

Museletter Editor

F. J. Bergmann  
27 Anniversary Ct  
Madison WI 53704  
(608) 566-9087  
wfopmuseletter@gmail.com

Presidents

Cathryn Cofell  
2333 E Baldeagle Dr  
Appleton WI 54913  
ccofell@gmail.com

Ronnie Hess  
1819 Summit Ave  
Madison WI 53726  
wfoppres@gmail.com

Vice-President

Christina Kubasta  
222 South St  
Mineral Point, WI 53565  
wfopvpres@gmail.com

Secretary

Dennis Collier  
1516 Wheeler Rd Unit C  
Madison WI 53704  
denniswfop@gmail.com

Treasurer

Colleen Frentzel  
1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr  
Janesville WI 53546  
layersofmoments@yahoo.com

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Madison Barnes, Madison  
Jody Baxter, Brookfield  
Robin Brox, Sheboygan  
Lin Daley, Watertown  
Kate Eberhard, Madison  
Amy Etrheim, Holmen  
B. J. Farra, Marshfield  
Patricia Fleming, Milwaukee  
Breanna Grow, Madison  
Emory Jones, Iuka MS  
Sara Kell, Waunakee  
Catherine Lange, Hudson  
Jeff Leisgang, Fort Atkinson  
Heidi Ling, Sturgeon Bay  
Camren Livermore, Madison  
Michelle Meyer, Maiden Rock  
Nancy Noelke, La Crosse  
Maryssa Paulsen, New Franken  
Karen Redfield, Madison  
Ann Pedder Reilly, Janesville  
Sami Rojas, Madison  
Emily Arianna Sauterin, Madison  
Pamela Tesch, Oconomowoc  
Stan Winarski, Germantown

Co-Presidents' Message

Greetings! It's been a busy winter: lots of new members and transitions, and much to report.

As you've probably noticed, we're transitioning to a new communications approach, to replace the weekly email with updates and opportunities. We are moving to a new approach using MailChimp and our online events calendar. This will freshen our look and allow us to highlight key activities and opportunities.

To those of you worried about missing out on what's happening around the state, fear not. Taking charge of our new communication strategy, including social media messaging, will be **Sophie Bebeau**, our new Under 40 Board Member and a very gifted and energetic marketer. Sophie has already drafted a marketing calendar and plans to integrate communications via email, Facebook, and Instagram.

With all of these changes, we want to take this opportunity to thank those who did the heavy lifting prior—**Jeannie Bergmann**, for launching the weekly email and keeping it going for so long; **James Burton**, for his contributions to the Board as our previous Under 40 representative, and to **Kathrine Yets** for managing our Facebook page so creatively and consistently. Our thanks also to **Thom Singleton**, who is stepping down as co-Vice President for the Central-Fox Valley region.

We also want to give a shout-out to **Tori Grant Welhouse** who does so much as a volunteer with our website and *Bramble*. She'll continue to lead this effort, partnering with Sophie on the events calendar and **James Landwehr** on the website to keep our online presence robust and flourishing. Expect to hear more from Sophie in the weeks ahead, and please be sure to add your events to the online calendar, here: <https://www.wfop.org/events-calendar>

In other news, a small task force has been developing plans to use **Richard Swanson** and **Fanny Aragno's** donation, focusing on emerging poets. Alongside this work, we've been talking about how we define "emerging poet," which will also be applied to the Kay Saunders Emerging Poets contest. Also ahead, we're coming up with a new approach to showcase the winners of Triad, Muse, and Chapbook prizes. With our move to just one conference a year, we need to be creative in how we celebrate and share what was traditionally done at both fall and spring events.

Finally, if you haven't already made plans for the April 26–28, 2024, conference at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, please do so. <https://www.wfop.org/conferences> The theme is a compelling one, "Eco-Justice & the Poet's Task," with several speakers including keynoter Nickole Brown. Our thanks to **Ed Werstein**, East Region VP, who has planned the conference along with a lively team.

Moving?

Notify [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto: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

Sara Garrigan Burr  
July 7, 1945–November 27, 2023  
Longtime WFOP member.

We hope to see you there. Bring the family!

—Cat & Ronnie

# 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 reading series is 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

**Kathrine Yets** performed an ekphrastic poem at the Reynaldo Hernandez Gallery based on his Mural of Peace.

**CJ Muchhala's** collaborative work with photographer Karen Peugh will be on exhibit at Milwaukee Central Library April 1–18. (*re*) *Visions: words into pictures, pictures into words* expands the meaning of both on a variety of subjects, from human interaction with Lake Michigan and a child's view of her grandmother to pinned fabric pieces and "found" art on a sidewalk.

