

Museletter Editor

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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Pat Alea, Madison
Sophie Bebau, Green Bay
Cynthia Dorfman, Rockville MD
Janet Frase, Altoona
Jessica Gilikson, Madison
Christian Hansen, Madison
Q Hommen-Quario, Dubuque IA
Christel Maass, Milwaukee
Nicole Nicholson, Menomonee Falls
Marla Olson, Hudson
Stephanie Sargent, Milwaukee
Daniel Schroeder, Waupaca
Timothy Sheldon, Hayward
Monica Thomas, Oak Creek
Charlotte Trumble, Mequon

Co-Presidents' Message

Despite the chaos around the world, this is still a season for giving thanks: to our members for their continued support of WFOP; to our volunteers, whose work is, indeed, priceless, and whose energy abounds; and to our new members, who look to us for fellowship, engagement, and help in facilitating their work. We are a thriving organization.

Save the date—**Sunday, December 10, 2023, 7 pm**, the Triad Awards are going virtual. WFOP's most extensive awards will be announced, and the winning poets will read their work. Minnesota poet **Ed Bok Lee**, a recent Muse Contest judge, will be on hand to explain what's involved in judging a poetry contest. Register for this celebratory Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZElf-ioqD0iHtObQ0cP_uFRFhouyeEsiTes

New members, here's another date to save—**Sunday, February 4, 2024, at 4 PM**. **Cat** and **Ronnie** invite you to join in a Zoom get-together and orientation of WFOP. You'll get to meet members of the board, introduce yourselves, learn more about WFOP, ask questions about the organization, and maybe even read a short poem. We encourage members who joined in the last year to participate, but all members are welcome. Register for the WFOP orientation zoom here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcod-ygrD8vGNNGImFgfPC1oZF1wCIBFpKz6>

Also, mark your calendar for our annual conference **April 26–28, 2024** at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. Registration details will be in the next *Museletter* and [online](#). We have planned several workshops and activities; the keynote speaker will be **Nickole Brown**.

Other things of note—We will be making changes to the weekly email, encouraging you to use, instead, our [digital events calendar](#). We have a beautiful new *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* for 2024! [Order yours today](#)—it makes a wonderful holiday gift! Thanks to **Nancy Austin** and **Kathleen Serley** for their work on it, along with *Calendar* business managers **Steve Tomasko**, **Beth Ann Workmaster** and **Gillian Nevers**. The 2025 *Calendar* editors are **Jeanie Tomasko**, **Beth Ann Workmaster**, and **Linda Voit**, but we are looking for new editors for 2026 and 2027. If you're interested, please [get in touch with us](#).

Wishing you all a happy holiday season,

—Cat & Ronnie

Chapbook &
Muse Contests
DEADLINE

February 1

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

Moving?

Notify wfopmuseletter@gmail.com in advance of address change. Mail is returned at WFOP's expense. Request e-mail instead; sent earlier, and you'll save WFOP \$!

In Memoriam

Janine Arsenau
August 2, 1948–October 13, 2023
Woodland Pattern Board & supporter of poetry.

Norma Gay Davidson-Zielske (née Prewett)
April 23, 1950–August 21, 2023
Gay taught for 30 years at UW–Whitewater.

Esther Tank
May 9, 1926–November 18, 2021
Esther had served as a treasurer of WFOP.

Richard Swanson
January 27, 1940–August 31, 2023

Author of several books of poetry, Richard had served as WFOP Secretary and Vice President, and left WFOP a major legacy.

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 reading series is on the 2nd Monday of each month, but moves to Zoom December–March. See the Facebook page to find and register for future events.

EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

Christel Maass recently had poems published in *The Solitary Plover* and *Bramble*.

CJ Muchhala contributed to the concrete poem project at Wausau's Center for Visual Arts and had poems in the June and November issues of *Moss Piglet*, as well as in *Mobius* 34:3, and *Your Daily Poem* 10/16/23.

Scott Lowery's poem "Pandemic Jubilate" was named First Honorable Mention in the 2024 *MacGuffin* Poet Hunt by judge Barbara Crooker. Scott shared a featured reading with Kathryn Gahl at Poetry Unlocked in Appleton in early October. The Fall Solstice issue of *Sky Island* Journal includes three of his poems: "Near the Tracks," "Village Life," and "Modern Arrival."

