

THE MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY'S NEWSLETTER

THE MAGNOLIA MUSE MARCH-JUNE 2022



Hello, Everyone,

I hope you are all having a fun, productive, peaceful summer. I sincerely appreciate all of you who submitted information for this newsletter. Reading other branches' reports has inspired me to BRANCH OUT in North Branch's efforts to promote poetry. As you know, this is my first effort at the newsletter. I'm open to advice.

THANKS to Mark LaFrancis, Brenda Finnegan, and Linda Owen, I am able to attach some files of festival photos! From Mark: The note page has the IDs of the students. 1-5 are back left to right, 6-9 are front left to right.

Now, for some news~~

NORTH BRANCH

North Branch hasn't met since March! We will be meeting at the Lee County Library in Tupelo on July 30. A report will be given in the next newsletter.

Since details of the Spring Festival have been well circulated among MPS members, I'll simply say again (1) "Thank you" to the other North Branch members of the Festival Committee—Carey Myers, Emory Jones, Ann Carolyn Cates, Dorothy Wiman, and Bill Hill; (2) "Congratulations" to our POY Ann Carolyn (fabulous book!), and (3) "Thank you" to all who played an active role in the contest, the festival, the publication of the journal, and all who attended the festival!

North Branch officers are Janice Canerdy, President; Michael Shelton, Vice-President; Dorothy Wiman, Secretary; and Emory Jones, Treasurer. ~~ Janice Canerdy

Copies of *Prize Winning Poetry of Ann Carolyn Cates* may be purchased for \$15.00. Here's her address, for ordering purposes:
7471 Greenbrook Parkway, Southaven, MS 38671

CENTRAL BRANCH

We had a great time at Pacesetter Gallery's Poetry Open Mic Night on June 2. Those who participated were Bill Gressett, Jason Ervin, Oliver Ellis, Patsy Twiner, and Linda Owen. These events are fun and inspiring in so many ways! Pacesetter Gallery is located next to Kohl's in the Dogwood Shopping area. We met at the Flowood Library on June 18. Peggy Shumaker, who is one of our newer members, her husband George, Bill Gressett, and I enjoyed just sharing poetry and exploring the idea of Bill's Challenge for June, which was "at one with the dirt." We shared early life experiences on Mississippi farms and gardening and the earliest of human life experience in the Garden of Eden.

Our next meeting will be July 16, with Bill's Challenge for us being "Sense of Place." We will also enjoy an Author Spotlight with Daniel Pickett reading from his book *A Separate Self*. Signed copies of his book will be available at the meeting. Central Branch officers are Linda Owen, President; Bill Gressett, Vice-President; Jason Ervin, Treasurer; and Terry Woosley, Secretary. J. P. Stokes has our new website up and running! Thank you, J. P! Have a look at misspoetry.net. ~~ Linda Owen

WEST BRANCH

During the Mississippi Poetry Society's 2022 Spring Festival, the MPS voted to approve the creation of the Western Branch, centered in Natchez, with Mark LaFrancis leading the Branch. The first Branch meeting will be July 23 at 10:30 a.m. at the Judge George W. Armstrong Library, Commerce Street, Natchez. LaFrancis will provide refreshments. The first meeting will be for fun and to chart a path going forward. In conjunction with the meeting, there will be a meeting of the Natchez Chapter of the Mississippi Writers Guild. Mark is past president of the Guild and Natchez Chapter Head. ~~Mark LaFrancis

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SOUTH BRANCH

The May meeting of South Branch at the Gautier Library was cancelled so three of the officers, Patty Butkovich, Mary Lee Terry and Brenda Finnegan, attended the Mobile Literary Festival at the Ben May Main Library, May 14th. The schedule included two Panel Discussions, "All About the Pitch" and "Research with the Pros." We learned that you must pitch your book or it will go nowhere no matter how good it is and were given tips on how to do it. We were reminded to always do research to get the facts right for setting and time period even if it is fiction.

Dr. Sue Brannon Walker's poetry class read some of their poems for us while we ate our brown bag lunches. The afternoon session included an excellent presentation by Ocean Springs author, Johnnie Bernhard, on "Editing: Uncover Your Best Story"; and a "Pitch War," giving us a chance to practice writing a pitch, have it read aloud while everyone voted on whether they would buy a book based on the pitch. The afternoon closed with Alabama Poet Laureate, Ashley M. Jones, reading some of her poetry. June found some of the South Branch members gathering for a Porch Picnic at the home of Brenda Finnegan so they could enjoy her beautiful view of the Mississippi Sound with Horn Island on the distant horizon. They shared poetry about our flag or Flag Day. South Branch will not meet in July or August. South Branch Officers are Patty Butkovich, President; Mary Lee Terry, V. President; Brenda Finnegan, Secretary; and Barbara Moss, Treasurer~~Patty Butkovich

RECENT PUBLISHING CREDITS, AWARDS, AND OTHER POETRY-RELATED EVENTS, given in alphabetical order with branch designations

Allen Baswell **NB**

July 15, book signing and reading from book *Mississippi Musings* is scheduled at the Winston County Public Library in Louisville, MS. This book will be available on Amazon.com as well as Barnes and Noble Bookstores by the end of June.

