

# Wisconsin Fellowship Of Poets Museletter

founded 1950



## President

Mardi Fries  
3143 Cliffside Drive  
LaCrosse, WI 54601  
Winter 1996

## Vice-President

Josephine Zell  
1109 Linda Vista Road  
Madison, WI 53716

## Secretary

Mary Ellen Schmidt  
W5290 Highway 33  
LaCrosse, WI 54601

## Treasurer

Sue DeKolver  
111 Williams Street  
Marinette, WI 54143

## Credentials Chair

Sr. Irene Zimmerman  
3601 S. 41st Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Editor: Christine Falk

## Welcome to the Fellowship

The following people have become new members to the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets since the Fall issue of the *Museletter*:

Elise Rose	Madison
Dale Ritterbusch	Waukesha
Karla Huston	Appleton
Judith Barisonzi	Fond du Lac
Mariella Fischer-Williams	Milwaukee
Rusty McKenzie	Menasha
Ann Tillmann	Milwaukee
Linda Steeves	Milwaukee
Richard Loescher	Appleton
Barbara Crawford	Hancock
Charles Determan	Horicon
Judy Garty	Slinger
Ramon Klitzke	Waukesha
Connie Sanderson	Decorah, IA
Margaret Benbow	Madison
Rosemary Kenny	Madison
Jennie Lynn Neighbors	Madison
Jo Ann Chang	Milwaukee
Mary Beth Krainz	Green Bay

*Welcome to all!*

## Members' Merits

**Dorothy Prell**, Sparta, is the editor of *Poems from Farmers Valley*, an anthology celebrating rural life. Other WFOP members having poems in the volume are: **William Olson, Mrs. Lawrence Larmon, Grace Balza, Mardi Fries, Phyllis Reisdorf, Russell King, Shirley O'Neill, Barbara Houghton, Mary Downs, Gary Busha, Maurice Ehrhardt, Mary Jo Stich, Katherine Short, Elmer Otte, Flora Christopher, Peg Sherry, and Edna Meudt** (deceased).

**Marianna Wright**, Madison, had a poem published in the *Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters' 126th Annual Conference Publication*. Her name was inadvertently left off the list in the Fall issue. Sorry about the error, Marianna. Congratulations!

## President's Message

Happy Holidays!

A hearty round of applause, please, to the Literary Fund Committee! The information packet for foundation or corporate sponsorship is outstanding. The committee has sought advice from a couple of experienced fund-raising people and that wisdom is well-reflected in the materials.

"Give them a hand" for all that preliminary work on the fund drive. Then I encourage you to "give them a hand" with handling solicitations for the Literary Fund. If you feel a little shy about relating your talent to this very worthy task, send a query to, or call, **Barbara Larsen**, 11751 Beach Road, Sister Bay, WI 54234, (414) 854-4835, or **Ellen Kort**, 1365 Hiawatha Drive, Appleton, WI 54915, (414) 731-0679, co-chairmen or contact any of the other committee members: Sue DeKolver, George Johnson, or Peter Sherrill.

All members of the Literary Fund Committee strongly support our retaining an affiliation with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.; particularly, as I understand their response, in relation to soliciting funds, in that, affiliation with a national organization provides an important and/or useful credential for WFOP. **Yvette Flaten**, Student Contest Chairman, is adamant in her agreement. A good many Wisconsin contest winners have placed in the NFSPS Manningham Student Contest in recent years. I have received five notes, otherwise, in favor of our retaining the affiliation; two strong voice votes (in essence) for disaffiliation. I believe it would be unfair to base our decision on a vote of the general membership present at any one conference. A good many voices present may be guests, simply disinterested, or unformed through disinterest as a fair amount of information has been presented in the *Museletter* (see duplication of that information entitled "What Do You Think?" on page 9 in this *Museletter* and a correction). A call has been made for members' response though, as far as I know, few have "voted" through a board member. I am asking, again that you contact an officer, project chairman, or a past-president with your opinion on our affiliation with NFSPS. I ask that the matter be addressed and resolved at the spring board meeting; board members representing the membership. Though any member may be present at board meetings, only board members may vote. We will have discussion for a limited amount of time. Once again, you are invited to take part in the decision.

Applause for the several workers at the St. Benedict's Fall Conference! Not having a list, I resist attempting to name committee members however I do understand Regional Vice-President, **Suzu Godwin**, led the planning. **Rich Roe** was always at the registration table. **Phyllis Reisdorf** had a hand in its success as well as **Yvonne Yahnke** who put the registration packets together.

