

A COMMON WEALTH OF POETRY

Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia ♦ January 2021

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Terry Cox-Joseph

By the time this newsletter is published, Jupiter and Saturn will have aligned to create a beautiful evening sight (some call it the Christmas star). Those with astronomy apps on their phones (Star Walk, Starview, Sky Safari) will have enjoyed lining up the planets and stars, a positive activity during the spread era of COVID-19. We're still in the beginnings of the Age of Aquarius (anyone over a certain age will remember the song and the musical *Hair*), known as an astrological age of harmony, self-realization, and humanity coming into its own. Apparently, astrologers neglected to tell us that unrest and agitation are part of the equation. Think of it as the terrible twos. Isn't that what self-actualization is all about? The Age of Capricorn won't arrive until about 4120 when it purportedly heralds building or rebuilding structure and establishing or re-establishing order. I cannot imagine any human waiting passively for future generations to experience those effects or tend to those needs when we need them now.

All that is to say, what fodder for poetry! When a brighter-than-normal Leonid meteor shower passed Earth in 1998, I bundled up my family, pulled out lawn chairs, poured hot cocoa, and stargazed at 3 a.m. Of course, I got a wonderful poem out of it. Something cozy, contrasted with the wonder and unknown immensity of the galaxy.

Our poems can channel the universal into a cup of cocoa, illustrate the bonding of a family within a universe, contrast the chaos of rioting and war with a supernova. Our planet travels about 1.6 million miles a day and spins at about 1,000 miles an hour. Think of all the metaphors. (Think of all the science.)

In the meantime, our poetry society continues during the spread of a super virus. Our vice-presidents and members have held or participated in Zoom meetings, keeping poetry alive from the comfort of their homes. Our Poet Laureate, Luisa Igloria, continues to read and teach from Zoom, as well. Our contests are in full swing, with entries arriving by US Postal Service and email (a new, working email, contest@poetrysocietyofvirginia.org). A successful emergency grant proposal garnered us \$5,000, a much-needed inflow as we re-structure our webpage and as we prepare to pay our contest judges.

We are now on our third webmaster, a student intern named Austin Makohon, who is as energetic and talented as the first—and he likes poetry! (Our hired webmaster apparently had too full of a schedule and resigned.) I held our first-ever Facebook fundraiser on Giving Tuesday, which, while not amassing the riches of US Presidential bid, humbly provided us with a portion of the printing cost for this newsletter.

At least one of our board has suffered and recovered from Covid19 (welcome back, James!). This amazing non-life form (a virus, not James) has spawned hundreds of poems and contests across the globe. Special "COVID Editions" created by a variety of publications continue to request submissions online, and each poem is as unique as, well, a type of virus. Topics range from The Black Plague to government lockdowns to mask-wearing to isolation and existentialism, from the concrete to the ephemeral to the philosophical.

Scientists estimate that viruses outnumber stars by a factor of 10 million. Perhaps one day, we will create vaccines, skin for burn victims, and even cloud seeding products using such fast-spreading entities. Such is the stuff of science fiction, which eventually tends to come to fruition (flip phones, anyone?).

More than viruses, I would rather write about the stars. The space between them, the unknowing, the wishing. I would like to wish upon them and study them because, unlike Poe, to me these gasses and space rocks are a constant source of inspiration. I would rather write about the stars from Earth, my home planet, among you, my poet friends. Our potential is limitless.

Sonnet—To Science

by Edgar Allan Poe

Science! true daughter of Old Time thou art!

Who alterest all things with thy peering eyes.

Why preyest thou thus upon the poet's heart,

Vulture, whose wings are dull realities?

How should he love thee? or how deem thee wise,

Who wouldst not leave him in his wandering

To seek for treasure in the jewelled skies,

Albeit he soared with an undaunted wing?

Hast thou not dragged Diana from her car,

And driven the Hamadryad from the wood

To seek a shelter in some happier star?

Hast thou not torn the Naiad from her flood,

The Elfin from the green grass, and from me

The summer dream beneath the tamarind tree?



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NORTHERN REGION

CATHY HAILEY, VP

Happy New Year from the Northern Region!

I hope your holiday time with family (in person or virtual) has been safe and peaceful. Wishing you a great new year of poetry and future togetherness!

It's time to plan your submissions to the Poetry Society of Virginia's annual contest either by writing new poems or matching the poems you've written to the categories available this year. Many acclaimed poets will be judging each of the 25 categories which are listed on flyer attachments. Remember the deadline is Edgar Allan Poe's birthday, January 19th!

