

Wisconsin Fellowship Of Poets Museletter

founded 1950



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Winter 2008

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:

John Campbell	Brookfield
Mandi Isaacson	Oshkosh
Erik Richardson	Milwaukee
Michael Jay Varga	Milwaukee

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

Welcome to all!

How to reach the Editor

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President's Message

I have no literary allusions to share this month. No commentary about what it means to be a poet. Currently, I'm reading *Of Human Bondage* because my oldest daughter happened to mention that she is, and the novel was already on my PDA in ebook form, so this seemed a chance to share a reading experience with her. But at chapter 30, it's still too early to have formed any opinions of the novel's purpose, let alone its success, let alone what it might mean for us as writers.

So let me just cover a couple of items of business, offer a few thank you's, and get off the stage.

First, congratulations and thank you's are in order for Jan Chronister, Michael Kriesel, and everyone else involved in putting on the Fall 2008 conference. Attendance was somewhat over 80, I believe; the Roll Call poems were exceptionally enjoyable; and the Saturday presenters were inspiring. The food was good, too. I say this often, but it's absolutely true: If you've never been to a WFOP conference, you're missing a real treat.

Next, let me thank Susan Kileen and Judy Kolosso for their many years of service managing the Literary Fund and conducting the Muse and Triad contests. After the 2009 Muse contest, they will be stepping down from those positions. The next time you see either of them, be sure to offer your gratitude for all the work they've put into these contests.

Happily, at the conference, other WFOP members stepped forward to volunteer for the positions. Thank you to Brenda Hansen and Jane Osypowski for taking over the Muse contest, and to Alice D'Alessio and Jackie Langetieg for taking the Triad contest. We do still need someone to head the Literary Fund, however, so if you're interested, please contact me.

Also, a thanks goes to Janet Leahy and Carolyn Vargo for taking on the vacant East Regional VP position. I am sure they will do wonderful things for that region.

All those thank you's remind me, oddly enough, that November is a month of thanksgiving. It is also the month in which the submission period for the 2010 calendar opens, so start submitting! Check WFOP.org/calguide.html for guidelines.

Sincerely,

Les

Governor Doyle Appoints Marilyn Taylor as Poet Laureate

Governor Jim Doyle announced the appointment of Marilyn Taylor as the Poet Laureate of Wisconsin.

The new Poet Laureate will succeed Denise Sweet. Taylor is required to choose and lead one large-scale project that contributes to the growth of Wisconsin poetry. She must also plan and attend at least four statewide literary events each year and perform in at least four government, state and civil events as requested by the Governor's office, school systems and literary organizations. Taylor will begin her two-year term immediately.

Marilyn Taylor received a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and both a M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She has written six books (one forthcoming), and been published in eight anthologies and countless journals of poetry. Ms. Taylor is the recipient of several distinguished poetry prizes. She has worked at UW-Milwaukee as an

Poet Laureate continues on page 4

What's Happening in Your Region?

East Region

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or

Janet Leahy, East Regional Co-VP
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Thomas J. Erickson received an honorable mention in the 2008 Ann Stafford Poetry Prize contest sponsored annually by the University of Southern California's *Southern California Review* for his poem, "The Lawyer Who Died in the Courthouse Bathroom."

Charles P. Ries won first place and the Jade Ring in the Humorous Poem Category, and third place in the Adult Short Story Category of the 2008 Wisconsin Regional Writers' Association Jade Ring Contest. His poetry reviews have or will appear in: *League of Laboring Poets*, *Istanbul Review*, *Gloom Cupboard*, *ESC!*, *Chiron Review*, *Small Press Review*, *Poesia*, *Word Riot*, *Cynic Review*, *Creativity Connection*, *Free Verse*, and *Presa*. His poetry has appeared or been accepted for publication in: *Arbor Vitae*. His short story "The River" has been accepted for publication in *Cyclamens and Swords*.

Sr. Irene Zimmerman's poem "Finding Mary" appeared in *Spiritual Book News*, published by Ave Maria Press. Three of her poems were accepted for publication in *St. Anthony Messenger*.

Barbara Bache-Wiig hosted a poetry reading to raise money for The Waukesha Women's Center on October 4, 2008 which took place during "Jeri Phillips' Walk for Family Peace." The day was crisp and sunny, and the walkers/runners pushed off at 9 a.m. The poets and their audience were inside in the Huelsman Board Room of The Women's Center. **Charles Ries** was the facilitator, and what a great job he did—light, serious and warm, all with his rich voice and bright smile. Poets who participated with Barbara were: **Charles Ries**, **Barbara**

Bache-Wiig, **Janet Leahy**, **Liz Rhodebeck**, and **Anjie Greene-Martin**. The poets each had a chance to read twice.

Anjie Greene-Martin received an HM in October in the WFOP's Triad Contest in the Poet's Choice category.

Mary Jo Balistreri gave a talk and read poems from her book, *Joy in the Morning*, at Ten Chimneys in Genesee Depot on November 12th.

Northwest Region

Jan Chronister, Northwest Regional VP
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Diana Randolph, **Jan Chronister**, **Ann M. Penton**, and **Naomi Cochran** were featured readers in October for the Second Sunday Poetry event that highlighted poets from the Northwest region included in the 2009 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. Prior to the featured poets, six audience members shared their poems during the open part of the reading.

West-Central Region

Sandra Lindow, West-Central Regional VP
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After a week of lovely Indian Summer weather, today it is snowing in the Chippewa Valley. Wet slush is beginning to accumulate. If it freezes tonight, driving won't be fun. Good time to stay home and read poetry.

