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Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Zayne Chrysanthemum, Platteville  
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Emma Freeman, Oconomowoc  
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Robert Lundt, Iola  
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Jim Nitz, Waukesha  
Mo O'Grady, Madison  
Jerry Pagel, Franklin  
Sarah Peeler, Marshall  
Ally Schmidt, Menomonee Falls  
Christine Schultz, Burlington  
Janet Smith, Madison  
Brianna Wedeward, Livingston MT  
Doreen Zeller, Wauwatosa

Co-Presidents' Message

We've been to a lot of WFOP gatherings over the years, but the Spring Conference in Minocqua surely was one for the record books. About 65 members were there, the first time we had been together since the fall of 2019. We laughed, we cried, we hooted, we clapped, we read poems and gave away prizes. We remembered those members we'd lost and cried a little more. We were inspired by the speakers who joined us to talk about the meeting's theme, "Getting the Word Out," including Wisconsin Poet Laureate **Dasha Kelly Hamilton** who gave two extraordinary presentations. Special thanks go out to **Nancy Austin** and her volunteers who ran a very smooth cruise.

At the conference, we also got down to business including approval of a new Code of Ethics for our board and a first review of changes to our Constitution and Bylaws, which will be voted on in the Fall. As a volunteer-run fellowship, we need all hands pulling together to extend our reach and fulfill our mission, so it's important that all our members better understand the business of the fellowship, beyond those who attend our conferences. We'll be sharing these documents to the website and in other ways.

Another way to get involved in the fellowship is to become more active. We are currently seeking members to fill these volunteer roles: Calendar Business Manager (effective January 1), Archivist, Chapbook Contest Coordinator, and Under 40 Board member.

At the board meeting, we also established a communications task force to take a look at all the ways we currently communicate with you, including the website, *Museletter* and social media. Please email either of us if you have any feedback.

—Cat & Ronnie

Triad Contest  
DEADLINE  
August 15  
wfop.org/annual-  
contests/

Donations needed for  
Fall Conference speaker

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

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

In Memoriam

These members will be missed.

Marion H. Youngquist,  
1924– January 3, 2022, Aurora, IL

**Kathleen (Katy) Hayes Phillips,**  
March 21, 2022, Milwaukee

Remember ...

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

Our gratitude for your generosity!

Donations received:

In memory of **Katy Phillips,**  
from Janet Leahy

# What's Happening in Your Region?

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

## CENTRAL-FOX VALLEY

VP: Mike Gadzik, mgadzik@yahoo.com

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

**Kathryn Gahl** has stepped down as Central-Fox Valley co-VP due to a family emergency.

**C. Kubasta** has new poems in *Figure 1* and *Painted Bride Quarterly*. Her poem "Sound Pedagogies" was runner-up for the Pruffer Prize at *Pleiades Magazine* and appears in the Spring issue.

**Ron Houssaye** was a featured reader at Poetry Alive! at the Manitowoc Public Library on April 2 to celebrate Poetry Month and the power of poetry.

In-person events at the Lake Reading Series Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts in Fond du Lac have restarted. Please check the website for more details.

The Central-Fox Valley Region will host the WFOP Spring 2023 Conference. Planning is underway! Details follow.

## EAST

VP: Ed Werstein, wersted@gmail.com

The South Shore Poets participated in the City of Cudahy Tree City and Arbor Day program on April 21 at the Cudahy Family Library to celebrate Arbor Day and Poetry month. Members each composed an original tree poem and read them during the program in celebration of trees. Citizens were encouraged to plant one tree to address climate change. Contributors included **Sr. Helene Mertes, Kathleen Klein, and Patricia Carney**.

**Sara Sarna's** poem "Soldiers" and **Jocelyn Boor's** poem "Resilience" were in the anthology *Poetry for Ukraine*.

**Scott Lowery** has two poems from his teaching career in the anthology of social justice poetry, *Stronger Than Fear*, from Cave Moon Press. Scott's poem "Straight A" won Honorable Mention in *River Styx's* International Poetry Contest and appears in the Spring/Summer issue.