Also, please encourage students or teachers you know to submit poetry to the student contest, including a new and improved Spoken Word category. All student categories except Spoken Word are due by January 19th, as well. Students will perform their spoken word poems on Zoom during Martin Luther King's Birthday weekend, and Kim B. Miller, newly crowned Poet Laureate of Prince William County, VA, will judge. I'm also excited to announce that Grace Cavalieri, Poet Laureate of Maryland, will judge the Virginia Student Prize for 9th-12th graders in Virginia.

Thank you to **Steve Bucher** and **Kathy Smaltz** who have joined me on the committee for the student contest. And thank you to all the judges who have accepted our request to judge the student contest.

Member Projects

Mike Maggio is working with visual artists Antonella Manganelli and Grazia Montalto along with the Art4You Co-op to kick off a new project. They are calling for poetry and visual arts in a variety of media on the theme of "Countercurrents" for a juried art show. Mike Maggio will serve as poetry judge. Scip Barnhart will serve as visual art judge. **Deadline has been extended to Jan. 6th at 12 pm.** For details, see <https://www.art-4-us.com/call4entry?fbclid=IwAR04ki4hMWtffbTG5HvNKIYcbeZex6zKIS1OZw4y-Is3aVtbixYDz9wvc9Y>.

Several PSV members have added their poetry books to the Facebook Group: NOVA Authors Market: Shop Local for Signed Books. Interested authors or shoppers can find details at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nova.authors.shop>.

Winter Plaudits

Congratulations to the poets connected to both Arlington County and the Poetry Society of Virginia who were published in *Written in Arlington*, edited by **Katherine E. Young**:

Linda Ankrah-Dove	Alexandra "Zan" Delaine Hailey
Robert Giron	Lyman Grant
Jacqueline Jules	Cathy Hailey
Rebecca K. Leet	Gregory Luce
Susan Notar	Katherin E. Young
Sally Zakariya	

The anthology is out and can be purchased from Amazon and soon from Paycock Press. If I missed any of you who were published in this anthology, please email haileycp@gmail.com, so I can add you to the list! A wonderful Interview of Katherine E. Young with Robert L. Giron is featured in *ArLiJo* Issue No. 143.

Congratulations to the poets whose poems were published in *In the Midst: A Covid Anthology*, edited by Sandy Tritt, including **John Dutton** and **JoAnn Lord Koff**. According to the press release, "The works reflect a common humanity beyond age, ethnicity, or location—the raw emotion of being *In the Midst* of a global pandemic with no end in sight is universal—and captured here to share with the world." The anthology is available for purchase on Amazon in two formats—grayscale and color. If I missed any of you who were published in this anthology, please email haileycp@gmail.com so I can add you to the list!

Congratulations to **Zeina Azzam**, whose poem "Seed" was submitted for World Food Day in November and published on the Poetry X Hunger site. You can read it and watch Zeina recite it on video at www.poetryxhunger.com.

Congratulations to **Claudia Gary**, whose poems "Blue Manqué," "Anthem," and "The Reopening" were published in *Iamb* at www.iambapoet.com. Click on Poets, then Wave Four to read poems and hear audio.

Congratulations to **Katherine M. Gotthardt** whose poem "Spring Thaw" was published in the anthology *Under a Blushing Sky: Poems about New Beginnings*. Proceeds benefit two organizations: A Better Way and New Beginnings-Ending Domestic Violence. Her poem "Shenandoah" was accepted for publication in the forthcoming *Safe Guard Part II*, published by Green Ink Poetry. And her next poetry book, *D.C. Ekphrastic: Crisis of Faith*, will be released in early 2021. The poems will accompany street photography by Ethan Meurlin.

Congratulations to **Jacqueline Jules**, whose poem "Today I Saved a Centipede" was published in *The Parliament Literary Journal*, Issue 1, Fall 2020 (<https://www.parliamentlit.com/jacqueline-jules?fbclid=IwAR3n36D1ZcUNCApS16-yRybhiPOI4nU4SmpCTlQrHwj-lliW15bMcyjLPOg>). *Route 7* Literary Journal has published her poem "The Hot Soup in My Bowl," which expresses her guilt over the contrast between her life and the lives of so many suffering in the country right now. See p. 112 in Issue 8. And Evening Street Press made her chapbook, *Itzhak Perlman's Broken String*, available on Kindle. This collection, which is dedicated to the memory of her son Neal, was the winner of the 2016 Helen Kay Chapbook Prize.

Congratulations to **Sally Zakariya**, whose poems "Summer at the South Pole," "Borderland," and "July 2020" were published in an anthology

called *As the World Turns: Writers and Artists Reflect on a World Gone Mad* (Indie Blu(e) Publishing, 2020). Her poem "The Ship Model" was also published in *Thimble Literary Magazine* in the Winter 2020 issue.