Poetry has prospered in West Central Wisconsin this fall. On September 10th, **Steve Betchkal** and **Yvette Flaten** were part of a poetry reading, "Four Square: A Poetic Antidote for Politics as Usual." September 22nd, **Sandra Lindow** hosted the fall solstice White Pine Celebration at the newly remodeled Creamery in Downsville. Beginning October 16th the 9th Annual Chippewa Valley Book Festival attracted people from all over the area. October 17th, Japanese-American poet Lawson Fusao Inada was the featured poet. October 18th, **Nadine S. St. Louis** and **Yvette Viets Flaten** presented "Surviving with Poetry: Women on the Edge of Chemo." **Dina** read from her new book, *Zebra* (Marsh River Editions, 2008), and **Yvette** read

from her manuscript *Chemo Sabe*. Saturday, October 25th, at the Mabel Tainter Theater in Menomonie, **Dina St. Louis** and **Peg Lauber** read their poetry as part of "Seniors in the Spotlight" celebration. November 1st, **Bruce Taylor** was a presenter at the WFOP Conference in Marshfield. Taylor's poem "Middle-aged Men, Leaning" was featured on Garrison Keillor's *Writers' Almanac* November 5th. Also on November 5th, **Steve Betchkal**, **Candace Hennekens**, **Don Melcher**, **Yvette Flaten**, **Peg Lauber**, **Sandra Lindow**, and **Dina St. Louis** participated in a 2009 *Calendar* Celebration at the Eau Claire Memorial Public Library.

Steve Betchkal was interviewed on the *Spectrum West* radio show about his publication. Betchkal's book, *All This and Robins, Too*, is a guide to bird watching in Wisconsin's wildlife areas which includes good places to sit and write poems. **Don Melcher** has had three poems accepted for an anthology on the homeless and hungry entitled, *Empty Shoes*. It will be published by **Patrick Randolph** of La Crosse. **Jane-Marie Bahr**, **Susan Kirch-Thibado**, **Sandra Lindow** and **Dina St. Louis** have poems in the *Free Verse* Double Issue, 97/98. **Peg Lauber's** poem, "Six National Guardsmen Blown Up Together" has been chosen for the 9th revision of a textbook, *Literature and the Writing Process*, published by Prentice Hall. **Sandra Lindow's** sixth poetry collection, *Touched by the Gods* has just been published by Sam's Dot Publishing of Cedar Falls, Iowa. Her poem "Lambing Time" was one of three winners in the *Free Verse* Animal Anthology Contest. Her poem, "A Crisis of Forest", appeared in the October/November issue of *Asimov's* and her senryu "In Space" won honorable mention in a *Space Western* on-line contest. It can be seen at www.spacewesterns.com/articles/83/.

submitted by

Sandra Lindow, West-Central Regional VP

Northeast Region

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What's Happenin' from page 2

On September 13th **Ron Ellis** gave a knock-out show of poetry and visuals at Woodwalk Gallery in Egg Harbor. Before Ron's performance **Ralph Murre**, and **Rolf Olson** also read from their works.

Annie Parcels and **Nancy Rafal** did a reading at Aurora Books in Menominee, Michigan on October 11th. Both read their works from the *2009 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*.

Nancy Rafal presented copies of the *2009 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* to Billy Collins after a reading in Stevens Point and to Governor Jim Doyle after a Door County Land Trust event. She has sent a copy to Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton.

Peter Sherrill won the 2008 WRWA Jade Ring in the "Serious Poetry" competition with "Sylvia Plath on the Way to the Library." He took second place in the "Humorous Poetry" section with "This-Ain't-No-Monastery-Blues."

Anita Beckstrom of Sister Bay was a winner in the recent Animal Contest sponsored by the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay. She read her poem, "Sanctuary", during poetry night at the museum, along with others, including Door County poets, **June Nirshl** and **Judy Roy**, Baileys Harbor, and **Estella Lauter**, Fish Creek. The poems were featured in the Animal Anthology section of the latest issue of *Free Verse*.

South-Central Region

*James Roberts, South-Central Regional VP
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What a Fall it has been! Readings, readings everywhere! Too many to keep up with, though I do my poor best. If I missed anyone, or several ones, let me know and I PROMISE to get it in the next issue. I've been busy with a large book project which hopefully will be completed by the time you read this. Anyway, let's settle in the for the winter and write! write! write!

Amy Groshek read from her book, *Shin Deep* at the Village Booksmith in Baraboo on August 8th.

Richard Roe did a reading somewhere on August 25th (but doesn't Richard do readings everywhere?) but I couldn't

download his attached announcement, so you will have to find Richard and ask him sometime.

Robin Chapman taught a workshop on "From Poem to Sequence: Writing into Chapbooks and Books", in the Celebrity Saturday series on Saturday, September 20, 2008, at AllWriters' Workshop in Waukesha.

Angela Rydell continues to present poetry and writing workshops which have been praised by many WFOP members. The following three were held at the Pyle Center in Madison.

–Write Like a Poet, **Angela Rydell** and **Laurel Yourke**, September 27th (For poets and non-poets, learn how to write tight, use metaphor, surprises and imagery, enrich whatever you write.)

–From Notebook to New Work, **Angela Rydell**, Wednesday evenings, October 29th–November 12th (How to find that story, memoir, or poem before it escapes you again.)

