

Wisconsin Fellowship Of Poets Museletter

founded 1950



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www.wfop.org

Editor: Christine Falk

Welcome

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

Mary Jane Gabrielsen	Riverwoods, IL
Beth Ellen Jack	Huntington Bch, CA
Carl Merola	Hancock
Jann Merry	Hartford
Jamie Lynn Morris	Onalaska
Judith Ristow	Menomonie
Gary Robbins	LaCrosse

And welcome to these people who have rejoined after a brief absence:

Charles Cantrell	Madison
Ron Czerwien	Madison
Rusty McKenzie	Menasha
Andrea Potos	Madison

New member inquiries should be directed to Gillian Nevers, the membership chair. Her contact information is listed in the masthead.

Welcome to all!

President's Message

Working the Angles

According to Aristotle, a speaker's effectiveness depends upon appeal to three categories: ethos (the speaker's trustworthiness), pathos (the listener's interest), and logos (the subject's validity). You may have heard this referred to as the "rhetorical triangle," with each concept at one vertex. Modern writing teachers tend to simplify this triangle to writer, reader, and subject. That's certainly how I encountered the graphic in college composition courses, and it has been handy for tackling a multitude of writing projects.

Basically, this triangle predicts that the more distant any two of the three vertices, the more difficult the rhetorical situation for the writer. Let's consider a simple diary entry, for example: The writer, reader, and subject are all effectively the same, making the triangle very small and the writing task very easy. Now imagine that the diarist is writing an entry about a lecture in advanced particle physics. Assuming the person is not a particle physicist, while the distance between writer and reader remains the same, the distance to the subject is much greater, making the task more difficult. Next, imagine that our writer must compose a report about the same lecture for a complete stranger. Not only is the subject distant, the lack of knowledge about the reader adds to the difficulty, making the writing task almost impossible.

What does this all have to do with poetry? From my experience as both a writer and reader, I'd say that poetry tends to be revelatory of the inner person. The poet experiences something outward that instigates an exploration inward, and then attempts to capture the resulting revelation in words. Beginning poets may simply scratch the surface, in effect writing a diary entry. More experienced poets typically plumb more deeply, increasing the distance between writer and subject, and end up with more unique results.

However, even more experienced poets too often neglect the third vertex of the rhetorical triangle. Some perhaps assume that poetry is meant to be obscure, and they leave it to the reader to figure out. Others are so detailed in their revelation that no room is left for the reader to interact with the poem. Too often, I believe, the problem is simply that the poet doesn't really have an intended reader in mind. The intensely personal nature of crafting a poem has precluded imagining a recipient other than the poet him- or herself.

You may have heard me say that I come from blue-collar roots, and I'd like to bring some poetry back to the blue-collar crowd. Recently I wrote a poem to my wife to celebrate our anniversary, and had it delivered to her place of employment. One of her coworkers read it and remarked, "Why can't that boy write in plain English?" I got the ethos and the logos right but failed on the pathos. Sorry, Aristotle.

Sincerely,

Les



**Museletter
Deadline
February 5,
2010**

What's Happening in Your Region?

East Region

Carolyn Vargo, East Regional Co-VP
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or
Janet Leahy, East Regional Co-VP
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Barbara Bache-Wiig read her poetry at a memorial service at Avalon Square in Waukesha.

Mary Jo Balistreri, Janet Leahy, Susan Kileen, Judy Kolosso and Katy Phillips had poems published in *Empty Shoes*, an anthology of poetry about the homeless. Janet also had a poem published in the fall issue of *Wisconsin People and Ideas*, it was part of the magazine's annual poetry contest.

Dennis Idzikowski was among six local poets who read and contributed to a poetry program at Washington DuBois Christian Leadership Academy, a K-6 choice school in Milwaukee.

submitted by
Carolyn Vargo and Janet Leahy, East Regional Co-VPs

Mary Jo Balistreri had two poems published in the fall issue of *Spindrift*, a journal out of Seattle and one poem in *Hummingbird*. She was the featured poet in *Bellowing Ark* with five poems published and had her poem, "Canticle ..." published on *Your Daily Poem.com*. She participated in a reading on Saturday September 12th for a women's shelter and read on September 19th at a local food pantry.

Northwest Region

Jan Chronister, Northwest Regional VP
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Maple, WI 54854
janchronister@yahoo.com

WFOP members **Jan Chronister, Naomi Cochran, Gladyce Nahbenayash and Ann Penton** read poems at the Second Sunday event on October 11th featuring the 2010

Wisconsin Poets' Calendar. Jan received word that one of her poems won First Place in a category, two received Awards of Merit, and one received a Citation in the 2009 Minnesota League of Poets annual contest.

submitted by
JanChronister, Northwest Regional VP

West-Central Region

Sandra Lindow, West-Central Regional VP
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September 10th, **Steve Betchkal, Sandra Lindow, Don Melcher and Dina St. Louis** participated in a reading at Bookends on Main bookstore in Menomonie. Despite unseasonal inclement weather with blowing snow, slippery streets, and car accidents, the Chippewa Valley Book Festival, October 22nd to the 25th, was a success.

Sue Thibado has had three poems accepted for the anthology, *Empty Shoes*. Popcorn Press is the publisher. The profits go to homeless shelters in Wisconsin. Cost is \$18.95 plus shipping. **Bruce Taylor's** two poems, "Middle-Aged Man, Smoking," and "Little Elegies" appear in *Light Quarterly* (Spring Summer 2009). On November 1st, his poem "A Whole Day" was the featured poem on www.YourDailyPoem.com!

