

THE DESERT VOICE



Fall Edition

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Arizona State Poetry Society

September 2019

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Check out the ASPS Website for updated news on contest winners, Board meeting minutes, upcoming events and more! <https://azpoetry.webs.com/>

2019 ASPS ANNUAL CONTEST

The September 30, 2019 submission deadline is quickly approaching. If mailing, send First Class or Priority Mail only (not Registered or any form of delivery requiring signature). Mail entries and #10 (business) self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Christy White, ASPS President
1145 E. Kaler Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85020

Electronic Submissions: send to AZPoetryorg@gmail.com

See pages 9-10 for Contest Categories and Guidelines. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

SAVE THE DATE!

ASPS Fall Conference
Saturday, November 23, 2019

9:00am to 3:30pm
Main Hall of Pyle Center
655 East Southern Ave
Tempe AZ 85282

Hosted by East Valley Poets Branch
Cost per person: \$15.00

You are invited to gather with other state-wide ASPS poets for lunch, workshops and announcement of the winners of the Annual ASPS Contest.

RSVP to Christy White at cchristyw@gmail.com by November 1 so we can plan accordingly for space and food. See you there!

CHRISTY'S CORNER

ASPS President's Posting

Editing your own poetry is not always easy. There are several valid reasons for not editing your poems, but I have learned that most of my poems get better with editing.

My first edit is usually when I transfer the poem from the page to the computer. These are major edits that almost all of us will do, but if I want to go further and work toward a really good poem, I take it to my poetry groups with the intent of improving the poem.

It's been said more than once that if we want to be writers, we should develop thick skins so that any criticism of our work doesn't stop us. But more than that, we have to really pay attention to what we are being told. The members of our poetry groups are not saying something to hurt you, but they may not know how to say it well.

Here are my soft rules for group editing of any writing:

- 1 - Read your poem aloud, try to provide everyone a copy of the poem for notes.
- 2 - The group tells you what works well in the poem.
- 3 - The group tells you what doesn't work so well in the poem.
- 4 - You take notes and listen, answer any questions thoughtfully, and don't get upset because the criticism isn't about you.
- 5 - Thank the group for their feedback.
- 6 - Give the poem and the notes some resting time before you work on it again - unless you are fired up and want to work on it right away.
- 7 - You don't have to apply any of it, ever.

I hope my comments help your poems become the works of art you want them to be!

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.

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.

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, Caffeine Corridor @ The Gallery, 1229 Grand Ave., \$1 or \$2 suggested donation for the venue. Sign up starts at 6:45, open mic at 7 pm, followed by featured poets. 2nd Friday event.

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

Continued on page 3

A Member Poem

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

The Fair Orchard

by
Jane Stewart

The green apple tree
fills with
forbidden fruit

Orange, pear and plum
from another orchard –
a wet brush still life

Your silver pen
sketches shadows
on the wall, in the sand

And all that was
answers
but there was no question –

Now an open door
leads to chapter one –
a silhouette, a hieroglyph

a silent fairy tale

Craft Talk – About Poetry

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.”

There are no absolutes...judgment is relative...influenced by experience, bias, preference, knowledge, ego and other existential baggage. But, if these aspects are merged with an informed standard of discrimination, predicated on the elements and contexts of the work itself, a critical appraisal and assessment will be more beneficial and fulfilling to the creation/revision process than an arbitrary, or less-definable, aesthetic value system based merely on fashion, compulsion or whim.

Standards of critical appraisal, revision, creative strategies, aesthetic objectives and calculated manipulations should be applied to meet the unique “demands” of each poem...**and evolve to serve those “demands” as each poem evolves.**

Next quarter: Criticism

Poetry Readings (continued from page 2)

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 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.

We recommend confirming the event before you go!

Continued on page 6

NFSPS 2019 Convention Reflections

by
Eva Willis

I've been to the mountain and I'm back. I was fortunate to attend the NFSPS diamond jubilee convention in Santa Fe. Since this was my introduction to poetry conventions, I was unsure what to expect. What I found was a well-organized event with some friendly poets, good food, pleasant surroundings and venues, and a trip back to a city I enjoy. The New Mexico State Poetry Society worked diligently to plan and conduct an interesting event, man registration and the bookstore, and try to anticipate all our needs. I never saw anyone else with Arizona on their lanyard, so I may have been our state's only representative.

