

A COMMON WEALTH OF POETRY

Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia ♦ August 2021

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Terry Cox-Joseph

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.” So wrote Stephen King in his book, *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*. How apropos for August, which was **Book Lovers Month**. I hope everyone read a book. Or six. Especially poetry books. And especially poetry books by our members.



This summer has been productive, with in-person events as well as Zoom meetings. The Saturday Poetry Series started up again at the Williamsburg Library in Norge, with James Wilson in charge. The weather was horrendous but it was well worth it to attend. We held a successful in-person reading and open mic at The Williamsburg Library Theater (on Scotland Street) the last Saturday in July, thanks to Eastern Region VP Kathleen Decker.

Looking forward, we’re booking a holiday meal and reading at Ford’s Colony, COVID-19 allowing. It will be so nice to see all of your friendly faces, and catch up on what you’re working on. Check out Eastern Region VP Kathleen Decker’s ekphrastic poetry-quilt project in this issue, as well as other VP reports.

Welcome, Newsletter Editor, Marjorie Gowdy, working from the Blue Ridge mountains in Callaway, VA. She was Founding Executive Director of the Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art in Biloxi, MS, which she led for 18 years. Now retired, she worked in other fields that fed her love of writing, including as a grants writer. Her poetry has been published extensively, in the *Roanoke Review*, *Artemis Journal* and *Floyd County Moonshine* to name a few. Gowdy also paints, with recent works accepted by the Virginia Beach Artists’ Center, illustrations published in *Floyd County Moonshine*, and included in an upcoming exhibition at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Gowdy is a graduate of Virginia Tech and has a master’s degree in liberal studies from University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

Welcome, Membership Chair, Peter Kelly, the son of Robert and Peggy Kelly. Peter grew up in Newport News and recently returned “home” in 2015 for an early retirement and to be closer to his family. Peter graduated from Ferguson High School (now part of Christopher Newport University—literally—part of the Ferguson Center building.) After training at the Oberlin Conservatory as a classical musician and pursuing a degree in Mathematics at Oberlin College, Peter won an audition with the ARS Musica Baroque Orchestra of Ann Arbor Michigan in 1980. This launched a career that allowed him to help establish the Lyra Baroque Orchestra after moving to the Twin Cities in 1985. He was the principal baroque oboist with the Lyra Baroque Orchestra, while at the same time following his passion for mathematics and computers by developing a career in programming, managing teams of software developers, and most recently as a Senior Systems Business Analyst.

“Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us” is the theme for **Banned Books Week**, September 26 – October 2. The event celebrates the freedom to read. From the website: “Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. ... it highlights the value of free and open access to information. ...brings together the entire book community – librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types – in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.” Some online platforms have also had issues with banned topics (consolation: so far, nothing very literary); what the future holds for certain topics remains to be seen.

Write on!

Terry Cox-Joseph, President



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NORTHERN REGION

CATHY HAILEY, VP

Greetings from Northern Virginia! Hope you are all enjoying the summer.

On July 21st, we held our third Zoom reading featuring Northern Region PSV poets who had published books in late 2019, 2020, or 2021:

Laura J. Bobrow *End Game*

Linda Dove *Borrowed Glint of Jade*

Claudia Gary *Genetic Revisionism: poems inspired by the sciences & mathematics*

Ruth Holzer *Home and Away*

Daniel N. Nelson *Minnesota and other Poems*

Elizabeth Spragins *Waltzing with Water*

We heard such a variety of forms, including: free verse sonnets, villanelles, ghazals, haibun, tanka, Bardic verse in the Celtic style, and terza rima. The open mic was the best attended so far. Thank you to all the poets and friends who participated. Consider buying a book from a fellow Northern Region member. The pandemic has made it more difficult to encourage book sales.

As a reminder, the first reading included the following poets listed with their book titles:

Zeina Azzam *Bayna Bayna: In-Between*

Steven Bucher *We Stay a Brief Telling*

Jacqueline Jules *Manna in the Morning*

Kathy Cable *Smaltz Pieces*

Sally Zakariya *Something Like a Life*

The second reading included the following poets listed with their book titles:

Katherine Gotthardt *DC Ekphrastic: Crisis in Faith*

Kim B. Miller *My Poetry Is the Beauty You Overlook*

Mike Maggio *Let's Call it Paradise*

Farin Powell *Life is Good*

Katherine E. Young *Woman Drinking Absinthe*

As Terry mentioned in her letter, this is a great time to catch up on reading poetry books published by PSV members!

The [1455 Literary Festival](#) was exceptional! I'm still going back to listen to sessions I missed. They will be available in on-demand video through October 9.

In the Company of Laureates, October 9-10, 2021

On Indigenous People's Day/Columbus Day Weekend, October 9-10, **In the Company of Laureates** will take place at the Woodbridge Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. I hope you will all join us as we welcome poets laureate from many states and localities. Spilled Ink will offer an opportunity for additional poets to read in an open mic. We're building in more time to mingle and chat with poets formally in roundtable discussions and informally in the atrium where poets will display and sell their books. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful event. This event, sponsored by the Prince William County Arts Council with support from PSV, is the fourth biennial celebration of poets laureate we've held in Prince William County. You don't want to miss it! Email me (haileycp@gmail.com) or Alice Mergler (mergleralice@gmail.com) for more information.