--Making the Poetic Leap, **Angela Rydell**, Saturday afternoons, October 11th–25th (Find poetry in surprising places.)

Madison Poet Laureate **Fabu** was a very busy woman and was part of the following readings: Saturday, August 23rd in Peace Park, 500 State Street in Madison, along with several teen poets that she has mentored; Tuesday, August 26th for Poetry in Penn Park along with South Madison and Madison teen poets; Saturday, September 13th, Poetry at 1:30 pm at The Harambee Center sponsored by The South Madison Library and The Wisconsin Humanities Council; Saturday, October 4th, Kids in the Rotunda, Storytelling at 9:30 am, 11 am and 1 pm at the Overture Center for the Arts, Rotunda Stage, and, finally, on Thursday, October 16th at Open Book Cafe in the Helen C. White building as part of The Wisconsin Book Festival – The Wisconsin Poet Laureates: Milwaukee Poet Laureate **Susan Firer** and Madison Poet Laureate **Fabu**. Keep up the good work, Fabu!

Regent Neighborhood Poetry Club Exercise Hour continues to chug along with monthly meetings at the Froth House in Madison, hosted by **Ronnie Hess**. On Thursday, August 21st, **Gillian Nevers** facilitated at a new location: the Macha Tea House on Monroe Street.

October 8th at the Peninsula Bookman in Fish Creek, **Richard Swanson**, **Ralph**

Murre, **David Clowers**, and **Rolf Olson** (now known as "Men in Socks") read from their published and unpublished works.

On October 10th, **Jeannie Bergmann** joined **Bruce Dethlefsen**, reading from their newly published books at the Village Booksmith in Baraboo.

James P. Roberts and **Kimberly Blanchette** read poetry during the August Derleth Society's Walden West Festival in Sauk City on October 12th.

On October 15th, **John Lehman** presented *Rosebud's* 15th Anniversary: "How the Story Goes," a retrospective of the magazine, at Avol's Bookstore in Madison.

On October 26th there was a poetry reading by **Adam Gregory Pergament**, **Jeannie Bergmann**, and members of the Dubuque Iowa Area Writers Guild at Avol's Bookstore in Madison.

Shoshauna Shy sends this item: Poetry Jumps Off the Shelf announces the first WOODROW HALL AWARD. This award will be given to a Wisconsin poet who has actively contributed to Wisconsin's literary landscape, and will include five-hundred (\$500.00) dollars to implement an idea for a new poetry program or project. The winner must execute their idea in 2009. No entry fee. Multiple entries from same poet welcome. Download application at www.PoetryJumpsOfftheShelf.com and send with a SASE to: Woodrow Hall Editions, PO Box 260026, Madison, WI 53726. **Entry Deadline: December 15th, 2008.** Winner announced in January.

Sarah Busse has been awarded a residency from the Terry Family Foundation and Edenfred. She will be a day resident in February–March 2009.

Susan Elbe has a poem from her book online in the Vernal 2008 issue of *Sea Stories* (<http://www.seastories.org/indexVernal08.html>), five poems online in the Madison issue of *Locuspoint* (<http://www.locuspoint.org/volume2/madison/elbe.html>), and five poems online in the Fall 2008 issue of *diode* (http://www.diodepoetry.com/v2n1/content/elbe_s.html). One of the poems in *Locuspoint* has been nominated by the editor for Best of the Net. She also has a poem in a new anthology from Yarroway

What's Happenin' continues on page 4

What's Happenin' from page 3

Mountain Press, *Cadence of Hooves: A Celebration of Horses*. On October 4th, Susan taught a workshop titled "Illuminating The Walls of Mystery" during the Celebrity Saturday at AllWriters' Studio in Waukesha, where she was very fortunate to have terrific poets participate.

Peg Sherry has had a new book of poems titled *Life Lines from Extraordinary Abundance*, published by Holtz Creative Enterprises from Eau Claire. Peg says it's her third collection in ten years.

Jackie Langetieg has recently had poems published in *Aurorean*, *Tiger's Eye*, *Silk Road* and *2009 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* and an acceptance by *Hummingbird*. She has a new book: *Confetti in a Silent City*, a collection of poems and gave a reading for her book of poems, *And Just What in Hell is a Stage of Grief?* in July at Avol's with **Alice D'Alessio**.

James P. Roberts' poem, "Old Man" appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *Fox Cry Review*, along with work by South-Central members **Shoshauna Shy** and **Jeanie Tomasko**, as well as several other WFOP members.

submitted by

James P. Roberts, South-Central Regional VP

Kathleen Ernst has has poems published in *Fox Cry Review* and *Appalachian Heritage*.

The 16th Annual WFOP Invitational Poetry Marathon was held at Olbrich Gardens in Madison on June 22, 2008. The readers in the 3-hour event in order were **Fran Rall** (Madison), **Peg Lauber** (Eau Claire), **Eve Robillard** (Madison), **Fabu Carter Brisco** (Madison), **Sarah Rose Thomas** (Green Bay), **Nancy Rafal** (Baileys Harbor), **Phyllis Wax** (Milwaukee), **Kay Sanders** (Oshkosh), **Richard Swanson** (Madison), **Jeannie Bergmann** (Poynette), **Kathy Miner** (Madison), **Timothy Walsh** (Madison), and **Wendy Vardaman** (Madison). The total attendance was about 50, similar to previous years.