Cristina M. R. Norcross's poem "Breathing Peace" was published in the print anthology *The Wonder of Small Things: Poems of Peace and Renewal*, ed. James Crews (Storey Publishing, 2023), which includes work by Ada Limón, Joy Harjo, Ted Kooser, Jane Hirshfield, Kimberly Blaeser and others. Available online and in bookstores.

Patricia Carney had two poems in *East on Central* 22, Highland Park, IL, "Web of Illumination" in the special Focus on Illumination section, and "Look Up."

Ed Werstein's poem "Super Heroes and Class War" was published in the summer issue of *Blue Collar Review*.

The annual *Poets' Calendar* reading was held at the Central Branch of the Milwaukee Public Library on October 28. There were 45 people in attendance including 20 contributors to the *Calendar* who read their poems.

MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

Co-editors **Kathleen Serley** and **Nancy Austin** (NW region) hosted a 2024 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* launch at Center for the Visual Arts in Wausau. Twelve poets read their *Calendar* poems and additional poems from the *Calendar*. Poets participating from the Mid-Central region include **Victoria Lindsay**, **Joan Wiese Johannes**, **Jeffrey Johannes**, **Linda Aschbrenner**, **Vlasta Karol**

Blaha, **Kathleen Serley** and **Patricia Williams**. *Calendar* artist Jeff Lange brought his original painting used for the *Calendar* cover and talked about his painting process.

Patricia Williams' poem "Magic in Collapsing Stars," was posted in the *Highland Park Poetry* Summer Gallery. "There's Always Tomorrow" was chosen for the September Poetry Walk in Stevens Point, part of the Central Wisconsin Book Festival. She also read it on September 23 at the Stevens Point library. Patricia read "Margined With Stars" at the WFOP *Calendar* launch on September 30. Patricia was interviewed in the October issue of *Quill & Parchment*, and her book *Midwest Medley: Places & People, Wild Things & Weather* (Kelsay, 2018) was reviewed there.

Karyn Powers read her poem "Teen Warrior" for the Central Wisconsin Book Festival Poetry Walk reading at the Stevens Point Public Library September 23. Her poem was one of more than twenty on display in Wausau and Stevens Point for the festival.

Vlasta Karol Blaha's poem, "Bird Watch Dance" was on display in the Mead Wildlife Area Art Show in Milladore. "Marsh Girl," written from the point of view of Kya Clark from *Where the Crawdads Sing*, was featured in the Central Wisconsin Book Festival's poetry walk. An ekphrastic poem, "More Than One Way," written to accompany the appliqué wall hanging by Mavis Wood was displayed at the Curtiss Corners' Quilt Club's 33rd annual Quilt Show in August. "Squirrel's Calculations" was published online in *The Weekly Avocet* 559. Vlasta read "Take Flight" at the Wausau *Calendar* reading.

Victoria Lindsay had a poem in the Poetry Walk for the Central Wisconsin Book Festival. At the *Calendar* launch held in Wausau, she read her poem "Liquid Edges," along with "Leftovers," created by 12th-grader Rachel Frank of Neenah.

Carol Benzin had a haibun and haiku on the topic of fall and a poem, "Wisdom," in *The Weekly Avocet* 564.

Ronald Jevaltas had poems in *Font*, an international lit journal for language teachers, *Moss Piglet*, and *Bramble*.

Mary Goehring's poems "My Father Ate Robins" and "Luna Moth" were in *One Art: a journal of poetry*, and "Milwaukee's Eastside Early '70s" in the *Rye Whiskey Review*. Her poem "Finding Sanctuary: a modern sonnet" appears in *Blue Heron Review*.

Susan Twiggs published two poems in *Moss Piglet*: "Hummers' Ode" in the August issue and "Laughing Buddha" in the October issue. She had a poem in the Central WI Book Festival Poetry Walk: "Vladek Speigelman Objects." She attended the poetry walk reading in Stevens Point on September 23.

Linda Aschbrenner read her poetry-walk poem about Sylvia Plath's two-vol. set of letters at the Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point September 23. The Plath poem was posted on the door of the Janke Book Store in Wausau. She read her *Calendar* poem at the Wausau reading September 30, as well as a *Calendar* poem by her sister, **Mavis Flegle**. Linda's poems regularly appear in *Moss Piglet*.

NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com

Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes published the following poems "Prayer Flag," *Taj Mahal* 24:1; "Field Station Reverie," "Along the Tree Line," "Neighbors," *Alchemy and Miracles*, Fall 2023; "Rain Spatters" *Solitary Plover* 38; "Highway 17," *Moss Piglet*, Summer 2023; "What the Trees Know," *Feral* 15; and "A Sometime Gardener Contemplates," *Of Rust and Glass* 14. Carol Lee read at the *Calendar* reading in Wausau September 30.

Annette Grunseth had poems in the August, September, and October issues of *Moss Piglet*. On September 2, she presented on a panel, "Authors Discuss Poetry" at Write On, Door County. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum selected "Combat and Campus: Writing Through War" for a mini-play for the 25th anniversary of "Talking Spirits Cemetery tours" at Forest Hill in Madison; the vignette was performed by an actor the week of October 2–8. Silver Birch Press published "At the Back Steps" in their *Spices and Seasonings* poetry series. Her poetry essay was published in *Dispatches Magazine*, Fall 2023. In September she presented poetry at the Military Writers Society of America national conference in Connecticut.

Paulette Laufer's recent poems have appeared in *Moss Piglet*, March and July 2023; *Visual Verse* 10:11; and *Blue Heron Review* 17 "Heart Source & Haven."

NORTHWEST

VP: Nancy Austin, austin10929@gmail.com

Jan Chronister's poem "Thunderbird" was published by *Virtual Verse* in their August challenge and "Amulet" in the September challenge. "Morning Rosary" was included in *Last Stanza Poetry Journal* 14. Jan has a poem in *Talking Stick* 35, Agates (MN League of Poets), and the Bards Against Hunger Tenth Anniversary Issue. The *Nemadji Review* featured Jan's poem "In the Night" on their website. Jan and **Peggy Trojan** gave a joint reading at the Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College. Jan's poem "Empty Grave" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Highland Park Poetry*.

Diana Randolph, Drummond, had a haiku published in the Ski & Tea (women's exercise group) newsletter. She read three haikus that were recorded on video for a

presentation/tribute to the leader of Ski and Tea. Diana hosted a poetry reading at the Drummond Public Library & Historical Museum featuring the 2024 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar*. **Nancy Austin**, **Peggy Trojan** and **Lucy Tyrrell** were featured poets who read a selection of their poetry. Diana and eight others read during the open reading.

Peggy Trojan had a poem in *Talking Stick*. She gave readings at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library in Eau Claire. Five of her narrative poems were featured on *Storyteller Poetry Review*. Her poem "All Relative" was on *Your Daily Poem*. She had six poems in *Goose River Anthology*.

Lucy Tyrrell organized the third annual Bayfield Poetry Trail for the month of September—26 businesses chose a poem and posted it for anyone to read 24/7. Lucy facilitated the magnetic poetry booth at Bayfield Festival of Arts on September 9 & 10. She read poems (or stories) at several Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua's Wednesday open mic nights at the Backstage in Bayfield. She was one of 10 "open mic all stars" (mainly musicians) invited by Big Top to perform at Old Last Night on September 9; Lucy shared three of her poems about autumn to an audience of 400. Lucy attended a Jack Pine Writers Bloc poetry workshop near Park Rapids, MN, in conjunction with reading her poem at the *Talking Stick* "release party" on September 16. She read her 2024 *Calendar* poem at the *Calendar* launch in Wausau September 30, and in Drummond October 15. She attended the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission's virtual meeting as WFOP's representative September 17, and the virtual WFOP chapbook workshop October 19.

Nancy Austin had a poem "Shinrin-yoku (Forest Bathing)" in *Blue Heron's* October edition. She read at 2024 *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* events in Wausau and Drummond.

SOUTH CENTRAL

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

Cynthia Marie Hoffman had 5 poems published recently in *The Missouri Review* and a poem, "Quality of Life," published in the *Bennington Review*. She also had her poem "Savior" published in *Subnivean* magazine.