There was time to explore and enjoy the wonders of Santa Fe, the city different and oldest U.S. state capital. There were nine workshops; I attended three. Sunday night we were entertained by a cowboy singer and poet. Monday morning at the opening ceremony, the mayor spoke and read an official proclamation naming the week "a capital week for poetry". We were all allowed to choose a handmade tote from a wide variety of designs and colors. Each of us received *Encore*, with the top 150 prize-winning poems read and awarded at the 2018 convention held in Denver. There were opportunities to be introspective as well as sociable. There was time to write and also share poetry at open mics and one evening of street corner poetry near the city plaza. There was an entire afternoon in the state capitol rotunda to listen to BlackBerry Peach prize poems. A bonus was the building's four floors of beautiful artwork and a special fabric art installation on the ground floor.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself and spent much time outdoors enjoying the 85 degree weather. I hope some of you will be able to attend a convention. Next year's location has not yet been decided.



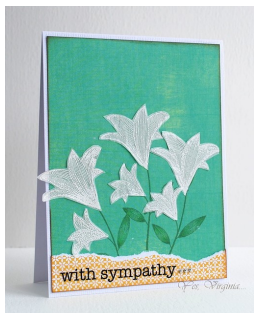
Congratulations to **Joy Harjo** on being named our nation's newest poet Laureate and first ever Native American to receive this honor! Harjo was elected an Academy of American Poets Chancellor earlier this year and received the Academy's Wallace Stevens Award for proven mastery in the art of poetry in 2015. As a poet, a teacher, and a literary leader, Joy Harjo has touched many lives and many communities. She now has what is one of the largest platforms a poet can aspire to and it is a well-deserved honor. We're thrilled for Joy and for the nation on this historic appointment.

CONDOLENCES

A few poets who passed away recently from the world at large:

Linda Gregg: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/27/obituaries/linda-gregg-dead.html>. She passed away a week after W.S. Merwin, on the first day of spring when the moon was full. She was, as Czeslaw Milosz once said, "one of America's best poets" and will be much missed.

Other poets who recently passed away include Robert Hass, Czeslaw Milosz, Joseph Brodksy, Gerald Stern.



ASPS BRANCH MEETINGS / CONTACTS

EAST VALLEY POETS

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**

SUN CITY AREA POETRY SOCIETY

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**

Schedule of the calendar year 2019 has been established. It includes member presentations, round robins and summer vacation. Last month we began with a thorough examination of internal rhyme by member Tom Lyle.

SCOTTSDALE MUSTANG POETS

Christy White, Host
cchristyw@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**

TUCSON POETRY SOCIETY

Elaine Powers, President
lizlady@comcast.net
520-204-2991

TPS meets the second Saturday of the month beginning at 10:00 a.m. for reading poetry with gentle critiquing. Dues are \$5/year.

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

President Christy White will be representing ASPS at the Virginia Piper Center's "Meet Your Literary Community" event the morning of Saturday, October 5th at the

**Phoenix Public Market
14 E Pierce Street
Phoenix AZ**

Christy would be pleased to have someone accompany her to this event. If interested, please contact Christy ASAP at: cchristyw@gmail.com.

TUCSON POETRY SOCIETY (TPS) BRANCH NEWS

Congratulations and welcome to the new TPS President, Elaine Powers. Elaine previously served as Vice President of TPS, but due to the recent resignation of Jeanne Missey Osgood, Elaine assumed leadership responsibilities. Feel free to contact Elaine at: tucsonpoetrysociety@gmail.com.

At the April TPS meeting, Elaine Powers and Hank Dallago presented a workshop on Rhyming Picture Books. Both TPS members are authors of children's books. The discussion included the importance of poetry in children's lives and using rhyming text to educate, while entertaining. Publishing options were included in this informative session. If other poets are interested in learning about writing picture books, they may contact TPS at TucsonPoetrySociety@gmail.com.



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Congratulations to Jeanne Missy Osgood for leading a puppet workshop in Morinesio, Italy recently!

Missive Continued from page 5

GREEN VALLEY POET'S CORNER

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.

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.

Loch Raven Review: <https://thelochravenreview.net> – free to submit; print and online publication; up to six poems.