**Gary Beaumier** was awarded first place in the *Proverse Hong Kong* poetry contest for his poem "Portrait of My Soul as a Mushroom."

**Patricia Carney's** poem "Without" was published in *Poetry Hall 22*.

**Sue Blaustein's** poem "Holiday" was published by *The Raven's Perch*, and "Who Wrote the Book of Love" in *As It Ought to Be*. She had two poems in The Driftless Writing Center's *Catalog of Small Machines*.

**Karl Elder's** "The Poem That Writes Itself" appears in the Fall issue of *Bramble*; both "The Piano Thief" and "The Rehearsal" are in *Poetry Hall 21*, and "Vista on a New Year's Eve Walk" is in *Harmonic Verse*, an anthology about the holiday season from Local Gems Press.

**Marilyn Zelke Windau** had a poem in *Your Daily Poem* in January. She was a featured reader at Poetry Unlocked via Zoom in January, and will participate in Art as Poetry as Art, a poetry and art pairing exhibit at Manitowoc Public Library presented by Lakeshore Artists Guild in April.

**Mark Zimmermann's** poem "Evening on the Lanai" appears in the current *Bramble*, and "Bomb Threats" in *Mobius: The Journal of Social Change*, November 2023.

**Margaret Rozga's** poem "May His Memory Be a Blessing" was published in *Pensive: A Global Journal of Spirituality & the Arts*, "Mulberries" in the Fall *Bramble*.

## MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

**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 at the Stevens Point library September 23. Patricia read "Margined With Stars" at the *WI Poets' Calendar* launch on September 30 at the Wausau Center for the Visual Arts. 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. Her collection *Rejection to Acceptance: 57 Poems That Finally Made It* (Kelsay, 2023) received Honorable Mention for the Hal Prize. "Tale of a City Chicken" appeared in *Versé Virtual*, January 2024.

**Jeffrey Johannes** and **Joan Wiese Johannes** have poems in the Fall/2023 issue of *Bramble* and are regular contributors to *Moss Piglet*.

**Vlasta Karol Blaha's** poem "Blue Stitches," an ekphrastic poem inspired by *Portrait of Madame Cezanne in a Red Armchair* by Paul Cezanne, was published in Nov. 2023 *Moss Piglet's* blue theme issue.

**Mary Ray Goehring's** poem "Saturday Night Polka" was published in *The Rye Whiskey Review*, December.

**Betsy O. Borchardt's** poem "Return to God" was published in *Is There Ever An End*, a poetry anthology edited by Kevin Watt.

## NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com

## NORTHWEST

VP: Nancy Austin, austin10929@gmail.com

**Diana Randolph**, Drummond, had a poem in *The Bottom Line News & Views* in the "Water Column," by lake and stream advocate/author Diane Daulton, and also a poem in the longer version of the "Water Column."

**Jan Chronister's** poem "Yellow Bowl" appeared on *Highland Park Poetry's* Facebook page. "Kitchen Secret" was featured on *Your Daily Poem* and in the "Spices & Seasonings" series by Silver Birch Press. Three of Jan's poems are in *Echoes of the Wild*, published by Poetry for a Cause. "Winter Dream" appeared in *The Bottom Line* for December. Jan won a third place and an honorable mention in two categories of the League of Minnesota Poets' contest.

**Lucy Tyrrell** read her poems several times at The Backstage, Big Top Chautauqua's Wednesday evening open mic.

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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

**K. E. McCoy** received 2nd Place in the 2023 *Wisconsin People & Ideas* Poetry Contest and read her poems at the Madison Central Library November 7.

**Angela Trudell-Vasquez** hosted the annual Bus Lines Poetry program at the Pinney Library November 9, reading one of her own poems along with the other winners. She had two poems, “Looking For Signs While Driving” and “Lanterns In The Dark,” in *Yellow Medicine Review*. She read with Madison Youth Poet Laureate Maliha Nu’Man at the Sequoya Library in Madison November 18.

