in its entirety at <http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/apr99/990627bookbymohterteacherte.asp>.

### Milwaukee-East Region

Beneath the spreading green canopy of an enormous Katsura tree, twelve people gathered to read to an audience of forty or more guests at the Boerner Botanical Gardens. By all reports, this tree offered the "coolest, greenest" shade the garden had to offer. It was dubbed, a "Poet-Tree." Will Katsura tree poems be forthcoming? We hope.

**Richard Roe** introduced the readers who included the following: **Phyllis Wax, Sister Irene Zimmerman, Paula Anderson, Michael Varga, Judy Kolosso, Kathy Dodd Miner, Harvey Taylor, Mary Jo Stich, Sprague Vonier, JoAnn Chang, and Richard Roe**. The reading was followed by an open microphone. Kathy Miner's invited guests included seven family members who ranged in age from twenty to eighty years. To all of you who were there and made this day, June 20, 1999, memorable, thank you.

**Star Powers** visited Oregon in late June. While in Portland, she read selections from her published work to a group called the Lloyd Ladies Book Club. Her reading was followed by a discussion. The reading and discussion were well received.

**Marion H. Youngquist** gave a poetry workshop for children in the spring in Lexington, MA and also at Barnes and Noble, Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Marion also "pushed" for an open microphone for poets on the first Friday night of the month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, Mayfair. Poets who live in the Mayfair/Wauwatosa area, take note, a new open mike opportunity is now available. Marion also won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the National League of American Pen Women, Lakes Region Branch, 1998-99 Writing Competition for Women, Poetry Division. The judge was Maxine Jennings of Ogden, UT.

submitted by

Elaine Cavanaugh, Milwaukee Regional VP

On May 21, The Sparks, **Peggy Rozga, Carolyn Muchhala, Phyllis Wax, Doris Gendelman, Helen Padway and Mara Ptacek**, presented a program of their News, Weather and Sports poems as part of the Urban Poets' Series at Woodland Pattern.

Four of The Sparks, **Phyllis Wax, Doris Gendelman, Helen Padway and Mara Ptacek**, also read their poetry on the WMSE weekly radio program hosted by Jim Glynn.

### South-Central Region

**Jeri McCormick's** book, *When It Came Time* has been selected for Outstanding

Achievement Recognition by the Wisconsin Library Association Literary Awards Committee. The Committee reviews approximately 250 books written by Wisconsin authors each year and selects ten to be recognized as Outstanding books, based on literary merit and the quality of writing, editing, printing and publishing.

A poetry reading will take place at A Room of One's Own Bookstore on October 15 at 6:30 p.m. Rhonda Americi will read along with WFOP members.

**Kathy Miner** had her poem "How Can I Laugh When I Have Seen?" published in the March 1999 issue of the *Monthly Reporter*, the newspaper of the Madison Jewish Community Council. The poem tells the story of her family's visit to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC.

submitted by

Suzi Godwin, South-Central Regional VP

**Jim Ferris** recently participated in a reading co-sponsored by Woodland Pattern Book Center and the Wisconsin Arts Board honoring winners of the 1999 artist fellowship awards in literature.

**R. Virgil (Ron) Ellis** will be presenting his poetry at the Canterbury Bookstore in Madison on August 25th, at 7:30 p.m. His group, Fuzzy Logic, includes musicians Tom Hamer and Biff Blumfugagne. In addition to music, Ellis integrates video projection with his performances. He has recently placed poems with *new digressions, Recursive Angel* (<http://www.recursiveangel.com/ellis.htm>), and *Mississippi Review Web* (<http://sushi.st.usm.edu/mrw>). Lonesome Travellers Press has accepted his piece entitled "Free Writing" for an upcoming anthology entitled, *Third Stream: Writing Across the Boundaries*.

The Prairie Writers read from their new book at Prairie Bookshop in Mt. Horeb on June 13. Prairie Writers includes WFOP members **Pat Benedict, Abigail Curkeet, Susan Fiore, Maurine Lewis, Fran Newhouse and Margaret Smith**.

On July 29 the following WFOP members read at Kingsfoot Gallery in

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Madison: **Pat Benedict, Abigail Curkeet, Susan Fiore, Maurine Lewis and Fran Newhouse.**

**Josey Zell** went to the School of the Arts at Rhinelander, and took **Ellen Kort's** wonderful class: *Poetry: The Journey Within*. She came home with poems and a renewed commitment to writing.

### Northwest Region

**Matt Welter** has had poems accepted by *Naturally, The Herb Network, Artword Quarterly, The White Crow, Rag Mag, Guild Press, Ship of Fools, Sidewalks, Wisconsin Academy Review, Bellowing Ark, TMP Irregular, and Mojo Rising.*

His poem, "Winter is a Cheese Sandwich" placed third in the 1999 League of Minnesota Poets Award and his poem "Chimney Swifts" received an honorable mention for the 1999 Plains Poet Award.

