



The Muse Messenger

The Newsletter of the Alabama State Poetry Society

November, 2016

Vol. 47, Nr. 11

Musings from the Editors

It's hard to believe Halloween is over, and November is already here. In spite of setting the clocks back, it's hard to think "autumn" when the temperatures are in the 80's. As is our yearly custom, we went to Mount Cheaha to have lunch and enjoy the colors. They were a little disappointing this year, and the cause is obvious. We're in the middle of a drought, and it's been nearly two months since our part of Alabama has seen any rain. In order to have vibrant colors, those trees need to be nourished and refreshed by the rain.

As writers and poets, we too need refreshing if our poetry is going to come alive and shout its message to the world. One of the ways we can get that nourishment is from the *Muse Messenger*. The editors try to make the articles interesting, appropriate and challenging for that very purpose. We even include writing challenges in every issue, including this one.

This issue also offers you several opportunities for free workshops and groups that will help your skills to grow. And the article by Rita Moritz tells you why that's important. If you have wondered if your poetry will matter in five years or ten or fifty, you'll want to read Sue Walker's "musings" about an old issue of *Negative Capability*. And if you've wondered whether you're too young or too old to write, check out the short poem by a little gal named Calliope.

Before you get busy with turkeys and pumpkin pies or Christmas decorations or (Horror of Horrors) Black Friday, schedule some "down time" over the next month. Go to a poetry reading and just listen, take a walk in the woods, or just read a good book. Your "commitments" won't really suffer for doing that, and your spirit will sing.

A Poem by Eight-Year-Old Calliope

How old (or young) must you be to write poetry? According to Sue Walker and Negative Capability Press, some poets, like Calliope, are as young as eight years old!

ASPS and the *Muse Messenger* celebrate this "first" poem and the delightful little girl who wrote it. Well done, Calliope! Obviously, that apple didn't fall far from the tree!

From Sue Walker:

Negative Capability Press is pleased to publish a poem by Calliope Rosemary Brannan Walker, age 8. I do not know the title of the poem -- and we have adjusted the spelling since the poem was written in longhand and was hard to read. Apparently, her teacher has had them create a magic box. Kudos to the teacher who stimulates such creativity.

*I will fashion my box from the bow of Cupid's arrow
and the lock from eagle's talons and diamonds rubies
and sapphires glittering in the sun.*

*In my box I will place the 15 wishes of a fairy
and then the funny frolicking shadow of Peter Pan.*

*My box will travel to Wonderland
with the red roads and trees upside down.
Trees are made of boats and blue sand
with yellow water and croquet is the only game.*

Why do you write poetry?

~ Rita Moritz

Is writing a casual pastime, a hobby, an avocation or something more? Are words the means to an end, or do you see the beauty in them, cherishing them for the delightful things they are? Are words the things that inhabit your dreams and bring excitement and joy to your days?

Since you pay for membership in ASPS, my guess is you aren't the "casual pastime" category of writer or

poet. When you and I start putting our money, however much, into our writing, we have edged into the “serious writer” category. And some of us keep trudging along until all of a sudden we’re sprinting and then running all out in pursuit of the elusive magic that is poetry.

It isn’t easy to define a poet. We’re the ones who wake up in the middle of the night with a word, a phrase or even a complete poem buzzing in our heads. And we can’t get back to sleep until we’ve written it down. We’re the ones who sit for hours watching the waves on a beach and breathing in their essence. We inhale similes and exhale metaphors. And we could find the spiritual truth or human application or deeper meaning in a tin can we find on the side of the road.

Whatever your level of skill, or mine, every poet has areas where they could grow. Do you recognize your weak areas as well as your strong ones? Maybe you excel at forms and rhyme but freeze up at the thought of blank or free verse. Maybe (like me) you are completely intimidated by prose poems. Knowing your areas of weakness can help you make them areas of strength. How can you do that?