Jess L. Parker's poems, "Sparkly Enough," "Ran Out Of The Sun" and "Plenty More Fish" were published by paperspublishing.com

Angela Hoffman has been very busy, with poems in *Writing In A Woman's Voice*, *Spices & Seasonings*, *Braided Way Magazine*, *Sparks of Calliope*, *ONE ART: a journal of poetry*, *Solitary Plover*, *Amethyst Review* and *Cosmic Daffodil*.

Angela Hoffman, **Ronnie Hess** and **Linda Voit** were among the readers at the *Solitary Plover* Zoom August 24.

Heather Swan and J. L. Conrad read at Garver Canvas in the Garver Feed Mill, Madison, October 5.

Angela Voras-Hills led an Intertextual & Visual Poetry Workshop at Shake Rag Alley, Mineral Point, October 6.

James P. Roberts hosted an “Access Hour” program on WORT Radio 89.9 FM featuring spooky poetry and music with **F. J. Bergmann** and Kristian Iliev October 9.

Ronnie Hess read along with others at A Room Of One’s Own, Madison, October 24.

Linda Voit had “Last Morning at the Cabin” in *The Solitary Plover* and was in a virtual Summer issue reading.

F. J. Bergmann had [alien chef’s subtlety], “Next Time,” “Ravages of Time,” and “Time Crystals” in *Star*Line*, “In One End” in *Eye to the Telescope*, “Hypnagogue” and “Murder in the Dark” in *The Metaworker*, “Intent” in *Uppagus*, “French Letters” and “Legerdemain” in *Pollux*, and “Panopticon” was an honorable mention in the SFPA contest.

WEST CENTRAL

VP: Sandra Lindow, lindowleaf@gmail.com

After a short hot summer, the Chippewa Valley can’t make up its mind between late fall and winter. Nevertheless, poetry flourishes. The Writers’ Group continues to meet in person at the EC Library 2–4 PM the first Thursday of each month. However, we will be zooming our meetings in January and February on the first Thursdays 7–9 PM. March depends on the weather. Presently we are at full capacity with lively, well attended meetings. November 30 is the 2024 *Wisconsin Poets’ Calendar* Reading at 2 Roots Art and Wine Gallery, 214 S. Barstow, Eau Claire, 4:30–6:30 PM, Thursday, November 30. Readers include **Yvette Viets Flaten**, **Linda Frank**, **Karen Havholm**, **Candace Hennekens**, **Erna Kelly**, **Sandra Lindow**, **Karen Loeb**, and **Jeannie E. Roberts**. Presently Lindow’s poem “Mother Hubble Tames the Black Hole Unicorn” appears in *Dreams and Nightmares* 124. Contact **Sandra Lindow** at lindowleaf@gmail.com for more information.

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 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.

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

CHAPBOOK CONTEST JUDGE: Pam Uschuk has howled out eight books of poems, including *Crazy Love*, winner of a 2010 American Book Award and a new collection, *Refugee*, from Red Hen Press, 2022 (Starred Kirkus Review). Translated into more than a dozen languages, her work appears worldwide, including in *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Agni Review*, etc. Her awards include Best of the Web, the Struga International Poetry Prize (for a theme poem), Dorothy Daniels Writing Award from the National League of American PEN Women, and prizes from *Ascent* and Amnesty International. Editor-in-Chief of *Cutthroat*, *A Journal of the Arts*, and Black Earth Institute Board member and Senior Fellow, Uschuk lives in Bayfield, Colorado and Tucson, Arizona. She edited the anthologies *Truth To Power: Writers Respond To The Rhetoric Of Hate And Fear*, 2017, *Puro Chicana Writers of the 21st Century*, 2020, and *Through the Ash*, New Leaves, 2022. September 2022 found her at Storyknife Women Writers Retreat in Alaska on a writing fellowship. She’s just finished a new ms. of poems, *Field Guide to Migratory Words*, and is finishing a multi-genre book called *Shout Out, Hope’s Crazy Angels: An Odyssey through Ovarian Cancer*.

Publications by Our Members

Eggphrasis by Ronnie Hess (Word Poetry, 2023). 82 pp. <http://www.ronniehess.com> and Amazon.

Gathering Sticks for the Fire by Susan Huebner (Kelsay Books, 2023). 34 pp. \$17 from Kelsay Books, Amazon, or martells@wi.rr.com (+\$2 ship).

