

A COMMON WEALTH OF POETRY

Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia ♦ June 2019

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Fellow Poets,

I want to thank you for electing me to lead our organization. I consider it an honor and a solemn duty to serve in a group which has prominently engaged with hallowed names like Eliot, Millay, Frost, and Sandburg—among others.

A bit about me for those I have yet to meet: I've given my life to this art. I first submitted for publication at the age of 8. I began as a spoken word street poet and competed in poetry slams all across the country for a solid decade. After that, I spent years in intensive study and practice of form poetry on the page. I've authored somewhere around 20 chapbooks and three full length books of poetry. As a partner in a small poetry press, I've published over 40 statewide and national poets through the last 12 years. I've been a member of the Society since the early 90s. I've served on the Board of Directors at various points over the past 4 years as a literary advisor, webmaster, a member of the Poet Laureate nomination committee, as well as the finance committee, and most recently this year as contest chair.

My experience with PSV points me to an unavoidable fact: The single largest challenge we face while crossing the century mark of operations is the need to expand membership. There exists a desperate want to bolster our numbers and to reflect the face of poetry in Virginia today more accurately. We need to communicate what makes PSV special to those who do not know us, and we need to become more aggressive in coordinating with other arts organizations. As one of the oldest societies for the promotion of poetry in all the nation, we carry a gravitas and dignity where we step. There are any number of fly-by-night organizations who meet in small rooms and give each other trophies, but there's only one Poetry Society of Virginia. When you join our ranks, you step into your part of a larger story. Our efforts keep the names of poets alive who would otherwise be lost to the veil of time, and I view maintaining the history of poetry throughout our state as a sacred duty.

That said, our story will fade if we are not mindful of the present. As such, we need to cast an eye towards our future and tend our garden – that it might bear new harvests. This moment is a critical juncture in the history of our organization. I feel we have an opportunity like never before to bridge the gaps between existing poetry communities and to bring them all in under a big tent. Slam poets. Page poets. Academic poets. Form poets. Traditional poets. Beat poets. Hip hop poets. All of us working together to advance the art throughout our state in ways we've never seen happen before. Inclusive. Inter-sectional. And most importantly, vibrant and alive.

If this organization is going to exist for the next hundred years, we must recognize the need to bring in new people to augment a generation that has given its service. Note that I say augment and not replace. While we must face the reality that many of our older members are in their twilight years, we need also to make every effort to keep them involved and active. Their wisdom and knowledge are valuable assets, and it would be immoral—not to mention plain foolish—to sweep them aside as we move towards the future.

My first and foremost goal is membership expansion that is inclusive of all poets. I aim to double our membership over the next four years.

Further goals for the next few years include some of the following points:

- Overhauling membership levels to make joining accessible to poets of all backgrounds.
- Working with VCU to open our archives through scanning to be made accessible to all members. Our history is our strongest selling point, and we should employ it to the greatest advantage.
- Expanding PSV into college campuses. I propose the creation of a new Chair to liaison with school administrations for the purpose of sponsoring student poetry groups to foster readings and communities.
- Pushing poetry into the halls of power. I propose asking the General Assembly to open



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ARTICLES	2-3
POEMS	4-5
ANNOUNCEMENTS	5-6
CONTRIBUTORS	7



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT (cont)

sessions with the reading of a poem. Furthermore, it is my intention to begin a tradition whereupon we invite the Governor of Virginia to submit a poem to our archives, either of his/her own creation or from a poet he/she admires. The intention here is to get our leaders thinking about poetry at least once in their terms in hopes that it will foster a beneficent attitude towards poetry education, in general.

- Doubling our Annual Festival attendance within the next two years.
- Beginning a process whereupon we seek grant opportunities and sponsorships to secure our financial future.

These are, of course, ambitious endeavors, but I believe we possess the ability to rise to the challenge.

In closing, I must thank our outgoing President, my friend and brother, Robert P Arthur. He has led with a steady hand through troubled times, and an evaluation of the foundation of our organization at the end of his term finds us in ship-shape condition to navigate new waters. We owe him all honors for a lifetime of service to PSV. It is my intention to keep him involved with the board for as long as he is willing.

I look forward to continued fellowship with my friends and colleagues within our membership, as well as talking with those of you I have yet to meet. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with your ideas or concerns during my term.

