

Museletter Editor

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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Roshelle Amundson, Marinette
Andrea Gilmore Bykovskiy,
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Eibhlin Covey, Waunakee
Robin Greenler, Madison
Jordan Huber, Milwaukee
Grace Maier-Crook, Stoughton
Mahlia Nu'Man, Madison
Susan Reetz, Schofield
Molly Ruffing, De Pere
Cara Wreen, De Pere

Co-Presidents' Message

Greetings from Co-Presidents **Cathy Cofell** and **Ronnie Hess**! It's been a busy summer for us, and for several of our members, hard at work preparing the fall conference in Wausau. It's an exciting program, featuring **Barbara Crooker**, and we hope as many of you as possible will find your way there. More information is in this issue.

Our last note reported on what we've put into effect—a new Code of Kindness for the Board and a first draft of a newly amended constitution and bylaws (CBL) that the Board approved in April. The CBL gets a second reading in Wausau, so please take another look at it on wfop.org/meeting-minutes. Based on a Board survey, we prioritized what we agree needs to be done—improved communications, partnerships with educational, arts and community groups, an enhanced donations program. Our Student Contest Coordinator, **Jeff Anderson**, is working on an exciting new initiative for an ekphrastic poetry contest—stay tuned for more details!

The WFOP board is in the process of welcoming new voices to represent and engage younger members as the Under 40 Reps; we'll be approving them at our (new) Summer Board meeting this August and will share their names in a future *Museletter*.

Meanwhile, we're excited to announce members who have taken up new positions—new wine in old bottles. **Anneliese Finke** will be our archivist. We have accumulated a lot of documents over nearly 75 years and look forward to her help in digitizing and organizing material. **Shoshauna Shy** has agreed to shepherd the Chapbook Prize Contest and **Mary Rowin**, the Muse Contest. **Wendy Vardaman**, who was graphics editor for the 2023 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* (produced by **Mike Orlock**, **Tom Davis** and **Ethel Mortensen Davis**), has agreed to continue in that role. New editors for 2024 will be **Nancy Austin** and **Kathleen Serley**. To better get to know these exceptional members, check out their profiles at wfop.org.

Which brings us to the 2025 *Calendar*. It's an exciting way to get in touch with Wisconsin poets and their work, as well as to contribute to one of WFOP's longest and most successful ventures. We're still looking for a Calendar Business Manager. We know it sounds like a heavy lift, but it's no more time commitment than many of our volunteer roles. Without a Business Manager we may not be able to continue distributing the *Calendar*. We have some ideas for possible editors but welcome your input. Please help us fill these roles so we can continue to share poetry with the broader community in this creative (and practical!) way.

We hope to see you in October!

—Cat & Ronnie

Chapbook &
Muse Contests
DEADLINE
February 1



[wfop.org/
annual-contests](http://wfop.org/annual-contests)

Remember ...

Notify *in advance* of address change. Only first-class mail forwards; bulk is returned at WFOP's expense. Request e-mail instead; it's sent earlier, and you'll save WFOP \$! And for the weekly Events e-mail: wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

Our gratitude for your generosity!
Donations received:

Toward Fall Conference expenses,
from Jeffrey & Joan Johannes

In Memoriam

Francha Barnard, Baileys Harbor
July 6, 1946 - July 22, 2022

What's Happening in Your Region?

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

CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VP: Mike Gadzik, mgadzik@yahoo.com

Poetry Unlocked returned to in-person readings in April at ACOCA Coffee and Cafe in downtown Appleton, with readings and an open mic. Featured readers included poets **Nancy Austin** and **Margaret Coombs** in June. More information at facebook.com/poetryunlockedappleton.

Ron Houssaye published a poem, "For Love of the Art," in the April *Sequoia Speaks* online.

Dg Clearing's poem "My First Rainbow" was in the anthology *Out Loud*, published by Red or Green Books. Clearing also made his in-person New York City poetry debut, reading to a full house at the Nuyorican Poets Café on the Lower East Side.

EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Scott Lowery's poem "Emergence" was chosen as a Regional Winner in the Maria Faust Sonnet Contest (Winona, MN), and Scott participated in their Celebrate the Sonnet event in late July. Last spring, the text of the same poem was set to music for choral voices and piano by Minnesota composer David Kassler.

