

Next Issue Deadline:  
November 1, 2020

MUSELETTER EDITOR  
F.J. Bergmann  
938 E Dayton St  
Madison WI 53703-4618  
(608) 566-9087  
wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

PRESIDENT  
Jan Chronister  
3931 South County Rd O  
Maple WI 54854  
wfoppres@gmail.com

VICE-PRESIDENT  
Michael Kriesel  
301 E Kent St Apt C  
Wausau WI 54403  
krieselmichaela@gmail.com

SECRETARY  
Dennis Collier  
5609 Rustic Woods Dr  
Madison WI 53716-2449  
denniswfop@gmail.com

TREASURER  
Colleen Frentzel  
1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr  
Janesville WI 53546  
layersofmoments@yahoo.com

*Welcome!*  
**NEW MEMBERS**  
Angela Edwards, Milwaukee  
KJ Forest, Madison  
Debra Harnes-Kurth,  
Columbus  
John C. Kalkirtz, Beloit  
Rosalind Laraway, La Crosse  
Karin Schmidt, Wauwatosa

*President's Message*

Hopefully this finds all of you safe and healthy. By now most of us have been affected in some way by the virus. It has changed the way we live, without a doubt.

What remains constant is connecting through poetry and the importance of community. Many thanks to editors **Kathleen Serley**, **Bruce Dethlefsen**, **Angela Voras-Hills** and **C. Kubasta** for their work on the WFOP/Bent Paddle Press "Community & Connection" anthology, and to **Steve Tomasko** for the services of his press.

Obviously we are not having a fall conference this year. To keep up to date on WFOP events and opportunities, please visit the website and Facebook. WFOP has two FB pages. The "WFOP group for friends of Wisconsin poetry" is a public group you can join to ask questions and post personal poetry news and other poetry-related information. The "Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets" FB page is for news about the organization; please bring upcoming readings, workshops and events to our attention. Individuals may be recognized for awards, but we try to avoid promotion of books (with the exception of anthologies).

A much-anticipated event that thankfully can continue without actual meetings is the release of the 2021 *Wisconsin Poets Calendar*. Please be patient as editors **Gillian Nevers**, **Nancy Jesse** and **Keesia Hyzer** bring the *Calendar* to completion. Copies will eventually be available for purchase on the website. We still need a *Calendar* business manager to help with distribution and marketing. If this sounds like a way you'd like to get involved in WFOP, please let me know.

The annual WFOP contests also run smoothly in spite of the pandemic. Thanks to Triad contest chairs **Joan** and **Jeffrey Johannes**, Muse contest chair **Fred Kreutz**, and chapbook contest chair **Annette Grunseth**. If you find yourself with lots of poems, this might be your year to publish a chapbook and enter the contest! Submissions open September 1. And don't forget to submit to *Bramble*, WFOP's literary magazine with a current deadline of September 15. Complete information is on the website. If you know teachers or students, let them know about our student poetry contest, chaired by **Jeff Anderson**.

One upside to the pandemic is that you can "attend" a reading without driving anywhere, and often even participate in an open mic. WFOP now has a Zoom subscription that allows us to schedule readings, workshops and other events. If you have an idea, please contact your regional VP for the Zoom account, password, and information to get started.

News of virtual readings and other events will be posted on both FB pages and in the weekly Events email sent out on Mondays. (If you don't receive this, please contact **Jeannie Bergmann** at [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).)

Until things improve out there, be kind, stay safe, and write poetry!  
—Jan

**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.

**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)

## *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

Your regional VPs wish to share your news! Please send.

Email **Cathy Cofell** to be added to the area events list.

**Abby Frucht** and **Cathryn Cofell** are featured virtual readers for Lion's Mouth Bookstore and Poetry At Large on August 20, via Zoom.

**Kathryn Gahl's** poem "Sister" placed second in the *Wisconsin People & Ideas* 2020 Poetry Contest. Three poems, "Bed," "Her Yesterday Face," and "Cloudy" appear in *Calyx Journal* 32:1. Her poem "The Institute," which appears in the current issue of *Rosebud*, received an Honorable Mention in the 2019 *Rosebud* poetry contest.

**Fredric Hildebrand** has had his first poetry chapbook, *A Glimpse of Light*, accepted by Finishing Line Press, now available for pre-order from their website.

WI Poet Laureate **Margaret Rozga** discussed **C. Kubasta's** poem "At the Ten-In-One," in her May favorite-poem column in the *Bay View Compass*.

