



December 2019



The Desert Voice

A quarterly publication of Arizona State Poetry Society

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A New Look

Welcome to the new look of *The Desert Voice*! We've reordered a few columns and tried to place the most interesting and urgent items earlier in the newsletter. In addition, we've updated the color and aesthetic of the newsletter for your reading pleasure. We hope you enjoy it!



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, and membership in the NFSPS and their annual publication, *Strophes*. Branch dues vary from \$5-10 and are in addition to ASPS dues.

Mail fees to:

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

Chapters

East Valley Poets (EVP) in Tempe
Scottsdale Mustang Poets (SMP)
Sun City Area Poetry Society (SCAPS)
Tucson Poetry Society (TPS)

Monthly Contests Resume

It's time to submit your entries for the January ASPS contest by January 5. Category III topic for January is: **Puzzles**. **Please remember to list the category on each poem!**

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

See page 9 for a complete list of contest guidelines and monthly topics.

2020 ASPS Dues

It is time to send in your 2020 annual dues for ASPS and for the Chapter in which you participate. ASPS dues are \$25. Chapter dues amount vary so check with your Chapter president for exact amount. You can submit the total payment of both dues by:

- visiting our website at <https://azpoetry.webs.com/>; or
- send a check directly to our Treasurer, Bill Brown (see address to left); or
- send a check directly to your Chapter president.

CHRISTY'S CORNER

ASPS President's Message

The holidays are a great time to share your poetry with your family. It doesn't have to be holiday themed, but letting your family know how much you appreciate poetry, and that you write poetry, may be a wonderful gift to them.

All events, especially the small ones, can provide inspiration for poems. Both my father and my mother loved poetry. My father enjoyed reading Robert W. Service, and my mother read Lawrence Ferlinghetti's poetry while she was pregnant with me. So it seems I couldn't be anything but a poet! This year, 14 1/2 years after my mother passed away, my father passed way in May. Their love and support of me as a writer and a poet was always important to me. Now I share my poetry with my brothers and sister. I write about my family often, both the sweet and the bittersweet end up on the page.

My mother was active in ASPS when I first joined in the 90's. She was president of the Glendale and Phoenix branches, and was president of the State Society for a couple of years. She wrote cinquians, a form I have yet to grasp! I was lucky enough to know some of the poets that have sustained ASPS through the years through her, and I am lucky enough to have a small group who are now guiding and sustaining ASPS, and ME, through these times. I am grateful for all that have stepped up and all the members who continue to be a part of our Society.

A reminder that 2020 dues are due by January 10th so we can pay our state dues to NFSPS, then you can enter the 2020 NFSPS contests! And, as always, if you can give a little time and energy to our group, I would dearly welcome the help.

Thank you for a wonderful year...we ARE growing little by little!

SANDCUTTERS

Sandcutters 2019 is another beautiful book!

Member copies will be going in the mail in the next two weeks. If anyone wishes to purchase extra copies for \$9.00 each plus shipping, the book will be available for purchase on the website. Copies can be ordered from there and since it is print on demand, they will go directly to any address.

Check out the website at: <https://azpoetry.webs.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
480-677-0000

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623-584-3952

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alanperry@comcast.net

ASPS Fall Conference Highlights

The Fall 2019 Conference was held at the Pyle Recreation Center in Tempe on Saturday, November 23rd with 20 attendees, both members and non-members.

Theme poems for the Poetry & Music conference were announced and read by their winners. First place, Linda Rittenhouse; second place, artiste-te; and third place, Eva Willis. The morning's presenter, Tanner Menard, talked about their musical and poetry collaborations, their process in the creation of poetry, and the rituals they use to break out of old writing habits. They also spoke about being a Native American/Arcadian from Louisiana, and how identifying as a non-binary person has entered into their work. Afterwards, there was a poetry workshop using various forms of music to inspire the participants' writing.

A light lunch was shared during the open reading. The annual contest winners were announced and the first, second and third place winning poems were read with help from artiste-te and Alfred Fournier. Of special note was the youth category which garnered 54 submissions, 30 from a class at Sunnyside High School in Tucson. The day ended with the announcement of the 2020 Officers.