Madison Magazine features a poem each month in Poet's Place, edited by the Madison Poet Laureate, **Fabu Carter**

Brisco. In the October, 2008 issue, the featured poet was **Fran Rall** with her poem, "Before Wright Broke the Box."

Lisa Cihlar recently had two poems published in *Wordgathering*.

Central-Fox Valley Region

Bill Gillard, Central-Fox Valley Regional VP
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Jean Biegun, Two Rivers, had poems in the recent issues of *Fox Cry Review* and *Mobius, The Poetry Magazine*. Jean also was the "Poetry Night" featured reader at the Neville Museum in August. Her regular gig is writing nature poems for *The Dunesletter* quarterly of Woodland Dunes Nature Center.

Kathryn Gahl of Two Rivers, a writer and registered nurse, has two pieces appearing in *A Call to Nursing*, a humanities textbook published in spring '09 (Kaplan Publishing). Included will be Gahl's poem, "The Reason Nurses Write Mostly Poetry" and her essay, "Chest Clippers."

Mid-Central Region

Joan Johannes, Mid-Central Regional VP
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joanjeff@wctc.net

Michael Kriesel's poem "Sailor On A Greyhound" was one of 12 finalists in the Robert Frost Foundation's 2008 competition. His poems "Drowning On The Moon" and "Black Dice" both received honorable mentions in the 2008 WFOP Triad contest. He has a new chapbook out in November called *Moths Mail The House*; 20 poems in the Threesome form he devised a few years ago.

Cathy Conger's Christmas poem, "God With Us", has been accepted by *Madison Magazine* for their December issue.

Barbara Cranford conducted a poetry workshop in Hancock in October. She served as a judge for a recent *Free Verse* contest. Her poetry appeared in the Animal Anthology section of *Free Verse*.

Jeffrey Johannes, Joan Wiese

Johannes, and **Michael Kriesel** received recognition in the WFOP Triad Contest. **Michael Kriesel** was also recognized in the Kay Saunders Memorial New Poet Contest.

Cathy Conger, Jeffrey Johannes, Joan Wiese Johannes, Michael Kriesel, and Jim Pollock were contest winners in *Free Verse* #97/98. **Barbara Cranford, Michael Kriesel, and Jim Pollock** had poems in *Free Verse* #97/98.

Poets from the Mid-Central Region in the *2009 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* are: **Linda Aschbrenner, Barb Cranford, Bruce Dethlefsen, Lincoln Hartford, Joan Wiese Johannes, Jeffrey Johannes, Lucy Rose Johns, Jim Pollock, and Beverly Scott**.

Bruce Dethlefsen gave a poetry reading on November 18th at Conkey's Bookstore in Appleton in November. Bruce and his band, *annaRANaway*, performed at the WFOP Fall Conference in Marshfield.

Linda Aschbrenner won second place in the 77th Annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition mainstream/literary short story contest. Linda presented three poetry workshops and three poetry readings at the Great Lakes Writers Festival in November. **Linda Aschbrenner**/Marsh River Editions published the chapbook *Zebra* by **Nadine S. St. Louis** in October.

Janet Leahy (East Region) and **Lincoln Hartford** (Mid-Central Region) offered a joint poetry reading at the Village Booksmith in Baraboo on Friday, November 14th. The event included poems, songs and an open mic. They read poems about blueberries and elderberries so elderberry and blueberry pie were served at half time.

Poet Laureate from page 1

associate lecturer and adjunct professor and served as the Poet Laureate of the City of Milwaukee from 2004 to 2005. She spends much of her time coaching, teaching, leading workshops and judging poetry throughout Wisconsin. Taylor intends to use her position as the State Poet Laureate to bring poetry to new audiences around the state and showcase the outstanding work that is being created here.

Fiscal Second Quarter Financial Report

July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008

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, 2008		\$52,130.24
Income:		
Dues	\$530.00	
'08 Fall Conference income	5,615.00	
<i>Museletter</i> place ad	100.00	
<i>Museletter</i> book ad	5.00	
5 for 4 CD interest	53.01	
Literary Fund CD Interest	986.06	
Membership list request	2.00	
Total Income:	\$7,291.07	
Expenses:		
<i>Museletter</i>	\$1,152.84	
N. Rafal-postage/supplies	27.00	
J. Chronister-VP Expenses	50.70	
Total Expenses:	(\$1,230.54)	

Closing Statements Balance on September 30, 2008	\$58,460.77
Outstanding checks	(\$270.00)
General Account Balance on September 30, 2008	\$58,190.77*

*\$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 Susan Kileen, Literary Fund Co-Chair

Balance July 1, 2008		\$1,017.08
Income:		
Total Income:	\$0.00	
Expenses:		
Triad Judges	\$300.00	
Triad Supplies	63.41	
Total Expenses:	(\$363.41)	
Closing Statement Balance on September 30, 2008	\$753.67	
Outstanding check	(\$100.00)	

Literary Fund Balance on September 30, 2008 **\$653.67**

Calendar Account: submitted by Michael Farmer, Calendar Business Manager

Balance July 1, 2008		\$6,255.63
Income:		
Calendar Sales	\$3,820.56	
Total Income:	\$3,820.56	
Expenses:		
Postage	\$544.36	
Inkwell Printers-2009 Calendar	7,600.00	
Editor's Expenses	45.92	
Total Expenses:	(\$8,190.28)	

Calendar Account Balance on September 30, 2008 **\$1,885.91**

General Fund	\$58,190.77
Literary Fund	\$653.67
Calendar Fund	\$1,885.91
Total	\$60,730.35

In Memory James Alderson

James Alderson, 82, died on July 29, 2008 at his home in Oshkosh. After serving in World War II, James earned a degree from Milton College in 1957. He worked as a teacher for 27 years, teaching at Blanchardville High School, Roosevelt Junior High School in Oshkosh, Oshkosh High School and Oshkosh West High School. James was a life member and past president of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets and was a life member and past treasurer of the Council for Wisconsin Writers. James is survived by his wife, Jo, also a WFOP member, one son, four daughters, and six grandchildren.