Winter Poetry Events

Jan. 4, 7:30-8:30 pm. The Word Works and The Writer's Center present Café Muse featuring Don Colburn and Lesley Wheeler. Join a few minutes early to listen to Michael C. Davis playing guitar before the featured readers begin at 7:30 pm. Registration is free but required to get the Zoom link for the event. To do so, go to <https://sites.google.com/view/cafemuse-events/home>.

Jan. 7, Readings on the Pike. Readers not yet announced for January. Via Zoom. Sign up at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/readingsonthepike>. A series of readings by (mostly) local writers. Showcasing a diverse array of voices and words. The second Thursday of each month on Zoom until back at Acme Pie Company! Interested writers: Please send a bio and writing sample to readingsonthepike@gmail.com. And please come listen at least once before offering to read! If you've read before, please wait at least six months before requesting to read again!

Jan. 8, 7 pm. Spilled Ink on Zoom, hosted by **John Dutton**. Details at <https://www.spilledinkva.com/events>.

Jan. 8, 7 pm. Lily Poetry Salon, featuring Josette Akresh-Gonzales: Jerusalem Poems. Online event. For details, check <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=lily%20poetry%20salon>.

Jan. 9, 2-5 pm. Poets Anonymous Open Poetry Reading via Zoom. Poets Anonymous meets monthly, and details are on Meetup under Poets Anonymous or via email at poetsanonffx@gmail.com.

Jan. 9. Write by the Rails will be featuring National Beat Poet Laureate James P. Wagner at the Jan. 9 online monthly meeting and Writers Enrichment event. To receive the Zoom link and regular updates, writers should sign up for our mailing list at <https://wbtr.org/contact-us>.

Jan. 22, 7 pm. Spilled Ink on Zoom, hosted by John Dutton. Details at <https://www.spilledinkva.com/events>.

Jan 31, 5:30-6:45. Reston Readings hosted by Nathan Leslie, featuring Adam Schwartz and special guests. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/232505597093213> for details.

Feb 28, 5:30-6:45. Reston Readings, hosted by Nathan Leslie, featuring Kelly Ann Jacobson, Kara Oakleaf, Amber Sparks, Josh Weiner, Buzz McClain, Samantha Edmonds, Talia Bloch and others! See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/232505597093213> for details.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

DAVID ANTHONY SAM, VP

North Central Region Biannual Poetry Festival

The North Central Region held its biannual Poetry Festival on October 29, 2020, via Zoom. This event is held almost every in October and April and is co-sponsored by Germanna Community College. We thank the College for providing technological and marketing support as well as inviting all its students and staff to attend. This year, 25 poets and student poets attended.

Eliabeth Spencer Spragins gave a workshop on using traditional Japanese and Celtic poems both to write in those forms and to give music to free verse. Her workshop may be viewed here: https://youtu.be/7UpE_BnKoQE

Carolyn Kreiter-Forida read from her poetry; her reading is available here: <https://youtu.be/eLWSGx1m02A>

David Anthony Sam read from his poetry; his reading is available here: <https://youtu.be/sJKGsULkJkk>

A number of other poets read during the Open Mic segment, available for viewing here: <https://youtu.be/YctNOG193jo> See this link also: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm#inbox/FMfcgxwKjKlMpFkzSdLnLSzwtQbvdZsr?projector=1>

PSV-NC thanks all participants and attendees. We hope to have a similar event in April 2021.

Elizabeth Spragins had poems in the fall issues of *Last Leaves* and *Three Line Poetry*, and

David Anthony Sam had poems in *The Arkansan* and upcoming *Haunted Waters: From the Depths and Poetry Quarterly*.

PSV NW and Western Regions meet together monthly via Zoom at 2 pm, on the third Saturdays.

NORTHWEST REGION

POSITION VACANT

EASTERN REGION

KATHLEEN DECKER, VP

Poets of the Southeastern Region of PSV have not been meeting in person. Several Southeastern groups are exchanging poems and critiques by email, including the Williamsburg Poetry Guild. Additionally, the Eastern Region sponsored another online poetry reading on 11/30/2020 to enhance connections and hear and read poems together live. Terry Cox-Joseph, PSV President, Ann Marie Boyden, Catherine Fletcher, Robbie Krieger, Ed Lull, and Barbara Smith read two poems each. The event was hosted by Kathleen P. Decker, Eastern Region VP. The link to view the reading on YouTube is here: <https://youtu.be/CbUy4rnxo0Y> (duration about 35 minutes total). As we head into the home stretch with vaccine development and distribution, we hope to share poems in person soon. However, the advantage of the online (Zoom) readings is that we are able to unite people from remote/rural areas across Virginia. Long live silver linings!

SOUTHEAST REGION

KINDRA MCDONALD, VP

No report.

CENTRAL REGION

JOANNA LEE, VP

Hullo from the Central Region!

