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## Welcome!

### NEW MEMBERS

Chloe Ackerman, Eau Claire  
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Abby Frucht, Oshkosh  
Debra Hall, Racine  
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Daniel Ruefman, Hudson  
Rene Simon, Madison

### A Note from the Membership Chair

We welcome your questions, comments and suggestions regarding membership! Please contact Naomi Cochran at [wfopmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmembership@gmail.com) or mail to W1598 Lee Rd, Hayward WI 54843.

## Muse Contest DEADLINE February 1

  
Rules & entry forms:  
[wfop.org/contests/  
muse.html](http://wfop.org/contests/muse.html)

### Remember ...

Notify *in advance* of address change. Only first-class mail forwards; bulk is returned at WFOP's expense.

Request e-mail instead; the .pdf link is sent earlier, and you'll save WFOP funds!

Get the weekly Events e-mail:  
[wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

## President's Message

As many of you know, I missed the fall conference due to a family obligation in Florida. While many of you were experiencing an early snow, we were complaining about temperatures in the 90s! It's good to be back in Wisconsin and focusing on poetry. I am grateful to Executive Vice President **Michael Kriesel** for taking over my responsibilities while I was gone. Here is what he says: Our 2019 fall conference at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn October 25–26 was a super success, with no early snow, and plenty of sunshine! Friday night's open mic featured complimentary hot hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, which some attendees credit with making that open mic one of the longest and most enthusiastic in recent memory! Local magician **Robbie Johnson** wowed 'em with fire-breathing and hypnosis, while featured poet **Cynthia Marie Hoffman's** workshop and reading were big hits! Many of our roll-call poets were recorded by podcast facilitator **Quaan Logan**. If you haven't been to a conference, check one out!

I'm already looking forward to the 2020 spring conference in Sheboygan. It's May 1–2, so hopefully we will avoid any late-April snow. Mark your calendars so you don't miss this fantastic event with a focus on eco-justice. Regional VP **Ed Werstein** is hard at work putting together a memorable experience for attendees.

In the meantime, there are lots of opportunities to submit and get involved in WFOP. The Chapbook Contest is open, with a February 1 deadline. The 2021 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* is also looking for your poems by January 31. The timeline has been changed for 2021 because it makes more sense to have the *Calendar* come out later in the year. If you teach young people or know someone who does, please encourage them to enter their students' poems in our Student Poetry Contest by January 11. Information for all three contests is on [wfop.org](http://wfop.org).

I've always wanted to compile a resource list of poets who are willing to go into classrooms and talk about poetry. To this end, I've created an information sheet interested members can complete and return to me. For a copy, please email me or your regional VP. I know many of you already visit classes and work with teachers. It would be great to have a directory that teachers could access when they are looking for a local poet.

I also encourage you to submit a poem to the Poets Tree of Peace project. The information is on the WFOP Facebook pages as well as our website. This is a worthwhile endeavor with a potential for awareness of WFOP around the state.

Thanks to all the people whose efforts resulted in nine *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* readings and special events around the state this fall. And thanks to the Green Bay Packers Foundation for the grant that made these events possible.

Winter always seems to be a good time to write, or at least organize and revise! I hope you find opportunities to do this. Here's to a safe and productive season.

Cheers,  
—Jan

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets is online at [wfop.org](http://wfop.org)

## *What's Happening in Your Region?*

All events free & open to the public unless stated otherwise.

### **CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY**

VPs: Cathryn Cofell, ccofell@gmail.com & Christina Kubasta, cckubasta60@marianuniversity.edu

Please send news. Email to be added to the area events list. Poetry Unlocked's readings at The Draw, usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays, 7 PM, include open mic. Cash bar available. Find them on FB. 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday reading series at Evergreen Manor, Oshkosh, 6:30 PM with feature & open mic.

Out of 669 submissions, **Mary Wehner** has been awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2019 *Wisconsin People & Ideas* poetry contest. Her winning poem, "Morning's Detour" was judged by poet Dasha Kelly Hamilton. The winning poem plus another chosen by editors of *Wisconsin People & Ideas* will be published in the fall. Mary also read on October 18 at A Room of One's Own, Madison, as part of the 2019 Wisconsin Book Festival.

### **EAST**

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Poets Monday at Linneman's, 1001 E Locust St, Milwaukee: featured readers and open mikes every Monday. Check Events mailing for upcoming features. Doors open 7:30 PM; open mike 8 PM; featured reader 9 PM. \$3 cover charge.

The East Region is proud to host the 2020 Spring Conference at the beautiful Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday, May 1–2. The conference theme will be water ecology and eco-justice. The featured presenter will be poet Melissa Tuckey, co-founder of Split This Rock, and the head of the Eco-Justice Program there. Other conference information is forthcoming on [wfop.org](http://wfop.org) and in the next *Museletter*.

November 20, 1–3 PM: Poetry and Protest, JFK Annual Poetry Tribute with **Jeanie Dean** and guests. Riverwest Elders: OWL Program, Jazz Gallery Center for the Arts, 926 E Center St, Milwaukee.

Dual poetry book launch by **Jim Landwehr** on Saturday, Nov. 23, 3:30 PM, Café de Arts, Waukesha. Jim's new books are a full-length collection, *Thoughts from a Line at the DMV*, and a chapbook, *Genetically Speaking: poems on fatherhood*, which received an honorable mention in the 2019 Local Gems NaPoWriMo Chapbook Contest. Coffee and readings will be followed by a book signing. More about Jim and his writing at [jimlandwehr.com](http://jimlandwehr.com).