The following South-Central Poets read as part of the 2024 *Poets’ Calendar* reading at Sequoyah Library, Madison, November 11: **Shoshauna Shy, Suzi Godwin, Jeffrey Leisgang, Olga Trubetskoy, Steve Tomasko, Jeanie Tomasko, Jeri McCormick, Gillian Nevers, David Scheler, Beth Ann Workmaster, F. J. Bergmann, Hannah Pinkerton, Sharon Rook Daly, Dennis Collier, James P. Roberts, Marilyn Taylor, Ronnie Hess, Angela Trudell-Vasquez.**

**Heather Swan** read poems as a *Wisconsin People & Ideas* Poetry Contest Honorable Mention winner at the Arts & Literature Laboratory in Madison November 18.

**Mary Louise Peters** was a winner in the 2023 Madison Bus Lines Poetry Contest.

**Cynthia Marie Hoffman** had a poem, “Hinge,” published in the *Whale Road Review*.

**F. J. Bergmann** has been long-listed for the Bedford Poetry Competition (UK) and her poem “The Flight of the Sauceress” was nominated for the SFPA Rhysling Award. She was also elected a Grand Master by the SFPA membership and received the SFPA Lifetime Service Award. Poems [migrating dragons] and “Cotton Mather” appeared in *Star\*Line*, “Acedia” and “Comparative Lit” in *One Sentence Poems*, “Darling Little Sonnet” in *Loud Coffee Press*, “Guardian Demon,” “Losing” and “To the Victims” in *Right Hand Pointing’s* Moral Injury issue, “Hauntings” in *Unbroken*, and “Already Darkening” and “Refrigerator Heaven” in the *Inflectionist Review*.

## WEST CENTRAL

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

In the midst of a weird global warming winter, poetry blooms in the Chippewa Valley like a frost flower garden on a north window. Now in its 36th year, the writers’ group at the EC library flourishes the first Thursday of each month. November 30, a successful 2024 *Poets’ Calendar* reading was held at the new Roots 2 Wine Gallery in downtown Eau Claire. December 30, **Sandra Lindow** participated in a poetry reading at Dragon Tales Bookstore in downtown Menomonie. January 7, **Yvette Flaten** and Sandra were part of a White Pine Solstice Celebration held at the Family Learning Center in Menomonie. Coming up: **Erna Kelly** will lead sequential sessions of “Exploring Poetry,” June 14

and June 18, 2-3:30 at the L. E. Philips Senior Center in Eau Claire. To join, register through Chippewa Valley Learning and Retirement: <https://cvlr.org/>. Flaten’s poem “Ditty Bag” appears in *Things We Carry Still*, a military anthology. Her poems “Talisman,” “Coming Home,” and “Magician’s Cup” appear in *Moss Piglet*, and “Like Peas, Like Whales,” and “Writing My Obit” in *North Dakota Quarterly*, November 2023. “Saffron” is online in *Silver Birch Press* and “Second Best Bed” won 2nd place in the 2023 Hal Prize for poetry. **David Blackey’s** poem “Snowy Owl” appears in the winter issue of *Avocet*. **Karen Loeb’s** “Note from a Husband” is in *Arlijo (Arlington Literary Journal)* Gival Press, Dec. 2023, and “Now That Pluto is No Longer a Planet” in *Volume One’s* Local Lit column for Oct. 2023. Lindow’s poem “Mother Hubble Tames the Unicorn Black Hole” has been nominated for the SFPA Rhysling Award for best short poem published in 2023. Contact **Sandra Lindow** at [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com) for more information.

## Publications by Our Members

*The Book of Eunice* by Jan Chronister (Poetry Harbor, 2023). 31 pp. \$10. Chapbook about the author’s mother. Available on Amazon or from [whispertreepress@gmail.com](mailto:whispertreepress@gmail.com).

*Coffee Quiet* by Jeffrey Johannes (Kelsay Books, 2023). 46 pp. \$17; Available from Kelsay Books, Amazon, and [jjohannes7@gmail.com](mailto:jjohannes7@gmail.com).

*Land of Cotton, Land of Snow* by Jan Chronister (Poetry Harbor, 2023). 31 pp. \$10. 4th in an annual series. Available on Amazon or from [whispertreepress@gmail.com](mailto:whispertreepress@gmail.com).

### NOTE TO MEMBERS WITH NEW BOOKS

Have a new poetry book or chapbook? Send the title, publisher, date, # of pages, price, and a place to buy the book, or your email, to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com)

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

## 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.

# 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**. Visit [nickolebrown.org](http://nickolebrown.org) to find out more.