At this time, I feel that I must remind future planning committees to draw up a conference fee that will come close to paying for the expenses of that conference. For several conferences we have been fortunate enough to see a little profit on each conference's balance sheet. We had hoped to build savings to offer a one very special, and more costly, program in the future and will hope for such an account again.

In this season of thanks-giving, I find that there is no possible way to list those who bless us most! Add to dependable officers and chairmen (forthright nonetheless

see *President* page 7

# What's Happening in Your Region?

## Central-Fox Valley Region

Fifteen poets from our area participated in an art-poetry event which stemmed from "Crystal Illusions: The Sculpture of Christopher Ries" at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum, Neenah. On September 19th, we were invited to observe the outstanding glass sculptures of Ries and to spend several hours writing about it. On October 10th, we returned to the Museum for a reading of our poetry, open to the public. The poems have all been gathered by the curator, Jan Smith, and sent to the artist.

**Ellen Kort** and Dennis Hawk performed an evening of her poetry and his music on October 26th at Between the Pages, coffeeshop of Conkey's Bookstore. Her words and his flute music proved to be a perfect combination.

At a Poet's Retreat (the third annual), November 8-9-10, at St. Joseph Retreat Center, Door County, 18 poets participated from our region and from the Northeast region. Norb Blei, noted Door County writer, gave two workshops on Saturday morning of the retreat.

**Please note:** Plans are all set for our WFOP spring conference to be held at the Valley Inn in Neenah, April 18-19, 1997. Registration and program details will follow in the next *Museletter*.

Kay Saunders

Central-Fox Valley Regional Vice-President

## Northwest Region

On October 17th, **Alan Jenkins** of Fairchild organized and read his work at a National Poetry Day event at the Acoustic Cafe in Eau Claire. Alan reports that over 100 people attended.

Alan is organizing and emceeding a reading at the Grand Avenue Cafe in

downtown Eau Claire on December 27th. The reading is titled "It's been years since my last confession: Four poets talk about life since parochial school."

**Mary Borofka** of Chippewa Falls and **Yvette Flaten** of Eau Claire read from their work on November 14th at the Eau Claire public library.

**Jan Chronister** of Maple read at the monthly Poetry Harbor event that is conducted with inmates at the Federal Prison Camp in Duluth, Minnesota.

**Matt Welter** has had acceptances to and been published in: *Word of Mouth*, *The Pointer*, *Artword Quarterly*, *The Plastic Tower*, *Sink Full of Dishes*, *Sycamore Roots*, *Hodge Podge Press*. His poetry currently appears on the following websites: *256 Shades of Grey*, *Spondee (WFOP Website)*, *Kissing the Monkey*, *500 Pieces* and *Poetry Express II*. Hodge Podge Press accepted and printed his second chapbook, *Yellowstone 88*. This book commemorates the years he worked at the park. It also has an insider's view of what exciting events occurred during the fire. He is raffling this book of poetry. Just send 88 cents in postage and a postcard addressed to yourself to: Yellowstone 88 Poetry Raffle, c/o Matt Welter, 800B Portage St., Apt. 3, Steven's Point, WI 54481. Free surprise included. Number of winners dependent on number of entries received. Deadline December 13th. Matt has read at the Mission Coffeehouse. He also participated in the Environmental Celebration at the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education, where he read his poetry and sold broadsides and chapbooks. He also has been helping the staff of *Barney Street* at UWSP to edit their annual publication.

## South Region

On August 1st and 2nd, **Gary Busha** was a panel member at the Writer's Institute Conference at UW-Madison. He was on two panels: 1. Types of poetry selling today, and 2. How to find success through regional or small press publishers and self-publishing.

On September 7th, Wolfson Publications attended the 3rd Annual Madison Book Fair.

## West Central Region

WFOP poets from the West Central Region met at Camaraderie October 15th to celebrate Poetry Day. Since the official poetry day has been changed to April, that will give us a good excuse to celebrate again.

**Sandra Lindow's** poem, "Unnurturing Nature" appeared in *Asimov's*. Her poems, "Cyber Healer" and "Cyber Islands" will be appearing soon in *Kaleidoscope* and "The Witch Within" was accepted by *Gypsy Cab*.

**Yvette Flaten** has had poems accepted by *Poetry Motel*, *Art Mag*, and *Fifth Gear*.

Thursday, November 21st, WFOP poets **Marian Morris-Zepp**, **Nadine St. Louis**, **Yvette Flaten** and **Sandra Lindow** read at the new Eau Claire Borders Bookstore. The theme was "Autumn on our Minds."