Janice Canerdy **NB**

Four poems in *Halcyon Days*, June
Two poems in *Spirit Fire Review*, May
YDP (Your Daily Poem, Jayne Jauden, editor) May 15
Lighten Up Online, poem in the "Interval: Eight Lines" section, June
Two poems in *Spare Mule* (Missouri State Poetry Society's newsletter), May
One poem---A lady who has read my poems on YDP asked permission to share one with elderly Meals-on-Wheels recipients in Jacksonville, Florida. She got the editor to contact me. I was honored!

John Crawford **At-large, Arkansas**

Won May monthly contest, Arizona State Poetry Society
Inducted into Arkansas Writers HALL of Fame in June
Presented program on villanelle at June meeting of Hot Springs chapter of Poets Roundtable of Arkansas

Emory Jones NB

“Morning Miracle” was published in *Pennsylvania’s Poetic voices for April 2022*.

“Jewel Bush” was published in #487, April 3, 2022 edition of *The Weekly Avocet*.

“Art Appreciation--A Golden Shovel Poem” won 3rd Place in the William H.

Hildebrandt Memorial Award of the Pennsylvania Poetry Society’s 2022 Contest.

“Soul Minstrels” was published in the Spring 2022 edition of *Jerry Jazz Musician*.

“Personal Aesthetics” won First Place in Category #5 (Scorn Not the Sonnet Award) of the Mississippi Poetry Society’s 2022 Contest

“The Resting Place” won First Place in Category #12 (Villanelle Award) of the Mississippi Poetry Society’s 2022 Contest

“Forever Faun” won Third Place in Category #23 (Helen Kressmann Taylor Memorial Award) of the Mississippi Poetry Society’s 2022 Contest

“Art Appreciation--A Golden Shovel Poem” won First Place in the May 2022 Members-Only Contest of the Poetry Society of Tennessee.

“The Thing About Quilts” won First Place in the Arizona State Poetry Society’s May 2022 Monthly Contest.

“Saturday” was published in *Pennsylvania’s Poetic Voices*, June 2022.

“Dancing Autumn: An Etheree” was published in *Pennsylvania’s Poetic Voices*, June 2022. “Divine Sculpture” was published in the volume 1, Issue 8, June 8, 2022, of the *Tunica Voice*.

“Moon Streak” was displayed with a painting at Peabody Art Association Show in Massachusetts in June 2022.

“A Forest After the Rain” was displayed with a painting at Peabody Art Association Show in Massachusetts in June 2022

Mark LaFrancis WB

Designated Poet Laureate of Natchez (for one year) by Mayor Dan Gibson

Voted by MPS to lead the new Western Branch

Created poem "Our Hands" for the Unity Day Program June 14 in Natchez, presented at the First Presbyterian Church

Fourth book of poetry, inspired by six years of interviewing veterans, *In Their Boots: Voices of World War II*, to be released in July

Two presentations relating to his "In Their Boots" projects scheduled for July

Mary Beth Magee SB

Interviewed for Parents & Kids Magazine:

<https://www.parentsandkids.com/55630/keep-the-summer-slide-away-with-books/>

Southern Senior Magazine: Oyster Shell Metamorphosis –
<http://www.signatureflip.com/pearlriver/senior/2022-04-18eEdition.pub/14/index.html>

Southern Christian Writers June speaker (June 18), Southern Bookstore, Gretna, LA led a one-hour workshop on "Creativity: God's Gift to Poets and How to Claim It" (As a trainer, she speaks on a variety of topics related to writing and faith. Her books are available at Amazon.com and through bookstores. Visit her website at www.LOL4.net.)

She suggested the following as a noteworthy link:
<https://www.janefriedman.com/amazon-ads-step-by-step-walk-through-for-beginning-authors/>

Linda Owen CB

"Kompost in Any Language," *Visual Verse*, May
Pacesetter Gallery's Open Mic Night on June 2 with readings of "The Gift" and "To My Son." "Melting into Lime-light" *Visual Verse*, Volume 9, Chapter 8

Elizabeth Grace Washington, our only student member NB

She has read her poetry at open mics and shared her poetry at school. This teen motivational speaker is the founder of #teamrbv (Raising Brave Voices && #imater). This group travels to schools and does presentations on kindness and standing up to bullying. She has videos on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNbS0B8BZM04c1WmCEn3fKw/videos>.

Last, I'll speak briefly on the topic of trying to get previously published poems accepted for publication.

Submitting Reprints

As you know if you are a frequent submitter of poetry, many publications insist you send NO REPRINTS—EVER. I have been pleased, though, to find some that regularly accept previously published poems. Authors Publish is one of several websites that direct us to such publications: <https://authorspublish.com> › [24-journals-open-to-publishing-reprints](https://authorspublish.com/24-journals-open-to-publishing-reprints)

Others that accept previously published poems are *Society of Classical Poets*, *Spirit Fire Review*, *Better Than Starbucks*, *Your Daily Poem* (Jayne Jauden, editor), and *Westward Quarterly: The Magazine of Family Reading* (www.wquarterly.com). Unlike those that accept 1-5 percent of submissions, their acceptance rates are pretty high. (All have accepted mine! 😊)

~Janice Canerdy

Till next time

Janice Canerdy, MPS President