

NEWS ‘ N’ NOTES

Poets Roundtable of Arkansas

November 2013

President’s Message:

Dear Poets,

It was so great to see a good number of you at our fall Poetry Day. All kinds of good things happen when poets get together. I listened to one poet talking about choosing the subject for a poem and how hard it was to get something interesting. I sympathized and appreciated the contests that do give you a topic to write. I enjoy entering my own particular subjects, but it is nice to be judged along with many others on the same topic. I was reminded of Billy Collins and how he writes about the everyday occurrences such as washing the dishes and going for a drive to buy oranges and bread. He relates them to his heightened sense of the rhythms of life. Makes for good poetry.

Our 80th Anniversary Anthology is a marvelous compilation of poems from members going back to the beginning. I encourage you to get a copy.

Happy holidays. Hope you get inspired by all the festive activities.

Cathy Moran
State President

Poetry Day Results:

Everyone had a fun time in Hot Springs at the 2013 Poetry Day on October 26th. Congratulations to all the Contest Winners! And our thanks to the Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs for being such wonderful hosts. John Crawford gave us insights into famous poets and their poetic voices running through poetry. Hot Springs members provided tasty treats throughout the morning and the accommodations were perfect. We had a fun read-around enjoying members’ poems and a wonderful lunch with John providing music for our entertainment. Contest winners are listed on the enclosed attachment and also posted on the PRA website (<http://poetsroundtable.webs.com/>) under Poetry Day Winners.

Congratulations also to Pat Durmon who won the 2013 Merit Award. Pat has been an officer of PRA for years, has published two books of poetry and won numerous contests. She has stepped in twice to be a master of ceremonies for PRA events and done a spectacular job. We appreciate the counseling she has provided and are delighted to give her this honor.

Poetic Wins:

PRA Monthly Contest winners for August are: 1st Bill Rhodes, 2nd Jim Barton, 3rd Lee Ann Russell, 1HM Dennis Patton, 2HM Betty Heidelberger, and 3HM Sara Gibson. September winners are: 1st Jim Barton, 2nd Don Crowson, 3rd Dewell H. Byrd, 1HM Sara Gibson, 2HM Dennis Patton, and 3HM Laura Loughridge. Check out the monthly winners posted on the PRA webpage. Congratulations to all!

Betty Heidelberger (Delta Poets) was published in Third Wednesday, a literary arts magazine in Michigan. She also won 2 second place awards at Lifepress/Grandmother Earth Conference in Tennessee. Both will be published in Grandmother Earth. Congrats, Betty!

Charlie Southerland (Free Verse Poets of Mtn Home) was named the Arkansas winner for Senior Poet Laureate. As a state winner he will be competing for National Senior Poet Laureate. Congrats and good luck to Charlie! He also won Best Humorous Sonnet Award in the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Minnesota.

Lee Ann Russell won 1st and 3rd place in the Missouri State Poetry Society Summer Contest, 2 HMs in the Mid-South Poetry Festival, plus 3rd place in Siloam Springs Writers' Contest. Kudos to Lee Ann!

Jim Barton (South Ark Poets of the Pines) won 1st place Haiku with Grandmother Earth, plus one 1st place, two 2nds, two 3rds and 4 HMs at the White County Writers. Congrats to Jim!

Pat Laster (Saline County Branch) has been selected as Poetry Editor for CALLIOPE: A Writer's Workshop, beginning with the winter issue. Congratulations to Pat!

Cathy Moran (PRA State President & member of River Market Poets) won the following: Florida, two 1st, two 2nd; Ohio, two 1st; Massachusetts four 1st, three 2nd, two 3rd; and Mid-South (Tennessee) two 1st, four HM. Congratulations to Cathy!

These members from across the state show the caliber of our PRA poets competing successfully in multi-state contests. We are proud of you all! And thanks for inspiring us to compete. Please continue to send notice of your wins and branch activities for publication in our quarterly newsletter. Send information to Donna Smith, 58 Briarwood, Greenbrier, AR 72058 (tndsmith@live.com) by the 10th of July, October, January and April.

PRA's 80th Anniversary Anthology Published:

This beautiful volume includes poems selected by Editor Marck Beggs from all Annual Anthologies published since "Poets of the Roundtable" was organized in 1931. Arkansas' premier poet Miller Williams of Fayetteville wrote the Foreword. Mockingbird Lane Press published the anthology, distributed by Ingram and available in paperback (\$12) or hardback (\$20). You may order the book from: amazon.com, barnes&noble.com, www.ingrambook.com, Baker & Taylor, NASCORP, Espresso Book Machine, and for ebooks Kindle, Nook, Apple (iPads, iPods etc.). Books are also available in gift shops of museums managed by the Arkansas Department of Heritage. Plus they are sold in the United Kingdom and Ireland, as well. If bookstores and gift shops in your area might be interested in carrying these books, they may contact mockingbirdlanepress@gmail.com.