Sandra Lindow was one of the Just Local Writers to read at the Chippewa Valley Book Festival which also featured a reading and workshop by **Marilyn Taylor**. Lindow's poem, "A Crisis of Forest" was part of the Science Fiction Poetry Association's on-line Halloween Poetry reading. It can be found at www.sfpoetry.com/halloween.html. Her poem "The Hedge Witch's Upgrade" appeared in the October/November *Asimov's*; her poem, "Finding the God Particle," has been accepted by www.StrangeHorizons.com and "The Long Ride" has been accepted by *Verse Wisconsin*. Lindow recently participated in an on-line 1000 poem renga.

submitted by
Sandra Lindow, West-Central Regional VP

Jane-Marie Bahr, Menomonie, has published "Autumn Leaves," in the September issue of *Hummingbird*. Her poem was illustrated on the adjacent

page of the Art Editor, David Kopitzke. She read her poem, "Selecting a Memorial," from her series *Seasons of Grief: The Gerry Poems* at an ecumenical service at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire on August 2nd.

Northeast Region

Sarah Rose Thomas, Northeast Regional VP
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Estella Lauter tied for first place in the 2009 Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Contest sponsored by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. The poem, "Gaza, January 2009" can be viewed at www.wagingpeace.org.

Karen McClelland's memoir piece, "Choices," is appearing in the November 2009 issue of *The Infinite Writer*, an online e-zine. The poem can be found at <http://mysite.verizon.net/resockeb/e-zine/index.html>.

South-Central Region

James Roberts, South-Central Regional VP
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Greetings fellow poets. Once again I am afraid this will be a foreshortened column and Rubik's Cube hodgepodge. Emerson's foolish hobgoblins have been at work on my computer—again! It's disconcerting to realize how rapidly these things change and how quickly one gets left behind in this all-too-hasty world. Well, enough of that. I shall continue to joust in this cybersphere until I am truly unhorsed.

Suzu Godwin sends news that she's had haiku published in both the Spring/Summer 2009 and the Fall/Winter 2009 editions of *Echoes*.

Sarah Busse not only has been busy setting up (with **Wendy Vardaman**) the *Verse Wisconsin* magazine and traveling about promoting the venture, but she has also had a chapbook published by Red Dragonfly Press called *Quiver*. Sarah was a guest on WORT's "Radio Literature" program on Thursday, October 15th. She and Wendy were also featured in the November 2009 issue of *Madison Magazine* as one of "33

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Madisonians Who've Had A Really Good Year." (I suspect that I would have made the list as one of "33 Madisonians Who've Had A Really BAD Year!—Funny how they never print those lists.)

R. Virgil Ellis has had his latest collection—described as his magnum opus—published by Desperado Press. *The Tenting Cantos* contains 100 poems in a full book-length format. Well done, Ron!

Richard Roe appeared on WORT's "Radio Literature" program, reading poetry on August 13th. That same evening **Catherine Jagoe** read poetry at the Sundance Theatre in Madison.

Robin Chapman read from her forthcoming collection, *The Hydra's Eye*, at Avol's Bookstore in Madison on September 10th. She also joined **Susan Elbe**, **Catherine Jagoe**, **Jesse Lee Kercheval**, and **Sara Parrell** in a "House Concert" at the Chapman's residence on September 25th.

Wendy Vardaman and **Katrin Talbot** read and shared poetry at Avol's on September 27th.

A couple of items did not make it in the last issue...

Susan Elbe had poems in the Spring 2009 issue of *Valparaiso Poetry Review*, *Sawbuck*, *Crab Creek Review*, the Fall 2009 issue of *Diode* and she received an Honorable Mention in Alison Joseph's love rondeau contest at *Rondeau Roundup Blogs's* July 2009 issue. **Susan** and **Ron Czerwien** had a collaborative poem in the "Mutating The Signature" issue of *Qarrtsiluni* and Susan had another poem in the "Words of Power" issue as well. She received a residency to the Virginia Center For Creative Arts for Fall 2009 and participated in a panel at the Lorine Niedecker Poetry Festival in Fort Atkinson in October 2009.

F.J. Bergmann continues to publish industriously and prolifically with acceptances and appearances in the following (deep breath): *55 Words*, *Aberrant Dreams*, *Alimentum*, *Asimov's*, *Astro poetica*, *Big Toe Review*, *Blazevox*, *Doorways*, *Epicenter*, *Elimae*, *Fear and Trembling*, *Issue 1*, *Les Bonnes Fees*, *Mad Hatter's Review*, *The Magazine of Speculative Poetry*, *Mythic Delirium*,

The Nebula Awards Showcase, *New Myths*, *Nightblade*, *Opium*, *Otoliths*, *Pemmican*, *Poetry Midwest*, *Qarrtsiluni*, *Red Heart/Black Heart*, *Right Hand Pointing*, *The 2009 Rhysling Award Anthology*, *Ruthless Peoples Magazine*, *Scifaikuest*, *Six Little Things*, *Spaceports & Spidersilk*, *Strange Horizons*, *Subtropics*, *Tales of the Unanticipated*, *Vampyr Verse*, *Weird Deer*, and *Weird Tales*. She won the "Picture-Worth-500-Words" contest in *Tattoo Highway #18*, received second prize in the *Newport Review* 2009 Flash Fiction Contest, and is currently one of 10 finalists in the *Opium* 250-word bookmark contest. She is the poetry editor for *Mobius: The Journal of Social Change*.

Fabu, Madison's Poet Laureate, read poetry at the Lorine Niedecker Poetry Festival in Fort Atkinson on October 3rd. Other participants were **John Lehman**, **Sarah Busse**, and **Wendy Vardaman** and former winners of the Lorine Niedecker Poetry Award. **Fabu** is also the poetry columnist for *Madison Magazine* and continues to work with kids in various poetry programs around Madison.

James P. Roberts had a poem, "The Poet Forgets Jazz" published in the November 2009 issue of *Madison Magazine*. He also has contributed a dust jacket commendation to Bryan Thao Worra's new collection of poetry, *Barrow* (Sam's Dot Publishing).

Poets too numerous to mention here are included in the *2010 Wisconsin Poet's Calendar*. If you want to know who they are...buy a copy or two! Lots of good stuff here and plenty of room for writing a poem of your own!

Until next time...

submitted by

James P. Roberts, South-Central Regional VP

Kathleen Ernst's poem "Facing Forward" was juried into the Mark My Words Exhibition at the Pump House Regional Arts Center in La Crosse. Artist Monica T. Jagel created a visual response to the poem. Also, Kathleen's poem "Thunderbird and Whale" recently appeared in *Perceptions*.