### **EAST**

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

**Sr. Irene Zimmerman** has won two honors. Her book *Where God Is at Home* (published by ACTA), won First Place for Poetry Books from the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada, and also won a Bronze medal for Poetry in the 2020 Illumination Book Awards.

**Phyllis Wax** has two poems, and **CJ Mucchala** has one, on the *Jerry Jazz Musician* Poetry Page. This issue contains "poetry reflecting the era of COVID, Black Live Matter, and a heated political season." [jerryjazzmusician.com/2020/07/poetry-reflecting-the-era-of-covid-black-lives-matter-and-a-heated-political-season-vol-2/](http://jerryjazzmusician.com/2020/07/poetry-reflecting-the-era-of-covid-black-lives-matter-and-a-heated-political-season-vol-2/)

**Sylvia Cavanaugh** graces the cover of *Poetry Hall* 8. Besides Sylvia, East Region poets included in the issue are **Stephen Anderson, James Burton, Patricia Carney, Karl Elder, Katy Phillips, Georgia Ressmeyer, Lisa Vihos, and Marilyn Zelke Windau**. English-language poems submitted to the bilingual journal are selected by Cavanaugh and Vihos.

**Lisa Vihos** was recently named Sheboygan's first Poet Laureate. Her term will last through 2022.

**Jim Landwehr's** poem "Wordnapped" won second place in the Wisconsin Writers Association's Jade Ring Contest, including \$100 and publication. Poems about COVID-19, racial justice, environmentalism and travel have recently appeared in anthologies *Lockdown 2020, I*

*Can't Breathe, Through This Door* and *On the Road*. Jim is the Poet Laureate of Wales. For more: [jimlandwehr.com](http://jimlandwehr.com).

**Sara Sarna** received an Honorable Mention in the Wisconsin Writers Association's Jade Ring Contest.

**Susan Huebner** was the First Place winner in the *Wisconsin People & Ideas* 2020 Poetry Contest.

East Region poets receiving Honorable Mention were **Elisabeth Harrahy** and **Dawn Hogue**.

### **MID-CENTRAL**

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

**Jeffrey Johannes** and **Joan Wiese Johannes** had poems in the international anthology *Lockdown 2020*, and also both had poems in *Krazine Moss Piglet*, which featured Jeffrey's art on the cover.

**Mary "Ray" Goehring's** poetry appears in *Mondo: A Poetry Anthology and Workshop Guide* in collaboration with Janet Wade, in collaboration with James Paul Wagner in *A Pathway to a Dream* (Local Gems Press), and in an ekphrastic haiku collaboration with photographer Sue Heiser in *Highland Park Poetry*. "A Sudden Gust" appeared in both *Highland Park Poetry* and *Your Daily Poem*, and "Two Haiku for Toledo Bend" in the *Texas Poetry Calendar* 2021 (Kallisto Gaia Press).

**Sue Twiggs'** poem "Teaching Yoga" is in *Leaves of Peace: An Anthology of Poetry*; "Highway Reflection" in the summer issue of *Bramble*; "Falling Stairs" in *Halfway to the North Pole: Door County in Poetry*.

**Patricia Williams'** poetry publications are "Thoughts at the Time of the Virus" in *Lockdown 2020*, "Midnight Encounter" in *Avocet*, and "Magic in Collapsing Stars," "In Praise of Challenging Cycles," and "The Midwinter Night is Long" in the *DNR Calendar* 2020–2021

**Vlasta Karol Blaha** had "Not All Faces" in *Leaves of Peace*.

**Joan Giusto**, Tomahawk, had "Confiction Addiction" included in *Leaves of Peace*.

**Victoria Lindsay** had two poems in Art that Blooms. **Kathleen Serley** had "Statements Made in Passing" in *Halfway to the North Pole*.

**Linda Aschbrenner** had "No Mountain Anymore" and "Crows at 10,000 Feet in Fraser, Colorado" in *Poetry Hall* 8.

A British Blog article on **Mike Kriesel's** poetry is at [bobmeepoetryandmore.wordpress.com/blog-2/](http://bobmeepoetryandmore.wordpress.com/blog-2/).

### **NORTHEAST**

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com

**Peggy Turnbull** read from her new chapbook *The Joy of Their Holiness* via Zoom at a service of the Lakeshore

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Manitowoc.