A few of things come to mind. The first, of course, is getting involved with a writing group that meets regularly. Being part of a group will require a commitment from you that may carry over to your writing. Whether the group is a structured critique group or a group that only gives positive feedback, your writing will benefit from it.

Reading is the second thing that comes to mind. If you’re too busy writing to read other writers in your genre, you’re too busy. And your writing will never grow beyond where you are now. I love anything by Billy Collins, and every one of his poems has challenged me in some way. My writing has changed, evolved, and been stretched by reading him and other poets. Barry Marks, whose opinion I highly value, told me my writing has “matured.” He’s right, but it didn’t happen by accident.

The third thing that comes to mind is making an effort to invest in growing your skills. That might mean conferences, workshops or one-on-one mentoring. There are several opportunities available if you want to do that. The Gifts of a Wordsmith workshops are twice a month. And they’re free. The

workshop leaders vary, but all of them bring something that will stretch you. Have I mentioned that they’re free?

Alabama is rich in conferences at varying locations and times, and most of them are reasonably priced. And some very gifted people occasionally offer one-on-one workshops. Sue Brannan Walker has made herself available to do those workshops on a limited basis. An individual workshop and having the chance to learn from one of Alabama’s Poets Laureate? Wow! Who could turn that down?

When the folks in Writers Anonymous ask me to help them “fix” a poem, I always say, “It’s your baby. You’ll have to spank it.” And that’s my challenge to you, dear poets. If you’re serious about your writing, if poetry is more than a casual pastime, maybe it’s time you decided to “spank your baby” by getting involved in some things that will help you grow.

The Daily Workshop

~ Rita Moritz

This column will propose “workshops” you can do all by your lonesome, in the privacy of your own home. Most will take no more than an hour and all can be done daily, weekly or whenever you can...remember that a little self-discipline goes a long way!

Last month’s workshop suggested you start collecting words and phrases. You were to listen for them and then write them in notebooks or keep a list of them on your computer or other device. I followed my own suggestion and came up with some interesting words and phrases (although nothing as good as “confused as a termite in a yoyo.”). My guess is several of them will find their way into poems this month, and the list continues to grow.

Since we worked on words last month, let’s work on images this month. Collecting images is easy because they’re everywhere. How you collect them is up to you. Maybe you want to set your clock early enough to take a picture of the sunrise. Perhaps you can take a walk and gather some of the beautiful autumn leaves and make a collage. Or you might take an even easier route and go through some old magazines, cutting out pictures that “speak” to you.

Once you've gathered your images for the day, put them where you can see them. Then try doing some "stream of consciousness" writing with that visual in your mind. You may or may not come up with a poem, the beginning of a story, or anything you want to share. But you'll be feeding your Muse, and a well-fed Muse is a basic necessity for those of us who want to create magic with our words. After a month of gathering images, your Muse be "revved up" and ready to write some beautiful poetry.

Writing Prompts - The Fifty Most Quoted Lines of Poetry

Choose one or more of these most commonly quoted lines of poetry to create your own poem. If it's overused and trite, which most of them are, make it fresh and new. Check back next month for the next 10.

30. "The lady doth protest too much, methinks."
(929,000 Shakespeare)
29. "The old lie: Dulce et Decorum Est."
"it is sweet and honorable..."
(990,000 Wilfred Owen)
28. "Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose."
(1,050,000 Gertrude Stein)
27. "When I am an old woman I shall wear purple."
(1,060,000 Jenny Joseph)
26. "I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree."
(1,080,000 Joyce Kilmer)
25. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast."
(1,080,000 Alexander Pope)
24. "When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,"
(1,100,000 Shakespeare)
23. "I grow old... I grow old...
I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled"
(1,140,000 T.S. Eliot)
22. "'The time has come', the Walrus said,
'To talk of many things.'"
(1,300,000 Lewis Carroll)
21. "A narrow fellow in the grass"
(1,310,000 Emily Dickinson)

A Trail Down Memory Lane

I read with delight Sue Walker's, "Sue's Musings," a while back. Reading what she said about writers and poets she once knew, I was reminded of the many people who impacted my writing. Take your own trip down "Memory Lane" and share it with us. We'd love to publish it in the *Muse Messenger*. (Eds.)