Magnolia Review: <https://themagnoliareview.com> – free to submit; online publication; year-round submissions; up to six.

Unlost Journal: unlostjournal.com – wants only “found” poetry (see their video/guidelines); free to submit; online publication; up to three poems.

May 2019 Monthly Contest Winners

Rhonda Brown
I Delight in the Day Lillies

Emmylou Whitehall

Eva Willis
Spring in the Southwest

Gail Denham
Tree Down

Jane Stuart
Vee
Outside Conversation

Sonya Zetlan
Academic Discourse

Charles Firmage
Mourning Dove
Emmylou Whitehall

Steve Watson
Baja Bad

June 2019 Monthly Contest Winners

Paul Callahan
Our Hero
Father's Time

Charles Firmage
What is Truth

Jane Stuart
Breeze Morning
The Fairy Orchard
Fence Building

Gail Denham
Diets

Janet Rives
Cold Snap

Steve Watson
Snow Falls Blue

July 2019 Monthly Contest Winners

Tia Ballantine
No Warning
A Map of Summer
(or Political Optimism)

Charles Firmage
Desert's Changing

Kim Sosin
Return to Yellowstone

Gail Denham
Free?

Annette Gagliardi
Nature Sings

Eva Willis
Perspective

Alan Perry
Bird Feed
Pas de Deux

FEATURED LONG POEM FOR SANDCUTTERS

A featured long poem appeared in the 2018 Sandcutters. We are open to including another long poem this year. Please send your submission to Christy White no later than September 1, 2019 for consideration. We look forward to hearing from you!

Christy White, ASPS President
1145 E. Kaler Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85020

Electronic Submissions: send to AZPoetryorg@gmail.com

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

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:

Stephen Chaffee read at the Mensa Conference in Phoenix recently.

Gail Denham has been busy since the first of the year having recently judged an Oregon Christian Writers contest; won a first place in Illinois, had a poem published in *Nebo*; won a Tennessee contest; had poems posted in several Illinois libraries; won prizes in Mississippi and Oklahoma contests; poems published in *Pegasus* 2019; won first place in Highland Park Chemistry contest; won a prize in Pennsylvania; poems published in *Pennessence* (Pennsylvania); second place in Arizona yearly contest; had poem published in *Postcards/Prose* recently; poem published in *The Sylvan*; an ISPS contest win; second place in Lomp (Michigan) contest; and a poem published in a Wyoming newsletter. Gail also won first place in category 49 (The Poets Northwest Award) in the 2019 NFSPS Contest.

Elaine Power's *Queen of the Night: The Night Blooming Cereus* is available on Amazon.

Jon Sebba won an Honorable Mention in a 2019 NFSPS contest for nature poems.

Jane Stewart

Edizioni Universum is publishing a second poetry book (published in May, 2019) *Un Bel Sogno, A Beautiful Dream*.

Gene Twaronite

- Two of Gene's new poems have been published in the beautiful *Sky Island Journal*, an online literary journal with 45,000 readers in 145 countries. Check out the link below and scroll down to the fourth writer listed; you can read each of his poems as a separate Word document: <https://www.skyislandjournal.com/issues#/issue-9-summer2019/>.
- Gene read at Peregrine Book Company in Prescott (219A North Cortez), on Saturday, July 20th.

Stuart Watkins

- For two years, Stuart has been the poetry judge for the Utah State Poetry Society, and this year was the poetry judge for the Society of Southwest Authors.
- A recent article by Stuart titled "Deer Tragedy" was accepted by two journals, *SaddleBrooke Progress* and *SaddleBag Notes*.

We hope to hear from YOU next quarter!

ASPS 2019 ANNUAL CONTEST GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all

QUALIFICATIONS: Original, unpublished poems not currently submitted to other contest(s). Any number of poems may be entered in each category, but each individual poem may be submitted only once per entire contest. All entries need not be sent in at one time. Submissions without fees will be disqualified.

MAILED ENTRIES: Each poem must have the following information in the Upper Right Corner: Category # and Title of Category. See sample below .

DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME OR ANY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON YOUR POEM!