**Tori Grant Welhouse's** recent poetry chapbook *Vaginas Need Air* won Etching Press's 2020 chapbook contest. Her poem "Black Friday" was published in *Into the Void*.

The Door County Collective has released a second anthology of poems; *Halfway to the North Pole: Door County in Poetry*, features many Northeast poets, including **Mike Orlock, Paulette Laufer, David Clowers, Lee LeVoy, Barbara Larsen, Karen Wilson, Ethel Mortenson Davis, Judy Roy, Annette Grunseth, Estella Lauter, Phil Hansotia, Nancy Rafal, June Nirschl, Thomas Davis, Gary Jones, Francha Barnard, Tori Grant Welhouse, Laura Winkelspecht, Ann Heyse** and **Anne Emerson**. Members from other regions are also included. The book will officially launch at Write On's Virtual Grand Opening of The Writer's Center on October 9.

Poets from the Northeast collaborated in an *Art as Poetry Exhibit*, presented by Basil Ishkabibbles Gallery and the Lakeshore Artists Guild. 15 poets and 15 visual artists took turns being inspired by each others' works. Participating Northeast poets include **Paulette Laufer, Bobbie Lovell, Brian Ciochetto, Peggy Turnbull** and **Tori Grant Welhouse**. Members from other regions also participated.

## NORTHWEST

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

**Jan Chronister's** poem "What If ..." was published in *Capsule Stories' Isolation Edition*, "Outside My Door" in the "My Front Door" series (Silver Birch Press), "Just Another Easter Morning" in *Poems from Isolation*, and "Snowbound" in *Lockdown 2020*. Jan has poems in *The Beautifullest* and *The Tyranny of Bacon* anthologies, both from Pure Slush, and in *Verdant* (Truth Serum Press). She co-edited *Leaves of Peace* with **Lucy Tyrrell, Naomi Cochran**, and **Sara Sarna**.

**Diana Randolph**, Drummond, had a drawing and a poem in *The Thunderbird Review* (Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College), a poem published in Red Cedar (UW-Eau Claire—Barron County), two haiku in the *Ashland Daily Press*, a poem for a word challenge contest held by Forest Lodge Library, Cable, published on their website, then read on WOJB-FM by a radio announcer.

**Elizabeth Tornes** had "Deer Story" in *Leaves of Peace*; she read it in the *Leaves of Peace* Zoom reading August 9.

**Nancy Austin** had "YouTube from Italy" and "Making Soup with Yo-Yo Ma" in *Lockdown 2020*, and "As the Pandemic Unfolds, Two Interviews" in *Isolation Zine*.

**Naomi Cochran** had "Twenty-One Days in the ICU" in *Lockdown 2020*.

**Lucy Tyrrell** had "I will fight no more forever" in *Leaves of Peace*, "Pronghorns" in *Avocet* (Summer),

"CORVID-17" in the *Weekly Avocet* 39, "street view" in *Verdant*, "River of Fur" in *The Beautifullest*, "C.Gordon Tyrrell" in *100 Lives* (Pure Slush), "driveby" in *The Tyranny of Bacon*, "Yellow Bus" in *Wrong Way, Turn Back* (Pure Slush), "Rowboat Christmas Cove, Maine 1962" in *Capsule Stories* (Summer), "Music in the Nave," "Lesson," and "While Virus Brings Panic" in *Lockdown 2020*, "The Legend of the Yukon Fox" and "Hey You" in *Alaska Women Speak* (Summer), "Arse Poetica" in *Bramble* (Summer), "Encounter with Thirty Ravens" and "License Plate" in *New Beginnings* (Poetry for a Cause), and "Returning Home," "Rock, River, Ice," and "Stopping on the Tamiami Trail" in *On the Road* Part II. Lucy received a special commendation for her poem "gaze out the window" in Wilda Morris's June Blogspot challenge. Wilda Morris used this poem to illustrate an acrostic, her challenge for July, and Lucy served as judge for this challenge. Lucy was one of 10 poets reading in a virtual session on July 16 organized by *Cirque Journal* to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> issue.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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