Sue's Musings

~ Sue Brannan Walker

Time is relative and the past is never dead. This morning, I picked up an old issue of "Negative Capability" off my shelf – the cover by Mobile's Renaissance man, Eugene Walter. "Lord, love a duck," as he used to say. I miss him.

I open the journal and find "The Artist's Statement:"
"Think a new thought every day: OTHERWISE a new thought will think you! Recent research would indicate that Shakespeare married Maria Theresa in HELL; their progeny: Goethe, Jung, Debussy, Cocteau, Fellini, Cecil B. DeMille, James Beard, Thurber, Mozart, and Muriel Spark . . . ah, yes) Think a new . . . ah, yes!

And I thought I would indulge in a bit of name-dropping by creating an unrhymed sonnet-cento:

Pretend," he insisted – and they did,
Good memories, fresh and sweet as the dawn,
We sat and talked about the past.

You're easy, comfortable, quite informal
and all the while those eyes
a gray-blue mist.

The year gutted in the blaze of autumn,
a small girl calls "Grandma, the sky
reflects from your eyes, blued and smooth."

I want to tell you
of this day against the poster-board sky,
I remember when we buried daddy.

So much happiness and terror;
My friends, I love you all.

*
Nicholas Rinaldi, "Miracle Of The Tongues"
(Fairfield, CT)

May Sarton, "Mourning To Do" (York, ME)

Julie Suk, "Stones" (Charlotte, NC)

Robert N. Wilson, "Conversations With Death"
(Carrboro, NC)

Katherine Soniat, "Finding A Resting Place"
(Metairie, LA)

Emory D. Jones, "Autumn Sunshine" (Iuka, MI)

Eric Trethewey, "Leaving" (New Brunswick, CT –
father of Natasha, Classmate of Sue Walker at
Tulane)

Natale Safir, "Shifting" (Hastings-on-Hudson, NY)
Bradley R. Strahan, "Chilly Scenes Of Winter"
(Arlington, VA)

Leon V. Driskell, "Nunc Dimittis" (Louisville, KY)

Harriet Susskind, "Lean Benefits" (Pittsford, NY)

Elaine M. McDermott, "Kumquats In Winter"
(Gulfport, MI)

Lucile Blanchard, "I Have Sat With Madmen"
(Middletown, CN)

Robert Lunday, "My Friends (I'm going West) (New
York, NY)

Some of these wonderful writers are no longer alive
as are their words, and some I have lost touch with
and addresses have changed. Nevertheless, know
that you always matter as far as Negative Capability
is concerned.

Call for *Muse Messenger* Submissions

What Can I Submit to the *Muse Messenger*?

Our goal as the Editors of the *Muse Messenger* is to
make it a "real" member newsletter. That means we
want the content to be focused on, of interest to,
and even written by you...the members of ASPS.
Here are some of the features that would welcome
your submissions:

- **Member News.** If you've won a contest, had something accepted for publication, hosted a party or done anything else you want other members to know about, let us know. We love hearing about your success and letting others know about it.

- **What's Happening.** Do you have an event planned? A workshop? A conference? If it has value, share it so other members will know about it.

- **Tips & Tools of the Trade.** What writing prompts work for you? What are some common errors to avoid? Put together three or four tips and send them to us. If we can use them, we'll credit you.

- **Articles.** We're always looking for well-written articles about poetry and writing. Articles should be between 300-600 words and should also be crisp, clean copy. Write it, edit it carefully and send it to us.

- **Monthly Challenges.** If you send your challenge to us, we will include it in a future issue and credit you.