Karl Elder's new publications include "Matri Vox" in *Last Stanza Poetry Journal*; "Maya" and "Magic Act" in *The Muse: An International Journal of Poetry*; "In a Town Called Unincorporated" in *Literature Today*.

Kathrine Yets published *iLearn, iTeach*, a chapbook about growing up and reflections on teaching, with Cyberwit Press. Find out more here: sites.google.com/view/authorkathrineyets/home

Past Wisconsin State Poet Laureate **Margaret Rozga** had "At the University Field Station" in the May *About Place Journal*, aboutplacejournal.org, "You Seem to Ease Right into Your Writing" in the April *Great Lakes Review*, and "Seedlings" in the spring *Whale Road Review*.

CJ Muchhala has had poems published in *Moss Piglet* (May & July) *Gyroscope Review* (Spring), *Eye to the Telescope* (Spring), *Your Daily Poem* (May & July), and *Ekphrastic Review* (May Writing Challenge).

Christy Schwan was named Poet Laureate for the second annual Emberlight Festival in Ironwood, Michigan. This year's theme was Horizons, Heritage, Harmony. Christy read her poems "Reverie," "Celestial Symphony" and "Sky Greets Earth" at the opening ceremony on July 3 at Miners Memorial Park. Her poem "Chosen" won first place in July for Wilda Morris's monthly blog theme of "hats."

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

Patricia Williams' poems "Remembering," "Shadowed Paths" and "After Winterkill" appear with the paintings of Carolyn Rosenberger in the Muse V Exhibition of painting and poetry, online at Christine's Gallery. "No Photosynthesis Occurs" was featured on *Your Daily Poem* in June. *Versé Virtual* published "I Listen to Gorecki's Symphony" in July. *Highland Park Poetry Summer Muses' Gallery* published "Praise Paper and Red Tape" also in July.

Linda Aschbrenner has poems in recent issues of *Moss Piglet*: "The Shoe That was Saved Forever," "The Inheritance," and "Divinity, the Preferred Food of Angels." Two poems appear in the summer *Avocet*: "Chatting with Sandy in Our Central Wisconsin Wooded Yard" and "Sandy Discusses her Growing Fawn." "This Chair Is Taken," "Burning off the Morning Fog," and "Once in a Blue Moon" are paired with Sandra Cashman's art online at christinealfery.com/pages/christines-gallery-muse-5.

Mary Ray Goehring's poem "Saved by Sam McGee" was published by *The Rye Whiskey Review*.

Joan Wiese Johannes and **Jeffrey Johannes** continue to be regular contributors to *Moss Piglet*.

Kathleen Serley's poems, "November" and "This One Day" were paired with art for Lakeshore Artists Guild's Art as Poetry/Poetry as Art exhibit. Her poem "Sunday Morning" is paired with Mary O'Flyng's art in the Muse V Exhibition.

Sue Twigg's has "Six Women At the Corner" in *Moss Piglet*, and "Chihuly Excites" and "Solar Entanglement" in the Muse V online exhibit.

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com

Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes had two poems in the "Art as Poetry as Art" show sponsored by the Lakeshore Artists Guild: "Prayer Flag" and "What I Would Prefer." She also had "Kneading the Dough" in the July *Moss Piglet*.

Annette Langlois Grunseth had four poems in *Moss Piglet*; an essay in the Summer *Bramble*, and her book *Combat and Campus: Writing Through War* is a finalist in the Military Writers Society of America awards program.

NORTHWEST

VP: Nancy Austin, austin10929@gmail.com

Diana Randolph, Drummond, had the following published during April: two haikus in the Cable UCC newsletter, five haikus in weekly newsletters of *Ski and Tea*, a women's outdoor exercise group of which Diana is a member, a poem in *The Bottom Line News & Views*, and

a poem and haiku in *The Water Column* newsletter written by a naturalist/educator and lake and stream advocate. She also had a poem published on the website of Forest Lodge Library, Cable, for a poetry challenge.