Poetry Publications

This section is for the listing of recent publications by WFOP MEMBERS EXCLUSIVELY. Recent publication: Copyright 2007-08. For more information, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the author or publisher.

Title	Publication	Author
<i>Into the Light</i>	Poetry	Graham Marlowe Publisher: Xlibris, 2008 \$17.00 Available from: Graham Marlowe St. Norbert College 100 Grant Street, Suite 1332 DePere, WI 54115 graham.marlowe@snc.edu
<i>Life Lines from Extraordinary Abundance</i>	Poetry	Peg Sherry Publisher: Holtz Creative Enterprises, Eau Claire \$10.00 plus postage Available from: Peg Sherry 22 Burrows Road Madison, WI 53704 (608) 244-2729 mtsherry@aol.com
<i>Moths Mail the House</i>	Poetry Chapbook	Michael Kriesel Publisher: Sunnyoutside Press \$12 postage paid 20 short poems in the Threesome form devised by Kriesel (silk screened cover) Available from: Sunnyoutside Press PO Box 911 Buffalo, NY 14207 or Michael Kriesel H16550 State Hwy 52 Aniwa, WI 54408-9618
<i>On Edge</i>	Poetry Chapbook	Elmae Passineau 923 Broadway Avenue Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 845-2061 \$10 (includes postage) epassineau@verizon.net
<i>Write Away! An Anthology of Poems from Barb Cranford's Workshops</i>	Poetry	Various authors Available from: Barb Cranford (608) 564-7701 blbick@merr.com \$12.95 plus \$2 postage

Door County Retreat for Rent South Nest

Three bedroom, two bath house near Cana Island. A quiet, restful, woodland retreat located in the boreal forest just off County Q. Woodburning fireplace, convenient location for all of northern Door County.
N. Rafal, PO Box 340, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202-0340
(920) 839-2191 mrsticket@dcwis.com Rates: \$50/night/room or \$125/whole house/night

What Were You Wearing?

THE SUIT

Tonight I'm wearing the suit you loved,
the one I wore to your funeral.
I haven't had it on since,
the cream colored blouse,
jacket, long, with one black
button, the whole ensemble
with its indistinct lines a blur
in black and white like morning fog.
I've looked at it so many times
and thought of you, of that day,
harder in some ways than the day
you died.

So unlike you, this suit, the business
cut, the lack of color, but then,
the whole ensemble shouts *good taste*,
would never betray the torn person inside.

It's cold here in Florida, the ocean writhing
and tossing, smacking the shore as if filled
with rage. We're going out to dinner, some posh
club with people we hardly know. I feel sad
and alone and that's why I chose this suit.
It looks like a knight's chain mail, but the kind
a mother would give a child. Soft,
protective and magical.

— Mary Jo Balistreri, Waukesha

NUMBER THIRTY THREE

The basketball rang with every bounce
on the concrete driveway.
Rough orange rubber spun under my
fingertips, stopped
as I pushed down again, again.
The ball and I had found our proper rhythm.

In that alley in the summer of 1971,
I backed toward the hoop,
leapt straight up in one smooth vertical motion
and at the apogee released the ball
over my friend, Lenny Kazubowski.
Swish! My Sky Hook was unstoppable.

My favorite jersey blew and flapped around me,
Milwaukee Bucks, Number 33.
I stood only 4'8", but at that moment I had become
my 7'2" hero, Kareem Abdul Jabbar,
the year we won the NBA Championship.

I was 10 years old, insulated from
the protests near and far that had marked
all the years of my life. I saw no irony
that a small white boy from the South Side
would worship a 26 year old
black Muslim from Manhattan
struggling with his identity in America.

I was simply Number 33. I had grown
tall and strong and proud.

—Tom Toerpe, Baileys Harbor

RED STILETTOS

My whole life
I've wanted
to be beautiful,
you know—striking,
maybe head-turning?

But I've been busy,
and beautiful is hard work,
especially in middle age,
which is where I am now,
the age of being sensible,
a few pounds over, but realistic.

No magic mirror for me.
I've adjusted my sights, that's all.
I'm coloring my gray,
I have my health,
my husband doesn't complain,
and when I'm wearing my red stilettos...
Oo, girlfriend, I can strut.

So how could it hurt,
if one ordinary day,
some good-looking guy were to spy
this woman crossing the street
in her red, patent, Anne Klein stilettos,
and were to turn his head and think, "*Striking*,"
and then, feeling compelled,
were to whistle at her?

And if she were to blush and toss her hair
as she walked on,
her shoes a little shinier,
her hips taking on a sway
like she was Marilyn Monroe,
how could it hurt?
I'd like to know.