The full schedule, along with conference registration and room reservation information is posted on the WFOP website. There are pricing options for those who can't stay for the entire weekend.

Blue Harbor Resort, <https://www.blueharborresort.com>, 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

**THE TRIAD CONTEST** opens June 1st and closes September 1st. The Poets' Choice and Theme categories are open to WFOP members only, but a change this year makes it possible for nonmembers to enter The Kay Saunders Memorial Emerging Poet category as long as they meet the other criteria listed in the guidelines.

This year's theme is ekphrastic poetry, which is poetry inspired by the visual arts. WFOP is collaborating with the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) by encouraging poets to write poems about works in its permanent "narrative" collection. Complete instructions for accessing the artwork are available in the guidelines and on the website.

The judges are **Bruce Bennett**, author of ten books of poetry and more than thirty chapbooks; **Lorette C. Luzajic**, who reads, writes, publishes, edits, and teaches ekphrastic fiction and poetry and whose art-inspired work has been published in hundreds of journals; and **Lois Baer Barr**, whose chapbook *Biopoesis* won first prize at *Poetica* and whose *Tracks: Poems on the "L"* was a finalist at Finishing Line Press. More information about the judges is available on the contest page on the WFOP website.

## Poet Critters

Looking for a poetry critique group to join? Contact your regional VP. A weekly Madison east side group currently has openings: contact the *Museletter* editor: [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

## TRIAD POETRY CONTEST RULES

*Deadline: September 1, 2024*

1. Poet must be a current WFOP member in good standing (dues current) to enter Poets' Choice and Theme. The Kay Saunders Memorial Emerging Poet category is open to members and nonmembers.
2. There is no entry fee.
3. Contest opens on June 1st. Entries must be emailed by September 1st. Snail mail entries will be accepted from people who have no access to email; deadline for snail mail is August 23rd because the poems will have to be retyped into the email file going to the judges. Include the information listed in 6. **PLEASE DO NOT SNAIL MAIL IF YOU HAVE EMAIL!** Mailing address: Jeffrey Johannes, 800 Ver Bunker Avenue Port Edwards, WI 54469.
4. Poet may enter only one original, unpublished poem (75 line maximum) in each category. To clarify: "Published includes any print or electronic presentation except copies of drafts shared with critique groups." The same poem may not be entered in more than one category. Categories are described below.
5. Type the category in the upper left corner of each poem and **include the poems in the body of a single email**. *Please do not center your poems*. All fonts will be standardized before the poems are mailed to the judges. **Attachments will not be opened**.
6. Send the poems in a single email to [jjohannes7@gmail.com](mailto:jjohannes7@gmail.com). The subject line should read: "*Triad Entry from Last name, First name.*" **The body of your single email** should include your name, address, email address, phone number, title and first line of each poem, along with the category in which it is entered, and the following statement from members: "*I am a current WFOP member. The poetry submitted is my original, unpublished work not under consideration elsewhere. If I am entering the Emerging Poet category, I meet the criteria.*" Nonmembers entering just the Emerging Poet category should include the following statement with their entry: "*I am not a current WFOP member. The poetry submitted is my original, unpublished work not under consideration elsewhere. I meet the Emerging Poet criteria.*"

Make sure you include the following information:

- Poet's name
- Postal address
- Email
- Phone
- Theme (Ekphrastic poem from the on-line narrative collection of MAM): Title of poem and first line (see specific instructions on next page)
- Poet's Choice: Title of poem and first line
- Kay Saunders Emerging Poet: Title of poem and first line (see eligibility rules below)
- Statement of originality and eligibility

Please do **not** send poems as an attachment! *Attachments will not be opened.*

7. You will receive a return email acknowledging that your poems have arrived. The winners will be notified in the fall. The names and the poems of winners who give permission will be posted on the WFOP website and included in the *Museletter*.

8. The first-place winner in each category will be ineligible to enter that category the following year.

9. Prizes will be awarded only if there are sufficient entries and the contest judge determines that an entry warrants an award.

10. Please do not post your entries on your webpage until after the contest has been judged and awards presented.

11. For each category below, prizes are \$100, \$50, \$30. Each poem should not exceed 75 lines.

**Kay Saunders Emerging Poet:** This category is reserved for emerging poets, those poets who may have started to publish their poetry and/or participate in workshops and classes but have not won 1st place in a contest as an adult. Emerging Poets can also submit to the other two categories if they are WFOP members. Nonmembers entering the Emerging Poet category are ineligible for the other categories.