Rusk Area Regional Arts Alliance sponsored an art and poetry exhibit with the theme of “Summer “ in the Ladysmith Public Library Foyer Gallery. Included were four poems by **Terry Andre Dukerschein**: “Moselle Riesling,” “Persephone’s Return,” “Conner’s Lake,” and “Dahlia for June.”

Peggy Trojan gave an hour presentation of her poetry at the Osseo Public Library on May 11. On July 27, she and **Jan Chronister** gave a poetry reading at the Superior Public Library. “Dolls” was published by Pure Slush in their book *Love*. “Last Dance” and “Vigil” won first, “spring” won second and “Assurance” and “Rocky Run” received an Honorable Mention, all on Wilda Morris’s Poetry Challenge. “Temperate Woman” and “Upgrade” were published on *Your Daily Poem*. Her chapbook *PA* is currently one of three finalists for the North East Minnesota Book Award, to be announced October 1.

Lucy Tyrrell had “Net to Plate” in *Alaska Women Speak* (summer issue theme “Fish On”). She had “Reprise of the Piper” and “Ode to the Tap” in *Red Cedar*, and “Open-grown Oak” in *Cirque Journal*. Her poems “Ruby’s Water Welcome” and “Burn Dance” were matched with art by Lisa Krueger in the Muse V exhibit. With many others, Lucy attended the June/July virtual class of “Villanelle—The Fine Art of Repeating Yourself” taught by **Marilyn Taylor** and organized by **Tori Grant Welhouse**.

Jan Chronister had two poems in *Last Stanza Poetry Journal* 9, “Lake Superior Blue” and “Shady Nook School, 1955,” and a poem in the TallGrass Writers’ Guild annual anthology published by Outrider Press.

SOUTH CENTRAL

VP: James P. Roberts, jrob52162@aol.com

Catherine Jagoe had a poem, “Praise Song for a Plane Tree,” in *Plant-Human Quarterly* 5 online.

Ronnie Hess’s poem “Sailing with Rick Barot” won second prize in the Lake Superior Writers’ spring contest.

Jess L. Parker had “Strawberry Daze”, in *New Croton Review* and “Mermen are Sirens also” in *Up! Magazine*, “Enough,” and “Satellite” in *Verse-Virtual*, and “Sanibel” and “Carrying” in the anthology *From the Waist Down*, released in July by Papeachu Press. Jess also had children’s poems, “Spinning Sugar,” “Rainbow for Breakfast” and “Up” in *Dirigible Balloon*.

Martha Kaplan had a poem, “Dreaming of Holukea Along Highway One,” published in *Cirque*.

Ron Czerwien had “Franz Anton Ketterer Never

Foresaw This” in *Big City Lit*. “What Do You Expect?” was published in *New Feather Anthology*.

James P. Roberts had “Dolores” in *Moss Piglet*. He read poems at the *Spirit Lake Review* publication release gala in Baraboo on May 11.

Marilyn L. Taylor appeared on WORT Radio’s “Book Beat” program on June 13.

Charles Edward Payne held a series of workshops, “Creating A Sense of Belonging With Slam,” at the E. D. Locke Library in McFarland June 7 and at the Sequoia Branch Library in Madison June 25.

Jess L. Parker and **Marilyn L. Taylor** read at the Arts & Literature Lab on June 25.

Angela Trudell Vasquez read her poems and hosted the City of Madison Youth Poet Laureate Reception at the Madison Central Library on July 13.

F. J. Bergmann had a translation from French, “Deserters” (“Déserteuses” by Charles Cros) in *Star*Line*, “Rudeness” in *The Beatnik Cowboy*, “End of the Night” in *Silver Blade*, “Age of Imagination,” “Unimaginable Wealth” and “Why People Fail” in *One Art*, and “Daily Planner,” “Gilded Pomegranates” and “Skid” in *Axon* (AU).

WEST CENTRAL

VP: Sandra Lindow, lindowleaf@gmail.com

The Writers’ Group that now meets via zoom will be moving back to the Eau Claire library this fall now that the Phillips Memorial Library has finished its extensive renovations. The new time is tentatively 4–6 pm on the first Thursday of the month. Winter meetings may be zoomed. We are planning a fall Poets’ Calendar celebration if in-person meeting remains safe. For more information contact **Sandra Lindow** at lindowleaf@gmail.com.

