

Next Issue Deadline:  
August 1, 2021

MUSELETTER EDITOR  
F.J. Bergmann  
27 Anniversary Ct  
Madison WI 53704  
(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**

- Billina Augustian, De Pere
- Pete Beurskens, Bay City
- Mari Chevako, Milwaukee
- Marnie Dresser, Spring Green
- Sarah Ettinger, Milwaukee
- Jacob Glicklich, Cudahy
- Hannah Harder, Plymouth
- Angela Hoffman, Jefferson
- Sara Kiiru, Sun Prairie
- Sally Kuzma, Milwaukee
- Kathleen Muehlbauer, Milwaukee
- Marianne Rice, Sparta
- Adam Scott, Elkhorn
- Mindy Shah, Middleton
- Ryan Shaufler, Milwaukee
- Daniel Smith, Arena
- Rachel Wiedower, Muskego

*President's Message*

Happy Spring to all! After a rare day in the 80s, it is chilly out again this morning. But my yard is full of daffodil sunshine and gardening has begun!

The WFOP board met via email on May 1, and decided to postpone the fall conference in Wausau. The Jefferson Inn agreed to schedule us at a future date without any penalty if we met their May cancellation deadline. I know many of you hoped for a "live" conference, but the board determined more time is needed before making that commitment.

In lieu of a fall conference, plans will be worked on to offer members (and others) virtual events as an alternative. These could include speakers, workshops, and even an online book sale. If you are interested in working on the committee that will develop these plans, please contact me by May 31 so I can add you to the group. Meetings will be via Zoom and begin soon as time is limited. If you have ideas for the committee to consider, please email those to me as well.

We are also looking for folks to work on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee. The anniversary conference is scheduled for summer 2025. That year there will be just the one conference, and we want to do it up special! This committee will also meet on Zoom (for the time being). Let me know if you are interested in being a part of planning this celebration.

WFOP depends on members willing to dedicate time and energy to its mission. Those who fulfill leadership roles are much appreciated, but the time comes when positions need to change hands. I sincerely hope to step down at the end of 2021 and turn the presidency over to a new, energetic leader. If you feel it is your turn to lead the fellowship, or you would like to nominate someone else, please contact me. Elections will take place in October, and we would like to have the ballots finalized by the end of July.

I want to end this message with much appreciation for the team that produced *Sheltering with Poems*. The anthology filled a need we all had to come together during difficult times. Future readings have been planned and reviews indicate this volume is a keepsake as well as an important historical response to the pandemic. Gratitude goes out to the following for their roles in making this project such a success: **Bruce Dethlefsen**, **Kathleen Serley**, Angela Voras-Hills, **Christina Kubasta**, Max Garland, Wendy Vardaman, **Steve Tomasko** and Dylan Trapp.

Looking forward to when we can once again share words and hugs in person.

Yours,  
—Jan



**Triad Contest  
DEADLINE  
August 15**

Info in next issue, or  
[wfop.org/annual-contests/](http://wfop.org/annual-contests/)

**Donations to WFOP**  
*Our gratitude for your generosity!*  
Lora Keller, Milwaukee

## *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, ckkubasta60@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 regular readings with open mics via Zoom. Email [poetryunlockedappleton@gmail.com](mailto:poetryunlockedappleton@gmail.com) or find on FB for more info.

Wisconsin Poet Laureate, 20petition.

### **EAST**

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

**Ed Block's** poem "How This Will End" appeared in the Fall *Bramble*, and "In the Driftless" was on the back cover of the 2020 *Annual Report of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy*.

**CJ Muchhala's** poems can be found in *Leaves of Peace*, *Jerry Jazz Musician* (January 2021), *Your Daily Poem* (March 2021), *Bramble* (Winter/Spring 2021) and in the anthology *Sheltering with Poems* (Bent Paddle Press 2021).

**Elisabeth Harrahy's** recent publications include the poems "Night Swimming" in *Sky Island Journal*, "Please to Be Prey" in *Passengers Journal*, "Fallen Hero" in *Drunk Monkeys*, and "Living with Hawks" in *Plainsongs*. Her poem "I Want to Speak of Want" was an honorable mention in the 2020 Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters Writing Contest and was published in the Winter/Spring 2021 issue of *Wisconsin People & Ideas*.

