



June 2020



The Desert Voice

A quarterly publication of Arizona State Poetry Society

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The Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS) organized in 1965, holds regular Board meetings, supports regional branches in Arizona, and publishes the *Sandcutters* anthology annually.

<https://azpoetry.webs.com/>

Membership

Annual membership dues: \$25

Membership includes the quarterly newsletter, *The Desert Voice*, the annual anthology, *Sandcutters*, monthly and annual contests, membership in the NFSPS, and their annual publication, *Strophes*. Branch dues vary from \$5-10 and are in addition to ASPS dues.

Mail dues to:

ASPS Treasurer Bill Brown
1550 N. Stapley #129
Mesa AZ 85203

Branches

East Valley Poets (EVP) in Tempe
Scottsdale Mustang Poets (SMP)
Tucson Poetry Society (TPS)
West Valley Poets (WVP)

Strophes Newsletter

All members should have received the quarterly NFSPS *Strophes Newsletter* recently. Beginning with the next quarterly newsletter, **ONLY ASPS members with NO email will receive it via USPS; all others will receive it via email, and it will also be posted to our ASPS website. This will save ASPS postage and will also be friendly to our fragile environment.**

Next ASPS Board Meeting

Sunday, July 12, 2020

2:00 p.m. via Zoom

If you have items you would like discussed by the Board, please send them to president Christy White by June 30, 2020.

ASPS Dues Payments

NOTE: We are experiencing difficulties with some internet providers allowing checkout from the website Webstore. If you experience difficulty checking out from your shopping cart, you will need to use **ONLY** your data plan on your phone or handheld devices that are attached to your cellphone plan. Go to Settings > WiFi and turn off WiFi. Once done, on your phone or handheld device, go to the Webstore and try paying your dues again. Contact your internet provider and let them know this is happening.

CHRISTY'S CORNER

Poetry collage

I know it can be hard to write in the best of times, so how we have each experienced our time of contemplation might have shown up as anxiety, fear, loneliness, anger, cabin fever; all internal experiences that can push us to write or defenestrate (meaning to throw our computers and papers out a window). Or perhaps you wanted to write, but couldn't seem to contain all your feelings, your observations, and the events outside of your control. I came to that point in late March, but I was invited to join a Zoom poetry workshop that gave me a chance to interact with poets from across the US and a couple in India.

Finding a workshop through the internet has proven to give my poetry fresh ideas for more poems and more energy for editing. It gives me goals and prompts, and some new friends that keep me going back -- twice a week! I'm hoping it continues past this time of isolation from my local poetry community.

One idea I came across for writing a poem was called by the poet a "poetry collage". She used the messages from her deceased father's phone service to create a jumbled poem, and that helped her distinguish the points of grief she was feeling. And we are all feeling a bit of grief. We've lost people, a way of life, some of us a job, and more. I suggest you take the collection of your experiences, the collection of your thoughts and feelings, and write them out in a series of single lines. Then collage them together with a news story, or an event. Yes, it might be a mess, but it might be something wonderful. It might be something we can all relate to.

As we start to integrate with our worlds, we will be different because we have been changed. Let's create the poetry that takes us across these troubled waters. Be safe, be well!

Christy

SANDCUTTERS Monthly Contests

Entries to the Sandcutters' Monthly Contest are due by the 5th of each month. Category I is Traditional Form, Category II is Free Verse and Category III is topical:

July: Forgetting

August: Hope

September: Stranger

Send all entries to Rhonda Brown (preferably electronic) or via US Mail to:

Rhonda Brown
1550 N Stapley Dr #129
Mesa AZ 85204-3705
rbpoetmonk@gmail.com

The Desert Voice is published quarterly (March, June, September, December) by the Arizona State Poetry Society for its members. Please send articles, suggestions, comments or questions to the Newsletter Editor, **Kris Perry** at

krisperry5019@gmail.com

ASPS Board

2020 Board

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c.christy.w.16@gmail.com
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CANCELLED EVENT

National Federation of State Poetry Societies

“Power of Words Conference”

October 30 - November 1, 2020, in Santa Fe, New Mexico

We hope to see many at the 2021 Conference!

COVID-19 Social Distancing

We live in interesting times and there are a lot of us that have found creative ways to be in community during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Just because many of us are cloistered throughout most of this pandemic, that does not mean we have to be without outlets. See pages 7-8 for live poetry readings, workshops, and quasi-conferences.

Eavan Boland

9/24/1944 - 4/27/2020



The poetry world is a little less bright these days since the passing of Eavan Boland from a stroke. She redefined Irish poets from a woman's view, and was a voice for all women in her poetry and her teaching career.