Gillian Nevers had two poems appear in the autumn issue of *Pierenes Fountain*, an online magazine. She also had a poem in the *2010 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*.

Marilyn Taylor was featured in the

Wisconsin State Journal on Sunday, November 8th. The article discussed the Poet Laureateship, Marilyn's work and her Poet Laureate philosophy. The story also promoted a newly produced video that the *State Journal* will be featuring on its website that focuses on the change of seasons in Wisconsin with Marilyn reading her poems as the voice-over.

On November 8th **Alice D'Alessio**, **Ronnie Hess**, **Bobbie Krinsky**, **Jackie Langetieg**, and **Kathy Miner** gave a poetry reading entitled "In Search of Lost Ancestors: The Poet as Genealogist."

Geoff Collins has been fortunate to have work recently appear in *Blue Earth Review*, *Willow Review*, *Mobius*, *Peninsula Pulse* and one of the final issues of *Main Channel Voices*. He also has several poems forthcoming in both *River Oak Review* and *Tiger's Eye Journal*. He is working on a chapbook for possible publication next year.

Shoshauna Shy has had poems appear courtesy of *The Chiron Review*, *Ragged Sky Press* and the *2010 Wisconsin Poet's Calendar*. She also produced poems paired with the artwork of Sarah Spencer on postcards that are currently being distributed nationwide as part of the latest Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf project titled "Lines in the Sand." See www.PoetryJumpsOfftheShelf.com for details.

Alice D'Alessio won the 2008 chapbook contest by *Earth's Daughters* with her book *Days We Are Given*, which ED published last month.

Linda Schumacher has a poem in the recently released anthology, *True Cow Tales: Literary Sketches and Stories* by Farmers, Ranchers, and Dairy Princesses, published by Dog Ear Publishing. *True Cow Tales* is available online through www.truecowtales.com.

Mid-Central Region

Joan Johannes, Mid-Central Regional VP
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Members of the Mid-Central Wisconsin WFOP region who read from the calendar at McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids included **Linda**

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Aschbrenner, Barb Cranford, Cathy Conger, Bruce Dethlefsen, Jeffrey Johannes, Joan Wiese Johannes, Mary Lou Judy, Jeanette Lindelhof, and Jim Pollock.

Barb Cranford held her 33rd all-day, poem-making workshop at her home on October 24th. Among the attendees was **Jeanette Lindelof**. **Linda Aschbrenner** and **Lou Roach** took part in absentia. On November 5th Barb read from her new book, *This Blind Journey*, at the Original Voice at the Coloma Hotel.

Bruce Dethlefsen was the featured reader at Coloma and St. Norbert's Abbey in DePere. He had poems published in the *Empty Shoes* anthology and the premiere issue of *Recovering the Self Journal*.

Cathy Conger won the 2009 Jade ring prize for humorous poetry, as well as 3rd prize in the same category, from the Wisconsin Regional Writer's Association at the September conference in Eau Claire.

Jeffrey Johannes and **Joan Wiese Johannes** read their poems at the dedication of the current issue of *Fox Cry Review* in Appleton in October. **Barb Cranford** also had a poem selected for the 2009 issue. Also in October, **Jeffrey** and **Joan Wiese Johannes** read from their award winning poems, drew from their experience as judges, and shared judges' notes at the Wisconsin Rapids Cultural Center, followed by a discussion about the qualities literary journal editors and judges look for in poems.

Joan Wiese Johannes won the John and Miriam Morris chapbook contest sponsored by Alabama Poetry Society. She also had poems accepted in *Verse Wisconsin*.

Linda Aschbrenner and Marsh River Editions, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission, published a second printing of the chapbook Wisconsin Poets Laureate featuring the poetry of **Marilyn Taylor, Denise Sweet, and Ellen Kort**. Linda is the lead judge of the *Wisconsin People & Ideas* / Wisconsin Book Festival 2010 Poetry Contest. Enter by December 15th. See www.wisconsinacademy.org.

Linda Aschbrenner received a cash award and honorable mentions for an essay, two poems, and a young adult short story in the 78th Annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition. One of her poems is included in the anthology, *Empty Shoes*, edited by **Patrick T. Randolph**, published by Popcorn Press. She also participated in a publishers' panel at the Wisconsin Book Festival in Madison. Linda Aschbrenner and Marsh River Editions were featured in the Marshfield area *Buyers' Guide* in November. The article was written by **Kris Rued-Clark**.

submitted by
Joan Wiese Johannes, Mid-Central Regional VP

Central-Fox Valley Region

Bill Gillard, Central-Fox Valley Regional VP
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Michael Belongie has donated an electronic pdf file of his fifth collection of 52 poems, *Now Is All We Have*, for use of the campaign fund of the new monastery building.

The electronic layout of *Now Is All We Have* was designed by Christine Falk and includes nature photos by naturalist, Nancy Schlimgen.

Michael's pdf file is available at www.benedictine.women.org.

Borderland Exhibit Opens in December

"BORDERLAND: where worlds arise out of touch," an exhibit of the poetry of Lake Effect Poets Robin Chapman, Susan Elbe, Rasma Haidri, Catherine Jagoe, Jesse Lee Kercheval, Sara Parrell, Judith Strasser, and Alison Townsend, with the photography of Thomas Ferrella, at the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703. Opening reception Friday, December 4th, 4-7 p.m., poetry reading at 6 p.m. Show runs through February 5th, 2010. 608-255-1166.

Poetry and Art Exhibit Coming to the Holy Wisdom Monastery

Benedictine Women of Madison will be hosting an art exhibit, combining the poetry of Michael Belongie and the landscape and wildlife paintings of Jonathan Wilde February 12th-May 14th, 2010 at Holy Wisdom Monastery, 4200 County M, Middleton, Wisconsin.

Michael will have a special print edition released of his fifth poetry collection, *Now Is All We Have*, for the exhibit at the reception on Friday, February 12th at 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The proceeds from this special edition will be donated to the Holy Wisdom Monastery.

