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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Carol Bezin, Arkdale  
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Matilda Franks, Greendale  
Paula Goldman, Shorewood  
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Christopher Kolon, Kenosha  
Dee Lambert, Cazenovia  
Moss Lelko, Milwaukee  
David McKee, Madison  
Marty Merkt, Milwaukee  
Karen Nystrom, Ellison Bay  
Lynda Schaller, Gays Mills  
Virginia Small, Milwaukee  
Michael Staeger, Waterford  
Lorisa Wiedenheft, Wauwatosa

Co-Presidents' Message

Greetings!

We're eager to see some of you at WFOP's 2023 conference in Oshkosh, April 28–29. Updates are here: <https://www.wfop.org/conferences>

This will be our only conference in 2023, the Board having decided (based on a membership-wide poll) to have annual meetings only. This change will make it possible for us to explore other ways of bringing poetry to you through more affordable regional gatherings and expanded online/virtual workshops. Attendance at some of these workshops has been the same as our conferences! For the conference planning survey results, go to <https://www.wfop.org/meeting-minutes>

Yes, there will be a *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. Some of you know about our efforts to recruit a business manager, which was essential to continue producing this 40+ year-old publication. We're happy to report that **Gillian Nevers**, **Steve Tomasko** and **Beth Ann Workmaster** are now responsible for getting the books from printer to shops, featured poets, and online buyers. We're grateful this "triad" has taken on an important job.

We're also moving ahead with our first contest for a chapbook publishing contract. Our partner in this exciting venture is Brain Mill Press, in Green Bay. No deadline yet for submissions but publication is anticipated in 2024–2025. More here: <https://www.wfop.org/brain-mill-press>

A few more things—our first statewide high school ekphrastic contest in partnership with the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum in Wausau was a success, thanks to the museum and our own schools' contest coordinator, **Jeff Anderson**. We had nearly 200 entries and hope to build on this accomplishment.

What's next? We'll be turning our attention toward enhanced communications, job descriptions and, most important, a finance policy to better guide us as we go forward.

—Cat & Ronnie

Wisconsin's new Poet Laureate is Nicholas Gulig:

<https://wisconsinpoetlaureate.org/new-state-poet-laureate-wisconsin-nicholas-gulig>

Remember ...

Notify *in advance* of address change. Mail 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](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

The 2023 Triad contest will open June 1. The deadline is September 1, two weeks later than last year. Rules and guidelines are posted on the WFOP website. Theme for the theme category will be: *What Could've, Would've, or Should've Been If...*

In Memoriam

Rosemary Zurlo-Cuva  
July 17, 1953–Jan. 3, 2023

John "Jack" Patrick Redell  
February 27, 1941–October 11, 2021

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

# What's Happening in Your Region?

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

## CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VPs: Mike Gadzik, mgadzik@yahoo.com

& Thom Singleton, thomsingleton@gmail.com

Poetry Unlocked continues on Zoom for the winter, including featured readers and an open mic. Featured readers included *WI Poet's Calendar* poets in November and **Sue Blaustein** and Tom Montag in December. Readers this winter: **Ronnie Hess** and **Karla Huston** in February and Mboya Sharif and Nathan Reid. More at <https://www.facebook.com/poetryunlockedappleton>.

Central-Fox Valley will host the WFOP Spring 2023 Conference April 28–29 in Oshkosh; info on pages 7–8.

**Thom Singleton**, **Linda Nett-Duesterhoeft**, and **Mike Gadzik** gave a poetry reading at The Bookstore in Appleton February 11.

Thomas Cannon, the Poet Laureate of Oshkosh, is holding open mics at the New Moon Café in downtown Oshkosh third Fridays at 7 PM. Poetry and prose of all types are encouraged. Upcoming: Feb. 17, Mar. 17, and Apr. 21.

## EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

**Scott Lowery's** "Dancing with My Brother" appears in the December MN-based online journal *RockPaperPoem*.

**Christy Schwan** received an award from *Writer's Digest* in their 17th Annual Poetry Awards for "Floaters."

**Gary Baumier** was nominated for a Pushcart prize for "Night Forest," the title poem for an anthology from Flying Ketchup Press. Gary also won the Emily Dickinson prize from *Raw Arts Review* for "Spirit Animal."

