

A COMMON WEALTH OF POETRY

Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia ♦ May 2020

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Derek Kannemeyer, President *Pro Tem*

It's April 15, tax day in any normal year, and for the last few hours our power has been shut off. Outside the den window, the sky is a staccato shower of chain-sawed boughs and sawdust. Not for the first time! In the last two months, the city has culled a half dozen of our street's maples; this, today, will be the fourth of our yard's own giant pines to fall. Their loss, after all these years, unsettles me, but they were just too old, too tall, too teetering.

Still. What a season of loss and of unsettling choices. What challenges to rise to as we readjust.

As I write, our website is not fully restored. We've managed to get much of our spring business accomplished but not all of it. The tragic loss of our president and webmaster, Jeff Hewitt, and the broader impact of the coronavirus, have meant we have had to scramble. Our book prize has been awarded with the winner's invitation to read to us postponed. We've completed, and with no great delay, the nominating process for our state's next Poet Laureate. Our May Festival has had to be canceled, but its funding remains in place for next year. We have produced a slate of names to elect our next year's officers: please check it out, and vote. Our Adult Contests have at last been judged; the winners are announced in this newsletter. Normally, we would publish their names on our website, on the date of our awards ceremony; this year, the awards ceremony will still be held, we hope, but must wait until the state of the world's health permits it.

The Student Contests are another story. Jeff died while still setting up the website tabs and contacting his judges. We've now tracked down all the individual submission files and are copying and sorting them into their categories; we're creating anonymous documents to send to be judged, so we're moving the process forward. This is more laborious work than we had anticipated, but it is manageable—we ask only for your patience.

Meanwhile, fellow poets, let's step away from Eliot's wasteland and breed some lilacs. As I write, this is still National Poetry Month. Like many others, I've been drafting a poem a day. I've taken on this challenge for maybe a dozen springs now, but this year, I'm doing so in the company of a dozen or so society members on a Poem Sharing Group housed by our very own Facebook page. As is always the case, some of my drafts are so drafty they float right into the ether, but others might well take root. Every one of us has produced work which will surely do the same. The prompts are still up on the site. So, what if—by the time you read this—April is over? They continue to be worth tackling. And maybe you're not going anywhere right now and even have time to tackle them.

Go bring forth some May flowers!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PSV 2020 ELECTIONS	2
ARTICLES	2-5
POEMS	6
ANNOUNCEMENTS	7-11
CONTRIBUTORS	11

VIRGINIA
COMMISSION
FOR THE

ART WORKS.
arts.gov

PSV 2020 ELECTIONS!!!

TO VOTE: Title email "PSV Elections" and send to J. Scott Wilson at HRACandWPP@outlook.com . If you don't have an email account, mail your vote to

Poetry Society of VA
PO Box 14046
Newport News VA 23608

All votes, whether electronic or sent by mail, must be received by midnight, May 30.
THE PSV 2020 SLATE FOR ELECTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS. WRITE-INS ARE ALLOWED.

PRESIDENT

Terry Cox-Joseph
Jack Callan

PRESIDENT *PRO TEMPORE*

Derek Kanneymeyer.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

North Central
David Sam

Northern
Cathy Hailey

Eastern
Kathleen Decker
Bill Glose

Central
Joanna Lee

South Eastern
Kindra McDonald

no candidates yet for the following 2 positions:

Western (Bath to Lynchburg to Martinsville and westward)
North Western (Winchester to Harrisonburg form triangle w/ Rappahannock Co.)

ARTICLES

DR. JAMES J. McNALLY

September 30, 1924 - February 19, 2020

by Ed Lull

A true friend of poets and poetry, Jim McNally passed away at age 95 at his home in Norfolk. A member of the Poetry Society of Virginia for 50 years, he served as its President from 1989 to 1992. He published poetry in all of the "modern" era anthologies of the Society beginning with the Golden Anniversary edition in 1974.

Having dropped out of school to join the Marine Corp after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Jim served in the Philippines and China. After the war, he used the G.I. Bill to attend the University of Virginia where he earned advanced degrees in Foreign Affairs and English. He taught English and literature at Penn State, Morris Harvey College, and finally Old Dominion University, where he taught from 1963 to 1992.