—Cathy Conger, Wisconsin Rapids

I MUST HAVE HAD A REASON

to wear that giant red poppy
pinned at the side of my face
on that first day of high school

perhaps to draw attention away
from the flat chest
of a skinny girl
with big eyes

or from the tight new perm
when the style was for
sensuous long hair
with fluffy bangs

or maybe it was a sign
like in some sound sea islands
that I was definitely
available

—Anita Beckstrom, Sister Bay

WHEN THE ZIPPER WOULDN'T GO UP

I remembered
the sensation of waistbands
hanging off hipbones
& how I'd inhale
to feel the space
between skin & denim
& how the width of my midriff
fit the curve of boys' hands.
I recalled

rolling with one in his
daddy's big bed
wearing Landlubber blue jeans
exactly like his
& his long dark hair
exactly like mine
draping down softly
over both of our shoulders

& how I succeeded
at staying a virgin
the entire morning.

—Shoshauna Shy, Madison

COMMUNION ON STOCKTON ISLAND

But this we know,
before we left our clothes behind
and ran to meet the water,
the blueberries we found
growing wild in the dunes—
and ate one by one
like sweet, small kisses—
turned into wine.

—Jeanie Tomasko, Middleton

*Theme for Spring issue:
A 35-Word Poem
See page 12 for more specific submission
information.
Deadline: Friday, February 6, 2009*

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.**

IT WAS ALREADY OVER

I never read your obituary. Don't know if I survived
you. Thought you weren't really dead—
just playing another trick on me.
Remember my mother? She didn't approve of you, but
she took me to Marshall Fields and bought me
a dress. A black dress with white, vertical stripes.
Conservative enough for a funeral, but fine for work. Or,
a date. In the Linden Room I picked chicken
from my pot pie, sensing her relief, suspecting
she was happy. She couldn't have known it was already over.
You didn't. I was so tired of you. Wanted more than
lonely nights, lost mornings. Lies.
Still, she must have been sad that you died
so young, my not so sweet, gap-toothed, bad boy.

—Gillian Nevers, Madison

LIFESTYLES OF THE DEAD

The dead set their alarms for moonrise and get up
before the buzzers spend their tiny silver seeds.
They feed the crickets flakes of pallid skin,
polish what's left of the baroque brass handles.
Stepping into shrouds of secondhand light,
shoeless and cold, they follow forgotten foxpaths
through wasted fields.

When they get to town, they drift apart,
to walk up and down the blank sidewalk
in front of a new bank, stand peering
into a dark window in a vacant house, climb
stairs over and over that are no longer there.
They wear oily rags found in gutters, shreds
of crumpled black plastic, and lost overcoats
whose pockets they fill with all the feathers
they can find.

—F.J. Bergmann, Poynette
First appeared in *Margie—The American
Journal of Poetry* #4

WHEN WE SHED OUR SKIN

There is a wildcat in me.
Coarse tongue for rubbing you blind.
Sassy as black lingerie under a winter coat.
Indifferent as June,
namesake, six lives and counting,
she is the twitching queen in my veins.

There is a giraffe in her.
Muscled tongue for licking you empty.
Fast as teenage love in steamy bucket seats.
Hungry as a bridge,
speechless, pounding tundra and chase
she is the quivering Amazon in your wake.

There is a porpoise in you.
Supple tongue for squeezing us deaf.
Erotic as a dancer in sheer veils.
Silver bracelet of the deep,
pretense, passport between sea and sky,
she is the cackling witch in your bed.

—Cathy Cofell, Appleton

Markets

Judith Zukerman • PO Box 5442 • Madison, WI 53705-0442 • jzukerman7@earthlink.net

As I approach the five year marker for writing the Markets Column, I would like to thank all those who have given me feedback over the years and say a public thank you to the staff at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Special Collections for their helpful assistance. I am stepping down from this position and hope that someone will come forward to take my place in time for the February Museletter deadline. All the journals that have been listed with a website and are on the WFOP website as of now have been gone over and I have used this column to update the information. At the last WFOP meeting, October 31 and November 1st, 2008 in Marshfield, I talked with four members about what they would say to other WFOP members about getting their work published. What did they think was important?

Michael Kriesel said, "Persistence and revision. He has a thick folder with submissions at all times. Grow as a person. 99% sweat and persistence like licking stamps."

Robin Chapman said, "1) read the journal you are submitting to, to see what they publish. 2) Remember most publish 1% of submissions."

Judy Kolosso said, "When you get a rejection, just send it right out again."

F.J. Bergmann emphasized, "Read contemporary poetry."

The following journals have been included in earlier columns in the last five years and/or are a part of our website as of November 13, 2008. Any changes are noted below. More detailed information about submission guidelines, etc. can be found on the WFOP website.

Alimentum, The Literature of Food. Now accepting. Reading Period: October 1, 2008-March 15, 2009, Submissions: P.O. Box 210028, Nashville, TN 37221

Backstreet Poets Quarterly, See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

Baltimore Review Regular, See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

Birmingham Poetry Review, See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

The Bitter Oleander Please note e-mail submissions from abroad between Aug. 1 & Sept. 15, 2008, lost due to total hard drive collapse. Those who submitted poems during that time specifically requested to resubmit. See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

Byline Magazine, See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

Chiron Review, has started up again - new email: chironreview@earthlink.net. Autumn issue (No. 84) available. Submissions year-round. Postal submissions with name, complete mailing address (every poem), & SASE welcome Chiron Review, 522 E. South Ave., St. John, KS 67576-2212. See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

Eureka Literary Magazine Limited info on website. Different email address listed: efreeze@eureka.edu
<http://www.eureka.edu/arts/literary/elm.htm>

The Fourth River: Nature and Culture Accepting poetry, nonfiction, short fiction, & young adult/children's writing (without illustration). See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

Green Mountain Review <http://greenmountainsreview.jsc.vsc.edu/>

The Journal www.ohiostatepress.org

The Literary Review www.theliteraryreview.org Submission guidelines, beg. with Spring 2009 issue, The Literary Review debuting new themed-issue format.