**CJ Muchhala** has had poems in *Moss Piglet*, *Your Daily Poem* 10/20/22, fall *Bramble*, November *Mobius: The Journal of Social Change*, Winter *Gyroscope Review*, *JerryJazzMusician* 1/20/23, and the winter *Rise Up Review*.

**Brenda Cárdenas'** essay "Poetry in Concert with the Visual Arts: Latinx Ekphrasis and Other Inter-Arts Fusions" was in the anthology *Latinx Poetics: The Art of Poetry*, ed. Ruben Quesada (University of New Mexico Press, 2022). Brenda also gave poetry readings at Carthage College in Kenosha Oct. 26 and online for the Annual Day of the Dead Celebration at the Writer's Place, Kansas City, MO, Oct. 28. With her husband, Roberto Harrison, she co-curated the Latinx Poetry Hour for the Annual Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon January 28. Brenda will be presenting her poetry on Feb. 10 for UW–Milwaukee's United We Read Graduate Student/Faculty reading series at Sugar Maple, Milwaukee, on Feb. 19 at Hungry Brain, Chicago, and will

be doing two group readings and presenting on a panel at the 2023 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference in Seattle, WA, March 8–12.

**Margaret Rozga's** "Self Portrait as Punctuation" was published in *Tiny Wren* 3.

**Elisabeth Harrahy** participated in **Kathie Giorgio's** "Poetry is Ageless" panel at the Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books in Waukesha in November. Her poems "Blue Flame," "Cherry" and "Vanishing Point" were published in the summer/fall *I-70 Review*.

**Karl Elder's** "The Dwelling," dedicated to Mark Strand, was published in *Last Stanza Poetry Journal* 11.

**Fred Kreutz's** "Untitled" was published in the fall *Blue Heron Review*.

**Mark Zimmermann** hosted a poetry reading and discussion by former Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Margaret Rozga** at the Milwaukee School of Engineering October 24. "Yoshi Hattori" appears in the November *Mobius*, and "The Champs" in the fall *Bramble*.

**Ed Werstein** curated the WFOP hour of the Woodland Pattern Marathon. He also had poems in *Verse-Virtual*, *JerryJazzMusician*, and *Moss Piglet*.

## MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

**Patricia Williams'** poem, "Evening: Margined With Stars" was in the November *Plum Tree Tavern* Autumn Moon Festival issue, "Flamboyant Excess" in the December *Verse-Virtual*, "Waiting for Janis Joplin" in the *Peninsula Pulse* and won third place in the Hal Prize competition. *Highland Park Poetry* nominated "Praise Paper and Red Tape" for a Pushcart Prize.

**Karyn Powers** recently led a poetry exploration gathering of the United Way of Marathon County's Women United. The evening included Powers reading from her published work and leading the group through a poetry writing activity.

**Mary Ray Goehring's** poem "Mothers" was in both *Your Daily Poem* and *Highland Park Poetry*. *Lothlorien Poetry Journal* published "Courir de Mardi Gras," "Invocation," "Medusa: The Reproductive Cycle of Jellyfish," "Reservoir" and "What April Showers Bring."

**Kathleen Serley's** poem "Hey, Neighbor" was in the January *Eastern Iowa Review*. *Water's Edge Press* nominated "Monarch," "Reading Zane Grey," and "Tending to the Harvest" for a Pushcart Prize.

**Joan Wiese Johannes** had three poems in the February *Verse-Virtual*. **Jeffrey Johannes** and Joan Wiese Johannes are regular contributors to *Moss Piglet*. Joan Wiese Johannes has a poem and Jeffrey Johannes has two poems in the winter/spring *Bramble*.

**Jane Osypowski, Joan Wiese Johannes** and **Jeffrey Johannes** read poetry on *The Director's Cut*, a radio show on WFHR, Wisconsin Rapids.

**Linda Aschbrenner** had "Music from the Past," "Snowy, Snowy Fright," and "Earth Orbiter 580" in *Moss Piglet* and "Lunch is Served on this Frigid Winter Day" and "Albino Deer Stopping by Woods on a Moonlit Evening" in *The Avocet*.