When I became Acting President of PSV, having joined only two years earlier, I sought guidance from two prior presidents, Jim McNally and Joe Awad. Both were extremely generous with their time and advice that helped me navigate through issues of the period. Those relationships then and after I became full-time president convinced me I had friends for life; and so it was.

ARTICLES

(Dr. James J. McNally continued from page 2)

From the time that we started the special Saturday Poetry Series celebration every December, I could count on Jim and Mary, his wonderful wife, making the trip from Norfolk to honor the event with their presence. Jim always participated in the open microphone session. This past December, Jim and Mary were unable to join us. In our exchange of Christmas cards, I learned of Mary's illness and he learned of Evelyn's passing. In January I received a lengthy longhand letter where he gave me some details of Mary's situation and his fall that caused crushed vertebrae. Despite their painful conditions, Jim's spirits were up. That is who he was. May he now rest in peace.

Ron Smith's *Running Again in Hollywood Cemetery...Again*

by Stuart Gunter

(Full disclosure: I know Ron Smith. He was my high school English teacher and is the father of one of my best friends. Over the years, Ron has become a friend and mentor: a man whose thoughts I treasure and whose company I cherish.)

When Ron Smith gave me a copy of his re-released book, *Running Again in Hollywood Cemetery*, he added an assignment, as only he could: "See if you can find all the edits." I have been spending small moments with this book over the last several weeks—reading from my thirty-two-year-old original version and the new edition, often side-by-side. The edits are few and subtle. They reveal a poet who still tinkers with his work even after it has been published, solidifying Paul Valéry's idea about a poem never being finished. As I read these poems again after many years of enjoying the original book, I can say they have grown into a full reflection of a long life, well-lived.

Smith's poems focus on the everyday moments of life: bagging leaves, baseball games, lifting weights, running, history, parenting from different perspectives—both as a father and as a son—watching his son try to explode an ant with a magnifying glass, striking out his son, two dogs romping in a winter field. Each poem looks at a small thing, and from that small thing, a universal truth emerges. As Henry Taylor reflects, Ron Smith is blessed with a deceptive simplicity of language, for these apparently straightforward poems are constantly working with difficult paradoxes we too often evade.

Both editions are dedicated to his wife Delores: the first edition from 1988 reads, "This book is dedicated to Delores"; the newest edition, "This book is dedicated to Delores (again, forever)." A handful of poems mentions her, and it is clear he adores this woman. A sense of family winds throughout the book: poems about his childhood, growing into adulthood, reflecting on his own relationship with his father through a poem about his son ("Leaving Forever"), aging, and death. Of course, there is more to all of these poems than I can submit here.

Perhaps it is not fair that I know the poet. Who knows? Adding the picture of his parents to the end of "Photograph of My Father and Mother, 1946" was an effective change, allowing the reader to see what Smith describes in this ekphrastic exercise. I do not have the space or time to dive deeply into each poem, but know this: an emerging master created these works three decades ago, and a fully developed master reworked them for this new edition. The Coda adds a new poem to the collection wherein Smith plays with the idea of growing old: "For a long time now/I felt as if I/were filled with straw./I've gotten dizzy with/the height of my legs/" And at the end of the poem, the speaker declares, "I'll be back." Let us hope so. I will leave you with this: "The days have gathered/into straight lines behind him." Yes, it is true. Four full collections of poems, many articles, and a reprint of his first book comprise a full life of days gathered in straight lines behind him. I'll be back, indeed, promises more days ahead.

Think on this ...

by J. Scott Wilson

In the 1300s, plagues ravaged Europe, sometimes reducing the population by about 1/3 in as little as 3-6 years. In some cities, people finally figured out that their close proximity was enhancing the danger of falling victim to the disease that was tearing their world apart. Some tried isolating themselves in place, and some with the means tried to socially distance their own clutch of associates by leaving the cities and temporarily occupying abandoned villas and monasteries.

To keep themselves, these self-styled castaways would read, study their bibles, tell stories, AND WRITE, WRITE, WRITE. A few classics of Western Literature were created out of this phase, including Boccaccio's *Decameron*—100 stories shared by 10 acquaintances over the course of the 10 days that they didn't have chores maintaining their country hideaway. SO, I remind you to write, write, write—tell your tale, grow in your craft, use up some paper or some digital memory. You could be creating the *Decameron* of this age, could be or. . . should be.