**Bob koshin Hanson's poem**, "Surprising God, how does one surprise God?" comes from Bob's experience as a Veteran, Chaplain in the Navy during the 'Nam era, and working with vets in the communities he has lived and worked in. It was chosen for the first issue of *Line*, an online journal for veterans published by students at Columbia University. Bob is also a facilitator with Warrior Writers, a national group that has worked with Veterans and their families through artistic and writing workshops for over a decade.

**Margaret Rozga's** fifth book of poems,  *Holding My Selves Together: New and Selected Poems* from Cornerstone Press, will launch May 15. She presented a Zoom workshop based on a poem in the book as a pre-launch activity to encourage submissions to Cornerstone's poetry contest, with the top three poems winning a signed copy of the book. Rozga joined Door County poet **Nancy**

**Rafal** as a featured reader at the April Poetry Unlocked reading that originates from Appleton.

Many East region members were readers at one of the several events for *Through This Door: Wisconsin in Poems* that Margaret hosted. **Kathrine Yets, Kim Blaeser, Mark Zimmermann, Karen Middleton Schleicher,** and your Regional VP were among the readers. There may have been other members as well.

**Scott Lowery** read in the annual Poet/Artist Collaborative show on April 30 from Red Wing Arts in Red Wing, MN. This year, Red Wing Arts is also hosting a series of half-hour readings while the show is up. Scott will be part of the event on Saturday, June 19, 2 PM. He will also be in online readings from *Sheltering with Poems* on June 14 (Appleton) and July 17 (Madison).

**Gary Beaumier's** poem "Hello Icarus" was a finalist in a *Streetlight Magazine* contest, and was shortlisted for *Raw Arts Review's* William Carlos Williams Prize for Poetry, along with his poems "For All Seasons" and "Singing Love Songs on Pluto."

### **MID-CENTRAL**

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

"Magic Evenings" by **Patricia Williams** was chosen as one of sixteen poems to be imprinted in the sidewalks along Main Street in Waupaca as part of the downtown reconstruction project. She also has a Covid poem, "The Mask Behind the Man" in *Rat's Ass Review*.

"Bird Dog Alert" by **Vlasta Karol Blaha** appeared in the spring issue of *The Avocet: a Journal of Nature Poetry*.

**Susan Twiggs** has a haiku in the May issue of *High Five*, Highlights' magazine for children 3–5 years old. Her poem "Fern saves the Literary Pig, Wilbur" was in the spring *Avocet: a Journal of Nature Poetry*.

**Linda Aschbrenner's** poem "Discretionary Spending" appeared in the Winter/Spring *Bramble*, "Spring Sugaring Traditions" was in the spring *Avocet*, and "Music from the Past," appeared online after winning first place in the Chaparral Poets contest in California. She participated in zoom readings in California and Wisconsin.

**Kathleen Serley's** poem "I Need Brown" appeared on the *Your Daily Poem* website.

**Jeffrey Johannes'** poem "Sleeping in the Cliff House" has been included in *The Clearing Folk School Recollections*, a yearbook of 2020 newsletters from The Clearing in Door County. He also has a poem in *Sheltering at Home* and participated in the Zoom reading of the anthology. He is a regular contributor to the monthly themed issues of *Moss Piglet*.

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

## NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, [torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com](mailto:torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com)

**Carol Lee Saffiotti-Hughes** had the following poems published: “Broken Sonnet for Jacob and George” in *Moss Piglet*, May, “Fingerwing” and “Trees in the Wind,” in *Inkblot*, issue 2.

**Mary Jo Kinsey-Stich** published “Northland Legacy” in the spring *Peninsula Poets*, Poetry Society of Michigan.

**Annette Langlois Grunseth** had a poem in *Sheltering with Poems*, and her second book, *Combat and Campus: Writing Through War* (Elm Grove Press, 2021) was released. A reading and book launch, hosted by Write On Door County, was May 17, and a reading at Lion’s Mouth Bookstore on May 22.

**Tori Grant Welhouse** published “Haggis” and “Winkles and Whelks” in the latest issue of *River Heron Review*. Her poem “Apple Moon” was also anthologized in *Through Loving Words* by City Limits Publishing.

## NORTHWEST

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

**Jude Genereaux** participated in the reception for the *A is for Apostle Islands* book launch April 27, reading her poem “Tell Me of Ice,” and others for writers unable to attend. Her poem “Four-Legged Apostles” is part of the Island Intersections Collaboration continuing project.