May 19, the writing group gathered at **Candace Hennekens**’ riverside house for a potluck. June 19, **Linda Frank**, **Yvette Viets Flaten**, and **Sandra Lindow** participated in an outdoor White Pine Celebration of writing and music at Menomonie’s Wilson Park. On July 9, Flaten read her collaborative poem “Water Bathing” at the Midsummer’s Music Chamber Music Series at Sister Bay. The poem was inspired by listening to an unidentified piece of music, later revealed to be a sextet, “Opus 107,” by 20th-century composer Frank Bright. Her poem “Coming Home” appeared in the online journal *Nightingale and Sparrow*’s ‘hygge’ (a word that refers to connecting with others in quiet comfort) edition, April 2022. Her poem “To Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus” appears in the summer *Bramble*. July 30, **Sandra Lindow** read her poetry at Diversicon science fiction convention in Plymouth, Minnesota. August 14, Lindow’s poem “July hiring” was celebrated as part of the Waupaca Sidewalk Poetry project.

Bruce Taylor's poems "The Last Place You Look," "Old Men Shopping for Groceries," "While Standing in Line" appear in the winter *American Journal of Poetry*, and "A Voice on the Phone," "Some Things to Do with Water," "Some Descriptions of Water" and "Her at the Window" appear in the spring *Ravens Perch*.

David Blackey's poem "Over Eel Grass" has been published in the Summer Avocet.

The summer issue of *Red Cedar* features Jane-Marie Bahr's poems "Remembering Peter," "Visiting Wisconsin's Highground," "Overdue," "February" and "March Blizzard."

Donations needed for Fall Conference speaker

We are thrilled to announce that Barbara Crooker will be our keynote speaker for the fall WFOP conference in Wausau, October 21–22. We also have special events planned with area arts organizations.

While we try hard to keep our gatherings affordable, given Crooker's caliber and the costs associated with her appearance, we welcome donations (tax-deductible!) toward the conference. For more on Crooker, barbaracrooker.com.

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

Publications by Our Members

Moments Strange by Ed Block (2022), \$19 + shipping, at Ed's website, greendalebrushandquill.com.

Panic Season by Robin Chapman (Tebot Bach, 2022), 103 pp. \$17 + \$3 mailing, or at spdbooks.org.

Random Acts by Karl Elder (Cyberwit, 2022) 90 pp. \$15 from cyberwit.net/authors/karl-elder.

Sacred Moments: One Couple's Walk with Parkinson's by Lee LeVoy (Sand Beach Press, 2022) 52 pp. \$14 from sandbeachpress.com or from author at lee.levoy@gmail.com.

2024 Wisconsin Poet's Calendar

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets will begin accepting poems for the 2024 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* beginning November 1, 2022. The theme for this year's calendar is Margins. Think boundaries, outer limits, peripheries. Explore perimeters, borders, embankments. Consider how all things may be marginalized. Write about how margins affect our lives.

Poets must be at least 18, a Wisconsin resident or have a close connection to Wisconsin. Submission guidelines will appear on wfop.org in late October. Submissions received before November 1 will be returned. Deadline: February 1, 2023.

Editors for the 2024 *Calendar* are Nancy Austin and Kathleen Serley. Nancy is the author of 3 poetry collections, most recently, *Something Novel Came in Spring* (Water's Edge Press, 2021). Kathleen serves as VP for WFOP's Mid-Central region and is the author of *Statements Made in Passing* (Water's Edge Press, 2022).

Bramble Fall Guest Editor Lisa Vihos seeks poems on kinship. In the words of ecofeminist-botanist, Donna J. Haraway, "In the end, all earthlings are kin in the deepest sense." We are looking for poems that speak to this truth, the interconnectedness of all things across time, space, and even difference. Submission deadline September 15:

wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit

Museletter submissions: Send news to your regional VP or 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 or forthcoming; 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			

2022 Fall Conference

The fall conference will be held **October 21–22** at the Jefferson Street Inn in downtown Wausau with special events at the Wausau Center for Visual Arts and the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum

The theme is **Your Rising Star: Meeting Your Goals as a Poet**. Whether your goal is to write for the pleasure of it, share your work with family and friends, become a poet laureate, publish, win contests, and/or become famous, the goal of this conference is to aim you in the right direction to meet those goals! We are thrilled to have **Barbara Crooker** as our guest presenter. She will share her poetry and speak about how she went about becoming a nationally recognized poet with award winning publications and opportunities to read at prestigious venues.