Finally, if any of you are interested in volunteering as a poet in the schools, please let me know. Teachers, if you are looking for poets to visit your classroom, I'll try to match you up. And don't forget to advertise Louisa Igloria's Young Poets in the Community initiative to students in elementary, middle school, high school, and college!

August Claudits

Congratulations to **Zeina Azzam**, whose poem about aging, "Ali McGraw Turns 79 & Looks Totally Different," is being published by Gyroscope Review in their Summer 2021 issue, p. 22.

Congratulations to **Jacqueline Jules**, whose poem "July 1969" remembering the moon landing, 52 years ago, was published in *Your Daily Poem*:

http://www.yourdaily poem.com/listpoem.jsp?poem_id=3786&fbclid=IwAR0X9IniPeiBPsAEILuncjA2EFutXY6zQf_QGEabrrUVJ3rYKNPMK15uB0I. Her poem to her husband, "A Less Loving Man," was published by Poetry Super Highway in the week of their 26th anniversary: <https://www.poetrysuperhighway.com/.../poetry-from.../>.

Congratulations to **JoAnn Lord Koff**, who has two poems, "So" and "Spring Mountain," printed in Black Bough Poetry's Freedom-Rapture. Her poem, "The Poetess," and corresponding photograph are printed in *Green Ink Poetry, Collection 6: Discovery*, and her poem, "Angry Cloud," is printed in *Green Ink Poetry 'Collection 5: Storm Chasers*. She recited her BLM

poem, "A Target on your Back," on Blog Talk Radio's Juneteenth Open Mic Poetry Reading. In *Lifestyle Magazine*, she was featured in the article "Three Local Authors Talk Poetry."

Congratulations to **Mike Maggio**, whose poem, "Dear Anonymouse," was accepted by *North of Oxford*. Publication date is 2/15/22.

Congratulations to **Susan Notar**, whose poem, "Menagerie in the Pandemic," appears in the recent *Artemis* literary journal. Her poem, "7 p.m. Friday, Washington, D.C.," also appears in the beautiful new journal *Forgotten River*, by the environmentally-minded Anacostia Swim Club!

Congratulations to **Sally Zakariya**, whose poem, "Animal Talk," was published in *One Art*, July 9, 2021 (<https://oneartpoetry.com/2021/07/09/one-poem-by-sally-zakariya/>). Her poems "Conjuring a Neanderthal," "Nacotch tank," and "Michelangelo and Bugs" will appear in the August issue of *Verse-Virtual*.

September Poetry Events

September 9, 7 p.m. Readings on the Pike. Readers: Jason B. Crawford, DeMisty Bellinger, Sofia Fey, Steve Fox, Beth Gordon, Richard Peabody, Lee Potts, Karthik Sethuraman, Evan Williams, Katherine Young. These readings take place on Zoom the second Thursday each month. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingsonthepike>.

September 10, 7 p.m. Spilled Ink open mic hosted by **John Dutton**. Hybrid (In-Person & Zoom). For more information: spilledinkva@gmail.com.

September 11, 2 p.m. Poets Anonymous. Open poetry reading, second Saturday of the month. Details: via email at poetsanonffx@gmail.com or online <https://www.meetup.com/POETS-ANONYMOUS-NOVA-s-longest-running-Open-Mic-since-1991/>.

September 13, 7 p.m. Cafe Muse presents Andrea Carter Brown and Katherine Gekker on Zoom. The chatroom opens at 7 p.m. and features Classical guitar, played by Michael C. Davis, set to a photo slideshow. Registration is required: <https://sites.google.com/view/cafe-muse-events/home>.

September 14, 7-9 p.m. Poetry After the Pandemic. Local poets read and discuss their work. Organized by Steve Allenmay. Readers TBA. In-person at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Rd. Alexandria, VA 22307, Meeting Room 104 A/B.

September 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Join Arlington Poet Laureate Holly Karapetkova, editor Katherine E. Young, and the poets of Arlington for a book release celebration and reading from the anthology *Written in Arlington*. Lubber Run Amphitheater, N Columbus St. & 2nd St. N, Arlington, VA 22203.

September 24, 7 p.m. Spilled Ink open mic hosted by John Dutton. In-Person at Jirani Coffee House, Old Towne, Manassas, VA. For more information: spilledinkva@gmail.com.

September 25, 7-8 p.m. Slammin' Saturdays: Open Mic Night. \$5 per session, last Saturday of each month. Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon, VA 20170. 703.056.6590. info@artsherndon.com.

September 26, 5:30 p.m. Reston Readings is returning to live gatherings at Reston's Used Book Shop. To launch the season, they are holding an open mic reading. If you are interested in reading, contact Nathan Leslie: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/232505597093213/>.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

DAVID ANTHONY SAM, VP

PSV North Central continues to meet and include members from the NW region on the third Saturday at 2 p.m. via Zoom at least through August.

David Anthony Sam has had nine journals accept 22 poems this year

Linda Dove graduated with an MFA (poetry) from West Virginia Wesleyan! Congratulations, Linda.

NORTHWEST REGION

POSITION VACANT

Combined NW and NC regions continue to meet via Zoom on the third Saturday of every month at 2 p.m.

EASTERN REGION

KATHLEEN DECKER, VP

Kathleen P. Decker, the Eastern Region VP, hosted an in-person poetry reading at the James City County Regional Library in Williamsburg in July. Featured readers were: Sofia Starnes, Poet Laureate Emerita, Bill Glose, President Pro Tem, Ed Lull, past PSV President, and Terry Cox-Joseph, current PSV President. Kathleen and ten other PSV members read during the subsequent open-mic session. It was fantastic to read and hear poetry live and in-person again!