We had a quiet end to 2020, with all poetic events limited to the virtual stage.

We *were* able to sneak in an annual meeting of sorts, with a solstice reading in partnership with Richmond's River City Poets on December 21st, the longest night of the year. "Poems to Call Back the Light" was held on Google Meet with readings by Virginia Poet Laureate Luisa Igloria and Poet Laureate Emerita Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, as well as poems of inspiration from members and the community.

In other online news, 4th Wednesday Zoom open mics hosted by Charlottesville-based Patricia Asuncion continued through December with performers from across the country sharing their talents. Keep your eyes peeled for the continuation of this series into 2021.

Additional online events rolling over into the new year include River City Poets' twice monthly online critiques and a new daily haiku/American Sentence practice, as well as the first Thursday Poetry and Jazz (Jan. 7).

As always, all PSV members are welcome to join in any of the community events above. Drop me a line--I'll be more than happy to connect you!

Here's to a bright new year!

WESTERN REGION

JERI ROGERS, VP

See Jeri's report incorporated with an article on the *Artemis Journal* later in this newsletter.

POEMS

Winter Snowflakes

by Nancy C. Allen

Winter fills the sky again.
Snowflakes fall and cradle the
cold against the light of morning.

Rows of chestnuts stand together,
placid in the morning's haze, barely visible,
naked and snow-lashed.

Reflections of the ice-bound river fade
into an aluminum-grey sky.
Distant blue mountains are coned with white snow.

The air is laden with the scent of the fresh snowfall
as
swift snowflakes glide through a cluster
of lacy white evergreens that flank the river's edge.

The winter sky is pale and beautiful.
Maples and oaks are covered with
windswept snowflakes steadily falling;
Tall pines are white-fringed.

A mid-day sky full of snowflakes stream
down and the land is flogged with
heavy snowflakes,
bright like a joyful song.

Throughout the morning and into the night,
snowflakes fall.
Everything is startling white and each
snowflake in its own uniqueness brings

Martha Anne

by Ann Falcone Shalaski

for Martha Anne King, 1946-2020

*Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends
will leave a footprint in your heart.* Eleanor Roosevelt

Sorrow, an unrelenting ache, moves across our bodies.
Finds a home in every nook and crevice.
Pools in the bottom of our hearts.
Yet we continue to live. Continue to face
a brand-new day without her.
Yellow morning light breaks across the table,
missing one setting. Missing Martha Anne.
Brave and quiet, folded into her bed,
enveloped in beauty, she passed.
Afternoon sun precariously balanced
at her window.
How do we live without our friend?
Without feeling lost? Uncomplaining
as she was. And why is it not yesterday
when everything was right?
Before the final soft stir of silence
swept her away. Changed everything.
A change that is the same as sadness.

POEMS

January 2016

by Mark Hudson

On Sunday, I didn't want to go to church. It was freezing cold out, and my bed was warm. I had to pray to God for the willingness to go to church, I had to have a pep talk between us.

I was able to get motivated to get up and go.

On the train, I saw a homeless man who had a bunch of bags, and his shoes were taped together with scotch tape. It kind of put things into perspective. I prayed for the man.

Then when I got to church, there are people who bring food like doughnuts, and stuff from McDonalds. There is a man who they bring a sausage McMuffin for; a man who rides his bike to church from a considerable distance. We figured he wasn't going to make it that day, because the weather was just brutal, so they let me have his egg sandwich and coffee.

Then he showed up, and I said, "I'm sorry, I ate your sandwich and drank your coffee."

He just said, "That's all right." and that was that.

Then on the bus home, I ran into a teacher I know, who was having headaches around the new year because of the pressure of the holidays. She said she made it through the holidays, but was feeling the emptiness of January.

We got on the train, and we saw a woman we hadn't seen in a while. She was on the way to the hospital to have a MRI on her leg because something was wrong with her leg and she was in pain.

They were talking about texting and the lady with the bad leg said, "I like texting. People can get to the point."

And I said, "Well, knowing me, I'd write a novel." And she laughed. I'm not a doctor, but laughter is often the best medicine.

I then went home and sold a friend a piece of art I did. He came to my apartment in his car, and he gave me the cash, and I gave him the pastel. This must've made me overly confident, and I almost slipped on a patch of ice. I could just tell that if I slipped, I really would've messed up my back. It dawns on me, it is January. Again!