**Elisabeth Harrahy's** poems "Erosion" and "Seeking Higher Ground" were in the spring *Willows Wept Review*, "Goodbye, Professor" in *Blue Heron Review* 14, and "The Truth the Birds Know" in *Turtle Island Quarterly* (Spring).

**Marilyn Windau** was guest poet on **Lisa Vihos'** "Poetry on Air" program from Mead Library in April. She will read poems at the opening of a new Sheboygan bookstore, WordHaven, April 30. She also had a poem in *Poetry Hall* 15.

**Gary Beaumier** was the grand prize winner in the erotic poetry contest of *Wingless Dreamer* for his poem "Sirocco," in *Erotica of Eternity*. Actor Kevin Sylvester read his poem "From Certain Distances in Space I Still See My Brother" on YouTube; that poem won honorable mention for Oprelle's *Into Pieces*. "Places I Have Known" was a finalist for Oprelle's *Matter Anthology*, as well as "A Much Needed Rain" for Oprelle's *Coming Home Anthology*.

## MID-CENTRAL

VP: Kathleen Serley, kserley@dwave.net

**James Botsford's** book *Imageries*, co-authored with Steve Stolee, won the 2022 Eric Hoffer Award for Art Books.

**Karyn Powers**, Wausau, had a poem, "Old Glory," in the *Poetry For Ukraine* anthology (*Poet Magazine*, Robert Barrett Publishing, UK). It is one of 257 poems from 54 countries, available on Amazon and Kindle. All proceeds go to help the crisis in Ukraine.

**Mary Ray Goehring's** poem "Pinch Pot" is in the James Crews anthology *The Path to Kindness: Poems of Connection and Joy* released April 12.

"Backyard Bird Watching in April Snowstorm" by **Vlasta Karol Blaha** was in the spring *Avocet*.

**Elizabeth Wise's** poem "Hard Luck" is in the spring issue of *Bramble*.

**Linda Aschbrenner** had poems "Goodbye, Hello" in *Moss Piglet*, "The Spring Arrival of the Robin, Wisconsin's State Bird," in the spring *Avocet*, and "Premonitions" in *Blue Heron Review*. She received an Honorable Mention for her poem "All We Do is Talk About Snow" in the CA Federation of Chaparral Poets contest.

**Sue Twiggs'** poem "George Sings" was in the April issue of *Moss Piglet*.

**Patricia Williams'** poem, "Aunt Mae's Player Piano" appeared in *Your Daily Poem* in March.

**Victoria Lindsay's** poem and reflections photo were in *Mush*, the literary magazine of UW-Stevens Point.

## NORTHEAST

VP: Tori Grant Welhouse, torigrantwelhouse@gmail.com

**Adrienne S. Wallner** was chosen as an opening act poet for Rupi Kaur's World Tour stop at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee, WI on May 14. Her interactive poetry installation, "Seeds of Inspiration," will remain on display through May 21 at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan. Free to all! She will lead the poetry workshop of JG Everest's Sound Garden experience on June 15, 9 AM—noon in Land O Lakes. Free event—details and registration at [lolaartswi.com](https://lolaartswi.com).

**Jean Biegun's** poem "Woman Retreatant Perusing the Convent Library" was in *The Poetry Porch*, and her

poem “Green Bowl” received *Eastern Iowa Review’s* 2021 Christine Prose Poetry Award. “Besting Eve” was in *The Best of Mad Swirl: V2021*. “Testimonials” was in the winter *Time of Singing*, and her “Brown leaves dangle” haiku was in *Red Alder*, autumn. “Make a Joyful Noise” and “Shanties” were in *Goose River Anthology* 2021.

**Carol Lee Saffioti Hughes** published “Hovering Over the Border” in *Wallopzine* 3.

**Ethel Mortenson Davis** and **Tom Davis** are in **Moss Piglet**. Tom also has a poem in *Verse Virtual*.

Write On Door County: See [writeondoorcounty.org](http://writeondoorcounty.org) for events and to sign up for mailing list. Submissions are open for poetry master class with award-winning poet Monica Youn October 2–9. Deadline June 1. Participants will be notified by July 10. Application fee: \$10

Master class with Nan Cohen, poetry director of the Napa Valley Writers Conference, A Glimpse in the Mirror: Seven Poems, August 8–12.