Kathleen has also organized a special ekphrastic poetry exhibit. "Quilted Poems" will be a joint exhibit between local members of Colonial Piecemakers Quilt Guild (CPQG) and the Poetry Society of Virginia. The exhibit will appear as a "Special Exhibit" at the Mancuso Mid-Atlantic Quilt Show in February 24-27, 2022 in the Hampton Coliseum. The show usually attracts thousands of visitors. **Submissions are now closed to poets.** Terry Cox-Joseph and Kathleen chose one poem each from those who submitted multiple poems and single submissions will be forwarded directly to quilters. Quilters will read the poets' work, which represent 65 PSV members, and choose one or two poems which will be posted along with the quilt inspired by the poem. This ekphrastic poetry/quilt exhibit is different than the usual ekphrastic poetry, in which a visual or other artwork inspires the poet. It's been a fun challenge for poets to think up poems to inspire a visual artist, and we can't wait to see the quilts! As President of CPQG, Kathleen will curate the poem/quilt choices so that hopefully all poems will be hung. A book is planned with professional photos of the quilts and the poems.

SOUTHEAST REGION

KINDRA MCDONALD, VP

Dear Poets,

I know we all hoped we would not have to revisit closings, social distancing and mask wearing, and as we close out summer and ping-pong between hope and worry, poetry remains constant and as important as ever.

The Muse Writers Center will announce their fall schedule soon, so please check www.the-muse.org for classes, all of which will be online this semester.

The Hampton Roads Writers Conference will be held in Virginia Beach September 23-25 and features workshops from many PSV members. There's still time to register at www.hamptonroadswriters.org.

Here in coastal Virginia, we celebrated August's Women in Translation Month with an online event co-sponsored by The Muse and facilitated by Catherine Fletcher. Thank you to Pichchenda Bao, Kurt William Hackbart, Dr. Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Tamara Leon, Thwada Aye Lei, and Sahar Muradi for being part of this multi-genre panel.

The Hampton Roads Youth Poets went all the way to Nationals in the Brave New Voices Slam Poetry competition and came in third place!

Shout out to SE Region PSV member Pamela Brothers Denyes for stepping up and answering our desperate call for a new treasurer.

A special thank you to our regional member, Nathan Richardson who will be representing Hampton Roads on the PSV Centennial Planning Committee.

There will soon be Poetry on the Pavement in Norfolk, thanks to a City Arts Commission initiative. Follow @ArtsNorfolk for more information on where these poems will be located. You'll be able to find my own mermaid poem and our regional member, Carol Parris Krauss, whose poem on Lord Dunmore was selected.

Carol Parris Krauss was also a finalist for the Crossroads Competition held by the Eastern Shore Writers Association and she has a forthcoming chapbook, *Just a Spit down the Road*, published by Keslay Books and due to be released December 2021. Congratulations, Carol!

Stay tuned to the PSV page for details on a multi-poet fall book reading and open mic opportunity. Be well, stay healthy, keep writing!

CENTRAL REGION

JOANNA LEE, VP

We are planning a regional meeting in-person, outdoors on Sunday, September 12, from 3 pm to 6 pm at Blue Bee Cider in Richmond, with a rain date of September 19, the following Sunday. Look for details to come in the following weeks and invites in your inbox! The meeting will include reading(s), panel discussion, and an open mic opportunity.

Meanwhile, live and virtual community events continue in Richmond, Charlottesville, and beyond, including the conclusion of River City Poets' summer reading series at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens on September 22nd, and a live open mic in C'ville put on by the Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative on September 16. For more info on any of these, please feel free to drop me a line!

WESTERN REGION

ANGELA DRIBBEN, VP

EVENTS:

September 28, 2021, at 7PM EST, the West Region of PSV will virtually host two local featured readers: Pedro Larrea and April Asbury. There will be an Open Mic afterwards so that we can revel in Virginia's voices. Pedro Larrea is the author of three books of poems: *La orilla libra /The Free Shore*; *La tribu y la llama*; and *Manuscrito del hechicero /The Wizard's Manuscript*. He has read as a guest poet in places such as the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the New York Public Library, the University of New York, and Emory University. As a translator, he has published the Spanish edition of Kevin Young's Book of Hours; Percy Bysshe Shelley's *A Defence of Poetry* along with Thomas Love Peacock's *The Four Ages of Poetry*; and Rita Dove's *Sonata Mulattica*. Currently, he teaches at the University of Lynchburg in Virginia. April J. Asbury teaches writing and literature at Radford University. She holds an M.F.A. from Spalding University and an M.A. from Hollins. Her work appears in *Artemis*; *Still: The Journal*; *Floyd County Moonshine*; *The Anthology of Appalachian Writers*; and other publications. *Woman with Crows* is her first published collection.

WEST ACHIEVEMENTS:

April J. Asbury's first poetry chapbook, *Woman with Crows*, was published by Finishing Line Press. She has additional work in the most recent issues of *Artemis*, *Floyd County Moonshine*, the upcoming "Body" issue of *The Alchemy Spoon*, and the forthcoming Virginia volume of *The Southern Poetry Anthology* by Texas Review Press.

<https://www.finishinglinepress.com/product/woman-with-crows-by-april-j-asbury/>

"Woman with Crows explores the secrets of childhood, girlhood, and what it means to be a woman. These well-crafted poems delve into mythologies old and new and show us a myriad of ways to tell a story. And we listen again and again."