In addition, matted poems rendered in calligraphy by Laura Jacobsen will be accompanied with a significant number of oils by Jonathan Wilde. Many of the oils and calligraphies will be available for purchase.

How to reach the Editor

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2011 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar Submission Guidelines 25th Year Celebration!

Co-Editors Sandra Lindow and Peg Lauber

Poetry is requested for the *2011 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. The editors are seeking a wide range of poems—diverse in style, content, and form and are particularly interested in poems that provide the reader with a strong sense of place. Poets must be at least eighteen years old and must live in Wisconsin or have a strong connection with the state.

Submission period: November 1, 2009, through February 1, 2010. Entries must be either e-mailed or postmarked within this period in order to be considered. The editors prefer submission through e-mail.

Poets will be notified of acceptance or rejection by April 30, 2010. Please wait until this date before contacting us about the status of your submissions. After submitting, please notify us immediately if your contact information changes. Those poets who submit by snail mail are strongly urged to send the editors an electronic copy after acceptance. This will help assure the accuracy of the calendar. See snail mail and e-mail addresses below.

Number of poems: Up to three poems may be submitted.

Length of poems: The body of each poem, including title, stanza breaks and any epigraph or dedication, can be no longer than 32 lines. Poems of 24 lines or fewer are more likely to be accepted.

Previous Publication: Poems must be original and unpublished. Editors are willing to consider some exceptions if poems have been used for educational purposes or self-published in chapbooks. If a poem has been previously published, please furnish publication data.

Formatting: Single-space your poem(s) and use a standard font. Poems that are wide, irregularly formatted, or using much blank space are not likely to be accepted. We will contact you before making any format changes.

Accuracy: Please double-check spelling and punctuation before submitting.

For E-mail submissions:

How to Submit: Submit your work as attachment(s) in Microsoft Word or rtf. E-mail subject line should be **(your last name)** plus **Calendar Submission**, such as: **Poe Calendar Submission** or **Dickinson Calendar Submission**.

For Windows submissions, send to Sandy Lindow at lindowleaf@gmail.com. For Mac submissions, send to Peg Lauber at laubermc@uwec.edu.

Submission Guidelines continues on page 10

2010 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. If you are a contributor, a calendar containing your poem would make an excellent birthday, anniversary, holiday, or special occasion gift. There now is no limit to the number of calendars that members may purchase at the wholesale rate of \$9.00 each (retail price is \$13.95). Please use the following form to place your order. Send to: Michael Farmer, Business Manager, *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 2010*, PO Box 555, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202-0555 Phone: (920) 839-2191 Email: mfarmer1876@gmail.com (Information is for in-house use only and not to be sold, traded or given away.)

I would like _____ books @ \$9.00 each 1 book: \$3.00 \$ _____

2-3 books: \$4.00

If ordering by mail, please add shipping charges: 4-5 books: \$5.00

6-10 books: \$6.50

Shipping and handling: over 10: Call or email \$ _____

Total Enclosed: Make checks payable to **WFOP Calendar Account** \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

I would like _____ copies of the RETAIL brochure to distribute to potential individual buyers.

I would like _____ copies of the WHOLESALE brochure for bookstores, gifts shops and other potential sellers in my community.

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets 2010 Chapbook Prize Contest Rules

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets is dedicated to promoting poetry in Wisconsin and seeks to expand its contest offerings by honoring the best chapbook published in the previous year by a Wisconsin resident.

1. Contestant must be a Wisconsin resident 18 years of age or older. A resident is a person who maintains a permanent residence in Wisconsin or who has lived for at least six continuous months in the state during the contest year. A contestant does not need to be a member of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets.
2. The contest opens December 1, 2009. The entry form must be completed in full, included with the submission and entry fee, and postmarked by the contest DEADLINE, which is February 1, 2010.
3. Chapbooks may be entered by the author or the publisher, must be sixteen to forty-seven pages (of actual poems) long, and published in 2009. Chapbooks may be self-published. On-line chapbooks do not qualify.
4. The non-refundable entry fee is \$10.00 per chapbook. Entry forms and checks (made out to WFOP Literary Fund) mailed to WFOP/chap/Dethlefsen, 422 Lawrence Street, Westfield, WI 53964.
5. The prizes are: First Place – \$300.00 and one Honorable Mention – \$100.00. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants a prize.
6. The contest will be judged by a writing professional who resides outside the state. This year's judge will be Oliver de la Paz.
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the WFOP Spring Conference in April. The First Place and Honorable Mention winners are invited to attend the awards presentation luncheon as a guest of WFOP. The winners will be published in the WFOP *Museletter* and on its website at www.wfop.org.
8. The First Place winner of the WFOP Chapbook Prize will be ineligible to enter that contest again for three years. Plagiarism disqualifies the contestant.
9. The WFOP is not responsible for lost books. Do not send a SASE. Entries will not be returned and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow any of the above rules.
10. Author retains all rights to his/her work.
11. Address questions to Bruce Dethlefsen bpdethlefsen@gmail.com.

Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Chapbook Prize Contest Entry Form

Poet's Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Publisher and Date (month and year) _____

Choose and Sign **One**:

_____ I am a Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older. The poem I am submitting is my own original unpublished work and not under consideration elsewhere at this time.

Signature _____ Date _____

As publisher, I am submitting this chapbook for _____
who, to my knowledge, is a Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older, and contains his/her original work.

Signature _____ Date _____

[Optional] Newspaper (name and address) to be notified if this chapbook is chosen as First Place or Honorable Mention

Enclose entry form and fee (\$10.00 per chapbook).

Enclose printed copy of chapbook.

Make check payable to "WFOP Literary Fund"

Mail Entry to: **WFOP/chap/Dethlefsen**
422 Lawrence Street
Westfield, WI 53964

DEADLINE (postmarked by): February 1, 2010. This form may be reproduced.