Registration open for the Washington Island Literary Festival, September 15, 16, and 17. Michael Torres, winner of the National Poetry Series, is the featured poet.

## NORTHWEST

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

**Nancy Austin** had two poems, “This One” and “The Psychology of Rough Weather” in April’s *Verse Virtual*, and “Power in the Hands” in *Reflections From the Center*.

**Jan Chronister** had poems in *Last Stanza Poetry Journal* 8, *The Thunderbird Review*, and *Poetry Super Highway’s* annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) issue. She read her two poems in *The Nemadji Review* at the release party at UW–Superior May 2. Jan facilitated a panel on self-publishing at the WFOP spring conference.

**Elizabeth Tornes’** poem “Often I Am Permitted to Return to a River” was published in the Spring *Deronda Review*, whose theme was poems inspired by other poems.

**Lucy Tyrrell** had “Grief” and “Gaia Warms: Rally Cry or Requiem” in *Weekly Avocet* 481 and a watercolor-mixed-media of “Home” [the Earth], “Adventure Off the Trail” in *Weekly Avocet* 479, and “Melt” (an essay) and “We tell measured stories” in *Alaska Women Speak* (spring). Lucy attended a poetry workshop with Dasha Kelly Hamilton on April 27 at the Bayfield Carnegie Library (sponsor of Dasha’s visit to Bayfield).

## SOUTH CENTRAL

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

**James P. Roberts** had a poem, “A Millionth Speck,” in *Solitary Plover*. He hosted a “Spring Is Here!” Access Hour poetry reading on WORT Radio 89.9 FM with guest poets including **Beth Ann Workmaster** on March 21.

**Jess L. Parker** had a poem, “Origin Story v\_2,” in *Quail Bell Magazine*.

**R. B. Simon** had a poem, “Clear Cut,” in *Equinox Journal*.

South-Central region poets who read at the Woodland Pattern Poetry Marathon in Milwaukee on January 29 were **Ron Czerwien**, **Ronnie Hess**, **Jodi Vander Molen**, **Marilyn Taylor** and **Angela Trudell-Vasquez**.

**Ronnie Hess** and **Angela Trudell-Vasquez** were among the poets honoring Wisconsin’s first poet laureate **Ellen Kort** with a reading at the Arts & Literature Lab in Madison on March 26.

South-Central region poets who read at the 2022 Winter Festival of Poetry were **Ron Czerwien**, **F. J. Bergmann**, **Joe Lutz**, **Paul Creswell**, **Cristin Jacque**, **Becky Schigiel**, **Charles Payne**, **Kimberly Blanchette**, **Linda Voit**, **Jodi Vander Molen**, **Tim Walsh**, **Marilyn Taylor**, **Jo Scheder**, **Jess L. Parker**, **Richard Merelman**, **Brenda Lempp**, **R. B. Simon**, **Christopher Chambers**, **Alecia Beymer**, **Jenelle Clausen**, **Sharon Daly**, **Ronnie Hess**, **James P. Roberts**, and **Steve and Jeanie Tomasko**.

**Marilyn L. Taylor’s** collection *In the Frame* was wonderfully reviewed by J.R. Solonche in [thelakepoetry.co.uk/reviews/april22/](http://thelakepoetry.co.uk/reviews/april22/).

**F. J. Bergmann** had poems “The Light Mine” in *Star\*Line*, “Radiance” in the *Rhysling Anthology*, “Little Cabbage” in *Riddled with Arrows*, “Globular Cluster,” “Strategic Directives,” “To Infinity,” and “Vor Längst” in *Space Cadet SF Review*, “Exobiologie” (trans. into Dutch) in *Speculatief*, “Fandango” and “Poor Impulse Control” in *Dreams and Nightmares*, “Self-Portrait” in *Asimov’s SF*, “Tall Tales” in *Haven Spec*, “Op Lit” in *Nixes Mate Review*, “Whackalicious” in *American Diversity Report*, and “Analogue” in the WI Little Book *Access Representation*.