**Mavis Flegle** had "Great Lakes Sailor" in *The Avocet*.

**Sue Twiggs**, Marshfield, has poems in *Moss Piglet*, *The Avocet*, the fall *Bramble*, and *Cricket Magazine* 50.

## NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com

**Adrienne S. Wallner's** *Pages and Poems* exhibit will be on display February 20–March 3 at the LOLA Gallery in Land O Lakes. From journal scribblings to the polished poem, *Pages and Poems* allows an intimate glimpse into the writing process, featuring nine poems from Adrienne's debut collection, *To the 4 a.m. Light* (Finishing Line Press). Viewers may page through journal entries, revisions, and feedback assembled to reflect the journey of each poem from inspiration to completion. Also featured are images of several journal covers adorned and decorated by the author. Adrienne will also host a Poetry & Prose Open Mic at LOLA February 28, 6–8 PM. April 20, 12–1 PM she will lead a discussion on poetry today at Ashwaubenon Branch Library as part of their Brown Bag Poetry Program.

**Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes** published "When Wilding Returns" in *Poetry Quarterly* Fall 2021, "The Mothers" in *Ekphrastic Review* December 2022, "What the Trees Know" in *Feral Review* January 2023, "Abandoned" in *Of Rust and Glass* 10 and "On Being Two Places at Once" in *Rosebud* 70. She also participated in the Woodland Pattern Marathon for Racine/Kenosha Poets and Wednesday's Writers' Poetry Press's zoom reading in January.

**Annette Langlois Grunseth** was awarded a Gold Medal from the Military Writers Society of America for her book *Combat and Campus: Writing Through War*. She took first place in the 2022 Hal Prize for Poetry with "Cicadas can Reach 100 Decibels." She had four poems and a photo in September–January issues of *Moss Piglet*.

## NORTHWEST

VP: Nancy Austin, austin10929@gmail.com

**Lucy Tyrrell's** "A Special Kind of App" in *Alaska Women Speak* was nominated for a 2022 Pushcart Prize. Her poem "Night" is in *Cirque Journal* 13:1.

**Diana Randolph**, Drummond, published a haiku on the back of a new pen & ink notecard she designed and

had a poem published inside a photo notecard created by a photographer/author from Ashland who had published the same poem in the book *Same Location, Multiple Perspectives*. She read a poem during a service at Cable UCC with a musician playing original guitar music, had a haiku published in *Ski and Tea Newsletter* (the women's outdoor exercise group in which she is a member), and had four poems selected for the archives of Cable/Namakagon Historical Museum for their Pandemic History Project.

**Jan Chronister** has poems in *The POET Magazine* Queen issue and in Outrider Press's annual anthology with the theme of "play," and "The Last Time I Rode a Horse" in the January *Visual Verse*. "Shared Air" was on *Your Daily Poem* December 19. "They made a lot of hay today ..." is in *Highland Park Poetry's* Fall/Winter Muses' Gallery and "Weaning" in *Bramble*. Jan received two second places and two awards of merit in the annual League of Minnesota Poets' contest. She has three poems in the *Bringing Joy* anthology published by Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, which won the 2022 Minnesota Author Project Award in the Communities Create category.

**Peggy Trojan's** "Small Talk" was on *Your Daily Poem* in June, and she received an honorable mention on the Wilda Morris Poetry Challenge in December for "My Wish," which was used as an example for the January poetry challenge, for which Peggy was the judge.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

VP: James P. Roberts, jprob52162@aol.com

**Angela Hoffman** had five poems in *Lothlorien Poetry Journal* and "Rituals of Change" in *Whispers and Echoes*.

The following South-Central poets read their poems from the 2023 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* at the Sequoia Library in Madison December 3: **Dennis Collier, Brenda Lempp, Susan Godwin, F. J. Bergmann, Ronnie Hess, Lynn Patrick Smith** (reading the poems of **Lenore McComas Coberly**), **Marilyn L. Taylor, Gillian Nevers, Nancy Jesse, R. B. Simon, and Jess L. Parker**.