Matt also provided a poetry workshop for Northland College's annual summer writing program "Wordscapes." The theme for his workshop was, "How to use Nature to Inspire Poetry." Activities included a nature hike, using field guides and poetry readings.

Matt eagerly awaits the fall conference and is gathering historical poetry to read at the conference. One resource he has found useful has been both past and this year's Wisconsin Poets' Calendar.

### Mid-Central Region

**Linda Aschenbrenner** recently had her poetry appear in *Minnesota Parent, On the Line, True Life Stories, and Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 2000*. Linda edits and publishes *Free Verse*, a monthly eight-page poetry journal featuring the work of poets in the Marshfield, Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, and Stevens Point area.

**Susan Twigg** had her poetry appear in *Kindred Spirit* and *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 2000*.

The Marshfield Free Verse Poetry Group began sponsoring monthly poetry readings at the Marshfield Public Library

this year. Readers to date have been **Linda Aschenbrenner, Susan Firer, DyAnne Korda, and E. I. Larmon.** Jean Feraca from Wisconsin Public Radio will be giving a reading on Sunday, November 7 at 2 p.m.

The Free Verse Poetry Group and the UW-Marshfield/Wood County are joining forces to create a Poetry Trail in the University Center Arboretum. It is scheduled to be completed in September and will first feature seven poems by Robert Frost. The poetry group will change the poetry selections along the trail every three months.

## WFOP Student Poetry Contest

The 1999 WFOP Student Poetry Contest has drawn to a close with the judging of the State contest and the announcement of the National Manningham Poetry Trust Awards.

This year marks the thirteenth consecutive year that the WFOP has provided Wisconsin youth poets with an excellent avenue to express themselves while at the same time giving them the experience of submitting their work to a formal poetry contest, in the same manner that any adult poet would. Also, as in years past, many teachers continued to use the contest as part of their curriculum, assigning each student the heady charge of venturing into the field of poetics. At the same time, individual poets, most often Senior High students, submitted singular poems which demonstrated great creativity and thoughtfulness as well as attention to detail.

This year a total of 873 entries were received, 533 in the Junior High School category and 340 in the Senior High. Serving as judges were Sandra Lindow and Michael Levy. A husband and wife team of exceptional literary erudition, Sandra is the WFOP Vice-President for the Northwest Region and a highly talented and much published poet; and Dr. Michael Levy is Professor of English at UW-Stout.

Although Wisconsin students' entries did not place in the national contest this year, the state contest concluded on a high note. Jonathan Overby, star of Higher Ground radio program on Wisconsin Public Radio invited the first, second and third place Student Contest Winners to read their work on the air on May 1st. Amy Washbush, Madison, read "Improv", the First Place Senior High winning poem. Nikki Padjen, Eau Claire, read her Junior High First Place work entitled "City." Nikki Theisen, Stevens Point, read her Junior High Second Place winner "Nighttime." Joining Jonathan Overby by telephone was Natalia Sanchez, Racine, who read "Hunted", which had taken the Junior High Third Place prize. The other winners had been contacted but were unable to participate.

This year marks the end of Yvette Flaten's tenure as Contest Chair. Following in the footsteps of Iefke Goldberger, Dorothy Schwenkner, and Peggy Shimkus, Yvette has chaired the contest since 1994. Next year's Chairperson will be Liz Hammond of Waukesha, a published poet whose past experiences include extensive youth work in church and PTA as well as a volunteer reader, bringing poetry directly to the classroom. Inquiries regarding the upcoming 2000 contest may be sent to Liz Hammond, 2820 Madison Street, Waukesha, WI 53188-4507. Telephone (414) 542-7775, or e-mail [LizHammond@aol.com](mailto:LizHammond@aol.com).

## WFOP Poets to Appear on Public Radio

Peter Sherrill and Cathryn Cofell are scheduled to read on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Higher Ground" program, featuring Jonathan Overby, on Saturday night, September 18. The show will run from 7 until 9 PM. The show features a wide variety of musical and dramatic performances as well, striving to showcase the rich variety of ethnic heritage Wisconsin offers. Tune in to your local station and enjoy the show!



## Wisconsin Poets' Calendar:2000 Update

I know that many of you began publishing your poems with an acceptance from the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. For this reason, many of us have strong feelings about it and hope it will continue to thrive for decades to come.

The Year 2000 *Calendar* features a brief history of the WFOP in honor of its 50 year anniversary in June. Past WFOP Presidents are listed. A brief history of the *Calendar's* origins is also presented, including a list of all editors since 1982 to the present. Information on the new Muse Prize can be found on p. 136.

Thank you. It has been a joy and an honor.