## WEST CENTRAL

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

It has been a cold spring but fellowship is warm in the Chippewa Valley. The Writers’ Group continues to meet first Thursdays, 7–9 PM. Although we presently meet via Zoom, we plan to return to meeting in person in the fall at the newly remodeled Eau Claire Memorial Public Library. In November the hours will change to 2–4 PM for the winter months until April. For more information contact **Sandra Lindow** at [lindowleaf@gmail.com](mailto:lindowleaf@gmail.com).

March 20, **Yvette Flaten** hosted and read her poetry at the Spring Equinox White Pine celebration at First Congregational in Menomonie. **Erna Kelly** participated also. The summer solstice White Pine will be June 19 at Wilson Park, Menomonie. Kelly also taught sessions of “Exploring Poetry” April 7 and 14 for Chippewa Valley

Learning in Retirement. April 20, Kelly, **Lopa Basu, Karen Loeb** and **Jessi Peterson** participated in “Local Poetry Showcase: Awakenings,” co-sponsored by the Chippewa Valley Writers Guild and the Eau Claire Unitarian Universal Fellowship for Poetry Month. March 19, **Sandra Lindow** participated in a Words and Worlds Poetry Reading at the International Conference of the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando. May 1, she read poems at an Arts Celebration at First Congregational in Menomonie. May 19, **Candace Hennekens** hosted a potluck poetry celebration at her home on the Eau Claire river.

**David Blackey**’s poem “What To Do When Geese Attack” was in *Avocet* and “Rising Water” in *Rosebud*. **Yvette Flaten**’s poem “Night Passage” won third place in Peterborough Press’s Cosmic Poetry contest. Jane-Marie Bahr has “Dreaming of the Crucifixion” in the Easter edition of *The Scope*. Lindow’s “Alligator Tao,” is in the April *Blue Heron Review*, “Congressman’s Open Meeting,” in *Access Representation*, The Wisconsin Little Book Project, “The Hanged Man Makes Bread” in *Star\*Line* 45.2, and “House Gravity Physics” and “What the Weed Whip Wanted” reprinted in the 2022 *Rhysling Anthology* for the best speculative poems published in 2021.

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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)

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#### 2022 WFOP CHAPBOOK CONTEST WINNERS

1<sup>st</sup> place: *Thuribles*, John Fritzell

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

3<sup>rd</sup> place: *The Good Truth*, R.B. Simon

Honorable Mention: *The Satisfactory Nothing of Girls*, Emily Bowles

“Judging poetry and poetry books is so subjective. Truly, more than half of these books could easily have been winners, based on the quality of writing and production values of the book. It was interesting to learn how recent many of these poems are—the pandemic figures in at least four of them. It was exciting to see poems all in voice . . . and to experience playful language feats. As I mull over which books will receive prizes, the quality of poems is my first criterion, followed by how well the poems as a whole work together, are sequenced, titled to advantage, etc. The third thing that I take into consideration is production values—does the design of the book present the contents well? In this category, I’d consider the cover, typeface and size, etc.”

—Margaret Hasse,

2022 WFOP Chapbook Contest Judge

Submitted by *Naomi Cochran*, 2022 Chapbook Contest Coordinator

#### 2022 MUSE POETRY CONTEST WINNERS (64 entries)

1<sup>st</sup> place: “You Should Always Keep It Ready,” Peter Blewett

2<sup>nd</sup> place: “El Ultimo para Hoy,” Yvette Flaten

3<sup>rd</sup> place: “Rip it, Rip it,” Maureen Adams

Honorable Mentions:

“A Certain Teacher Sends Us,” Jeri McCormick

“Trimming the Tree,” Jan Chronister

“Wistful” Karen Haley

Submitted by *Fred Kreutz*, 2022 Muse Contest Coordinator

## Triad Contest Judges

**Barbara Crooker**, recipient of about a zillion awards and residencies, will judge the Poets’ Choice category. A fifty-eight-time nominee for the Pushcart Prize and seven-time nominee for Best of the Net, she was a 1997 Grammy Awards Finalist for her part in the audio version of the popular anthology, *Grow Old Along With Me—The Best is Yet to Be* (Papier Mache Press).