**Karl Elder's** 1987 poetry book *Photophobia* has been re-released by global publishing house Cyberwit of India, available on Amazon.com.

Dasha Kelly Hamilton has been named Milwaukee Poet Laureate for a term that will expire in 2021. For more information visit [mpl.org/about/poet\\_laureate.php](http://mpl.org/about/poet_laureate.php) or [dashakelly.com](http://dashakelly.com).

The Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books was held November 1–2 at UWM–Waukesha. East Region poets presenting at the fest included **Jo Balistreri, Kimberly Blaeser, Patricia Carney, Sylvia Cavanaugh, Eloisa Gomez, Dawn Hogue, Judy Kolosso, Fred Kreutz, Jim Landwehr, Janet Leahy, Katy Phillips, Margaret Rozga, Sara Sarna, Paula Schultz, Lisa Vihos, Phyllis Wax, and Ed Werstein.**

### **MID-CENTRAL**

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

**Patricia Gott** had: "A Study of A Northern Lake in the 1970s," in *Avocet* online, "Lost Lake Girl," in the Fall 2019 print *Avocet*, and "The Cracked Chestnut Tree," in "The Tree Journal 2019" of *Tiny Seed Literary Journal*: [tinysseedjournal.com/2019/10/31/tree-journal/](http://tinysseedjournal.com/2019/10/31/tree-journal/)

**Joan Giusto's** poem "Coastal Tourist" was included in *Ariel Anthology*.

**Mary "Ray" Goehring's** poem "The Chickadee I Saw While Thinking of Maggie" is in *Ariel Anthology*.

**James Botsford** was the Featured Reader at Glenn's Folly in Verona on October 18, and also read at First Street Coffee Station in Merrill on October 22.

**Karyn Powers** participated in the Central Wisconsin Book Festival/WFOP *Calendar* reading September 29 at the Marathon Co. Public Library. She also read at the WFOP open mic at Wausau's UU Church October 10.

**Kathleen Serley's** poem, "A Visit to Anne's House" was published in *Eastern Iowa Review* online. She participated in a panel, "The Art of Poetry" at the Minocqua Library in October.

The Wisconsin Library Association recognized *Midwest Medley: Places & People, Wild Things & Weather* (Kelsay Books, 2018) by **Patricia Williams** as an Outstanding Title for Wisconsin Poetry Books in 2018. She was featured with one of her poems on the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Wednesday* website as a contributor whose work subsequently appeared in a collection. She read from the book at the Phantom Art Gallery, sponsored by the Waupaca Community Arts Board, and also had poems published in *About Place* and *Poetry Hall*.

**Elmae Passineau's** poem "November Gold" is in *Ariel Anthology* and "The Old Neighborhood" and "Bending the Law" in *Goose River Anthology*.

**Victoria Lindsay** read at the launch of *Mush* 2019. She also had three poems in *Art that Blooms* and attended the excellent activist poetry workshop led by **Margaret Rozga**.

## NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, [torigw@twc.com](mailto:torigw@twc.com)

The Door County Poets Collective seeks poems for a second collection, tentatively titled *From the Heart of Door County*. While our first anthology (*Soundings*, 2015) celebrated many iconic attractions and people known to both tourists and residents, this time we want poems about the “interior” of the county—what the casual visitor may not see—to reveal its heart, what makes it unique. Poets of all ages and backgrounds may submit 1–3 poems in any style by December 1, 2019, to [doorcountyanthology@gmail.com](mailto:doorcountyanthology@gmail.com) along with a 50-word bio and a .jpg photo of the poet. We prefer poems that fit on one page in 12-pt font. Please attach submissions in .doc, .docx, or .rtf only, with an abbreviated title of each poem in the subject line. Poems may be previously published. If email is not possible, send three copies of each poem with one bio and photo to Estella Lauter, 3092 Gibraltar Rd, Fish Creek WI 54212.

## NORTHWEST

VPs: Nancy Austin, [austin10929@gmail.com](mailto:austin10929@gmail.com)

**Jude Genereaux** participated in the Sturgeon Bay “Story Slam” benefiting the Womens Fund this past March, sharing “The Rest of the Story” of her arrival in Door County. Followed by inclusion of her poem “Alchemy” in the *Milwaukee Anthology*, “The Elder” and “An Evening with Eva Cassidy and Longing” were chosen for an ekphrastic showing at Out of The Woods Winery in Hayward in September. Jude was the featured poet at the Dickinson Series in Ephraim, Door County, in October.

On December 7, 5 PM, poet **Tom Murtha**, Bayfield, will join Ethna McKiernan for a reading at Apostle Islands Booksellers, 112 Rittenhouse Ave, Bayfield. See [apostleislandsbooksellers.com](http://apostleislandsbooksellers.com), or email [tmurtha@umn.edu](mailto:tmurtha@umn.edu).