-Crystal Wilkinson, author of *The Birds of Opulence*

Edison Jennings recently had "Cold Spring Morning and the Grade School" published in *Rattle*. <https://www.rattle.com/cold-spring-morning-and-the-grade-school-by-edison-jennings/>

Celebrate the launch of *Artemis Journal's* 28th edition at Late Nights at The Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, Virginia, on September 3, 2021, from 5-7 PM featuring Nikki Giovanni and Lucinda Roy as guest speakers. To find out more about the event and to purchase tickets please visit: <https://www.taubmanmuseum.org/calendar/24937/late-nights-artemis-launch>

Monies raised through ticket sales will help support The Taubman Museum and *Artemis Journal*. However, if you would prefer to donate rather than attend the safely monitored event, your tax-deductible donations will ensure that our organizations can continue their missions of providing quality art & literary programs. Your donation of \$25 or more will include a limited special edition Hardback copy of **Artemis Journal 2021**.

Molly O'Dell's mixed genre collection, *Care is A Four-Letter Verb*, was released in March by WordTech Editions. It's a mixed-genre collection conceived when Molly O'Dell finally accepted the fact that care, in her beloved profession, had become a noun. With poems, a bit of prose and a prayer, Molly explores multiple dimensions of experiences she cares about in her own life. A reader will enter clear streams, intimate landscapes, and catch snippets from the upbringing of a physician, her medicine, and how she became comfortable in her own skin.

O'Dell's newest book, *96 Saws and Quips from the Wake of the Pandemic*, is forthcoming from Unsolicited. Through the lens of a local epidemiology team's initial response to the pandemic, Molly O'Dell provides a constellation of perspectives for all of us to transition out of the pandemic mindset and live forward. The interesting thing about this for our western region faction of PSV is it's all Southwest Virginia-oriented and reflects what went on at our end of the state during the pandemic. These are not poems; they are saws and quips.

Farewell from Jan Hoffman

Dear Fellow PSV Members,

I couldn't possibly relieve my post as newsletter editor without sending my fondest farewell to all of you. For nearly three years, serving you has been a labor of love which I already miss; however, I leave you in the very capable hands of Marjie Gowdy. I know she will take you above and beyond to the next stages and development of our missive. In the meantime, I still will be involved with PSV as much as possible and hope to see you again in a live event sometime soon. Best wishes to you all!

POEMS

Delight*By Peter Haslett Kelly*

Due to the brevity of our life,
 we experience God's creation with an intensity that
 God would otherwise not know...
 So while we delight in God's creation....
 So we delight in God,
 and God delights in us!

*Photograph by Peter Haslett Kelly***Labor Day***By Edward W. Lull*

From dawn to dark you used God-given skills
 to earn your daily bread.
 With strength of arm and will of tempered steel,
 you kept your fam'ly fed.

Our country's industry was built on you,
 not those who started rich.
 The annals of the working man found you
 creating your own niche.

The lack of workers' voice left many needs
 unmet and out of range.
 But when you joined with others to rebel,
 then things began to change.

From steel to coal to workers on the docks,
 and many other trades,
 your battles for your rights and better pay
 were labor's own crusades.

Our forebears showed a strength of character
 that paved for us the way.
 Examining our past, with gratitude,
 we honor you this day.

Autumn Meditation*by Mark Hudson*

One time, it was the season of fall,
 and for an Autumn poetry book was a call.
 I sat back and thought of poems to write,
 lying awake in my bed at night.
 Soon, I began to meditate,
 and it almost seemed I'd hallucinate.
 Seeing visions of autumn in my mind,
 all of a really pleasant type of kind.
 The visions were of pumpkins and hay,
 of leaves in the wind blowing away.
 Now, dreaming at night, it's distinct,
 my brain has thoughts that are succinct.
 But to meditate myself into a daydream,
 was more than just a purposeful scheme.
 The anthology was never put together,
 but now I remember the visions of weather.
 A year later, it's the beginning of summer,
 I should get outside-my path won't encumber!

Poems Feel Good*by Dr. Emory D. Jones*

I love to sit at my desk in my office
 And write poems
 on a legal pad with a pencil.

With the golden summer sun
 Streaming through my window,
 I bask in the glow of words.
 I dance with them
 Across the lined page.

I love the feel of the pencil
 Between my fingers,
 A tactile link
 With my dancing words.

The pencil has worn a groove
 On the left side
 Of the middle finger
 Of my right hand.

Yes, I love to sit at my desk
 And write.

All the Faiths of Abraham

*by Pamela Brothers Denyes, Published:
 Faith, Volume 1, The Poet, Spring 2021, p. 147.*

Dateline: Israel, 2021.
 Twelve inches long, a forged iron key
 opens the heavy wooden door of Jerusalem's
 Church of the Holy Sepulchre each day.

By historical decree Saladin gave the key to
 a loyal Muslim family, sworn to protect
 the freedom of the multiple squabbling
 Christian sects who worship there.

continued on next page...

The Poetry Society of Virginia

CENTENNIAL ANTHOLOGY

Poet Registration Form

Name: _____ email address: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

IMPORTANT: Please circle your PSV Region of residence below:

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. North | 2. East | 3. SouthEast | 4. West |
| 5. NorthWest | 6. Central | 7. NorthCentral | 8. Out of VA |

Instructions:

1. Initial submissions will be ONLY this completed form.
2. All PSV members may list up to three (3) of their poems for consideration.
3. Receipt of the completed form will be acknowledged by email.
4. Electronic copies of poems listed below will be requested later.

