



The Muse Messenger

The Newsletter of the Alabama State Poetry Society

February, 2017

Vol. 48, Nr. 02

Musings from the Editors

We've had more than our share of rain lately, and we needed it. But since you can't do much outside when it's raining, grab a cup of coffee (or tea) and check out this month's *Muse Messenger*. There's a lot to see this month.

Take a look at "Bettye's Balcony," which we're hoping will be a regular monthly part of the *Muse Messenger*. If you're still collecting words like I am, it will give you a chance to add a couple of words to your list.

Then, thanks to Mike Wahl, you can learn about the wonderful work being done by the Huntsville Literary Association. If they could bottle that enthusiasm and energy, I'd be their first customer. Don't you just love words and the people who not only write them but also encourage others to write them?

Myra Ward Barra contributed an article this month too. It's about improving your poetry or other writing, and she suggested some ways to do it. I have watched Myra's growth as a poet, and I can tell you she's already amazing and is still trying to improve.

Whatever else you have planned this month, try to include the Mid-Winter Writers Conference in those plans. Early registration is only \$65, and it includes five workshops, two keynote, and a panel as well as your breakfast and lunch. Presenters include our own Sue Walker and Barry Marks.

I have to admit, however, what I'm looking forward to most is the icebreaker brought by Margie Littleton. When the title is "What happens at the conference STAYS at the conference," who wouldn't be intrigued?

Being the Best You Can Be

~ Myra Ward Barra

I'm fairly new to writing poetry, and I have found a new love in doing so. I've always enjoyed reading poetry, but I decided to just "give it a try" when I was challenged to at Writers Anonymous. After I wrote a few poems, I began to gain a little confidence and, after reading in the *Muse Messenger* about Sue Walker's monthly classes, I decided to apply for them.

Just reading Sue Walker's resume made me question why she would bother with someone like me, a person not nearly as skilled as she in writing poetry. After all, she was a Poet Laureate, and my career was imaging and diagnosing the human body. Give me some blood vessels and body organs, and I am in my comfort zone. But I am scared stiff by a villanelle or sonnet.

However, because I really do love poetry and want to learn, I applied for her class. I was surprised when she accepted me, and I am glad she did. It was worth every minute! Sue was extremely patient with me, gently critiquing my rough writings and helping me see alternative ways of writing through word choices, line endings, forms, and titles.

I will never compose the same way again. After reading her assignments, utilizing her suggested writing tools and personal critiques, I now look at my writings differently. The month passed way too fast!

Anyone who is serious about their writing wants to improve and be the best they can be. Whether you decide to apply for Sue's classes or pursue another course or path to improve your writing skills, don't you think it's time for you to do something? I did, and it's one of the best decisions I've ever made.

If you just need basic instruction or want to hone your writing skills, you may want to consider applying for Sue's online class. She cares that you learn. You will finish her class a changed poet.

~ From Betty's Balcony

Hello! My name is Betty Cannizzo. When Rita called and asked me to write a monthly column for the *Muse Messenger*, she surprised me so much that I agreed! You may already know how hard it is to tell Rita, "No!"

Since it's a new year, I thought we would have some fun and learn some new words. My source is *Webster's New Explorer Dictionary*. T

These are some of the words I found in the "Modern Culture" section.

Abaya: A loose-fitting, full-length robe worn by some Muslim women.

Bollywood: The motion-picture industry in India.

Bromance: A close, non-sexual friendship between men.

Crunk: A style of Southern rap music featuring repetitive chants and rapid dance rhythms.

Hijab: The head covering for the hair and neck that is worn by Muslim women.

The following words are from the "Eating and Drinking" section.

Agnolotti: Pasta in the form of semi-circular cases (I'd call them pouches) that contain a filling like meat, cheese, or veggies (kind of like ravioli).

Cibatta: A flat, oblong bread having a moist interior and a crispy crust.

Goji: The dark red, mildly tart berry of a thorny, chiefly Asian shrub that is typically dried and used in beverages.

The last group we'll consider this month is the "Generic Section."