Sincerely,  
Elaine Cavanaugh, editor

### A Gift of Poetry

from *Caring Companions—Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Portage County, Summer 1999*

Laurie Pech-Daley has realized a long-time dream. With the help of Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver Anne Helmke, Laurie recently self-published her first book of poetry. Titled *From My Mother's Kitchen*, the collection is dedicated to the memory of her mother and includes poems that Laurie has written since her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1988.

Anne typeset a plethora of poetry written from Laurie's

college days in the early 1970s through recent compositions—a task Laurie would not have been able to accomplish due to her medical condition. "We really enjoyed working together on the project," said Anne. "It gave both of us a tremendous feeling of accomplishment to see the book in print. In the process I also gained a new appreciation for poetry and the special gift—the imaginative way with words—that a poet has to express thoughts and feelings."

The book was completed just in time for Laurie to present the first copy as a gift to her father on his 90th birthday and to commemorate the second anniversary of her mother's death.

Laurie has already begun the second edition of her book, which includes many of her mother's favorite recipes and others passed down in Laurie's family.

"Anne Epling's pairing of Anne Helmke and myself in 1996 was truly a match made in heaven and Stevens Point," said Laurie. "It's grown into a rare symbiotic relationship of strong mutual caring and friendship, as well as shared interests, values, and beliefs about what really matters in life. As for the poetry, Anne has typeset poems for four more chapbooks. Her editorial contributions and feedback have been so helpful to me as a writer. I consider our first collaboration to be a fine chapbook, and I look forward to our future publications and, of course, our enduring friendship."

The chapbook *From My Mother's Kitchen*, by Laurie Pech-Daley can be purchased by calling Laurie at (715) 344-5520. A portion of the sales will be donated to Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers.

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## 2000 Calendar Book Order Form for WFOP Members

As a current WFOP member, you are entitled to a discount on the purchase of calendars for personal use and gift giving. You may order up to TEN (10) calendars at the wholesale rate of \$6.50 each. Additional copies may be purchased at the retail price of \$9.95. Send to: Lou Roach, Business Manager, Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 2000, 311 Meadow Lane, Poynette, WI 53955-9349 Phone: (608) 635-7997

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ books @ \$6.50 each (maximum: 10 books): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ books @ \$9.95 (no limit): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If ordering by mail, please add shipping charges:

	1 book: \$1.50	
	2-3 books: \$2.50	
Shipping and handling:	4-5 books: \$3.50	\$ _____
	6-10 books: \$4.50	

**Total Enclosed, payable to "WFOP Calendar Account":** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the RETAIL sales brochure to distribute to potential individual buyers of the calendar.

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the WHOLESAL sales brochure to take to bookstores, gifts shops and other potential sellers of the calendar in my community.



### Carried Away

Music is water, the ebb and the flow,  
 storm and calm, blood with its pulsing  
 movement with a will of its own,  
 carries your body without going anywhere,  
 will not be denied, secret in the blood,  
 wrists and ankles in the chain of rhythm  
 rocking us in the cosmic cradle,  
 rocking us loose from dust and webs.  
 String instruments sawing at the gates,  
 drums hammering at the blocks,  
 thin skin pulsing over the heart.  
 Dancing will undertake you,  
 carrying you in its current,  
 eddies down mountains.  
 Water will have its way, moving,  
 burst the dams, overflow the plain,  
 uproot the corn, thread the wheat,  
 the no-shape to elude gardeners,  
 chuckle through old-woman scythes.  
 Music is water with a clear voice,  
 is blood, is the sea in your loins.  
 Dance, smoothing, relentless,  
 returning us to salt water,  
 weaving us into the sea.

—Frances May, Sturgeon Bay

### Dream Warp

All the night long, starlight or moonless,  
 I knit the gray house looming on the river bank.  
 Water ripples in the wake of those who came before,  
 whose ancient fragments lace their gravelled beds.  
 I feel the skein of days slip through my fingers  
 and weave a pace to catch the ravelling walls.  
 Great lamps across the waters light the rising mist  
 to mirror campfires that outshine the crescent sky.  
 Under a russet thatch of leaves, the grass creeps,  
 will bind a lusty spirit to this most beloved place.  
 I will hold the fraying fabric close against the loom  
 while silver windows let the moon shine through.