Untitled 2020D

by James Scott Wilson

For two dim November days
 After casting ostracon
 Fever spikes and I slept off days like they were sweaty nights
 Now numbers remain undone and 5 whole states remain unwon
 Waiting game so much easier when I could sleep,
 nothing happening now so hours creep.
 Feeling beat-upon but can't go unconscious
 Texting testing site yields no clue
 Need just six more points of blue then 2 months and we're
 through with you
 And need one text to find out if this is *Thatvirus* or just the flu

When two days have gone
 and the fever seems broke
 Now enters a hunger like none ever it's no joke
 Tendrils questing in multiplying the pangs.
 Desperation for proteins, that's the only thing
 Some hungers abate when answers arrived
 But the answer coming about this illness:
 Two days to hear a "positive," but I feel I've already died.
 Yet waiting goes on as counting states tick over to light blue
 Will any of them stick?
 Will I always be this sick?

Invincible Invisible pounding fists on back, ribs & legs
 On me or is it the beating beating on our national rationale
 empty stomach a hollow soul
 Impatient to find out if this land remains whole
 Sleep past the suspense unattainable goal
 while spiders with sharp legs randomly dance in my lungs
 Hungry for answers
 Thirsty for justice
 If only I could trust this
 Taste of licorice -melatonin- to do its job, and/or these ibuprofen to rob
 These aches of their strength
 And then wake up in my own time to find out what lengths
 Putin's special friend will go to
 To not have to count you



POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA 2021 CONTEST

Deadline: January 19, 2021 (Edgar Allen Poe's birthday!)

RULES

All entries must be in English, typed, unpublished, original, and not scheduled for publication before May 2020. All poems are presented anonymously to the judges.

Submit one copy of each poem with no identifying information, but put the category in the upper right-hand-side, along with a notation as to whether you are a member of PSV (does not matter if you are a lifetime member or just joined for the contest). Submit a cover letter/page to go with each poem that contains the category, the name of the poem, your name and address, phone number and email address.

Members of PSV do not pay an entry fee. Non-members pay \$5 per poem, payable by check or online (by check: PSV Contest, PO Box 14046, Newport News, VA 23608). You may join PSV for \$35 at the same time you enter the contest if you prefer.

All entries not in compliance with category specifications will be disqualified. Winning poems may be read and honored on Zoom or in person at our annual award ceremony in Spring 2021, depending upon COVID conditions and state law at the time.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place poems will be published on the PSV website and annual journal. All 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winning poems/poets will receive a certificate and cash prize according to amounts specific to their categories.

CATEGORIES

ENDOWED SPONSORSHIPS

1. EDGAR ALLAN POE MEMORIAL Any form. No line limit. Award: \$100. Sponsored by Poetry Society of Virginia
2. SARAH LOCKWOOD MEMORIAL Sonnet in rhyme and meter. Any subject. Awards: \$100, \$75, \$50
3. BESS GRESHAM MEMORIAL Any form. Subject: friends and friendship. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20.
4. CARLETON DREWRY MEMORIAL Any form. Subject: farm life or working the earth. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20.
5. BRODIE HERNDON MEMORIAL Any form. Subject: heroism. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20
6. NANCY BYRD TURNER MEMORIAL Sonnet or other traditional form. State the form. Any subject. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20.
7. JUDAH, SARAH, GRACE, AND TOM MEMORIAL Any form. Subject: encouraging reflection on inter-ethnic relations. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Endowed and sponsored by Linda Nottingham.
8. CENIE H. MOON PRIZE Any form. Subject: a woman or women. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20.
9. 10. ADA SANDERSON MEMORIAL. Any form. Subject: Nature. 48 line limit. Award: \$100.
10. CHARLOTTE WISE MEMORIAL. Any form. Any Subject. 64 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Virginia.
11. THE ROBERT S. SERGEANT MEMORIAL. Any form. Subject: Birds. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20.
12. THE ANNE SPENCER MEMORIAL. Any form. Subject: Overcoming adversity. 64 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIPS

13. HANDY ANDY PRIZE. Limerick. Any Subject. Awards: \$25, \$15, \$10 Sponsored by Ed Lull in memory James McNally.
14. ELIZABETH NEUWIRTH MEMORIAL. Iambic pentameter. Subject: a specific work of art other than poetry. (Identify the work in the title or in the poem and in an epigraph). 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by Claudia Gary.
15. LAURA DAY BOGGS BOLLING MEMORIAL. Any rhymed or unrhymed form Poem written by adult for older school-age children, ages 10-12 years. 20 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Children, Alma, Flora, and Glade of Laura Day Boggs Bolling
16. JOE PENDLETON CAMPBELL MEMORIAL. Narrative poem. Any form. Any subject. 64 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by Paula Savoy.
17. RAYMOND LEVI HAISLIP MEMORIAL. Any form. Subject: celebrating technology. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by Otis L. Haislip, Jr.
18. A SENSE OF PLACE: The Elizabeth J. Urquhart Memorial. Places—manmade, natural, personal, or historical—inform poetry with the power to evoke the past and transcend the present. Any form. Any subject. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by the Williamsburg Poetry Guild.
19. NEW VOICES: The Joanne Scott Kennedy Memorial. Open only to poets who have never received a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd prize in any PSV contest. Any form. Any subject. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by the Williamsburg Poetry Guild.
20. HONORING FATHERHOOD AWARD. Any form. Subject: honoring Fathers and/or their sacrifices. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by Bill and Michelle O'Hearn, in memory of Theodore Tomala, Jr.
21. EKPHRASTIC POETRY AWARD. Subject: A poem based on a work of art other than poetry. (Either send a copy of the work or include a link to it.) Any form. 48 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by Lynn Young in memory of Carl Edward Young, Jr. and Judy Fletcher and Clark Rubendall.

POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA MEMBERS ONLY

22. EMMA GRAY TRIGG MEMORIAL. Lyric poem. Any subject. 64 line limit. PSV members only Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Virginia.
23. KARMA DEANE OGDEN MEMORIAL. Any form. Any subject. 48 line limit. PSV members only Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Virginia.

VIRGINIA RESIDENTS ONLY

24. LORETTA DUNN HALL MEMORIAL. Any form. Subject: family. 24 line limit. Sponsored by Phyllis Hall Haislip.

UNDERGRADUATE VA STUDENTS ONLY

25. UNDERGRADUATE POETRY AWARD. Any form. Any subject such as loss, overcoming a significant setback, or a strong feeling. 36 line limit. Awards: \$50, \$30, \$20. Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Virginia.

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA STUDENT CONTESTS FOR 2021

Details of how to submit in 2021, whether to the student or the adult contests, will appear shortly on our website, poetrysocietyofvirginia.org. While the reorganization of the website will necessitate new submission procedures, the contest categories themselves have not changed. They are as follows:

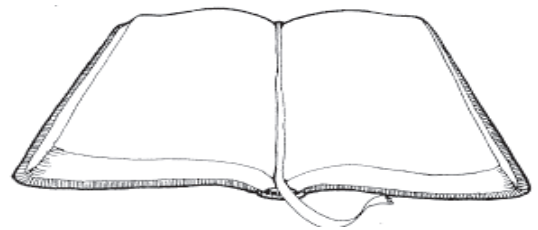
- #1: poems by students in grades 3-4**
- #2: poems by students in grades 5-6**
- #3: poems by students in grades 7-8**
- #4: for students in grades 9-10**
- #5: for students in grades 11-12**
- #6: Jenkins Prize, for students in grades 9-10**
- #7: The Poetry Society Prize, for Virginia students ONLY, in grades 6-8**
- #8: The Virginia Student Prize, for Virginia students ONLY, in grades 9-12.**

Prizes in all categories except #8 are \$25, \$15, and \$10. In #8, we offer awards of \$50, \$30, and \$20.

In addition, prize winners may be published on our website—with the permission of the writers, of course, and if they are of minor age, of a legal guardian. Older students may also, at the discretion of the editor, be offered publication in our annual anthology of contest-winning poems.

The first six categories are open to students from anywhere in the country (or indeed, the world) and may be submitted by students themselves, on their own initiative, or by their writing teachers. While teachers are welcome to submit work from an entire class, we prefer that to some degree they vet such entries, and encourage students to send us their best writing.

There will also be a spoken word category for high school students. Details will be available on the website. The last two categories are open ONLY to students from Virginia. We would especially like to increase the number of submissions we receive from Virginia lower and middle school students. Teachers, please spread the word!

**2021 PSV NORTH AMERICAN BOOK AWARD**

Dates for entering the 2021 PSV North American Book Award Contest run until Jan. 15, 2021. The book of poetry submitted must be the work of a single author, at least 64 pages long, and published in 2020 by an established press. Manuscripts, videos, CDs, chapbooks, and self-published books are not eligible, nor are books that have won awards, including a pre-publication award. See the PSV website for full details and submission form.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

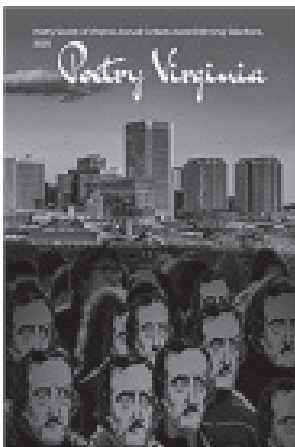
2020 POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA CONTEST WINNERS AWARD CEREMONY

As announced below, the contest winners' anthology for 2020 is now available for order, as a print-on-demand book, from Amazon. To celebrate the book launch, to publicize the 2021 contests, and not least to make up for the fact that we were unable to hold a physical, in-person award ceremony this year, we are planning a ZOOM CONTEST WINNERS AWARD CEREMONY, on January 11, 2021 (probable time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.). All society members and social media followers, as well as family and friends of the poets, are welcome to attend. All prizewinners who do so will be invited to read their winning entries; all first-place poems will be read (by the emcee) even if the winning poet is not present. If you wish to follow along as the poets read, order a copy of the anthology ASAP!

