

# **NEWS 'N' NOTES**

## **Poets Roundtable of Arkansas**

poetsroundtable.webs.com

**February 2014**

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

Dear Poets,

Here's hoping the frigid weather of this winter has driven you inside to curl up beside a fire with a quilt, a cup of something warm, and a tablet for writing a few verses. Nothing like a crackling fire to inspire the poet. Or, a brisk walk through drifting snow and under ice-covered trees could invigorate the senses to conjure up a line or two worth remembering. The rolls are full of poets like Frost, Hopkins, Longfellow and Dickinson who used nature for the themes of their creations.

The annual Arkansas Literary Festival in Little Rock is scheduled for April 24 – 27 this year. Details will be forthcoming in the next few months, so watch advertisements for this outstanding event.

By the end of February all who wish to sponsor a contest for Poetry Day in October must have the forms filled in and the money paid. We have many contests during the year open to our members. So I encourage any sponsors of contests to think about putting your entry in the category "Open to All." This will entice more poets outside of Arkansas to take note of our contests and thus bring in more participation and money into the state. Most other states have the majority of their contests open to all interested poets.

Speaking of contests, our Spring Luncheon contests are coming up as well as the meeting itself which will be held in Fayetteville. Look in your Yearbook for the guidelines to the contests; all members are eligible for entering these. I hope to see many of you up in the northwest for that May get-together.

Cathy Moran

President

### **Dr. Lily Peter Spring Poetry Event May 3rd:**

PRA's annual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Program will be on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:45 AM to 4 PM at the Shiloh Museum, 118 W. Johnson in Springdale, AR (phone 479-750-8165). Remember to mail your poetry contest entries by April 1st. Guidelines are listed on pages 9-10 in the yearbook. See Saturday's agenda below and on the PRA website under EVENTS. Our thanks to the Poets Northwest Branch for hosting this event. Contact Kate Lacy with any questions at her home phone (479-442-8028), cell (479-601-7630) or email (voicedancer2002@yahoo.com).

## **Dr. Lily Peter Program Agenda:**

- 9:45 - Registration and collection of Serious/Light Verse entries.
- 10:00 - Coffee and Nibbles
- 10:15 - Call to Order, Welcome & Opening Poem by Kate Lacy, President POETS NW.
- 10:25 - Reading of Serious & Light Verse Entries [ballot cards distributed]
- 10:45 - Cat Donnelley, Author of Poetry and Fiction
- 11:25 - Break
- 11:35 - Geoff Olesner, Therapist, Poet and Author
- 12:15 - Break for Lunch – on your own
- 1:45 - Reconvene and Call to Order
- 2:00 - Announcement of Contest Winners
- 2:20 - Business Meeting
- 3:30 - PRA President Cathy Moran closes the meeting

## **Vote at May Meeting:**

The members are asked to vote on this proposal by the Board for a change in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. This proposal will be presented for a vote at the May Spring Meeting in Springdale.

**The name of the Dr. Lily Peter Spring Luncheon will be changed in the Constitution and the Standing Rules to – Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration.**

## **Congratulations to Mountain Home Free Verse Poetry Group:**

January 11, 2014 -- The Free Verse Poetry Group of Mountain Home announces the publication of their second CD, Driftwood. Their first CD, Expressions, was released in 2008. Both CDs feature readings of original poetry by members of the group, established in 2004 and joined the PRA in 2012. Members are active in poetry locally and nationally. Several have published collections.

Driftwood features an introduction read by Heather Powell, three instrumentals by Ron Miller and 32 poems – two poems from each member. Charlie Southerland, Monterey Sirak, Stephen Johnson, Jalois Cox, Marilyn Jorgensen, Pat Durmon, Barbara Robinette, Alatheia Daniels, Ron Miller, Jackye Swyers, Diane Stefan, Bill Rhodes, Marie Wayland, Mary Nida Smith and Martha White read their poems and Pat Oplinger reads two poems written by member Rob Meuser. A wide variety of subjects is covered, from growing older to magic, love, books, nature, cancer, family and poetry. The CD was produced by Ron Miller. Inserts and bios were designed and compiled by Alatheia Daniels of Wind Song Press. For information or to purchase a CD, contact Stephen Johnson at [WatermarkStudio@hotmail.com](mailto:WatermarkStudio@hotmail.com) or call 870-425-8963. CDs cost \$10. All proceeds go to a scholarship fund for a Mountain Home High School graduating senior. MHHS senior Colleen Queary received the 2013 scholarship.

## **Poetic Wins:**

PRA Monthly Contest winners are: November -- 1<sup>st</sup> Cathy Moran, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Patton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Pat Durmon, 1HM Caroline Sposto, 2HM John McBride, 3HM Don Crowson; December – 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Barton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Parker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Kitty Smith, 1HM Vivian Barcroft, 2HM Betty Heidelberger, 3HM Faye Wise; January -- 1<sup>st</sup> Don Crowson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Parker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Donna Henson, 1HM Pat Durmon, 2HM Marilyn Joyner, and 3HM Vivian Barcroft. 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 2 HMs from the Poetry Society of Texas, a 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place from Mississippi Poetry Society, 2 HMs from Green River Writer; a 1<sup>st</sup> & two 2<sup>nds</sup> from Poets and Friends contest, a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Lebanon Poets' Society; plus she was published in the winter 2013 premier issue of *Journal of Ozarks Past and Present*.