**Lucy Tyrrell** has poems in *Bramble* (“Botanical Black Holes”), *Alaska Women Speak* (“I am Alaska,” “I hit a deer” for the Sound and Silence issue), and *Ariel Anthology* (“Easter Island Moai at Dawn,” “Isle au Haut, Maine,” and “Span of Antlers”). Her poem “Cecropia” and a photo of a Cecropia moth were included in *Avocet* online. She had two poems “Crane Dance” and “Grain Elevator View” paired with art at the Paper to Wall exhibit at Out of the Woods Winery. On October 19, Lucy read at the *Calendar* reading in Minocqua and at the Big Top Chautauqua Volunteer Appreciation Party in Bayfield. Along with **Jan Chronister**, Lucy served as co-editor for *Ariel Anthology*; the 2019 issue, *Intersection: People and Nature*, launched November 10. Lucy received 2<sup>nd</sup> place for her poem “I dwell in possibility” in the Story Portage Award category (subject: trees) as well

as three awards of merit (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) in other categories of the League of Minnesota Poets annual poetry contest.

**Jan Chronister**’s poem “Sacraments” appeared on *Your Daily Poem* Sept. 15. Two of her poems were translated into Chinese and published in *Poetry Hall*. She had poems in *Visual Verse*, *Ariel Anthology*, *Plath Poetry Project* and *Origami Poetry Project* (micro-chapbook). Jan’s poem “Muse” was part of the “Paper to Wall” exhibit at the Out of the Woods Winery, appeared on their website, and featured in an article in the Sawyer County Review. Jan read at the “Bodily Autonomy” reading in Duluth Nov. 3. Five of her poems received Awards of Merit in the League of Minnesota annual contest.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

VP: James P. Roberts, [jrob52162@aol.com](mailto:jrob52162@aol.com)

7 PM, Thursday, December 12: an open mike to honor the memory and poetry of **Richard Roe** will take place at Sequoya Public Library, 4340 Tokay Blvd, Madison (Tokay and Midvale). Six of Richard’s colleagues will read from his final book, *Poetry of Song, Tango, and Jazz*. Open mike will follow; signup at 6:45 PM. All are welcome.

First Tuesdays Featured Poets and Open Mic continues at Suzy’s Steakhouse, Portage, 6:30 PM. **suzy’sportage.com**. **Gillian Nevers** and **Sandy Stark** read at Poetry in Portage at Suzy’s August 6. Gillian also taught a poetry workshop as part of “Writing in the Garden” at the Green Bay Botanical Gardens on August 12. **James P. Roberts** and **F. J. Bergmann** were the featured horror poets at Suzy’s October 15. **Nathan J. Reid** was the featured poet at Suzy’s on November 5.

**Guy Thorvaldsen** was the featured reader at the Lakeview Library in Madison on October 7.

**Fabu** read poetry from her latest collection, *Mary Lou Williams: Remember Me*, with piano accompaniment by Brianna Ware, at the University Club, Madison, October 11.

**Robin Chapman**, **F. J. Bergmann**, **Richard Merelman**, **James P. Roberts**, **Jeri McCormick** and **Lenore McComas Coberly** were the featured readers at the **Richard Roe** Life Celebration at St. Dunstan’s Church in Middleton October 12. Each read poems from Richard’s posthumous collection, *Poetry of Song, Tango & Jazz*.

**Lou Roach** gave a reading from her new poetry collection *And Now Tomorrow* at the Poynette Public Library on November 2.

**June Paul** had an ekphrastic poem, “What Gives Us Life” on [VisualVerse.org](http://VisualVerse.org) in October.

**Jenelle Clausen** has a poem, “Unfriending The Dead” up at *Harvard Review* online.

**Robin Chapman** had a poem published in *Ascent*.

**Lincoln Hartford** has three poems, “Back in Pennsylvania,” “If There’s Light in the Forest,” and “Sweet Time,” in *The Center Post*, the in-house literary publication of Capitol Lakes Retirement Community in Madison. In existence for fifteen years, the current editor is Carolyn Zahn-Waxler. *The Center Post* includes poems, prose essays, and memoirs. Copies are free to residents; we would be happy to share copies with interested individuals, but we do not accept external compositions. The Center is open to poetry readings from within and without. A poetry reading group meets last Thursdays at 3 PM. We welcome visitors.

**F. J. Bergmann** had poems “Infinite Potential” in *Bacopa Literary Review*, “Ruinination” in *Dreams and Nightmares*, “Having a Ball,” “A Simpler Time” and 3 haiku in *Star\*Line*, “Talking to the Dead” as audio on [sfpoetry.com/halloween.html](http://sfpoetry.com/halloween.html), “Fugitives” and “Precursors” in *Silver Pinion*, [a simple costume] in *haikuniverse*, “Envoy” in *Polu Texni*, “Ancient Rhinos Roamed the Yukon” in *Rattle’s Poets Respond*, and “New Stars” received a Laureate’s Choice award in the Faust Sonnet Contest. She is now poetry editor as well as book designer for Weird House Press, [weirdhousepress.com](http://weirdhousepress.com).

## WEST CENTRAL

VPs: Sandra Lindow, [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com)

An audio recording of the Eau Claire Women in Theater (ecWit) performance of the poet laureate collaborative poem, “Confluence,” presented at the Spring Conference in Eau Claire is now at [wfop.org/conferences](http://wfop.org/conferences).

The Writers’ Group at the Library, now in its 31<sup>st</sup> year, continues to meet first Thursdays at the L. E. Philips Memorial Library, 400 Eau Claire St, usually in the Chippewa room on the lower level. 7–9 PM; winter hours 2–4 PM. The Congo Writers’ Group meets at 9:30 AM 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at First Congregational in Menomonie, 300 Wilson St. Hosted by Eau Claire Writer-in-Residence **Karen Loeb**, Writers Read at the Library usually occurs at the Eau Claire Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays at 6 PM; see library website for more information. White Pine celebrations of words and music are held quarterly around the time of solstice and equinox. On September 23 the Fall Equinox White Pine celebration was held at Simply Dunn octagonal schoolhouse, Downsville. The January Winter Solstice White Pine will be at Simply Dunn.