These South-Central poets were readers at the Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon in Milwaukee on January 28: **Ronnie Hess, Rita Mae Reese, Marilyn L. Taylor, Angela Trudell-Vasquez, Jodi Vander Molen, Angela Voras-Hills**.

**F. J. Bergmann** had "Even the Most Advanced Technology" in *Star\*Line*, "Exploitation" in *Dreams and Nightmares*, [grave stones] in *Haikuniverse*, "The End Time" and "Risk" in the Cybercity Rain issue of *View From Atlantis*, "The Return of the Saucers," "Watching the Skies" and "When They Come to Take Me" in *Flying Saucer Review*, "Alternating Current," a finalist for the

James Hearst Prize, in *North American Review*, and “Pre-Nuptial” in *The Vampiricon*, ed. Frank Coffman (Mind’s Eye, 2023). She was an instructor at the UW–Whitewater Creative Writing Festival November 30.

## WEST CENTRAL

VP: Sandra Lindow, lindowleaf@gmail.com

Even though there are mixed reports regarding the groundhog and his shadow, poets and audiences in the Chippewa Valley continue to explore and enjoy written words. The 2023 *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar* Celebration and cookie exchange was held December 12 at the Eau Claire Public Library, a success despite cocoa clogging a coffee machine and running over onto the floor. Readers included **Yvette Viets Flaten**, **Linda Frank**, **Karen Havholm**, **Erna Kelly**, **Sandra Lindow**, **Karen Loeb**, and **Charles Schaefer**. **Candace Hennekens**, recovering from pneumonia, attended in spirit. Sandra Lindow was honored to read Hennekens’s *Calendar* poem. Many hands made light work of the cleanup.

The Writers Group met via Zoom in January and February. We will return to in-person meetings at the Library 2–4 PM the first Thursday in March. **Yvette Flaten** hosted and read her poetry at the January 15 Winter White Pine Celebration at First Congregational Church, Menomonie. **Karen Geissler** played the piano. **Linda Frank** and **Sandra Lindow** also read to an appreciative audience. The next White Pine will be in Menomonie in March to celebrate the Spring Equinox. For more information contact **Sandra Lindow** at lindowleaf@gmail.com.

## Modernizing Your Haiku

by F. J. Bergmann

We learned in grade school that a haiku is 3 lines and 5-7-5 syllables. Regrettably, this outdated definition persists in dictionaries and many other reference sites that should know better. Present standards for nearly all serious haiku publications are quite different. Many contemporary haiku journals will automatically reject any 5-7-5 “haiku.” Other forms, such as cinquains, are defined by syllable count, but haiku (or the related form senryu) is no longer one of them.

Main characteristics of present-day haiku are brevity and imagism, creating a connection to nature and the world. Some haiku are only one line, known as one-breaths. Senryu are similar to haiku, but humorous or satirical. Frequently two images or concepts are juxtaposed, creating what haiku enthusiasts call an “Aha!” moment. Traditional Japanese haiku can include “kigo,” a word denoting the season, and/or “kireji,” a word which can affect either the juxtaposition of images or the effect of the ending.

## Community Poets Laureate

Former Poets Laureate Peggy Rozga (State) and Nancy Rafal (Door County) are compiling a list of all Poet Laureate positions in the state. Send info about any community PL program to Nancy: [mrsticket@gmail.com](mailto:mrsticket@gmail.com) or PO Box 340, Baileys Harbor WI 54202-0340. Please include: date established, names of poets laureate & dates of post, selection procedure, and any other significant information.

## Publications by Our Members

*Flight Patterns* by Jan Chronister (Poetry Harbor, 2022). 27 pp. \$10 Amazon, \$12 (includes shipping) from [janchronister@yahoo.com](mailto:janchronister@yahoo.com).

*Poems to the Wind* by Karen Wilson (Sand Beach Press, 2022). 74 pp. \$15 from [sandbeachpress.com](http://sandbeachpress.com).

*When Wilding Returns* by Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes (Cyberwit Press, 2022).

*Leaving Lumberton* by Sheryl Slocum (Wipf and Stock’s Resources imprint, 2022). Amazon, or directly from Sheryl.