**Marjorie Maddox**, Professor of English and Creative Writing at Lock Haven University, will judge the Theme category. She has published 13 collections of poetry. The recipient of numerous awards, she gives workshops and readings around the world. For more information, see [marjoriemaddox.com](http://marjoriemaddox.com).

**Julie L. Moore** will judge the Kay Saunders Emerging Poet category. The author of four poetry collections, including, most recently, *Full Worm Moon*, her poetry has appeared in over 200 literary publications. She is also the poetry editor for *Relief Journal*. You can learn more about her work at [julielmoore.com](http://julielmoore.com).



**Museletter submissions:** Send news to your regional VP or [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. *Please* don’t double-space after periods.

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

\$15 eighth page      \$40 half page

\$25 quarter page      \$75 full page

\$10/100 wds in Events e-mail

## 2022 WFOP TRIAD POETRY CONTEST RULES

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

### ***About Your Membership* Renew NOW before you forget!**

All memberships are **CALENDAR YEAR—January through December**. Only new memberships October–December are automatically extended through the following year. **Renewal payments** are due by **December 31** each year. Your membership expires at the end of the year on your *Museletter* mailing label. Contact **wfopmembership@gmail.com** with any questions. To receive reminders and official news, make sure we have your email address. **NB:** *If you lapse, then renew, you will be entered as a new member. Continuous membership is required for service awards.*

If you vacation elsewhere, only first-class mail forwards. We are charged for returned bulk mail. Signing up for e-mail-only *Museletter* (.pdf) saves WFOP \$ and arrives at least 2 weeks before the print *Museletter*. Notify **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com** to opt out of print delivery. The Events weekly e-mail is separate and opt-in; request from **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com**. Send all address changes or *Museletter* delivery inquiries to **wfopmuseletter@gmail.com**.

**2022 TRIAD CONTEST ENTRY FORM** ~ Email deadline **August 15**: see other side for instructions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THEME: Primary Colors** (75 lines maximum)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **Membership Renewal Form** KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT.

All renewals are due by December 31. Dues **MUST** be current for you to enter WFOP contests, receive mention in the *Museletter*, receive mailings, and to have a page on wfop.org. Contact **wfopmembership@gmail.com** if you are not sure when your membership expires.

*SAVE POSTAGE and renew or join online at **wfop.org***  
*or mail to: **Colleen Frentzel, 1410 N Wuthering Hills Dr, Janesville WI 53546***  
*Please make checks payable to: **WFOP***

**Active \$30.00**  
**Student \$15.00**  
**\*\*\* 5 for 4 Deal \*\*\***  
\$120 paid now will give  
5 years of membership  
for the price of 4! Save \$30!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

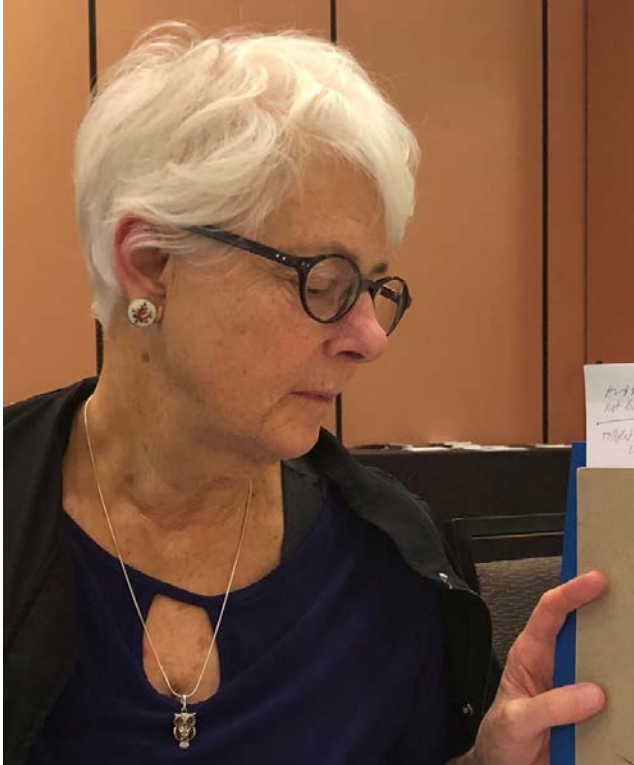
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Check to get weekly Events e-mail.

