

The Magnolia Muse



Newsletter of the Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc.

March 2022 Edition

Greetings Members and Friends,

Spring has Sprung and March is busy showing off her many weather moods. The state and national contests have closed and the judges are busy evaluating our work.

I'm reading exciting things about the North Branch plans for the festival next month. Do plan to come if it is at all possible. It will be a fun and inspiring weekend.

I have a schedule set up for the volunteers from MPS to submit poems to the Tunica Voice beginning on April 6th. The poets on the April schedule have submitted their poems along with a short bio. I can't wait to see a copy of the paper with its poetry column. (I think it would improve all newspapers if they included a poetry column for their readers!)

News from the Branches

NORTH BRANCH:

North Branch will be hosting the Spring Festival at Lake Tiak O'Khata beginning Friday, April 29, at 6:00 P.M. and

ending Sunday, May 1, about 11:00 A.M. A few highlights of the festival will be contest awards, a presentation and a reading by our keynote speaker, Dr. Benjamin Morris from Hattiesburg, presentations by North Branch and Central Branch, officer elections, and the 2022 POY Award presentation. If you have questions, contact Janice Canerdy at jlcanerdy@yahoo.com

The next North Branch meeting will be March 26 at the Lee County Library in Tupelo.

CENTRAL BRANCH:

Central Branch members took part in Pacesetter Gallery's "Poetry Open Mic Night" on March 3. Those members were: Jeanne Kelly and son Andy Kelly, Patsy Twiner, Stephen Curry, Jason Ervin, Bill Gressett, and Tommy Little. Central Branch is partnering with Pacesetter Gallery's Keri Davis in presenting "Poetry Open Mic" each month. The next Open Mic will be April 7, 6-8 pm.

Central Branch met on March 19 with thirteen in attendance, welcoming new members and guests at our last two monthly meetings. Several of our poets accepted Bill Gressett's Challenge and read poems at our meeting on the theme of "A Fable Agreed Upon." Contest Chair, Jason Ervin, updated us on the status of judging the spring contest and on the upcoming project of recording poems for historical legacy.

SOUTH BRANCH:

South Branch members enjoyed an excellent program presented by Susan Newton titled "Write What You Love and Love What You Write" then shared their poems using the form Rondino as

described in the January Strophes at the March meeting. All those participating were encouraged to enter their creations in Category 24 of the NFSPS contest.

The MPS outgoing POY, Brenda Finnegan reported that all the MPS editions of *Horn Island Vista* have been sold. She has a few personal copies to sell for \$10 each (\$13 by mail). Order from her: Brenda Finnegan, 5713 Belle Fontaine Drive, Ocean Springs, MS 39546, and please indicate how you wish for your copy to be inscribed: to you; to someone else, or simply autographed.

Recent Honors, Awards and Publications

Dr. Emory Jones:

“Divine Sculpture” published in *Route 7 Review 2021 Poems*, November 2021. “

“Perfect Day” (A Minute) was published in *California Quarterly*, Volume 47, Number 3 (2021).

“Summer Hummm” won First Place in the Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer Poetry of the 2021 *White County Creative Writers Contest*

“Heavenly Peace” won Second Place in Category 1 (Rhymed or Blank Verse) in the 2021 Winter Contest of the Missouri State Poetry Society.

“Haunted House” won Second Place in the Members Only Monthly Contest for May 2020 of the Arizona State Poetry Society.

“Squawks from above...” won Honorable Mention in Category 3 (Haiku) of the Arizona State Poetry Society’s 2021 Contest.

“Heavenly Peace” won Honorable Mention in Category 6 (Jesse Belle Rittenhouse Memorial Award) of the Arizona State Poetry Society’s 2021 Contest.

“Reverie At Slack Time” won Third Place in the Margo LaGattuta Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of Michigan 2021 Contest.

“The Greater Mercy” won Second Place in Category 8 (Truth Award) of the Alabama State Poetry Society’s 2021 Fall Contest.

“Divine Sculpture” was published in *Sandcutters 2021*, journal of the Arizona State Poetry Society.

“Heavenly Peace” was published in *Sandcutters 2021*, journal of the Arizona State Poetry Society.

“Haunted House” was published in *Sandcutters 2021*, journal of the Arizona State Poetry Society.

“Desert Rose” won Honorable Mention in the Arizona State Poetry Society’s 2021 Ekphrastic Poetry Contest.

“Squawks from above...” won Second Place in the Haiku Category of the Arizona State Poetry Society’s 2021 Contest.

“Heavenly Peace” won Second Place in The Jesse Belle Rittenhouse Memorial Award of the Arizona State Poetry Society’s 2021 Contest.

“Deep Freeze” won First Place in the December 2021 Poet’s Roundtable of Arkansas Merry Christmas Contest.

“Summer Hummm” was published in Volume 90.9/Fall 2021 of *Pasques Petals*.

“Riding Herd” was published in Volume 90.9/Fall 2021 of *Pasques Petals*.

“The Piano” was published in *Poetry Quarterly*, Fall 2021 Issue.

“In their ermine stoles...” was published in *Three-Line Poetry* January 2022 Issue.

“On a pale blue sky....” Was published in *Three-Line Poetry* January 2022 Issue.

Linda Watson Owen:

poem "Foreign Age" published in Vol. 9 Chap. 4 of *Visual Verse*.

Dr. Philip Levin:

two articles published in *Gulf Coast Woman* and one accepted for publication in *Parents and Kids*.

Gail Denham:

Two poems accepted by *Door is Ajar* publication; Addison Art using a poem, along with art piece designed by Julie Addison; a 2nd prize in Massachusetts "Of Thee I Sing" contest; *Poetic Voices* used 7 poems in Jan, Feb, March; *Pen Pal Poetry* used a poem; poems in *Sandcutters* (Arizona); *Tolipse* used poems; *ISPS* used a poem, Dec '21; OCW (Oregon) used two poems in *Swallow's Nest*, Dec.; 3rd prize in Indiana contest; 1st prize in PRA contest; Highland Park put some of my poems on their Facebook site; *Quill & Parchment* used my Ekphrastic, "Out The Window" in March, and is holding a poem for fall; that's back to December 2021.

Janice Canerdy:

(1) Better Than Starbucks, February 2022

(2) Society of Classical Poets, online, January 2022

- (3) Utah State Poetry Society's Chaparral Forum Contest, a second place (no publication)
- (4) Oprelle Publications Coming Home Contest, finalist (no publication)

Susan Newton:

My first book of poetry, *The 7th Rainbow* was published by Foothills Publishing out of New York and is available from me for \$10. It's a unique, handbound chapbook which includes some of both my older and newer poetry.

Tootsy2@gmail.com

Robert Goddard:

My poem "The Thunderstorm" was published in February issue of *The Florida Writers Magazine*.

Brenda Brown Finnegan:

My sonnet, "Sanctuary" was published in *The Sun Herald* on 12/19/21: in "Reflections, more questions of 2021" by ???

This is my last issue of the newsletter and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all MPS members for the help and cooperation received whenever I asked. It has been an amazing 2 year journey serving as your president. We survived the hardships in dealing with Covid and I feel that we are coming back stronger than ever as an organization. I wish the new officers, who will be elected at the festival, all the best. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions and I'll do my best to answer them.

I look forward to seeing you at the Festival.

Gratefully yours,

Patty Butkovich

President