**Poets' Choice:** Open subject/form, open to WFOP members only.

**Theme:** Ekphrastic poetry from the Narrative Theme section of the Milwaukee Art Museum online collection, open to WFOP members only (information below and on the website).

---

## *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-and-support](http://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](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com) to opt out of print delivery.

Send all address changes or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to [wfopmuseletter@gmail.com](mailto:wfopmuseletter@gmail.com).

## How to Enter in the Theme Category

This year's theme is ekphrastic poetry, which is poetry inspired by the visual arts. We are collaborating with the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) by encouraging poets to write poems about works in its permanent "narrative" collection.

If you are interested in submitting an ekphrastic poem to the 2024 Triad Contest, please follow these steps:

1. Go to the narrative collection area on the museum website:  
<https://collection.mam.org/themes/narrative.php>
2. Select an artwork. These works "tell a story with subjects ranging from epic battles and eventful journeys to everyday scenes. Sources of inspiration include history, literature, mythology, religion, and direct observation of the world."
3. Notice that the first page of artwork contains only images 1 to 20 of the 144 images available. Click 2, 3, 4, etc. to view more works in this collection area.
4. Once you find an artwork, you can enlarge the image by clicking on it. Clicking on the image will also give you more information, including if the art is currently available for view, useful if you are interested and able to view the actual artwork. If you cannot go to the museum, the information will give you a starting point for research.
5. Please include the name of the artwork, artist's name, and page number in your title or subtitle so the judge and/or Triad chairpersons can find it if they would like.

The excellent workshop Barbara Crooker presented for WFOP, "The Art of Writing About Art," is available for playback on our workshop page if you would like ideas for getting started with this kind of writing.

---

**Membership Renewal Form** 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](mailto: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](http://wfop.org/join-and-support)*

*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 will give you 5 years  
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 Your Members!

 More board member intros coming in future *Museletters*!

**Sophie Bebeau** – Under 40 Representative

Hello everyone! I'm a poet and freelance writer & graphic designer who currently lives in Green Bay. I was born and raised in the Madison area, spent about four years in Milwaukee attending UW–Milwaukee, and have now been in Green Bay for about 13 years. I'm also a student at UW–Green Bay completing the Writing & Applied Arts BFA; however, I'm what they consider a “non-traditional” student as I'm 35 years old and returning to college after quite a long hiatus! After I complete my BFA, I hope to go on to complete an MFA in poetry.

I wanted to get involved with WFOP because it's been on my radar screen for quite a long time. I want to build a larger poetry community here in the Green Bay area and connect with more poets around the state. I'd love to bring more readings, workshops, and other poetry events to Green Bay and work to get WFOP a wider audience and a more diverse membership base.

On the poetry side of things, I've been writing poetry basically since I learned to write, but I only just started submitting work for publication within the last year. I have poems published in *Your Impossible Voice*, *Spoonies Magazine*, *Bear Review*, & *Ode to Dionysus* (forthcoming). My piece in *Your Impossible Voice* has also been nominated for a 2024 Best of the Net award. I completed my first chapbook last year and hope to find a publisher soon, and I'm currently working on my second chapbook. I'm also deeply interested in poetics, and you can basically always find me with earbuds in, listening to poetry lectures and podcasts or reading essays on craft and poetics.

I wanted to share some favorite poets so you can get a sense of what I love, but I honestly don't think I could narrow it down! I read a lot, and I also post a lot of poetry on my Instagram page @sophiebebeau, so if you're interested in seeing more of what I love, check it out! ([www.instagram.com/sophiebebeau](http://www.instagram.com/sophiebebeau))



**Dennis Collier** has been secretary of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets since 2020. A native of Campbellsport, he lives in Madison with his wife Janice. They have four children, ten grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Dennis has a bachelor's degree in Journalism and English from Marquette University, and was a newspaper reporter in Hartford, Beloit, and Beaver Dam. After earning a master's degree in public policy and administration from UW–Madison, he worked as a fiscal policy analyst, mostly at the Wisconsin Department of Revenue where he eventually served as director of tax and fiscal policy.

He also has a master's degree in religious studies from Edgewood College in Madison. A course about the Psalms, requiring students to write poems in that style, got him interested in poetry again. He has had poems published in *Bramble* and the *Wisconsin Poets' Calendar* and in 2023 won two prizes in WFOP's Triad contest.