NORTHERN REGION REPORT

by Mike Maggio, Northern VP
mmaggio@poetryvirginia.org

Hello, everyone:

I hope you are all doing well in these dark and uncertain days. It seems life has come to a standstill. Everyone isolated. People working from home or laid off. Metro trains empty. Restaurants and others businesses closed.

Life has been turned upside down.

Our regional poetry festival was cancelled. My reading series at Arts Herndon, which was to have hosted E. Ethelbert Miller and Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, been cancelled, as well.

As you look below, you will notice there are no upcoming events listed.

And yet, poetry lives and helps us see a flicker of light through the darkness.

There are some positive things in all of this, though.

The Poetry Society of Virginia has started a poem sharing group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/233640781114001/>

The Spilled Ink reading series has gone virtual (for more information email spilledinkva@gmail.com).

And starting April 1, my 30 for 30 poetry celebration for National Poetry Month began. 30 poets for 30 days, including some from PSV. Check it out daily at www.mikemaggio.net.

New Members: We have one new member in our region: **Anne Metclaf**. Welcome, Anne!

Member Achievements: see Announcements.

Member Events: **Claudia Gary's** poetry workshop was TELECONFERENCED online via Zoom, and on Sat., April 25, she gave an online Sonnet Crash Course (see writer.org). She is also in the process of scheduling other online tutorials and workshops via Zoom this month; contact claudiagary611@gmail.com for info.

So, keep on writing. Keep on reading. Help bring light into a dark world. Search for virtual poetry groups. And stay tuned as I put together a virtual open mic.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION REPORT

by David Anthony Sam, North Central VP
davidanthonysam@gmail.com.
www.davidanthonysam.com

Just 2 things to report at this time:

- We will hold a regional event in October 2020, conditions permitting.
- We will hold meetings and poetry sharing events by Zoom, to be scheduled.

For details and/or more information, contact me at the above email address.

NORTH WESTERN REGION REPORT

(Winchester to Harrisonburg form triangle w/ Rappahannock Co.)
No current VP and no report

EASTERN REGION REPORT

by Terry Cox-Joseph, Eastern VP
tcoxjoseph@gmail.com

The official report from the Eastern Region is that, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, there have been no activities recently, and none are scheduled until the Stay-at-Home Order is rescinded.

SOUTHEAST REGION REPORT

by Kindra McDonald, Southeast VP
ardnik615@gmail.com
www.kindramcdonald.com

Like all of Virginia, Hampton Roads poets are hunkered down under Stay-at-Home orders until June 10th, but organizations are trying to find a sense of community #alonetogether. This can be seen as the Norfolk-based organization, The Muse Writers Center, moves all of its spring course offerings online through a Zoom platform. There are many interesting poetry seminars starting this spring. Check out the courses at The-Muse.org

The Venue on 35th has moved its Monday night open-mic online! Follow them on social media @thevenueon35th for information on how to join the Zoom session Monday nights and share in the open mic experience from your own home.

Finally, members of PSV are creating a tribute anthology project honoring Jeff Hewitt. The anthology is called *We are Vast*, inspired by a line from Jeff's poem, "Leviathan." The anthology will feature some of Jeff's work, but we're excited to announce an open call for submissions of poems inspired by or honoring Jeff. The submission email is wearevastanthology@gmail.com. Please include your name and contact information with your submission, and let us know a bit about how Jeff inspired you. We hope to debut the anthology in time for National Poetry Month 2021.

CENTRAL REGION REPORT

by Joanna Lee, Central Region VP
joannasuzannelee@gmail.com

Hello from PSV's Central Region! While all our "live" events have been put on COVID-19 hiatus, poets are digging deep and getting creative, keeping the spirit of community alive and well through National Poetry Month and into the challenging months to come. We've seen virtual open mics and online poetry social hours, as well as poem-a-day sprints and prompt challenges.

Some highlights from this April include the joint contest sponsored by the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library and Charlottesville's Writer House, judged by Henry Hart, which allowed submission of single poems through the end of April for a \$200 (winner) and \$100 (runner-up) prize. The contest is part of Writer House's #TheWrite2Heal series.