Thank you to all the volunteers: Linda Rittenhouse who supplied the excellent coffee; Eva Willis on registration; Denise DeVries who ran the open reading; Jim Platt, Howard Gershkowitz, Bill Brown and artiste-te on setup; and Jim Platt, artiste-te, Bill Brown and Linda Rittenhouse on resetting the room at the end of the day.

Desert Nights, Rising Stars Literary Fair

February 22, 2020

10:00a—5:00p

Arizona State University

ASPS has reserved a table at the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Literary Fair in conjunction with the annual Conference on Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at Arizona State University.

A few members have said they can help, but we need more! If we have enough members coming, we will hold a reading from Sandcutters 2019. Our space will be large enough for ASPS member books to be on display and for sale, as well. At this time, exhibitors can purchase discounted tickets for the weekend conference.

If anyone is interested, please contact Christy White as soon as possible!

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.

Zingara Poetry Review

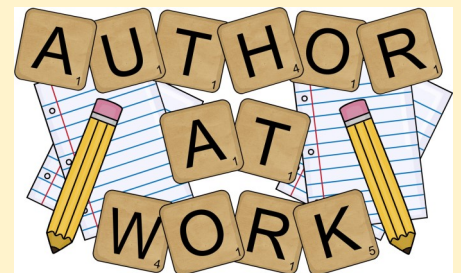
- Online journal
- No fee
- Up to three poems
- Maximum 40 lines each
- Year-round submissions
- Monthly themes/submitter requirements

South 85 Journal

- Online journal
- Two issues per year
- Open February 1—May 1, 2020

Capable

Michelle Hoppe is launching the new literary magazine, *Capable*, which aims to help universities teach disability and illness through an arts lens. She is seeking exceptional work and recommends sending two poems and up to 3,000 words of prose to her at michellehipopp@gmail.com. There are currently no submission fees.



Monthly Contest Winners

August 2019

Category I: Traditional Form

Tia Ballantine:

Documentary Evidence of Yesterday

Janet Rives: *Haiku*

Jane Stuart: *Summer Evening*

Category II: Free Verse

Gail Denham:

Action...for William Stafford

Charles Firmage: *Fake News*

Janet Rives: *Shattered*

Category III: Yesteryears

Tia Ballantine:

Donner Party Revisited

Annette Gagliardi: *My Hand in His*

Janet Rives: *Warmed*

September 2019

Category I: Traditional Form

Tia Ballantine: *Backlit*

Mark Hudson:

Ashley and the Worm

Jane Stuart: *Finding Thon*

Category II: Free Verse

Gail Denham: *The View From Here*

Charles Firmage: *Throwing Rice*

Annette Gagliardi: *Old Hotel*

Category III: Truth Be Told

Sharon Browning: *We Hold These Truths to Be Self-Evident*

Brooklyn Sabine: *Dreams*

Jane Stuart: *What is the Wind?*

Without a Summer Day

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each quarter we highlight some 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:

Sandra Luber: *Better Than Starbucks Poetry Journal* has published Sandra's poem, "Joyous Reclamation," during the months of November and December and will appear here:

<https://www.betterthanstarbucks.org/poetry-free-verse>

Alan Perry: Alan's debut chapbook, *Clerk of the Dead*, will be published in early 2020 by Main Street Rag Publishing Company (www.mainstreetrag.com). A preview of the book may be found on the publisher's website in the Bookstore, under Coming Soon.

Alan also had a poem included in the current issue of *Tahoma Literary Review*, "A Quiet Occurrence," which is an elegy to the poet Mary Oliver.

Gene Twaronite: Three of his newest poems have just been published in the online literary magazine *The RavensPerch*. Read them at: <https://www.theravensperch.com/mortal-danger-by-gene-twaronite/>

We hope to hear from YOU next quarter!

ASPS NEW MEMBERS!