I had the pleasure of meeting her at the Tucson Poetry Festival in 1997 and she inspired me to begin defining myself as a poet. I found her to be articulate, generous and passionate.

She won a number of prestigious awards, including the Bob Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award at the Bord Gais Energy Irish Book Awards, and was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. There is a long list of her published works that I encourage you to explore for their range and their craft.

Ireland has lost one of their best poets of modern times, and we have lost a champion. She leaves behind her husband and two children, as well as many friends the world over.

Christy White, President

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/eavan-boland>

Calls for Submissions

This ongoing column highlights a few journals/literary magazines that are seeking poetry submissions. Be sure to check the website of the named journal to make sure your poetry submissions meet their requirements, aesthetic and limitations before submitting.

Lily Poetry Review

lilypoetryreview.blog

Print journal issued twice yearly; no fee; send up to five poems.

Gyroscope Review

www.gyroscopecoreview.com

Quarterly print and online journal; no fee; rolling deadlines; send up to four poems.

Muddy River Poetry Review

Muddyriverpoetryreview.com

Online journal published twice yearly; no fee; send up to three poems.



ASPS New Members

Lori Bonati
Hahn Chau
Linda Hatch
Carol Hogan
Mary Hoover
Glenda Jones
Jean Luce
Ellen Murray
Susan Oyler
Juliet Rains
Nan Rubin
Jean Stumpf
David VanHouten

We currently have 92 active members. If you know a friend, neighbor or family members who would like to join, please direct them to our website.

Monthly Contest Winners

March 2020

Category I: Traditional Form

David Boyce: *"Feel the Burn"*

Rhonda Brown: *"ERADICATE"*

Category II: Free Verse

Rhonda Brown: *"Moving On"*

Charles Firmage: *"There's No Place Like Home"*

Jane Stuart: *"Historic Wind"*

Eva Willis: *"Zermatt"*

Category III: Yesteryears

Charles Firmage: *"She Learned Heartache"*

Annette Gagliardi: *"A Felony"*

Jane Stuart:
"Our Boat Sails to Eternity"

April 2020

Category I: Traditional Form

Gail Denham: *"April Fool Logic"*

Category II: Free Verse

Stuart Watkins:

"You Know of Whom I Speak"

Eva Willis:

"Impeccable Planning"

Category III: Truth Be Told

David Boyce: *"Until God"*

Gail Denham:

"Teacher's Farewell to School Year"

Janice Fuller:

"Sentries at our Door"

Annette Gagliardi: *"Sentencing"*

Mariana Warner:

"Farewell to Ted (1931-2006)"

Eva Willis: *"Denial"*



MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each quarter we highlight writing accomplishments of ASPS members. If you have a poem that has been accepted by a journal/literary magazine, a recently-received award for poetry (other than ASPS monthly contests), publication of a chapbook or collection of poetry, or some other writing recognition, send it to newsletter editor, Kris Perry, at krisperry5019@gmail.com for consideration for this column. This quarter we highlight the following ASPS poets:

Janet Rives

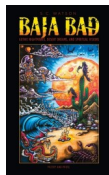
Janet had three poems published in "The Blue Guitar", an Arizona-based online journal.

http://www.theblueguitarmagazine.org/resources/Blue+Guitar+Spring+2020_Enjoy.pdf

Gene Twaronite

Gene's new poem "Hopper's People" was just published in the online literary journal *Hawaii Pacific Review*. You can read it here <https://thetwaronitezone.com/?p=2248>

Steve Watson



Steve's new book of original poetry, *Baja Bad*, is now available for purchase on Amazon.com. He also mentions his affiliation with ASPS in the About the Author section at the end of the book.

ASPS ANNUAL CONTEST

This past April, ASPS posted the ANNUAL CONTEST Guidelines on our website, encouraging all poets around the world to enter our contest. If you haven't already done so, please check out the various categories on our website at <https://azpoetry.webs.com/> and send in your entries by September 30, 2020 to Christy White. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

Craft Talk

This ongoing column provides tips and information about the craft of writing poetry. In this new series, we are sharing the **Top 10 Tips for Poetry Submissions** from Alan Perry - Senior Poetry Editor, *Typehouse Literary Magazine*.