Letters to Someone Well-Known

Letters! I got letters! I got lots and lots of terrific “letters-to-famous-people” for this issue of the *Museletter*! Thank you all—and the only negative is that because of space limitations, I had to say no to so many very good ones. I know that you’ll really enjoy the selections below, but please keep in mind that several poems you do NOT see here were excellent as well. Please keep submitting!

Refresh my failing memory Paris, dear

Did you not have a clear epiphany
While jailed (for several hours) two years past?
Did you not swear (in jewels by Tiffany)
The mug shot photo-op would be your last?
On Larry King, you said you’d had enough
Of posing and of parties fueled by Scotch,
Of searches for this season’s BFF
And snapshots of your celebrated crotch.
I thought I read that you were born again
Within those claustrophobic prison walls
And planned a philanthropic future when
At last you ditched the convict coveralls.

Well, time’s a wastin’, Princess of Bel Air;
So hurry, hon, go find your underwear.

—Laurie Risch, Madison

Dear Fred,

It’s still the same old song and dance.
We’re in a war of lethal trickery,
insensate, conflicted, caught just staring—
we could use a little light Terpsichore.

You might consider bringing Ginger
though we may favor Judy, Gene or Cyd.
It’s doubtful you’d miss those feathers in your teeth
after every move that spice girl did.

A couple of swells could turn our heads
that top hat and tails will never be dated.
When a shine on your shoes dulls the dollar blues—
do you suspect this is somehow fated?

Let’s face the music, revive it again—
this isn’t just a stroll in Central park.
It’s for sale, it’s on sale, it’s swing time—
we’re all just slow dancing, in the dark.

—Judy Wucherer, Menomonee Falls

Letter to Norman Perceval Rockwell

When I looked at your work entitled “The Problem We All Live With”
I saw the young black girl Ruby Bridges, flanked by white federal marshals,
walking to school past a wall defaced by racist graffiti.
As I look at her I know she deserves a medal for bravery

She appears fragile and so small
Yet at the same time very strong and powerful
As she carries her books to the school that doesn’t want her
My heart goes out to her and I begin to change
By watching her in your painting my fear settles and becomes small
Her bravery leaps into my heart
Each of your illustrations has affected me
I thank your spirit.

—Gladycy Nahbenayash, Superior

COHENSPEAK

Leonard, my love,
I live my life like a sentence. Caught
between holy and the honky-tonk,
wearing down my days
to scatter longings
on tiny weeds
of death
by violin.

—John Bloner, Jr., Kenosha

Writing Du Fu

I'm humbled
that so few words suffice
when mine run on without purpose.

Have we forgotten wealth and fame
are dew in the morning grass*

Even though your bones grow old
you still fight your wars. Ignoring sparseness,
I walk away from mine.

Your humble servant

—Jackie Langetieg, Verona

*Du Fu: A Life in Poetry
trans. David Young

To Sigurd F. Olson, Somewhere North of Ely

Dear friend, is it possible after so many years
to ask this favor, not that I have reached perfection,
but you did offer (remember, when you wrote in 1977),
you said my work was beautiful, you said to keep writing,
to keep everything, that it would take work to get there,
but one day it would come, and when that day arrived
just let you know, and perhaps you could help.

I have to confess, I didn't follow your advice.
I didn't write every day, and in fact, I didn't write for years.
I burned the poems I didn't like. I didn't even work very hard.
But I kept your letters, and I kept my snowshoes,
and I remember you said that only poets tell the truth.

Your hands were shaking then. I can see it in the ink
of your last letter, after we spoke. Only poets tell the truth
and I have told the truth, I have learned to be here,
have become the pasqueflower, bringing only beauty
to the harsh. So the day has arrived,
I am still in this world, I am not perfect,
but my words would delight you.

—Naomi Cochran, Hayward

*Theme for Spring issue:
See page 10 for more specific submission
information.
Deadline: Friday, February 5, 2010*

Submit via email, either pasted into the message or attached
as a **Word** document, to: mlt@uwm.edu.

Or send via snail-mail to: Marilyn Taylor, 2825 E. Newport
Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

**Membership status must be current to be considered for
publication on these pages.**

To Ardi, my newest oldest relative,

I want to say I'm sorry for calling you a caveman
when I saw your picture in the paper Grandma said
you weren't Not a gorilla either You are a real woman
But when diggers found you in Africa, you were in so
many pieces it took 15 years to put you back together
again, kind of like Humpty Dumpty, who you never knew
Those diggers did a good job, after all you're more than
four million years old but walked like me so you could
carry things That surprised everyone And since you spend
a lot of time in trees, that one long toe was a good idea
but I'm glad that changed I wish I could ask you how
it feels being called a fossil, a link more important
than Lucy, who you don't know either And what it was
like when you were my age Nobody can tell me that
Or what you thought about and how your figured stuff out
what scared you or made you laugh, and if you ever cried
Maybe someday we'll know all that Until then, what
Grandma and I talk about now makes me glad they found you

I am ten years old and this letter is from me and my grandma,
Katy Phillips, part of the family you never knew you'd have

—Kathleen Phillips, Waukesha

To Lorine Niedecker

You lived in the shadows,
where hard living circumscribed
too many of your dreams.
Yet, you created poems, sparse
but complete, pieces full of images.
You told whole stories in measured words,
believing you had said enough,
while you waited for the world to hear.

You felt devotion for one man for years,
but lived with only loneliness.
You learned love had many faces, chose one
who gave you his heart and a different peace.
He understood your need for warmth,
your need to write and your poems flourished.

You wrote of the river,
were nurtured in that harbor.
You sought brevity and drafted lines
as fertile as the landscape.
You expanded your sights
with letters and tempered inquiry.
You taught us to condense the "now"—
see emotions in the spaces,
and hone moments sharp with meaning.

—Lou Roach, Poynette

Poems By Our Membership Pages Theme & Guidelines — Spring '10 Issue

1. Submit no more than *one poem per member*, please.
2. 24 lines or fewer, rhyme and meter optional.
3. *Title of poem, name of poet and home town of poet* must appear on the submission itself.
4. Email submissions (preferred) are fine, either as **MS Word** attachments or in the body of the email. Send to: mlt@uwm.edu
6. Snail-mail submissions are also permissible. Send to: Marilyn Taylor, 2825 E. Newport Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211. (Poems will not be returned.)