John Danbury, Phoenix

Georgia Dillard, Tempe (former member)

Alfred Fournier, Phoenix

Kathy Kramer-Howe, Paradise Valley

Linda Rittenhouse, Scottsdale

Brookline Sabine, Scottsdale

Michelle Simon, Scottsdale (former member)

Welcome

Featured Poems

Haikus From 2019 Sandcutters Annual Contest

Celestial Courtship

by Von S. Bourland

The moon
blushed bright rose-peach
tonight – caught with unshaved
cheeks – to hover in romantic
orbit.

New Car

by Gail Denham

Love this
new car of mine.
Tonight I'll sleep in it,
soak up leather smell, clutch the key,
feel proud

Fishers

by Sara Gipson

fishers
long bills, broad wings
swooping, searching, snatching
harvest lakes like trawling dragnets.
egrets

Craft Talk

This ongoing column provides tips and information about the craft of writing poetry. In this edition, we are serializing an article from a workshop presented by Tucson Poetry Society member Frank Iosue on the subject of “Revising Poetry – Poetic Creation, Criticism and Revision.”

Criticism from others, opinions you trust (or even disagree with), can, and often do, help. But, only to the degree to which you allow, or to which you are uncertain about the clarity of your own mind with regard to your creative processes, or your attachment to your work. Ultimately, the only authority is you until the poem is complete. When it's complete, all authority rests with the poem.

The hardest criticism is self-criticism. The more open you are to it, the greater the benefit to your creative process and the completed work.

The purpose of applying values and standards of discrimination, and the cultivation of a rigorous self-criticism, is to help the poet better calibrate his/her unique sensibility...in order to make ever more essential and precise assumptions, and presumptions, about the evolutionary requirements of each poem...and to elevate and intensify the quality of his/her capacity to recognize which linguistic and stylistic elements appropriately “demand” inclusion in the poem...and which best serve the poem, and the process, by their exclusion.

Best Wishes

Please send best wishes and positive thoughts to the following who have faced health concerns in the last few months, for quick and total recovery:

Tia Ballantine
Bill and Rhonda Brown
John Dell
Linda Franza

Member Updates

An update on the auto accident of John Dell and Linda Franza October 4, 2019:

John Dell has been in the hospital and rehabilitation centers in Flagstaff and Phoenix for the last couple of months. He has now been moved to a Skilled Nursing Facility in the Phoenix area, where he will remain indefinitely. If you would like to contact him in the future, you are welcome to send his daughter, Diana Tacey, an email at taceyinmesa@msn.com or call or text to her cell phone at (480) 223-3104. He can speak to friends by phone when she is there visiting him and can call you directly and you can speak with him for a few minutes.

Linda Franza is currently undergoing extensive in-patient therapy, and the good news is that she's starting to experience more movement, and making slow, but steady, progress. If she is able to return to Tucson by Thanksgiving, she will remain in outpatient therapy.



POETRY READINGS

The following is a sampling of places to read and/or listen to poetry in Arizona. To learn more, sign up for the monthly Poetry Missive at:

AZPoetryorg@gmail.com

BISBEE, The Bisbee Normalization Project @ The Letson Studios, 24 Main St., 7 pm. Open mic with feature hosted by artist/poet Ken Boe. This will be livestreamed on Bisbeens N Rice YouTube. A 3rd Thursday event.

FLAGSTAFF, MONDAYS, Narrow Chimney Poetry Reading Series @ Uptown Pubhouse, 114 N. Leroux St., 7 PM. Featured poets and maybe an open reading.

GREEN VALLEY

Tia Ballantine Poets' Corner, a public library sponsored program, gathers in Green Valley for two hours twice a month at the Joyner Green Valley Library to share poems with one another as they snack on apple slices with lemon (and sometimes cookies). They are a relaxed, diverse and welcoming group of poets who laugh, share ideas about writing and the world, and generally have a good time. If you would like to drop by, you are welcome! We meet the second Monday and the fourth Thursday of every month from 2:30-4:00pm. You are invited to be a part of the mailing list for reminders about these meetings by sending an email to Tia at: tiaballantine@gmail.com.