Sandra Lindow

West-Central Regional Vice-President

**Terry Andre Dukerschein** recorded several of her poems for *The Last Word* on Wisconsin Public Radio's *Spectrum West*. They aired as follows: January 12, 1996 - "Watercross Springs"\*, February 2, 1996 - "On the Souls of Lost Trees", May 17, 1996 - "New Moon"\*, June 14, 1996 - "Trempealeau Hotel, June 14, 1991", August 23, 1996 - "The Forty at Drywood Creek"\*. (The three poems with asterisks are past or present WFOP Calendar poems). She also read "Trempealeau Hotel, June 14, 1991" at the summer graduate commencement ceremony for the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse on August 2, 1996.

**Terry Andre Dukerschein**, along with other area poets, planned a reading at Red Oak Books, LaCrosse, on November 12, 1996 for Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Week. **Sue Silvermarie** was a featured reader.

**Sue Silvermarie** had three poems published in the Summer '96 issue of the *Journal of Poetry Therapy*, one poem in the August issue of *A Wise Woman's Garden* with another in the September issue, and one poem in the

*Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 1997* just released.

### South Central Region

Several WFOP members read their poetry and also helped at the WFOP information table at Madison's 3rd Annual Book Fair on September 7th. Those reading were: **Peg Sherry, Eunice Holtz, Fran Rall, Brenda Lempp, Josie Zell, Ruth Dresen, Marjorie Pettit** and **Susan Godwin**. **Yvonne Yahnke** stayed for the day at the Book Fair, so we could take breaks. Thanks to everyone.

**Elise Rose** read at the Art House Cafe on October 10th with the Celtic Music Group, The Snug.

On October 13th, **Harvey Taylor, Lynn Patrick Smith, and Dale Ritterbusch** presented a Fall Harvest reading at Canterbury Booksellers.

On November 6th, **Richard Roe** collaborated with another poet to present a blend of "Poems of the Songs and Seasons" at Canterbury. They were accompanied by piano.

**Fran Rall**, along with her coauthor, presented a program of slices and poetry featuring their book, *Common Joy II*, at West Living Room on November 8th. Fran was also featured on WORT-FM radio's program *Through the Mind's Eye* which explores the "sounds of social change" through the perspectives of local artists. Fran will also participate in January's airing, when the topic will be how setting affects our well-being.

On Monday, December 2nd there was a Calendar Reading coordinated by **Jeri McCormick** at Canterbury Booksellers.

**Jim Stevens** is busy working on the Festival of Poets readings to be held at Victor Allen's on State Street, for 6 weeks, starting in January.

New member, **Don Harr** has published a new book of poetry, *Through the Garden Gate*, which had a fine review in *The Midwest Book Review*. It is available at Canterbury, Border's, and the UW Bookstore.

Many thanks to all who participated and helped coordinate the Fall Conference in September. It was a team effort in every sense and having such a

fine and enthusiastic turn out made it all worthwhile. Special accolades to **Max Garland** and **Dale Ritterbusch** for presenting two wonderful programs.

*Susan Godwin*  
South Central Regional Vice-President

**Kellie Eggert** is editor of a new literary magazine entitled, *The Writer's Block*. See page 7 for further information on submissions.

**James Roberts** and **Fran Rall** each had a short story published in *Tasty Morsels*, published early this fall. The readings were at Canterbury Books on September 30th. Both read at this time.

### Northeast Region

**George Johnson** has received word that his poem, "You, Robert Lowell" has won a Robert Penn Warren Award sponsored by New England Writers and will be included in *The Anthology of New England Writers*. There were 1380 poems by 359 poets entered in the annual contest. They were judged by Dr. Vivian Shipley, of Southern Connecticut State University and editor of *Connecticut Review*.

Bill Olson's Jackson Harbor Press has done it again with a new publication, Bill's *Island Haiku*, a beautifully presented chapbook. Bill has sold his Icelandic sheep herd in order to devote more time to writing and publishing.

Two Honorable Mentions for her poems, "Autumn Woman" and "Grief" were awarded Barbara Larsen in the Marcy Spicer Memorial Poetry Contest (Pauquette Wordcrafters, WRWA). There were 130 poems submitted. Barbara also appeared on national TV on QVC shopping network's Wisconsin Week Door County day. A New York camera crew shot an interview from her deck in which she described being a poet in Door County and read her poem, Wisconsin Waters. The latter became voice-over for scenes of Door County.

**Mary Jo Stich, Tobin Rockey, Doris Bezio, and Mary Ann Napoleone** were Cafe Readers at the Art Street summer festival held at the Port Plaza Mall in Green Bay on August 25th.