Poem Titles Planned for Submission:

Poem #1 _____

Poem #2 _____

Poem #3 _____

- Note:
1. Poets are not required to submit 3 poems, but 3 poems is the maximum.
 2. Poets will be notified when and how to submit their poems later.
 3. Poets are encouraged to retain a copy of this completed form.

Submit completed form by U.S. Postal Service, Prior to 10/15/21.

To: Poetry Society of Virginia
P.O. Box 5683
Williamsburg, VA 23188

I plan to purchase ____ copies of the PSV Centennial Anthology. (For budget purposes only)

Signature

Questions?
ewlull@verizon.net

VIRGINIA NEEDS YOUR VOICE

LOOKING FOR YOUNG POETS IN THE COMMUNITY

Let's build a better world through poetry! Apply to represent your Virginia Region as a Young Poet in the Community.

Application Deadline: October 15, 2021

email: vayoungpoetsinthecommunity@gmail.com

Students, what matters to you most in our world today? Virginia needs your voice to build a better one! Show us in your poems, and in your vision to work creatively with others and apply to represent your region as a Young Poet in the Community.

Apply Today



This program is a Poet Laureate Fellowship Project of Virginia Poet Laureate Luis A. Igloria, with the Poetry Society of Virginia.

POEMS

All the Faiths of Abraham (cont.)

Christian monks, who still stand guard
inside overnight, are to this day locked in
and opened out every morning, by their
faithful Muslim brothers.

For all the faiths of Abraham
are brothers, are we not?

A Covid Coloring Book

by Joan Ellen Casey

We are prisoners in the garden of Eden
where we glimpse through a lens
the tomorrows that do not creep
by in any petty pace, anywhere.

Everyday you wear your jeans with holes at the knees
and a black shirt with sleeves rolled to your elbows.
The temperature is always seventy-four degrees
day or night, sun or snow.

My hair turns to tarnished silver
and falls to cover the floor.
My hands are encrusted with the flour
I kneaded for our bread.

We do not leave and no one intrudes.
The sound of silence never stills.
A one-thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle picturing
life's joys lies on the kitchen table untouched.

I squeeze your hand
not sure that I ever felt so much pleasure
just holding your hand ever before
being in this estranged, peaceable paradise.

If I Call Love, Who Will Answer?

By Luisa A. Igloria

From *Maps for Migrants and Ghosts*

Gargoyles and winged lions.
Bridges and parks.
The gold angel bearing aloft
a cross in the shadow of the winter palace.

A chained bear on its side in the square,
around which a crowd has gathered.
It has possibly been drugged.
Little children can come up

to pet its matted fur, feel its flanks
rise and fall with ragged breath.
Like everything torn out of place,
it reeks of the momentous.

But isn't that how it is under every facade?
Especially where light looks the most
severe, where the lines try their best
to hold in, deflect, contain.

Cricket Song

By Nancy C. Allen

In a quiet moment, at the end of an ordinary autumn day,
wild geese embraced the sky,
winging their way south,
negotiating the space that joined them,
a swirl of oak leaves fell and bounced along a rush of water,
an autumn breeze flowed through the naked magnolia
branches,

trembling in anticipation of cricket song.

The color of the sky faded against the backdrop of bare
maple trees

as the last rays of sunlight tucked into ribbons of dray grass,
fringed with the sound of cricket song, frequent and full.

The melody was constant like the coming of evening and
wildflowers, thick in the fields, swayed and bowed in the
wind

as if to sense the implication of the cricket song.

Stars, bright as jasmine, dominated the sky and a chorus of
crickets sang in unity,

but the fullness of evening quieted the voices of song.

Yet, the spirit of a choir of crickets,

deemed worthy to be heard,

filled my thoughts again and again as evening sank into the
silence of autumn.



Sun Through Cypress Bog
Photograph by Teresa Cox-Joseph

Gray Day

By Terry Cox-Joseph

Tap of rain on my cheeks a caress.
Pink phlox round cobalt pots,
batches of magenta laughter punctuate

gray day, accents on neutrals
like the old masters, canvas primed
with ash, unobtrusive buffer

for images that exude blissful
flowers grinning in rain.

You are home, briefcase at the door,
jacket tossed, strand of hair
familiar exclamation mark. You decorate
gray days like geraniums dancing

on the doorstep.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Centennial Anthology: Deadline October 15

From Edward W. Lull

This is the beginning of member participation in the development of the Poetry Society of Virginia Centennial Anthology. **All members who plan on submitting poems for inclusion in the Anthology MUST take this first step.** Registration will enhance the review and selection processes and result in a more balanced anthology.

All PSV members are eligible and encouraged to contribute their best work for inclusion in this historic volume. Previously published and award-winning poems may be submitted, as long as the poet owns the rights to the poem. Instructions for submitting poems will be included in the next PSV Newsletter.

Enclosed in this newsletter (or attached in the emailed version) is a registration form with instructions for completion. If you plan to participate, fill out the form completely and mail it to the address indicated on the form via the U.S. Postal Service. Send **NO** poems with the form. Completed forms should be received by October 15, 2021. Don't hesitate, send it **NOW**. Acknowledgment of registration will be made by email.