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



# Meet the Co-Prezses!



I'm **Ronnie Hess**, and since January I've been co-president of WFOP. Cathy Cofell asked me to run, and I convinced her to be my co-presidential running mate. Team leading and team building suit us. We've worked together before on the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission and enjoyed the association—Cathy was a founder of the Commission, and one of its first Chairs; several years later I was Chair, too. I was secretary of WFOP for two terms, before encouraging Dennis Collier to take my place. Currently, I serve on the Friends of Lorine Niedecker Board.

A native New Yorker, I came to Wisconsin in 1966 to do graduate work at UW–Madison, then got a job in public radio. I left in 1983, taking a job at CBS News in New York and Paris, returning to Wisconsin after an absence of nearly ten years. I started a new life, as it were, once again writing poetry, something I had begun in high school. I took a job in communications at UW–Madison in the Division of International Studies.

I attended a few classes—with Roberta Hill Whiteman and Ron Wallace, and with Ellen Kort at The Clearing, where I met some of you. I joined a poetry group in Madison with several active members of WFOP; they were, at various points, in charge of contests and/or the calendar. I've been with them and WFOP for about 15 years.

I wouldn't be a published poet, the author of five poetry chapbooks, without the encouragement of WFOP. (Three

WFOP members published two of my books.) Some of my first serious efforts were printed in WFOP's *Poets' Calendar*, the *Museletter*, and *Free Verse/Verse Wisconsin*. I'm delighted to have been featured in and been an editor of *Bramble*, a wonderful addition to WFOP's publications. I've attended conferences regularly—who wouldn't want to miss them and the speakers the organizers bring in? Who wouldn't want to keep WFOP membership current, and volunteer? There are lots of jobs requiring various skills and time frames.



I'm **Cathryn (Cat) Cofell** and honored to be your Co-Prez with Ronnie Hess, to continue to serve WFOP in a leadership role. I've danced around the presidency since I joined back in 1993—I've been secretary, VP, Co-VP of the Central Fox Valley region, Co-Conference Coordinator and Co-Coordinator of the Chapbook Prize. I like sharing the load with other people!

Like Ronnie, I credit WFOP with my success as a poet: my first book was published by a member, my first writing group was a sheet-ton of members (we called ourselves "The Sheets"), and some of my best friends came of the fellowship that is, to me, the most important part of being a member.

I am passionate about giving back. By day, I'm VP Community Relations for Community First Credit Union, overseeing charitable giving and the volunteer program. In addition to WFOP, I'm Marketing Chair for the Nonprofit Leadership Initiative, incoming President for the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and one of the coordinators of Poetry Unlocked, a reading series in Appleton.

In my free time (who needs sleep?), I'm a travel enthusiast and a groupie for my college-aged son who is an aspiring classical percussionist. Oh, and I try to write. Emphasis on *try*.



**More board member intros coming in future *Museletters*!**

## Publications by Our Members

*Con/verse/ations With Myself* by Mike Orlock (Four Windows Press, 2022).

*Cutting the Dusk in Half* by Thomas J. Erickson (Bent Paddle Press, 2022) 40 pp. \$15 from [bentpaddlepress.com](http://bentpaddlepress.com) or from author at [thomerick@aol.com](mailto:thomerick@aol.com).

*A Gatherer* by Ethel Mortenson Davis (Four Windows Press, 2022).

*Jordemoder: Poems of a Midwife* by Ingrid Andersson (Holy Cow! Press, 2022). 84 pp. \$16.95 from [holycowpress.org](http://holycowpress.org), Amazon, or Room of One's Own bookstore in Madison.

*Messengers of the Gods: New & Selected Poems* by Kathryn Gahl (Cornerstone Press, 2022) is a Portage Poetry Series Selection.