—Frances May, Sturgeon Bay

published in *Signposts, New and Selected Poems*, by Frances May.  
 David Steingrass, editor. Black Hat Press, 1996

### The Climb

for Matt Welter

I climb the winding staircase  
 of the lighthouse  
 in the middle of the afternoon  
 the white stucco surface  
 of the lighthouse  
 is not quite as white as it was  
 the black door  
 of the lighthouse  
 in the shadow  
 of the lighthouse  
 was not as black  
 as it could've been  
 there's oh maybe  
 a third of a day  
 left before sunset

—Bruce Dethlefsen, Westfield

### Kitchen Dance Memory

They've come back this October evening  
 For three bars of Spike Jones on my radio.  
 Gramps wags his hips,  
 Eyes closed, his soft sensuous smile  
 next to Gram's ruddy cheek.  
 Flour-dusted hands of boney shoulders,  
 Clockwork feet twirl twice, pass me

And are gone.  
 Lengthening shadows  
 Whisper their traces:  
 Prince Albert and flannel,  
 Gingham and strudel.

—Peter Sherrill, Forestville

### Running With Scissors

The American Beauty he planted  
 at the center of his garden  
 has overpowered pansies  
 overshadowed love-in-a-mist  
 stunted the bleeding heart.

He believes the wife's tale  
 that roses are fragile.  
 He does not cut back.  
 lets blossoms wither  
 thorns penetrate his kid gloves.  
 barbs skew and stick like slivers of glass.

But as wounds fester  
 and he does not prune  
 as he hemorrhages  
 and does not heal  
 as twisted branches overtake  
 and gnarled roots strangle  
 he studies his garden tools  
 tiller and pitch fork  
 weed wacker and hoe  
 and grows less resistant  
 to the seduction,  
 the self-preserving call  
 of the unrelenting shears.

—Sue DeKolver, Brussels

**Lady Godiva's Advice**

Don't be afraid  
of the dark or white  
Lust is diverse  
*cocoa bean*  
*corn syrup*

whisper his name  
*sugar baby*  
lick bitter letters  
spitting his name  
*mister goodbar*

devour him  
head first  
one wide-open  
oral embrace

take his hands away  
one, then the other  
a voodoo doll  
or brown wax,  
now the legs

now forget  
what little is left  
*lecithin*  
*vanilla extract*  
*artificial flavor*

stare down  
lower lashes to  
his buttercream center  
see, he softens  
in the setting sun

watch  
how he bends  
left alone  
on the windowsill  
a lake for eager ants,

with careless fingers  
trace your name  
lest he forget  
your tongue  
lapping rainbows of him

*yellow number 4*  
*yellow number 3*  
*the blues 101*  
There is no wrong way  
to leave a man.

—Carey Rellis, Neenah  
(new member)

**Day Four of the Vacation Siege**

We make mental notes of tours  
we can't take, skin we can't bake,  
cabana boys we can't make bring us  
drinks with a gurgle of language  
we don't need to understand  
to ask for another drink.

Our room is now the tomb  
of a musty Mayan god holding  
court over ancient beans and sand  
so fine it never feels too hot on tender toes  
when the sun beats endless, when the sun  
steams turquoise and dreamy  
when the sun peels the freckles  
off your nose-but no,

for the first time in seven years,  
the sun is on vacation in  
Wisconsin and we are not.

Years of saving, planning, shaving,  
tanning, bragging, shopping, bagging,  
waiting  
washes out Quintana Roo  
and in one more wave of waiting  
for one more cloud  
one more year  
no more Macarena  
when will Cancun pass?

We ask the waitress for sunshine.  
She smiles and recommends the buffet.

—Cathryn Cofell, Appleton

**The Basket**

Her mother filled me  
with strawberry jam and apples  
as red as her homespun short cape.  
She wrapped them in a checked felt cloth.  
I loved how my girl skipped and sang to me,  
though she doddled for crows  
and a bone gnawing stranger.

These were nothing in comparison  
to her hungry grandmother  
who made the girl screech  
and toss me in the corner,  
leaving my willowy ribs cracked  
my pomish worries rolling.

As I peered from beneath my soiled picnic cloth,  
I could see her wolfish grandmother  
using the girl's red riding cape as a napkin  
and I knew that I wanted to be under another girl's arm.  
One from the other side of the world.  
One who could scare down a witch from the sky.  
One who would make lions into crybabies.  
She would use me to carry a wolf so small  
it could be kicked with her ruby shoes.  
This I thought as the huntsman  
crashed his ax through the door.

—Matt Welter, Bayfield

To submit a poem to the editor, send it with a SASE (Submissions will not be returned) to:  
Karla Huston, 1830 W. Glendale Ave., Appleton, WI 54914  
Submissions are welcome from *any* members, especially new members.

## Markets

JACKIE LANGETIEG • 2201 CARLING DRIVE #102 • MADISON, WI 53711 • E-MAIL: jacklang@gateway.net

**The Scene**, an arts and entertainment magazine serving 30,000+ in the Fox River Valley welcomes poetry submissions. Poems should be no more than 40 lines, typed with the author's name and address on each page. SASE for notification. Send to: Scene Publications, Poetry Editor, 300 N. Appleton Street, Appleton, WI 54911. (Thanks to Catherine Cofell.)

