

Magnolia Muse Fall 2022 Issue

Happy Fall, MPS! No more sweltering heat, and no ice for a while.

WOW! We have a LOT going on. The MPS 90th Anniversary Anthology, *Made in Mississippi* will be submitted to the publisher in a few days. Members are submitting sponsor forms and payments to Jason; our contest will begin in just a few weeks. Also, it's dues-paying time; therefore, our treasurers are busy. Now it's time for news from branches and members.

Note: Photos and files are given at the end of the newsletter, some with explanations. If someone appears to be headless, look at the photo in "Preview." (Heads will return in "preview")

BRANCH NEWS

North Branch met at the Lee County Library in Tupelo on July 30, 2022. Attendees were Allen Baswell, Janice Canerdy, Bill Hill, Ruby Jones (visitor), Patrick McGee (visitor), Carey Myers, Steve Richardson (visitor), Don Simmons, and Dorothy Wiman. Bill Hill did the devotional and reminded us to shine the light of Christ in our poetry. We had three presenters: Allen Baswell, who read from his new book, *Mississippi Musings*; Patrick McGee, a musician and member of the Byhalia Arts Council, who spoke on a program called 100 Thousand Poets for Change; and Bill Hill, who gave information about the Christian Writers Conference (March 17 & 18, 2023, First Baptist Church of Collierville). As always, we shared poems to close our meeting. We will meet again at McAlister's in Starkville on October 15.~~Janice Canerdy

Central Branch meets each month, the third Saturday at 2:00 pm, at the Chastaine-Flynt Library in Flowood. Our most recent meeting, September 15, was full of wonderful poetry. Jason Ervin sent in an excellent poem that we discussed and enjoyed, in addition to other stellar poems presented by the poets who were around our tables. As a note of business, we voted to continue in our sponsoring of a category in the MPS Spring Contest.

We enjoyed meeting and welcoming new member, Kychell Little. Bill Gressett used an image from Kychell's poetry for our upcoming October Challenge, "Dreaming a Dream (or Dreams)." Poems from Bill's September Challenge, "Courage Unrecognized," evoked straight-to-the-heart-and-mind discussions. Members present also included Peggy Shumaker, Patsy Twiner, Terry Woosley, Tommy Little, and Linda Owen.

Central Branch poets are a vital part in co-sponsoring Pacesetter Gallery's Poetry Open Mic Night, and we are having a great time sharing our poems with others in a setting

where vibrant works of art adorn gallery walls. Open Mic events are held the first Thursday evening of each month, and all are warmly welcomed. (Btw, ...October 6th's event has a theme..."Haunted")

Poets Participating recently in Pacesetter Gallery's Poetry Open Mic Nights:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bill Gressett | Patsy Twiner | Kathy Taylor |
| Pete Massey | Tommy Little | Linda Owen |

~Linda Owen

West Branch is in its infancy, but beginning to grow. We had our second meeting Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Judge George W. Armstrong Library in downtown Natchez. So far, we have seven participants, and I'm encouraging all to join the MPS. Other writers who don't specialize in poetry have attended to see what the MPS is all about. I've learned that in our area there is a lot of crossover among poets and writers in other forms. In our October meeting we will have author read sessions and advice from a media attorney about publishing, rights, and other legal aspects of writing. There is a great enthusiasm among those who have attended.~~Mark LaFrancis

Current **South Branch** members welcomed 2 new members, 2 prospective members and one guest to the September meeting at Gautier Public Library on September 10. After some light refreshments and time to catch up on summer happenings, when we did not meet, Judy Davies gave the devotion and a short program on a contemporary poet; then all enjoyed a poetry read-around followed by a short business meeting which included an election of new officers. Also, outgoing MPS South Branch President, Patty Butkovich, was thanked for her service and given a gift. (See photos at end of newsletter.) The next meeting will be October 8th in the Gautier Library at 2 p.m.~~Patty Butkovich

While going through some old papers recovered from Hurricane Katrina (8/29/05), Brenda Finnegan found a muddy copy of the organizational meeting of South Branch in 1982 and the minutes of the meeting on 9/12/1982, when the first officers were elected. **This is the 40th anniversary of South Branch!** Here are some highlights from her files. The first organizational meeting of Mississippi Poetry Society-South was held August 8, 1982, at the (Old) Biloxi Fire Station in Biloxi. Louise Wilkerson Conn, acting president of Mississippi Poetry Society, congratulated the members on organizing a Southern branch and reminded them of the annual contest celebration of National Poetry Day and the 50th anniversary of the MPS at the awards ceremony in Jackson on October 16 at the Regency Hotel in Jackson. Members present for the first meeting were:

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Roberta Powalski | Gautier | Mildred Henderson | Pascagoula |
| Eunice Barnes | Pascagoula | Elaine McDermott | Gulfport |
| Sue Entrekinn | Gautier | Voncille Ros | Pascagoula |
| Brenda Finnegan | Pascagoula | Thelma Terenson | Pascagoula |
| Charles Griffin | Biloxi | Marguerite Watkins | Pascagoula |
| W.V. "Bud" Strum | Gautier | Gladys Whitfield | Pascagoula |

The second meeting of Mississippi Poetry Society-South was held on campus of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College in Gautier on September 12, 1982. Roberta Powalski chaired the meeting and Brenda Finnegan read the minutes from the August 8 meeting held in Biloxi. The following officers were elected to serve as the first officers for MPS-South:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Roberta Powalski | - President |
| Brenda Finnegan | -Vice-President |
| Hester Bates | -Secretary |
| Voncille Ros | -Treasurer |

Brenda, thank you so much for making this information available. Members, there is much more! To receive the files, you may contact Brenda or me (Janice).

NEWS FROM MPS MEMBERS

ALLEN BASWELL: "A Letter I Wish I'd Sent," "Mom and her Horses," and "A Photograph in Stone," *Across the Seas, A Collection of Poetry*, August '22 (contains the works of poets from all over the world)
*scheduled to have a poem "Promise You'll Be Here" in an anthology in November
*October 8, scheduled to take part in a book signing at The Ackerman Artisan Market in Ackerman, Ms
*November 6, scheduled to take part in a Holiday Open House book signing at The Book Mart in Starkville, Ms
*poem "Mr. Faulkner: Indeed He Wrote," in September 7 edition of *The Tunica Voice*

JANICE CANERDY: *four poems in *Halcyon Days*, print issue, summer '22
**"Endangered Beauty on the Coast," *Tunica Voice*, August
*one poem on the Society of Classical Poets website, August 21st
*featured poem on Your Daily Poem on Sept 22nd
*received donation of \$100 from Potts Camp Bank for student contest prizes, donation from another bank pending

ANN CAROLYN CATES: *Poetry Society of Tennessee, September contest, humorous poetry: placed with "My Old Man" (about husband's surgery and difficult recovery this summer~~He thought it was hilarious!)

***NOTE:** Ann Carolyn still has copies of her book, *Prize Winning Poetry of Ann Carolyn Cates* for sale: \$15 for one, \$25 for two (7471 Greenbrook Parkway, Southaven, MS 38671).

STEPHEN CURRY: 1st Honorable Mention in the NFSPS Contest, category 41, the Jesse Stuart Memorial Award

BRENDA FINNEGAN: 1st Honorable Mention in the NFSPS Contest, category 20, the J. Paul Holcomb Memorial Award.

PAMELA J. HATCH, new resident to Laurel, Mississippi

- *for first self-published book of poetry, *The Pen of a Ready Writer* (2020), credits her membership in an online poetry forum--Poets of Integrity (PFI), member since 2015
- *administrative position of Publishing and Member Relations in PFI; encourages MPS members to join PFI for HALF off the first year's membership. Interested? Visit <https://www.poetsforintegrity.org>—choose yearly auto renew option and write "MISSISSIPPI" in the box labeled -- "How did you hear about our site?"

WILLIAM G. HILL (Bill): *Poetry Society of Tennessee, September contest, humorous poetry, placed with "Fix Me"

- *September 19, at Byhalia Library, met with the Byhalia Area Arts Council, read poems to children (Read a Poem to a Child is part of 100 Thousand Poets for Change. The 100 TPC event was in Byhalia, September 24)
- *September 20, participated in a Kentucky State Poetry Society reading on Zoom
- *September 24, A. M., Founder's Day celebration, Falkner, MS, unveiling of a Historical Marker at the site. Bill's poem "The Last Rebel" has been adopted by the Falkner Mississippi Heritage Museum as its official poem. His reading of this poem was part of the ceremony.
- *reports a great turnout at the MPS/PST open mic in August and will be at Coffee Central in Southaven again on November 8.
- *will be at Bolan Grove Farms, 4428 Getwell Road, South Hernando, MS 38732, most afternoons from September 27-November 4 signing copies of *It's Not Even Past* and doing some painting

EMORY JONES *Haiku, May 29, 2022, *The Weekly Avocet*: "Baby robins chirp...," "The warm spring sunshine...," "Daffodils spout sun . . .," and "Crepe myrtle bursts forth..."