### 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)

## Haiku Style References

<https://thehaikufoundation.org/>

<https://www.modernhaiku.org/>

<https://www.hsa-haiku.org/hsa-definitions.html>

<https://www.ahapoetry.com/haiairtjr.htm>

<https://www.escapeintolife.com/essays/the-art-of-haiku/>

[https://spice.fsi.stanford.edu/docs/the\\_history\\_and-artistry\\_of\\_haiku](https://spice.fsi.stanford.edu/docs/the_history_and-artistry_of_haiku)

## Friends of Lorine Niedecker

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Dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of Lorine Niedecker. Our organization offers access to archives, educational materials, and a semiannual newsletter.

# Tips for Punctuation and Grammar

Compiled by Lucy Tyrrell

While you should expect and enjoy nearly unlimited freedom about usage of language, punctuation, and style in your poetry, here are a few tips to consider for your poems and any written communications:

## Spaces after a period, semi-colon, or colon

Use one. Not two. Originally, because typewriters gave the same width of space to all letters, regardless of letter width, two spaces were needed to visually find the end of sentences in the sea of white on a page. Now the space for letters is proportional to their width, and most style sources endorse just one space at the end of a sentence. The age of a person can be determined (in part) by whether they continue to use two spaces or use just one. Convert to one space!

## Hyphen, en-dash, and em-dash

A *hyphen* (-) is the punctuation used to link words, such as compound adjectives modifying a noun (e.g., dark-brown house, razor-thin margin), but not when the adjective follows the noun (the house is dark brown; the margin is razor thin). When the modifier is an adverb and adjective, the hyphen is not used (e.g., gently flowing river). You can create your own hyphenated adjectives (wild-naturalist memory). A hyphen is also used to break a word at the end of a line, and to show a missing or implied element (e.g., short- and long-term savings bonds).

The *en-dash* (–) is longer than a hyphen, and is named because its length is as long as the typewritten “n.” The en-dash is used to separate a span of numbers, a sports score, or two place names (e.g., September–May, 4–5 p.m., University of Wisconsin–Madison). In American English, the en-dash does not include spaces on either side of it. The en-dash can be created on an Apple computer holding down the Option key along with the hyphen key. On PCs, holding down the Alt key along with the minus key creates the en-dash.

The *em-dash* (—) is longer than an en-dash (the length of a typed “m”). The em-dash is used to indicate that some further description or modification follows, and can be used in place of a comma, semi-colon, colon, or parentheses. If the modification following the em-dash ends the sentence, there is only one em-dash. If the em-dash is similar in function to a parenthesis, there would be two em-dashes. No spaces are used to set off em-dashes—why would you need them? On an Apple computer, the em-dash can be created easily holding down Option, Shift, and the hyphen key. On PCs, hold down the Alt, Ctrl, and minus keys.

When *two consecutive hyphens* (--) are used, the typist is usually not familiar with the use of an em-dash or doesn't know how the keyboard makes an em-dash. The function would be the same as an em-dash.

## Its versus It's

Using it's or its incorrectly is one of the most common mistakes. *It's* is a contraction for “it is” or “it has.” If you mean “it is” or “it has” and are using “it's,” you are correct. In contrast, *its* is a possessive pronoun and refers to the noun mentioned previously or when the gender of the noun is not known (e.g., the dog licked its fur).

## Poet Critters

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](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com). A weekly Madison east side group currently has openings: contact the *Museletter* editor.

### *Museletter* submissions:

Send news to your regional VP or to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com) (please 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, which are already available to members.

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

\$15	eighth page	\$40	half page
\$25	quarter page	\$75	full page
\$10/100 wds in Events e-mail			

# Meet Your Members!

More board member intros coming in future *Museletters*!

**Meet Steve Tomasko:** I was born in Oshkosh (yes, by gosh). My wife Jeanie sometimes accuses me of having a “Fox Valley accent.” But, yah, I know I talk normal, especially when I go by my cousin’s house. I’ve always loved to read but came late to writing poetry. (I went through the “teen angst” phase of poetry in my thirties.) I have a background in science, in biology and entomology, and spent some years working in research labs. I somehow ended up wafting my way over to journalism and worked as a reporter for a daily newspaper for five years in Ashland, WI. For the past 20 years I’ve worked at UW-Madison as an outreach specialist, a fancy title meaning ... well, I’m still figuring that out.