Two *Wisconsin Poet's Calendar* promotional readings were held: the first

at Passtimes Books in Sister Bay, in September. Readers included: **Betty McMurray, Neil McCarty, Phyllis Reisdorf, George Johnson, and Barbara Larsen**. **Jane Ferrall** did a fine job organizing the second reading which was held at the Brown County Library on October 23rd. About 30 people attended. WFOP readers were: **Doris Bezio, Frank Carpentier, Sue DeKolver, Jane Ferrall, George Johnson, Elaine McIntosh, Mary Ann Napoleone, Tobin Rockey, and Mary Jo Stich**.

Two Honorable Mentions in the 1996 NFSPS annual poetry contests were awarded **Sue DeKolver**. Sue also helped organize and read at the 5th Annual Poetry Day reading at UW-Marquette.

Congratulations to **Mary Jo Stich** who received second place in the WRWA Jade Ring contest.

When the teacher canceled out of the "Connecting With Your Ancestors" (poetry writing) class at The Clearing in Ellison Bay, **Barbara Larsen**, who had enrolled in the class was asked to teach it instead! She managed to put together a seminar for the class in 24 hours! It turned out to be a great experience.

*Barbara Larsen*  
Northeast Regional Vice-President

### Wanted...

Any poetry about the Fox or Wolf Rivers, new or old, unpublished or published. A Fox River Valley Historian is collecting them. E-mail them to Paul Wozniak at, foxwolf@aol.com. Or write to: Fox/Wolf Rivers, Environmental History Project, P.O. Box 1161, Green Bay, WI 54305.

Please feel free to submit information on your accomplishments to your Regional Vice President or to:  
**Museletter** Editor, 109 Pierce St., Randolph, WI 53956.  
Fax (414) 326-6436  
eMail falkj@powerweb.net

## WFOP Literary Fund Drive Off To A Good Start

by Barbara Larsen

Our membership is supporting the WFOP Literary Fund Drive well! At last report we have \$12,580 in the Fund and we are just starting our third month of the drive. This amount has been raised by members and donors they have contacted. Those who have approached poetry loving people they know for donations have found them to be interested and willing contributors. As one woman wrote when she returned a pledge card, "It was nice, for a change, to receive a request for money for something I really love and believe in. I'm delighted to contribute to this cause!" One of our members ran out of her first five pledge cards and photocopied more to send to friends - and her friends are responding.

Those of you who may have buried your letter and pledge cards under a mass of mail, please dig them out and join the drive. We have a splendid start! Let's keep up the momentum!

The second part of our fund effort has begun - the Corporate and Foundation Fund drive. Letters of inquiry have gone out to prospective donors in three areas of the state and some requests for the follow-up packet of informational materials have already been received. Our thanks to: **George Johnson, Jan Lattimer, and David Trembley** who have volunteered to be contact persons in the Green Bay, Central Wisconsin, and Milwaukee areas. We will be instituting drives in other parts of the state after the first of the year and will benefit from the experience of these three. We will need contact people in other areas. All materials have been prepared: preliminary letters of inquiry and packets of follow-up information. Remember that foundations exist to give away money! They want and expect requests for worthy causes. The area contact person's job is not a formidable challenge! If you want to help on this, contact **Ellen Kort** (414-731-0679) or **Barbara Larsen** (414-854-4835).

Thanks to all of the members who have supported the fund so generously. Your contribution is a testimonial to the belief that the WFOP Literary Fund can not only strengthen WFOP and help us to commemorate our 50th anniversary, but will send us blazing into a new century which desperately needs what we have to give - good poetry!

## WFOP Donors to Literary Fund

anonymous	Kathleen Mallon
Donna Armstrong	Gretchen Maring
Beatrice Bailey	Neil McCarty
Caroline Baker	JoAnn McPherson
Francha Barnard	Patty Miler
Linda Bernardi	Florence Miller
Claire Box	Judy McGuire
Liz Brown	Modern Haiku (R Spiess)
Gary Busha	Martha Moore
Simon Cherkasky	Marian Morris-Zepp
Lenore Coberly	CJ Muchhala
Cathy & Peter	Mary & Frank Newgent
Cofell-Mutchler	Fran Newhouse
Robin Chapman	Lyman Nygaard
Bruce Dethlefsen	Bill Olson
Kathleen Downs	Dee Paulsen
Ray DuBois	Ruth Parkenson
R Virgil Ellis	Lynn Parks
Russell Ferrall	Angela Peckenpough
Paul Fieweger	Susan Peterson
Susan Fiore	Randy Powers - PFSCO
Marguerite Flanigan	Mara Ptack
Mardi Fries	Fran Rall
Barbara Gossens	Dorothy Schwenkner
Marge & Hal	Lynn Sherrill
Grutzmacher	Peter & Carrie Sherrill
Janice Hamblin	Sara Shutkin
Frances Highsmith	Thomas & Barbara
Stephanie Hughes	Smeltzer
Violette Jahnke	Winifred Spring
Carmen Johnson	Fay Staley
Deborah Kades	Loretta Strehlow
Keller Foundation	Mary Techmeier
Marne Keller-Krikava	Mark Tremble
Agnes Kubicz	David Trembley
Jackie Langetieg	Mike Villers
Barbara Larsen	Yvonne Yahnke
Theresa Lorbiecki	Josephine Zell
Arlyle Losse (in memory)	