The conference will also include the opportunity to see two art shows (and hopefully be inspired by them to write) and will feature a panel of local and state poet laureates. In addition, there will be an opportunity for each participant to read a roll call poem of 24 lines or fewer, the presentation of the Triad Awards, and a Friday night open mic. at which winners of WFOP contests during the years without conferences will be encouraged to share their winning poems, along with the rest of participants. Friday evening will also feature refreshments, music, and a chance to greet old poet friends or make new ones.

Registration information is included on the next page and on wfop.org. Hotel space is limited in Wausau that weekend, so people who plan to attend should make their reservation as soon as possible.

The full schedule will be posted on wfop.org soon.

Reserving a Room

WFOP has reserved a block of 25 rooms at the Jefferson Street Inn for Friday, and 10 for Saturday. Most are \$119 queen rooms, plus some \$150 suites with a living-room sofa bed, and 3 handicap-accessible rooms.

Recognizing our different needs re accessibility, proximity to the conference and affordability, a list of nearby hotels is below—but WFOP does not have a contracted room rate with those. We ask for your understanding. Perhaps a roommate situation will work for you. Perhaps you are able to stay a little further afield. Make reservations soon; the price for rooms (if still available) will go up considerably after the **September 20** deadline.

Also, if you cancel your block reservation after that date, you will still be responsible for payment. If this becomes necessary, please contact Joan Johannes, who will try to find someone to take the room.

To reserve one of these rooms:

1. Go to radissonhotelsamericas.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-individuals-jefferson-street-inn
 2. Go to box on main page that says “Check in” and select your date(s). Click “Lowest Available Rates” then “Promotional Code.”
 3. Enter **WIPOET** and then click availability.
- Step 5: Make your selection and go to the reservation screen to enter information and payment type.

Other Hotels Close to the Conference Center:

Best Western Plus Wausau Tower inn (1.3 miles away)
201 N. 17th Ave, Wausau
Phone: 833-498-1630

Stewart Inn (0.3 miles away)
521 Grant St, Wausau

Hampton Inn (1.8 miles away)
615 S. 24th Avenue, Wausau

LaQuinta Inn (1.5 miles)
1910 Stewart Ave, Wausau

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 your 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, only first-class mail forwards. We are charged for returned bulk mail. Signing up for e-mail-only *Museletter* (.pdf) saves WFOP \$ and arrives at least 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify wfopmuseletter@gmail.com to opt out of print delivery.

The Events weekly e-mail is separate and opt-in; request from wfopmuseletter@gmail.com. Send all address changes or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to wfopmuseletter@gmail.com.

WFOP Conference Registration

October 21 and 22, 2022 at the Jefferson Inn in Wausau, WI

with special events at the Center for the Visual Arts and Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

Members: \$80 before September 20

\$95 for late registration

Non-members: \$110* before September 20

\$125* for late registration

(*includes one year membership)

Our goal is to present a memorable conference for those able to attend without spending a large amount of WFOP money that could be used for regional activities more accessible to some of our members. This cost is based on food/music for Friday, breakfast and lunch for Saturday (\$34/person), facility rentals (\$1,400) and speaker payment/expenses (\$2,700 minus donations from members).

Name _____ E-mail _____

Street Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Member? ___ (yes) ___ (no) Region _____

Name of additional person(s) attending (if applicable) _____

Membership status of person(s) (if applicable) ___ member ___ nonmember

___ I would like table space for selling my books _____ (Name for table sign)

___ First time at a WFOP conference? (check if applicable)

Amount enclosed _____ *There will be vegetarian options. Please list any other dietary concerns.*

Please make your reservation for a room separately with the Jefferson Inn (information on previous page)

All inquiries should be directed to **Joan Wiese Johannes** at jjohannes7@gmail.com or 715-887-2217. Visit wfop.org/conference-registration to register and pay registration fee online, or mail to the address below by **September 20** (*Conference registration is non-refundable*)

Joan Wiese Johannes
800 Ver Bunker Ave
Port Edwards WI 54469

Membership Renewal Form KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

All renewals are due by December 31. Dues **MUST** be current for you to enter WFOP contests, receive mention 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.