Buzzkill: A person or thing that has a depressive or negative effect.

Cube Farm: Slang for an office in which employees work in cubicles.

Frenemy: One who pretends to be a friend, but is actually an enemy.

Labradoodle: A dog that is a cross between a Labrador and a Retriever.

Shero: A woman regarded as a hero. (Unique, isn't it? I think I like it.)

Snitty: Disagreeably ill-tempered.

Tighty-Whites (also Tighty-Whiteys): slang for snug white underwear for men.

Gentlemen's Club: A nightclub for men that features scantily clad women dancers...a perfect oxymoron and a perfect place for me to end.

Until next time,
Betty

The Huntsville Literary Association

~ Mike Wahl

The Huntsville Literary Association (HLA) is a group dedicated to promoting and encouraging the literary arts in Alabama's Tennessee Valley area. HLA is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization with hundreds of members from the North Alabama area.

Annual dues and grants are the primary source of income for HLA's successful programs. Founded by a group of literary enthusiasts in 1967, today's organization sponsors or co-sponsors a spectrum of activities, including many in the poetry arena. They have published *POEM*, the renowned literary magazine, twice a year in the spring and fall continuously since 1967. There will be an article dedicated to submittal guidelines for *POEM* in next month's *Muse Messenger*.

HLA annually sponsors The Young Writers Contest for short story and poetry submissions by area students as well as Poetry Out Loud, contests for high school students. They have poetry writing meetings and workshops that offer aspiring and published writers an opportunity to hone their skills with guidance from notable authors.

Works of these groups are presented at special events open to the membership and guests in the spring. There are occasional Sunday Salons, where

members enjoy talks by guest authors and poets, and Book Chats, casual discussion groups at members' homes.

Each month (except December) on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00, HLA members who are interested in poetry meet for a Poetry Writing Workshop. Attendees are encouraged to bring 12-15 copies of a poem they are currently working on. Members can then read along when the poet reads the poem aloud, allowing the best opportunity for critiquing and comments.

Individual membership in HLA is \$40, and membership goes from September to September. For inquiries about membership, please contact Leslie Thomas Collins at: membership@hlahsv.org. Dues may be mailed to: Huntsville Literary Association, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 919, Huntsville AL 35804. The HLA website address is: <http://hlahsv.org>.

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 focused on the sense of touch. What were you able to do with that? And what did it do to improve your poetry or other writing? Did you become more aware of textures? My 16-year-old granddaughter was here last week and was having a tough day. She was comforted by one of my softest throw blankets. Doesn't that just beg for a poem?

This month's workshop will focus on the sense of hearing. What must it be like to be deaf in a world filled with sounds? What about the "usual" sounds you automatically tune out. If your electricity has ever gone off for an hour, you already know there are many sounds you would hear if you listened for them. That's true in other ways as well. Doctors say patients who are in a coma can still hear even though they appear unresponsive. Patients who

have come out of comas often repeat complete conversations they heard.

This month, you are to focus on your sense of hearing. Turn off the T.V., turn off the phone, sit on your porch or deck or in your living room and just listen. Do you hear the birds busy about building their nests? Do you hear a breeze soughing in the trees? Do you hear the clock ticking? What do you hear in the sound of a loved one's voice? Gather those precious sounds and write a poem about them.

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 February

Jodi Adamson reports that the ASPS Spring Meeting will be in Orange Beach again this year. Dates for that meeting are April 21 and 22. The Orange Beach Library has been booked from 9:00 – 2:30 that Saturday.

Faye Gaston's poem, "A Widow's Tears," was shared at a state-wide Alabama Gideons meeting. It was read and the background explained by Hope Jinks to the wives of the Gideons. Hope reported that the wives picked up all available 50 copies of the poem.

Barry Marks will be doing a workshop at the Mid-Winter Writers Conference in Pell City on February 25.

Harry Moritz announces that the Mid-Winter Writers Conference is scheduled for February 25th and will include our own Sue Walker and Barry Marks as two of the presenters, and Rita will be one of the keynote speakers. The Conference flyer is attached and you can view the list of presenters and their workshop topics at: <http://bit.ly/1YcC1fy>.