1. **FORMAT:** Submit one clearly-typed copy of each poem (in English only), on 8-1/2"x11" white paper, without lines/no illustrations. Submit each poem on a separate page; no staples, unless an individual poem exceeds one page.

Spaces or breaks between stanzas will not count as a line. Spaces or breaks for effect only will be counted as lines. Introductory or editorial remarks, quotations, dedications, etc. will be included in the total line count.

2. **INCLUDE A PAGE LISTING POEM NAMES WITH THE FIRST LINE** (We insist on the first line! Please!) **AND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL, & PHONE NUMBER.**

1. one poem per page

Category # Category Name
Poem Title

2. poem names, first lines, poet info

Poet's full name Address Email address Telephone #
Poem Title First Line of Poem
Poem Title First Line of Poem
Poem Title First Line of Poem
Etc.

For consistency poems should be submitted in Times New Roman 12.

Continued on page 10

CAREFULLY READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES AS WELL AS THESE GUIDELINES. POEMS NOT ADHERING TO THE STATED RULES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

ENTRY FEES: Checks or money orders to: ASPS Annual Contest

CATEGORY 1 THRU 9 per poem: \$3.00

CATEGORY 10 per poem: \$1.00 (Poets are ages 13-18)

DEADLINE: September 30, 2019, received by 11:59 pm. If mailing, send First Class or Priority Mail only (not Registered or any form of delivery requiring signature). Mail entries and #10 (business) self-addressed stamped envelope to: Christy White, ASPS President 1145 E. Kaler Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85020

JUDGES: Qualified non-ASPS members. Decisions are final. List of judges to accompany results sent via SASE provided by contestant, at completion of competition, and posted online.

PRIZES: First Place \$50; Second Place \$30; Third Place \$20

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS!

SEND YOUR ENTRIES VIA EMAIL TO
AZPoetryorg@gmail.com

Send entries as Word Doc attachments
PUT ONLY THE CATEGORY ON THE POEM

SUBJECT LINE: 2019 CONTEST ENTRY

BODY OF EMAIL: Include your mailing address
(if you win--we send a check!)

Your phone number
(so you can be reached, if needed, when we print your poem)

LIST POEM TITLES, CATEGORIES AND FEES SENT.

PAY YOUR FEES using PayPal on our website,

<http://azpoetry.webs.com/apps/webstore/>

Use 2019 CONTEST FEES
We will send a confirmation of poems received and fees paid.

ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY'S 2019 ANNUAL CONTEST CATEGORIES

1. ASPS AWARD

Subject: Any
Form: Any
Length: 60 line limit
Sponsor: ASPS

*2. LEGACY AWARD

Subject: Any, conforming to 2-4-6-8-2
Form: Cinquin
Length: 5 line limit
Sponsor: Christy White

3. LONG FREE VERSE

Subject: Any
Form: Free Verse
Length: Max 2 pages
Sponsor: Molly Saty

4. SHORT FREE VERSE

Subject: Desert Tracks
Form: Any
Length: 32 line limit
Sponsor: Tucson Poetry Society

5. NATURE ON THE EDGE

Subject: Nature on the Edge
Form: Any
Length: 32 line limit
Sponsor: Scottsdale Mustang Poets

6. TRADITIONAL RHYMING POETRY

Subject: Any
Form: Traditional Rhyme
Length: 32 line limit
Sponsor: Sun Cities Poetry Society

**7. SHAKESPEARE MATTERS

Subject: Two lines from any two Shakespeare works
Form: Any
Length: 14 lines or less
Sponsor: Jeanne and Christopher Osgood

8. HUMOR

Subject: Any
Form: Any
Length: 32 line limit
Sponsor: East Valley Poetry Society

9. HAIKU ROUNDUP

Subject: Any
Form: Conforms to 5-7-5
Length: 3 lines
Sponsor: Stuart Watkins

***10. YOUNG POETS AWARD

Subject: Any
Form: Any
Length: 40 line limit
Sponsor: Walter and Regina Ralston

* The Legacy Award is in honor of Priscilla White, former ASPS president

** The two Shakespeare lines can be placed in an epigraph or in the body of the poem—poet's choice

*** For ages 13-18, original unpublished work only

ASPS Contest for September

Just a reminder to submit your entries for the September ASPS contest by September 5. Category III topic for September is: **Truth Be Told**. 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