The Zoom link will be posted on the society website and the society's Facebook page the week before the ceremony. If you wish to receive a pre-event email reminder, contact me (derekkanemeyer@gmail.com) and I'll send you one!

Poetry Virginia 2020

Exciting times are upon us; the 2020 PSV contest winners' compilation is here! Currently, it is available on Amazon and will be available from select PSV executive board members, at some events when possible, and through the PSV website. Stay tuned for the big contest winners' ceremony and book release in early January.

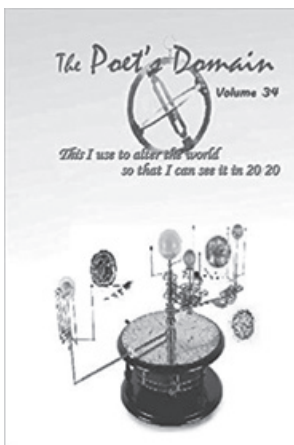


Poetry Virginia: 2020
Paperback – Dec. 1, 2020

by The Poetry Society of Virginia (Author),
J. Scott Wilson (Editor),
Derek Kannemeyer (Editor)

The Poet's Domain

Wider Perspectives is pleased to announce that *The Poet's Domain* volume 34 has arrived. It is available on Amazon at www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08QBXWFZ3 for \$15 or from the publisher at HRACandWPP@outlook.com



The Poet's Domain, Vol. 34:
This I Use To Alter The World
So I Can See It In 2020
(Paperback)

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08QBXWFZ3/ref=sr_1_5

ARTEMIS JOURNAL

With the challenges of publishing during the pandemic, changes were needed and we rose to the occasion by going virtual with our annual launch at the Taubman Museum last June. Normally, we can sell the majority of journals at live book events, but this year we experienced a significant drop in revenue and became a mail order business mailing out over 300 journals.

Currently, we closed our call for poetry and art and are working on the layout for the upcoming *Artemis Journal 2021*. We are awaiting the circumstances for this year to make decisions as to how our program and journal will manifest itself. We have gotten some fine work and look forward to publishing the journal.

Realizing the need to be adaptable in these challenging times, our bi-monthly Podcast, *Artemis Speaks*, was created interviewing artists and writers who have been previously published in our journal. As host, I enjoy the process of interviewing some very interesting people and am particularly looking forward to interviewing Natasha Trethewey, US Poet Laureate under President Obama, early this year. I highly recommend her most recent book, *Memorial Drive*. It's a great read and provides insight into why she became a poet!

To listen to our latest podcast with ceramic potter Silvie Granatelli, or if you want to listen to former interviews which include Ron Smith, Louisa Igloria, Caroyln Kreiter- Foronda, Jeanne Larsen, and Nikki Giovanni, go to www.artemisjournal.org/podcast

Jeri Rogers, Founder & Editor

Artemis Journal

P.O. Box 505

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www.artemisjournal.org, 540-230-8511

PSV MEMBER ACCEPTS 2020 OUTSTANDING POETRY PROJECT AWARD

Katherine Gotthardt

A Prince William County Poet Laureate nominee and the President of Write by the Rails (WbtR), the Prince William Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, Katherine was proud to have received this award from the Prince William Arts Council and Poet Laureate Circle for the WbtR poetry installation, *Poems Around Town*. The 2020 Outstanding Poetry Project award is given to a Poet Laureate nominee who has done significant work in the community. WbtR VP Jan Rayl came up with the project idea. Katherine states, she “jumped into the trenches, and other volunteers and member poets climbed aboard.” She adds that she’s looking forward to reviving the program in 2021 once the pandemic has calmed down. For more about the program, see <https://princewilliamliving.com/poetry-pops-up-around-prince-william/>



(Photo by John Cowgill)

Blast from the Past

Bill Glose

Back when *The Daily Press* still had offices in City Center, Newport News, the paper did a story on my collection, *Virginia Walkabout*, when it launched. They also had a crew film me reading the book's opening poem. I'd only seen it with the original article, and that link had died after a couple of months. But a friend discovered the video and sent me a new link. Here it is if you'd like to check it out. Enjoy! <https://www.aol.com/video/view/local-poet-bill-glose/5ba4edff1fc1db270d21d625/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Art4US deadline postponed for COUNTERCURRENT – ADVERSO FLUMINE

by Mike Maggio

The deadline for COUNTERCURRENT - ADVERSO FLUMINE has been postponed to Jan. 6, 2021. We are delighted to announce officially that our show will be presented in person at GalleryB In Bethesda from February 1st to Feb. 28, 2021. COUNTERCURRENT - ADVERSO FLUMINE is a versatile, creative show where all media and all languages are accepted. Open to Artists, Photographers, Designers, Writers, and Poets. We encourage all creative minds to overturn the role of the conventional and create provocative art which challenges all fronts, drawings, color, technique, proportion, and subjects. Unfollow the rules to create a unique masterpiece that uncovers the harmony of disobedience and reveals the courage of being an outsider. Do not be afraid.