Special 2020 *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar* celebrations were held October 10 at the Eau Claire Public Library and October 15 at the Menomonie Public Library. Readers included **Lopamudra Basu**, **Yvette Flaten**, **Erna Kelly**, **Sandra Lindow**, **Karen Loeb**, **Candace Hennekens**, **Ellen Ochs**, **Jessi Peterson**, and **Patricia Smith**.

**Sue Thibado** coordinated with the Chippewa Valley

Writers to host a workshop and presentation October 11–12 featuring WI Poet Laureate **Margaret Rozga** at First Congregational in Menomonie. A special grant from WFOP helped cover the cost. Local Lit reading at Volume One on October 24 included **Flaten**, **Kelly** and **Jeannie Roberts**. The 2019 Chippewa Valley Book Festival was held October 15–27 with events throughout the Chippewa Valley. Of particular note was the Nadine St. Louis Poetry Conversation, held Oct. 25 at the Unitarian Universalist Sanctuary. This year the theme was “Active Voices: Poetry and Social Justice” Our poet laureate guests were **Kim Blaeser** and **Margaret Rozga**. Eau Claire Women in Theater (ecWit) performed a choral reading of poetry Oct. 26 in “A Verbal Feast of the Fest.” Nov. 3, **Karen Loeb** and **Erna Kelly** participated in the Nov. 3 *Calendar* reading in Madison.

**Kelly**, **Lindow** and **Loeb** have poems in *Ariel Anthology*. **Lindow’s** poem “Seventy-Year Moon” appears in the Poet Tree for Peace Project and “Cinderella: An Update on Carriages” appears in *Star\*Line*. **Erna Kelly’s** poem, “Curling Inward,” was reprinted and translated into Chinese in *Poetry Hall*. **Loeb’s** “Her Clandestine Hair” appeared in *Bramble* and “In the Vestibule at Night” in *Barstow and Grand*.

**Lopamudra Basu** had two poems, “To JNU” and “Married Valentine” in *Modern English Poetry by Younger Indians* (Sahitya Akademi, 2019). She will be reading at the Raw Deal in Menomonie November 21, 6 PM, with other members of UW–Stout faculty and staff.

For more information on West Central events, contact Sandra Lindow at [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com).

*Thanking these members for their donations:*


Lenore Coberly, in memory of Richard Roe  
Teaque Devitt, in memory of Laurel Devitt

## Wisconsin Community Poet Laureates

State Poet Laureate **Peggy Rozga** and Door County Poet Laureate **Nancy Rafal** are working together to compile a listing of all the Poet Laureate positions around the state. If you are involved in any community poet laureate program please send the information to Nancy: [mrsticket@gmail.com](mailto:mrsticket@gmail.com) or PO Box 340, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202-0340. Please include as much of the following as possible 1) when was program established? 2) names of people who have had the position and dates they held post. 3) procedure for selection, 4) any other significant information.

2020 WFOP MUSE PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN POETRY CONTEST RULES  
*DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1, 2020*

1. Contestant must be a Wisconsin resident 18 years of age or older.
2. The entry form must be completed in full, included with the submission and postmarked by the contest deadline date listed on the entry form.
3. Only one original unpublished poem not under consideration elsewhere may be entered in the WFOP Muse Prize contest. The poem may not be a simultaneous submission, and it may not have won a monetary award in any contest. 75-line maximum. Send two copies of poem. Plagiarism disqualifies the contestant.
4. Manuscript must be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper, one side only. Writer's name should not appear on the page with the poem.
5. An entry fee of \$4.00 for WFOP members and \$8.00 for non-members must accompany the submission or may be paid online at [wfop.org/store](http://wfop.org/store). Checks are to be made out to WFOP Literary Fund and mailed to WFOP/Muse/Jagielski, 572 Berwyn Drive, Fontana, WI 53125. Please send entry in #10 business-size envelope.
6. Prizes are: 1st place - \$200.00, 2nd - \$100.00, 3rd - \$75.00.
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the WFOP Spring Conference. The list of winners will be published in the WFOP *Museletter* and posted on [wfop.org](http://wfop.org) after the conference.
8. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants a prize award.
9. The first-place winner of the Muse Prize will be ineligible to enter for three years.
10. WFOP is not responsible for lost manuscripts. Do not send a SASE. Entries will not be returned and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow any of the above rules.
11. Author retains all rights to his/her work.



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**Lisa Starr** is the judge for the 2020 WFOP Muse poetry contest. An inn-keeper, a mother, a basketball coach, and a teacher, Lisa Starr, Rhode Island's former Poet Laureate, divides her time among a variety of interests, her children, and her passion for poetry. In her capacity as Poet Laureate, Starr generated writing circles among students and elderly communities around the state. She has also established poetry circles in hospitals, homeless shelters, prisons, and agencies for children and adults with severe mental and physical disabilities. Starr's third collection of poems, *Mad With Yellow*, was published in 2008. She is the author of two other books: *This Place Here* (2001) and *Days of Dogs and Driftwood* (1993). Lisa Starr is the founder of the Block Island Poetry Project, two-time recipient of the Rhode Island Fellowship in Poetry, and was Rhode Island's Poet Laureate 2007–2012. She was a guest speaker and reader at the Fall 2017 WFOP conference in Stevens Point.