Kenneth P. Gurney, editor of **The TMP Irregular** poetry journal (and current out-of-state member of WFOP) perpetually seeks poetry submissions - up to five, typed, unpublished, original poems (five pages maximum); send copies, work is not returned. If you wish, include a SASE for response, with 1st class postage. NO reading fee. Send to: TMP Irregular, K. Gurney, Editor, PO Box 2996, Taos, NM 87571

(WFOP members who have appeared in TMP pages: Cathryn Cofell, Matt Welter, Elaine Cavanaugh, Phyllis Wax, JoAnn Chang, Harvey Taylor.)

**Radiance: the magazine for large women** is seeking quality poetry and fiction. "For our year 2000 issue, I am hesitating to give specific themes, especially in the creative writing area. In what-we-have-to-do-it or honest what-we-have-to-do-now feel. But I am open." Radiance has a circulation of 50,000. The magazine profiles famous large-size women from all fields, articles on health, media, fashion and politics, with full-color photos. They're definitely open to new writers and want to publish fiction and poetry about women "whatever their body size." Radiance, Box 30246, Oakland CA 94604 or on the web: <http://www.radiancemagazine.com> (Thanks to Marianna Wright who had a short story published in their summer issue.)

**Mobius**, P.O. Box 7544 Taleyville, DE 19803-0544. The only information I have is this comment from Erick Sokn, who says: "The editor, Jean Hull Herman, is great to work with, commenting on both accepted and rejected submittals. This type of feedback helps narrow the submittals to what the editor is really looking for and improves the success rate." You may want to write first for guidelines. Erick had a poem accepted for their Thanksgiving issue. (Thanks Erick for this information.)

**Blue Violin**. Editor tends to select poems that take the reader into another person's life, but will consider any well-written poem. (Sample copies of past issues are available for \$5.) Send 3-7 of your best free-verse poems and an SASE to P.O. Box 1175, Humble, TX 77347-1175

Tenth Street Press invites submissions for two new quarterly magazines: **Cadence** for poetry and **Mosaic** for short fiction. Send work that combines a lyrical quality with striking perceptiveness. Or just tell a good story. Pays 3 contributor copies. Each magazine also offers several contests with cash awards plus publication. (Sample copies cost \$5.) Guidelines are available for SASE and/or send submissions to Tenth Street Press, 300 W. 10 St., Morris, MN 56267.



## Poet Laureate Project Underway

WFOP officers have begun discussions with the other literary organizations around Wisconsin to establish the honor of Poet Laureate for the state. The first formal meeting will be September 18 in Madison.

The project, initiated by WFOP secretary Cathryn Cofell and vice president Peter Sherrill, will try to reach consensus on the particulars of the Poet Laureate: selection, duties, term of office, and so on.

Cofell and Sherrill agreed at the outset of the project that it was imperative to engage the other literary organizations in the state. If the honor is to have any value, it needs a broad base of support and recognition.

Representatives at the September 18 meeting include: Cathryn Cofell, WFOP, Peter Sherrill, WFOP, Barbara Houghton, Wisconsin Regional Writers Association, Anne Katz, Wisconsin Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, Russell King, Council for Wisconsin Writers, John Lehman, Council for Wisconsin Writers, Nora K. Weber, Appointments Director, Officer of the Governor. An invitation was extended to the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. So far we have received no reply.

Questions? Comments? Cathryn Cofell, 736 W. Prospect Avenue, Appleton, WI 54914, 2mutsch@vbe.com

# WFOP FALL CONFERENCE - October 15-16, 1999

Hotel Chequamegon, Ashland, Wisconsin

## Presenting the Past

### CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Hope McLeod  
singer/songwriter

Matt Welter  
poet/environmental educator

### HOUSING INFORMATION

**Hotel Chequamegon**  
101 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Ashland, WI 54806  
(800) 946-5555 for reservations

Rates: \$90.00 lakeside room per night  
\$81.00 cityside room per night

Mention WFOP when making reservations.  
**DEADLINE: Sept. 25** for guaranteed reservation.

### DIRECTIONS

The Hotel Chequamegon is located at the T where Highway 13 and US Highway 2 meet in downtown Ashland. Coming from the east or west, turn toward the lake at the stoplight. Coming from the south, continue straight through intersection.