Rita Moritz reports she has completed the *Companion Workbook* to her book, *So You Love a Prodigal: What You Can't Do, What You Can Do, Why You Can't Quit*, and it is now available on Amazon.com at: amzn.to/2kxKgTU. If purchased from her website, both books can be bundled for a savings of nearly \$4. See: <http://bit.ly/2gaXLIm>.

Jimmy Robinson reports that The Huntsville Literary Association's monthly poetry workshop is held on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7-9 PM at rotating venues. Call or e-mail Jimmy Robinson at jmr815@comcast.net or 256-520-0811 for the next meeting's site.

Jessica Temple will be holding a Meet & Greet reading and signing on March 4 at the Out Loud

HSV Studio in Lowe Mill in Huntsville. She will be presenting her chapbook, *Seamless and Other Legends*. The event is from 10:00-2:00 with the reading at 12:00. It's free and open to the public. Information is available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2188561971369704/>

Jeanette Willert wants to remind members that the deadline for entering the ASPS Spring Contest is March 27th.

Sue Walker and several others participated in a Readers Theater production of Eugene Walter's short story, "The Byzantine Riddle," at the new Hilton Hotel's "Monkey Bar" (named for Eugene) in downtown Mobile. The script was written by Sue Walker.

The new revised edition of Sue's, *It's Good Weather for Fudge: Conversing with Carson McCullers* came out from NewSouth Press in Montgomery in January 2017. Sue gave a reading from this book at the Georgia Center for the Arts in Decatur Georgia on January 30.

Sue also spoke at several places through January and into February. Can you believe she still teaches in her "spare time?" Once she catches her breath, she will be doing a workshop at the Mid-Winter Writers Conference in Pell City on February 25.

Muse Messenger Monthly Challenge.

Each month, the editors choose challenges to include in the *Muse Messenger*. Two of the challenges this month were taken from the National Federation of State Poetry Society's yearly contest. The * indicates the category is open for members only. If you are a member of ASPS, you are also a member of NFSPS. The deadline for entries is March 15. Between now and then, most of the monthly challenges will be the categories taken from the NFSPS contest. The three challenges for this month are as follows:

The Mid-Winter Writers Conference Contests (Two Contests) Sponsored by Writers Anonymous. (One entry per contest) Must be received by February 17. First Prize in each contest is \$100.

Must be registered for the conference and be present to win.

Poetry: Must not exceed 40 lines. Any Topic.

Short Story or Flash Fiction: Any topic. No more than six double-spaced pages.

See: <http://bit.ly/2kHXgre> for additional guidelines.

These following two are from the NFSPS Contest:

14. **THE VIRGINIA CORRIE-COZART MEMORIAL AWARD:** Subject: Art and/or Music. Form. Any 40-line limit.

15 **ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD:** Subject: When I Wake Up. Form : Any. 40-line limit. Sponsored by the Arizona State Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$75. 2nd Prize: \$30. 3rd Prize: \$20.

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?

February 2: Please Note Change in Time and Location! Writers Anonymous will meet on February 2 at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more information, go to: writersanonymous.us

February 7: 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.

February 11: Pensters Writing Group, University of South Alabama, 111 St. James St. Room 11, Fairhope will have their regular meeting on February 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Special guest Mick Odom will be speaking on "Copyright Basics for Busy Writers." For more

information, go to:

pensterswritinggroup.com/events

February 17: Bamaslam Montevallo Poetry Slam is on Friday, February 17. 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.

February 18: 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.

February 24: Writers Anonymous and the Pell City Library will be hosting a "Meet & Greet" at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24. Come meet the authors and presenters for the 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference. There is no charge for this event, and it is open to the public.

February 25: The 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference will be held at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway. Check the website at: mwwconference.com or our FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/MidWinterWritersConference/> for updates.

March 2: Please Note Change in Time and Location! Writers Anonymous will meet on March 2 at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more information, go to: writersanonymous.us.