### *From the Archivist*

Please send WFOP correspondence, photos, conference/workshop programs/handouts, regional memorabilia, personal mementos, etc. Returnable; postage reimbursed!

Lewis Bosworth, WFOP Archivist  
2829 Barlow St, Madison WI 53705-3621  
[lewisabosworth@gmail.com](mailto:lewisabosworth@gmail.com) ~ 608-238-3648

2020 MUSE PRIZE ENTRY FORM • DEADLINE: **FEBRUARY 1, 2020** (postmark)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Poem Title: \_\_\_\_\_

First Line: \_\_\_\_\_

*If my poem wins, I agree to have it published in the Museletter* \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

*I am a Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older. The poem I am submitting is my own original unpublished work, is not under consideration elsewhere at this time, nor has it won a monetary award in any contest.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fee Enclosed: Current WFOP Member - \$4.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Non-member - \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check Payable to: WFOP Literary Fund, or \_\_\_\_\_ (check here if paid online at wfop.org/store)

Mail Entry to: **WFOP/Muse/Jagielski**  
**572 Berwyn Drive**  
**Fontana, WI 53125-1556**

## 2021 Wisconsin Poet's Calendar

The 2021 theme is "Home." The submission deadline is **January 31, 2020**.

Poets must be at least 18, a resident of Wisconsin or have a **close** connection to Wisconsin. Complete submission guidelines are on **wfop.org**.

- Submit 1–2 poems, single-spaced, not centered. Shorter poems are preferred. Poems longer than 34 lines, including stanza breaks, probably won't be accepted.
- Previously published work is welcome. Include the name of the publication where it first appeared.
- Email submissions are preferred.
- Please attach your poems in one document to your email—**do not put poems in the body of the email**. Attach as a word doc. or pdf.
- **Include the following in the document with your poems:** your name, street address, phone, email and a short bio (30 word max).

Thank you! Keesia Hyzer, Nancy Jesse & Gillian Nevers,  
2021 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar Editors

## POETRY CRITIQUE GROUPS

Looking for a group to join? Contact your regional VP. If your group is open to new members, notify the *Museletter* editor.

### *Museletter* submissions:

Send poetry news to **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com** (include region!) or your regional VP, in body of e-mail. Format as in *Museletter*; don't send .pdfs or press releases.

Poetry news only; send only poetry publications, *not* acceptances; don't bother including WFOP awards or *Museletter* or *Calendar* appearances. **Please** don't double-space after periods.

Advertise books, etc., to the WFOP membership in the *Museletter* or Events e-mail at the following rates:

\$15 eighth page      \$40 half page  
\$25 quarter page      \$75 full page

\$10/100 wds in Events e-mail

**Renew your WFOP membership  
NOW—before you forget!**

## 2020 WFOP CHAPBOOK PRIZE RULES

*The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets is dedicated to promoting poetry in Wisconsin and seeks to expand its contest offerings by honoring the best chapbook published in the previous year by a Wisconsin resident.*

1. Contestant must be a Wisconsin resident 18 years of age or older. A resident is a person who maintains a permanent residence in Wisconsin or who has lived for at least six continuous months in the state during the contest year. A contestant does not need to be a member of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets (however, non-members pay a slightly higher submission fee, see below).
2. The contest opened September 1, 2019. The entry form must be completed in full, included with the submission and entry fee, and postmarked by the contest DEADLINE, which is February 1, 2020.
3. Chapbooks published in 2019 may be entered by the author or the publisher, 16–47 pages. Chapbooks may be self-published. Print only; online and e-book chapbooks do not qualify.
4. The non-refundable entry fee is \$7 per chapbook entry for WFOP members and \$15 per chapbook entry for non-members. Mail chapbook, entry form, and check (made out to WFOP Literary Fund) to:

**Annette Grunseth**  
**3918 St. Croix Circle W**  
**Green Bay, WI 54301**

5. Prizes: First Place—\$200.00; Second Place—\$100.00. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants a prize.
6. The contest is judged by a writing professional who resides outside the state. This year's judge is **Taneum Bambrick**, the author of *Vantage*, selected by Sharon Olds for the 2019 American Poetry Review/Honickman first book award (Copper Canyon Press, 2019), and *Reservoir*, selected by Ocean Vuong for the 2017 Yemassee Chapbook Prize. A University of Arizona MFA, she won an Academy of American Poets University Prize, an Environmental Writing Fellowship from the Vermont Studio Arts Center, the 2018 BOOTH Nonfiction Contest, and scholarships from the Sewanee and Bread Loaf Writers' Conferences. Her poems and essays appear or are forthcoming in *The American Poetry Review*, *PEN*, *Narrative*, *The Missouri Review*, *32 Poems*, *West Branch*, *Blackbird*, and elsewhere. She is a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. See [wfop.org/chapbook-contest-judge](http://wfop.org/chapbook-contest-judge)
7. Only the winners will be notified prior to the Spring Conference. First Place and Second Place winners are invited to the awards luncheon as guests of WFOP. Winners will be posted in the WFOP *Museletter* and at [wfop.org](http://wfop.org).
8. The First Place winner of the WFOP Chapbook Prize will be ineligible to enter that contest again for three years.
9. The WFOP is not responsible for lost books. Do not send a SASE. Entries will not be returned and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow any of the above rules.
10. Author retains all rights to his/her work.
11. Questions to Annette Grunseth: [annettegrunseth@gmail.com](mailto:annettegrunseth@gmail.com). Complete guidelines at [wfop.org/annual-contests](http://wfop.org/annual-contests).