In solidarity from the love of words,

Jeff Hewitt ~ President of the Poetry Society of Virginia. j.hewitt@me.com 757.412.5642

ARTICLES

In Memory of Evelyn Lull

The Poetry Society of Virginia would like to express its deepest condolences to Ed Lull on the loss of his beloved wife, Evelyn. Evelyn passed away on May 1st in Williamsburg. She and Ed were married for 63 years, and she was his faithful partner during his long career in the Navy and later a constant supporter of his commitment to poetry. Until very recently, Evelyn frequented PSV poetry events, always at Ed's side. She will be greatly missed. *Requiescat in pace.* And may God bless Ed with the solace of warm memories and the hope voiced by John Milton in *Comus*: "Death is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity." (submitted by Sofia M. Starnes)

Empress of the Open Mic

by Bill Glose

(originally published in *Coastal Virginia Magazine*)

It's the second Tuesday of the month at Aroma's Café in Newport News. Outside the storefront's wraparound window, the sun has just set over the City Center fountain, limning the "LOVE NN" sign with the day's last light. Inside the coffee shop, a microphone and a music stand set against the glass wall let patrons know a show will soon take place.

The "Word-4-Word" open mic has been meeting at various locations for over 25 years, but they've settled in at Aroma's for the past nine. "Now we like to call ourselves the "Word-4-Word Family," says Ann Shalaski, the long-time host, "because we really are a family. We've grown with each other over the years. Lifelong friendships have formed, and a few romances have blossomed. We know everybody's stories, the good, the bad and the ugly."

Mixed in with the regulars are plenty of first-timers. Everyone is welcome, with one caveat. "There are many, many words in the English dictionary," Shalaski says, "and if a four-letter word is the only one you can think of, then you've come to the wrong group."

As always, Shalaski announces this rule to the crowd before kicking things off with one of her own poems. Her style ranges from laugh-out-loud silly to sultry verse that inspires catcalls from the audience. But tonight, the sassy, gray-haired Italian stuns the room with a poem about her mother battling Alzheimer's and slowly forgetting her name, the day of the week, her daughter's face. The crowd holds their breath in wide-mouthed awe as painful memories unspool line after line.

Afterwards, audience members tell her it was as if she were writing about them, describing their emotions, the depth of their despair, their sadness, their reluctance to let go of their own loved one suffering from dementia. That is the power of poetry. It transforms what's in our hearts into music that every ear hears differently. It takes one person's story and makes it universal.

The gathered poets are as varied in age and ethnicity as Coastal Virginia itself. Calling names from the night's sign-up list, Shalaski invites them up to share what they've written. First on the list is a librarianly woman in a light blue cardigan who glides to the mic and reads a poem about her grandfather during the Depression. Next up, a bearded hipster who goes by the name "Grilled Cheese" gives a spoken-word performance seemingly about zombies that actually tells of a failed romance. Then a little girl walks up, three feet tall, skinny as a wire hanger, her plaits knotted with colored beads. She clutches a piece of lined paper in her trembling fist.

Shalaski pulls out a chair for the girl to stand on and announces, "First time reader!" The room erupts into applause. Yes, people have come to read their own work; but they are also here to support and encourage others. "Open mic is not just about reading your own work," Shalaski explains. "It's about listening. It's about letting other people's lives come into your life and opening yourself up to something new—the feelings and connections, the joy and light and knowledge and insight and compassion and understanding. Understanding that we might look different and act different but inside we're pretty much all the same."

ARTICLES

The little girl on the chair is no longer shaking. In a loud and steady voice, she reads a poem about the day her family moved into a new house. When she finishes, the clapping is even louder than before. The little girl beams. Beside her, helping her down from the chair, Shalaski is beaming too, as proud as if she were this girl's own mother.

"I love to walk down the path with a young, eager, brand-new writer," says Shalaski. "Especially after months go by and years go by, and then they come up to the mic and you instinctively know that they own their space; they have firmly planted two feet in front of the mic and they are speaking from a place of ownership and authority. Nothing makes me happier or prouder than to see that happen because maybe something that I demonstrated or encouraged took hold and gave them the nourishment and the push that they needed to spread their wings and fly."

Mentoring others is Shalaski's way of paying forward the help she received. Nancy Powell, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Hollis Pruitt—each of them gave their time, knowledge, and friendship; each of them nurtured Shalaski's talent and fed her passion for the written word. "The generosity and openness and the embracing nature of writers in our local community is remarkable," she says. "Just being amongst them is gratifying and uplifting; it gives me a feeling of unity and belonging. You might be on step one or you might have seven books under your name, but in here we're all the same. And we all lift each other up. Birds of a feather that flock together fly higher."