I like working science into my writing. I find myself baffled when other people are not amazed or amused by the same things I am. Why isn’t everyone interested in slime molds or the mites that live in our eyebrows? But there it is, that’s the grandness of diversity, not everyone likes the same stuff. (But still, mites, are living full lives—in our eyebrows!)

Jeanie and I joined WFOP sometime around 2004 and 2009 and have thoroughly enjoyed finding new friends among poets around the state. I’m happy to be part of a great team hoping to shepherd the *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar* into the future.

*\*WFOP Member Steve Tomasko is one of three Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar Business Managers. The other two are Gillian Nevers and Beth Ann Workmaster. (Editors for 2024 are Nancy Austin and Kathleen Serley. The graphics editor is Wendy Vardaman.) Steve is the author of and no spiders were harmed (Red Bird Chapbooks, 2015), winner of the 2016 Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets’ Chapbook Contest. He is chief designer of Bent Paddle Press. His wife Jeanie is “chief poem organizer.”*

**Meet Gillian Nevers:** I started writing poetry in 2002 after retiring from a career working with victims of crime. I’d written some poetry as a child, so when a guest instructor at a book discussion group I was participating in mentioned that she was teaching a poetry workshop the following weekend, I thought it might be something new to do in my retirement. I asked the instructor if a non-poet could be in the workshop. Her response was, I now see, a challenge. She asked, “Why aren’t you a poet?” Why aren’t I a poet? I asked myself and promptly signed up for her workshop and became a poet. Well, it wasn’t exactly that easy. Becoming a poet takes more than inspiration and putting pen to paper—it takes work. It also takes encouragement, support, and opportunity, three things that I’ve found in abundance through my membership in the WFOP.



Since that day in 2002, my growth as a poet has resulted in my poems appearing in several publications, a Pushcart nomination, two awards from the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters’ statewide poetry contest, and a second-place award in the WFOP Chapbook contest for my book *The True Story* (Fuller’s Windy Acres Farm Press).

I was taught and believe in “giving-back” and have happily been engaged in many WFOP activities. I’ve served as Membership Chair, organized readings in my region, served as gatekeeper for the Chapbook contest, co-edited the 2021 *Poets’ Calendar* with my partners in poetry, Nancy Jesse and Keesia Hyzer, and with them co-edited the Fall 2021 issue of *Bramble*. I am currently part of the three-person Calendar Business Manager team.

I’ve a degree in Art Education from UW–Madison, with a concentration in printmaking and painting. I taught elementary school art for two and a half years until I was forced to quit because I was “visibly” pregnant. I never went back to teaching art but have used those skills in teaching poetry to adults and children. I live in Madison with my husband, Dan, and our sometimes well-behaved but always sweet rescue dog.



## WFOP Spring Conference April 28-29, 2023

Best Western Premier Waterfront  
Hotel & Convention Center  
1 North Main St, Oshkosh  
(920) 230-1900

Visit [wfop.org/conference](http://wfop.org/conference) to register online.

**The Work of Poetry:** Celebrate & explore the work of being poets, from reading, to writing, to editing, to sharing our work. Please join us!

We are thrilled to have **Amorak Huey** as our keynote speaker. In his poem “Why Bother?” Sean Thomas Dougherty says, “Because right now there is someone out there with a wound in the exact shape of your words.” This begins to get at what the work of poetry is. Audre Lorde says poetry is not a luxury but a necessity. In his keynote address, Amorak will explore why that is and what poetry’s place is in a world where work is often tied to material value. He is the author of four books of poems, co-founder of River River Books, and teaches writing at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.

We are also pleased to welcome Wisconsin’s newly named Poet Laureate, **Nicholas Gulig**! Join us for a reading by Nicholas on Friday and, on Saturday, an informative reflection to inspire our writing: “Ghost Work: Negative Capability and the Practice of Poetics.”

The conference will include a roll call/open mic, the presentation of the Muse and Chapbook Awards, time for fellowship and buying and selling our books, panels on broadening our reading horizons and editing our work using critique groups, and a learning library round robin on various ways to share our work. We’ll be learning from Amorak, Nicholas and a number of other successful poets.