- **Fillers.** Fillers should be 100 to 200 words. They can be interesting, informative, or just fun.

All your submissions should be attached as a Word document and sent by email to:

editor@musemessenger.org. Put the feature you are submitting to in the Subject line (i.e. Article, Tips and Tools, etc.). If you wish, you may also send your submissions for any section of the *Muse Messenger* using snail mail to:

Muse Messenger, P.O. 1651, Pell City, AL 35125.

Member News for October

Faye Adams sponsored the "CentO" category in the Galaxy of Verse Fall/Winter Competition. Link to Galaxy pages: barbara-blanks.com – click on contests, and follow directions for the CentO Category.

Ramey Channell's book, *The Witches of Moonlight Ridge*, is now available from Amazon in paperback and Kindle version. It is also available from Barnes & Noble. This is Book 2 in *The Moonlight Ridge Series*.

Claire Feild has in the past two weeks had poems and one creative nonfiction story accepted for publication in the following three print journals: *Freshwater*, *The Whole Truth*, and *Slipstream Press*.

Ed George released his fourth collection of poems, entitled "*Dark Roast*." It was published by NewSouth Books. His book is available from NewSouth Books on their website or at their bookstore in Montgomery. It is also available on Amazon.com.

Urainah Glidewell's articles have become a regular feature in the *St. Clair New Aegis*. (And it's richer because of it. *Eds.*)

Lori Lasseter (Hamilton) will be the featured poet at Peerless Poetry After Dark in Anniston on December 11th at 7 p.m. This is a poetry open mic with a featured poet at the Peerless Saloon and Grille on the second Sunday of the month. She will have her two poetry chapbooks available for purchase.

Harry Moritz reports that Writers Anonymous brought home 11 awards from the 2016 ASPS Fall Contest. And this is from the people who thought they couldn't write poetry? Well done, WA!

Rita Moritz reports about 20 people attended the workshop she did in Orange Beach last month. Her workshop, "If You Build It, They Will Come," focused on how to build a successful writing group. Included was a mini-workshop on "Tapping into Your Creativity."

Mike Wahl will have two poems published in the January 2017 issue of the worship poetry anthology, "*Stones Before the Ocean.*"

Mike Wahl also reported that The Huntsville Literary Association (HLA) monthly poetry writing workshop was held on October 25th. The 13 members in attendance read their selected poems, and were encouraged with appropriate accolades and helpful suggestions from the group on possible improvements to be made. For information about November's workshop, please contact Jimmy Robinson at: robinsonjimmy70@gmail.com.

Sue Walker, Publisher / Editor of Negative Capability has been conducting one-on-one writing four-week workshops. There will two slots opening up on November 1. If you are interested, contact Sue Walker at: suebrannanwalker@me.com for particulars.

***Muse Messenger* Monthly Challenge.**

Because of the feedback we have received from members and because of the few entries, we have discontinued the *Muse Messenger* Monthly Contest. We will instead issue challenges each month that

members can use as writing prompts. There are three challenges this month. They are as follows:

- **Holidays:** Some people look forward to the holidays with anticipation. But the holidays aren't always all "happy, happy, joy, joy," are they? Do you look back on holidays past and wish you could still capture the magic? Or are you tempted to put Prozac in the stuffing because of some of your family? Do you grind your teeth at seeing Christmas decorations in the middle of October? The challenge is for you to write about the holidays from whatever perspective you choose.
- **The Beauty of Words:** Why do you write poetry? Is it the imagery, the cadence, or something else that inspires you and wakes up your Muse? It might even be the way a word feels in your mouth. Can't you sometimes almost taste some words? Ask yourself those questions and write a poem about words and why you feel compelled to write them down.
- **Endings:** As we welcome November and autumn and inch along toward the end of 2016, we not only think of holidays, but also of endings. The challenge is for you to write about endings: the end of the year, the end of a relationship, the end of a job, or the end of anything else. (Thank you, Jeanette!)