Laura Loughridge (River Market Poets) won two 1<sup>sts</sup> and one 2<sup>nd</sup> place from Mid-South Poetry Festival, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place from Arkansas Christian Writers.

Vivian Barcroft (Poets Northwest) won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Ozarks Writers League.

Cathy Moran (River Market Poets) won two 1<sup>st</sup> places from Indiana; a 1<sup>st</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place from Chicagoland, a 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from Louisiana, two 2nds from Minnesota, plus two 1<sup>sts</sup> and two 3<sup>rds</sup> from Alabama.

Pat Durmon (Free Verse Group of Mtn Home) has published a book of poems, "Lights and Shadows in a Nursing Home" based on her mother's experiences during her last years. Through this fine book Pat, a Sybil Nash Abrams Award winner and PRA Merit Honoree, has provided lessons common to us all with aging loved ones. Pat also gave a presentation and book signing recently for the Good Samaritan Society in Mountain Home.

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/corrections to your yearbook:

Badger, Ted O., 4118 Knight Road, Fresno, TX 77545, 832-496-7044, [tbdgr@gmail.com](mailto:tbdgr@gmail.com)

Liebhaber, Karen, 91 Clubview Dr., Pocahontas, AR 72455

Mahaffey, Alana Merritt, 308 Levin St., Hot Springs, AR 71901

Pittman, Betty, P.O. Box 202, Hackett, AR 72937, [bpitt@centurytel.net](mailto:bpitt@centurytel.net)

Tice, Frances, 2536 West Pershing Blvd., Apt. A, No. Little Rock, AR 72114, 501-353-1457

## **Did You Know?**

On February 5<sup>th</sup> PRA will be 83 years old. Poets Roundtable of Arkansas was first organized February 5, 1931. Happy Birthday, PRA!

## **A Bit of History – Dr. Lily Peter (1891-1991):**

PRA's spring luncheon is named in honor of Dr. [Lily Peter](#), who served as Arkansas 3<sup>rd</sup> Poet Laureate from 1971 to 1991. Lily Peter was a distinguished author, successful farmer, teacher, musician, conservationist and philanthropist. Born in Phillips County, she was the first of ten children. When her father died in 1907, she took over the farm responsibilities, plus the care of her siblings and her ill mother. She struggled financially on a teacher's salary, but managed the farm well and eventually bought a second farm with her brother. After his death, she managed both farms and became a millionaire. While teaching and managing two large farms, Peter studied English at Columbia and Vanderbilt universities, received a master's degree from Vanderbilt and also studied violin at Juilliard. She was a generous patron of the arts, financing the college education of many students, the construction of a cultural auditorium in Helena, and even the performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra in Little Rock. She appeared on ABC News with Peter Jennings and in Look magazine because of her

unusual promotion of fine arts in the state. She continued to write throughout her life. Her published works represent a mixture of introspective, lyrical poetry and historical poetry, mostly about the Arkansas [Delta](#). Many of Peter's papers and taped interviews are in the archives at the [University of Central Arkansas \(UCA\)](#) in Conway. (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 yearbook.

**February 28: The deadline to sponsor a Poetry Day 2014 Contest is February 28th.** Complete the attached form and send it with funding to: Marcia Camp, 5128 B Street, Little Rock, AR 72205. Contest details will be posted on PRA's website in March. **This year's subject for the Sybil Nash Abrams Contest is: Arkansas Historical Figure(s).** (See SNA rules on page 8 of the yearbook.).

**March 15:** Contest entries are due March 15th for the National Federation of State Poetry Societies ([www.nfspd.com](http://www.nfspd.com)) 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention June 25-29 at Salt Lake City, Utah. See contest rules on the NFSPS website or request a copy from Mikki Pennington, NFSPS Contest Chairman, P.O. Box 7842, Moore, OK 73153 (Email: [contestchair@nfspd.com](mailto:contestchair@nfspd.com)).

**April 1:** Contest entries are due April 1<sup>st</sup> for PRA's 2014 spring workshop, May 3rd at Springdale. Winners will be announced at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> event. (See guidelines on page 9-10 in the yearbook.)

**April 24-27:** The annual Arkansas Literary Festival in Little Rock is scheduled for April 24 – 27 this year. Watch for more details.

**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:** 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). Look for all Poetry Day contest details on PRA's website in March.

**October:** PRA's 2014 Poetry Day will be celebrated in October at Mountain Home. Contest winners will be announced at this 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).)

# POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

## Contest Sponsorship Form for October Poetry Day 2014

**Sponsoring a contest:** You must contribute a minimum of \$30.00 to sponsor a contest and the first place winnings must be no less than \$25.00.

**Form:** Complete this form and return it with your payment to assure that your contest is listed.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submission and payment is February 28, 2014.

**Address:** Send this form and check (payable to PRA) to:

Marcia Camp, Treasurer  
5128 B Street  
Little Rock AR 72205

**Name of award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Form:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Line limit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other requirements may be noted here or on reverse:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Awards:** First place \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Second place \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Third place \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
First HM \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Second HM \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Third HM \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligibility:** Open to all poets ( ) Open to Arkansas residents ( )

**Judging:** I will be responsible for judging this contest ( ) Please get a judge for me ( )

**Donor's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_