### *About Your Membership*

**All memberships are CALENDAR YEAR—January through December.** Only new memberships October–December are automatically extended through the following year. **Renewal payments** are due by **December 31** each year. Your membership expires at the end of the year on your *Museletter* mailing label. Contact [wfopmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmembership@gmail.com) with any questions. To receive reminders and official news, make sure we have a current email address.

**NB:** *If you lapse, then renew, you will be entered as a new member. Continuous membership is required for service awards.*

If you vacation elsewhere, mail must be sent first class in order to forward. We are charged for returned bulk mail. Signing up for e-mail-only *Museletter* (.pdf online) saves WFOP \$ and arrives 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com) to opt out of print delivery.

The Events weekly e-mailing is a separate opt-in list; to receive it, notify [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com). Send all address changes or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

2020 CHAPBOOK PRIZE ENTRY FORM  
DEADLINE (postmark): February 1, 2020

Poet's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Chapbook Title \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher and Date (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_

CHOOSE AND SIGN ONE:

\_\_\_ I am a Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older. The chapbook I am submitting is my own original work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ As publisher, I am submitting this chapbook for \_\_\_\_\_, who, to my knowledge, is a Wisconsin resident, 18 years of age or older, and contains his/her original work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

[Optional] Newspaper (name and address) to be notified if this chapbook is chosen as First Place or Second Place

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclose published chapbook, entry form and fee (\$7 member/\$15 non-member per chapbook; make check payable to "WFOP Literary Fund").

Mail entry to: **Annette Grunseth**  
**3918 St. Croix Circle W**  
**Green Bay WI 54301**

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*Membership Renewal Form* KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

All renewals are due by December 31. Expiration year follows your name on the mailing label. Dues MUST be current to enter WFOP contests, be in the *Museletter*, receive mailings, and to have a page on wfop.org. Contact **wfopmembership@gmail.com** if you are not sure when your membership expires.

*SAVE POSTAGE and renew or join online at wfop.org*  
or mail to: **Colleen Frentzel, 1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr, Janesville WI 53546**  
Please make checks payable to: **WFOP**

**Active \$30.00**  
**Student \$15.00**  
**\*\*\* 5 for 4 Deal \*\*\***  
\$120 paid now will give  
5 years of membership  
for the price of 4! Save \$30!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

- Check to get weekly Events e-mail.  
 Willing to help WFOP save \$?  
 Check to get *Museletter* via e-mail.



# WFOP's Literary Journal

**Bramble**, WFOP's literary magazine, is open to submissions from Wisconsin writers for the Winter issue **Dec. 1-Jan. 15**. Tom Davis & Ethel Mortenson Davis are the guest editors; open to poems in all forms & styles.

Quarterly issues are guest-edited by WFOP members and open to all Wisconsin poets. For queries about artwork, guest-editing, and all other things Bramble, please email [bramble@wfop.org](mailto:bramble@wfop.org). *Bramble* is now web and print. Full guidelines at:

**[wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit](http://wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit)**

Postal submissions (*only* if unable to email) to:

**C. Kubasta**  
***Bramble* submission**  
**2312 Oregon St**  
**Oshkosh WI 54902**

## WFOP Student Poetry Contest

**Deadline: January 31, 2020**

Please spread the word to all middle- and high-school teachers in your region. Info: [wfop.org/student-contest](http://wfop.org/student-contest)

*We are looking for a new Contest Coordinator; please contact Jan Chronister if interested.*

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### The Poets Tree of Peace Project is gaining momentum!

Poets are holding workshops on writing peace in various locations and helping to spread the growth of our Poets Tree of Peace. We are exploring the possibility of selecting poems for a book. We are also looking for people willing to organize a Poets Tree of Peace reading at the State Capitol and other venues.

If anyone has a laminating machine they can lend to me or who will assist in laminating the poems once they are all formatted on leaves please contact me. If you are willing to donate time and expertise in hosting a Writing Poems of Peace Writing Workshop or Readings of Peace Poems to help promote this project please contact me.

Imagine having 1000 poems of peace on display at the next fall convention! If you would like a copy of the Call for Poems of Peace to share or print, and/or plain leaves for use in formatting or distributing to your writers group, please contact me

Thank you for writing inspiring poems of peace and submitting them on or before March 30, 2020.

**June Paul, [junepaul@gmail.com](mailto:junepaul@gmail.com)**

## 2019 Triad Contest Winners

*85 poets entered one or more categories of the Triad Contest.*

### **Kay Saunders Memorial Emerging Poet • 32 entries**

- 1<sup>st</sup> "Induction," Colleen Nehmer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> "Saturn Rising," Jess L. Parker
- 3<sup>rd</sup> "Villanelle for the Birch: An Arboreal Romance," Patricia Williams
- HM "Song of Thanks," John Clougherty
- "Silo," JoAnn Opsahl
- "Hide and Seek," Gene James Gilbert

### **Theme (History) • 74 entries**

- 1<sup>st</sup> "The Crossing Point," Lisa Vihos
- 2<sup>nd</sup> "Mornings with Sammy," David Southward
- 3<sup>rd</sup> "Always Beautiful," Colleen Nehmer
- HM "Singing for Sister Jeanette in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade," Amy Phimister
- "Clothespins," Jeffrey Johannes
- "Near Sauk City, Wisconsin," Sheryl Slocum