Here in Richmond, the River City Poets community has started a weekly online version of its small group critiques, drawing a dozen or more participants per session to submit a poem and give/receive feedback from peers, as well as swap resources and share websites. This group will continue through May, so please drop me an email if you are interested in joining!

While pandemic trajectories haven't been predictive enough for us definitively to rule in or out an actual "in-person" annual meeting for late this summer, we're remaining hopeful. If there is any specific concept you'd like to see or poet you'd like to hear from as a part of this meeting, drop me a line!

WESTERN REGION REPORT

(Bath to Lynchburg to Martinsville and westward)
No current VP and no report

POEMS

Friday the 13th, 2020

by Mark Hudson

It's Friday the 13th, it's windy outside,
 and everyone worries of airborne diseases
 If I lose my apartment, where will I hide?
 They raise my rent so I can't sign the lease.
 Schools are closed, America shut down,
 grocery stores run out of toilet paper and water.
 Is this the world I have to be around?
 It seems like the time is growing shorter.
 People worry about their lives, so mortal,
 is there a better afterlife to strive for?
 I can hear the voices in my mind chortle,
 these are the days you never prepared for.
 I guess it's too late to wear a face mask,
 but maybe sunlight is where I need to bask.

To the Health Care Workers

by Eric Forsbergh, DDS

"I expect to get the virus."
 Mercy and data are
 my rod and staff.
 They comfort me.
 Though naked I was born,
 and feel so today,
 and will be at the end of days,
 I wrap myself in garments
 inadequate to take this task.
 The suffering, they labor for air.
 I see their chests try to rise
 from under hoses, tubes and lines.
 Hospital corridors stretch out
 into valleys of the shadow.
 At the drive-through, I bend down,
 offering a nasal swab.
 My gown resembles purity.
 Each driver leans to their door sill,
 looks up expectantly,
 as if to seek communion at the rail.

**Pandemic**

by Donna Isaac

I held the mirror up to the mouth,
 saw breath enough so wandered
 from contagion toward a pond
 unlocked, skin rippling spring pleasure,
 red-winged blackbird trilling,
 woodpecker drilling a weakened birch.
 It's all so normal-the world in the
 woods.

The one at large hunkers down
 in homes suffocating behind masks,
 pulling on prophylactic gloves,
 bleached to the gills.

The woods are lovely, dark...
 you know the rest.

Those at rest or those who wrested
 themselves from the viral maw
 moving through rheumy eyes
 to webby lungs, grandmother's bed,
 know pandemic's sheer fearsomeness.

Outside, all around, soft raindrops
 begin their patter across tinged
 grasses, an eagle tends to eaglets
 safe within a halo of twigs.

**Spring Rain**

by Nancy C. Allen

Clouds like mountains of snow stain the blue sky.
 Raindrops fall on the river musical as the drum.
 Tree branches bend down to the river's edge in a whispering rhythm,
 hanging their long silhouettes over the snow-hued water.
 The ash-colored river runs warm and free.
 Water laps gray against the sand and waves upon waves dance to the rain's free verse.
 The rain slows.
 Newborn green buds unfold to the melody of the slowing rain.
 The last drops of rain dry reluctantly on the wind.
 Sunlight abounds in the branches of tall trees, united by the chorus of the wind's soft song.
 Mountains tinged with the coral pink sun stretch beyond the river like a gift of solitary joy.
 Lingering sunlight glistens on the river rock,
 on the blades of grass, bright green and rain-soaked.
 The stark applause of the seagulls is heard again.
 The river smells of the sun and butterflies descend from the sky gracefully as spring rain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

2020 Poetry Society of Virginia Adult Contest Award Winners

Because of the mandatory statewide Stay-at-Home Order, we are unable to hold a contest ceremony at this time, but we wanted to recognize all the winners of this year's Poetry Contest.