Research

Research is an essential step to better understand where to submit your poetry for the best chance of acceptance. It's impossible to over-emphasize this point. Just because you have poems that you think are polished and ready for submission, it does not mean that the subject, style, aesthetic, etc. will fit a given journal or lit mag. As virtually every journal recommends, you should review content from previous issues of a given journal before deciding if it is the right place for your work. This is easy when the journal publishes on line or they publish samples on line. It is more difficult when the journal is a print-only lit mag and requires you to buy a copy to re-view previously-accepted work.

There are at least two major research tools available to you:

Poets & Writers: This is an easy-to-use on line tool for all writers. One of its key features is to provide valuable information about the lit mags to which you want to submit. For instance, you can search under "poetry" to find hundreds of journals with useful information, including what types of submissions they accept, their reading periods, format (electronic or print), a summary description of the journal, and other details.

Duotrope: This on line tool is a very robust one that provides all the features of Poets & Writers, but goes well beyond it. In addition to detailed research information, it provides average time to receive a response, percentages of acceptance and rejection, and a listing of other journals to which poets have submitted their work. The submission tracker feature of Duotrope is easy to use, well-organized and detailed, and can be a valuable record/inventory/history of all your submissions. It costs \$50 per year, but is well worth it if you are serious about submitting your work regularly.

Next Quarter: Prioritize

A Member Poem

This ongoing column features a winning poem from an ASPS member who recently won an ASPS Monthly Contest.

Sentries at our Door

By Janice Fuller

The cardinals are watching
as we gather pieces of our life
in this house. The scarlet escorts follow me
through a neighborhood
which will never but forever
be mine.

They call to us at dawn and dusk
to pay attention to the day,
the moment, the trivial,
the essence of what we give up,
what we keep.

We take belongings packed away
for 30 years: baby clothes, dated but loved;
grandmother's knick-knacks, never used;
souvenirs of not forgotten trips.
Objects that ignore us in their uselessness
yet stalk us with their presence.

The birds choose twigs, string, stray feathers –
piece together a nesting spot, clinging to luck.
The female, dusky red and on her guard,
nests one last time on the front porch fern,
a lookout at the Tower of Tomorrow.



Volunteers Needed

As a volunteer organization, ASPS is always seeking individuals who can give of their time and expertise to help our non-profit organization grow and flourish.

Currently we are in need of volunteers to help in the areas listed below. As the adage goes, “many hands make light work.” If you are able to help in any way, please contact either Christy White or Kris Perry to learn more about the positions listed below.

We need support helpers as well, especially when hosting annual conferences and ASPS gatherings.

Please consider offering your time and talents to our organization!

Historian shall be responsible for maintaining a cumulative log of ASPS activities as well as files of Sandcutters, Newsletters and duplicates of minutes.

Marketing Director shall be responsible for marketing ASPS state-wide.

Membership Chair shall actively seek new members, handle membership applications and assist formation of new chapters.



ASPS April 5, 2020 Board Meeting Highlights

ASPS established an “Outreach Coordinator” position reporting to President Christy White. This person will make wide ranging contacts throughout Arizona and, when allowed, make in-person visits to poetry groups/associations, colleges, schools, etc. The purpose is to promote the mission of ASPS, expand awareness of ASPS and its benefits, and potentially increase membership. Christy will contact Carol Hogan (former ASPS President) who expressed interest in the position, and if she’s still interested, appoint her to the position for a trial period of one year. ASPS would reimburse actual miles driven at the IRS rate of \$.58/mile.

To reduce expenses, ASPS plans to send Strophes (the national NFSPS newsletter) to members via email. Members without email would still receive Strophes by US Mail.

ASPS members will begin seeing more communications and emphasis on renewing annual ASPS membership later in 2020 for 2021. Also, eligibility for contest submissions and newsletter communications will be more closely monitored.

Due to the possible resurgence of COVID-19 later this year, the next ASPS conference is tentatively scheduled for January, 2020 in Tucson.

ASPS will again sponsor a category in the 2020 NFSPS contest. ASPS will increase its prize awards from \$75-\$30-\$20 to \$100-\$50-\$25 to help increase the number of submitters.

ASPS is holding meetings and poetry critique sessions via video conferencing. ASPS will look into getting a Zoom account for Branch leaders to conduct future meetings.

ASPS will conduct a special COVID-19 Poetry Contest. The contest will open in April and conclude on May 15. Prize awards will be \$25-\$15-\$5 and the contest is open only to ASPS members. More details will be announced in a special email/flyer.

Retroactive to January 1, 2020, poets who win a monthly or annual ASPS contest will have the option of having their poem(s) withheld from being published in the 2020 Sandcutters. This is meant to encourage more members and more poems submitted to ASPS’ contests.

