

A Common Wealth of Poetry

The Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia

www.PoetrySocietyOfVirginia.org

October 2011

Send info to: shannp@gmail.com

In this issue:

President's Letter
Member News
Opportunities
Other
Poetry

Upcoming events:

*SE Region

@ The Chrysler
10/26

*Northern Region

10/29

*NORGE Reading

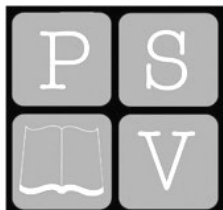
11/5

*Eastern Region

11/20

**Deadline for
next Newsletter
October 24**

**Send poems about
"Gratitude" for
consideration in
the next issue-
30 line limit**



From our President

Best wishes, Members,

I hope everyone survived being shaken by the earthquake in August, and drenched by the two hurricanes that washed through Virginia in September. It was quite a challenge to deal with the extended power outage and damage from the storms, but at least, it was fortuitous that the rain came in time to be of help in controlling the fires in the Dismal Swamp.

You will be reading this after the Southeastern Regional Meeting in September, but I hope you were able to attend. The plans Jack Callan put in place looked truly exciting, with a delightful blend combination of arts, and a chance to put the joy of the experience into your best words - maybe in our next Newsletter.

I also hope to see many of you at the Western Regional Meeting in October. It's a delightful time of year for a drive to the mountains, and it will be fun to see what Tom Morris, our new Western Regional Vice-President, has in store for us. The date is October 15, the same as the annual meeting of the Virginia Association of Teachers of English, and some of our members will be attending that meeting, but I am certainly hoping to see a significant attendance from the rest of the membership.

Most of the judges have been chosen for the Adult Contest. Again this year, the Poetry Society is privileged to include some of the finest poets in America, directors and faculty members of distinguished arts programs, editors of renowned publications, and winners of respected awards for their achievements.

Their participation lends an outstanding prestige to the Poetry Society of Virginia for our contest, and if you win a prize or an honorable mention in one of our categories, you are entitled to very special "bragging rights," so be ready to enter the contest when it opens next month.

Have a great October, and a deliciously spooky Halloween!

Warm Wishes,
Judi Bragg

Member News & Publications

The Northern Region is delighted to announce **Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda** is the Ellen Anderson Prize winner for 2012.

Michal Mahgerefteh announces a new chapbook, *Sipping Memories, A Poetica Journal to Morocco*.

Wanderer, a collection of poetry and more by **Larry Turner** was published by Infinity Publishing. Also, poems "Shape Up, Sylvia" and "Garden Gifts" will appear in *The Lyric*. His poem "Song of a Continent" appeared in the July issue of the online magazine *Voices on the Wind*, and "Cabinet of Curiosities" and "Storm Warning" are in the October issue.

Phyllis Johnson will be reading at Books in the Park in Norfolk. New releases are *Poetic Dreamer*, a book of poetry. Her Young Adult suspense novel is out co-written with Nancy Naigle under pen name, Johnson Naigle. A new edition of *Being Frank* with Anne released soon.

Shann Palmer has a chapbook online at the Dead Mule School of Southern Literature and poems in *Qarrtsilunui* and *phati'tude Literary Magazine* Sept 11 remembrance issue.

Ron Smith has just published two poems in *AETHLON: THE JOURNAL OF SPORTS LITERATURE*. The poems are both parody-homages of Wallace Stevens's work and celebrations of Ron's hometown (Savannah) game of Half-rubber, a game similar to stickball but infinitely superior. The poem titles are "Anecdote of the Half-Rubber" and "Thirteen Ways of Looking at Half-Rubber."

Events

Poetry at The Crossing*
The Coffeehouse Thursday, October 20, at 7:00 P.M. Join us for a cool October evening of poetry by celebrated poets Jay Paul and Ron Smith. *Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center at the intersection of Highways 199 and 5.

Five local poets will read on October 29, 2011 at the Martha Washington library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307, 10am -1pm. Poets include Peter Lattu, Eric Johnson, and Stuart Nottingham. The program is free and open to the public.

Poetry in the Schools Report

by Beth Huddleston

Each year we contact the Director of Instruction at the Virginia Department of Education to share our resources, website, and contests. We also forward information various listservs about PSV poets who are willing to be a part of classroom experiences. We are poised to make contacts at the Virginia Association for Teachers of English Conference in October. I hope to see some of you there.