### **Poets' Choice • 79 entries**

- 1<sup>st</sup> "Trinity," Yvette Viets Flaten
- 2<sup>nd</sup> "Lines Redrawn," Mary Wehner
- 3<sup>rd</sup> "Last Days," William Norine
- HM "Four-Poster Bed," Richard Merelman
- "Old Retold," Marilyn Zelke Windau
- "The Light Mine," F. J. Bergmann

## Publications by Our Members

***Come Sit by Me*** by Jerome J. Jagielski, a chapbook, is available at Amazon. 46 pp. \$8.95.

***Poetry of Song, Tango & Jazz*** by Richard Roe (Milkweed Press, 2019) is available from Barbara Roe, [roe@chorus.net](mailto:roe@chorus.net). 80 pp. \$15.00 plus mailing cost.

***Thoughts From A Line At The DMV*** by Jim Landwehr, is a full-length poetry collection released in October by Kelsay Books. 81 pp. \$17.00. Also at Amazon.

***Genetically Speaking: Poems on Fatherhood***, 2019. 49 pp, \$14.00, Available from author/poet Jim Landwehr at [jimlandwehr@att.net](mailto:jimlandwehr@att.net)

### **NOTE TO MEMBERS WITH NEW BOOKS**

*When you announce a new book, send title, publisher, year, # of pages, price, and a place to buy the book, or your email, to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)*

## Poems BY Our Membership

—ELMAE PASSINEAU, EDITOR

**FLYING HIGH:** Flight—anything from outer-space rocket ships to paper airplanes, from fighter jets to hummingbirds, from helicopters to mosquitoes. Maximum 18 lines.

### BOEING, BOEING

Gracefully idling down  
onto the Mitchell Field runway,  
I was exhaling a satisfied breath  
at the end of a pleasant sun-filled flight  
when the airport tower came on the radio:  
“Piper PA—22 Tri-Pacer, take the next exit right,  
NOW!”  
“Roger, tower, Piper Tri-Pacer exiting right,”  
I replied, turning starboard onto the ramp.  
Hmm, I wondered, what’s that about?  
I looked to my right rear;  
my jaw dropped to my waist  
as a humongous Boeing 707’s tires  
spewed blue smoke  
landing right behind me!  
Later, I couldn’t help but wonder  
what its pilot was thinking at the time.

—Joseph D. Donalies, Racine

### THE NEXT BREEZE

The morning sun glints and sparks  
off what is just about the sparsest snowfall I’ve ever seen.

Large floating flakes, gleaming crystals,  
these flakes meander, one rising in a slight updraft,  
while another nearby lazily drifts down, or amazingly,  
treads air sparkling in place for a moment.

And suddenly, I am out there flying, a flake afloat.  
I drift for awhile, learning the drafts. I ride one down  
for a bit then I’m swept upward again, and sometimes  
I just hover there waiting for the next little breeze.

I worry about my neighbors who seem to be on a steady downward trend.  
I want to tell them not to panic, that you need to give in a bit to float.  
I want to reach out and hold them, but I’m afraid our combined weight  
will start us both spiraling downward.

I’m afraid of that, because it feels so good to fly like this,  
feels so awfully good to fly.

—Ed Werstein, Milwaukee

*Note  
that we are  
far more likely  
to find room  
for shorter  
poems!*

### GOLDFINCHES

The day is grey  
Clouds, sky, trees  
Somber in their gauzy veil  
And light—a distant memory

But suddenly  
From a dripping branch  
A flash of hope  
As these three rise  
Winging skyward  
Small splinters of  
Some shattered sun

—Michelle Draves, Berlin

## JULY BLUE MOON

A wave of dragonflies  
floats over my head  
as the pale blue moon rises,  
then glows on the lake.  
Boats skim the lake's surface  
quietly returning  
to their docks for the night.  
Silent airplanes soon to land  
pass across the moon and  
over the darkening lake.  
Full moon beams light up the lake  
in a shimmering silver ray  
as I wonder where  
the dragonflies rest for the night.

—*Anne Bales, Milwaukee*

## TAKING FLIGHT

I dreamed last night  
of an ivory bird with  
china-blue eyes open clear  
smoothed feathers in wing-  
beats measured like words  
whispering to treetops and  
moving quiet like smoke  
in hushed air

it banked and it swooped  
full grace to see  
in that moment I knew  
it was me  
watched myself soar  
at ease with such flight  
believed I could taste  
how it felt to be finally  
free

—*Karen Haley, Wauwatosa*

## FINAL FLIGHT

The last robins of summer  
skitter across the blacktop,  
mingle with fallen leaves,  
drink half-frozen water.

They seek beetles in eavetroughs,  
teeter on leafless limbs,  
defy promise of death  
like Wallendas on a wire.

These late leavers have a drive,  
I know, and when I look away  
the jittery stragglers  
fly

leaving behind  
nests—and their dead—  
near my plate glass windows.

—*Jan Bosman, Woodstock, IL*

## MOON MUD

The day after Neil Armstrong took his one small step,  
we band of youthful, earthbound dreamers  
(five of us, not one soul older than the age of nine)  
set out to discover our own make-believe lunar landscape:  
Brogan Branch creek bed running behind our houses.

Galoshes passing for moon boots,  
we slid wildly into the ravine.  
Waving kudzu-wrapped sticks for flags,  
we came in unbridled peace.  
Laying claim and pronouncing in noble, grown-up tones,  
we bestowed on the shallow waters such fanciful names as  
The Bullfrog Sea and The Green Snake Ocean.