**Diana Randolph**, Drummond, read a poem in the international invitational *River of Poetry* virtual event during the St. Louis River Summit in their River Talk series in March. In April she read two poems from *Sheltering with Poems* at a virtual reading hosted by Marathon County Public Library. During a taped interview by phone she read a poem for the *Simply Superior* program on Wisconsin Public Radio about Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and also read that poem during a Zoom reading about the same subject hosted by **Lucy Tyrrell**, Bayfield Poet Laureate.

**Nancy Austin** had two poems, “Something Novel Came in Spring” and “America, Unmasked” in *Sheltering with Poems*. She had a poem, “Weather’s Apostles” in the *A is for Apostle Islands*, and read in Zoom events for both books in April. She had a poem “Birds Not of a Feather” in *Kosmos Quarterly*, journal for global transformation.

**Jan Chronister** had poems published in *Last Stanza Poetry Journal*, *OpenDoor Magazine*, *Thunderbird Review*, *Nemadji Review*, *Bramble*, *Growing Up* (a Pure Slush Anthology), *A is for Apostle Islands*, *Sheltering with Poems*, *Your Daily Poem*, and Silver Birch Press’s “How to” and “I Am Still Waiting” series. Her poem “Golden Delicious”

won second place in Wilda Morris’s Poetry Challenge for March (theme was “fruit”). Jan has a poem in the recent issue of *Portage Magazine*, and a review of her second full-length poetry collection, *Decennia*, appears there as well.

**Peggy Trojan** has two poems in *The Thunderbird Review*.

**Lucy Tyrrell** had the following poems in print: “Grief” in *Cirque Journal* (Earth Ethic issue to save the planet, plus several of her photos), “In Translation on Safari,” “red dress,” and “When Wildness” in *The Thunderbird Review*, “At the River’s Edge” and “Flying Asleep” in *Alaska Women Speak* (spring), “The Box” in Pure Slush’s *Growing Up*, and “To What’s Missing” in *Weekly Avocet* #432 (with photo). Lucy read her poem “Talking Water” as one of 12 poets from across the country to read at the *River of Poems* virtual event held March 3 as part of the Lake Superior River Summit.

The *Simply Superior* radio show April 9 about the Apostle Islands 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Resource Stewardship Symposium included an “arts” portion featuring four of the 26 poets who contributed to *A is for Apostle Islands* (**Lucy Tyrrell**, book editor; **Jude Genereaux**, John Adler, and **Diana Randolph**). The recorded show is at [wpr.org/programs/simply-superior](http://wpr.org/programs/simply-superior) (search by date). On April 26, Lucy hosted a virtual book “page turn” (sponsored by Bayfield Carnegie Library) through this ABC book, in which many poets (several WFOP members) read their ABC poems, and 26 artists talked about their illustrations.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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

**Deb Manske** discovered that the South Milwaukee Library had no plans for Poetry Month and gathered poems and books both famous and local for a display in the lobby. Also handed out haiku on April 17 (Haiku Day) and pocket poems at the local butcher, baker and barber as well as at the library on April 29.

**Mary Rowin** had a poem in *The Solitary Plover*.

**Ronnie Hess** and **Shoshauna Shy** had poems published in the anthology *Lullabies & Confessions: Poetic Explorations of Parenting Across the Lifespan*, published by University Professors Press.

**James P. Roberts’** review of Abayomi Animashaun’s collection *Seahorses* appeared in *Wisconsin People & Ideas Magazine*.

**William Joseph Lutz** had a poem “What I Expect” published in *3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Magazine*.

**Suzi Godwin** had a haiku, [garden center visit], published in the June *The Heron’s Nest*.

**Richard Merelman** read from his new collection *A Door Opens* via Zoom at Mystery To Me February 17.

**James P. Roberts, Robin Chapman** and **Hannah Pinkerton** were among the poets participating in the “It’s In Our Nature” virtual poetry reading February 27. **Robin Chapman** was also the featured poet at the Brewed Awakenings Poetry Reading hosted by Wilda Morris February 28. **Nathan J. Reid** and **Robin Chapman** were among the poets reading from the anthology *No More Can Fit Into The Evening* March 13.