*The Old Timers* by Gary C. Busha (Wolfsong Pubs, 2022), art by Emmett Johns. 26 pp, \$5. For those who think they're getting old. Contact [gbusha@wi.rr.com](mailto:gbusha@wi.rr.com).

*Seven By 7*, an anthology of Door County Poet Laureates, includes Mike Orlock, Nancy Rafal, Sharon Auberle, Ralph Murre, Estella Lauter, Barbara Larsen, and Frances May (Four Windows Press, 2022).

*Statements Made in Passing* by Kathleen Serley (Water's Edge Press) 66 pp. \$12. [watersedgepress.com/product/statements-made-in-passing/](http://watersedgepress.com/product/statements-made-in-passing/)

### 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)

**Bramble** Fall will be guest edited by Lisa Vihos, and include a special feature on poets laureate around the state. Check back on our Submit page for more info!

[wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit](http://wfop.org/bramble-how-to-submit)

## Poems <sup>BY</sup> Our Membership

—SHERYL SLOCUM & KIM PARSONS, EDITORS

### Indonesian Recollection

Let me tell you this—  
in Indonesia if you choose to make a dinner great,  
be sure the goat morsels are sizzling hot.  
Thread them on a bamboo rod.  
Watch out! Don't let the skewers skid  
onto the glowing embers of  
charcoal. Sit down at the  
night market's stall and observe the milky  
band above. Constellations point the way  
to the outermost galaxy across  
space. Allow your imagination to travel the  
Kuiper Belt's farthest edge, your chair grounded on asphalt  
savoring skewered goat on a starry night.

—Susan Schwartz Twiggs, Marshfield

#### Golden Shovel

From a line by Alberto Rios:  
“this great hot rod skid of the Milky  
Way across the asphalt night.”



# Vestige

In fossilized stone she showed me primal seas; as in this  
ice-fringed squirrel baffle, I recall, my great-  
granny's antique lamp. Frozen memories thaw to hot  
tears. Like her middle finger, a cattail rod  
juts from snow. Pod-fluffs, remnants for survival, skid  
across black ice. Intricate flakes invoke the complex face of  
love. That night I talked to her of rocks we'd found, stroked the  
once expressive finger, searched for answers in vacant milky  
eyes. Still, in the end, there was only one way  
to leave. A refugee, her soul streamed across  
borders. Outside, an owl hooted, voice of the  
departed. Progress replaced her field of stone with asphalt  
where fragile flakes implode in an empty night.

—*Macy Washow, Lac du Flambeau*

## NIGHT CREATURES

The habits of nocturnal creatures, in a poem of 14 or fewer  
lines. Unpublished only; one poem per person. Deadline  
July 15. Editors, **Sheryl Slocum** & **Kim Parsons**. Send to  
**[museletterpoems@gmail.com](mailto:museletterpoems@gmail.com)**, or by post to:

Sheryl Slocum  
8025 W Oklahoma Ave Apt 2  
Milwaukee WI 53219

# Not Goodbye

Oh, Marguerite, first a friend of Aunt Betty, then mine too, you lived 108 years on this  
glorious Earth, slipped away last Thursday in the company of a great  
nurse, leaving your children grieving but grateful for your hot  
memory until the end, your engaging intellect, your iron rod  
of cheerful engagement, learning, your determined skid  
through losses, your glissades through happy times, of  
travel to the countryside of James Herriot and the  
landscape of Beatrix Potter. Your eyes grew milky  
and your hearing needed aids, but you always found a way  
to listen to me, and all my stories of wild adventures—across  
the miles—sending me your caring thoughts, your admiration, the  
gumption to live until I had finished a sled dog race. Now such hard asphalt  
paves the finality of death—but not your reach of friendship across a starry night.

—*Lucy Tyrrell, Bayfield*

# The Race

*Homage to David Rhodes*

The challenger mounts his motorcycle this  
Driftless summer night, and with great  
boldness, rides to meet the hot-  
blooded champion on his Harley, ramrod  
straight, for a hundred turns without a skid  
through hills and over ridges, bridges of  
a lightless countryside, headed for the  
valley town, where, down below—a milky  
apparition—it beckons. Together all the way  
and neck and neck they ride, until across  
the downtown finish line, with a final surge, the  
challenger, his front wheel off the asphalt,  
takes the lead. Then both riders disappear into the night.