Lamenting My Failure to Learn How to Tap Dance and Other Missteps by Joan Wiese Johannes (Water’s Edge Press, 2023). 116 pp. \$18 <https://www.watersedgepress.com/product/lamenting-my-failure-to-learn-how-to-tap-dance-and-other-missteps/>

Shelf Life by F. J. Bergmann (Space Cowboy Books, 2023). Book-persona poems, 12 pp. PayPal \$4 to demiurge@fibtz.com

Tales of the Afterlife by Gary Beaumier (Uncollected Press, 2023). <https://therawartreview.com/books-for-sale/>

Turtles—nose to nose by Gary C. Busha (Wolfsong Mini-Chapbook Series, 2023). 26 pp. \$5 to Gary C. Busha, 3123 S Kennedy Dr, Sturtevant WI 53177.

2024 WFOP MUSE PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN POETRY CONTEST RULES

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1, 2024

1. Contestant must be a Wisconsin resident 18 years of age or older.
2. Only one original unpublished poem not under consideration elsewhere may be entered in the WFOP Muse contest. “Published” includes any print or electronic presentation except copies of drafts shared with critique groups. Seventy-five line maximum.
3. Prizes are: 1st place - \$200.00, 2nd - \$100.00, 3rd - \$75.00.
4. Contest opens on November 1, 2023. The deadline is **February 1, 2024**.
5. Send the submission in the body of a single email to 2024WFOPmusecontest@gmail.com. The subject line should read: “Muse Contest Entry from (Last name, First name).” Attachments will not be opened. The body of your email should include your name, address, email address, phone number, poem title and confirmation of payment of entry fee (see #7, below). Winner’s names and poem title will be published in the WFOP Museletter. Please indicate whether you are willing to have your poem published on the WFOP web page if it wins a prize.
6. Snail-mail entries will be accepted from people who have no access to email. Deadline for receipt of snail mail submissions is **January 25, 2024**, because the poems will have to be retyped into the email file going to the judges. PLEASE DO NOT SNAIL MAIL IF YOU HAVE EMAIL! Mailing address: **Mary Rowin, 7426 Voss Pkwy, Middleton, WI 53562**. Include your name, address, phone number, poem title and whether you are willing to have your poem published on the WFOP website if it wins a prize on a separate page. Include confirmation of payment of entry fee or a check (see #7, below). Do not send a SASE. Entries will not be returned.
7. There is an entry fee of \$4.00 for WFOP members and \$8.00 for non-members. The payment may be made at wfop.org/annual-contests. Include confirmation of payment in the email with the poem. Paper checks may be made out to WFOP Literary Fund and mailed to: **2024 WFOP Muse/Rowin, 7426 Voss Pkwy, Middleton, WI 53562**. Payment will be matched to submissions. Submissions without payment will not be judged.
8. You will receive a return email acknowledging that your poems have arrived. There will be no notification if an entry is disqualified for failure to follow any of the above rules.
9. Only the winners will be notified prior to the WFOP Spring Conference. The list of winners will be published in the WFOP *Museletter* and posted on wfop.org after the conference.
10. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the judge determines that an entry warrants a prize.
11. The first-place winner of the Muse Prize will be ineligible to enter for three years.
12. Author retains all rights to his/her work.

MUSE PRIZE JUDGE: Janet McAdams, whose new and selected poems, *Buffalo in Six Directions/Búfalo en seis direcciones*, was published in bilingual editions in Mexico and Argentina. Her other poetry collections include *Feral*, the chapbook *Seven Boxes for the Country After*, and *The Island of Lost Luggage*, which won an American Book Award. She is the founding editor of Salt Publishing’s Earthworks Series of Indigenous Poetry and an emerita professor of Kenyon College, where she held the Robert P. Hubbard Chair in Poetry.

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. Renew online at wfop.org/join-and-support. **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.

Record-Keeping Tips

by F. J. Bergmann

Once you begin to submit poetry for publication, it's important to keep records of what was sent where, responses received, acceptances or rejections, and, eventually, date and issue of publication. While most journals are fine with simultaneous submissions, you are expected to notify other venues immediately if accepted elsewhere, and also to list where poems first appeared in the event of reprints or book publication.