**W. Joseph Lutz** had "In Recognition" in *Rosebud* 67.

**Brenda Lempp** had 2 poems appear as part of the Madison Bus Lines project.

**Gene James Gilbert** had poems published in *Passager* and *Mused: the BellaOnline Literary Review*.

**Marilyn L. Taylor** had a poem "Herd Immunity: a Manifesto" on *Light Poetry Journal's* "Poems of the Week" July 27.

**F. J. Bergmann** was interviewed on SFPA's SpecPo blog, [specpo.wordpress.com/2020/08/01/on-submitting/](http://specpo.wordpress.com/2020/08/01/on-submitting/), which also posted "How to Piss Off a Poetry Editor," [specpo.wordpress.com/2020/06/30/how-to-piss-off-a-poetry-editor/](http://specpo.wordpress.com/2020/06/30/how-to-piss-off-a-poetry-editor/). SFPA's YouTube posted "Tend" (first appeared in *Missouri Review*): [youtube.com/watch?v=SyIVg4OrsG8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=SyIVg4OrsG8). "Love you Till the End" appeared in *100 Words: entropy2.com/blogs/100words/2020/06/18/love-you-till-the-end/*, "Faction" and "Sequences" in *Cobalt Review: cobaltreview.com/poetry/2020/07/08/39-poetry-by-fj-bergmann/*, "Blue World" in *New American Writing*, "Chrono-Man" in *Polu Texni: polutexni.com/?p=10626*, "Persistence" in *Rough Cut: roughcutpress.com/issue-14/*, "Balm" in *Frozen Wavelets*, "Mutant Diseases of Birds" and "Taxonomy" in *Shoreline of Infinity* (UK), [lakesong] in *50 Haikus*, "A Simpler Time," nominated for the SFPA Dwarf Stars Award, appeared in the 2020 *Dwarf Stars* anthology. She is once again (temporarily) editing *Star\*Line*, the journal of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association; see [sfpoetry.com/starline.html](http://sfpoetry.com/starline.html).

## WEST CENTRAL

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

Since the start of the pandemic, Chippewa Valley writers have found pocket utopias for writing surrounded by dystopian events. The Writers' Group at the Library continues to meet on Zoom the first Thursday of each month. Contact **Sandra Lindow** at [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com) for more information.

**David Blackey's** "Immigrant Nights" appears in *Poetry Hall*.

**Jane-Marie Bahr's** "Locked Down" appears in *The Parish Scope*, the newsletter of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Menomonie.

**Sandra Lindow's** "Seventy-Year Moon" and **Yvette Flaten's** "Meditation" appear in *Leaves of Peace*. On August 9, contributing poets read their *Leaves of Peace* poems plus one or two other poems. We were pleased that **Ellen Kort's** daughters, Cindy Kort and Jayme Bleick Baehman, were with us to read Ellen's poems. Presently Lindow is coediting the book-review section of SpecPo, a speculative poetry blog initiated by the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association. Her poem "Creation: Dark Matter Dating App" won third place for short poem in the SFPA 2020 Rhysling Awards, and "Tundra Swans" appeared in *Shorts Magazine* 3.

**Karen Loeb's** poem "The Barred Owls Have a Party" (originally in *Midwest Prairie Review*) was presented on Episode 5 of *Snapshots*, a YouTube channel begun by Ken Szymanski, Eau Claire's current writer-in-residence. Loeb reads, with flute music by Peter Phippen and photos by Jim Ivory: [youtube.com/watch?v=Qa26odKiCe0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qa26odKiCe0).

**Jeannie Roberts'** poem "Orisons for Our Front-Line Workers" is at [pikerpress.com/article.php?aID=8113](http://pikerpress.com/article.php?aID=8113), and "Warriors Atop Pyramid B" in *Landmarks Poetry and Prose Series*: [silverbirchpress.wordpress.com/2020/07/18/warriors-atop-pyramid-b-by-jeannie-e-roberts-landmarks-series/](http://silverbirchpress.wordpress.com/2020/07/18/warriors-atop-pyramid-b-by-jeannie-e-roberts-landmarks-series/).

### In Memoriam

*These members will be missed.*

Brent Christianson, Madison  
Laurel Devitt, Madison  
Rob Ganson, Washburn  
Kristian Kay, Oconomowoc  
Marcie Lietzke, Shawano  
Lorelee Sienkowski, Packwaukee  
Joey Wojtusik, Three Lakes

**Museletter submissions:** Send news to your regional VP or to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com) (include region!), in body of e-mail. Please format as in *Museletter*; no .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

## 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.

Community Poet Laureates are popping up throughout Wisconsin. 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.

## 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

## Publications by Our Members

*The Alchemy of Planes: Amelia Earhart's Life in Verse* by Colleen Nehmer (Finishing Line Press, 2020). \$19.99, available at [cnehmer.com](http://cnehmer.com).