Check only if you must get the *Museletter* via snail mail.

Meet the Board!



 More board member intros coming in future *Museletters*!

Christina Kubasta discovered WFOP in 2014, when she won the Chapbook Contest with her first publication *A Lovely Box*. She learned then about the 65th Anniversary conference at Green Lake, which she promptly registered for—as she’s been a huge fan of Dorianne Laux since college. At the summer conference, Cathryn Cofell saw her anxiously hugging the wallpaper in the big meeting room and introduced herself ... and here we are.

Throughout her time with WFOP, Christina has served as (co)VP of the Fox Valley region, and worked on conferences. She is most proud of founding *Bramble*, WFOP’s literary magazine. *Bramble* highlights Wisconsin poetry and art, utilizing guest editors to reflect the diversity of aesthetics and styles of poets across WFOP. Christina serves as Managing Editor alongside the brilliant and creative Tori Grant Welhouse (design/layout).

Christina publishes as C. Kubasta, and writes poetry, fiction, and hybrid forms—as well as reviews and an occasional column. Her most recent book is the short story collection *Abjectionification* (Apprentice House, 2020). Her next poetry book, *Under the Tented Skin*, will be out in 2025 from Unsolicited Press. In the meantime, she curates the National Poetry Month pop-up magazine at Brain Mill Press, writes her Portaging column, and teaches at Marian University. Follow her on Instagram & Twitter @CKubastathePoet

2023 WFOP Chapbook Contest

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets 14th Annual Chapbook Contest opens **September 1, 2022**, with a deadline of **February 1, 2023**.

The contest is for poetry chapbooks not to exceed 48 pages long, published during the calendar year 2022. First prize is \$200, second prize \$100, and third \$50. The contest is open to Wisconsin residents 18 and over. The contest judge is Joe Cottonwood from La Honda, CA. The entry fee per chapbook is \$7 for WFOP members and \$15 for non-members. Mail chapbook, entry form, and check (made out to WFOP Literary Fund) to: **Shoshauna Shy, 878 Woodrow Street, Madison, WI 53711**

See wfop.org/annual-contests for rules and entry form. Complete details will also appear in the *Winter Museletter*.

This year’s contest coordinator is **Shoshauna Shy**, shoshaunashy@gmail.com.

2023 WFOP Muse Contest

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets Muse Prize for Excellence in Poetry opens **November 1, 2022**, with a deadline of **February 1, 2023**.

The contest is for one original unpublished poem not under consideration elsewhere. First prize is \$200, second prize \$100, and third \$75. The contest is open to Wisconsin residents 18 and over. There is an entry fee of \$4.00 for WFOP members and \$8.00 for non-members. The contest judge is Ed Bok Lee, recipient of the American Book Award, who teaches at Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN.

See wfop.org/annual-contests for rules and entry form. Entry fee payment may be made on the website. Complete details will also appear in the *Winter Museletter*.

This year’s contest coordinator is **Mary Rowin**, 2023WFOPmusecontest@gmail.com.

Nosferatu's Garden

If Nosferatu were a gardener
he would raise beets
and beets alone,
fang-rooted Romanian blood bulbs,
vampire of vegetables.
Sucking redness from radish veins
leaving its innards colorless.
Rutabagas, potatoes, parsnips
are no match for its red-robbing wiles.
Only the longer rooted carrot
has managed through the centuries
to cleave to a bit of orangeness.
There is an eastern European wives tale
claiming that before the beet bit
you *could* get blood from a turnip.
Bubbling in a borscht bowl,
the beet could sustain the fabled count
through those long cold damselless nights.