## Reserving a Room

WFOP has reserved a block of 25 rooms for Friday, and 5 for Saturday at a rate of \$100 (about \$118 after tax and fees). The cutoff date for this rate is **April 2**. Make reservations soon; the price for rooms (if still available) will go up considerably after the April 2 deadline.

To reserve one of these rooms call the hotel, or go online:

1. Go to [https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.50139.html?groupId=L75SH0Q7](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.50139.html?groupId=L75SH0Q7)
2. Click the Edit button on the upper right to adjust your reservation accordingly.
3. Scroll down to room choice and click the Select button.

A list of other nearby hotels is below—but without a WFOP room rate. We ask for your understanding. Perhaps a roommate situation will work for you.

**Comfort Suites** (2.8 miles away)  
400 S Koeller St, Oshkosh  
Phone (920) 385-5820

**Motel 6** (2.8 miles away)  
1015 S Washburn St, Oshkosh  
Phone (920) 233-4300

**Quality Inn** (2.6 miles away)  
1495 W South Park Ave, Oshkosh  
Phone (920) 232-0300

**Hilton Garden Inn** (2.8 miles away)  
1355 W 20th Ave, Oshkosh  
Phone (920) 966-1300

## 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 your email address. Renew online at [wfop.org/join-or-renew](http://wfop.org/join-or-renew). **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](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com) to opt out of print delivery. The Events weekly e-mail is separate and opt-in; request from [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com). Send all address changes or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

WFOP SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Friday–Saturday, April 28–29, 2023

Inquiries should be directed to Mike Gadzik at mike.gadzik@gmail.com or 920-750-8946. \*Conference registration is non-refundable. \*Visit wfop.org/conference-registration/ to register and pay online, or mail to address below.

Members: \$80 if received by April 10; \$95 after or at door (includes Saturday breakfast and lunch)
Saturday Only: \$65 by April 10; \$70 after

Non-members: \$110.00 by April 10; \$125.00 after (includes meals and 1-year WFOP membership)
Saturday Only: \$95 by April 10; \$100 after

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Member? \_\_\_\_ (yes/no) Region \_\_\_\_\_

Name of additional attendee(s) (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Member? \_\_\_\_ (yes/no)

Please list any dietary concerns \_\_\_\_\_

First time at a WFOP conference? \_\_\_\_

\_\_ I would like table space for selling my books (author name) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Online at wfop.org/store or by check payable to WFOP. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your reservation for a room separately with the Best Western Hotel (see previous page)

If paying by check, please mail registration form to: Mike Gadzik
1436 E Frances St
Appleton WI 54911

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/join-or-renew
or mail to: Colleen Frentzel, 1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr, Janesville WI 53546
Please make checks payable to: WFOP

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- Check to get weekly Events e-mail.
Check only if you must get the Museletter via snail mail.



# Poems BY Our Membership

—STEPHEN KALMAR II, EDITOR

## FIRE & ICE HAIKU

planet Earth throws us fire and ice  
urging us to leave  
how many books can we pack?

*Linda Aschbrenner, Marshfield*

Carry heavy logs  
struggle in cold to find tinder  
crumpled words start blaze

*Sharon Daly, Fort Atkinson*

covid-shattered lungs  
inhale icicle spiked breath  
exhale frozen fire

*Janine Arseneau, Milwaukee*

rising on the wind  
snowflakes alight, burn my hands  
unmittened virgins

*Mary Zelke Windau, Sheboygan Falls*

house fire in winter  
its skeleton wears thick coat  
of white icicles

*Ann M. Penton, Green Valley AZ*

night sounds past firelight  
rustling in the darkened trees  
owl song chills the air

*Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes, Mountain*

Distanced by geography  
Wind & ice evaporate  
Melted by a phone call

*June Nirschl, Baileys Harbor*

Once-flat sandy beach  
Now bluffs of gleaming ice spheres  
Temporary gems

*Virginia Small, Milwaukee*

When stalactite ice  
yields to frail warming days, each  
drop holds a wee sun.