Category 1. Edgar Allan Poe (any form and subject)

1st Edward Wright Haile: "I Am at War with Nature"
2nd Chapman Hood Frazier: "Leaving the Homeplace: A Sonnet Sequence"
3rd Erin Lambert Hartman: "The Gifts the Dead Receive"
Honorable Mention Erin Wells: "Virginia Poetry"

Category 2. Sarah Lockwood (sonnet in rhyme & meter)

1st Chapman Hood Frazier: "Hunting in the High Barn"
2nd Erin Wells: "Still Life, in Various Pieces"
3rd Barbara Blanks: "The Sham"
Honorable Mention Bill Ayres: "Counter Sonnet"

Category 3. Bess Gresham (friendship)

1st Bill Glose: "Non-Sequitur"
2nd Chapman Hood Frazier: "Day Two: Dublin in Fractals of Four"
3rd Sally Zakariya: "FaceBook Everlasting"
Honorable Mention Nick Sweet: "Decent Descent"

Category 4. Carleton Drewry (farming, working the earth)

1st Donna Isaac: "Rustica"
2nd Sharon Ackerman: "Late Winter Liturgy"
3rd Chapman Hood Frazier: "Morning On The Benedict Haid Farm"
Honorable Mention Katharyn Howd Machan: "Richard G. Hutchinson: Redwing, 1888"

Category 5. Brodie Herndon Memorial (heroism)

1st Erin Wells: "Fleming"
2nd Donna Isaac: "Hero"
3rd Daniel Pearlman: "The Painter"
Honorable Mention Chapman Hood Frazier: "Beyond the Pane"

Category 6. Nancy Byrd Turner (in a traditional form)

1st Tammy Tillotson: "XVIII"
2nd Eric Forsbergh: "A Meditation Up on Ingham Stream"
3rd Elizabeth Spencer Spragins: "Demon Eyes (A Rannaigheacht Ghairid)"
Honorable Mention Donna Isaac: "Coitus Interruptus"

Category 7. Judah, Sarah, Grace, Tom (inter-ethnic relations)

1st Donna Isaac: "Helping Out"
2nd Adele Gardner: "The Sounds of Love"
3rd Sharon Dorsey: "Who Are the Immigrants"

Category 8. Cenie Moon (a woman or women)

1st Beverly Subudhi: "Prosthesis"
2nd Nancy Cook: "Daphne, Reincarnate"
3rd Allen M. Weber: "Imagining Miya"

Category 9. Handy Andy (limerick)

1st Erin Wells: "The Monodon Monoceros, or Narwhal To You"
2nd Katharyn Howd Machan: "White"
3rd Jerri Hardesty: "Secret Stash"

Category 10. Ada Sanderson (nature)

1st Erin Wells: "Voyeur, Earth Undressing At The Solstice"

Category 11. Charlotte Wise (any form and subject)

1st Derek Kannemeyer: "Tickling Her"
2nd William Prindle: "Stafford's Last Year"
3rd Bill Glose: "Where You Were When It Happened"
Honorable Mention Bill Ayres: "During the Twentieth Century"

Category 12. Robert S. Sergeant (birds)

1st Wendell Hawken: "Absence"
Honorable Mention Derek Kannemeyer: "Osprey, Carp, Bald Eagle"
Honorable Mention Bill Ayres: "Time To Stop Looking"

Category 13. Elizabeth Neuwirth (Ekphrastic, iambic pentameter)

1st Derek Kannemeyer: "Erich Heckel: Die Blinde, 1916"
2nd Eric Forsbergh: "Lady With An Ermine"
3rd Bill Ayres: "Exposure: You and You and You Again"

Category 14. Laura Day Boggs Bolling (for children of 10-12)

1st Erin Wells: "How We Saved Summer"
2nd Linda Partee: "Wombats And The Full Moon"
3rd Julia Travers: "The New Book"
Honorable Mention Thomas Jenkins: "Blue Chords"

Category 15. Miriam Rachimi (spiritual impact of loss or near loss)

1st Donna Isaac: "After Chores"
2nd Robert Gluck: "The Garden"
3rd Eric Forsbergh: "AJ and the Chipper"
Honorable Mention Zeina Azzam: "You Could Tell Yourself"

Category 16. Campbell Prize (Narrative poem)

1st Barbara Blanks: "Uprooting the Family Tree"
2nd Bill Ayres: "The Invention of Slavery"
3rd Richard Rose: "two stanzas from 'Things Need Not Be This Way'"
Honorable Mention Chapman Hood Frazier: "The Girl Next Door"

Category 17. Raymond Levi Haislip (celebrating technology)

1st Erin Wells: "Mountain Technology"
2nd Bill Ayres: "Ode to My Lawnmower"
3rd Daniel Pearlman: "Defenestration"

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

(2020 Poetry Society of Virginia Adult Contest Award Winners cont.)