A Book for Teachers and Poets

The Dreamer, by Pam Munoz Ryan and Peter Sis, is a combination of biography, literary fiction, poetry, and illustration. Celebrating the formative years of Pablo Neruda, the story captivates the reader and speculates about the experiences that may have inspired this Nobel Prize poet. The work is a wonderful source for supporting elements of the writing process, for studying imagery and figurative language, and for discussing voice in writing. It is a captivating read for anyone who loves poetry, writing, and historical fiction.

- Beth Huddleston

Poetry Society Contest News

Brochures are now available for the adult and student contests!! Information is downloadable from the website! Official entries begin November 1st.

Try a new form: The Sevenling!

Google it! (at the American Poetry Journal)

SUBMIT:

To submit poems to the newsletter: email shannp@com for guidelines and themes. Do NOT reply to the newsletter mailing, your poems will get lost.

Send news, events, publications & other pertinent poetry possibilities. Recommend gifts for poets for the next issue!!

Opportunities

The Graybeal-Gowen Poetry Award is presented annually for a single poem and is open to all writers born in or with an established residency of at least one year in Virginia. Writers are invited to submit up to 3 previously unpublished poems, there is **no entry fee**. The winning poem will receive an award of \$500 and be published in the September 2012 issue of Shenandoah. Submit 2 copies of each poem (one with name and address and one without) along with a SASE and brief biographical note confirming the basis for eligibility to the address below.

Entries must be postmarked between October 1 and November 15. For more information contact rodsmith@wlu.edu.

The Graybeal-Gowen Prize
Shenandoah
17 Courthouse Square
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, VA 24450-2116

For those who want more information about publishing poems, try these resources:

Poetry Publishers Who Accept Submissions by Email: <http://ncs.rutgers.edu/~lcrew/pbonline.html>
Writing Contests: www.writers-editors.com/Writers/Contests/contests.htm

Do you have a poem that has been rejected but you think it's worthy of publication? Try the online zine Red-Headed Stepchild- they only take poems rejected by another publication. I have to tell you, they are pretty picky (isn't that ironic?). After years of submitting, I (Shann) finally got one in. Website: <http://www.redheadedmag.com/poetry/>

Try a new form for fun: The Sevenling!

http://home.comcast.net/~jpdancingbear/apj_sevenling.html

!!!Last minute breaking poetry event news!!!

John Gosslee will read from his first book of poetry "12" published by Gival Press in French, Spanish and English at 7pm on October 20th at the Newport News Fine Arts Center. Poet-in-residence for Attitude: the Dancers' Magazine from 2008-2011, he is the Editor of Fjords, an arts and literary review for the 21st century reader and his first book was published by Gival Press in French, Spanish and English. We hope that you can attend this one time reading event, where the author will also talk about publishing and the current state of the industry. If you do not like to laugh, don't come. Students are also welcome.

October 20th, 2011 6pm
Penninsula Fine Arts Center
101 Museum Drive
Newport News, VA 23606 (757) 596-8175

POEMS

Expectations

by Alan Meyrowitz

Autumn is demure this year,
a lady giving hint,
her tease with just a leaf or two
down upon the peonies,
still growing.
Convey, she says, to all
I bring a Fall of colors sure to grace,
harbinger of still another
season pending. Soon enough
I will be through as Winter
will be coming due, then Spring
will cue your garden tending

Waiting in Long Light

by Sara Robinson

I stand in our woods—late sun pierces through trees
Making their shadows giant daddy-long-legs
These tall trees are the undisputed kings and queens of
The end of the day
If I stand next to them I look tall and skinny, too

I look up—see the sky as it changes its make-up
To evening wear
The blue jay jesters jump from tree to tree
One last romp, for the heck of it, before day's end.

It's this time of year—the month of long shadows
That I love so much
The sun does its magical thing as it takes its daily
Leave heading low in the sky

Even the grass leaves have shadows that bend this
Way and that weaving their presence between
Larger leaves of serviceberry and red oak

Bushes nearby have large plump shadows like little old men
Residing on park benches
Impertinent, young sassafras trees take on the role of
Practical fence posts—a pretense of work they never do

Fig infants look mature and all grown up
But they fool no one as it is a long way off til
They are ready
Pine trees become ladders to rising planets
And I pretend I can reach that far as well
My long shadow is all that I have
For a spaceship.