Spirits united, hearts as one, we knew:  
a fairy tale had come true.  
Something was new under the sun.

—*Rebecca Spurlock, Oshkosh*

## FLYING DOWN

Katrina swept Lou's house off its foundation.  
Placing the house back on six foot high blocks,  
small groups with large jobs began the rehabilitation.

Morning insulating accomplished, lunching over,  
dripping sunshine setting like glue, we were back to work.  
Then offering no change in direction: one misstep, one wrong turn,  
one awkward woman took an unwanted flying lesson off the unguarded  
porch landing like a wounded sparrow in the Mississippi mud!

Now with the early spring days passing in cool snail like fashion  
while the pelvic fractures continue to heal, my pen is posed in  
spiritual relief, as the words paint pictures of destruction, loss,  
endurance, faith, and love.

—Susan Anderson, *Baraboo*

## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MARTIN TO FLY

When the moon hits your eye  
like a big pizza pie,  
jump aboard it.

Sit down on the nearest slice of pepperoni.  
Talk to the pineapple slice, the ripe olive,  
the green pepper next to you.  
Avoid the over-anxious cheese.  
It will immerse you in conversation.

Fly! Fly this circular disc to Brooklyn.  
Hover-saunter 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue with John Travolta.  
Lick grease from your fingers, your palm.

Let the moon guide your journey.  
You're in love.

—Marilyn Zelke Windau, *Sheboygan Falls*

## AFTERNOON DECKTIME

Wispy citrus patches reflect  
on the slick calm of the dark  
Arabica in my coffee mug.

I'm whisked away into thin white fleece,  
roam free above the marsh,  
drift over a meandering creek.

Gliding above quilted patchwork fields,  
over floodplain, I watch clouds collect  
water vapor from far below.

Amazing how high this  
warm humid air lifts the heavy  
sweet earth scent.

Soaring on updrafts of thermal currents,  
I flow like an ethereal goddess  
toward—the cellphone.

—Joan Giusto, *Tomahawk*

## FLYING OVER FRANCE

Over green fields I gaze down and cannot  
begin to weigh the blood that soaked  
this ancient soil, Crécy and Agincourt,  
Vimy Ridge and Belleau Wood, the miles  
of shingle beach, or sand, the cold, dense  
Ardennes forest front.

I read, I studied, I listened to three  
generations' tales, but from the air  
I see only criss-crossed lines of road  
and rail, river and chateaux. Peace up here,  
calm and clear. Unreal to me, that these fields  
once burned while legions marched, that  
skies like mine were once thick with flack.

—*Yvette Flaten, Eau Claire*

## SOARING,

I flew from a roof on a broom,  
like an angel, at nine,  
into willowy snow banks.

I flew at 12 over the handlebars  
of a Schwinn Flyer, my collarbone snapping  
like a dry twig.  
I soared over the fall woods  
to hear the whispers  
of woodland fanfare.

I rose, at 14, on thermals  
which propelled me  
skyward along with nearby  
hot-air balloons,  
for silent company.

I flew into despair at 18 over  
a perky cheerleader named  
Claire who twirled as if bewitched.

I ascended like a dandelion, through  
adult life, catching that thermal  
to college, and a humdrum job  
back home, forever bound  
to earth.

I no longer fly off the handle.

—*David Blackey, LaCrosse*

## ON REFUSING TO FLY

“If God had wanted us,” she said, “to fly,  
I think he would have given us wings.”  
Before I could remind her that “to fly”  
can also mean to “run away, escape,”

she disappeared, dropped into the hole  
that led to her underground dwelling,  
where, hidden in that cozy warmth, gave birth  
to her daughters and sons, generations

that grew more muscular with the eons,  
learned to flap the wind without thinking  
eventually even added ailerons.  
and leapt a little further every day.

She watched as they assaulted a sky  
that grew more distant, the view retreating  
in the nacreous clouds, and in that music  
the farms and towns they knew gave way,  
old air dispersed, the swimmer's crawl forgotten.

—*Robert Treu, La Crosse*

### FICTITIOUS PERSONAE Deadline January 15

Choose a widely recognizable fictional character  
(anyone from Popeye to Hamlet) and submit a  
poem written from that character's point of view.  
(Maximum 18 lines *including stanza breaks*.)

Send to [etp1024@gmail.com](mailto:etp1024@gmail.com)

or snailmail to **Elmae Passineau**  
**7007 Weston Ridge Dr #14**  
**Weston WI 54476**

WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS  
938 E DAYTON ST APT 1  
MADISON WI 53703-4618  
WFOP.ORG

*Forwarding Requested.*

*Next Issue Deadline* FEBRUARY 1, 2020

## FLIGHT

Though feet are fledgling wings,  
in dreams we fly  
shedding shoes and sensibility,  
trading static ground for sky.

Surfing purest oxygen  
we blissfully careen.  
Like Chagall's figures floating  
over trees and towns  
we are fluid, light, and free.

If matters of earth call, we might  
from flight bend and listen.  
Of that, no guarantee.

—Ann Steinbach, Milwaukee

## TAKE FLIGHT

Nearing age seventy,  
I park alone in wild places,  
no longer lock the doors.  
I kayak with the winds,  
no longer fear white-cap waves.  
I take flight with the ascending flock,  
no longer earth-bound with binoculars.

—Vlasta Karol Blaha, Colby