March 7: 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.

March 11: Pensters Writing Group, University of South Alabama, 111 St. James St. Room 11, Fairhope will have their regular meeting on March 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Special guest Rosanne Gulisano will be speaking on "Freelancing as a Ghost Writer." For more information, go to: pensterswritinggroup.com/events/

March 10: Bamaslam Montevallo Poetry Slam is on Friday, March 10. 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.

March 18: 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.org.

Muse Messenger Archives

The *Muse Messenger* will only be sent to active members of ASPS. Archived copies of all copies of the *Muse Messenger* can be found online at: <http://musemessenger.org>. However, you will need a password in order to access that archive. When you go to the website, you will be asked to submit both a User Name and a Password. They are as follows, and "Case" matters:

User Name = *aspsmember*
Password = *2017carrot2*

This User Name and Password combination will be used by all paid ASPS members during 2017. The User Name and Password combination will change in January, 2018, and will be sent to members when that change is in place.

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> |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Minnesota: | \$20 | 7/31 |
| Inet: | http://www.mnpoets.org/ | |
| FB: | http://on.fb.me/1iRt4Hz | |

The League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) was established in 1934. The purpose of LOMP [is]

"...to make Minnesota poetry conscious, and conscious to its own poets." is achieved by striving to meet four objectives: 1) to encourage the study of Minnesota poetry in the state's schools 2) to create newspaper and magazine outlets for the best work of Minnesota poets 3) to publish periodic collections of verse by members, and to publish a League magazine called *The Moccasin*, and assist in providing a permanent record of accomplishments. And lastly, 4) by accumulating historical material for a scrapbook and thereby preserve pertinent information about the organization. Their state Poet Laureate is Joyce Sutphen.

Missouri: \$13 9/1 & 2/1
Inet: <http://www.mostatepoetry.com/>

Although the Missouri State Poetry Society was officially organized November 1, 1998, a parent organization called Missouri Poets & Friends had been organized June 16, 1988, and affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies by 1989. The group was formed by Derlyne Gibson, an academic advisor at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, and a few of her friends. Their current state Poet Laureate is Alike Barnstone.

New Hampshire: \$25 5/15 & 11/15
Inet: poetrysocietyofnewhampshire.org

The Poetry Society of New Hampshire was incorporated in the early 1960's and granted non-profit status soon after. Its primary locus of activity at that time was Manchester, NH, where many of the founding members lived. The society experienced many ups and downs and alarms, but began to refocus its energies in the 1990's and, as a result, grew from a paltry 16 members to the nearly 250 members it has today. Members are the lifeblood of the organization allowing us to do the work we do. Their current state Poet Laureate is Alice Fogel.

Contests, Contests, Contests!

(February/March Contests with Deadlines)

2/13—Missouri State Poetry Society Winter Contest <http://bit.ly/1mspZHZ>

2/15—Poetry Society of South Carolina
(Electronic Submissions Only)
<http://bit.ly/1OvzjM6>

2/15—Poetry Society of TX Chapbook Contest
<http://bit.ly/1n00kyx>

2/15—The William D. Barney Memorial
Chapbook Contest, 2017
<http://bit.ly/2koHJur>

2/17—Mid-Winter Writers Conference Contest
\$100 First Place (Rec'd by)
<http://bit.ly/2kHXgre>

2/20—Poetry Society of TN (Members Only)
Submit by Feb 20th for March
<http://bit.ly/1M6wZrf>

2/21—B'ham Public Library Haiku Contest Opens
<http://bit.ly/1PMH7ac>

2/25—Saturday Evening Post Limerick Laughs
Contest. <http://bit.ly/1p3VXfh>

2/28—California: Topic by month and submitted
during each month <http://bit.ly/1LEi3zR>

2/28— Highland Park 2017 Poetry Challenge
<http://bit.ly/2lbO3cR>

2/28—Spirit First Meditation Poetry contest
<http://bit.ly/1QZiRI0>

3/1—California: Annual Contest. Submit between
March 1- June 30 <http://bit.ly/1LEi3zR>