Total Donations as of 11/14/96:  
**\$13,640**

## Poem Publications

This is for a listing of recent publications having to do with poetry of WFOP MEMBERS EXCLUSIVELY. Recent publication: Copyright 1995-96. 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>Poems from Farmers Valley</i>	Anthology	Prell Publishing, 18989 Hilltop Road, Route 3, Box 191, Sparta, WI 54656-9536
<i>The Skeptic's Dream</i>		Wolfsong Publications, 3123 S. Kennedy Drive, Sturtevant, WI 53177
<i>Tales From My Teachers on the Alzheimer's Unit</i>	Poetry	Sue Silvermarie, Route 1 Box 220, Ontario, WI 54651

### Check your mailing label

If your label says 96, send your dues for the new year (97) to Sue DeKolver, 111 Williams St., Marinette, WI 54143.	Active member dues	\$15.00
	Student member	7.50
	Associate member	10.00
	Life membership	100.00

**Due January 1, 1997**

## Power Poetry

For WFOP poets who were not able to attend the fall convention, **Michael Belongie** wants to invite you to be a visitor to his fiber-optic, interactive television course. Broadcasting from his high school studio in Randolph, Michael will do simulcast in Pardeeville, Adams-Friendship, and Spring Green second semester January 20 through June 2, broadcast time is 2:30-3:30. Call or write Michael Belongie at 110 Meadowood Drive, Randolph High School, Randolph, WI 53956, Home (414)887-7714, School (414)326-2425.



## Minutes of the WFOP General Meeting

*September 28, 1996 at Middleton, WI*

President Fries opened the meeting at 8:50 a.m. with approximately 100 members in attendance. Vice-President Zell reported that the new WFOP Information brochure will be available in the next few months. Other regional reports given; **Kay Saunders** is recuperating from heart surgery at home, 1700 N. Racine, Appleton, WI 54914. Minutes of April 27, 1996 read and approved.

Treasury Report Balances July 1 through September 30, 1996. See reports elsewhere in *Museletter*.

The Credentials report was presented by **Sheryl Slocum** for **Sr. Irene Zimmerman**, new Credentials Chair. From April 27 to July 8, 1996 under Chair **Cristine Prucha**, six active and two associate members were received; since July, Sister Irene received eleven active and one associate into the Fellowship.

**Ellen Kort** reported for the WFOP Literary Fund Committee that the fund drive has a successful start with donations from 35 members and/or donors they have contacted. The second part of the drive, the Corporate and Foundation Fund Drive, has begun with contact volunteers from Green Bay, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, and Central Wisconsin. Paperwork is all prepared for the volunteers; other areas need WFOP representatives.

**Yvette Flaten** reported on the grants available from the Wisconsin Humanities Council to observe the State Sesquicentennial in 1998. She will write a grant for an adult poetry contest only. Student contest rules will stay in place; a separate contest will be offered to students regarding the Sesquicentennial; schools will receive two flyers for these contests. Yvette requests names, addresses of *teachers* for effective contact.

**Lenore Coberly's** proposal was M/S/P: "That WFOP expand the *Museletter* to include publication of members' poems." **Chris Falk** is the managing editor of the *Museletter* proper; Poetry Editor will be **Star Powers**.

**Sheryl Slocum** reported that as of 10/1/96, bulk mail must have a zip code plus four digits. WFOP permit is now located in Milwaukee. Discussion regarding NFSPS materials arriving late to be sent with the *Museletter*, and regarding NFSPS affiliation. The secretary read a statement from **Barbara Larsen** endorsing WFOP affiliation with the national group.

**Claire Box**, Business Manager of the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 1997*, reported sales are going well, 734 calendars sold to date.

**Cristine Prucha**, *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 1998* editor, announced submissions due 2/1/97 to Cristine Prucha, P.O. Box 753, LaCrosse, WI 54602-0753 and distributed guidelines. **Patti Swanson** was introduced as the 1998 Calendar Business Manager.