Other motels:  
Super 8 - (800) 800-8000

### SCHEDULE

#### Friday, October 15

6:30 PM Board Meeting  
7:30 PM Open Poetry

#### Saturday, October 16

8:00 AM Registration  
Continental Breakfast  
8:30 AM General Business Meeting  
9:30 AM Break  
9:45 AM Roll Call Poems  
11:45 AM Break  
12:00 PM Lunch  
12:45 PM Trophy Presentations  
1:00 PM Free time to browse/chat  
1:30 PM Speaker: **Hope McLeod**  
2:15 PM Break  
2:30 PM Speaker: **Matt Welter**  
3:15 PM Free time, book signing  
4:00 PM Closing of conference



Return registration blank and check to: Jan Chronister, Conference Chair, 3931 S. County Road O, Maple, WI 54854. Make check payable to WFOP Fall Conference. **DEADLINE: October 1**

Registration Fee (No.) \_\_\_\_ @ \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon (No.) \_\_\_\_ @ \$11.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(including gratuities)

Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I need space to display books \_\_\_\_\_

## To Web or Not to Web

The WFOP is considering designing and hosting our own site on the worldwide web and is looking for feedback from members.

The purpose of the site would be two-fold: 1) To serve as an additional communication resource and marketing tool for the WFOP and our existing membership and 2) To attract new members. The exact contents of the site have not yet been determined, but we envision it to include the following:

- Articles and information from the *Museletter* (in whole or excerpt form).
- Hot news not yet published in the *Museletter*.
- Ability to comment and/or vote on Fellowship committee activities such as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Poet Laureate project, Teachers Group and more.
- Ability to correspond with and/or offer feedback to the current Board of Directors.
- Bookstores where you can buy the WI Poets' Calendar or the ability to order online.
- A listing of upcoming member events
- Links to other poetry websites and writing organizations
- Poetry — lots and lots of poetry!

While a site like this offers tremendous potential for growth and exposure to the WFOP and its members, there are some issue:

- Costs: Initial setup and design will run us from \$100-\$320. Maintenance of the site could also run from \$20-\$50 per month.
- We would need a WFOP member to volunteer to be the online editor, someone who would be responsible for selecting and organizing the content of the site.

With all this in mind, we ask for you input. It is important that we know what percentage of our existing membership has internet access, and whether or not you would find the value worth the expense. Please respond via email to Cathryn Cofell at 2mutsch@vbe.com, or via regular mail at 736 W. Prospect Avenue, Appleton, WI 54914.

## Saturday Night Live! in Ashland

We are planning a let-your-hair-down event for Saturday night after the conclusion of the WFOP Fall Conference. Many of you won't want to drive home in the dark, and it's not recommended. This is the time of year deer don't seem to notice cars, they have other things on their minds. Better to wait until morning before hitting the highways.

So while we search for a suitable venue, please contact conference chair Jan Chronister if you would like to perform, participate, or facilitate this evening of merriment and deer avoidance. We'd especially like to demonstrate a poetry slam, since many of us have never seen one. Jan can be reached at 1-800-456-8080, ext. 262 or emailed at jchronis@duluthnews.com.



## Second Quarter Financial Report

April 1, 1999 through June 30, 1999 submitted by Sue DeKelver, treasurer

<u>Literary Fund Account:</u>			
Balance April 1, 1999			\$17,899.51
Income:	Donations	\$2,368.00	
	Sesquicentennial Quilt	693.58	
	Interest	239.10	
		<u>\$3,300.68</u>	
Expense:		\$0.00	
Balance June 30, 1999			\$21,200.19
<u>General Account:</u>			
Balance April 1, 1999			\$4,120.17
Income:	Dues	\$2,677.50	
	Conference	1,686.70	
	Calendar	235.00	
	Miscellaneous	10.00	
		<u>\$4,609.20</u>	
Expenses:	Conference	\$1,499.89	
	Officers	173.87	
	<i>Museletter</i>	759.93	
	Contests	235.00	
		<u>\$2,668.69</u>	
Balance June 30, 1999			\$6,060.68
<u>Calendar Account:</u>			
Balance April 1, 1999			\$6,386.01
Income:	Sales	\$707.00	
Expenses:	2000 Calendar	\$1,000.00	
	Miscellaneous	323.33	
		<u>\$1,323.33</u>	
Balance June 30, 1999			\$5,769.68

## Don't Miss This!

Submission Guidelines for the first MUSE contest will be printed in the winter *Museletter*. Because the competition is open to any writer in Wisconsin, the guidelines will also be distributed to various places around the state. The Literary Fund Committee wishes to thank all of you who sent suggestions for good places to post the notices and a double thanks to those individuals who offered to hand deliver them to various outlets. If any members have additional suggestions, please send to George Johnson, 1912 Strawberry Lane, Green Bay, WI 54304. George is assembling a master mailing list.

Submission guidelines will be available at the Fall Conference for members who want to get an early start on polishing up their finest writing and submitting it to the first Muse Prize for Excellence in Poetry contest which celebrates our 50th year as Wisconsin's premier poetry organization.

## Minutes of the WFOP Board Meeting — April 23, 1999

### Leathem Smith Lodge, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

Present: President Slocum, Officers Sherrill, DeKolver, Cavanaugh, Flaten, Larsen, Roach, Swanson.