- **"Playful Spring: A Kyrielle," "Spring Jewel Bush," and "The Courtyard" May 29, 2022 issue of *The Weekly Avocet*
- **"Saturday" *Pennsylvania's Poetic Voices*, June 2022
- **"Playful Spring: A Kyrielle" *Whispering Willow: Tree Poems* 2022 edition.
- **"Art Appreciation—A Golden Shovel Poem," *Prize Poems of 2022* a journal of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society
- **"New Year II: A Golden Shovel Poem" 2nd Place in Category #35 (Ohio Award), NFSPS Contest; published in *Encore, Prize Poems 2022*, the journal of the NFSPS
- **"Wind Castle," "First Horse," and "Painted Desert," *WyoPoets News* of July 2022.
- **"The Patriot," *Tunica Voice* newspaper, July 13, 2022
- **"Girls at the Piano" and "Lost in Wal-Mart," August 2022 Edition of *Pennsylvania's Poetic Voices*
- **"Reverie at Slack Time," *Pegasus: Spring 2022* issue
- **"Delta General," *Jerry Jazz Musician: Summer 2022* edition
- **"Water Lilies," "Winter Haiku," and "The Piano," Fall 2022 issue of *Pasques Petals*

- *"Tin Roof: An Etheree," *The North Dakota Quarterly*, 2022
- *"Poetry Defined," "Divine Sculpture," and "The Spirit Moves You," WyoPoets Annual Newsletter 2022
- *"Poetry Defined" published in *Strophes*
- *"The Spirit Moves You," *Writer's Digest*

NOTE: The file included with the newsletter contains an article describing a great honor for Emory AND an article he wrote for *Strophes*.

MARK LAFRANCIS, Poet Laureate of Natchez, has created several poetry/art pieces about Natchez.

- *recently presented his award-winning multi-media program "In Their Boots: Voices of Our Soldiers" to an audience sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Knights of Columbus in Natchez; includes poetry inspired by Mark's interviews with combat soldiers; also signed copies of his latest novel, *A Song of Hope: A Spiritual Suspense Novel*.
- *planning the release of his major work *In Their Boots: Voices of World War II*, with poetry inspired by his interviews with World War II veterans; hard-cover book will be released in January '23 in conjunction with the production of his play "Welcome Home, Soldier," adapted from one of his poems "Show and Tell," inspired by a World War II veteran; proceeds will benefit the nonprofit Home With Heroes Organization, which helps veterans and their loved ones in the Miss-Lou.

MARY BETH MAGEE: *two stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: My Wonderful Wacky Family*: "First Funeral" and "Christmas Ghosts." (release date, Nov. 1. '22)

- *Saturday, Nov. 5, book signing for *Chicken Soup*, noon to 3:00, at Hammond, LA, Books-A-Million
- *Children's book *The Promise Wreath: A Christmas Story* now available on Amazon and other outlets
- *Joining the Poplarville Storytellers Guild to celebrate Tell-abration, the International Day of Storytelling, Nov. 19, 6 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Poplarville.
- *NFSPS Contest Honors: Honorable Mentions in Categories 14 and 26 (Alabama State Poetry Society Award and New York Poetry Forum Award)

LINDA OWEN: *Collaborated with Nebraska State Poet Matt Mason in Tishomingo Arts Council's "ARTroulette"

- *Presentation of a framed copy of my poem "Mississippi Meadow" (an ekphrastic, inspired by Carol Roark's painting "As the Crows Fly") to Community Bank of Flowood, MS.
- *St. Matthews UMC, Madison, MS, Poetry Reading with Bill Gressett and Jeanne Kelly
- *Visual Verse, Vol. 9 Ch. 10 "War"
- *Presentation of multiple poems at Pacesetter Gallery's Open Mic Nights

DOROTHY WIMAN: received donations of \$200 from Guaranty Bank and Trust Co. and Bank Plus of Belzoni for the student contest prizes.

When the next newsletter comes out, it will be 2023! So~~I'll go ahead and say I pray you will all have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Till next time

Janice

Files and photos, some with explanations

First four, North B September Meeting and Emory's file~~

then Central B, from meetings and open mic nights through second row~~

followed by two from South B and two from West B in third row

Outgoing MPS South Branch president, Patty Butkovich, was thanked for her pandemic presidential service with gifts from Shearwater Pottery.

**South Branch Officers: President Mary Lee Terry, seated on right;
Vice-president Mary Beth Magee, standing left;
Secretary Brenda Finnegan, standing right; and
Treasurer Judy Davies, seated left.**