### "Discover the Writer in You"

The Green Lake Writers Conference will be held July 5-12. **Ellen Kort** will teach the poetry workshop and **Lenore Coberly** will lead one for writers seeking to try new writing structures called Discover the Writer in You. There will be workshops in fiction, writing for children, essay, devotional, and article writing. Bill Nelson will teach the latter. Jacqueline Mitchard will give an all day workshop on Renewing Your Life As An Artist. Information is available at 1-800-558-8898.

**Jeri McCormick**, **Ellen Kort**, and **Lenore Coberly** will lead a week-long writers Elderhostel at Green Lake April 20-25. Information available in the Elderhostel catalogue in libraries or by calling Green Lake Conference Center at the above number.

### Poetry Writing at The Clearing with Laurel Mills

**Laurel Mills** will be conducting a week-long poetry workshop at The Clearing in Door County, July 1-7, 1997. The class is open to both beginning and experienced writers of poetry. Mills is the author of three award-winning collections of poems, and she edited the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 1995*. Her work has been published in many magazines, including *Ms.*, *Calyx*, and *Yankee*, and she has a poem in the *1995/1996 Anthology of Magazine Verse & Yearbook of American Poetry*. Mills has a bachelor's degree in English and a master's in Humanities and teaches composition at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley. For information about the poetry workshop, call (414) 854-4088 or write to The Clearing, 12183 Garrett Bay Road, P.O. Box 65, Ellison Bay, WI 54210.

*Anyone wishing to send an announcement on other state writing workshops, please send them to Chris Falk, 109 Pierce Street, Randolph, WI 53956 for the next Museletter. Announcements should include dates and where to write for additional information.*

WFOP Poetry Day Chair **Nancy Dawn** reported that Gov. Thompson will proclaim the first Saturday in April as Poetry Day in Wisconsin, which is April 5, 1997. Many ideas presented from the floor. Nancy will issue a news release.

WFOP Anniversary Year is 1999. **Jim and Jo Alderson** are preparing an history brochure. The committee is making oral tapings of some poets for the archives. **Sue DeKolver** called for designs for a 3-D object; the winner will be selected as the MUSE prize in the new TRIAD contest.

**Jim Stephens'** proposal re distribution of Edna Meudt's autobiography, *The Rose Jar*, was explained. New members will each receive a copy; Fall conference attendees received complimentary copies.

**Michael Belongie** provided dates available to guests/poets to be presenters at Power Poetry sessions in Randolph.

The Spring Conference is scheduled for April 18-19, 1997 in Neenah.

Adjournment 10:20 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mary Ellen Schmidt, Secretary*

## Our New Feature

submitted by Star Powers, Poetry Page Editor

There will be a Poetry Page in our newsletter beginning in 1997.

The poetry selected for this page will be primarily poetry from new members, having submitted poetry for acceptance in our fellowship; or sometimes poems that have been chosen winners in our many contests, or occasionally poems from newly published books by our members. "Newly" may include books within a year previous of 1997. We are encouraging members who have had books published to send complimentary copy to **Star Powers**, Poetry Page Editor, 460 South River Road #4, West Bend, WI 53095.

After the Editor's perusal, these books will be forwarded to Contest Committee Chairmen in WFOP to be used for prizes.

Contest Chairmen are urged to send winning poems to Star also, for submissions to this poetry page.

## President

from page 1

supportive), the many "laymen" responding to a concern or plan, from time to time. Add to my longtime friends, their counseling and wisdom, those who give a simpler loyalty; sometimes a faceless participation through one fellowship project or another; a presence. Our plate is full thanks to all of you!

HAPPY HOI DAYS!

*Nikki Fries*

P.S. I picked up cracked sunglasses from a table at the fall conference thinking I might have sat on my new pair. They were usable. One day, shortly thereafter, deep in my purse I found my new sunglasses! I will strike a deal for replacement of your lost shades if you would care to give me an identifying description of them.

## Writing Opportunities

*The Writer's Block*, a new literary magazine, is seeking short story and poetry submissions from writers of all ages. **Kellie Eggert**, editor, says "We have created a comfortable neighborhood atmosphere for writers, an opportunity for newer writers to be published, education and fun by including columns for writers to respond to one another and submissions of literary criticism or discussions of important topics in the literary field today. To receive submission guidelines, writers should send a SASE to: *Writer's Block*, P.O. Box 538, Whitewater, WI 53190.

**Ellen Kort** is editing an anthology of food poems titled *Words Good Enough To Eat*. Poetry and cooking come from the same kitchen...cutting, slicing, stirring, simmering...and this promises to be a delicious feast of poets, poems and recipes. Each poem will feature a corresponding recipe on the facing page. Example: Poem about grandma baking bread...and the matching bread recipe.