After the last poet reads, Shalaski returns to the mic to give everyone their "challenge" for next month. She provides these short prompts to kick-start ideas for anyone with writer's block. After Shalaski issues this optional homework assignment, everyone mingles for a little while, the crowd slowly disappearing into the night, everyone returning to their lives enriched for having come here.

"Word4Word has brought a whole different sphere of activity and feelings and connections into my life," Shalaski says. "We're all here for the same reason, to celebrate our histories and share our thoughts and passions through the spoken word. I would be lost without poetry. I would feel a great emptiness without it. It has made every space full. And that's kind of neat. That's the kind of thing that keeps us young. That's the kind of thing that keeps us alive."

Poetry Society of Virginia ♦ Northern Region Report

Mike Maggio, VP

(with contributions by Pat Casey and Sally Zakariya)

Both Harrisonburg and Fredericksburg organized readings recently. The Harrisonburg reading was organized by David Sam and Madalin Bickel and was held at Germana Community College. There were 3 featured readers and 17 open mic readers. The Fredericksburg reading was organized by Linda Ankrah-Dove, featured Donna Isaac, and was held at the Central Branch of Massanutten Regional Library.

Katherine E. Young, a Virginia native and inaugural Poet Laureate of Arlington County, delivered a strong reading on April 27 to a small but receptive audience at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale. Young, who is known for her translations from the Russian, read from her book *Day of the Border Guards*—poems that transport the reader to the countries of the former Soviet Union. The annual Ellen Anderson Memorial Reading remembers a Virginia writer whose estate included a bequest for the Poetry Society of Virginia.

The Fairfax County Poet Laureate Initiative was looked into during February via a dialogue with ArtsFairfax to establish a Poet Laureate position in the county, and Phase 2 of Peace and Identify was held at Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun Campus, in September, including both PSV members and nonmembers. The event was co-sponsored by the League of Reston Artists and included original music.

Also in February, Henry Hart, Poet Laureate of Virginia, read at the ArtSpace Herndon event (*photo to the right*).

On Saturday, May 4, four members of the Poetry Society of Virginia – Northern Region (Cathy Hailey, Steve Bucher, Susan Notar, and Mike Maggio) and members of the League of Reston Artists joined with the Reston Chorale in "Tapestry of Peace and Justice." Thanks to the Reston Chorale for including us and for inviting Mike to narrate the performance.

May poetry readings were held at the following venues: Zed's Café Reader (Reader Naomi Thiers), Café Muse Readings at The Writer's Center (Readers Luther Jett and Nomi Stone with classical guitar by Michael Davis), Readings on the Pike at Josephine's Italian Kitchen (Readers Gregory Luce, Seema Reza, and others), and Reston Readings at Reston's Used Book Shop (Readers Sally Huggins Toner, Colleen Kearney Rich, and Shabnam Curtis, plus open mic with host Nathan Leslie).

Please continue to send me (mikemaggio@mikemaggio.net) your announcements and accomplishments, so I can disseminate them to our members. Thanks to all those who help make our region active and successful and to Sally Zakariya for gathering each month's readings.



photo by Bill Glose

POEMS

ICE STORM

by Emilio Santini

In this crystallizing night
 when millions of moons frozen in the past
 are reflected by every naked bough
 and grey landscapes of winter
 become transparent like glass,
 rainbows of life
 scattered by the low sun,
 I walk in the woods wearing my layers,
 caressing iced twigs,
 slipping hollow icicles from low branches
 and taste the flavour of ice as never before.

The breeze from the South,
 attracted by the spectacle,
 insinuates her breath between branch and trunk
 orchestrating cracklings and pauses
 in a symphony of nature awaiting only
 timpanous thunder of heavy falling limbs.
 It's life's chance I take with pleasure,
 walking in the frozen world.
 Small price in this perfect iced day
 becoming part of the landscape
 when fear turns to belonging,
 death into life, and I, rainbowed over,
 bow to my own divinity.

TROUBLED WATER

by Latorial Faison

In this big, white tub soaking all this brown
 to loud deafening silence.
 Amid all the world's chaos & noise,
 all of Washington's politically complex poise,
 You are still the dream,
 still the hope of America's slave.
 And while this pot is daily stirred,
 while it boils & spills the blood of hope
 --for our future--

Come, wade in this troubled water with me.
 Come clean in the precious blood of our lambs.