President Slocum opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Minutes of the 3/27 Board Meeting were approved and filed. Treasury reports read, approved, attached; balances as follows:

3/31/99	Literary Fund	\$17,899.51
3/31/99	General Account	\$4,120.17
3/31/99	Calendar Account	\$6,386.01

#### Old Business - Reports

Fall Conference: Jan Chronister and the Northwest Region will be sponsoring the conference on October 15-16 in Ashland at the Hotel Chequamegon. The theme will be "Connecting with Our Historical Past." So far, Jan has lined up Matt Welter to speak and is looking for one other person.

WFOP on the Web: Sheryl Slocum passed out an article prepared by Cathryn Cofell regarding the pros and cons of creating our own web site. The General Membership will be asked to provide comment, with a vote at the Fall Meeting.

Membership: 40 persons approved for Active Membership, 4 for Associate Membership. Sr. Irene Zimmerman and Sheryl approved applications from two people in Illinois because of their strong ties to Wisconsin.

50th Anniversary: Written confirmation has been received from speaker Marge Piercy. She has agreed to speak for only \$2000 plus costs. Bruce Dethlefsen will ask for a show of hands at the General Meeting regarding intent to attend.

Calendar: Elaine Cavanaugh's report reviewed and attached. All notifications will be out by 4/30/99. She anticipates the first proof arriving next week, with two more proofs to follow. Inkwell's deadline is the end of July; Elaine had hoped for June, but he is on vacation. We will wait to schedule the summer board meeting in August until after delivery to facilitate shipping of the calendars. She is also checking with Inkwell on the possibility of doing another smaller press run later in case we run out because it is the year 2000 issue.

Lou Roach has been receiving advanced orders like crazy. She has been in discussion with TNT Media Group who will consider taking calendars if we give them better than a 35% discount; if so, Lou asked if we should also offer the same to Barnes & Noble. Peter Sherrill made a motion to leave our wholesale discount at 35%. Sue DeKolver seconded, motion approved. Lou also said she has been asked if the calendar includes an ISBN, EAN Barcode and UPC Symbol. It will include the ISBN but not the UPC; Peter suggested that Inkwell should be able to get the barcode from any number of suppliers for only about \$10 a piece, and it shouldn't interfere with putting any poems on the back cover. If Inkwell can't provide it, Peter can work with his supplier. A cutoff date of January 1, 2000 was set for authorized returns from wholesalers.

Peter contacted Wisconsin Public Radio to see if they would be interested in receiving 1999 calendars to use as giveaways. They will take a few dozen to put out in lobbies and as freebies, but it's a bit late in the year to use as prizes. However, we will plan ahead for next year and given them a supply when the calendars come out.

WI Poet Laureate: Peter reported on behalf of Cathryn. The Committee has been in contact with the majority of other writing/arts organizations in the state, as well as with the Governor's office who has asked to be kept in the loop. Many of these organizations have bowed out, but have cleared the way for WFOP to move forward. The WI Regional Writers' Association, Council for Wisconsin Writers, the Council of Local Arts Agencies and possibly the WI Academy are all on board; a summer meeting will be scheduled to hash out the proposal.

Student Contest: Yvette Flaten reported that there were no Manningham winners from Wisconsin. She received approximately 700-850 entries, primarily Jr. High students. Winners were invited to read on *Higher Ground* on May 1, 1999.

Literary Fund: Barbara Larsen reported that we are only \$800 short of our \$20,000 goal (goal was reached since these minutes were submitted). The last fundraiser generated over \$1200. The next step is the inauguration of our contests. The Muse Contest, which is open to all Wisconsin residents, will be advertised soon with the winners announced at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Contest. George Johnson is putting together a master list to do a mass mailing to newspapers, schools, libraries to announce the contest. The General Membership will be asked to help get names and addresses for local writers' hangouts. Next fall, we will then introduce the Triad Contest, which is for members only.

Conference Schedule: Peter distributed a rough conference rotation schedule. A copy will be sent to all VPs for discussion. VPs are responsible for finding someone to coordinate the conference.

Museletter: The Advertising Policy is finalized. Karla Huston is the new Poetry Page Editor.

#### New Business

NFSPS Contest: We received a letter from the NFSPS requesting that we increase the prize payout for our two WI state contests. Only winners who receive more than \$15 in prize money are published in their anthology, and our 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize is only \$10. Sue asked that we table the vote until the fall meeting so that she can have all the details we need on hand to make a good decision. It was also suggested we include mention of these contests in the *Museletter*, along with notification of the Trophy Contest.

Treasury: Sue recommended that we put together a small committee to look at disbursement of calendar monies. It appears that we have not made any money in the last two years. We need to analyze the problem and come up with ways to correct the direction we are headed.