MESA, Wordplay Café Open Mic @ The Nile, 105 W. Main St., 7 pm. All spoken word welcome. For more information visit The Nile (formerly Volstaad). 2nd Thursday event.

EAST VALLEY POETS—EVP

Jim Platt, Host
 evpoets@yahoo.com
 602-826-2803
<https://eastvalleypoets.webs.com/>

EVP meets the third Saturday of the month from 9:30a-noon for a short program and poetry readings.

Pyle Adult Recreation Center
 Conference room
 655 East Southern Ave
 Tempe AZ 85282

SCOTTSDALE MUSTANG POETS - SMP

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

SMP meet the second Monday of each month from 6:00-7:45p.m. for reading poetry with gentle critiquing. Dues are \$5/year.

Scottsdale Mustang Library
 10101 N. 90th Street
 Scottsdale AZ 85258

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SUN CITY AREA POETRY SOCIETY— SCAPS

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

SCAPS meets the first Saturday of the month beginning at 9:00 a.m. for open reading.

PalmBrook Country Club
 9350 West Greenway Drive
 Sun City AZ 85351

Meetings includes member presentations, round robins and other surprises. Recently at a meeting we began with a thorough examination of internal rhyme by member Tom Lyle.

TUCSON POETRY SOCIETY - TPS

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

TPS meets the second Saturday of the month beginning at 10:00 a.m. to read and constructively critique each other's work, thus allowing diverse voices to be heard and appreciated. We laugh, we shout, we sing, and most importantly, we listen. All are welcome. Dues are \$5/year.

Valdez Main Library
 101 N. Stone Ave.
 Tucson AZ 85701

Desert Tracks: Poems from the Sonoran Desert offers readers an anthology of diverse poems written by 23 poets of the Tucson Poetry Society, a membership organization of local poets and a chapter of the Arizona State Poetry Society. Copies available for sale.

TPS poets participated in Tucson's Writers Read at Brewd Coffee House last November and will again this February, hosted by Elaine Powers.

Continued from page 6

POETRY READINGS

PHOENIX, First Friday Poetry on Roosevelt Row @ Local First Arizona, 407 E. Roosevelt St., 7:10 - 10 pm. 1st Friday event.

PHOENIX, Smoke It Into Existence Open Mic @ Just Blaze, 1001 E. Camelback Rd., 8 pm. Hosted by LaTosque and sponsored by Speaking Into Existence & Just Blaze Smoke Shop & Art Gallery. 2nd & 3rd Friday open mic.

PHOENIX, Monthly Open Mic: Arts, Letters & Culture Event @ Dog-Eared Pages Used Books, 16428 N. 32nd St. #111, 5 pm. Perform, read, dance, sing, tell stories while enjoying the featured artist of the month. For more info, 602.283.5423. Usually a 4th Thursday event.

PRESCOTT VALLEY, THURSDAYS, Open Mic & Art @ Clayote Studios, 8198 E. Spouse Dr. #2, 6:30 pm to close. Come read your poetry, sing your song, dance your dance, then make art while you listen to others in a wonderful studio setting. For more information, <https://www.clayotestudios.com/open-mic-night> or call (928) 925-3772.

TUCSON, Community Event: Open Mic @ The U of A Poetry Center, 1508 E. Helen St., 11:30 am. Join the community of poets and read your work, or a favorite poem. All are welcome to this round robin affair in the Poetry Center garden. 1st Saturday event.

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.

NFSPS Conference Chair shall lead a large group of volunteers to host the annual NFSPS Conference in Phoenix.

NFSPS Reporter shall write short quarterly items about current ASPS activities.

Spring Festival Chair shall lead a group of volunteers to host an ASPS Spring Festival.