—Ed Block, *Greendale*

# What I Know Now

I'll tell you this:

At 16, I didn't realize how simply great  
it was to cruise along a back road on a hot  
summer night in his modified 'rod,  
how great it was to avoid a skid  
while exceeding nearly all of  
the posted speed limits and the  
do's and don'ts in my milky  
white reputation—my Victorian way.

As we journeyed across  
multiple landscapes, the moon glowed, the  
stars sparkled, and we rocked the world under an asphalt  
sky on a rare country night.

—Jan Bosman, *Woodstock II*

# Knowns and Unknowns

In literature, in physics, in art, this  
cross section of galactical time of great  
understanding, leads outward to Dante's brilliantly hot  
Paradiso, where God's molten rod  
shines in every undulation of the skid  
universe where matter and facts of  
known and infinite possibilities are the  
means to comprehend miracles, including a diminutive Milky  
nebula containing a mere 100 thousand million stars connected by way  
of dark strings vibrating across  
the lute of thought, leading to the  
theory of dark matter and its primary hue asphalt  
that may be enjoyed and painted when looking into the patina of a stary night.

—Antonio Re, *Madison*

## Golden Shovel

The world is weary, this  
new war rages across the great  
homeland of Ukraine, flash fires hot  
with fear, a burning red rod  
of Russian attacks skid  
into shelters of  
a hospital, of the  
school still warm with the milky  
scent of children, where is the way  
out, who will teach this history lesson across  
centuries of old wars, always the  
epic pursuit of a ruler who sets asphalt  
in fields of grain, who purges stars from the night.

—*Janet Leahy, New Berlin*

## Evening Visit

I'm wondering if you remember this  
as I do, a great  
encounter—outdoors so hot  
that inside we slid the curtains closed along the rod.  
As we embrace, our arms skid  
around each other—we're of  
one mind—stay in the cool dimness of the  
living room, the lamp with its milky  
shimmer from down the hall, in shadows lighting our way  
as we sink onto the springy couch sprawling across  
each other and the  
green nubby upholstery, our skin fluid asphalt  
our lips tasting of starlight, milk-glass lamps and the night.

—*Karen Loeb, Eau Claire*

## The Soul of Ukraine

Are we prepared for this  
as peaceful results are not great?  
Is the rhetoric on both sides too hot,  
or will Russian military deaths become a lightning rod,  
preventing a further wartime skid?  
Fear covers his tracks with lies of  
doubt, tossing our sea of prayers about the  
waves, as rays of sunshine condense the milky  
firmament with bubbles of hope leading the way.  
Faith bursts and blows them out across  
all nations with a blanket of peace lighting the  
tunnels of darkness with strength, as broken asphalt  
crumbles beneath a proud Ukrainian night.

—*Susan Anderson, Baraboo*

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## Olympic Spectators

he says, *you have to see this*  
*you'll agree it's great*  
hands me a melty, hot  
cheese-dipped pretzel rod  
we watch young skaters glide and skid  
side by side, we're reminded of  
our long-ago attempt on the  
pond's frozen milky  
surface, there was no way  
we came across  
as graceful as the  
ice dancers, like gum on asphalt  
we stuck tight to each other that night

—Christy Schwan, Cedarburg

## Why I Rise Before Dawn

The lake that is close to my heart, at this  
special time, is as motionless as the great  
blue heron on the shore, and a mug of hot  
coffee awakens me while my fishing rod  
waits. Yesterday I got to see an otter skid  
down into the water on a slippery slide of  
hard-packed mud, a sight that made the  
sunrise memorable and caused the milky  
film on my coffee to swirl and lift the way  
the lake does when it wakes. From across  
the water, a murder of crows salutes the  
dawn with caws, then in a black-as-asphalt  
rush, they mob an owl back toward night.

—Joan Wiese Johannes, Port Edwards