YOU BRING YOUR CHANDELIERS

by Farin Powell

When the wind attacks the trees
 the clouds cry
 and the rain slaps the windows
 you call me on the phone,
 and talk to me till my fear disappears.

When my skin starts burning
 and every cell in my body
 dies of thirst,
 you bring me the river
 to kill the fire.

When the stars lose their diamonds,
 the sky turns black
 and I feel like a prisoner
 you carve a window,
 and invite the sun.

When anxiety attacks
 targeting my heart
 and leaves holes
 like the bullets of a machine gun
 you build me a fortress.

When the sparrows stop singing
 The daisies die in my garden
 and I'm searching to find
 the lost with words
 you listen.

When I stop dreaming,
 sitting in my tepee
 waiting for the next melancholia
 and my room gets darker,
 you bring your chandelier.

UNTITLED

by Robyn Greenhouse

Tattered corners, image fades, fingers trace smiles of younger faces
 Grant me one secret power? Strength to rewind time and linger in your love

THE PROPELLER

by Diane Wilbon Parks

My life is a feather, fearful of the weight of your judgement,
 It is that fear, that propels my feather to fly.

LATE

by Marian Shapiro

Coming soon?
 Dead?

UNTITLED

by Jan Bohall

Lost, one fine husband, hugs and laughter;
 Family, friends, step up, restore calm after.

POEMS

HEADING UP

by Katherine Gotthardt

Do we all get
 where we're headed?
 I'd like to believe I do.
 I've held a cold hand or two,
 rubbed a few backs,
 running my fingers, lightly,
 from illness's base
 upwards to where it all ends.
 See, it's a paradox.
 We come out
 top to bottom,
 but mortality begins
 at the foundation,
 works its way up,
 a transient pressure
 behind the eye.
 Feel that explosion of light?
 That's where
 my head is going.
 See you all soon.
 We all will.

HOARDER, WITH ORCHARDS

by Sally Zakariya

He collected newspapers and magazines
 years of them
 bright spines of *National Geographic*
 stacked high like a yellow brick road
 to the sky
 piles and piles of publications carefully
 curated wall by paper wall
 narrow pathways between those walls—
 a tantalizing maze to me at six
 He was my parents' friend
 and later they said he'd gotten worse
 but he seemed fine to me—
 a builder, an excavator creating
 his own topography there in his
 living room
 an archaeologist who could find
 history at the bottom of each mound
 even if he couldn't find a clear space
 for Mother to sit
 But he made room for his orchids—
 lavish flourishes of blossom
 pink to lavender to blue arrayed
 in graceful sprays
 lovingly tended in a big bay window
 row by row, a sort of orchard
 with a generosity of empty space
 between the plants

LIFE GARDEN

by Terry Cox-Joseph

Variegated irises shimmy along slatted fence.
 I lap cup of sky, drink curled blueness,
 sip of whipped cirrus

but selfishly long for July's daylilies,
 yellow and orange laughter in the heat
 just as I long to feel your touch again.

Soil against palms of my hands
 offers a measure of your flesh,
 rich with promise. Grandmother

taught me to oh, so gently, pinch
 the corners of snapdragons
 to make them talk. Yellow maw sings,

pink petal whispers, white warbles.
 Allegro of flesh, jeté of spirit
 come to me, ripe as the green, live earth.

Newsletter Deadline: The deadline for our August newsletter is July 15, but sooner is better.

Please send submissions directly to Janice Hoffman by email: janhoffpoetry@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **PSV Awards Ceremony** will be Saturday, June 1, at 11 a.m.-2:00 p.m., at the Stryker Building, 412 N. Boundary St., Williamsburg, VA 23185. Winners will receive their checks and certificates, and they will read their poems. Also reading will be any 2nd place, 3rd place, and honorable mentions who show up. Even if you're not reading, come and support your fellow poets. Bill Glose has graciously provided a link to the videos of award-winning readers from the past 4 years of ceremonies: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36W-DVRS6vw&index=3&list=PLaYPMBLAyZMG2FmZKuwCiBQBvSSnIUwE>

The **Poetry Society of Virginia** wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to those who contributed generously to this year's **Poetry Festival**, specifically, Paul Verkuil and his wife, Judith Rodin; Anne Willis, in memory of her husband, Prof. John Willis; and the English Department of the College of William and Mary through the support of our own Henry Hart, Poet Laureate of Virginia. We especially want to add our deepest appreciation to Sofia Starnes and Mary Haines, organizers of this event, as well as to Terry-Cox Joseph, who designed the program, nametags, and all printed items; Pia Borsheim and Charles Wilson, who oversaw the registration table; Jenny Loveland, who moderated the panel; student assistant Katie Brownfiel, who aided in sundry ways throughout the event; and all those who volunteered spontaneously with tasks during the Festival. To all of you who helped make this such a wonderful event, thank you!