Category 18. Elizabeth J. Urquhart Memorial (a sense of place)

- 1st* Eric Forsbergh: "Massachusetts Colonial Farmhouse Auction"
2nd Chapman Hood Frazier: "Tangier Island"
3rd Ellaraine Lockie: "You Know You're in Montana . . ."
Honorable Mention M. Lee Alexander: "Postcard from Edinburgh"

Category 19. New Voices

- 1st* Doris McGehee: "An Outing"
2nd Nancy Cook: "Reclamation"
3rd Matt Dhillon: "Working"
Honorable Mention Les Bares: "And The Glory"

Category 20. Honoring Fatherhood

- 1st* Ruth Holzer: "Legacy"
2nd Eric Forsbergh: "To My Father, Poet Carpenter"
3rd Laura J. Bobrow: "At the Dining Room Table"
Honorable Mention Angela V. Clevinger: "My TV Dads"

Category 21. Ekphrastic Poetry Award

- 1st* Erin Wells: "The Listening Room"
2nd Daniel Pearlman: "Rolling a Joint on a Photo of Kurt Vonnegut Smoking"
3rd Bill Glose: "Stone Circle"
Honorable Mention Richard Rose: "Five Stations of the Resurrection"

Category 22. Ann Spencer (facing up to adversity)

- 1st* Wendell Hawken: "Gravity"
2nd Ken Sutton: "Hector & George"
3rd Donna Isaac: "Meditation"

Category 23. Casablanca (performance poetry)

- 1st* Matt Dhillon: "Whole Numbers"
2nd Miko Marsh, aka Obelia Akanke: "Mama's Night Fight"
3rd Crickyt J Meyer: "Power of Poetry"
Honorable Mention Jerri Hardesty: "Three Words"

Category 24. Don Frew & John Newcomb (any form and subject)

- 1st* Chapman Hood Frazier: "Day 11: The Aran Island of Inishmore"
2nd Erin Wells: "Kneeling Figure"
3rd Bill Ayres: "When We Paid Off The Mortgage"
Honorable Mention Katharyn Howd Machan: "William Stanley: Redwing 1888"

Category 25. Emma Gray Trigg (lyric poetry)

- 1st* Katharyn Howd Machan: "Autumn"
2nd William Prindle: "Consonance and Assonance and All"
3rd Andy Fogle: "Early Morning Rain"
Honorable Mention Eric Forsbergh: "Taking Out the Canoe Before Sunrise"

Category 26. Karma Deane Ogden (any form and subject)

- 1st* Adele Gardner: "Microscope Girl"
2nd Derek Kannemeyer: "Photograph of the One Passenger . . ."
3rd Sarah EN Kohrs: "Our Bodies Always Seem"
Honorable Mention Chapman Hood Frazier: "After the Famine Times"

Category 27. Loretta Dunn (family)

- 1st* Erin Wells: "Blackberry Wine"
2nd Sharon Ackerman: "Appalachian Migration, Indiana, 1964"
3rd Diana Woodcock: "What's A Grown Child To Do"

Category 28. Undergraduate Poetry

- 1st* Joseph Felkers: "Jesus Disguises Himself, Lower Peninsula"
2nd Eliza Browning: "Girl Saint"
3rd Colton Adrian: "Clinic"
Honorable Mention Brianna L. DeSimone: "Unsent Letters"



ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

2020 PSV NORTH AMERICAN POETRY BOOK AWARD

The Poetry Society of Virginia is honored to announce the winner, finalists, and semi-finalists of the 2020 PSV North American Poetry Book Award. We received numerous outstanding books from 17 different states—from Maine to California, from Florida to Oregon, and various states in between. All entries were carefully read by a panel of judges, and the final decision was made by Henry Hart, Virginia Poet Laureate, 2018-2020.