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

Poetry news only; send only poetry publications, **not** acceptances 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

## 1. The Day I Thought I'd Rather Stay Home

Ice Age Trail: Mekan River Segment

Two inches of snow—  
the trail will be hard  
to find buried,

I find I don't need to see the brown contours of the path to find the  
shape held in space between trunks and branches,

the only footprints  
here are mine,

and the turkey—over a dozen turkey, and squirrel, and deer, and mice,  
and coyote, and perhaps an opossum or a raccoon following the  
hashtags of blue jays and crows; there's

no trespassing  
posted,

only hikers allowed every week but the one of gun hunting season,  
I cross private property and public land

where winter does  
not welcome  
new life,

until the temperature climbs to just above freezing and snow fleas  
pepper across the crystal-custed ground in a jumping frenzy,

there is nothing  
in this season  
that is not hard  
earned;

the ridge above the river offers me the same view as the eagle fishing  
the Mekan flowage, turkeys pause their search for acorns to let me pass,  
and the last of the heavy pink sun shines for a second time off the snow;

I wasn't sure  
I wanted to be  
here,

but my heavy boots hold to the ridge across the doubt I carry,

I went for  
solitude,

and I find evidence of life in the cold, company in the quiet woods—

and find myself,  
in these short  
lies I tell

—*Katrina Serwe, Campbellsport*

### 2 TRUTHS AND A LIE

The "Lies" will be revealed in the Q2 2024 Poetry Pages.

Stephen Kalmar, editor



## 6. Cinquain

Cutting down limbs on  
our bluff makes for better views.  
Our dog retrieves sticks  
up the hill. The lake never  
lies. Believe it! It's true.

—*Peter Whalen,  
Milwaukee*

## 4. Black and White

They were best friends  
segregated by race and culture.

Dana,  
dark as Vesuvius  
silhouetted in full moonlight.

Tony,  
as white as the South Carolina sands  
of Dana's beginnings.

They were growing in middle school,  
developing humanity, ideologies, in a desegregated school,  
consuming identical lunches  
playing flag football on the same team  
and laughing,  
always laughing with youthful freedom.

Dana and Tony were inseparable during the school day,  
but—when the seventh hour closed,  
Dana waited for metro bus 45,  
while Tony walked home.  
Tony never saw the inside of Dana's house,  
and Dana never saw Tony's.

—*Antonio Re, Madison*

## 11. Diving for Dollars

Diving for Dollars was a radio station contest  
my sister won a chance to dive for some money  
she brought me along at 7:30 in the morning  
to the swimming pool on the asphalt roof  
of the Catholic Knights Insurance Building  
I dove into the pool, found a plastic egg  
on the bottom filled with folded dollar bills  
a helicopter was filming, it was on the news

—*Elizabeth Park, Burlington*

## 3. It Wasn't Me

I emerged  
Lake Michigan  
to climb the border rocks  
of Summerfest  
straight into the sights  
of security  
waiting.

as I confess a knack for stealth  
is not something I possess

I am reminded of Ginger,  
my hair gathered in one hand,  
cutting away two years' growth  
as she, Samba and I stood  
in the dark of night  
a stone's throw from the border  
of northern Morocco.

—*Pepe Oulahan, Milwaukee*

## 5. Biopic

Scene1: Here I lie  
commanding attention  
by way of sheer intellect.  
It is not at all in my nature  
to try to be cute or funny.

Cut to: I have never read  
or seen any Harry Potter  
books or movies, but  
I still consider myself to be  
a nerd and a bibliophile.

El Fin: My hidden power,  
so I've been told recently &  
as a compliment, is being  
able to make anything  
into an egg roll.

—*Monica Thomas,  
Oak Creek*

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

*Return Service Requested.*

*Next Issue Deadline MAY 1, 2024*

## 2. Bipolar II Truths

I am way-past-midnight manic under strawberry moons.  
I am suicidal Decembers without sunshine.  
I am fine, really.

—*Katherine Yets*

## 9. Two Truths and a Lie

We watched for weeks as a fat green caterpillar spun itself into a papery white cocoon in the corner of an upturned cardboard box. I wanted badly to know what change it was making. I grew impatient. One chilly fall day I grabbed a stick and began to scrape away at the seams.

I didn't know the caterpillar would die.

After Mom told me what I had done, I lay awake all night, squirming like the caterpillar when the sharp edge crossed its pliable borders.

—*Breanna Grow*