Aroma's Coffeehouse and **Word4Word Poets** present Open Mic Poetry on every 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. They love, support, and encourage first time readers in this family friendly venue. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome. The event is hosted by Ann Shalaski, Tanya Cunningham-Jones, and J. Scott Wilson at Aroma's Coffeehouse, 706 Town Center Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23606.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont)

Jack Callan and **Judith Stevens** are life members of PSV and sponsor regular poetry venues in the Southeastern Region each year. All include Open Mics.

Monthly: "Fourth Friday Poetry Salon" - 8:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m., located at our home, 2931 Somme Ave, Norfolk, VA 23509. Free. For information, call 757-622-8721. Held every 4th Friday of each month. Homemade soup and poetry! All welcome.

Bi-monthly: "The Fairmount Five Readings," 2931 Somme Ave, Norfolk, VA 23509, Sundays, 1:00-3:30 p.m. Five featured poets read for 20 minutes each, followed by an Open Mic. July 14, September 8, and November 10, 2019. Free. Call 757-622-8721 for information.

Quarterly: "Poetry at the Chrysler Museum of Art," 1 Memorial Place, Norfolk, 23510, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Room 205, The Baroque Gallery. July 18 and October 17 of 2019. For information, call 757-622-8721; Free.

Yearly: The Fourth Annual "Little River Poetry Festival," Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 7-9, 2019. Held in beautiful Floyd, VA, in the Blue Ridge Mountains, this weekend poetry festival includes workshops, readings, and 5 Open Mics featuring PSV and mountain poets. This event also offers poetry excursions, including kayaking down the Little River and hiking up nearby Rocky Knob Mountain, writing ekphrastically. Cost: \$45 for the weekend or \$15 per day. Contact Judith Stevens, 2931 Somme Ave., Norfolk, VA 23509. Call 757-622-8721 for registration information and camping, B & B, hotel and motel accommodations. Primitive camping and meals are available on-site. Music, yoga, and meditation offered daily.

Talya Chapman announces the upcoming poetry events:

- June 11: 25 Mics Spoken Word Poetry Series at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Ctr., 2410 Wickham Dr., Newport News, 7:00 - 9:00 (2nd Tues) Host: Nina Brewton.
- June 15: Cringe: Bad Poems by Great Poets at 631 W 35th St., Norfolk.
- July 12: Living Things: The Great American Poetry Crawl at Book People, 536 Granite Ave #A, Richmond, 5:00 - 7:00 (Readers: Joanna Lee, Roselyn Elliott, and Brendan Walsh).

John Dutton, founder of Spilled Ink, a venue in Northern Virginia for poets to read their work, was recently interviewed in *Prince William Living*. The article can be accessed via this link: <https://princewilliamliving.com/local-writers-take-the-mic-at-spilled-ink-virginia/>

Latorial Faison's "If We Must Still Die" is forthcoming in *Stonecoast Review* and "To Black Fire" will appear in the anthology *The Two Dreamers: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Anne Frank*. Her poem "Mama Was a Negro Spiritual" recently won the Tom Howard/Margaret Reid Poetry Contest sponsored by Winning Writers and co-sponsored by Duotrope. Latorial is also a semi-finalist in the Wheeler Poetry Prize, Ohio State University, 2019. In addition, her latest book, *Mother to Son: Poems*, was a semi-finalist for the 2018 Winning Writers' North Street Book Prize; a finalist for the Richard Peterson Poetry Prize, Southern Illinois University, 2018; and a finalist for the Furious Flower Poetry Prize, James Madison University, March 2018.

Mike Maggio, VP of Northern Virginia for PSV and editor of *Potomac Review*, hosted 30 for 30 Poetry Celebration of National Poetry Month in April. See 2019 original poems at <https://mikemaggio@mikemaggio.net>). Some appear in this issue.