—Ed Werstein, *Milwaukee*

first appeared in *Vampyre Verse*,
ed. Lester Smith (Popcorn Press, 2009)

Noctilucent

What shines each night, an ethereal light,
The luster of Luna flickering through a filigree of branches.
Moonglow caught in the owl's eye is enough for him to hunt.
So, too, the fox makes his nightly prowls in the pale ambience.
When Sun's revelations fade, it becomes a different world, bathed in the light of night,
A shadowy world known to them, and others like them, not us.
The owl hoots a who, as in who goes there?

—Thom Singleton, *Appleton*

Worm-Hunting

for Tim Fry

We took our flashlights and a plastic pail
to Washington Park, after the rain had passed.
We'd look for their slimy trails
amidst muddy clumps of tufted grass.
There was a pond and a narrow rill
that led to the rock waterfall below
hoping our plastic pails to fill
before going fishing on the morrow.
There they were, by the hundreds,
blindly questing for safe harbor
away from scavenging predators.
Against the night-time mutter of thunder,
we caught the worms and dropped them in,
our expedition done ... let the fishing begin!

—James P. Roberts, *Madison*

full moon stroll
tugging against the leash
his werewolf wife

—F. J. Bergmann, *Madison*

first appeared in *failed haiku*

Night Life

Low in the darkening sky bright Venus glows, close
at father Jupiter's feet, under the crescent moon.
Jupiter lingers long with his daughter Venus,
then sinks lower in the west, letting her light
beam huge and high in the twilight.
Now Mars rises fierce in the east,
wrapped in Leo's shaggy mane.
Amorous Mars, blazing red,
pursues Venus across the heavens.
Gods and beasts, in the night
the ancient drama lives again.

—Patricia Freres Stinger,
Madison

Midnight Vision

illuminated in obsidian sky
heavenly summer triangle winks
loons tremolo, frogs chorus
bats flit, mosquitoes beckon
celestial eagle and swan loom bright
loons nest, frogs mate
bats gulp mosquitoes

—Christy L. Schwan, Cedarburg

Night Walks

Yesterday's snow clumps heavy on evergreen boughs.
An opaque moon behind thin clouds lights my way.
The presence of others is closer this night.
Almost as tangible as the prints they left in the snow.
They impart their spirits to me and tell me their secrets.
Memories of other night walks in other places return.
Burdens I carried then, different than those I have now.
Still, I find the same solace in the walk—in the night
as I exhale today's worries into icy air.

—Pauline Witte, Middleton

Flash of the Firefly

Warm summer nights
full of delight, fireflies emerge
displaying their language of love
twinkling conversations with secret code
hoping for a reply.
Moments like these, I long to match words
with my feelings of being full, but few can be found.
Then they're gone—
How I wish I could put these moments in a jar
as I did the fireflies that light up the night sky.
I must wait for another like it.
They are not meant to be possessed.

—Angela Hoffman, Jefferson

FALL NOT

In 15 lines or fewer, use three of the following six words in a poem that is NOT about Autumn: *migration, harvest, deciduous, russet, nippy, hibernate*. You may use any form of the words. Unpublished only; one poem per person. Deadline October 25. Editors, **Sheryl Slocum** & **Kim Parsons**. Send to museletterpoems@gmail.com, or by post to:

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Next Issue Deadline NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Nighttime Rampage

I am in dismay at the carnage; the breathtaking beauty of my lily box garden has been ruined by voles. Those tunnel makers have dug up and eaten every bulb, as though in an organized and massive attack. Blooming only once in a spectacular array of pinks and whites, the flower garden was pure joy. Then destruction from these critters brought me down. I vowed vengeance, sprinkling grainy repellents into the soil as a deterrent. I planted marigolds instead, hoping they would thrive in that vacant space. These golden annuals radiate their own little glory, braving any attempt by voles to continue their digging.

—Jane-Marie Bahr, Menomonie

Thanks, Bats!

Mid May
Bats awaken in their winter caves
Fly across the night sky
To their bat house under the eaves
Sleep hanging upside down by day
Sun sets, darkness arrives
They swoop out,
Flutter through the yard
Silhouettes in the moonlight
Consuming their daily ration
Of 1200 mosquitoes per hour.
No need for pesticides
When you have bats.

—Frankie Mengeling, Oshkosh