The MacGuffin www.schoolcraft.edu/macguffin/

Minnetonka Review www.minnetonkareview.com

Modern Haiku Different submission address and editor. Lee Gurga is still listed as an editor, but submissions according to website should go to: Charles Trumbull, Editor, Modern Haiku PO Box 7046, Evanston, IL 60204-7046. modernhaiku.org/

The Nation New poetry editor: Peter Gizzi. See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

NEWN Stopped publication Fall 2008. Website will be updated with books & programs but no longer publishing magazine.

Nor (New Ohio Review) English Dept., 360 Ellis Hall, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701, ohiou.edu/nor

Pearl Submissions accepted Jan. through June only. Current issue on website, 2007 Fiction Issue. 2008 Contest info is listed.

Quarterly West www.quarterlywest.utah.edu Online submissions only, see website for details.

Rattle Website now says "We like poems of any length." Earlier said they tended to like shorter poems.

The Rejected Quarterly www.rejectedq.com Uses 1 or 2 poems per issue. Currently looking rejection related poems.

Rejection slips optional. Responds 1 to 6 mos. Poetry pays \$7.50 or 1 copy of magazine. Payment on pub. Editors: Daniel Weiss, Jeff Ludecke. Email: bplankton@juno.com The Rejected Quarterly, P.O.Box 1351, Cobb, CA 95426.

Markets continues on page 9

Markets from page 8

Rhino Annual Reading Period: April 1 to October 1. Currently not accepting electronic submissions. See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

r.kv.r.y www.ninetymeetingsinninetydays.com

Seattle Review Mailing address slightly different. No poetry editor listed on website. Seattle Review, University of Washington, Box 354330, Seattle, WA 98195-4330. See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

Sensations Magazine, publication in Northern N.J. website: www.freewebs.com/centclub

Tar River Poetry core.ecu.edu/engl/trp/ Now in 30th year

The Threepenny Review Pays up to \$200 per poem.

Tiferet Magazine New method accepting submissions -- streamline editorial review & speedier turn-around. Only accepting submissions electronically through submission manager. www.tiferetjournal.com

Westward Quarterly, See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

White Pelican Review, See WFOP website for new submission guidelines.

Wisconsin People & Ideas www.wisconsinacademy.org/magazine New editor: Jason A. Smith

Yale Review www.yale.edu/yalereview/guidelines No formal guidelines. Recommend you get acquainted with magazine.

Poetry can be single spaced & accompanied by SASE. Response time usually 1 to 3 mos. Send to Editorial Office, *The Yale Review*, Yale University, P.O.Box 208243, New Haven, CT 06520-8243. For sample copy visit website.



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. 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.
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 25, 2009 in Oconomowoc. The first place winner is invited to attend the award presentation luncheon as a guest of WFOP. 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.

2010 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar Submission Guidelines

Co-Editors B.J. Best and Charles Nevsimal

We're looking for your best poetry for the *2010 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*! We're open to all styles and subjects, except for poems that use the word "unicorn"—seriously. Poets must be at least 18 years old, and must live in Wisconsin (or live elsewhere but regret having ever moved away).

Submission period: November 1, 2008, through February 1, 2009. Entries must be received by e-mail or postmarked within this period in order to be considered. We'll carefully read the submissions and let everyone know of acceptance or rejection by April 15, 2009. So please wait until after Tax Day, and if you don't hear from us by then, you're welcome to contact us, perhaps remarking cleverly how taxing the wait has been. We can take a good pun.

How: We'd really, really, really prefer e-mail submissions. Really. But we'll accept snail-mail submissions as well, as long as you accept that we'll probably make snide remarks about them.

For all submissions: Here's what you should include:

- Complete contact info (name, address, e-mail address, phone number)
- Biographical note of 50 words or less. Your bio must include one interesting, non-poetry fact; if it does not, we'll make one up. ("Walt Whitman is an avid collector of Chewbacca paraphernalia.")
- Up to 3 poems:
 - o Maximum 32 lines each, including stanza breaks. The calendar has very limited space, so the shorter, the better.
 - o Sure, poems can be previously published. If so, please provide publication info.
 - o Single-spaced, standard font, etc. If you have a poem that is "typographically adventurous," please submit by snail mail (and again, we'll probably make a snide remark about it). We'll probably just settle on one universal font for the calendar. So be advised.
 - o Your poems don't have to be left-justified, but it would be great if they were.

E-mail submissions: Send everything – contact info, bio, and up to three breathtaking poems – in the body of an e-mail to wipoets10@gmail.com. The subject line should be "Calendar Submission" or at least should not offer debt relief, links to websites wherein we need to provide our checking account numbers, or genuine imitation goods. Attachments will be regarded warily from afar, then deleted unopened. E-submissions will be acknowledged within seven days of receipt. It'll just be a "Hey, we got it" kind of e-mail.

Snail mail submissions: Send to: 2010 Poets' Calendar | c/o B.J. Best | 4535 Arbor Vitae Dr. | West Bend, WI 53095. If you include an e-mail address, we'll acknowledge receipt electronically and also openly wonder why you didn't e-mail everything to begin with. Otherwise, send a self-addressed stamped postcard for acknowledgment if you'd like.