Joan Mazza has an excerpt of her memoir-in-progress published at *Streetlight Magazine*, with thanks to editor Susan Shafarzek. <https://streetlightmag.com/2019/03/22/early-responders-by-joan-mazza-essay-memoir-winter-2018/>

Beth Spragins had the following poems published in the April 2019 edition of *Adelaide Literary Magazine*: "Granite," "Jewels," "Shooting Star," "Mourning Band," and "Avalanche."

Sally Zakariya's poem "Black Hole" is published in *The New Verse News*, and her poem "Blue Ridge, November" appears in *Parks and Points*.

About Your Newsletter ~ from your editor

Thanks for such a great response! Do continue to 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. Since we have so many wonderful people from various backgrounds all across beautiful Virginia, please keep your submissions family friendly and apolitical. When you do send work, remember to include a brief bio for the contributors' page, so we can all get to know each other a bit better.

You will be receiving your newsletters on even-numbered months this year (Aug., Oct., and Dec.), so submissions should be sent to janhoffpoetry@gmail.com no later than the 15th of the odd-numbered months (July, Sept., and Nov.)—earlier than that would be even better! Terry and Mike have submitted their regions' reports so far, so we'd love to hear from the other regions, as well. Send your reports and encourage members in your area to send their work.

Please note that the Board has asked that as many members as possible elect to receive their newsletters electronically over the print option. This choice will provide PSV substantial financial savings, especially over the course of each year.

Finally, I hope I haven't left anyone's work or announcements out for this issue, but if you find an error or an omission, please contact me right away, so I can make the correction in a future issue. My goal is to serve you with excellence.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jan Bohall co-leads the Poetry Workshop at Osher Lifelong Learning at George Mason University in Fairfax. Her poems appear in *Passager*, *Poet's Domain*, *Write On!!*, and other periodicals and have won awards in the Poetry Society of Virginia contests. She recently published her first chapbook, *Tasting Life Twice*. Her untitled poem was included in this year's 30 for 30 Poetry Celebration of National Poetry Month.

Terry Cox-Joseph is the Eastern Regional VP of PSV and a former newspaper reporter and editor. From 1994-2004 she was coordinator for the Christopher Newport University Writers' Conference and Contest. An award-winning poet, she has been published in *Northern Virginia Review* and *Chiron Review*, among others. Her first poetry chapbook, *Between Then and Now*, was recently published by Finishing Line Press. She has a BFA in illustration from Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Latorial Faison teaches at Virginia State University and currently is working on a doctoral degree. She is a military wife and mother of three sons who returned to the South Richmond area in 2017 and became a life member of PSV. In spite of her busy life, she is still writing poetry and presenting poetry in her local community. "Troubled Water" first appeared in *#BlackPoetsSpeakOut* (2014) under its former title "Black Friday" and is included in her most recent book, *Mother to Son: Poems* (Cross Keys Press, 2017).

Bill Glose was named the *Daily Press* Poet Laureate in 2011 and featured by NPR on The Writer's Almanac in 2017. His work appears in 4 collections—*The Human Touch*, *Half a Man*, *Personal Geography*, and *Virginia Walkabout*—as well as in numerous journals, including *The Missouri Review*, *Rattle*, *Narrative Magazine*, and *The Sun*. Bill is one of the most active members of PSV and can be seen all around the state supporting poets and documenting their work by taking photos and posting them online. For more information, go to BillGlose.com.

Katherine Gotthardt is a poetry and prose writer who values word economy, symbolism, and wordplay. Her sixth book, a poetry collection entitled *Late April*, was released April of this year. When she is not writing poetry, Katherine serves as a digital marketing specialist for an IT company, Editor in Chief for *Prince William Living* magazine, and President of Write by the Rails, the Prince William Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club. "Heading Up" is one of her more recent poems. For more information, go to www.KatherineGotthardt.com.

Robyn Greenhouse has worked many jobs, but her favorite has been raising her sons with her husband. Writing helps her to express the words that are trapped inside. Her untitled poem was included in this year's 30 for 30 Poetry Celebration of National Poetry Month.

Diane Wilbon Parks is a poet, visual artist, and author. Her most recent collection is *The Wisdom of Blue Apples*. She has read for Grace Cavalieri's "The Poet and The Poem" at the Library of Congress, holds a degree in Information Systems Management, and is a U. S. Air Force Veteran. "The Propeller" was included in this year's 30 for 30 Poetry Celebration of National Poetry Month.