We would love to hear some suggestions from you. What prompts do you use? Send them to us, and we'll be glad to share them with the rest of ASPS. If you've written a poem based on one of the monthly challenges, send that to us as well. If there's room in the *Muse Messenger* the following month, we'll publish it. Send prompts and/or poems to us at: editor@musemessenger.org, and we will include them in a future issue of *Muse Messenger* and credit you.

What's Happening?

November 11: Bamaslam Montevallo Poetry Slam is on Friday, November 11. Sign up at 8:00 p.m., and the slam begins at 9:00 p.m. at Eclipse Coffee and Books, 1032 Main Street in Montevallo. Email Jerri Hardesty at: WytRabbit1@aol.com for more information.

November 12: Pensters Writing Group University of South Alabama, 111 St. James St. Room 11, Fairhope will have a workshop from 10:00-12:00,

titled “Kid Lit 101” by featured speaker, Carrie Dalby Cox. For more information, go to: pensterswritinggroup.com/events/

November 19: Gifts of a Wordsmith, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the third Saturday of each month from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Barry Marks at: barry@leaselawyer.com for more information.

December 1: Please Note Change in Time and Location! Writers Anonymous will meet on December 1 at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more information, go to: writersanonymous.us.

December 2: Bamaslam Montevallo Poetry Slam is on Friday, December 2. Sign up at 8:00 p.m., and the slam begins at 9:00 p.m. at Eclipse Coffee and Books, 1032 Main Street in Montevallo. Email Jerri Hardesty at: WytRabbit1@aol.com for more information.

December 6: Gifts of a Wordsmith, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Barry Marks at: barry@leaselawyer.com for more information.

December 10: Pensters Writing Group, University of South Alabama, 111 St. James St. Room 11, Fairhope will host the 2016 Pensters Holiday Celebration from 10:00 to 12:00. Join us for food and fellowship. Members will have tables set up to sell or advertise their work. For more information, go to: pensterswritinggroup.com/events/

December 19: Gifts of a Wordsmith, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the third Saturday of each month from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Barry Marks at: barry@leaselawyer.com for more information.

If you have an event you would like us to add to “What’s Happening,” please send us the details at: editor@musemessenger.com.

Highlights on State Poetry Societies:

In order for a State Poetry Society to be featured, it must have a web presence and allow both out-of-state membership and non-member entries in their

contests. Keep in mind that contest deadlines may change. Some may accept outside submissions to their journals.

	<i>State:</i>	<i>Dues</i>	<i>Contest Deadlines.</i>
Georgia:		\$30/\$40	11/15
	Inet:	georgiapoetrysociety.org/	
	Facebook:	on.fb.me/1YUG2VU	
Illinois:		\$20	Several/Varied
	Inet:	illinoispoets.org/	
Indiana:		\$18	7/1-9/30
	Inet:	isfpc.org/	

Contests, Contests, Contests!

(November/December Contests with Deadlines)

11/15—Georgia Poetry Society
georgiapoetrysociety.org

11/15—Harpur Palate Prizes for Poetry and for Creative Nonfiction bit.ly/2fnywSS

11/15—Poetry Society of New Hampshire:
bit.ly/1Xs0oUe

11/15—Poetry Society of South Carolina:
[poetrysocietysc.org/](http://poetrysocietysc.org)

11/15—Ruminate Magazine VanderMey Nonfiction Prize bit.ly/2fMauTX

11/15—Sycamore & Ivy Fall 2016 Poetry Contest
bit.ly/2fkSrni

11/20—Poetry Society of TN (Members Only)
Submit by Nov 20th for December
[poetrysocietytn.org/](http://poetrysocietytn.org)