THEME: "The Body Electric!"

Write a poem in celebration of one part (just one!) of your (or anybody's) body, or a poem that is SPOKEN by one part of your (or anybody's) body. Use Lucille Clifton's "homage to my hips" as one example. Dana Levin's "In the Surgical Theatre" is another; the prose-poem "A Hand" by Jane Hirshfield is still another. All are accessible on the Internet.



Submission Guidelines from page 5

What to include: In the body of the e-mail, include a biographical note of 50 words or fewer. On each attached page, please include the following information:

- your name as you want it to appear in the calendar
- your e-mail address
- mailing address including zip code
- telephone number including area code

Acknowledgment: E-submissions will be acknowledged within seven days of receipt.

For Snail mail submissions:

Where to send them: Mail to
WFOP Calendar 2011
c/o Sandra Lindow
1308 16th Ave. E.
Menomonie, WI 54751

What to include:

- your name as you would want it to appear in the calendar
- your e-mail address if you have one (for acknowledgment, acceptance)
- mailing address including zip code
- telephone number including area code
- stamped, self-addressed envelope for acceptance or returning poems
- postcard for acknowledgement although we prefer the use of e-mail for this.

Poetry Publications

This section is for the listing of recent publications by WFOP MEMBERS EXCLUSIVELY. Recent publication: Copyright 2008-09. For more information, **please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope** to the author or publisher.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publication</u>	<u>Author</u>
<i>Beloved Somebodies</i>	Poetry Chapbook	Elmae Passineau 923 Broadway Avenue Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 845-2061 epassineau@verizon.net \$10 (includes postage) Available from the author
<i>Sing the Poem Electric</i>	DVD	R. Virgil Ellis Producer: Woodhenge Productions To order contact: R. Virgil Ellis ronellis@hughes.net (608) 423-9660 \$14.95
<i>The Tenting Cantos</i>	Poetry	R. Virgil Ellis Publisher: Desperado Press To order contact: R. Virgil Ellis ronellis@hughes.net (608) 423-9660 \$14.95
<i>This Blind Journey</i>	Poetry	Barb Cranford 951 Hwy C Hancock, WI 54943 blbick@merr.com (608) 564-7701 \$15 plus \$2.50 postage
<i>Yoga Woman</i>	Poetry	Barbara Jordan Bache-Wiig Published by: Poetry People Press Available from: Barbara J. Bache-Wiig Avalon Square #288 222 Park Place Waukesha, WI 53186 (262) 446-9326 \$12.00 plus \$2.00 postage





Fiscal Second Quarter Financial Report

July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009

To coincide with our federal tax filing our fiscal year is April 1 to March 31.

General Account: submitted by Nancy Rafal, treasurer

Balance July 1, 2009		\$48,622.78
Income:		
Dues	\$575.00	
Donation	25.00	
'09 spring conference income	209.00	
'09 fall conference income	1,529.00	
5 for 4 CD interest	55.20	
Literary Fund CD interest	<u>741.78</u>	
Total Income:	\$3,134.98	
Expenses:		
Mailing+other printing/ mailing	(\$1,148.04)	
N. Rafal—postage/supplies	<u>(14.76)</u>	
Total Expenses:	(\$1,162.80)	
Total		\$50,594.96
Closing Statements Balance on September 30, 2009		\$50,615.96
Outstanding checks		(\$20.00)
General Account Balance on September 30, 2009		\$50,594.96*

*\$25,000 of this is invested in three interest bearing CDs. One \$5,000 CD (22 months) for the General Account to help bridge the gap created by "5 for 4" and two \$10,000 CDs (13 months) the interest from which goes to the Literary Fund for our contest prizes.

Literary Fund Account: submitted by Jackie Langetieg, Literary Fund Co-Chair

Balance July 1, 2009		\$1,016.80
Income:		
Donation—Kay N. Saunders Memorial	<u>\$200.00</u>	
	\$200.00	
Expenses:		
Triad Judge-Dyjak	(\$100.00)	
Triad Judge-Swanberg	(\$100.00)	
Triad Judge-McLain	(\$100.00)	
Postage-Swanson	<u>(\$23.69)</u>	
Total Expenses:	(\$323.69)	
Closing Statement Balance on September 30, 2009		\$893.11
Literary Fund Balance on September 30, 2009		\$893.11

Calendar Account: submitted by Michael Farmer, Calendar Business Manager

Balance July 1, 2009		\$7,918.79
Income:		
Calendar Sales	<u>\$3,002.58</u>	
Total Income:	\$3,002.58	
Expenses:		
Postage	(\$874.14)	
Calendar Printing-2010	<u>(8,100.00)</u>	
Total Expenses:	(\$9,108.67)	
Calendar Account Balance on September 30, 2009		\$1,812.70

General Fund	\$50,594.96
Literary Fund	\$893.11
Calendar Fund	<u>\$1,812.70</u>
Total	\$53,300.77

Poetry Out Loud Needs Your Help

from Jacki Martindale, Wisconsin coordinator, Poetry Out Loud, Wisconsin Arts Board

Coming in to its fifth year, Poetry Out Loud is a poetry recitation contest for high school students sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Wisconsin Arts Board. I promote this contest and attempt to make it happen in the high schools across Wisconsin, we need the support of poets like you.

How does Poetry Out Loud work? Students memorize a poem from an impressive on-line anthology—see www.poetryoutloud.org for the anthology and everything else! They compete in classroom contests or the school's forensics program, and the champions move onto school, regional, and state contests. The champion and runner-up at the state level receive cash prizes, the champion moving onto the national contest with an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC.

We want to have contests in every region of Wisconsin. Thus we need more regional coordinators who can **promote** the contest, help **train** teachers and students to successfully compete, and then **organize** the regional contests in their areas. We also need poets across the state who can work with teachers **to design and conduct workshops** in their schools on understanding, writing, and orally interpreting poetry. We'd like to make a list of poets willing to be judges of school and regional contests for those regional coordinators. We have received generous NEA grants and will be able to pay coordinators \$1000 a year and may be able to pay regional judges as well.