*Hell Creek* by Esteban Colon, past Poet Laureate of Kenosha (Carthage College, 2020) is a full-color book of poetry and pictures from a dinosaur-hunting trip. \$30 includes shipping, from [esteban\\_colon@yahoo.com](mailto:esteban_colon@yahoo.com).

*The Joy of Their Holiness* by Peggy Turnbull (Kelsay Books, 2020), chapbook, 36 pp. \$16. [kelsaybooks.com/products/the-joy-of-their-holiness](http://kelsaybooks.com/products/the-joy-of-their-holiness).

*One Hundred Breaths* by James P. Roberts (Portage Press, 2020). 80 pp. \$12.00 + \$5.00 shipping. PayPal to [JRob52162@aol.com](mailto:JRob52162@aol.com) or by check to author at 324 Kedzie St #30, Madison, WI 53704. \$5.00 of all orders will be donated to a local food pantry.

*Vaginas Need Air* by Tori Grant Welhouse (Etchings Press, 2020) chapbook contest winner, \$10. [etchings.uindy.edu/book-contests/vaginas-need-air/](http://etchings.uindy.edu/book-contests/vaginas-need-air/).

*The Velocity of Love* by Kathryn Gahl (Water's Edge Press, 2020), a poetic memoir, 118 pp. \$20. Available for pre-order at [watersedgepress.com](http://watersedgepress.com).

### NOTE TO MEMBERS WITH NEW BOOKS

Have a new poetry book or chapbook? Send the title, publisher, date, # of pages, price, and a place to buy the book, or your email, to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

## WFOP's Literary Journal

**Bramble**, WFOP's literary magazine, is open to submissions from Wisconsin writers for the Fall Issue through **September 15**. Guest editor: **C. Kubasta**, with a team of students at Marian University.

*Bramble* is always excited to read poems about any topic, in any style, and any form. In keeping with the endeavor of the student-team, as well as how we as a county are engaged in a much-needed reckoning with our past, our (in many ways) unprecedented present, and whatever the future brings, we're also interested to read poems that interact with the idea of challenge and discovery. As our tagline says, we "seek to celebrate the challenging and transgressive spirit of poetry."

Regular 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**

Applications or nominations for the 2021–2022 Wisconsin Poet Laureate will be taken only until September 1. Guidelines for how to apply or nominate can be found here: <http://www.wisconsinpoetlaureate.org/node/44>

## 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).

## 2022 Wisconsin Poet's Calendar

Heads up: the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets will begin accepting poems for the 2022 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* beginning **November 1, 2020**. The theme is "The Feel of a Word."

What is it about a certain word that makes you feel good? Might it be the way it rolls around your tongue, teeth, lips, cheeks as it finds its way out into the world? (Think sensation of sound, e.g., *recombobulation*.) Might it be a word that warms your heart, sends chills down your spine or awakens your tactile senses when you hear it? (Think *apricity*—the warmth of the sun on a winter's day.)

Poets must be at least 18, a resident of Wisconsin or have a close connection to Wisconsin.

Submission guidelines will appear on [wfop.org](http://wfop.org) in late October. Submissions received prior to **November 1** will be returned. Deadline is **February 1, 2021**.

Thank you! Suzy Wedeward and Jane Osypowski, 2022 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* Editors

## Liking Bred

Looking for an unusual but simple poetic form to play with? Try a bredlik!

This form was invented in response to a news item about a French bakery that discovered—during a health inspection—that a stray cow was licking all the freshly baked loaves (baguettes, one presumes).

The following poem, by British poet Sam Garland, subsequently went viral on the internet, and was so often

imitated that bredlik is now a recognized form. Scholars inform us that the classic bredlik uses Middle English spelling, but creativity in this respect is highly encouraged! See [buzzfeednews.com/article/krishrach/my-name-rach-i-like-to-rite](http://buzzfeednews.com/article/krishrach/my-name-rach-i-like-to-rite) and [steemit.com/contest/@suesa-random/bredlik-meme-contest-the-winners](http://steemit.com/contest/@suesa-random/bredlik-meme-contest-the-winners) for more examples.

my name is Cow,  
and wen its nite,  
or wen the moon  
is shiyning brite,  
and all the men  
haf gon to bed—  
i stay up late.  
i lik the bred.

Anyone can enjoy composing one of these silly and entertaining poems!