First Place Winner: *American Faith* by Maya C. Popa, Sarabande Books

<https://www.mayacpopa.com/>

<http://www.sarabandebooks.org/titles-20192039/american-faith-maya-catherine-popa>

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/52291053-american-faith>

First Finalist: *Reenactments* by Hai-Dang Phan, Sarabande Books

<http://www.haidangphan.com/>

<http://www.sarabandebooks.org/titles-20192039/reenactments-hai-dang-phan>

Second Finalist: *Agnostic* by Christopher Buckley, Lynxhouse Press

<https://uwapress.uw.edu/book/9780899241685/agnostic/>

<https://creativewriting.ucr.edu/people/buckley/index.html>

The following (in alphabetical order) were selected as semi-finalists:

The Book of Life by Joseph Campana, Tupelo Press

<https://english.rice.edu/faculty/joseph-campana>

<https://www.tupelopress.org/product/the-book-of-life/>

Searching for Nova Albion by Pamela Cranston, Wipf&Stock

<https://wipfandstock.com/searching-for-nova-albion.html>; https://www.amazon.com/Pamela-Cranston/e/B001JS4XQE%3Fref=db_s_a_mng_rwt_scns_share

Exuberance by Dolores Hayden, Red Hen Press

<https://aerbook.com/maker/productcard-4676928-1458.html>

www.DoloresHayden.com

The Grief of a Happy Life by Christopher Howell, University of Washington Press

<https://uwapress.uw.edu/book/9780295746166/the-grief-of-a-happy-life/>

<https://sites.ewu.edu/mfa/the-people/christopher-howell/>

American Mythology by Raphael Kosek, Brick Road Poetry Press

<https://www.brickroadpoetrypress.com/order-books/american-mythology-kosek>

<http://www.raphaelkosek.com/>

The Davids Inside David by Sarah Wetzel, Terrapin Press

<https://sarahwetzel.com/>

<https://www.terrapinbooks.com/new--the-davids-inside-david-by-sarah-wetzel.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

The POET'S DOMAIN is open for submissions for 2020

The theme for volume 34 shall be “*This I use to alter the world, so that I can see it in 2020.*”

As before we don't want to dictate how the poet interprets the idea, but you should know we troubled with this wording and it seems synonyms were a big part of the problem.

THIS could be the thing, tool, mechanism, idea, philosophy, plan...

ALTER could be change, remake, break, fix...

SEE could be view, examine, think of, clarify...

and surely *2020* could be now, today, the present, or 20/20, clearly...

if you rewrite the initial sentence with these words, we think you'll see it doesn't change,

but it does. ... and watch as the ideas start flowing, too.

If you wish to throw in a brief statement as to why you think your entry addresses the theme, go for it.

Poet's Domain accepts only original poetry submissions from residents of Virginia or any state bordering it, individuals having significant dealings within or formerly living in Virginia, PSV members, or anyone who previously contributed to the journal. The reading/entry fee is \$5 for 1 poem, \$3 each for additional poems for up to FIVE submissions. There is a maximum length per entered item of 4 pages typed (12pt., 8x11); below that, any style, form, or voice of poem shall be considered. English is the assumed language of the journal, but poems with mixed language will be considered. Submissions open on March 18, 2020, and close July 31, 2020, at midnight.

Each accepted contributor shall receive one complimentary copy of vol. 34 with a postcard upon which they may vote for their favorite piece from that issue. The winning poem will be acknowledged with a certificate and \$50 prize. Additional copies will be available to contributors at a discount. Please notify at time of submission if a poem has been submitted elsewhere (and where) or previously published. Simultaneous submission or republication can be done with coordination with other source. Contact J. Scott Wilson at hracandwpp@outlook.com.

The **SATURDAY POETRY SERIES** in Williamsburg is cancelled through June 2020. We don't meet during the summer, so we hope to see all of you in September with more great poets and programs. Sharon Dorsey

Zeina Azzam's poem “Coronavirus Spring” was published in *The New Verse News*.

Terry Cox-Joseph is pleased to announce acceptance of two poems for *Auroras & Blossoms Poetry Journal*. “Ode to Joy” and “Alone in Good Company” will be included in its 2021 release.

Sharon Dorsey's poem, “The Desk,” was recently selected by the participating poets as Favorite or Best in the 33rd edition of the *Poet's Domain*. Her new poetry book, *Walk With Me*, will launch this summer, published by High Tide Publications. It will also feature artwork by mixed media artists Vivien Mann and Kaye Levy.