BRANCH NEWS

Due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing Policy, the four active Branches of ASPS are finding new and creative ways to meet and stay in touch, including Zoom meetings. This will likely remain in place throughout the summer, so check the website or the next newsletter in September to see if Branches resume their usual meeting times and places. When the Branches do resume meetings in their previous locations, consider wearing face masks until we know COVID-19 has truly passed. Be safe and healthy everyone!

EAST VALLEY POETS (EVP)

<https://eastvalleypoets.webs.com/>

Host, Jim Platt
evpoets@yahoo.com
602-826-2803

The East Valley Poets branch meets the third Saturday of the month from 9:30am—noon for a short program and poetry readings. During COVID-19, they have met via Zoom and will continue to do so through June, with hopes of resuming their in-person meetings at the Pyle Center in July. Contact Jim Platt to participate in Zoom and/or to learn about when in-person meetings will resume.

SCOTTSDALE MUSTANG POETS (SMP)

Host, Christy White
C.christy.w.16@gmail.com
480-677-0000

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mustangs will meet via Zoom throughout the summer, since we do not know when the Library will re-open. SMP branch meets the second Monday of each month from 6:00-7:45pm for reading poetry with gentle critiquing. If you wish to participate in the Zoom meeting, contact Christy at the email address above to receive an invitation.

WEST VALLEY POETS—(WVP)

President, Walter Ralston
freeformverse@gmail.com
623-584-3952

WVP branch meets the first Saturday of the month beginning at 9:00am for open reading member presentations, round robins and other surprises. Contact president, Walter Ralston, for specific information on how your Branch hopes to remain in contact during the COVID-19 pandemic.

POETRY READINGS

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, most, if not all, Poetry Readings throughout Arizona have been cancelled.

Hello hermit poets!

It's been quite a month. I don't know about you, but I've found plenty of poetry readings, conferences, and workshops to keep my pen pressed to the page. I'm a member of a Zoom poetry workshop that meets Sunday and Wednesday evenings that has members from Mumbai, (yes, THAT Mumbai) to Georgia, Oregon, Minnesota, and here in Arizona. Sunday mornings I attended talks by David Whyte and one Saturday all day I went to a free poetry conference held in Nevada County, California! Phoenix Poetry Series had an interesting month using Zoom with up to 50 people online, too. I hope you found some poetry to hear or read that inspired you to write!

On our website you will see some monthly events that have surfaced on Zoom where you can share your poetry or hear poetry. There are other online events, too, such as book signings and book fairs, where you can e-chat with authors and buy books. Hopefully, you have been writing, so I listed a few places that may be looking and paying (or not) for your work.

Arizona Commission for the Arts' Emergency Relief Grants for Arizona Artists and Arts Professionals was overwhelmed by more than 500 applications in eight hours! To those who received a grant, congratulations. I know our arts community has been hit hard by these unusual times, so those who did not receive a grant this time, keep looking, keep submitting.

POETRY READINGS

Continued from page 7

Don't forget to visit <https://www.newpages.com/independent-bookstores/arizona-bookstores> to find independent bookstores around Arizona. If you don't see your favorite bookstore listed, let them know!

As always, if you hear of something poetry going on, especially if it is by Zoom, share on the Arizona State Poetry Society's Facebook page!

Be safe, be healthy, be creative.

Metaphors be with you!

Christy White

Check out our website for additional poetry opportunities at:

<https://azpoetry.webs.com/>

TUCSON POETRY SOCIETY (TPS)

Due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing Policy, the Tucson chapter has been using technology to stay in touch with poetry and each other. Member Alan Perry graciously allowed us to use his Zoom account for virtual meetings during our regular meeting time. In addition, members share their poems for critique by email. We've been sharing inspirational works with each other. We will return to the public library for our monthly meetings when allowed.

President, Elaine Powers
iginspired@gmail.com
520-204-2991

When we are able to resume in-person meeting, the TPS branch meets the second Saturday of the month beginning at 10:00am to read and constructively critique each other's work, allowing diverse voices to be heard and appreciated. We laugh, we shout, we sing, and most importantly, we listen. All are welcome at:

Valdez Main Library
101 N. Stone Avenue
Tucson AZ 85701

Dues are \$5/year.



Desert Tracks: Poems from the Sonoran Desert offers readers an anthology of diverse poems written by 23 poets of the Tucson Poetry Society. Copies are available for sale by contacting president, Elaine Powers.

Janice Fuller is looking for a small poetry critique group. Interested? Contact janfuller5@comcast.net