3/1—Carriage House Poetry Prize –
Must be Received by 3/1
<http://bit.ly/1UGhrjY>

3/1 Hunger Mountain Writing Contests
<http://hungermtn.org/contests>

3/1—Oregon Poetry Association Spring Contest
<http://bit.ly/1KSBTs8>

3/1—Wild Plum Haiku Contest
<http://bit.ly/2IHkjRU>

3/8—Carteret Writers Contest 2017
<http://bit.ly/2IH6FhX>

3/10—Received by Mississippi State Poetry
Society 2017 Spring Contest
<http://bit.ly/2l7DYhm>

3/11—B'ham Public Library Haiku Contest
(Do not submit before FEB 21)
<http://bit.ly/1PMH7ac>

3/13—(Rec'd by) Modern Haiku Bob Spiess
Memorial Award <http://bit.ly/1TVzIN1>

3/15—Mass State Poetry Society Gertrude Dole
Memorial Award <http://bit.ly/1YUGG5F>

3/15—(Rec'd by) Mississippi State Poetry Society
2016 Spring Contest <http://bit.ly/21czP66>

3/15—NFSPS:
http://www.nfspd.com/poetry_contests.htm

3/15—Wyoming Writers 2016 Writing Contest
<http://www.wyowriters.org/contest>

3/19—LA State Poetry Society 2016 Spring
Festival Contest <http://bit.ly/22pPoYB>

3/20—Poetry Soc of TN (Mem Only) Submit by
3/20 for Apr <http://poetrysocietytn.org/>

3/27—ASPS Spring Contest:
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:

<http://birminghamartsjournal.com>

Boyd's Mill Press

<https://www.boydsmillspress.com/Submissions>

Chicken Soup for the Soul:

chickensoup.cosm/

Cicada (Cricket Magazine)

cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/17820

Decap: Bite Size Chunks of Humor

<http://www.decasp.com/submissions.html>

Desert Breeze Publishing

desertbreezepublishing.com/submissions

Haiku Journal:

<http://bit.ly/22JMYpt>

Heirloom Gardener

<http://bit.ly/2dQE1q0>

Kudzu House Quarterly:

<http://kudzuhouse.org>

Mayfly

<http://bit.ly/1Zs4e0w>

Negative Capability Press:

<http://negativecapabilitypress.org>

Penny Magazine:

<http://youfoundpenny.com>

Purpose Magazine:

(Submissions must meet the monthly themes.)

faithandliferesources.org/periodicals/purpose

Providence

<https://providencemag.com/guidelines>

Reader's Digest 100-word True Story:

rd.com/100-word-stories-submissions

Woman's World Mag

<http://www.womansworld.com/p/contact>

The Poetry Foundation:

<http://poetryfoundation.org>

Sterling Publishing

sterlingpublishing.com/author-guidelines.html

Sunpenny Publishing

sunpenny.com/#!submissions

Submissions with Deadlines:

3/1 Parks & Points & Poetry

<http://www.parksandpoints.com/poetry>

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 Alabama State Poetry Society — Our 2017 Officers:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President: | Jodi Adamson 361 Rives Mill Loop Deatsville, AL 36022 | <u>adamsjo75@hotmail.com</u> |
| First Vice President: | Alina Stefanescu 42 Cherokee Hills Tuscaloosa, AL 35404 | 205-556-6067 <u>rainscented@gmail.com</u> |
| Second Vice President & Contests: | Jeanette Willert 8 Seddon Pt Pell City, AL 35128 | 205-807-0778 <u>willerth@canisius.edu</u> |
| Recording Secretary & Corresponding Secretary: | Kimberly Wright 203 Camellia Dr. Prattville, AL 36067 | 334-669-6263 <u>wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com</u> |
| Treasurer: | Myra Ward Barra 21 Seddon Pt Pell City, AL 35128 | 205-223-5106 <u>Myrawardbarra@gmail.com</u> |
| Historian: | Cleveland Brown 2535 County Rd 93 Evergreen, AL 36401 | 251-300-0141 <u>ccbrown45@gmail.com</u> |
| Parliamentarian: | Evelyn Hurley P.O. Box 145 Gaylesville, AL 35973 | 256-422-3323 <u>hur1L@tds.net</u> |
| Immediate Past President: | Jerri Hardesty 1830 Marvel Rd Brierfield, AL 35035 | 205-665-7904 <u>WytRabbit1@aol.com</u> |
| Newsletter: | Harry & Rita Moritz P.O. Box 1651 Pell City, AL 35125 | <u>editors@musemessenger.org</u> |