11/30—Poetry Society of Oklahoma:
oklahomapoets.com

11/30—Abilene Writers Guild Annual Contest
bit.ly/2fwrPjg

11/30—Atlantis Short Story Contest
atlantis-shortstorycontest.com

11/30—California: Topic by month & submitted during each month.
bit.ly/1LEi3zR

- 11/30—Chicken Soup for the Soul: Military Families:
chickensoup.com
- 11/30—Conceit Magazine Love Poem Contest
bit.ly/2eJQWf2
- 11/30—Poetry Society of Oklahoma:
oklahomapoets.com
- 11/30—Soul-Making Literary Competition:
soulmakingcontest.us/rules.html
- 12/1—Wyoming Poets Org Eugene V. Shea
Annual National Contest October 1-Dec 1
bit.ly/2clsYXp
- 12/1—Redrock Chaparral Contest:
bit.ly/1OvuByb December 1
- 12/1—Slipstream Chapbook Contest:
bit.ly/1QLhWdy December 1
- 12/1—Wyoming: Eugene V Shea Annual Contest:
bit.ly/1XwF928 10/1-12/1
- 12/15—Massachusetts: Arthur (Skip) Potter
Memorial Contest bit.ly/1OvutOX
- 12/31—ASPS: Book of the Year:
alabamapoets.org
- 12/31—ASPS: Poet of the Year:
alabamapoets.org

Publishers and Journals That Are Accepting Submissions

The following publishers and journals are now open for submissions. Be sure to read and follow the submission guidelines provided on each website. Only your very best work should be submitted.

- The Birmingham Arts Journal:*
birminghamartsjournal.com
- Chicken Soup for the Soul:*
chickensoup.com/
- Cicada (Cricket Magazine)*
cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/17820
- Desert Breeze Publishing*
desertbreezepublishing.com/submissions

Haiku Journal:
bit.ly/22JMYpt

Heirloom Gardener
bit.ly/2dQEIQ0

Kudzu House Quarterly:
kudzuhouse.org

Mayfly
bit.ly/1Zs4e0w

Negative Capability Press:
negativecapabilitypress.org

Penny Magazine:
youfoundpenny.com

Purpose Magazine:
(Submissions must meet the monthly themes.)
faithandliferesources.org/periodicals/purpose

Reader's Digest 100-word True Story:
rd.com/100-word-stories-submissions

The Poetry Foundation:
poetryfoundation.org

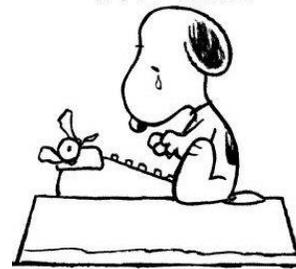
Sterling Publishing
sterlingpublishing.com/author-guidelines.html

Sunpenny Publishing
sunpenny.com/#!submissions

Be sure to check the website for submission guidelines before submitting to any of these.

If you know of publishers or journals that are accepting submissions, please let us know so they can be included in the next *Muse Messenger*.

The End.



Alabama State Poetry Society - 2016 Fall Contests - WINNERS' LIST

1. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY SPRING CONTEST (Sponsored by ASPS) 60 entries
 *THIS CATEGORY IS OPEN TO PAID MEMBERS ONLY \$75, \$50, \$25, \$10 and 3 Honorable Mentions in order of merit. Any form, Any subject, Line limit 60.

1st Place	Dargan Ware	<i>Anchors, Far Away</i>	Moody, AL
2nd Place	Catherine Moran	<i>Those parting comments</i>	Little Rock, AR
3rd Place	Shawnette Daniel	<i>Pecan Pickin'</i>	Cropwell, AL
4th Place	Janet Anderson	<i>after the tornadoes</i>	Huntsville, AL
1st HM	Jeanette Willert	<i>Consolation</i>	Pell City, AL
2nd HM	Gail Gehlken	<i>For the Children</i>	Irvington, AL
3rd HM	Bettye K. Cannizzo	<i>Westward the Wagons</i>	Hartselle, AL