**Angela Trudell-Vasquez** and **Ronnie Hess** were among the poets reading from the anthology *Through This Door: Wisconsin in Poems* March 25.

**Tom Boswell** read from his collection *Heart On A String* April 10.

**Angela Trudell-Vasquez** and **Richard Merelman** read with Katrin Talbot and Charles Edward Payne at Robinia Courtyard in Madison April 28.

**F. J. Bergmann** had two haiku, [plaids and stripes] and [your ex with red roses] in **quatrain.fish** and “Radiance” in *Dreams and Nightmares*.

## WEST CENTRAL

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

This spring poetry has been as productive as tree pollen. The Chippewa Valley Writers’ Group (sans the Library) continues to meet via Zoom on first Thursdays 7–9 PM. We are in our 33<sup>rd</sup> year, and our membership has actually increased during the pandemic. Despite some technical difficulties, we continue to engage in mutual support and lively criticism. Now that we have all been vaccinated, we are planning an in-person summer celebration at Candace Hennekens’s house on the river. We expect to continue meeting by Zoom for the next year because the Eau Claire library has closed for major renovation. Contact **Sandra Lindow** at [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com) for more information

**David Blackey, Yvette Flaten, Erna Kelly** and **Sandra Lindow** have poems in the 2021 *Portage Magazine*, [portagemagazine.org](http://portagemagazine.org). Flaten also published the following: “Garden Yield,” *Bramble* Winter 2021; “How to Survive Winter,” *Silver Birch Press*; “Jenga,” *Island Intersections*; “T is for Trail,” *A is for Apostle Islands*; and participated in a Zoom reading for the publication on March 26. Lindow’s poem “The Scent of Green” is in *Climbing Lightly through Forests: A Poetry Anthology Honoring Ursula K. Le Guin* (Aqueduct Press, 2021) [aqueductpress.com/books/978-1-61976-197-1.php](http://aqueductpress.com/books/978-1-61976-197-1.php), and “July Hiring” was chosen for the Waupaca Sidewalk Project. **Karen Loeb**’s “Dog Years Count” appears in *Hole in the Head Review*, [holeintheheadreview.com/txtv2/karen-loeb-22](http://holeintheheadreview.com/txtv2/karen-loeb-22), “Review \*\*\*\*\*” in *Big City Lit* Winter 2021 and “We Walk Where No One Else Walks” in *Sheltering with Poems*. Loeb was guest speaker/reader for National Poetry

Month, UW–Stout, April 12, and was interviewed on WPR’s *Spectrum West* for National Poetry Month: [wpr.org/listen/1791881](http://wpr.org/listen/1791881). **Jeannie Roberts**’ poem “Full Bowls” can be found in *Writing in a Woman’s Voice* blog. She read her poem “Finding the Light” at Wednesday Night Poetry Volume 59.

In April, **Sandra Lindow** was awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership by WFOP. Sandra became a member of the Fellowship in 1986 after she won the Meudt Award for Narrative Poetry for her poem “Farm Auction.” She agreed to become a Regional VP in 1987 and officially began in 1988. Later awards included two first prizes in the Triad and one in Muse contest. She worked to distribute and sell the *Calendar* each year, shared regional news in the *Museletters*, coordinated local writers groups and readings, and worked as part of a team to plan and facilitate seven conferences. The most memorable was probably the 2014 in Stevens Point which featured the Emily Dickinson reenactment. As of this *Museletter*, Sandra has served as West Central Regional VP for 33 years. Congratulations to Sandra Lindow for this award. WFOP is grateful for her years of service.

## Triad Contest Judges

**Sarah Kortemeier**, recipient of the Felix Pollak Prize in Poetry from the University of Wisconsin Press for her debut collection, *Ganbatte*, will judge the Poets’ Choice category. She holds an MFA in Poetry and an MA in Library and Information Science, both from the University of Arizona. She is Library Director at the U of AZ Poetry Center.

**Diane Kerr**, winner of the Brittingham Prize from UW Press, will judge the Theme category. She is the author of *Butterfly* and a mentor for poets through the Madwomen in the Attic Creative Writing Program at Carlow University.

**Gianfranco Pagnucchi**, former Wisconsinite now living in North Carolina, will judge the Kay Saunders Emerging Poet category. His books of poetry include *Firstborn*, *Breath of the Onion*, *Tracks on Damp Sand*, *Ancient Moves*, *I Never Had a Pet*, and *Out Harmsen’s Way*.