Yearbook Corrections:

Please make the following additions/corrections to your yearbooks:

Dewell Byrd, 286 Marian Ave, #1, Central Point, OR 97502

Frances Cowden, 8432 Wood Shadows Lane Cordova, TN 38018, 901-309-3692, gmoearth@gmail.com

Faye Duncan, 928 Columbia St., Helena-W. Helena AR 72342, helenaarkie@yahoo.com

Jeff Dyer, 721 South St., W. Helena, AR 72390, 870-816-4559, claytonjeffrey@hotmail.com

Missy Frye, 707 Richland Creek Ave., Elkins, AR 72727, mmfrye@melissamfry.com

Fay Guinn, 2607 Twin Lakes Cove, Jonesboro, AR 72404, 870-935-0648

Betty Heidelberger's phone is #870-816-0365.

Jeannette Heffington's phone is #501-317-8320.

Alexa Inman's email address is alexa_joyce@live.com.

Mildred McKinney's phone area code is 870.

Mary Mullane, 305 W. Cross, Benton, AR 72015

Betty Puckett, 200 Lakeland Dr., B-13, Hot Springs AR 71913

Wallace Rowland, 11715 Garrison Rd., Little Rock, AR 72223, 501-868-1207

Caroline Sposto, 1520 Kirby Parkway, Memphis, TN 38120, 610-597-9803, carol@sposto.com

Russell Strauss, 18 S. Rembert St., Memphis, TN 38104, 901-726-4582

Did You Know?

The State Critic Todd Sukany is available to PRA members for review of one poem per month. Take advantage of this wonderful service contracted for you by PRA. Poems must be original work of the poet, clearly typed, with name and address on the poem and the envelope. Send your poem, plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply, to: Todd Sukany, 5443 S. 188th Road, Pleasant Hope, MO 65725. Or email him at: editor@upstarespress.com. Todd will consider critiquing extra poems for a fee. Please discuss with him before sending extras.

A Bit of History:

Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni was Poet Laureate of Arkansas from 1953 until her death in 1969. A prolific poet, she worked to promote a greater appreciation of poetry, establish an annual Poetry Day in Arkansas, and encourage poets in her own time and place. Marinoni came from Italy at age 10 to live in Brooklyn, New York. Her father was a journalist and drama critic. Her mother was a poet and artist.

She married Antonio Marinoni in 1908 and moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he became head of the Romance Languages Department for the University of Arkansas. Rosa promoted poetry through schools, women's organizations, newspapers and other means. Governor Ben Laney recognized her efforts by proclaiming October 15, 1948, the first annual Poetry Day in Arkansas. Thereafter Marinoni observed this day each year by recognizing 3 outstanding Arkansas poets, past, present and future. Marinoni published over 1,000 short stories in 70 magazines, poems in more than 900 US and foreign publications, and at least 19 books of poetry and art. After her death, Governor Winthrop Rockefeller proclaimed October 15th, Poetry Day, to be Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Day in Arkansas. (See more at www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net.)

Upcoming Events & Contests:

Remember to enter PRA's Monthly Contest by the second Saturday each month. Members may enter one poem per month with a 36 line limit. Send 2 copies (one with name/address) of your original, unpublished poem to: Diane Stefan, 470 Belle Cove Road, Mountain Home, AR 72653. Next up: November (Subject "Out of doors", Form – any); December (Subject "Winter", Form – Any, 32 lines); January (Subject "Poetry", Form – Free verse); February (Subject "Love", Form – any).

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies (www.nfsps.com) hosts its 55th Annual Convention June 25-29, 2014 at Salt Lake City, Utah. Contest entries are due between January 1, 2014 and March 15 2014. PRA members are also members of NFSPS. See contest rules on the NFSPS website or request a copy from Mikki Pennington, NFSPS Contest Chairman, PO. Box 7842, Moore, OK 73153 (Email: contestchair@nfsps.com). Good luck in the competition, everyone!

PRA's 2014 Spring Luncheon will be held in May at Fayetteville. More information on the date, location and contests will be posted on the PRA website and in the February newsletter. Contest entries are due by April 1, 2014. Our thanks to the Northwest Poets for hosting this annual event.

PRA Membership fees are due June 30th annually for the following fiscal year, July 1 to June 30. Also, PRA's Yearbook is updated in July based on current memberships. Dues for seniors (65) and students (under 18) are \$15. Regular dues for all other members are \$20. Make your check payable to PRA and send to: Cathy Moran, 401 Auburn Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205.

PRA's 2014 Poetry Day will be celebrated in October at Mountain Home. The deadline to sponsor a contest is February 28. Contest entries are normally due August 15. So plan ahead to win. We appreciate the Mountain Home poets for hosting this annual event.

Please remember to check the PRA website for the latest updates and corrections on Arkansas events, contests, etc. Also check the NFSPS web site for national news, plus links to other state poetry societies hosting numerous contests you may want to enter. Best wishes to all!