Coordinators should have experience in managing programs, working with teachers and students, and being a cheerleader for poetry and its performance. Poets conducting workshops should have experience working in high school classes with students and teachers. Judges need to have read a broad range of poetry and be willing to study the POL judges' guide. We need coordinators in the Eau Claire, River Falls, Rhinelander, Portage/Stevens Point, and Fox River Valley. We have coordinators in the Madison, LaCrosse, urban southeast areas, and Jan Chronister in Superior. If you are interested, please contact me for more information: jmpmartindale@gmail.com or elumn8@charter.net; H 608-318-0551

Timeline:

- August-November: Promote Poetry Out Loud in your area, get teachers and their schools to sign up to do POL
- November 16—Deadline for schools to sign-up.
- November or earlier-mid January—Help schools promote POL, train teachers and students, hold workshops, and schools hold their contests.
- January 25, 2010, Monday—Deadline for school contests. Lead teachers inform regional and state coordinators the names of their two champions.
- Mid-February—Regional contests
- March 13—State Contest, Wisconsin Assembly Chambers, Madison, WI
- April National contest

Rules for Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Muse Prize for Excellence in Poetry

Please read the following rules carefully in order to avoid disqualification:

1. Contestant must be a Wisconsin resident 18 years of age or older.
2. The entry form must be completed in full, included with the submission and postmarked by the contest deadline date listed on the entry form.
3. Only one original unpublished poem not under consideration elsewhere may be entered in the WFOP Muse Prize contest. 75 line maximum. Send **two** copies of poem. Plagiarism disqualifies the contestant.
4. Manuscript must be typed on 8½” x 11” white paper, one side only. Writer’s name **should not** appear on the page with the poem.
5. An entry fee of \$3.00 for WFOP members and \$6.00 for non-members must accompany the submission. Checks are to be made out to WFOP Literary Fund and mailed to WFOP/Muse/Rafal, PO Box 340, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202. Send entry in business size envelope **only**.
6. Prizes are: 1st place—\$200.00 and trophy; 2nd—\$100.00; 3rd—\$75.00.
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the WFOP Spring Conference held on April 24, 2010 in Green Bay. The list of winners will be published in the WFOP *Museletter* and posted on the web site, www.wfop.org, after the conference.
8. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants a prize award.
9. The first place winner of the WFOP Muse Prize will be ineligible to enter that contest again for three years.
10. WFOP is not responsible for lost manuscripts. Do not send a SASE. Entries will **not** be returned and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow any of the above rules.
11. Author retains all rights to his/her work.

Markets

Do you miss the Markets column? If you would like to be the Markets person for the *Museletter*, please contact Les Smith. It has been such a useful source of information for members looking for places to get their poetry published and it is sad to see it gone. Think about it!

The following are some publishing opportunities that were sent to the *Museletter* editor:

Fearless Books

Submissions are now being accepted for Volume 2 of the Fearless Poetry Series, *Touching: Poems of Love, Longing, and Desire*. Complete submission guidelines are online at www.fearlessbooks.com/poetry.htm.

Volume 1 of the Series, *The Light in Ordinary Things*, has just been released. For information about this title, see www.fearlessbooks.com/poetry2.htm. Fearless Books, PO Box 1292, Berkeley, CA 94701, (510) 849-4028.

Page 5

After 11 years of silence, *Page 5* is back with #13, *THE OL' MAN* by Gary Busha.

From 1990 to 1998, *Page 5*, the little literary curiosity, was a strong and notable voice in the independent literary publishing scene. With small press vet (River Bottom, Noon at Night, Baseball, Floating, Nickle Times, Wolfson and a variety of one-offs) R. Chris Halla at the wheel, *Page 5* published John Judson, Dave Etter, William Kloefkorn, Mariann Ritzer, Justin Isherwood, Cathryn Cofell, Tom Montag and a number of others in a venue unique from anything else at the time.

Page 5 is seeking submissions for #14 and beyond. Poetry, fiction, essays, other creative non-fiction and, especially, graphic fiction/poetry/memoir/non-fiction are being sought for future issues. Writers/Artists guidelines are simple: I have to like the work and it has to fit the format. *Page 5* is published on a single 11 X 17 sheet resulting in four 5 ½ X 8 ½ pages and one 11 X 17 page, the latter being page 5. Anyone wishing to submit work to *Page 5* must be familiar with its format. Sample copies are available for \$3. No simultaneous nor electronic submissions. Submissions not accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope with postage sufficient to return the entire manuscript will neither be read nor returned. *Page 5* will never charge a reading fee, but we insist that potential contributors see an issue or two prior to submitting.

Page 5, R. Chris Halla, E&P, 1724 N Whitney Dr, Appleton, WI 54914.



to notify the *Museletter* editor if you move or change your email address.

Enter the 2010 Wisconsin People & Ideas/Wisconsin Book Festival Poetry Contest

Winners of the *Wisconsin People & Ideas/Wisconsin Book Festival 2010 Poetry Contest* receive cash awards of \$500 (first place, the John Lehman Poetry Award), \$100 (second place), and \$50 (third place). Winning poems by the top three winners—along with another poem selected by poetry editor John Lehman—appear online at wisconsinacademy.org and in the spring 2010 issue of *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, with the ten runners-up in the summer and fall 2010 editions. The first-prize poet receives a one-week stay at Edenfred and a three-hour CD recording/editing session at Abella Studios. Some familiar poets from the Wisconsin poetry scene will judge this year's contest. The lead judge is Linda Aschbrenner, poet and founder, editor, and publisher of the poetry journal *Free Verse* (now *Verse Wisconsin*). Aschbrenner is also the founder of Marsh River Editions, a publisher of poetry chapbooks. Other poetry judges include Lester Smith, Tom Montag, and B.J. Best. The contest is coordinated by John Lehman.