## In Memoriam

**James Gollata**, poet, book warrior, and wordsmith, passed away March 21 at the age of 75.

**Patricia Jameson**, longtime member of WFOP, passed away on November 16, 2020, in Madison

*In House* WFOP members may inform the membership of a move to a new postal address, an email address change, a member’s illness or convalescence—with that member’s permission.

Contact Michael Belongie at [poetpow@gmail.com](mailto:poetpow@gmail.com).

## 2021 WFOP TRIAD POETRY CONTEST RULES

1. Contestant must be a current WFOP member in good standing (dues current).
2. There is no entry fee. Do not send SASE. Entries will not be returned.
3. Contest opens on **June 1**. Entries must be *emailed* by **August 15**. Snail mail entries will be accepted from people who have no access to email; deadline for *snail mail* is **August 7** because the poems will have to be retyped into the file going to the judges. **PLEASE DO NOT SNAIL MAIL IF YOU HAVE EMAIL!**
4. Contestant may enter only one original, unpublished poem in each category. To clarify: “published” includes any print or electronic presentation except copies of drafts shared with critique groups. The same poem may not be entered in more than one category. Categories are described on the Entry Form.
5. Manuscript must be typed on 8½"x11" white paper, one side only, one poem to a page. **Type the category in the upper left corner.** Writer’s name should **NOT** appear on the page with the poem. Please do not center poems. Fonts will be standardized before poems are sent to judges. Put poems in body of email, or attach .doc or .docx in case of unusual formatting.
6. Send the poems together in one email to **jjohannes7@gmail.com**. The subject line should read: “Triad Entry from Last name, First name.” In the body of your email, include your name, address, email address, phone number, and the category, title and first line of each poem, and the following statement: “I am a current WFOP member. The poetry submitted is my original, unpublished work not under consideration elsewhere. If I am entering the Emerging Poet category, I meet the criteria.”
7. Only the winners will be notified by mail. The winners’ names will be posted on **wfop.org** and included in the *Museletter* following the judges’ decisions.
8. The First Place winner in each category will be ineligible to enter that category the following year.
9. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the judge determines that an entry warrants an award.
10. Sorry, but WFOP cannot accept responsibility for lost manuscripts, and there will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow the rules. Author retains all rights to their work.
11. Please do not post your entries on your webpage until after the contest has been judged.
12. In each category, prizes are \$100, \$50, \$30. Theme: Forgiveness; Poet’s Choice; Kay Saunders Memorial New Poet.

### *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** 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** to opt out of print delivery.

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

2021 TRIAD CONTEST ENTRY FORM ~ Email deadline **August 15**: see other side for instructions

Use this form **only** for postal entry (**August 7 postmark deadline**)!

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

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

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

*I am a current member of WFOP. The poetry I am submitting is my original unpublished work and not under consideration elsewhere.*

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

You may enter only one poem in each category. Complete for each category you enter.

**THEME: Forgiveness** (75 lines maximum)

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

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

**POET'S CHOICE: Any subject/form** (75 lines maximum)

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

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

**\*KAY SAUNDERS MEMORIAL EMERGING POET: Any subject/form** (75 lines maximum) **This category is reserved for emerging WFOP poets, those poets who may have started to publish their poetry and/or participate in workshops and classes, but have not won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a contest as an adult.**

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

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

*\*I meet the criteria (restricted; see rules) for this Triad contest.* Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry postmarked by **August 7** to:

**Jeffrey Johannes**  
**800 Ver Bunker Ave**  
**Port Edwards WI 54469**

---

## *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](mailto: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.

## 2021 MUSE POETRY CONTEST WINNERS (64 entries)

1<sup>st</sup> place: "A Good Time for the Truth," Kathleen Phillips

2<sup>nd</sup> place: "The Broken Apple Tree," Jeff Glover

3<sup>rd</sup> place: "The Pelican," David Southward

Honorable Mentions:

"This is the Way We Live Now," Judith Barisonzi

"Full Disclosure," Bruce Taylor

"Dyskinesia" Amy Phimister

*Submitted by Fred Kreutz, 2021 Muse Contest Coordinator*

---

## 2021 WFOP CHAPBOOK CONTEST WINNERS

1<sup>st</sup> place: *Vaginas Need Air*, Tori Grant Welhouse

2<sup>nd</sup> place: *River*, Peggy Trojan

1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention: *Century Farm*, Jessi Peterson

2<sup>nd</sup> Hon. Mention: *The Joy of Their Holiness*, Peggy Turnbull

"I enjoyed getting acquainted with such a wide variety of Wisconsin poets. It was interesting to note many common themes—such as the beauty of Wisconsin's rural and wilderness areas, the importance of family, and the power of spirituality. Many of the chapbooks looked back, ruminating on childhood experiences or on the role of significant caregivers or life partners. There were very few urban poems, which I suppose is not surprising; on the other hand there were many poems about cabins, farm houses, and small towns, about lakes and rivers and encounters with animals. I tried to pick out books ... distinguished not by their different subject matter but by their willingness to feel deeply and passionately about those subjects, to convey their settings and persons vividly."

—James Armstrong, PhD, Winona State University,  
WFOP Chapbook Contest Judge for 2021

A special thank you goes out to **Steve Tomasko** for his help with designing and printing the award certificates and to **Tori Grant Welhouse** and **Kathrine Yets** for posting the winners and their information to our website and Facebook page.

*Submitted by Annette Grunseth,  
2021 Chapbook Contest Coordinator*

---

Notifications for the 2022 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* will be sent in June.

---

**Bramble**, WFOP's literary magazine, will open again to submissions from Wisconsin writers on **August 1**. Check the website then for guidelines.

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

**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	

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

## 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.

## *Publications by Our Members*

*Around the Block* by Gary C. Busha (Wolfsong Publications, 2021). 18<sup>th</sup> in a series of mini-books, the book is of haiku and senryu on nature and other themes. \$5. Contact [gbusha@wi.rr.com](mailto:gbusha@wi.rr.com)

*Dented Brown Fedora* by Gary Beaumier (Uncollected Press, 2021) is the author's second book of poetry.

*Imageries* by James Botsford (epigrams) and Stephen M. Stolee (photos) (2021). 103 pp., \$20 at Janke's Bookstore in Wausau ([jankebookstore.com](http://jankebookstore.com)) or at Eagle Harbor Book Company, Bainbridge Island, WA. ([eagleharborbooks.com](http://eagleharborbooks.com)).

*Welcome Home! The Gate is Always Open* by Bob koshin Hanson (self-published, 2020). The book is available on Amazon and Kindle, or at a special price plus postage from [koshinbobh@gmail.com](mailto:koshinbobh@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)

**Wisconsin's Own Library Poet in Residence** program provides a poet with a semester-long opportunity at Ripon College to devote time and attention to a poetry manuscript in progress. The Poet in Residence will teach one poetry class, hold public readings, and allow a new poem to be reproduced in a limited-edition commemorative broadside. The Poet in Residence will be physically present on the Ripon College campus, reside in Ripon full-time while classes are in session, and hold no other professional obligations during the semester. Full details: [ripon.edu/job/poet-in-residence/](http://ripon.edu/job/poet-in-residence/)

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](mailto: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.

## Poems BY Our Membership

—SHERYL SLOCUM & KIM PARSONS, EDITORS

MATHEMATICAL VERSE—Send us an unpublished poem that does math (correctly or not) in 15 lines or fewer.

### IS A PALINDROME NOT MATH?

Back and running it comes at you.  
Like the migration of geese in their less than/greater than formations.  
Like Hannah and Izzi living in a 262 area code  
making a wish at 11:11 on the eleventh of the month (twice).  
Dad is dad and Mom is mom. They are always together.  
Never forget their wisdom is asking,  
Suzy, are you glad you are Suzy?  
I am taken aback at the thought—  
the foresight to leave clues for the connections—  
like a map in the sky.  
Do geese see God?

—*Suzy Wedeward, West Bend*

*The Oxford English Dictionary:* the word *palindrome* is based on Greek root words meaning “back” and “running.”

### SPRING

Grackles  
Pace the thatch  
In ghostly rain,  
Slivers of drizzle.  
They shine, iridescent,  
As the sun breaks in and out.  
A sudden rain comes pounding down  
The forest, knocks cones and branches off  
The pines. Nature's destruction chastens us  
And invites us to proceed to the next phase  
Of healing. What words, what new phrases will we speak  
When all becomes still, the sun returns, and we must learn  
The proper way to live and breathe on this fragile planet?  
The grackles' shiny black bodies become the light we see by.