—F. J. Bergmann

## 2021 WFOP Chapbook Contest

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapbook Contest opens **September 1, 2020**, with a deadline of **February 1, 2021**.

The WFOP contest is for poetry chapbooks 16–47 pages long, published during the calendar year 2020. First Prize is \$200 and Second Prize is \$100. The chapbook contest is open to Wisconsin residents 18 and over. The contest judge is James Armstrong, from Winona, MN. See [wfop.org/annual-contests](http://wfop.org/annual-contests) for contest rules and the entry form. This year's contest coordinator will again be **Annette Grunseth**, [annettegrunseth@gmail.com](mailto:annettegrunseth@gmail.com).

## 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](http://wfop.org). Contact [wfopmembership@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmembership@gmail.com) if you are not sure when your membership expires.

**SAVE POSTAGE and renew or join online at [wfop.org](http://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.

## Poems BY Our Membership

—ELMAE PASSINEAU, EDITOR

A narrative poem with some reference to a grandparent—yours, someone else's, or a fictional one.

### COMING OVER: STEERAGE

On the voyage at sea, crushed together  
with her husband and three children,  
one still so small it lived in her arms,  
my grandmother thought only of  
catching her breath and staying alive.  
She hoped at least there were chamber pots,  
but seeing the misery around her, smelling  
the stench of other humans, she realized  
there weren't. There was no one left to  
tighten her corset once she arrived in New York.  
Fleeting, she conjured up Natasha  
back home drawing her bath, helping her  
into her clothing, combing her hair,  
and then she never thought of her again.

—Karen Loeb, *Eau Claire*

### FARMHOUSE TREASURE

In a brown windstorm,  
like the Dust Bowl,  
she forged ahead driving  
toward the old farmhouse's  
former spot, only a windmill was left.  
Through the heavy sifting, shifting of sand,  
silt and clay she spied the glint  
of a pop bottle—she thought.  
It was luck this cousin  
stooped to pick up the sparkling  
pieces in green, pale pink  
and soft blue—jagged jewels.  
Fragments from the old stained glass  
window once above grandma's  
dining room in the white farmhouse,  
where she served fried chicken and gravy.  
Four decades, under the rich Nebraska soil,  
the precious memory was buried.

—Cindy Crebbin, *Muskego*

### GRANDMOTHERS

the only memory of my mother's mom  
is not my own but once removed  
a faded black and white photo  
a thin woman a handsome face

standing on a broad lawn  
holding an infant "That's you"  
my mother said pointing  
to the swaddled babe

the only memory of my father's mom  
is standing before her as she sat  
on a bench at a family reunion  
no touch of her hand

no kiss on the cheek  
grandchild of her bastard son  
relinquished to make way for  
a real husband an honest family

I never knew when my mom's mom died  
I was too young to remember  
I wasn't told when my dad's mom died  
she was too hard to remember

—Karyn Powers, *Wausau*

### GRANDMA'S HEIRLOOM

I sit amongst strangers in this place of opulence;

Spirits are poured and I abstain—  
what am I doing here anyway?

The women start cooking and I stand askance,  
impoverished in the skills required.

I pull out my pad, begin to write words  
like *turquoise*, *murmuration*, and *estuary*,

Each one an echo of your lilting voice;

like how you whispered versions of honey  
so sweet, I dabbed my mouth  
with your finely embroidered handkerchief.

—Chris Daleiden, *Fond du Lac*

## POET'S SELF-PORTRAIT

I am coarse wire  
strung by my grandfather  
above the fence around his compound in Africa.

In deep night,  
loud with the voices of insects,  
I am brushed by a hot leopard belly,  
struck by its rear claws.

I vibrate, zing, scream  
as the stock snort in their nightmares  
and my grandfather wakes, already running,  
gun in hand.

I whine,  
ring in his ears  
as he aims,  
fires,  
explodes the great, wild heart.

I witness hot blood  
soaking into sand.

—*Sheryl Slocum, Milwaukee*

Previously published in *HodgePodge*, Summer 1996

## CONCERTINA IN THE KITCHEN

After supper, her grandfather played the concertina  
in the small kitchen tipsy with tunes and laughter,  
tattered music sheets fluttering on the worn table  
He played with wheezy gusto, pushing and pulling  
shimmering velvet bellows that took great gulps of air  
He played polkas, "The South Side Gallop," and they  
danced, galloped, whooped next to the stove and sink  
until her grandmother's hair fell down from the untidy  
bun on her neck, and the checkered apron over  
her housedress flapped back and forth, up and down  
When they stopped to catch their breath, her grandmother  
found three red satin ribbons to tie on the concertina  
She was so proud of the man she loved and the music

—*Elizabeth Harmatys Park, Burlington*

## TWO VOICES

Yesterday as I was  
in the garden  
talking to myself,  
I heard my grandmother's

German voice  
catch mine,  
grab it and lift it  
to her high-pitched accent

where it hovered  
like an osprey  
fluttering over its nest.

Then I heard my voice fall  
back to its slow  
trot, as my grandmother  
left me once again.

To have shared her—  
even a few words—  
sent my heart soaring.

—*Elizabeth Tornes, Lac du Flambeau*

## ROSES

My grandmother's roses  
were, like her,  
pink and pretty.

Seduced by scent and crisp white wicker  
we spent elegant screened-in summers  
sipping amber tea  
with sprigs of mint  
from iced green glasses.

It's sixty years.  
Still I hear  
terrible scrabbling sounds  
in the stifling garden,  
the iridescent copper shards  
of emerald beetles  
struggling and drowning  
in pails of poison.

—*Alessandra Foster, Milwaukee*



## FRYING CHICKEN

When I fry chicken  
in the oil of the cast iron pan,  
sizzling and browning crisply,  
I am my mother and her mother.  
The Louisiana days stay with them,  
like their own heartbeat.  
Still moves their hands to create gumbo,  
grit, steaming bread pudding.  
Even with several moves over the years,  
to rising California in the 40s, and the quiet Midwest in the 70s,  
the ancestral thread holds taut.  
New Orleans, my mother's birthplace,  
with creole dishes, jazz music that infiltrates the humid nights,  
and stately mansions,  
still sings within her.  
Within her, in a rural Wisconsin town.

—*Kippi Bednar, Mayville*

## OMA EXPLAINS ONE LONG AND TWO SHORT TO HER NEW GRANDSON

When I was  
growing up  
at the end  
(it could have been the beginning)  
of a half-mile gravel drive

a black phone  
hung on the wall. It sported  
a short furry cord  
and a hand-held  
receiver to snug around my ear.

Someday, I hope you will  
ask me what one long and  
two short has to do with  
a phone in a farmhouse  
kitchen—it will give us  
a chance to communicate  
about a long life-line and  
how short it is, really.

—*Kathryn Gahl, Appleton*

## A LIFE IN 14 LINES DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

The next prompt is "A life in 14 lines or fewer."  
Welcome to our new editors, **Sheryl Slocum** &  
**Kim Parsons**.

Submit poems to [slocumss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slocumss@sbcglobal.net)

or by post to **Sheryl Slocum**  
8025 W Oklahoma Ave Apt 2  
Milwaukee WI 53219

## NANA ELSIE WAS A FLAPPER

Nana Elsie was a flapper  
And she danced with the Denishawns  
Dressed her baby girl like Shirley Temple  
hair curls and tap shoes for a two-year-old

The wildest of four sisters  
She did not learn to drive until after fifty  
Before, she would light a cigarette for the bus to come  
Queen of the accidents her Corvair dyed  
to match Grandpa's Cadillac.

She bred Siamese cats, played mah-jongg  
made a killing in penny stocks  
And always told us  
she was too mean to die

—*Sara Shutkin, Milwaukee*

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### GRANDMA BLOCK

The house, a walk-up on the  
Polish Southside, too near  
foundries, close by the lake,  
not far from bus and Jewel  
where Jays Potato Chips adorned  
an outside wall. Milwaukee Transit  
runs along the street of brick.

The matriarch sits in her rocking chair  
in the downstairs sitting-dining room  
her stockings, wool, rolled down to calves  
and looking older than her years,  
complains of “spells” and shuffles  
to the antiquated bathroom near the coal  
chute and the cast-iron furnace face.

—*Ed Block, Greendale*

### GRANDMA?

“I’m waiting for my grandma,” said the little girl  
to the other on the Chicago porch  
A red convertible pulls to the curb  
with a white standard poodle riding shotgun  
The long-legged platinum-blond woman in her 30s  
wearing a fox fur and high heels steps out  
As the little girl began to run into her Nana’s arms,  
the other child exclaimed in disgust . . .  
“That’s not a grandma.”

—*Patricia McNamee Rosenberg, Burlington*