**2017 Alabama State Poetry
Society Spring Contests
Deadline: March 27, 2017 (Postmarked)**

Rules and Details

RULES:

ENTRY FEES:

\$1 per poem for members.

\$3 per poem for non-members.

Make checks payable to A.S.P.S.

- The same poem may not be entered into more than one category.
- Poems cannot have won a monetary award in a previous ASPS contest.
- No limit on number of entries, but only one award per contest.
(Send SASE for winners' list--#10 envelope only)
- Line limit is 40 lines unless otherwise specified.
- Submit 2 copies of each poem on 8 ½ x 11 paper using plain type and fonts only:
On each copy, put category name and number in upper left hand corner.
On one copy only, put your name, address, e-mail, phone number and "member" or "non-member"
in upper right hand corner.
Address labels are acceptable.
- Mail entries and fees to:
Jeanette Willert
8 Seddon Point
Pell City, AL 35128

See our website at AlabamaPoets.org (<http://bit.ly/2kKVTJO>) for additional copies of this brochure and other information.

DEADLINE: POSTMARKED BY MARCH 27, 2017

The individual Contests are detailed on the following page.

THE CONTESTS: DEADLINE: POSTMARKED BY MARCH 27, 2017

1. **ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY CONTEST** - (Sponsored by ASPS) Open to PAID MEMBERS ONLY. Any form, no line limit. \$75, \$50, \$25, \$10 and 3 Honorable Mentions in order of merit.
2. **THE DAVID KATO PRIZE** - In honor of murdered Ugandan gay activist David Kato (1964-2011). Subject: Human rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Any form, no line limit. \$50, \$30, \$20 and Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.
3. **EXTENDED METAPHOR AWARD** - Write a poem about poetry, writing, or any other artistic endeavor as an extended metaphor with something that isn't readily apparent. Example "Poems are a romantic relationship." At the beginning, you are enamored with it. Later, you see flaws and try to change it. Then when you are done, you are left with bittersweet memories. Any form. Line limit 16. Sponsored by Jodi Adamson. \$25, \$15, \$10.
4. **NEW DAWN UNLIMITED AWARD** - Topic: Tell Me Something Beautiful. Any form, 50 line limit. Sponsored by Jerri and Kirk Hardesty. \$25, \$15, \$10. Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.
5. **Topic: SOWING SEEDS** - Related to gardening, landscaping, etc. or sowing seeds of kindness. Any form, 40 line limit. Sponsored by Margaret Rush. \$25, \$15, \$10. One Honorable Mention.
6. **POET'S CHOICE** - ASPS members only. You choose topic and form. Line limit: 60 lines. Sponsored by Jeanette Willert. \$40, \$20, \$10. Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.
7. **IT'S UP TO YOU** - Sponsored by Faye Hall. Any subject, any form. 40 line limit. \$25, \$15, \$10. Up to 3 Honorable Mentions.
8. **Topic: MOUNTAINS** (real, metaphorical or otherwise) - Length and form up to the poet. Sponsored by Dargan Ware. \$50, \$25, \$10. One honorable Mention.
9. **Topic: A FRAGRANCE OR FLOWER OF RURAL ALABAMA** - Any form, 8-10 lines. Must be present to win. Sponsored by Myra Ward Barra. \$25, \$15, \$10. Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.
10. **Topic: POETRY or WRITING POETRY** - ASPS members only. Any form. No more than 45 lines. Sponsored by Writers Anonymous (Pell City). \$50, \$25, \$15, \$10 and up to 2 honorable mentions.
11. **Topic: FALLING IN LOVE or STAYING IN LOVE** - ASPS members only. Choose a form that uses meter and/or a set rhyme scheme. (Identify the form you have chosen to use on your submitted poem.) Length: No more than 40 lines. Sponsored by Precious Prodigal (Harry & Rita Moritz). \$50, \$25, \$15, \$10. Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.
12. **Topic: WRITE A POEM ABOUT YOUR DEATH** - Extra points for funny! Any form. 30 line limit. Must be present to win. Sponsored by Debra Self. \$15, \$10, Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.
13. **Topic: WINTER** - Any form, 30 lines or less. Sponsored by Joanne Cage. \$25, \$15. Two Honorable Mentions.
14. **FILL IN THE BLANKS AWARD** - Any form, any subject. \$25, \$15, HMs as merited, Sponsored by Barb Blanks.
15. **A PERSONAL HERO** - Think along the lines of "The Truly Great" by Stephen Spender. Any format and length. Sponsored by Jerri Beck. \$15, \$10, \$5. Up to three Honorable Mentions.