2. THE ALABAMA ANIMAL ADVOCACY AWARD (Sponsored by Alabama Animal Advocacy -- alanimals.org) 38 entries *WINNING POEMS WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLINE WITH AUTHORS' PERMISSION. \$60, \$25, \$15 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Subject: Wild or domestic animals

1st Place	Karen Morris	<i>The Blessing</i>	Pensacola, FL
2nd Place	Barbara Blanks	<i>Of Mice and Music</i>	Garland, TX
3rd Place	Joanne R. Cage	<i>The Ghost of Little Bear</i>	Leeds, AL
1st HM	Lori Anne Goetz	<i>Tiny Defender</i>	Germantown, TN
2nd HM	Ellaraine Lockie	<i>Rebellion</i>	Sunnyvale, CA
3rd HM	Randy C. Hale	<i>My Cat The Poet</i>	Oneonta, AL
4th HM	Gail Gehlken	<i>Oliver Steps Down</i>	Irvington, AL

3. "THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BIRDS" AWARD (Sponsored by Bettye Cannizzo) 45 entries
 \$50, \$35, \$15 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Subject: Birds

1st Place	Rita Aiken Moritz	<i>Each Hummingbird a Gift</i>	Pell City, AL
2nd Place	Joanne R. Cage	<i>Haiku (Two hawks in Maytime)</i>	Leeds, AL
3rd Place	Janet Anderson	<i>Through the Storm</i>	Huntsville, AL
1st HM	Charles K. Firmage	<i>Crimson Feathers</i>	Boise, ID
2nd HM	Myra Ward Barra	<i>The Caribbean Grackle</i>	Pell City, AL
3rd HM	Ruth Hill	<i>Pine Siskin</i>	Chetwynd, BC Canada
4th HM	Ellaraine Lockie	<i>Encounters with Crows</i>	Sunnyvale, CA
5th HM	Catherine Moran	<i>Gifts from crows</i>	Little Rock, AR

4. THE DAVID KATO PRIZE, in honor of murdered Ugandan gay activist David Kato (1964-2011). (Sponsored by Jendi Reiter) *WINNING POEMS WILL BE PUBLISHED ONLINE WITH AUTHORS' PERMISSION. 8 entries. \$50, \$30, \$20 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion Any form, Subject: Human rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. No line limit.

1st Place	Seth Cortland Tanner	<i>Shepard</i>	Talladega, AL
2nd Place	Dargan Ware	<i>The Funeral</i>	Moody, AL
3rd Place	Barbara Blanks	<i>Heart Strings</i>	Garland, TX
1st HM	Janet Anderson	<i>moons under wing</i>	Huntsville, AL
2nd HM	Jerri Hardesty	<i>Chrysanthemum</i>	Brierfield, AL

5. THE "WRITERS ANONYMOUS" AWARD (Sponsored by Writers Anonymous) 15 entries
 \$40, \$30, \$20 and \$10 for 4th Place, 3 Honorable Mentions. Form: Villanelle, Subject: Change is a part of life, but it isn't always comfortable, is it? Put together your best words and write a villanelle about that topic.

1st Place	LaVern Spencer	<i>McCarthy In Hindsight</i>	Blair, OK
2nd Place	Jerri Hardesty	<i>Change Will Come</i>	Brierfield, AL
3rd Place	Evelyn M. Hurley	<i>While Blooms of August Sing</i>	Gaylesville, AL
4th Place	Catherine Moran	<i>Growing with change</i>	Little Rock, AR
1st HM	Georgette Perry	<i>Riverie</i>	Huntsville, AL
2nd HM	Charles K. Firmage	<i>Lips That Speak Truth</i>	Boise, ID
3rd HM	Dalene Stull	<i>Human Plans</i>	Danville, OH

Alabama State Poetry Society - 2016 Fall Contests - WINNERS' LIST – (Continued)