Farin Powell is a lifelong member of PSV and has published many legal publications and short stories; her poems appear in various literary magazines and poetry anthologies. She is the author of the book of poetry *A Piece of Heaven* and the novels *Two Weddings*, *Roxana's Revolution* and *The Judge*. "You Bring Your Chandeliers" is included in her forthcoming second book of poetry. She may be contacted via www.farinpowell.com, www.farinpowellbooks.com, Amazon.com *The Judge*, Farin Powell page, and her Twitter account @farinpowell.

Emilio Santini was born in Italy and attended university there where he studied literature. He moved here 34 years ago and has been a craftsman and artist by profession, but he has always written short notes, fragments, and observations. Now, he dedicates his days to revisiting the old fragments. Poetry is one of the ways he expresses himself. He lives in Blacksburg with his wife where "Ice Storm" was included as a part of the Moss Art Center's show about trees.

Marian Kaplun Shapiro, at the edge of 80, is now experimenting with new visual forms of poetry, intending to put together a new chapbook this year. She continues her practice as a psychologist in Lexington, Massachusetts. The author of a professional book and articles and chapters in that field, specializing in the treatment of trauma, she has one poetry book, two chapbooks, and over 400 published poems. Her poem "Late" appears in this year's 30 in 30 offering, with which she has been involved since its onset.

Sally Zakariya's "Hoarder, with Orchards" appears in her most recent publication, *The Unknowable Mystery of Other People* (Poetry Box, 2019). She is also the author of *Personal Astronomy*, *When You Escape*, *Insectomania*, and *Arithmetic* and other verses. She also edits the poetry anthology *Joys of the Table*.

POETRY VIRGINIA

1709 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24501

PSV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ADVISORY BOARD 2019-2020

President of the PSV	Jeff Hewitt	j.hewitt@me.com
President Pro Tempore	Derek Kannemeyer	
Southeast Regional VP	Eddie Dowe	melned1@verizon.net
Northern Regional VP	Mike Maggio	mikemaggio@mikemaggio.net
Central Regional VP	Gail Giewont	gail.giewont@gmail.com
Eastern Regional VP	Terry Cox-Joseph	
Treasurer	Talya Chatman	tchatman4@cox.net

Executive Directors

Luisa Igloria	Luisa.Igloria61@gmail.com
Ann Shalaski	ashalaski@msn.com
Henry Hart	hwhart@wm.edu
Sofia Starnes	smstarnes@cox.net
Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda	cforonda@va.metrocast.net
Anna Evas	annaevashello@gmail.com

Archivist	Dr.Melissa Johnson	mcjohnson@vcu.edu
Adult Contest Chair	Jeff Hewitt	j.hewitt@me.com
Membership	Charles Wilson	charleswilsonjr33@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Janice Hoffman	janhoffpoetry@gmail.com
Nominating Chair	Charles Wilson	charleswilsonjr33@gmail.com
Chair for Poet Laureate	TBA 2020	
Development Chair	Sally Zakariya	sally.zakariya@gmail.com
	Pia Borsheim	pia.borsheim@gallaudet.edu
Out-of-State Coordinator	Linda Nottingham	nottlinda@aol.com
Parliamentarian	M.J. Kledzik	kledzikmj@gmail.com
Poetry in the School	Cathy Hailey	haileycp@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Pat Casey	pat.kayc@gmail.com
Student Contest Chair	Trilla Ramage	trilla17@verizon.net
Social Media Coordinator	David Anthony Sam	davidanthonyam@gmail.com
Web Designer	Jeffery Hewitt	j.hewitt@me.com

Communications	David Anthony Sam	davidanthonyam@gmail.com
Festival Chair	Sophia Starnes	smstarnes@cox.net
Finance Committee Chair	Otis Douglas	otisdouglas@hotmail.com
Book Award Chair	Nancy Powell	nancyp1734@aol.com
Virginia Chair/Editor	Tom Williams	blogferatu119@gmail.com
Saturday Series contact	Bill Glose	billglose@cox.net

Literary Advisory Board

June Forte	home1270@msn.com
Ron Smith	smithjron@aol.com
Ken Sutton	thebinkerman@aol.com
Tom Williams	blogferatu119@gmail.com
Pia Borsheim	pia.borsheim@gallaudet.edu
Sally Zakariya	sally.zakariya@gmail.com