*Macy Washow, Lac du Flambeau*

he read his poems  
holding a glass of whiskey  
ice catching fire

*F. J. Bergmann, Madison*

### SNEER & CACKLE

*Next Prompt:* Write a poem from the perspective/in the voice of a fable villain. Optional Challenge: The last two lines a rhyming couplet. No more than 24 lines. Send by April 25 to [skalmar@wi.rr.com](mailto:skalmar@wi.rr.com) or by post to:

Stephen Kalmar  
3653 Montgomery Dr  
Racine WI 53402

Lake water is ice.  
Sunset ignites smooth surface.  
Winter celebrates.

*Jan Bosman, Woodstock IL*

Vikings won more games  
when fire was used to soften  
icy fields; but still ...

*Jim Landwehr, Waukesha*

Christmas card in snow  
Red as blazes in fir tree  
Cardinal takes wing

*Ronnie Hess, Madison*

Pulsajo burns bright,  
creates steam trails in the sky  
as sleet strikes flamed wings.

*Kathrine Yets, St. Francis*

Pele's Kilauea  
Titanic's fatal iceberg  
Beware underneath

*Terry Dukerschein, Glen Flora*

ice crusted white pine  
groan under their sparkle, wait  
for sun's melting kiss

*Katrina Serwe, Cambellsport*

in my dreams I glide  
across the frigid ice rink  
eyes and skates ablaze

in reality  
I windmill, fall—wrist breaks like  
icicles cracking

*Christy Schwan, Cedarburg*

Stardust, not fire  
or ice as one poet posed.  
Earth's end; beginning.

*Catherine Young, Blue River*

virgin viking land  
knows the flames that lick its ice:  
a clash without choice

*Kim Kelly, Poplar*

ice shards pierce the lungs  
Undulating breath hovers  
Pyre patiently waits

*Cristin Jacque, Madison*

Giannis in winter  
Our dunking Apollo  
Too close to the Sun

*Tom Erickson, Whitefish Bay*

Frozen river bank  
Sparks fly from warming bonfire  
Skate blades etch the ice

*Patricia Freres Stinger, Madison*

Fire-crested bird  
hammers into icy bark—  
pileated joy!

*Chris Daleiden, Fond du Lac*

In the night we ski  
in shimmery tracks, lit by  
ice luminaries.

*Diana Randolph, Drummond*

Suspended, hastened,  
weightless icy flakes descend  
in the burning sun.

*Ed Block, Greendale*

Icicles in sun  
Glisten, shimmer, drip, drip, drip  
Winter fired up.

*Camille Wade Maurice, Wrightstown*

Listen to the sound  
above the crackling fire  
snow sublimed away

*Mike Staeger, Waterford*

Leaving a campfire  
sudden ice of darker air  
shocks my burning face

*Ann Steinbach, Milwaukee*

on glitter-ice snow  
as curtains dance em'rald fire  
dark wolf shadows lope

*Lucy Tyrrell, Bayfield*

green fires of spring pause  
all summer, set fall ablaze  
until ice prevails.

*Elsie Gilmore, Baraboo*

Bourbon swirls like flame  
in my glass, licking the ice  
for a colder burn

*David Southward, Milwaukee*

to look at ice rock  
imagine red flare flower  
as if sprung from freeze

*Paulette Laufer, Sturgeon Bay*

black branches shining  
congealed rain, cardinal sings  
fire against ice

*Erna Kelly, Eau Claire*

WISCONSIN FELLOWSHIP OF POETS  
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WFOP.ORG

*Return Service Requested.*

*Next Issue Deadline MAY 1, 2023*

within box elder  
burl—a swirl of ruby blood  
circulates its fire

*Jeanna Rindo, Pickett*

blue ice of winter  
crackles and hisses like fire  
lake shakes itself free

*Carrie Sherrill, Forestville*

lower in the fire  
red flame yellow pollen sparks  
seeds frozen in ice

*Patricia Carney, Cudahy*

blazing sun drops low  
to frozen lake horizon  
hot and cold entwined

*Karen Wilson, Fish Creek*

leave much to ponder  
paper pages on fire, glow  
silent under ice

*Angela Hoffman, Jefferson*