Miscellaneous: Profit from Quilt sales will go to the Literary Fund, per Sandra Lindow as previously agreed to. Sheryl asked if anyone knows where the original logo art is. She will contact the August Derleth society.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted (in absentia),  
Cathryn Cofell, Secretary

## Minutes of the WFOP General Meeting — April 24, 1999 Leathem Smith Lodge, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin

[Officers: Slocum, Sherrill, DeKelver]

President Slocum opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. Minutes of the 10/98 Board Meeting were approved and filed. Treasury reports read, approved, attached; balances as follows:

3/31/99	Literary Fund	\$17,899.51
3/31/99	General Account	\$4,120.17
3/31/99	Calendar Account	\$6,386.01

Sue reminded members to pay their dues if they have not already done so, or consider a lifetime membership for only \$100. She also has several cases of back issues if anyone is interested in taking them.

### Reports

WFOP on the Web: Sheryl Slocum passed out an article regarding the pros and cons of creating our own web site. Please read and provide comment to Cathryn Cofell, with a vote at the Fall Meeting. See "To Web or Not to Web" elsewhere in the *Museletter*.

50th Anniversary: Peter Sherrill covered for Michael Belongie. Conference is June 9-11, 2000 at Green Lake Conference Center. There will not be a spring conference in the Year 2000 because of this summer date, which corresponds with the exact date of the first meeting 50 years ago. Keynote speaker will be Marge Piercy. If the two-night event is successful, we may consider two nights for other conferences. Over 50 people responded to Bruce Dethlefsen's request for a show of hands regarding intent to attend.

Calendar: Elaine Cavanaugh reported that all notification will be out by 4/30/99 and that the calendar will be available at the end of July. We do not expect to have any unsold copies this year, and may consider a second print run if necessary. Wholesale brochures are available; members should take some to local gift shops or coffee shops. Lou Roach commended all the people who had already been ordering their advanced copies. She also asked that people order early so we have a sense of how many we'll sell. Once calendars are in, orders will be shipped in the order she received them; cases will also be shipped out to those who have requested them.

Student Contest: Yvette Flaten reported that no Wisconsin students placed in any of the the 20 positions in the Manningham Contest. She felt the quality of this year's entries was down, as shown by the judges' choices. Yvette introduced Liz Hammond as the new Student Contest Chair.

Literary Fund: Barbara Larsen reported that we are only \$800 short of our \$20,000 goal (goal was reached since these minutes were submitted). The last fundraiser generated over \$1200. She brought along additional contribution cards if anyone would like to help us bring in the last \$800. The Muse Contest, which is open to all Wisconsin residents, is the first up. George Johnson is putting together a master list to do a mass mailing to announce the contest. All meeting attendees received a form in their packet to write in the names of any coffee shops or other writers' hangouts so we can get the word out all over the state. Barbara also thanked all committee members.

Membership: Sheryl reported for Irene Zimmerman that 40 persons were approved for Active Membership and 4 for Associate Membership. Names of new members were read and asked to stand.

Poetry Quilt: Has sold very well. Profit from the quilt has been donated to the Literary Fund.

Museletter: Sheryl introduced Karla Huston as the new Poetry Page Editor. Karla reminded the new poets to send her work by May 7, 1999. Star and Sheryl also thanked Chris Falk, *Museletter* Editor, for all her help.

Regional VP Reports: Represented by Barbara Larsen for Northeast; Dorothy Schwenkner for South; Yvette Flaten (for Sandra Lindow) for West-Central; Jan Chronister for Northwest; Suzi Godwin for South-Central; Elaine Cavanaugh for East-Milwaukee; no report for Central-Fox Valley; Jan Captain for Mid-Central.

Fall Conference: Will be held in Ashland on October 15-16 at the Hotel Chequamegon. Board members have brochures. The theme will be "Connecting with Our Historical Past." Jan has lined up Matt Welter to speak.

Miscellaneous: Peter reported that the Advertising Policy is now accepted and can be found in the *Museletter*. Regional VPs will be receiving a copy of a draft rotational schedule for upcoming conferences for review and discussion.

Peter moved that the meeting be adjourned. Yvette seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted (in absentia),  
Cathryn Cofell, Secretary

7th Annual  
Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets  
Invitational  
Poetry Marathon  
at Olbrich Gardens  
August 29, 1999  
Readings at 1, 2, and 3 p.m.  
in the Atrium

### Don't Forget to Pay your Dues

Thank you to those members that have paid their membership dues on time for 1999. Just a reminder to those that have not paid yet, the amounts are as follows:

Student	\$7.50
Associate	\$10.00
Active	\$15.00
Life (Patron)	\$100.00

Please send your dues to Sue DeKelver to the address in the masthead of the *Museletter* if your mailing label has a (97) or (98) after your name.