Book Reviews: Request For Submissions

Virginia Living magazine is interested in highlighting the work of Virginia writers. If you have had a collection or chapbook published within the past year and would like to have the work reviewed and/or considered for other possible coverage, please send 3 sample poems, a biography of 150 words or fewer, and a brief description of the work (1-2 sentences) to be reviewed to the attention of Mr. Konstantin Rega, Assistant Editor, at konstantinrega@capefear.com.

Williamsburg Book Festival

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, as part of the Williamsburg Annual Occasion for the Arts, the Williamsburg Book Festival will take place in the Williamsburg Library complex. The featured program in the Festival will be a one-hour poetry reading in the Stryker Building at noon. Presenters will be: Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Ron Smith, Henry Hart, and Edward W. Lull. After the Covid-19 cancellation last year, Festival managers welcome back this popular program from prior years. Admission is free.

Speculative Sundays, featuring Adele Gardner

The Speculative Sundays Poetry Reading Series (the poetry of possibilities) presents Adele Gardner (www.gardnercastle.com) on October 10 at 7 PM Eastern. Hosted by noted speculative poet Akua Lezli Hope (<https://akualezlihope.com/literary-bio>), this free online event requires registration to get the link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speculative-sundays-poetry-reading-series-presents-adele-gardner-tickets-153022096209?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail Gardner has over 350 literary, science fiction, fantasy, and horror poems in *Strange Horizons*, *American Arts Quarterly*, *NewMyths.com*, *Proud to Be 9: Writing by American Warriors* (collaboration with WWII veteran father Delbert R. Gardner), *Pedestal Magazine*, *Mythic Delirium*, *The Cape Rock*, *Dreams & Nightmares*, and more. Ten poems won or placed in the Poetry Society of Virginia Awards, Balticon Poetry Contest, and the Rhysling Award of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association (SFFPA).

Adele's Writers Café: Micro Horror

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/adeles-live-zoom-writers-cafe-micro-horror-tickets-166069332845>

Join Hampton Public Library for a free, online writing event on Wednesday, October 13, from noon-1 p.m. Eastern. We'll create spooky micro poems and spiky short tales (your choice, or work on whatever suits your fancy in this creative atmosphere). Host Adele Gardner provides the prompts; you provide the creativity...and the fear. Interested participants may have a chance to share their micro scares, depending on time (but there is no obligation to do so).

Adele Gardner (www.gardnercastle.com) curated the 2019 Halloween Poetry Reading for the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association: <https://sfpoetry.com/hw/19halloween.html>

This free event is part of Fright Fest 2021, (<https://www.facebook.com/events/963854597747591/?ref=newsfeed>), hosted by Hampton Public Library (<https://hampton.gov/100/Libraries>).

Young Poets in the Community: Deadline October 15

From Luisa A. Igloria, Poet Laureate of Virginia

For Details: <http://www.luisaigloria.com/young-poets-in-the-community>

Virginia Poet Laureate Luisa A. Igloria invites applications from **young poets throughout Virginia at the elementary, middle school, high school, and college undergraduate level.** Along with panelists from the Poetry Society of Virginia, she will review applications and select five **Young Poets in the Community** (1 elementary school, 1 middle school, 2 high school and 1 college

Announcements *continued*

undergraduate student) in each of the six Poetry Society of Virginia regions (Southeastern, Eastern, Northern, Northwestern, Central, North Central).

What should aspiring Young Poets in the Community submit, and when?

On or before 15 October 2021, Young Poets in the Community applicants will submit a complete application consisting of:

- * An entry form including school and personal contact information and the name and signature of an identified mentor willing to work with/advise the young poet on their public poetry project
- * 2-3 poems (their best or most representative work)
- * A short bio and statement written in the third person, describing how they see poetry to be a tool for social change
- * A short description no longer than 2 paragraphs describing the Young Poets in the Community applicant's proposal for a poetry project with a public aspect, highlighting poetry's role in their community and as a means for strengthening social engagement and emotional well-being. The proposal should include a timeline and a target date for completion (between December 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022).

What comes with being selected as a Young Poet in the Community for your region?

Five Young Poets in the Community will be selected in each of the six Poetry Society of Virginia Regions. **We hope to select a total of 30 Virginia Young Poets in the Community.** They will receive cash awards, along with a certificate of recognition.

From each PSV Region:

1 Elementary School poet	\$100.00	2 High School poets	\$200.00 each
1 Middle School poet	\$150.00	1 College poet	\$300.00

This program is a Poet Laureate Fellowship Project of Virginia Poet Laureate Luisa A. Igloria, Luisa.igloria61@gmail.com and is made possible by the Academy of American Poets with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Poetry Society of Virginia.

Updates from James Wilson, James Wider Perspectives:

THE POET'S DOMAIN appreciates the contributions sent for vol. 35. Seventy-four pieces were submitted by 21 poets and so the compiling, organizing and combing into shape begins. The volume will be ready by the start of November. As a reminder, make sure that J. Scott Wilson has your address for your complimentary copy. Do look over your contributions when you receive your complimentary copy and send corrections/necessary changes quickly as they will be available for purchase for the holiday season.

The Saturday Poetry Series in Williamsburg has gotten up and running with a show in August, thank you to all who attended and especially to our featured readers. Be sure to contact these readers on Facebook or through the PSV to inquire about books they have out in print: Tyalexander Best, Crickyt J. Expression (C.J. X.Pression), Raymond M. Simmons, & Bill Glose. Come to the Norge Library on Croaker Road at 11Am on September 4 (COVID permitting) for the next show, featuring the talents of such readers as Norma Cofresi and Dezz. If you are interested in being featured as a reader, inquire at HRACandWPP@outlook.com.