Claudia Gary had three new poems published in *Expansive Poetry Online* (<http://www.expansivepoetryonline.com/>). In addition, she had a new poem in *Amsterdam Quarterly* (amsterdamquarterly.nl), whose editor also reviewed her latest chapbook, *Genetic Revisionism*, in the same issue. On March 29, Claudia took part in Rattle's online “Poets Respond” on the theme of Covid-19, which was recorded and can be viewed at <https://youtube/znft6yN8wd4>.

Linda Hoagland published the following poems in *Star Poets*: “The Noisemaker” won First Place in Poetry Contest; “Missing”; “Reflections”; “The Last Time.” Her poems “Instant Replay” and “Saved By a Minute” appear in *Northern Stars*, and her short story “That Was Close” was published in *Bluestone Review*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

Janice (Jan) Hoffman just completed a Spanish version of her children's book, *Four Fairy Friends*, which will be released by High Tide Publications late spring/early summer. A bi-lingual coloring book will also be issued about the same time. In addition, Jan was a recipient of Thomas Nelson Community College's new Learning Environment Award, created for faculty who enhance the learning experience for their students, especially during this spring's shift from in-seat classes to online courses; students nominate faculty for this honor.

Donna Isaac announces that *The Exposition Review* will publish "12 movements: looking for love da, da, da" in its upcoming "Act/Break" issue. *Wraparound South* published "All Raccoons," "Pictures, and "Secret Sharers" in its Spring 2020 edition.

Sally Zakariya's recent publications include "Measured Flow," *Heron Clan Poetry Anthology*, May 2020; "In the Family," *Pink Panther Magazine*, Volume 11, Issue 1, March 2020, p. 36; and "Mortality on a Wednesday," *Emerge Literary Journal*, Issue 12, March 2020 (<https://emgeliteraryjournal.com/mortality-on-a-wednesday/>).

CONTRIBUTORS

Nancy Allen enjoys writing, reading, and watching movies about nature. She currently lives in Glen Allen, Virginia, and has won honors in previous Poetry Society of Virginia contests.

Eric Forsbergh's poetry has been published in *The Journal of The American Medical Association*, *The Journal of Neurology*, *Artemis*, *The Sow's Ear*, and *The Northern Virginia Review*, among others. He has won the PSV Poe Prize twice. He is a dentist practicing in Reston, Virginia, covering only emergencies during the pandemic in order to keep those patients out of the E.R. Additionally, he is a Vietnam veteran.

Stuart Gunter is working toward a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling at Longwood University and lives in Schuyler, Virginia. He likes to paddle the Rockfish River and play drums in obscure rock bands. He was just accepted into the MFA program at VCU. His poems have been published in *Poet Lore*, *Hiram Poetry Review*, *Appalachian Journal*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, and *Into the Void*, among others.

Mark Hudson joined the Poetry Society of Virginia two or three years ago to participate in the contests. One of the benefits he received was that one year he got to put some poetry in a Local Gems book that only certain people could do, and that included members of the PSV. Mark lives in Evanston, Illinois, and can be reached at markhudson757@yahoo.com.

Donna Isaac is a teaching artist who organizes community readings in the Twin Cities, MN; she curates and hosts the reading series Literary Lights. Published poetry work includes *Footfalls* (Pocahontas Press), a paean to growing up in the Appalachians; three chapbooks, *Tommy* (Red Dragonfly Press), *Holy Comforter* (Red Bird Chapbooks), and *Persistence of Vision* (Finishing Line Press). Her work also appears in literary journals such as *The Tishman Review*, *The Saint Paul Almanac*, and *The Penn Review*. She remains a Virginian at heart. <donnaisaacpoet.com>.

Ed Lull began writing poetry at age 65 and has published six books of his poetry including an historical novel and a "How To" book on writing form poetry. He is a life member of PSV where he served four terms as its president and many years as an Executive Director. He formed the James City Poets in 2008, a poetry workshop that remains active today, and recently began a program of sharing its poetry with senior living establishments.

J. Scott Wilson runs James Wider Perspectives and is the editor of the *Poet's Domain*. He also serves as membership chair of PSV. Contact him via hracandwpp@outlook.com.

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. The deadline for July newsletter (which will be the next newsletter) is June 15.

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