Submission Guidelines continues on page 11

2009 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 \$8.00 each (retail price is \$12.95). Please use the following form to place your order. Send to: Michael Farmer, Business Manager, *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar: 2009*, PO Box 555, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202-0555 Phone: (920) 839-2191 Email: mfarmer@dcwis.com (Information is for in-house use only and not to be sold, traded or given away.)

I would like _____ books @ \$8.00 each	1 book:	\$2.50	\$ _____
	2-3 books:	\$3.50	
If ordering by mail, please add shipping charges:	4-5 books:	\$4.50	
	6-10 books:	\$6.00	
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.

WFOP Triad Contest 2008 Results

Poet's Choice – Judge Andrea Potos 70 entries

First Place:	Judy Kolosso	“To Haymeadow Road”
Second:	F.J. Bergmann	“What the road believes”
Third:	Lenore Coberly	“The Bee Lover”
First HM:	Janet Leahy	“Gas, 1940”
Second HM:	Elise Gregory	“Aftermath”
Third HM:	Anjie Greene-Martin	“Car Hop”

Kay Saunders Memorial New Poet Award – Judge Laurel Mills 33 entries

First Place:	Paula Anderson	“Sounds”
Second:	Geoff Collins	“How to Win at Poker”
Third:	D. B. Appleton	“Ushi Tempura d More”
First HM:	Lisa Cihlar	“A Severe Weather Watch Has Been Issued for Green County”
Second HM:	Michael Kriesel	“Black Dice”
Third HM:	Kathleen Phillips	“Rara avis in Tompkins Square”

Theme: Water – Judge Laurel Yourke 67 entries

First Place:	B. J. Best	“thursday evening”
Second:	Jeffrey Johannes	“The Fisherman’s Wife”
Third:	F.J. Bergmann	“Rain”
First HM:	Kay Sanders	“The Art of Kneeling”
Second HM:	Joan Johannes	“La Mer”
Third HM:	Michael Kriesel	“Drowning on the Moon”

Bob Arnold Named 2009 Muse Poetry Contest Judge

Bob Arnold, the judge for the 2009 WFOP Muse Poetry Contest is the author of two dozen books. The major collection, *Once in Vermont*, is meant as a sequel to his highly praised *Where Rivers Meet*.

Bob lives in Vermont with his wife, Susan, and has been a publisher (Longhouse) and bookseller for 35 years. Longhouse Publishing is home of Cid Corman and Lorine Niedecker’s poetry.

Don't forget...

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



Membership Renewal Form

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT. Dues for the 2009 year are due January 1, 2009. If your mailing label doesn't have (09) or beyond after your name, please pay your dues by January 1st. 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 membership for the price of 4 (2009-2013)! Save \$25.00!

Submission Guidelines from page 10

Wouldn't it be great if it were true that **this year the poem deemed best by the editors will be awarded a \$1,000 cash prize?** Well, it isn't. Sorry, you'll always be a poet just for the love of it. But hey, maybe someday you'll change the world some other way? Hang in there.

Smart-alecky wackiness aside, we're looking forward to reading your work. You can contact us at the e-mail address on page 10 if you have any questions, or you can try your luck with B.J.'s home phone: 262/353-3443. Charles probably won't answer his cell, but go on, give it a ring: 262/339-7257.

We're excited to continue the history of excellence for this publication. Thanks for submitting.

Writing Contest Opportunities

CWW Opens 2008 Wisconsin Writing Contests for Poets

The Council for Wisconsin Writers invites submissions of writing by Wisconsin poets published in 2008. There are two contest categories for poetry: the Posner Poetry Award for a book of poetry; and the Lorine Niedecker Prize for a set of five individual poems, two of which must have been published in 2008.

Awards of \$500 and a weeklong residency at Edenfred, in Madison, are made in each category. Entry fee is \$15.00; out-of-state judges will make the selections. Postmark deadline for entry is **January 31, 2009**. Writers must be residents of Wisconsin.

Nominations are also open for the \$1000 Major Achievement Award, recognizing a Wisconsin writer for work of outstanding merit.

Entry forms and additional information 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.

Thanks for your Entries!

As the new editor of the Museletter's Poetry Pages, I have to tell all of you how impressed I was by the quality of the work that was submitted to the Winter Museletter—and by the sheer numbers, as well! Trying to pick just 8 or 9 from—literally!—the dozens that I received was downright daunting. In fact, many of the poems submitted that you do NOT see here are absent only because of simple space restrictions—and I'm not saying this just to make you feel good. The selection process—both a joy and a challenge—was exceedingly difficult.

Poems by Our Membership pages: **Theme and Revised Guidelines:** In part because of sheer numbers, here are the New Submission Guidelines for the Spring 2009 Poetry Pages:

1. Submit no more than two poems per member, please.
2. Title of poem, name of poet and home town of poet must appear on the submission itself.
3. Email submissions are fine, either as attachments or in the body of the email. Send to: mlt@uwm.edu
4. Snail-mail submissions are also fine. Send to: Marilyn Taylor, 2825 E. Newport Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211

Theme: Challenge yourself! Submit one or two poems consisting of EXACTLY 35 WORDS EACH, not including title. No more, no less. Any subject, any form. (I know, I know—this probably prohibits your sending a previously published poem. Consider it a great opportunity to come up with something new. Memorable nouns and verbs encouraged!)

Marilyn Taylor



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