Submission Requirements:

- Poem and matching recipe, typed. Include name, address, telephone #, and SASE.
- If previously published, provide title and date of publication.
- Enclose short bio and any additional comments regarding recipe. Is it a family recipe? Does it evoke memories of time, place, people?
- Deadline: January 27, 1997
- Mail to Ellen Kort, 1367 W. Hiawatha Drive, Appleton, WI 54914

## WWW

from page 5

it was an oasis in an otherwise desert of homepages.

I am **John Faragher**, the homepage editor, and I can be reached by phone at (414) 425-0399. My eMail address is [jon@execpc.com](mailto:jon@execpc.com). The homepage address is <http://www.execpc.com/~jon>. MY mailing address is: John Faragher, 10121 West Brookside Drive, Hales Corners, WI 53130. I welcome all communications.

**Spring Conference '97**

Friday  
April 18      Saturday  
April 19

**Valley Inn, Neenah**

*More information to come in the Spring issue.*

**Don't forget to pay your 1997 dues by January 1, 1997 (see p. 4)**

## Sharon Olds to Read in Madison

Nationally prominent poet, Sharon Olds will read in Madison on Friday, February 28, 11:30 p.m. at the Madison Civic Center. This reading is sponsored by the Southern Wisconsin Educational Inservice Organization and also will include keynote speaker, astronaut Buzz Aldrin. Last year SWEIO provided poet Nikki Giovanni for its convention.

**Michael Belongie** is on the SWEIO Board and has arranged for any WFOP members to pay the nominal convention fee of \$15. Please send a check to Michael Belongie, made out to SWEIO: address 1421 Hiawatha Drive, Beaver Dam, WI 53916, (414) 887-7714. A program and ticket will be mailed to you upon receipt of your check.

Sharon will offer an autograph opportunity at the Canterbury Booksellers following her reading.

## Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 1998 Submission Guidelines

- ✓ Wisconsin adult residents may submit poems.
- ✓ Submit up to three, short, unpublished, original poems. Poems under 30 lines will be favored.
- ✓ Poems should reflect the seasons, holidays, or some aspect of life in Wisconsin.
- ✓ Each poem should appear on a separate page, with the writer's name, address, and phone number.
- ✓ A three sentence (or less) biography should appear on a separate page.
- ✓ Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
- ✓ Mail submissions by February 1, 1997 to:

**Cristine Prucha**  
1998 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar  
P.O. Box 753  
LaCrosse, WI 54602-0753

## Winners Announced

*submitted by Patti L. Swanson*

Pauquette Wordcrafters is an interesting writers' group which meets bi-monthly in Poynette, to share and encourage each member in his writing and publishing challenges.

In March 1996, the Pauquette Wordcrafters sponsored a poetry contest as a memorial to former award winning, charter member Marcy Spicer. Marcy was a poet who lived in Pardeeville and died February 18, 1993.

The "Marcy Spicer Memorial Poetry Contest" opened March 15 and ended June 15. This contest was open to any Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older.

Altogether, more than 130 poems from all over Wisconsin were ranked and judged. The excellent quality of so many of the entries made this a good contest, as well as a hard contest for the judges. The names of the authors were not disclosed to the judges until the judging was completed. From the preliminary rounds and the final judging, the winning poems surfaced.

**First Place** "Conversation with Michelangelo", written by **Barbara Houghton**, McFarland, WI, \$25 prize

**Second Place** "On Leaving", written by **Peg Sherry**, Madison, WI, \$15 prize

**Honorable Mention** "Grief", written by **Barbara D. Larsen**, Sister Bay, WI

**Honorable Mention** "Autumn Woman", also written by **Barbara Larsen**, Sister Bay, WI

Pauquette Wordcrafters received memorial contributions following Marcy's death from her husband, Mel Spicer, her sister and brother-in-law, Mary and John Cronin, and Laird McNeel. The writers agreed a memorial contest would be a nice tribute to Marcy and good use of those funds.

## Letters to the Editor

### *Books of Poetry to be Reviewed*

Dear Editor,

In my never-ending effort to promote Wisconsin poets, I've convinced the book review editor of the *Wisconsin State Journal* to let me review one book of poetry per month. My intent is to review only Wisconsin bards, so you can help me by mentioning this new project in the next WFOP newsletter. I'll get no pay for these reviews other than the satisfaction of knowing I'm helping poets gain exposure to a wider audience. Please ask the WFOP members to send their new (or published within the past year) book or chapbook of poetry to me for possible review. I can't promise to use everything, but I *can* use 12 a year. They may send them to:

**Russell King**  
510 Presidential Lane  
Madison, WI 53711

Thank you for your kind attention and any assistance you may be able to provide.