Some websites, like Duotrope.com (\$) and the Submission Grinder (free) <https://thegrinder.diabolicalplots.com/>, will track submissions for you and maintain records, but it's wise to also have your own spreadsheet, on your own computer, frequently backed up to a separate drive. Can't afford Microsoft Office? LibreOffice, which is free to download at <https://www.libreoffice.org/> will open and save as any MS format, making it useful for submissions as well as records. It can create Excel-compatible spreadsheets, which will let you search and sort records easily.



The winter/spring issue of **BRAMBLE** is open for submissions **December 1, 2023-January 15, 2024**, with guest editor **Jeanie Roberts**, on the theme of "marvel." Noun: "One that evokes surprise, admiration, or wonder." Intransitive verb: "To become filled with wonder or astonishment. To feel amazement."

Full guidelines: wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit

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-and-support

or mail to: **Colleen Frentzel, 1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr, Janesville WI 53546**

Please make checks payable to: **WFOP**

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.

2024 WFOP Conference

The 2024 WFOP Conference will be held on **April 26, 27, and 28** at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. A team of volunteers is busy planning a full weekend of poetic activity. The conference will have a theme of eco-justice, and the featured presenter will be **Nickole Brown** (nickolebrown.org). Visit her website to find out more.

The full schedule, along with conference registration and room reservation information will be posted on the WFOP website by mid-January. There will be pricing options for those who can't stay for the entire weekend.

Also, please check out Blue Harbor Resort's web page at <https://www.blueharborresort.com>.

Blue Harbor has a beautiful indoor water park (54,000 sq. ft.!) that includes several pools, water slides, a lazy river, a wave pool, a miniature golf course and a \$5-million-dollar surfing simulator. Each room comes with 4 weekend passes to the park, so plan on bringing the family for water fun while you enjoy the conference activities. We hope to see you in Sheboygan!

Ed Werstein
East VP

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. A weekly Madison east side group currently has openings: contact the *Museletter* editor.

If there are WFOP swag items someone would like to see added to the store, email Colleen Frentzel at layersofmoments@yahoo.com.

Meet Your Members!

Jim Landwehr is on the WFOP 2024 Conference Planning Committee and assists Tori Grant Welhouse with maintaining the WFOP website. He is grateful for the many friends he's met through the fellowship and looks forward to meeting new poets during his tenure as a volunteer. When he is not out fishing or biking in his semi-retirement, he can be found scribbling out books and poetry in his home office.

Jim has six poetry collections, *Tea in the Pacific Northwest* (coming in 2024 from Kelsay Books), *Thoughts from a Line at the DMV*, *Genetically Speaking*, *On a Road*, *Reciting from Memory*, and *Written Life*. He also has four published memoirs, *At the Lake*, *Cretin Boy*, *Dirty Shirt*, and *The Portland House*. Jim is a past Poet Laureate for the Village of Wales, WI.

For more on his work, visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/jimlandwehr/home>

My name is **Amanda Ngohe Reavey** and I am the Chapbook Contest Coordinator for the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. For the 2024 contest, I've chosen my friend Pam Uschuk who I know through our poetry fellowships at



Black Earth Institute, a progressive think-tank dedicated to re-forging the links between art and spirit, earth and society.

I have been involved with WFOP for quite a while, especially when I worked at Woodland Pattern Book Center from 2014 to 2017. I love the community—it's supportive, creative, welcoming, and uplifting.

I'm the author of *Marilyn* (The Operating System, 2015), which won the 2017 Best Book Award in Poetry from the Association for Asian American Studies, and have been published in anthologies and online literary magazines. I also have over 17 years of experience teaching creative writing and therapeutic journal writing and have an MFA in Writing & Poetics from Naropa University. Currently, I'm working on a master's degree in social work from Alverno College and a certificate in Poetry Therapy from the International Federation for Biblio/Poetry Therapy.

I organize Tabi Po! Poetry, which is a literary magazine and live poetry event every third Sunday of the month at 3 PM at County Clare Irish Pub in Milwaukee, WI. See more at www.tabipopoetry.com and please like our page on Facebook.

More board member intros coming in future *Museletters*!



