

# **NEWS 'N' NOTES**

## **Poets Roundtable of Arkansas**

poetsroundtable.webs.com

**May 2014**

### **President's Message:**

Dear Poets,

Thank you to the Poets Northwest for a lovely, well-planned Spring Celebration in the northwest of the state. We all listened to some great poetical ideas, gave our own comments in and out of the meeting and had a good time visiting.

Now that summer is almost upon us, I encourage you to write about the abundance of activities that go on during this season – vacation, growing, sunshine and abundance of light. Don't forget about our monthly contests which are still proceeding during the months of summer.

"Shine on, O moon of summer" Carl Sandburg

"This is the first summer of my middle life." Michael Ryan

"Each summer threads a green familiar maze." Rachel Hadas

Get out your summer pens and write away.

Cathy Moran  
State President

### **Dr. Lily Peter Spring Poetry Event and Business Meeting:**

PRA's annual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Program was held on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Shiloh Museum, in Springdale, AR. Our thanks to the Poets Northwest Branch for graciously hosting us all for this event. We enjoyed humorous, informative and entertaining presentations by poets/artists Cat Donnelley and Geoff Olesner in the morning. After lunch the Sybil Nash Abrams student awards were announced and students attending presented their poems. Winners of the PRA poetry contests were announced (as listed below) and a business meeting followed.

PRA President Cathy Moran called for a vote on changing the spring event name in the constitution and standing rules to the "Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration" as reported in the February newsletter. The proposal passed and the amended name will appear in the 2014-2015 yearbook. Another issue affirmed by vote was to allow members who are non-state residents to participate in more PRA annual contests. Some contests like the Sybil Nash Abrams contest will remain reserved for Arkansas residents. This change also will be reflected in the 2014-2015 yearbook rules and future contest guidelines effective in 2015. President Moran called for volunteers to sponsor monthly poetry contests. Sponsors must decide the poem topic/form, provide funds for winners and either judge the entries or select a judge to do so. Please alert Cathy if you would like to be a sponsor. The Monthly Contest Chairmanship will change to Dennis Patton in September 2014. President Moran also called for a volunteer to fill the important role of Membership Chair. Cathy has served as Membership Chair for 8 years while also serving in multiple other roles. Please notify Cathy if you are interested in the Membership Chairmanship.

PRA First Vice President Dennis Patton reminded us of several great benefits for PRA members. Members may enter ten monthly contests for only the cost of a stamp and envelope. These contests pay up to \$15 for a first place and winning does not disqualify the poem from being entered in any other contest. Annual PRA contests offer as much as \$1,000 for a winning poem. PRA members automatically become members of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies and may compete in national contests with poets from every state. NFSPS winners are announced in June and published in the *Encore* national anthology. Poems winning at least \$5, or even an honorable mention in the NFSPS contests, can be included in Arkansas' Anthology published each spring. Members who wish to improve the quality of their poetry may send a poem each month to the state critic contracted by PRA for help and guidance. In general, membership helps poets to join local and state groups where other poets meet to share ideas and poetry. For a minimal \$20/year (\$15 for seniors 65 or students under 18) these benefits and more are available to poets. Membership payments are due no later than June to be listed in the 2014-2015 PRA yearbook published in July. Make checks payable to PRA and send them to Cathy Moran, 401 Auburn Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205.

Winners of the Sybil Nash Abrams Memorial Student Contests/Senior Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – David Xiang, Little Rock Central High School (\$50)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Liliana Gonzalez, Green Forrest High School (\$30)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Flannery Hirrel, Little Rock, Home Schooled (\$20)
- 1HM – Precious Mitchell, Violet Hill, Home Schooled
- 2HM – Britney Boehm, Lake Hamilton Jr High School, Hot Springs
- 3HM – Sydney Bayless, Lake Hamilton Jr High School, Hot Springs

Winners of the Dr. Lily Peter Memorial Award contest (judged by Dr. Ed Madden of So. Carolina):

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Pat Durmon of Norfolk, AR (\$50)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pat Laster of Benton, AR (\$30)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gail Denham of Oregon (\$20)
- HM – Cathy Parker of Alexander, AR

Winners of the Verna Lee Hinegardner Memorial Award contest (judged by Harding Stedler of Maumelle, AR):