Sincerely,  
Russell King

# Poetry Day

April 5, 1997

“Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote  
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote...”

The first Saturday in April will be marked by a delightful outburst of poetry around the state of Wisconsin, as we help kick off National Poetry Month. What better time than the entrance(ment) of spring to revel in rhyme, swoon with syntax, metamorphose with metaphors, leap into lyrics, or honor onomatopoeia?

Lakefronts, street corners and bookstores will find us in our new spring sonnets and bright similes, dancing couplets just a few meters away, as the syllables and ceasuras sing merrily all day. What fun we'll have wooing spring!

Plan to gather with others and “gyre and gimble” or celebrate **Poetry Day** in whatever manner most pleases you! The key to all this fun, of course, is to plan now so that desirable locations may be reserved, and the word spread to poets and poetry lovers in your area.

Pondering ideas? Have lunch with your favorite bards and brain-storm possibilities. Here are some (from a brainstorming session at the fall WFOP meeting) to get you started...

*Create a library display, featuring  
Wisconsin poets.*

*Get poetry on the Radio: talk shows, panels  
or poetry readings.*

*Take poetry into nursing homes, prisons,  
hospitals; read from favorite and familiar  
authors.*

*Write a feature article for the local paper  
about a poet in your area.*

*Collaborate with visual artists, musicians,  
dancers, dramatists.*

*Find out how to get poetry displayed on city  
buses.*

*Read poetry from the streetcorners, in  
shopping malls or groceries.*

*Set up a table and write spontaneous  
poems by request.*

*Hang up a long strip of paper and invite  
people to help create a community poem.*

## Statewide “Mail-a-Poem”

To honor Poetry Day let's take up **Ellen Kort**'s idea to mail a poem to a friend...it could be a poem about Poetry Day, or any poem you especially like. Remember to send it ahead so it arrives in time!

## School Activities

Even though **Poetry Day** is on Saturday this year, we can probably “cheat” a little and plan in-school events for Friday, April 4th. At the very least, students can be included in the planning for Saturday activities. A wonderful brochure full of in-school ideas for Poetry Month is available from:

Teachers & Writers Collaborative  
5 Union Square West  
New York, NY 10003-3306  
(212) 691-6590  
Web site: <http://www.twc.org>

## Keep me posted...

I would love to hear what you're doing! Please keep me posted about activities in your area so we can share ideas with one another:

**Nancy Dawn Van Beest**  
Poetry Day Chair  
7250 Birchwood Drive  
St. Germain, WI 54558  
(715) 479-9588  
e-mail: [nandawn@aol.com](mailto:nandawn@aol.com)

More information will be coming to Regional VP's after Christmas.

## What Do You Think?

One proposal is in need of your response. At the summer board meeting, members discussed a proposal to disaffiliate from the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. Affiliation may be important to those many silent members we do not hear from in meetings. I invite everyone's response. Please speak with any board member (any officer or committee chairperson); in writing if you wish. Of course, I am available to receive your thoughts on the subject.

Our NFSPS affiliation may afford many of our 350-some members access to poetry contests that would cost them a non-member fee for each entry. Though it is reported that only five WFOP members received six places and eleven honorable mentions in the 1996 contests, approximately 12,000 poems were entered in all 50 contests. At this time, for the privilege of the contest and convention\* information, included in their STROPHES, our affiliate fee is \$1/member and the postage necessary to send STROPHES to you (more “taxing” on the bulk mailer than in actual cost estimated at \$75/year for two STROPHES-only mailings should we try to get contest and convention information to you in a timely manner). \*Except for the year we hosted a NFSPS convention, only one delegate slot, of the five allocated to us, has been filled each year since 1988, I believe. As an affiliate, we sponsor two NFSPS contests: The Wisconsin Poetry Award and the Edna Meudt Memorial Award: costing us \$220/year. (The memorial award is not to be confused with the Edna Meudt Memorial Scholarships for Junior/Senior College students NFSPS sponsors). I receive so much information on state contests, from other NFSPS affiliates, that it is impossible to relay all of it to all of our members. Most of it is received too late to even consider posting at our conferences. Help us to evaluate the “burden vs. the benefit” of our affiliation with NFSPS. (As I have said before, if we do not hear from you, we can only assume that you do not mind that the decision rests with those who do come forward.) A couple of members have said that a national affiliation should be important to us. What do you think?