2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference

Writing CONTESTS

Writers Anonymous and the **Pell City Public Library** are proud to announce that the 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 on the library's new campus located at 1000 Bruce Etheredge Pkwy in Pell City, AL. Among the highlights of this year's Conference will be two writing contests. There will be a Poetry Contest and a Flash/Short Fiction Contest. There will be only one winner for each contest and the winning prize will be \$100.00.

General Entry Requirements:

- ONLY paper entries are allowed. No entries will be returned.
- All submittals must use Times Roman 12 font and not contain any graphics.
- Any entry that contains vulgar or offensive language, employs profanities, or is not the original, individual work of the entrant, will be rejected.
- To allow time for judging, all entries **must be received** on or before **February 17, 2017**.
- The winners will be announced during the Conference.
- Winners must be present to win.
- Entries and their judging fees (Payable to: "**Writers Anonymous**") must be mailed together to: **J. Willert - WA CONTEST**
8 Seddon Point,
Pell City AL 35128

Poetry Contest Specifics:

- Each Conference attendee may enter only one (1) poem for the Poetry Contest. There will be a single entry/judging fee of \$2.00.
- Poem must be original and not previously published.
- Poem must not exceed 40 lines (500 word limit on prose poems) and may be on any subject.
- Submit 2 copies—one with your name and contact information, one without.
- If a specific form is used, identify the form on your submittal.

Fiction Contest Specifics:

- Flash fiction or a short, short story of no more than six (6) double spaced and stapled pages on any subject.
- Submit 2 copies—one with your name and contact information, one without.
- There will be a single entry/judging fee of \$5.00.

2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference ANNOUNCEMENTS

Writers Anonymous and the **Pell City Public Library** are proud to announce that the 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2017**. Among the highlights of this year's Conference will be two writing contests, a poetry contest and a fiction contest. There will be only one winner (\$100) for each contest. Watch for eMail and MWWConference social media sites for information updates.

- There will be a free "*Meet and Greet*" at the Pell City Library at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 24th.
- The Conference will be held on the campus of the new **Pell City Public Library, located at: 1000 Bruce Etheredge Pkwy in Pell City, AL 35125**
- Registration Fes:
EARLY registration is just \$65 per person (BEFORE February 17, 2017).
LATE registration will be \$75 per person (BEFORE February 17, 2017).
Student registration will be \$25 per person.
- Check-in and Registration start at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and coffee and Danish will be provided for early arrivals.
- The agenda is robust, and our presenters have a proven track record in their areas of expertise.
- Presenters include publishers, editors, published authors and poets, professors and other technical experts.
- Whether your genre is poetry, fiction, non-fiction, devotional / inspirational, or blogging, there will be something for you.
- If you write now or ever wanted to write, you will find value in this conference.
- For more information we urge you to visit the Conference online at:

Facebook = MidWinterWritersConference

Website = MWWConference.com