You write the poetry, you have worked on your craft, you've tackled the stage and developed your presentation... Are you ready for the next step in building the legacy: getting into print? Contact Wider Perspectives Publishing and we'll talk book! Specializing in poetry books, WPP is concerned with preserving your poetic voice while producing a professional appearance to help you spread your talents, your creativity and your message to the world. Contact HRACandWPP@outlook.com and we'll talk.

Upcoming Poetry Venues

- * **Busboys & Poets** on Instagram [@busboysandpoets](https://www.instagram.com/busboysandpoets) (ask about other formats, has been done on Zoom, too.) Every Mon. Weds and Fri., (usually \$5.) www.busboysandpoets.com. 8-10 PM
- * **Venue on 35th Monday Night Open Mic** Virtual for now. Contact Jorge Mendez or James Cooper on Facebook for Zoom info. 7:30
- * **CIPHERTuesdays** Tuesday nights at 8/8:30 Please contact Quinton Jennings-Sherman on Facebook. He also goes by Q5 at #Q5TV. May involve a \$5 donation. 8 PM.
- * **Richmond's Poetry Social Hour:** Contact Joanna Lee to see if they are virtual and find out how to get your spot at joanna@rivercitypoets.com, typically Mon. afternoons.
- * **Richmond's Jazz and Wine Tasting** may go virtual+IRL depending on the situation and the host restaurant (C'est la Vin, 17th St.). Contact the hostess with the mostess, joanna@rivercitypoets.com
- * Richmond also has a **poetry writing/critique group** almost every Monday at 6:30 that is virtual until such time as their cafe homes open up... also write Joanna at joanna@rivercitypoets.com for that information.

Announcements *continued*

* **All the Feels** open mic through Google Meet for all the lovers and the loners out there! Associated with Richmond's Blue Bee. If you want to get on the mic, contact the hostess joanna@rivercitypoets.com and plan on 4-5 minutes of material. Link to event:

<https://sable.madmimi.com/c/3946?id=38787.3937.1.974ddc9d27152feccd96c9b8f3e2fd28>

* **Charlottesville Open Mic (Over the Bridge?)** takes place on the 4th Weds. each month. Contact Patsy Asuncion for exact time and for the way in.

* See links for dates, 6:30 pm. **Spilled Ink East & West** Virtual reading hosted by John Dutton. Check Facebook at Spilled Ink (Virginia). Spilled Ink East takes place the 2nd Friday of each month, and Spilled Ink West takes place the 4th Friday of each month.

Data: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpilledInkVA>

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81108116410?pwd=M3Rac2JobGM5NTJwY2p0dFNGQW55Zz09> Meeting ID: 811 0811 6410, Passcode: 87613.

Website Update

The interactive website forum we had hoped to host is not to be. There are too many difficulties moderating it. However, we would love to post news about members' publications and poetry accomplishments, so please fill out the form on our website so that your news can be posted. In addition, Facebook users can use this link to post readings: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/134868043229477>. There's also the poem sharing group for work in progress: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/233640781114001>. Thank you for your patience as we discuss and design these issues.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Have you paid your membership dues this year? See our PSV website for details:

<https://poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/membership/>

Sharon Canfield Dorsey's poems "Seasons" and "Remember When" were selected for publication in the Summer 2021 edition of the *Journal of the Virginia Writers Club*, along with a short story, "The Sisterhood." Also, the *Writer's Guild of Virginia* has selected three of her poems—"The Lunch Bunch," "The Deer and Me," and "Together Again"—for publication in the Summer 2021 edition of *The Journal*.

Jan Hoffman was recently featured on an international interview series regarding suicide loss. Her topic was "Writing to Heal," and she joined others from the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, Kenya, and Malaysia. On Sept. 13, she will be guest author on Neal Steele's radio program (Xtra 99.1 FM). Future book signings will be as follows: Oct. 2, Williamsburg Book Festival; Oct. 10, Book Warehouse in Williamsburg; and Nov. 5, Gloucester Arts on Main. Her children's book *Four Fairy Friends Celebrate Christmas* (High Tide Publications) is due for release in Sept.

Edward W. Lull's poem "The Would-Be Poet" will be published in *Lone Star #96*, a literary magazine based in San Antonio, Texas.

Joan Mazza's poem "Rule of Three" was accepted at *LEON Literary Review*. Also, all 5 of her submitted poems were accepted at *Open Door Poetry Magazine*. Italian Americana published "Quiet Oceans." "To My Titanium" will be included in Diane Lockward's next book, *The Strategic Poet*, to be published in the fall of 2021. *Continue the Voice* published "Last Letters" at this link: <https://issuu.com/continuethevoicezine/docs/5>

Luisa A. Igloria, as mentioned in the previous PSV Newsletter, is the current Poet Laureate of Virginia and one of 23 awarded this honor across the nation through The Academy of Poets. Her emphasis during her Laureate will be: promoting poetry with the aim to celebrate and center diversity in the voices and identities of Virginia poets, as well as to highlight poetry's relevance to social change and civic engagement. More specifically, this includes:

1. Launch of Young Poets in the Community program <http://www.luisaigloria.com/young-poets-in-the-community> (See Announcements.)
2. Build of website/database of Virginia Poets to be permanently housed at ODU, through the Digital Commons Platform, ODU Perry Library. The goal is to build a website that specifically centers the diverse voices and identities of Virginian poets in particular, including but not limited to established and emerging poets, youth poets, poets in the schools, poets in community writing centers, im/migrant poets, poets with disabilities, BIPOC, LGBTQIA poets, poets in other (non-literary) professions.
3. A series of Reading and Conversation Programs and Poetry Workshops distributed throughout the year. These will be organized by theme & relevance. Poet-speakers, workshop leaders, and readers will be invited from various communities across the state.