POEM WRITTEN IN BARBECUE SAUCE

(Arby's 1:25 p.m.)

by Daniel Pravda

The big lady behind the frier coughs and scoops curls into cups.
The guy with the cop moustache claps lips in praise of roast beef and jalapeno bites.
Walt Whitman comes in from 90 degrees with a green cap and pays
for coffee with pocket change and the senior discount.
The car dealer in the corner, his Hall Auto seagull laughing from his shirt,
looks at his Timex, looks depressed, looks for where he parked the pristine Pontiac.
The guy in tie and Kenneth Cole shoes slaps his sandwich
on the counter: *I said no mayo!* The big lady picks her ear.
The teenage cashier gears up for the growing line with a sigh.
The quiet country music fades behind squealing straws and creaking chairs asking *am I a scale?*
No one here won the \$325 million Powerball. The Phat Farm
guy's phone goes dead. The old sailor, bright white minus tattoos,
wears a fish belt, broken hat and pocket knife to meet his friend, the napkin dispenser.
They're out of cups. Short on Trays. Need pennies. Walt blinks
and pours a packet of salt in his coffee, and pulls the PUSH door.

Previously published in Beltway: A Poetry Quarterly

Bagging Leaves

by Ron Smith

Heft the clean folded bag, creamy to your fingers,
shiny in the sun. Snap it open and let the wind
fill it, stretching its creases out, tugging to work.
Scoop and scoop the brittle handfuls till the dustgrit
goes to slime and earthy smell. Dangle a pink worm
speckled with dirt crumbs and count its pull-ups,
its liquid oozy going, its wrinkled, fattening coming back.

The grass, you will find, is nearly white.
Pull your tragic faces, loving the chance to make it
green again, loving the black kordite
roughed plump with a load of lightness.
Love the final spin you give it, the stiff
yellow twist to keep death in its place.

This poem was first published in The Nation, in a slightly different form.

Loyal Always

by Rabbi Israel Zoberman

In fall, the loneliest of seasons,
Are found faithful leaves
Whose murmuring company you'll
Do well to keep,
Who will never betray exchanged
Confidences when walking with
Their music quickening one's feet,
As summer's sweetness still with you
And winter's inevitably pursuing
Bitter chill.

Executive Committee Officers 2010-2011

President	Judith Bragg	musicsavy45@yahoo.com
Vice Pres., Central	Maria Butler	mariawb@earthlink.net
Vice Pres., Eastern	Mary Haines	mjshalom@widomaker.com
Vice Pres., Northern	Barry Amis	bdamis@comcast.net
Vice Pres., So. Eastern	Jack Callan	nuckleheadpoet@yahoo.com
Vice Pres., Western	Tom Morris	tmorris@wileywilson.com
Treasurer	Guy Terrell	ggterr@infionline.net
Membership Chair	Charles Wilson	charleswilson4.ctr@navy.mil
Contest Co-Chairs, Adult	Patsy Bickerstaff	granypatsy@yahoo.com
	Guy Terrell	ggterr@infionline.netftj
Contest Chair, Student	Nancy Powell	nancyp1734@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Shann Palmer	shannp@gmail.com
Webmaster	Michal Mahgerefteh	michalih@aol.com
Archivist	Warren Harris	wmharris@embarqmail.com
Parliamentarian	Helen Eano Miller	nellnick@aol.com
Recording Secretary	Claudia Gary	claudiagary@att.net
Poetry in the Schools	Beth Huddleston	bethhudphone@verizon.net
Festival Co-Chairs	Peg Crews	peg.crews@gmail.com
	Mary Magoon DeLara	mmdelara@widomaker.com
Nominating Com. Chair	Joan Mazza	joanmazza@yahoo.com

Executive Directors

Robert Arthur
Patsy Bickerstaff
Shonda Buchanan
Carolyn Foronda
Nancy Powell
Shirley Sellers

Advisory Board

James McNally
Margaret Ward
Morland
Ron Smith
Josh Poteat

October 2011

A Common Wealth of Poetry
Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia
<http://poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/>

First Class
Mail