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

Poetry news only; send only poetry publications, **not** acceptances or forthcoming; don't bother including WFOP awards or *Museletter* or *Calendar* appearances. Strive for brevity!

Advertise poetry books, services, workshops, etc., to the WFOP membership in the *Museletter* at the following rates (send to Treasurer):

\$15 eighth page \$40 half page
\$25 quarter page \$75 full page

For the weekly Events & Opportunities mailing: \$10/100 wds in Events e-mail

Poems *By* Our Membership

—STEPHEN KALMAR II, EDITOR

STORM PERSONA

Poems about finding shelter from a storm, from the storm's perspective.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Q4 2023 Prompt was an expected challenge. For those that took the weather to heart and head and shared, congrats, successes were made. Some submitters have asked for feedback on their works, happy to give you my take, one-to-one by email or telephone. WFOP has several serious critique groups, many virtual, that give specific input and encouragement for revision. My poems always leave better for the experience.

Some general editorial notes from my perspective, what I am looking for from you. If you would like to discuss, share your thoughts, please reach out to me directly via email; if you would like a call, send me a note at my address below with your telephone number and I will contact you.

Good poems use poetics that help the reader directly experience the story being told through sensory images.

The poem must stand on its own, and once it leaves the creator's desk, telephone or computer, it belongs to us, the readers, and poet intention goes out the window.

There is a difference between stage and page poems. Good think to explore.

Concrete images do more work and connect more directly than abstractions.

Experiment—use your poetic license. Love me some humor.

Please show me, don't tell me what you want me to feel. Many times this is where we end up using abstractions that can take us out of the immediacy of the story being told.

IMPORT—I generally do NOT change anything about your works, so what I see is what you get.

Certainly not an exhaustive listing, but I hope that the above give you some editorial bumpers to use or ignore at your leisure.

Thank you for sharing your unique, thoughtful pieces. I covet them all.

stephen kalmar II

WFOP *Museletter* Poetry Editor since 2023

2 TRUTHS AND A LIE

Next Prompt: Give your 2 Truths and a Lie in the form of a poem. Ideally, one stanza or less for each component. Please reveal your "Lie" with the submission, as I hope to publish the results in Q2 2024 Poetry Pages. Include "Q1 *Museletter*" and your name in the subject line. 12-pt Times New Roman appreciated. Send by January 25 to skalmar@wi.rr.com or by post to:

Stephen Kalmar
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On a Lovely Summer's Day

I roar in beneath blackening sky
roiling and wracking the house,
trapping the girl in place while
her sister pounds on the bowed
hallway door. Outside I slap
branches, crack windows,
snap power lines sending
them bouncing and sizzling,
shear telephone poles
toss shocked grain
out of the field
on to the barn
topple ancient
elms, hurl shingles
to the lawn before
mother
cloud pulls
me back
to her
bosom.

—Nancy Jesse, Madison

storm (as oracle)

uneasy I prowl
the margins of
sky lanes
slide lightning
and thunder
ahead of dark
masses of rain
—inundate—
hold some wild
deadly sad
new notion of
normal

—Karen Haley, Wauwatosa

Riding Out The Storminess of Old Age

An ageing woman is like an old house pulling back from a winter storm wedging its way towards spring. Musty floorboards creak as cupboard doors shrink in shyness.

The stale air reeks of wood-burning fires, old folks breathing, while angry snowflakes pelt innocent window panes.

Perhaps an old house during a snowstorm is like an aged woman's sinewy habits: sacks of sagging skin, parts that slowly slide like a well-used wedgie board, shrinking in stature.

After the snowstorm, there's a time of reflection as a grandmother watching from her parlor window two grandchildren placing a summer sunflower hat on a smiling snowman.

—Susan Anderson, Baraboo

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Next Issue Deadline FEBRUARY 1, 2024

I Am the Wind

I am the wind
The weather itself
Haphazard atoms
Charged ions of cold

I come down from the North
Converge on the night
I wait and I watch
To find those alone

She walks down a road
She seems unafraid
I blast her with wind
And darken the night

She's starting to run
I follow her close as
She crosses the field
And goes into the trees

She comes to the cedars
Crawls under their boughs
Their soft sighing calms her
They brush snow from her hair

—*Pauline Witte, Middleton*