CONTRIBUTORS OF POEMS IN THIS ISSUE

Originally from Baguio City, Luisa A. Igloria is the author of *Maps for Migrants and Ghosts* (Co-Winner, 2019 Crab Orchard Open Poetry Prize, Southern Illinois University Press, 2020), *The Buddha Wonders if She is Having a Mid-Life Crisis* (Phoenicia Publishing, Montreal, 2018), and 12 other books. Luisa was the inaugural recipient of the 2015 Resurgence Poetry Prize (UK) for ecopoetry and is a Louis I. Jaffe Professor of English and Creative Writing in the MFA Program at Old Dominion University. She also leads workshops for The Muse Writers Center in Norfolk. In July 2020, she was appointed Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Academy of American Poets awarded her one of 23 Poet Laureate Fellowships in 2021, in support of public poetry projects. www.luisaigloria.com

Joan Ellen Casey, Ed.D., worked as an editor for New York publishers and created many multidisciplinary educational materials and programs to be used in schools and museums. After retiring, she concentrated more on writing poetry and, shortly after, won the Metrorail Public Art Project Award from the Poetry Society of Virginia. She has been published in the last six volumes of *The Poet's Domain* and two other anthologies, *Distant Horizons* and *Captured Moments*. Her poetry reflects a varied background in the arts and sciences, her experiences living and working in different cultures, and raising a family.

Mark Hudson of Evanston, Illinois, is happy to be a member of the Poetry Society of Virginia. This summer, he went on a family vacation to Williamsburg, Virginia, the first time he has ever been to Virginia, and he says that he really enjoyed it.

Dr. Emory D. Jones is a retired English teacher who has taught in high school and in several community colleges. He has 521 credits including publication in such journals as *Writer's Digest*, *Smokey Blue Literary and Arts Magazine*, *The Light Ekphrastic*, *Big Muddy; A Journal of the Mississippi River*, *Three Line Poetry*, *Auroras & Blossoms*, *Pegasus*, *Halcyon Days Magazine*, *Falling Star Magazine*, *Pasquel Petals*, *50 Haikus*, *The Cumberland River Review*, *The Delta Poetry Review*, *Calliope*, *Deep South Magazine*, *Modern Poetry Quarterly Review*, and *Encore: Journal of the NFSPS*. He lives in Iuka, Mississippi.

Edward W. Lull graduated from the Naval Academy in 1955 and began a navy career where he served primarily in submarines. He earned an M.S. from The George Washington University in 1969. Ed began writing poetry in retirement; he has published seven books: *Cabin Boy to Captain*; *Where Giants Walked*; *The Sailors*; *Bits and Pieces*; *Creating Form Poetry*; *My World*; and *My Game of Life*. Ed is a life member of the Poetry Society of Virginia, having served four terms as its president.

Peter Haslett Kelly grew up in Newport News Virginia, the son of Robert and Peggy Kelly. He recently returned home to Newport News for an early retirement and to be closer to his family in 2015. Peter graduated from Ferguson High School in 1976. After training at the Oberlin Conservatory as a classical musician and pursuing a degree in Mathematics at Oberlin College, Peter won an audition with the ARS Musica Baroque Orchestra of Ann Arbor Michigan in 1980. This launched a career that allowed him to help establish the Lyra Baroque Orchestra after moving to the Twin Cities in 1985. He was the principal baroque oboist with the Lyra Baroque Orchestra for nine years. At the same time Peter followed his passion for mathematics and computers by developing a career in programming computers, managing teams of software developers and most recently as a Senior Systems Business Analyst.

Teresa Cox-Joseph Terry Cox-Joseph is a member of the Poetry Society of Virginia and is a former newspaper reporter and editor. From 1994-2004 she was the coordinator for the annual Christopher Newport University Writers' Conference and Contest. An award-winning poet, she has been published in Northern Virginia Review, Allegro and Chiron Review among others. She displays and sells her watercolors, acrylics and oils at On The Hill Gallery in Yorktown. Her children, pets and the waterfront provide a constant resource for her writing and art.

Pamela Brothers Denyes, our new Treasurer, is retired now from commercial and federal project management and writing contracts. She is now harvesting 40 years of poetry, song-writing, and journals to create new works—and fun! The brevity of poetry is the most immediately accessible art form when inspiration comes. Her constant prayer is that she will never cease to be amazed by life. She lives in Virginia Beach with frequent forays throughout our lovely Virginia.

Nancy C. Allen enjoys writing about nature. The joy found in the gifts of autumn encouraged the writing of her poem, "Cricket Song."

Deadline for Announcements, Updates, and your Poetry for the November 2021 issue is October 15. Please send up to three poems for consideration, if you like, and also a four-line biography to the Newsletter Chair, marjie01@gmail.com. Illustrations and photographs, preferably in black and white or grayscale, are also welcome!



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