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Don Crowson of Benton, AR (\$50)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Barbara Longstreth Mulkey of Little Rock, AR (\$30)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Marcia Camp of Little Rock, AR (\$20)
- 1HM – Pat Laster of Benton, AR
- 2HM – Pat Durmon of Norfolk, AR
- 3HM – Vivian Barcroft of Johnson, AR

Winners of the Mary Harper Sowell Memorial Award contest (judged by Anna Wells of Festus, MO):

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Marcia Camp of Little Rock, AR (\$50)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – John Crawford of Arkadelphia, AR (\$30)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Karen Powers Liebhaber of Pocahontas, AR (\$20)
- 1HM – Sara Gipson of Scott, AR
- 2HM – Don Crowson of Benton, AR
- 3HM – Cathy Moran of Little Rock, AR

Winner of the Serious Verse Contest: Cathy Moran for “Rain Coming Again”.

Winner of the Light Verse Contest: Jim Barton for “The Old Woman In My Shoe”.

## **Poetry Day 2014 Events and Contests:**

“Arkansas, Our Home” is the theme for this year’s Poetry Day. Events will be held on October 17-18, hosted by the Free Verse Poetry Group of Mountain Home. This 67<sup>th</sup> observance of national Poetry Day in Arkansas honors Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni, Arkansas Poet Laureate (1953-1969) who established the first annual Arkansas Poetry Day on October 15, 1948. Events will include a “Riverside Poems & Pot Luck” read-around on Friday evening at the Norfolk home of Pat Durmon. Saturday events at the Mountain Home Library will feature Todd Sukany, poet, musician and PRA’s State Critic. (Todd reportedly will read your submitted poems back to you

on *YouTube* before providing his critique.) More details on the 2014 Poetry Day events will be published in the August newsletter.

Poetry Day Contests will include 23 opportunities for poets to compete for cash winnings of up to \$1,000. The topic selected for the Sybil Nash Abrams Award (\$1,000) this year is “Arkansas Historical Figure(s).” Jim Barton won the 2013 SNA contest with his magnificent poem on the Civil War Battle of Poison Springs and graciously read it for all who attended the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Lily Peter event in Springdale. Poetry Day 2014 contest categories and rules are posted on PRA’s website under “Contests”. For members without Internet access the Poetry Day Contest Brochure is attached. All entries and fees are due in one envelope postmarked by August 15, 2014 to Diane Stefan, 470 Belle Cove Rd. Mountain Home AR 72653.

Little Rock’s River Market Branch will host the 2015 Poetry Day.

## **Poetic Wins:**

PRA Monthly Contest winners are: February- 1<sup>st</sup> Vivian Barcroft, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Barton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marilyn Joyner, 1HM Alana Merritt Mahaffey, 2HM Cathy Parker, 3HM Caroline Sposto; March– 1<sup>st</sup> Don Crowson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Caroline Sposto, 3<sup>rd</sup> D. Beecher Smith II, 1HM Dennis Patton, 2HM Lee Ann Russell, 3HM Cathy Parker; April-- 1<sup>st</sup> Sara Gipson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Moran, 3<sup>rd</sup> Gail Denham, HM Don Crowson. Check out monthly winners on PRA’s webpage. Send entries to Diane Stefan, 470 Belle Cove Rd., Mountain Home, AR 72653.

Lee Ann Russell won a 3<sup>rd</sup> place from Missouri State Poetry Society Winter Contest.

Jim Barton spoke on the creative process and read some of his wonderful poems at the annual South Arkansas Community College Celebration of the Arts on April 10<sup>th</sup> in El Dorado. Jim has won nearly 400 awards since 2006. His latest book of poems is titled, “Dirty Little Town.” Jim currently serves as Treasurer for the Poets Roundtable of Arkansas, Treasurer for South Arkansas Poets of the Pines, and 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President and Convention Coordinator for the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Jim will attend the NFSPS Convention in late June at Salt Lake City, Utah as an officer of NFSPS and a representative of PRA.

Cathy Moran (River Market Poets) won two 3<sup>rd</sup> places from Georgia, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Senior Poet Laureate contest, three 3<sup>rd</sup>s and two HMs from Pennsylvania, 2<sup>nd</sup> place from Redrock Writers, and two 1<sup>sts</sup> and one 2<sup>nd</sup> from California (CFPC).