Meet Your Literary Community

A morning of miniature literary festivities for writers, readers, families and friends

October 2nd in Phoenix was a beautiful day with just a hint of a crisp fall flavor as tables were set up for the second annual Meet Your Literary Community event in downtown Phoenix in front of the Phoenix Public Market. Sponsored by the ASU Piper Writing Center, participation by the literary community just about doubled over the previous year. Poets, authors, editors, small publishing companies and micro-zines, community theatres, open air and food truck vendors, a stage for performances and mini-presentations and a raffle were all part of the morning's event. ASPS was represented by your president/contest chair/Sandcutters co-editor, Christy White. From 8 to noon interested and curious poets, writers and Phoenix community members stopped and talked. Many took away flyers and left their contact information. A few more people now know about our 50+ years promoting poetry in all its forms through our friendly and welcoming chapters!

4th Grade's 2019 Young Authors' Day

Fourth grade students and staff hosted their annual Young Authors' Day on October 4th! Twelve authors, readers, and presenters visited the 4th grade classrooms to write with students or talk about the importance of writing in their lives. Zachary Astrowsky, a high school student with his second published book on the way, began the day! He spoke to the students about how he started writing his book at age ten, the same age of his audience! He went on to explain the entire process he has gone through and to encourage the students to write their own stories someday!

The rest of day found Jane Ruby helping students to improve their story beginnings by creating exciting "hooks." Barb Renner, Rita Goldner, and Sherri Todd-Beshore taught the students about story elements. Colleen Dougherty had students choosing rich descriptions and performing Readers' Theater while Erline Belton, and David Rich worked on journaling with the students. Jessica Stevens and Christy White presented poetry lessons and Dale Musser talked about his life as an author as well as other authors who have inspired him to write. Marty Manning was also part of Young Authors' Day, reading books about writing to the students.

Fourth grade thanks all the presenters who made October 4th a memorable day of writing!

ASPS Monthly Contest Guidelines

Submission to ASPS monthly contests is limited to current members of the Arizona State Poetry Society. Members may submit only UNPUBLISHED original poems. The contest chair asks that you wait 45 days after the contest deadline before submitting these poems elsewhere. There is no entry fee for the monthly contests.

If mailing, enclose two (2) copies of each poem. One copy with your name and address in the upper left corner. Both copies should include the month - category - form or subject in the upper right corner. Please proofread your work thoroughly. **If emailing**, attach a copy of the poem to your email and ONLY PUT THE CATEGORY AND THE MONTH on the poem; do NOT put your name and address. In the body of your email, enter category, month, and title or first line of the poem.

FORMAT: poems should be typed or computer-generated on white bond paper, size 8 1/2" x 11". Originals or clean copies are acceptable. Submit each poem on a separate sheet.

LIMITS: submissions have a maximum of 30 lines (including line spaces between stanzas) per poem; the poem title does not count as a line. Submit only one poem per category per month. Please, no simultaneous submissions.

DEADLINE: entries must be postmarked, or sent by email, by the first of the month and received by the fifth of the contest month.

WINNERS: each month nine (9) selected poems will receive a \$5.00 award and are published in the next issue of *Sandcutters*. To assist our bookkeeping, winners are requested to cash checks promptly.

MAIL TO: Rhonda Brown, ASPS Monthly Contest Chair, 1550 N. Stapley #129, Mesa, AZ 85203 OR EMAIL
TO: rbpoetmonk@gmail.com

MONTHLY CATEGORIES:

Category I: Traditional (identify form)

Category II: Free Verse

Category III: The Monthly Subject (see below)

January: Puzzles

February: Hollow

March: Letters

April: Farewell

May: Happy Riders

June: Fruit

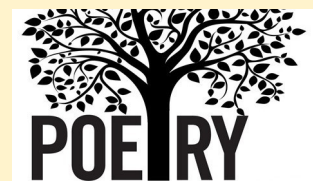
July: Forgetting

August: Hope

September: Stranger

In Other News...

ASPS participated in the second annual Meet Your Literary Community event in downtown Phoenix on the morning of October 5th. It was a beautiful day, and the location in front of the Phoenix Public Market was perfect for visitors. A number of people stopped by to inquire about ASPS and took informational materials.



We look forward to receiving YOUR poems for our ASPS Monthly Contests!

**Submissions due
January 5
to Rhonda Brown!**

**Category III Topic:
PUZZLES**