6. THE "POET'S CHOICE" AWARD (Sponsored by Jeanette Willert) 61 entries. \$40, \$25, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, any subject, line limit 50.
- | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1st Place | Ellaraine Lockie | <i>Sexed on a Kona Balcony</i> | Sunnyvale, CA |
| 2nd Place | Evelyn M. Hurley | <i>Consolation</i> | Gaylesville, AL |
| 3rd Place | Ramey Channell | <i>Calling Up Magic</i> | Leeds, AL |
| 1st HM | Christine Riddle | <i>The Weaver</i> | Foley, AL |
| 2nd HM | Jessica Temple | <i>Ghosts Floated Through My Childhood</i> | Madison, AL |
| 3rd HM | Ruth Hill | <i>Harbor of Rainbows</i> | Chetwynd, BC Canada |
7. THE "PRECIOUS PRODIGAL" AWARD (Sponsored by Precious Prodigal, Harry and Rita Moritz) \$40, \$20, \$10 and \$5 for 4th Place, 3 Honorable Mentions. 56 entries. Any form, Subject: With the passing of time, people and things age. That's sometimes a good thing, and sometimes it's not. Write a poem in any form about aging.
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|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1st Place | Seth Cortland Tanner | <i>Sweet Tea</i> | Talladega, AL |
| 2nd Place | Evelyn M. Hurley | <i>Shelter</i> | Gaylesville, AL |
| 3rd Place | Sylvia Williams Dodgen | <i>If You Were Here</i> | Orange Beach, AL |
| 4th Place | Christine Riddle | <i>The Folksinger at 58</i> | Foley, AL |
| 1st HM | Jerri Hardesty | <i>Visible Markers</i> | Brierfield, AL |
| 2nd HM | Janet Anderson | <i>Entering In</i> | Huntsville, AL |
| 3rd HM | Dalene Stull | <i>Poetry of Love</i> | Danville, OH |
8. "THE WHEELS ON THE BUS" AWARD (Sponsored by Myra Ward Barra) 11 entries. \$30, \$25, \$15 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion Any form, Subject: Bus rides, public transportation, school buses, behavior on buses, prisoners on buses, bus drivers, bus accidents, yellow buses, greyhound buses, buses that run late or are too full...
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|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1st Place | LaVern Spencer McCarthy | <i>The Old, Yellow School Bus</i> | Blair, OK |
| 2nd Place | Faye Adams | <i>Slice of Life</i> | De Soto, MO |
| 3rd Place | Rita Aiken Moritz | <i>The Yellow Chrysalis</i> | Pell City, AL |
9. THE "MAKE THEM LAUGH" AWARD (Sponsored by Jodi Adamson) 43 entries. \$30, \$15, \$10 and Honorable Mentions at judge's discretion. Any form, Theme: A poem that makes us laugh; no depressing stuff. Line limit: 20
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|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1st Place | Rita Aiken Moritz | <i>The Dutiful Wife</i> | Pell City, AL |
| 2nd Place | Ramey Channell | <i>Flea</i> | Leeds, AL |
| 3rd Place | Joanne R. Cage | <i>Marsupial Strabismus</i> | Leeds, AL |
10. THE "I'LL TAKE THE SHORT FORM, PLEASE!" AWARD (Sponsored by Kirk and Jerri Hardesty and NewDawnUnlimited.com) 51 entries. \$25 and 2 HM's. Form: Any short form, but not free verse, (ie. couplet, haiku, sijo, quatrain, tanka, cinquain, limerick, beech, etheree, fibonacci, jaleen, triolet, rondelet, Lil Ann, octet, oriental octet, etc.), Subject: Any. Line limit 8.
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|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1st Place | Michael Johnson | <i>Turnip</i> | Russellville, AL |
| 1st HM | Charles K. Firmage | <i>Last Stand</i> | Boise, ID |
| 2nd HM | Faye Adams | <i>The Last Rosebud</i> | De Soto, MO |

The Alabama State Poetry Society — Our 2017 Officers:

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