KUDOS and thanks to these excellent poets for inspiring us! Please send notice of your wins and branch activities for PRA’s quarterly newsletter to Donna Smith, 58 Briarwood, Greenbrier, AR 72058 ([tndsmith@live.com](mailto:tndsmith@live.com)) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, October, January and April.

## **Yearbook Corrections:**

Please make the following additions to your yearbook: Gail Denham, P.O. Box 3542, Sunriver, OR 97707.

## **Did You Know?**

All Arkansas Poets Laureate have been members of the Poets Roundtable of Arkansas since it was organized in 1931. The current Arkansas Poet Laureate Peggy Vining of Little Rock is a PRA member.

## **A Bit of History – Verna Lee Linxwiler Hinegardner (1919-2012):**

[Verna Lee Hinegardner](#) was appointed Arkansas fifth poet laureate (1991-2003) by Governor Bill Clinton on October 4, 1991. She created a poetry form in the 1960s known as the *minute*, consisting of sixty syllables in rhyming couplets. Hinegardner was active in many organizations promoting poetry, chaired two conventions of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies and published at least 12 books.

Verna Lee Linxwiler was born on January 2, 1919, in Morrisonville, Illinois. Her father was a farmer. She graduated from Lichfield Community High School in 1936, attended Lincoln Junior College in Lincoln, Illinois, and married Marshall Andrew Hinegardner on December 12, 1937. The couple had three daughters. The Hinegardners lived in Mississippi, before moving to Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1953. Verna Lee was employed by the U.S. Forest Service as a land management technician in the office of the supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest and traveled throughout the twelve districts in its jurisdiction. She retired in 1981.

She began writing as a young child; her first published poem was in the *Baptist Junior World* when she was nine. She continued to write, enter literary contests, and systematically study of the art of poetry. She was a charter member of the Hot Springs chapter of Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, organized in 1967.

Hinegardner received many national, state, and regional awards. She was a member of the Poetry Society of America and the International Poetry Society and was president of the Arkansas Pioneer branch of the National League of American Pen Women. She served as secretary, chancellor, and treasurer in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) and was the chairman of the NFSPS national conventions in Hot Springs in 1977 and North Little Rock in 1995. In 1991 she was inducted into the Arkansas Writers' Hall of Fame. (See more at [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net).)

## **Upcoming Events & Contests:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each Month:** PRA's Monthly Contest entries are due the second Saturday each month. Send original, unpublished poems to: Diane Stefan, 470 Belle Cove Road, Mountain Home, AR 72653. See guidelines for each contest on page 7 of the PRA yearbook.

**June:** PRA is again sponsoring a contest in the Arkansas Writers' Conference in June. Members of PRA are free to enter this contest since it will not be chaired or judged by PRA. Look for coming announcements for this contest and many others this spring.

**June:** PRA Annual Membership fees are due in June – \$20 for regular memberships, \$15 for seniors 65 and students under 18. Send checks payable to PRA to Cathy Moran, 401 Auburn Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205.

**July 1:** Great River Shakespeare Festival/Maria W. Faust 2014 Sonnet Contest entries are due 7/1/14. See rules/guidelines at [GRSF.org/SONNET](http://GRSF.org/SONNET) or contact Ted Haaland; 36545 Old Homer Road; Winona, MN (507-453-9628 or [Faustted@gmail.com](mailto:Faustted@gmail.com)).

**July:** PRA's Yearbook is updated and printed in July based on current memberships submitted by June. Be sure to submit any address changes plus membership dues early to be included.

**August 15:** Entries for Poetry Day contests are due August 15<sup>th</sup>. This year's topic for the Sybil Nash Abrams poetry contest is: Arkansas Historical Figure(s). (See SNA rules on page 8 of the yearbook.) Look for all Poetry Day contest details on PRA's website under "Contests."

**October 17-18:** PRA's 2014 Poetry Day will be celebrated October 17-18 at Mountain Home. Contest entries are due August 15, 2014. See guidelines on PRA's web site. Winners will be announced at the October event. Our thanks to the Free Verse Poetry Group of Mountain Home for hosting this annual event.

Check the PRA website for the latest updates on Arkansas events, contests, etc. Also check the NFSPS web site for national news, plus links to other state poetry societies. And send your poems to PRA's State Critic Todd Sukany, 5443 S. 188<sup>th</sup> Road, Pleasant Hope, MO 65725 ([editor@upstarespress.com](mailto:editor@upstarespress.com).)