—*Elizabeth Tornes, Lac du Flambeau*

### COUNT

I am less than tolerant  
Of people who think  
I don't count  
Then cough into my face  
When they realize I know  
They can't  
It seems the facts  
They've made up  
Don't add up

—*John Patrick Redell, Sister Bay*



## APPLIED PHYSICS IN A POEM

We have to factor in the weight (mass) of the word  
in relation to its vocal acceleration ( $a$ ) which gives us the velocity at impact  
 $m + a = i < g$  (whereby  $g$  stands for gravity), thus we get a speed of ( $k$ ) kilometers  
per second to impact at  $t =$  termination, ergo the end of the poem.  
Multiply each of the forty words ( $w$ ) in the poem to ascertain a final formula  
Of mass ( $m$ ) where  $m + g + a + k = i + w40 = t$   
And you have a poem with enough impact to change the world.

—James Roberts, Madison

## MARRIED 59 YEARS TO A MATHEMATICIAN

Next time we'll go the other way; it's 12 minutes faster.  
Do you want coffee in your mug half full by volume or height?  
That jar has 180 calcium pills. Should last you about half a year.  
Our trip to CA was 2,078 miles, 23 miles shorter than the time before.  
Our 9-speed transmission gets better mileage at 75 than at 65.  
Are you measuring in centimeters or inches?  
We save 23 cents if we buy 2 cans at a time.  
What is the algorithm for your tea bags?  
I've been lucky to be married to you for 72% of my life.  
What are the odds for more?

—Hannah Pinkerton, Madison

## A TRUE STORY

In third grade, I realized that I didn't like math.  
So I gave the numbers personalities.  
I decided that 4 was a really nice girl.  
5 was a very nice boy.  
And 6 was just pure evil.  
Only 4, 5, and 6 had genders.  
I liked 2, 7, and 8.  
Didn't like 3 and 9.  
Was indifferent to 1 and 0.  
I was happy that  $4 + 4 = 8$ .  
Unhappy that  $8 - 2 = 6$ .  
Uneasy that  $4 + 5 = 9$ .  
So, when I multiplied  $45 \times 14.8$ ,  
I came up with 555  
To ensure a happy ending.

—Pauline Witte, Middleton

## UNDER A FULL MOON

13 shadows appear  
on the brilliant snow.  
3 heads + 10 legs  
prance briskly.  
2 long legs follow  
8 shorter legs.  
2 heads in front,  
1 head at the end.  
Some sort of alien creature?

Just an old woman  
walking with her 2 dogs.

—Vlasta Karol Blaha, Colby

## YOU'RE MY HERO DEADLINE JULY 15

Write a poem about your superpower. Only unpublished poems; one poem per person, max 15 lines. Editors, **Sheryl Slocum & Kim Parsons**.

Send poems to [museletterpoems@gmail.com](mailto:museletterpoems@gmail.com)  
or by post to **Sheryl Slocum**

8025 W Oklahoma Ave Apt 2  
Milwaukee WI 53219

WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS  
27 ANNIVERSARY CT  
MADISON WI 53704-3290  
WFOP.ORG

*Return Service Requested.*

*Next Issue Deadline* AUGUST 1, 2021

2020-2021 MATH

1 year of uncertainty, yet  
1 year of necessity  
2 put others first  
  
1 year of self-discovery, and  
1 year of upheaval, and  
1 day of insurrection, yet  
1 dose of gratitude  
4 another chance  
2 form a more perfect union  
  
1 year of unprecedented deaths, and  
1 year of lies and separation, yet  
2 day we have an opportunity  
2 speak truth to power  
6 fold

—Jan Bosman, Woodstock IL

TIMES TWO

How many times do I have to ask you?  
Twice?  
Two times two?  
Two to the second power?  
Two squared?  
Let's agree that four is the limit.  
  
You ignore me at one.  
Stare past me at two.  
Hear me but don't listen at three.  
Scowl at me square on at four.  
Stop, contemplate.  
  
Click multiple times.  
You hold the power.  
The remote is under your control.

—Christy Schwan, Cedarburg