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## Welcome!

### NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Angelos, Carlton  
Lynn Aprill, Seymour  
Cindy Champeau, New Franken  
John Fritzell, Appleton  
Paul Hambleton, Hudson  
Jackie McManus, Lyle, WA  
Rachel Martin, Madison  
Sam Hidde Tripp, Milwaukee  
Kathrine Yets, St. Francis  
Catherine Zhang, Kohler  
Grace Zhang, Kohler



### 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)

## President's Message

I'm writing this in the middle of a stretch of beautiful warm days that won't last long. Up here close to Lake Superior, trees have been bare for several weeks. We even had about half a foot of snow that just wouldn't go away and made it feel like winter came early.

Winter is always a good time for writing, and this year even more so as we all "shelter in place" as much as possible. Though many of our favorite poetry events are cancelled, many have moved to virtual platforms, and I hope you are able to participate (or already have!) in some of these. WFOP has a group Zoom subscription, so please contact your regional vice-president if you have ideas or suggestions for virtual events. The best way to keep up with these events is through Facebook and the weekly events email. To receive the weekly Events email, please contact **Jeannie Bergmann** at [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

At the October 31 WFOP board meeting, it was voted to cancel the Spring Conference scheduled for May 1 & 2 at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. The board will now begin weighing options for some type of virtual meeting. If you have ideas, comments or suggestions you'd like to offer, please contact me or your regional vice-president. All reports presented to the board are posted on our website. Reading these will keep you up to date on what's going on in WFOP.

In spite of current challenges, WFOP contests and submissions are alive and well. The chapbook and Muse contests are now open, as is the call for poems for the 2022 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. Submissions to the Winter/Spring 2021 Issue of *Bramble* open December 1. Please see the website for complete details on all these opportunities.

The 2021 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* is a smashing success! The first printing sold out; more are being printed to fill holiday gift orders. If you are planning to order, please do so soon to avoid being disappointed. Members get a \$5 discount per copy online!

The Events mailing also lists bookstores around the state where *Calendars* can be purchased. Kudos to **Gillian Nevers**, **Nancy Jesse**, and **Keesia Hyzer** for their dedication.

I highly recommend reading their report online to learn more. **Steve Tomasko** has also been a huge help, providing assistance in printing and mailing calendars.

Speaking of membership, renewals are due December 31. It's easy to renew at [wfop.org](http://wfop.org). Please keep your membership current, as we rely on your support to operate. WFOP is the only state-wide organization devoted solely to the celebration and advancement of poetry. In these troubling times, our mission may sometimes seem daunting, yet every day I am inspired by the efforts of so many members who donate time, talents, and energy to WFOP.

Stay safe and warm this winter. I hope to "see" you in the spring.

—Jan

## *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.

Poetry Unlocked (coordinated by **Bobbie Lovell**, **Cathryn Cofell**, and **Sarah Gilbert**) continues to provide regular readings with open mics via Zoom. Email at **poetryunlockedappleton@gmail.com** or find on FB for more info. Readings at THELMA in Fond du Lac will resume (virtually) this spring. **Kathryn Gahl**, Appleton, won first place in the Hal Prize for poetry with “Daytona Beach at Dusk,” and received an Honorable Mention for “With Other Mothers” in The Mill’s poetry prizes. “Tempest” by **Nick Engebretsen**, Fond du Lac, and “When My Father Had Gout” by **Karla Huston**, formerly Appleton, appear in the Fall issue of *Bramble*. **C. Kubasta**, Oshkosh, has an essay “When Workshop Doesn’t Work” in *Far Villages: Welcome Essays for New & Beginning Poets* (Black Lawrence Press), ed. **Abayomi Animashaun**.

### **EAST**

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

East members, please send in your news!

### **MID-CENTRAL**

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

**Mike Kriesel** is judging the current Wichita State University Poetry Contest. He also has work in the anthology *No More Can Fit into the Evening* (Four Windows Press, 2020).

**Joan Giusto**’s poem “To My Successors” appeared in the September issue of *Poetry Hall*.

**Joan Wiese Johannes** had poems in *Moss Piglet*.

**Jeffrey Johannes** had poems and art in *Moss Piglet* and poems in *Ariel* and *Community & Connection* anthologies.

**Sue Twiggs**’ poem “After Six Months” was published in the *Ariel Anthology*.

**Patricia Williams** had poems in *Poetry Quarterly*, “Night Comes”, *Weekly Avocet*, “Neighborhood Reporter”, *The Poeming Pigeon*, Pop Culture Issue, “Close Encounters: I Met Lassie on the Stage of the Oriental Theater.”

**Vlasta Karol Blaha**, Colby, had her poem, “Look for Blossoms” published in *Ariel Anthology*.

**Elmae Passineau**’s “City Gal at the Clearing” is in *Highway to the North Pole: Door County in Poetry*, and “Two Faces of Mom” and “Root Beer, Anyone?” in *Goose*

*River Anthology* 2020.

**Linda Aschbrenner** had “Temptation” in *Halfway to the North Pole: Door County in Poetry*.

### **NORTHEAST**

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com

**Annette Grunseth** was a finalist in The Mill poetry contest for her poem “On Behalf of a Grateful Nation”. She had three poems in *Dispatches* (Military Writers Society of America); also “The Cup” in *Leaves of Peace Anthology*, “Learning Curve” in *Ariel Anthology*, a haiku in *Poetry Hall*. She was a featured reader for Poetry Unlocked in October and was also Door County Peninsula Poet for October with an interview and poems in *Peninsula Pulse*. Her poem “The Big Cover-Up” also appears in the fall issue of *Bramble*.

**Tonya McKenna Trabant**’s poem “Sea Glass Beach” was published in the July *Clockhouse Journal*, and her “Make A Tincture” appears in *Barstow and Grand*’s fall issue.

“Slow Boil” by **Tori Grant Welhouse**, from her award-winning chapbook *Vaginas Need Air*, appears in *Crab Creek Review*’s fall issue.

### **NORTHWEST**

VP: Nancy Austin, austin10929@gmail.com

**Jan Chronister** has poems appearing in *Glow* (Truth Serum Press), *The Aunt Flo Project*, and *Highland Park Poetry*. “Harvest” appeared on *Your Daily Poem* November 7. Her poem “Dichotomy” was nominated by *Highland Park Poetry* for Best of the Net. Jan was invited to submit a poem to *Through This Door: Wisconsin in Poems*, an anthology edited by Margaret Rozga, Wisconsin Poet Laureate. Jan earned a third place, two honorable mentions and an award of merit in the League of Minnesota Poets 2020 contest.

**Diana Randolph**, Drummond, read a poem during the open mike at **Lucy Tyrrell**’s ZOOM poetry reading in August; and she had one poem in *Ski and Tea Newsletter* (for a north woods women’s outdoor exercise group).

**Lucy Tyrrell** had “Burn Dance” and “Anew” in *Capsule Stories*, “Laze” in *Glow* (Truth Serum Press), “Walking east along the road” in *Poetry Hall*, “I Discover Quills,” “Hard Crust on Snow,” and “Searches in Which I Discover Disquieting Things About Memorials to My Grandparents” in *Ariel Anthology*, “Sonnet for Saving Gaia” in *Weekly Avocet*, “Under the Dog House” in *Alaska Women Speak*, and “As I Wended the Shores I Know” in the *Whitman Collaborative Project*. She received First Place in the “Aging” category of League of Minnesota Poets for “Bottle of Scotch—Shall We Tell Him?” and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Award of Merit for other poems.

At the request of the local League of Women Voters,

Lucy wrote “Votes for Women” for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment display at the Bayfield Carnegie Library. She hosted a virtual Poetry Evening “Summer Sampler” August 24. Special guest Dee Sweet, former Poet Laureate of Wisconsin, also read poems at the event.

Lucy participated in the two virtual Leaves of Peace poetry readings (organized by **June Paul** and DeForest Library August 3, and by **Sandra Lindow** on August 9). She attended “One Poem” and “In Covid Times” online events. She participated in the Poetry Postcard Festival sending 31 poems on postcards to fellow participants in 31 days. She judged the Healthcare Workers category for the Illinois Poets & Patrons contest. Lucy served as co-editor (with **Jan Chronister**) for *Ariel Anthology* in 2020.

**Elizabeth Tornes**’ poem “Covid Summer” appeared in the *Community & Connection* anthology. She participated in **Kimberly Blaeser**’s “Concrete Poetry” Workshop in October, sponsored by WFOF.

**Jude Genereaux**’s poem “Tell Me of Ice” is in *ABCs of the Apostles*, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apostle Islands. In October, for the grand opening of Write On! Door County, Jude read her poem “Eight Ways to Look at an Island”, included in *Halfway to the North Pole*.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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

**Suzi Godwin** had a haiku, [herbaceous borders], published in the December 2020 issue of *The Heron’s Nest*.

**Adam Pergament** and **Nathan J. Reid** had poems in the latest issue of *Poetry Hall*.

Robin Chapman had 3 poems published in *The Hudson Review*.

**Ron Czerwien** had two small, humorous poems online in this month’s *Verse-Virtual*, two small poems in *Poetry Hall*, and one poem forthcoming in the *Community & Connection* anthology, a joint project of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets and Bent Paddle Press.

**F. J. Bergmann** has “Fairytale,” “Hatchling,” “Jadis” and “Parabola” in *Altered Reality* ([alteredrealitymag.com/fairytale-by-f-j-bergmann/](http://alteredrealitymag.com/fairytale-by-f-j-bergmann/)), “All Poems Are Love Poems” in *Museum of Poetry* ([museumofpoetry.org/bergman1](http://museumofpoetry.org/bergman1)), “Reincarnation” in *Liquid Imagination* ([liquidimagination.silverpen.org/article/reincarnation-by-f-j-bergmann/](http://liquidimagination.silverpen.org/article/reincarnation-by-f-j-bergmann/)) and “Season of Fear” on the SFPA Halloween audio poetry page ([sfpoetry.org/halloween.html](http://sfpoetry.org/halloween.html)). She won the Short and Long categories of the SFPA contest, plus a third place; read the poems at [sfpoetry.com/contests/20contest.html](http://sfpoetry.com/contests/20contest.html).

## WEST CENTRAL

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

The Writers’ Group at the Library, now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year,

continues to meet via Zoom on first Thursday. Email Sandra Lindow at [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com) for more information. Due to the pandemic, we have had to be creative about meeting. Aug. 29, Sandra Lindow coordinated a Zoom reading to celebrate the *Leaves of Peace* anthology of poetry, with 20 participants plus others who joined as audience. Sept. 20, the White Pine autumn equinox celebration was held outside under the Farmers’ Market Pavilion in Wilson Park in downtown Menomonie. Participants and audience masked and socially distanced, about 30 in attendance. On Oct. 14 the 2021 *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendars* were distributed in Owen Park, Eau Claire. Others had been given out via front-porch delivery. Oct. 29, Lindow hosted a Zoom reading for the 35<sup>th</sup> *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar*. **Yvette Flaten**, **Linda Frank**, **Candace Hennekens**, **Erna Kelly**, **Warren Lang**, **Karen Loeb** and **Jessi Peterson** participated. Nov. 11, Lindow participated in a Zoom reading celebrating the *Halfway to the North Pole* anthology.

**David Blackey**’s “Covered Bridge,” Flaten’s “Discovery” and “Graduation Day,” Kelly’s “Doves” and “It came gently to my window,” Lindow’s “Discovery” and “In the Parking Lot,” Loeb’s “2 A.M.” and **Jeannie E. Roberts**’ “The Neighborhood Casanova” appear in *Ariel*. Lindow’s poem “September, Washington Island: Words on Water” appears in *Halfway to the North Pole*. **Lopa Basu** was commissioned to write a poem for the winter Book Club of Dotters Books, Eau Claire; “Unfettered Flight” was printed and distributed to 25 book club members. Basu and Lindow will read at the UW–Stout faculty and staff virtual reading on Nov. 19 at 7 PM. Lindow’s audio Halloween poem, “The Cartoon Graveyard,” is at [sfpoetry.org/halloween.html](http://sfpoetry.org/halloween.html). Discussion is occurring regarding a winter solstice White Pine event that might include a combination of Zoom and recording.

**Karen Loeb**’s poem “The Agility of Chopsticks” ([wisconsinacademy.org/contributor/karen-loeb](http://wisconsinacademy.org/contributor/karen-loeb)) received an honorable mention in the 2019 *Wisconsin People & Ideas* poetry contest and was published in the 2020 spring issue. Her poem “Postcards Home” appears in *Pinyon*, a print literary magazine from Grand Junction, Colorado, and “Pandemic Cycle” in the Local Lit column of the Oct. 19 issue of *Volume One* ([volumeone.org/contributors/k/57/557-karen-loeb](http://volumeone.org/contributors/k/57/557-karen-loeb)). She also gave a reading August 13, sponsored by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters as part of an ongoing series featuring previous winners of its poetry and fiction contests ([wisconsinacademy.org/video/karen-loeb-fiction-poetry-winners-live-reading-series](http://wisconsinacademy.org/video/karen-loeb-fiction-poetry-winners-live-reading-series)). She participated in a virtual *Calendar* reading Oct. 29 with other West Central poets, and a virtual reading Nov. 1 with writers in the current issue of *Harpy Hybrid Review* where she read her poem “They Said—We Said” ([harpyhybridreview.org/issues/fall-2020/](http://harpyhybridreview.org/issues/fall-2020/)).

Fireweed Press, Madison, announces the publication of

### *A Door Opens*

Poems by Richard Merelman

\$10 from: **Richard Merelman**  
**PO Box 1501**  
**Madison WI 53701-1504**

or from select bookstores.

*"A Door Opens ... will bewitch and bedazzle you with its wrought wit and wisdom."* —RON WALLACE, Editor, University of Wisconsin Press Poetry Series. Author of *Long for This World* and *For Dear Life*

Community Poets Laureate flourish throughout Wisconsin. State Poet Laureate **Peggy Rozga** and Door County Poet Laureate **Nancy Rafal** are compiling a list of all Poet Laureate positions in the state. If you know of any community PL program please send the information to Nancy: **mrsticket@gmail.com** or PO Box 340, Baileys Harbor WI 54202-0340. Please include the following: 1) date program established 2) names of poets laureate & dates of post. 3) selection procedure, 4) any other significant information.

### **In Memoriam**

*These members will be missed.*

**Phil Hansotia, Ellison Bay**  
**Palmer Haynes, Mt. Horeb**

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 ~ 608-238-3648**

**Museletter submissions:** Send news to your regional VP or to **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	

## *Publications by Our Members*

*By a Lake Near a Moon: Fishing with the Chinese Masters* by Dewitt Clinton (Is A Rose Press, 2020), 154 pp. \$20. [isarosepress.com](http://isarosepress.com), [boswellbooks.com](http://boswellbooks.com), Amazon.

*Catching Nightcrawlers*, the 17<sup>th</sup> Gary C. Busha mini-chapbook. 26 pp. \$5. To order query [gbusha@wi.rr.com](mailto:gbusha@wi.rr.com).

*Decennia* by Jan Chronister (Truth Serum Press, 2020). 156 pages. \$12. Order from publisher at [bit.ly/decenniapage](http://bit.ly/decenniapage) or from Jan at [whispertreepress@gmail.com](mailto:whispertreepress@gmail.com)

*A Door Opens* by Richard Merelman (Fireweed Press, 2020), 56 pp. \$10 to: Richard Merelman, PO Box 1501, Madison, WI 53701-1504

*Elbow Room* by James Botsford (Sandyhouse Press, 2020) poems and epigrams, 137pp. \$12 includes shipping. [thebigsandy@gmail.com](mailto:thebigsandy@gmail.com).

*Elements* ep release by FlowPoetry x Jeff Clarke (Sweet Delta Dawn), 13 min. Name Your Price Download at [flowpoetry.bandcamp.com/](http://flowpoetry.bandcamp.com/)

*Halfway to the North Pole* (The Door County Poets Collective, 2020) features poems by 66 poets that explore Door County's ecology, history, and island culture. \$15 from Lion's Mouth Bookstore, Green Bay, and [writeondoorcounty.org/shop/](http://writeondoorcounty.org/shop/)

*Heart on a String* by Tom Boswell (Grayson Books, 2020), 90 pp. \$15.95 from Amazon or Barnes & Noble online. \$15 by check (includes shipping) from the author, 1942 Sachtjen St, Madison, WI 53704.

*Northern Portrait* by Fredric Hildebrand (Kelsay Books, 2020), chapbook, 32 pp. \$16 (<https://kelsaybooks.com/products/northern-portrait>).

*Psych-O-Pomp* by Adam Gregory Pergament (FlowPoetry, 2020), \$20 from [facebook.com/Flowpoetry/shop](http://facebook.com/Flowpoetry/shop)

*Where God Is at Home* by Sr. Irene Zimmerman (ACTA Publications, 2019). 2020 First Place Poetry Books from Catholic Press Association and 2020 Bronze Award in Poetry from Illumination Book Awards. 212 pp. \$16.95 + \$5 shipping. Order from [actapublications.com](http://actapublications.com) (800-397-2282); Amazon; or author at [ancillapoet@gmail.com](mailto:ancillapoet@gmail.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)*

2021 WFOP MUSE PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN POETRY CONTEST RULES  
**DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

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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**Bramble**, WFOP's literary magazine, is open to submissions from Wisconsin writers for the Winter/Spring Issue through **December 1–January 15**. Guest editor: **Mark Zimmermann**.

This issue's theme is *reckonings*. Poems in any style & form; they might involve a moment, event or issue that brought the poet to revise or reconsider a previous belief or behavior. Maybe the poet was wrong about something; or something they'd been thinking or doing simply didn't work anymore. Or maybe a reckoning involves someone other than the poet; perhaps a literary character; or an entity other than *Homo sapiens*. Maybe a matter from long ago, or something that happened yesterday or is ongoing—intimately personal, broadly political, both, or neither.

Reckonings that do more than ask the reader to be on the side of the angels are particularly welcome.

Issues are guest-edited by WFOP members and open to all Wisconsin poets. For queries about art, 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**

**MUSE JUDGE: Joyce Sutphen** has been serving as Minnesota's poet laureate since 2011. She is also Professor Emerita at Gustavus Adolphus college, where she specialized in teaching creative writing, British literature, and modern poetry. Her first book of poetry, *Straight Out of View* (Beacon Press, 1995), won the Barnard New Women's Poets Prize. Her second, *Coming Back to the Body* (Holy Cow! Press, 2000), was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award, and her third, *Naming the Stars* (2004), also from Holy Cow! Press, won the Minnesota Book Award in Poetry. In 2005, Red Dragonfly Press published *Fourteen Sonnets*. Her most recent book is *Carrying Water to the Field: New and Selected Poems* (University of Nebraska Press [Ted Kooser Contemporary Poetry Series], 2019), including 20 poems from each of her seven books and 40 new ones. In *Straight Out of View*, she writes of the prairies: "That it is not the country for poetry... Yet I knew it to be passionate." She proves that Minnesota is a place to witness clouds "rubbing their dark / knuckles over the yellow dunes" and listen for "five kinds of birdsong / threaded through the air." HSutphen connects the labor of the farm with her labor as a poet. Working the land with her grandmother taught her "to love a well-honed thing" such as a hoe or a crafted sonnet. "Two reasons keep me coming to the empty page: the desire to make a place for the glinting shard, the divine detail, and the hope that this caressing, this pressing against the visible will reveal the invisible. In the end, it isn't hard: when I sit down to write a poem, one thing just leads to another."

2021 MUSE PRIZE ENTRY FORM • DEADLINE: **FEBRUARY 1, 2021** (postmark)

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

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

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

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

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

*If my poem wins, I agree to have it published on the WFOP website* \_\_\_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**

### 2022 Wisconsin Poet's Calendar

The 2022 *Calendar* is open for submissions. 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

### 2021 WFOP Student Contest Deadline: **February 1, 2021**

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

### 2020 Triad Contest Winners

#### Theme (Humor) • 51 entries

- 1<sup>st</sup> "The Lawyer and the Thief," Thomas J. Erickson  
2<sup>nd</sup> "Homage to a Problematic Yet Noble Vegetable," Nancy Jesse  
3<sup>rd</sup> "Florida Man," Ed Block  
HM "Spiders," Elizabeth K. Keggi

#### Poets' Choice • 59 entries

- 1<sup>st</sup> "My Monstrous," Emily Bowles  
2<sup>nd</sup> "The sound of the bell as it leaves the bell," Sandra Lindow  
3<sup>rd</sup> "As His Way in This World Leads to College," Cathryn Cofell  
HM "Conjugating Pronouns," Margaret Rozga  
"At the Kitchen Table," Jackie Langetieg  
"The Smile in His Eyes," James P. Roberts

#### Kay Saunders Memorial Emerging Poet • 19 entries

- 1<sup>st</sup> "Doves in the Rafters," Robert Kokan  
2<sup>nd</sup> "My prayer flags are flying again," Kathleen Hayes Phillips  
3<sup>rd</sup> "Chicago Summer 1968," Patricia McNamee Rosenberg  
HM "Old Violins," Amy Phimister  
"Walking Beside the Fox River with My Daughter on a Sunday," Mike Gadzik  
"Grass," Erna Kelly

## 2021 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, 2020. 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, 2021**.
3. Chapbooks published in 2020 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 **James Armstrong**, from Winona MN. 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).

### 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.

### *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)

### *About Your Membership*

**Renew NOW—before you forget!**

**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).

2021 CHAPBOOK PRIZE ENTRY FORM  
DEADLINE (postmark): February 1, 2021

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 Gruneth**  
**3918 St. Croix Circle W**  
**Green Bay WI 54301**

*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.



## Poems BY Our Membership

—SHERYL SLOCUM & KIM PARSONS, EDITORS

*Prompt: a life in 14 lines or fewer.*

### THE PARENTHETICAL YOU (A LIFE IN 14 LINES)

You enter gasping for air.

(You will insert here twelve lines. Begin with your earliest memory, maybe a mouse startling you at two, maybe crying on Santa's lap.

Then write it all: school, family, work, love found (and lost) and found again. Write both the sorrows and the joys,

each of which will be more than some and less than others. Shine your own light, with steady purpose, on the world as you see it.

Because these twelve lines are all you have. They're yours and yours alone. The first and last lines belong to everyone).

You exit gasping for air.

—Ed Werstein, Milwaukee

### ACER SACCHARUM

Seed borne on samara wing  
whirls with wind, journeys forth,  
lands on soil, moist, ready.  
Cotyledons like little yolks  
nourish the tiny root, shoot, that pull  
of gravity, that pull of sun. Quiet years,  
waiting for a gap, rings of hard work,  
hardwood, pointed leaves like palms—  
open, veined. Smile on the spile,  
share drops of life-water running up the vessels  
on warm days, sweeten the neighbor's cakes.  
Decades, maybe centuries—green springs, yellow falls.  
Flashing bolt, downburst, sharpened axe—  
end a simple maple life.

—Lucy Tyrrell, Bayfield

### BLUE SEPTEMBER

Chicory blooms in September—  
tiny saucers of sky—  
mother's watchful eyes.

She was born in September—  
so was our daughter.

My father died on a blue September day.  
My friend's young wife died in September.

But this September day  
we watch our daughter walk away  
between canyoned buildings  
toward college,  
a vertical blue sky vein,  
and beyond,  
the blue blue river.

—Bruce Stewart, Baraboo

### I'LL NEVER KNOW

I want to tell them about you, Breonna,  
you who died at 26 from six bullets.  
But what do I really know about your life  
in Louisville as a black woman?

The only life I understand is mine—  
the layered life of a farmer's daughter  
who never thought about her whiteness  
when she fed alfalfa to Holsteins  
or showed Chester White pigs at the fair.

And now, Breonna, I am an old woman,  
who can't defend what she didn't know  
and has little time left to understand  
the impact of being black.

—Jan Bosman, Woodstock IL

## TOMMY

His dad was a Marine  
He joined  
His grandfather was a policeman  
He followed  
Known for hard work and helping  
Got along with all  
Compassion and kindness; a rare gift  
A pawn in workplace politics  
All this unknown until after  
What was known were life's struggles  
Estrangements and entanglements, same as anyone  
Irrational illusion and rational reality collide  
Tragedy, confusion, sadness  
How to make sense of the chosen path

—*Karin Schmidt, Wauwatosa*

## GIFT ON ENTERING THE CONVENT

The big black blanket had no nascent charm.  
It covered almost all the narrow bed.  
At times it didn't cover both my arms  
and surely not together feet and head.

The last thing that my grandma knitted was  
this giant shawl for me for when I left  
to keep me warm she thought and yes, it does.  
Its blackness speaks of what they were bereft.

My mom and grandma had to see me leave  
to change my life from theirs in unknown ways  
to give my life to God. They did not conceive  
of a life for God within those walls all days.

But big black blanket served a life of love,  
of joy, of wealth they never could have dreamed of.

—*Julia Rice, Milwaukee*

## JOAN OF ARC OAK

white oak is Joan of Arc, defiant against history's men.  
her unbarked limbs tied on each side of her  
sapling trunk in hemp.  
near her fiber roots  
amongst straw, trigs  
is where  
they  
put  
fire  
against  
her life.  
audiences whine in howls  
while her voice is burnt so ripe.

—*Lucas Alan Dietsche, Superior*

## MR. SUPALA

He left behind nothing of value.  
The slumped shack where the old man lived alone  
fell into my father's hands, to sort through  
like coffee cans of bent and rusty nails.

On Sundays, he wore a suit  
and offered sticks of gum to the children.  
Half a century ago, to me.  
To all of us.

Other days, he wore himself.  
The gardener. The putterer. The quiet man  
with something left behind,  
something unspoken.

Nothing of value, just  
a memory kindness.

—*Naomi Cochran, Hayward*

## APODIFORMES TROCHLIDAE

(unfooted small bird)

I am a hummer; I bustle  
from blossom to blossom all day.  
My feet are too small to be useful—

no matter: I hover, buzz forward and backward;  
my tongue probes lobelia's petals,  
her column of crimson delights.

My chicks are asleep in their soft woven nest.  
I lined it with milkweed and stitched it with web.  
Their dreams are of nectar, each drop sweet as honey.

When summer is over I'll take to the sky,  
toward a horizon of flowers that beckon  
in colors more radiant than sun.

—*Nancy Schmalz, Mineral Point*

## RAIN

The news says no rain for a week  
Immediately a dark cloud shows up  
To destroy the sunset

I clutch the wine as the wind increases  
Another lie told  
Nothing changes

Why bother complaining  
This emotion never satisfied me  
Take another sip of wine

What can I do  
To make hopes true  
I sit in the rain

—*John Patrick Redell,  
Sister Bay*

## VERBAL MAGIC

### DEADLINE JANUARY 15

Next prompt: use all 6 of these words in a poem  
of fewer than 20 lines: *abracadabra, award, barb,  
crack, drawback, dark*. 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

## VIOLATION OF A LIFE

she's 12 years old,  
child of inner city minneapolis,  
my roommate in 1961 in U of M hospital  
no air conditioning, hottest summer in a long, long time,  
windows don't open . . .  
mother of the 12 year old doesn't know  
who fathered her precious baby girl's  
baby girl  
was he the girl's smarmy uncle, drunken dad  
lascivious older brother?  
conceived from being overpowered  
by someone in her family circle,  
will she give her child up or will she be cherished?

—*Phyllis Beckman, Onalaska*

## OBSERVATORY

Lacking electricity, indoor plumbing  
Northwoods home gave love, nature, learning.  
He, youngest in a line of seven,  
growing into prominent physics professor  
Joy in change, plants, children, travel, ideas, sun  
Science observing, intriguing, experimenting  
Family fun balancing forks, spotting Big Dipper  
Teaching seventy years of students  
All remember him as a North Star.

—*Hanna Pinkerton, Madison*

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

*Return Service Requested.*

*Next Issue Deadline* FEBRUARY 1, 2021

### THE ROAD TO TOWN

did not run straight  
but turned  
at every field and farm—  
  
past Uncle Bill's  
and Petersons  
curving at Uncle Bob's  
  
across from  
Uncle Paul's on  
its way to Eau Claire  
  
where at last  
it hit the Freeway.

—Nancy Jesse, Madison

### AN EDWARD HOPPER PAINTING

He steps out of the Hopper painting, *Gas, 1940*.  
He wears the same blue coveralls as the man  
in the painting, the same three red pumps line up  
at his Mobil Gas Station, the same signature sign,  
the *Flying Red Horse*, rises high at the drive.  
But Hopper has forgotten to paint—the flower  
garden—roses, dahlias, rosemary, thyme and vines  
of sweet pea . . . their hot pink blooms climb the trellis  
at the door of the red-roof building. He brings home  
roses for our mother, hot pink blooms for us,  
his dahlias win awards at the county fair.

—Janet Leahy, New Berlin