To the writers and poets: Be Outspoken! The theme offers the opportunity to be playful or serious, technical, or conceptual, according to your feelings and desires.

Curated by Antonella Manganelli & Grazia Montalto

Our Judges: Visual Art - Scip Barnhart and Narrative and Poetry – Mike Maggio.

COUNTERCURRENT - ADVERSO FLUMINE artists will exhibit the artwork during all month of Feb. 2021 at GalleryB in Bethesda Maryland. Poets and writers will be presented during lectures and special events; published books can be offered for sale at the gallery. A book with all the participants artists and writes will be published, and available at the gallery. Please check the link below for more information, important deadline, and to register in the show: <https://www.art-4-us.com/call4entry> We wish you will be intrigued by going Countercurrent, and inspired by the creative force unleashed by our Adverso Flumine

OPEN MICS & ZOOM MEETINGS

- Busboys and Poets on Instagram @busboysandpoets (ask about other formats, has been done on Zoom, too.) Every Mon. Weds and Fri., (usually \$5.) www.busboysandpoets.com - 8-10 PM
- **CIPHER** Tuesdays 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 Dec. 15, 22 8pm
- 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 Monday 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 The next one will be Jan. 7, 2021
- 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.
- 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 second Friday of each month, and Spilled Ink West takes place the fourth Friday of each month.
Data: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpilledInkVA>
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81108116410?pwd=M3Rac2JobGM5NTJwY2p0dFNGQW55Zz>
Meeting ID: 811 0811 6410, Passcode: 87613
- **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.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS: Please send articles, announcements, and poetry to share with your fellow PSV members. Your work may be unpublished or previously published, but if necessary, don't forget to include an acknowledgement. Remember to include a brief bio for the Contributors' page, and keep work apolitical and family friendly. Please send to janhoffpoetry@gmail.com. I'm so concerned that I've left something out for this issue, so if I did, please forgive me and resubmit your information prior to Feb. 15 for the March issue of the newsletter. Please note that it's a tremendous challenge when everyone waits until the deadline, so the sooner you can send me something, the better. Thanks so much. ~Jan Hoffman

MEMBER NEWS

Madalin Bickel has three poems coming out in the next issue of *Voices on the Wind*, an online poetry journal. Her pen name is Madalin E. Jackson.

Joan Mazza's poems "Delusions du Jour" and "What's Real?" are in the current issue of *Misfit Magazine* with thanks to editor Alan Catlin, and her poem "After the Election" is published at *New Verse News*. Also, her poems "Connessione" and "Shedding Pounds of Old Papers" are in the current issue of *Adanna Literary Journal*. Two poems were published in the Dec. issue of *Verse-Virtual, Feels Zine* accepted "Having it Out with Worry" for their issue on anxiety, and 3 more poems were accepted at *Pennsylvania English* yesterday for their next issue! How prolific! Contact Joan via JoanMazza@gmail.com.

Rita Quillen announces that she has a new full-length poetry collection, *Some Notes You Hold*, recently released from Madville Publishing (a small traditional press) in Texas. Members can read all about it, including sample lines, and can see all the ordering info at her website: ritasimsquillen.com.

CONTRIBUTORS

Nancy C. Allen is a retired elementary teacher. She is a member of the Poetry Society of Virginia and loves to write for the its newsletter.

As **Mark Hudson** writes his current bio, he is about to celebrate his fiftieth birthday. He feels grateful to be alive, and to still find the muse gives him ideas. The thing Mark likes about January—if not the only thing—is sleeping—hibernating like a bear. He has already started that process.

Ann Shalaski's recent poem "Martha Anne" was accepted for publication for the National League of American Pen Women. It is a tribute poem of loss for a treasured friend.

James Wilson or TEECH!, is a frequent performer at open mics and events around Hampton Roads and other parts of Virginia. He is editor-in-chief of Wider Perspectives Publishing and would love to discuss your book project with you. He looks forward to this whole COVID thing blowing away like a miracle, so he can get back to them there open mics. Check out his own latest book *J. Scott Wilson Gets Carried Away* (HRACandWPP@outlook.com or on Amazon).



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