1. Poets must reside or attend school in Wisconsin.
2. Poets may submit up to three poems per entry. No poem may be longer than one page.
3. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry fee of \$10 (non-Academy members) or \$8 (Academy members, including those who join while submitting an entry), payable to the *Wisconsin People & Ideas Poetry Contest*.
4. A poet may enter more than one submission of up to three poems each, but additional submissions must be accompanied by a separate entry fee and cover letter. (See Rule 7.)
5. Contest deadline is **December 15, 2009**. Entries may be hand-delivered to the Wisconsin Academy (1922 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53726) by 5:00pm on December 15th. Entries postmarked after the deadline will not be considered and the entry fee will be retained to cover handling.
6. Previously published poems (online or in print) are not eligible. All work must be original. Any style or theme is welcome.
7. The poet's name or address may not appear anywhere on the poems. Poems must be accompanied by a cover letter bearing the poem title/s, the poet's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if available).
8. Keep a copy of your poems. Entries will be recycled, not returned. Do not send an SASE.
9. Contest winners will be announced on www.wisconsinacademy.org and notified by the end of February 2010. Top three winners will be published in the spring 2010 issue of *Wisconsin People & Ideas*, which appears at the end of March 2010, in time for National Poetry Month (April). Ten runners-up will be published in the summer and fall 2010 issues of the magazine.

Council for Wisconsin Writers Contests Now Open

The Council for Wisconsin Writers invites poets to submit work published in 2009 to the Posner Poetry Award contest for full-length (48+ pages) books of poetry and the Lorine Niedecker contest for a set of five poems, two of which must have been published in 2009. The submission period opened November 1 and closes on January 31, 2010, the postmark deadline.

All submitters must be current residents of Wisconsin. An award of \$500 and a weeklong residency at Edenfred, in Madison, will be made in each category. Entry fee is \$15.00; out-of-state judges will make the selections. For more information contact Robin Chapman at rschapma@wisc.edu.

Nominations are also open for the \$500 Christopher Latham Sholes Award, recognizing a Wisconsin resident or organization for outstanding encouragement of Wisconsin writers. Specific guidelines, entry forms, and important additional information for each category are available on the website, www.wisconsinwriters.org, or by writing contest co-chair Marilyn L. Taylor, 2825 E. Newport Ave., Milwaukee 53211, indicating the contest categories needed.

CWW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting Wisconsin's literary heritage and writers. Edenfred, established in 2004, is a part of the Terry Family Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization.

UWM Spring Writers Festival March 5-7, 2010

The 2010 Annual Spring Writers Festival will be held March 5-7 at the UWM School of Continuing Education. Build your confidence and connect with other writers, authors, agents and editors and join the ranks of those who have been published as a result of this Festival. Registrations are being accepted now. For more information contact Anne O'Meara at aomeara@uwm.edu or (414) 227-3311 or visit www.sce-writersfestival.uwm.edu

Mark Your Calendar...

**WFOP
Spring
Conference
April 23-24, 2010
Holiday Inn City Centre
Green Bay**



Membership Renewal Form

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT. Dues for the 2010 year are due January 1, 2010. If your mailing label doesn't have (09) (P) (L) or years beyond '10 after your name, please pay your dues by the first of the year to keep your membership current. Dues MUST be current to participate in the Triad contests and to be published in the *Museletter* poetry pages.

Mail to: **Nancy Rafal, PO Box 340, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202-0340.**

Please make checks payable to: WFOP.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip+4 _____

Email address _____

**Active \$25.00
Student \$12.50**

*****5 for 4 Deal***
\$100 paid now will give Active
members 5 years of member-
ship for the price of 4 (2010-
2014)! Save \$25.00!**

Poet Laureate—Marilyn Taylor's 2010 Appearances

December 16, 2009, 11:30 a.m. – Lunchtime reading, The Milwaukee Club
February 5, 2010 – Reading participant, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art
March 13, 2010 – Judge, Poetry Out Loud competition, Madison
March 20, 2010 – Reading participant, *Verse Wisconsin* launch, Madison
April 23, 2010 – Reading and presentation, WFOP Conference, Green Bay
May 19, 2010 – Workshop, Chippewa Valley Writers Group, Menomonie
June 18, 2010 – Panelist, Waukesha Book Festival, Waukesha
September 12-17, 2010 – Bjorklund workshop (1 week)
October 10-15, 2010 – Bjorklund workshop (1 week)
October 16, 2010 – Workshop facilitator: Allwriters Studio, Waukesha



WFOP Triad Contest 2009 Results

Poet's Choice – Judge Patricia Dyjak, English Department, UW-Stevens Point, 88 entries

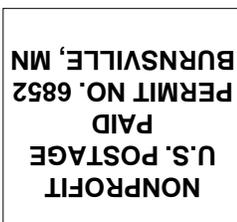
First Place:	Ann Arntson	“Eyes”
Second:	Cathryn Cofell	“Monkey Wheel”
Third:	Lisa Cihlar	“But You Told Me So”
HM:	Joan Wiese Johannes	“What She’s Not”
HM:	Michael Kriesel	“Sea of Noise”
HM:	Jeri McCormick	“1945”

Kay Saunders Memorial New Poet Award – Judge Paula McLain, Poet and Editor from Rockford, Illinois, 60 entries

First Place:	Mary Ann Hurtt	“Vapor”
Second:	Sandra Tully	“Galileo’s Heir”
Third:	Lucy Rose Johns	“Birth”
HM:	David Scheler	“100 Year Old Oak”
HM:	Ed Werstein	“Altar Boy 1959”

Theme: Food – Judge Christine Swanberg, Novelist and Poet from Cleveland Hts., Ohio, 92 entries

First Place:	Sharon Auberle	“How to Get Through a Day When all Talk is about War”
Second:	Nadine St. Louis	“More Than Bread”
Third:	Ed Werstein	“Nosferato’s Garden”
HM:	Joan Wiese Johannes	“Chocolate Decadence”
HM:	Kathleen Ernst	“Love Like Apples”
HM:	David Blackey	“Grazing”



Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets
9556 Upper 205th Street W
Lakeville, MN 55044
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED