

Chaparral updrafts

from the
California Federation
of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 60 years

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Pulitzer Prize for Poetry goes to Paul Muldoon

The Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, given annually for a distinguished volume of original verse by an American author, carries an award of \$7,500.

This year the prize for poetry was won by postmodernist writer Paul Muldoon, 51, who moved to the United States from Ireland in 1987, and who directs the creative writing program at Princeton University. His book, "Moy, Sand and Gravel" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), won rave reviews internationally.

Muldoon has published 25 volumes of poetry and nine collections of his poems. He won the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry in 1994 and the Irish Times Poetry Prize in 1997. The poems in 'Moy Sand and Gravel' take readers from Ireland in the 1950s to present-day New Jersey.

The prize will be presented at Columbia University in May.

The award was "a terrific honor," he said, but "it comes as a complete shock and surprise."

"The terrible thing about writing poetry is that most people don't get better at it; if anything, they get worse," Muldoon commented in an AP interview. "So the fact that someone thinks it's semi-good and

worth reading after 30 years is important."

"It's a delight, of course, to win a Pulitzer Prize," he said. "Above all, it's a surprise, just as a poem, ideally, is a surprise. I'm still wondering how it happened, just as one wonders how a poem could possibly have happened."

The *Los Angeles Times* on April 9 provided a review of "Moy Sand and Gravel: Poems by Paul Muldoon" which provides the reader with a glimpse of the sweeping range of topics and viewpoints included in the collection. It said of the book:

"A glittering new collection from 'the most significant English-language poet born since the Second World War' (The Times Literary Supplement) Paul Muldoon's ninth collection of poems, his first since *Hay* (1998), finds him working a rich vein that

continued on page two: 'Pulitzer'

Convention highlights recapped for the record

"Our Western Heritage," the 2003 CFCP Convention held in Modesto, is already history. After a week of rain and chilly weather, Friday dawned sunny and warm, and Saturday followed the same. But it was the hospitality of the local committee and the deeply interesting workshops that attendees remarked upon the most.

Each participant received a hand-made denim tote bag filled with local "goodies" and a personalized Claim Envelope containing note paper, name tag, and meal tickets. Cover designs for the Program and two awards booklets were by local chapter member and professional artist Donna Graver.

Those who arrived on Friday afternoon enjoyed a buffet reception before the evening's opening events. A highlight of the evening was the reading of the *two* theme poems: this year a tie was declared, recognizing both *The Gentling Touch* by Cleo Kocol and *The Wild Mustangs* by Laverne Frith.

Saturday's events offered dual sessions in the morning and afternoon, with a wide range of topics. Some encouraged the audience to participate, and

continued on page two: 'Convention'

Oxford Academy students garner 13 Youth Contest awards

Board members and Youth Contest officials were surprised and puzzled to find that one school — Oxford Academy in the city of Cypress — had claimed 13 winners, including the Colt Trophy.

Investigation revealed that the school is a 7–12 grade college preparatory public magnet school for the entire Anaheim Union High School District, and this was the first time anyone from Oxford had entered the contest.

It was agreed that President James Shuman should visit the school and present the awards in person to those students who were unable to attend the awards ceremony at the Convention.

continued on page five: 'Oxford'

Meeting Dates Set

At the Business Meeting during the Convention, President James Shuman announced the meeting dates for the Executive Board for the coming year. These will be at approximately 90-day intervals. The first will be July 26 at the Ontario Marriott, the site of the 2004 Convention.

Other dates will be October 25, 2003 and January 24, 2004. Next year's Convention will be April 30 – May 2, 2004. Locations for the October and January meetings are open. If any chapter would like to host one of these meetings (there is no charge to the local chapter), contact President Shuman to initiate the necessary arrangements.

Board members are urged to enter these dates on their calendars now, so that conflicts can be avoided. Chapter presidents are reminded that they *do* have a vote, and thus their representation at Board Meetings is strongly encouraged, and it is hoped that by announcing these dates in advance, more people will be able to attend.

Convention highlights recapped

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actually write a poem; others were more informational, providing resources on the Internet or good books to consult or a historical survey of a genre.

The Poets Luncheon, originally scheduled for the patio lawn, was held indoors because of the weather, but was otherwise a success: each table consisted of both presenters and participants, so that informal conversations flowed easily around poetic topics.

The Youth Contest Awards were presented in late afternoon, and two sessions followed in the evening. As always, the "unscheduled" read-arounds following the last session were highly popular each evening.

The Business Meeting was well attended with good audience participation. Several suggestions were put forward which will be acted upon in coming months. A session on fun with short forms followed before lunch, and the afternoon began with a reading from a local area group of poets called The Licensed Fools.

The Adult Contest Awards program took the remainder of the afternoon. This year, there were twelve categories, with the addition of the Roscoe Fortson Memorial Award

Muldoon wins Pulitzer Prize for Poetry

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extends from the rivery, apple-heavy County Armagh of the 1950s, in which he was brought up, to suburban New Jersey, on the banks of a canal dug by Irish navies, where he now lives. Grounded, glistening, as gritty as they are graceful, these poems seem capable of taking in almost anything, and anybody, be it a Tuareg glimpsed on the Irish border, Bessie Smith, Marilyn Monroe, Queen Elizabeth I, a hunted hare, William Tell, William Butler Yeats, Sitting Bull, Ted Hughes, an otter, a fox, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Joscelyne, an unearthed pit pony, a loaf of bread, an outhouse, a killdeer, Oscar Wilde, or a flock of redknots. At the heart of the book is an elegy for a miscarried child, and that elegiac tone predominates, particularly in the elegant remaking of Yeats's 'A Prayer for My Daughter' with which the book concludes, where a welter of traffic signs and slogans, along with the spirits of admen, hardware storekeepers, flimflammers, fixers, and other

forebears, are borne along by a hurricane-swollen canal, and private grief coincides with some of the gravest matter of our age."

Muldoon not only teaches at Princeton University, he is also listed as Professor of Poetry at the University of Oxford.

In addition, he recently collaborated in composing an opera! Librettist Paul Muldoon remarks that, "the story of Vera of Las Vegas is a story of the serendipitous. The University of Nevada at Las Vegas wanted an opera, so we [Daron Hagen, Paul Muldoon] made one that was, in some sense, site-specific. Little did we think of how much fun it would be to tell Las Vegas taxi drivers that we were in town purely and simply for the opera. It is, of course, out of such accidents that works of art have so often been made, on the stream of such coincidences that we're carried along."

"I think [the Pulitzer] is richly deserved," said professor Edmund White, also director of the creative writing program at Princeton.

"He is a real man of letters . . . In his work he shows a fascinating blend of Irish and American themes and speech."

Muldoon joins an already distinguished group of professors in the University's creative writing program as the fourth to have won a Pulitzer Prize. Current faculty who have also won the award include poet Yusef Komunyakaa and authors John McPhee '53 and Toni Morrison.

Chaparral updrafts

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Please send news and information items to the editor one month in advance of intended publication date.

For questions involving membership, either new or renewal, please contact the treasurer.

Be sure to visit our new web site:

<http://www.ChaparralPoets.org>

Monthly Contest Winners

...And for the Defense...

Mundane, Hackneyed and Trite
opened an office together
believing it everyone's right
to rhyme, no matter whether
the sounds were a million times done,
still, they agreed, they'd defend
the poets that some people shun,
it isn't the words, it's the end,
"The Meaning," they'd argue with bombast,
each June, after all, has a moon
no matter how much in the past
they've been put together with "tune."
So anytime you read a sonnet
so common you'd just like to scream
know the "office of fairness" is on it
protecting each slim-grammared dream.

—Cleo Griffith, Salida, CA
First Place, February

Suddenly in Red

Floppy clowns form figure-eights
on tops of towers built of all the books I've read
cannons shoot out cats who purr
as they fly past.

I had not meant to join the circus
to tumble airborne from trapeze
spin high above whit prance-trained ponies.

I only meant to watch
secure at ringside of
three rings

but now the rings have multiplied
beyond my sight
and almost I can see the ringmaster,
but that is me suddenly in red
in charge of all the feet and hooves
and wings and things that bounce and toss
and giddiness gives me giggles
in the center ring.

—Cleo Griffith, Salida, CA
Second Place, March

Automatic Result

Three neighbor mothers
Drive their children two short blocks
Down to their schoolhouse
Where with other cars they cause
A terrific traffic jam.

—David Leek, Glendale, CA
Second Place, February

Advice from Uncle George

"And you must,"
he drones
"cultivate the right people"
as if friends are grown
in rows
like flowers
and picked when you need them.

—Sandra Lake Lassen,
West Jefferson, NC
Third Place, February

An Irish Cow

On Billy Collins

I intended to ruminate with the herd in this quiet pasture
where pungent thoughts had been
strewn about.
I wanted to rest here, raise and lower my heavy eyelids, munch
on these nutritious notions, chew them over
with my companions
for digestion in our bovine way.
But they have plodded off to graze
in another meadow.

—Norma M. Kohout, Sacramento, CA
First Place, March

Symphonics in Wood

Each blow of his axe chipped away
the last life of the stately spruce.
Gasping, with its thundering report,
limbs erect, trembling, dying
for man's purpose; the creation of
symphonics in wood,
by the violin maker.

Winds wailed, snow drifted, darkness near,
the old truck strained to move
a full load of spruce
for the violin maker's art.
Wood selected replaced last year's
stock perfected, ready for today's
instrument, for the symphonics of tomorrow.

He hewed, scraped, glued, sanded,
varnished and strung
the spruce of last year
for the violins of tomorrow.
Aging wood, aging maker, aging maestro's
sweet melodies.

Many instruments, many years,
master of woodworking,
his instruments live on.
Work completed, darkness fell
as he made his last violin,
played his last symphony,
my father, the violin maker.

—Dallas Lassen,
West Jefferson, NC
Third Place, March

US Poet Laureate Continues “Poetry 180” Program

Billy Collins, who became US Poet laureate in the fall of 2001, was asked to continue in the post for the current year, providing more time for him to promote his program of reading a poem a day in every high school in the country.

What began at Fordham Preparatory High School in the Bronx in January 2002 has spread rapidly under his zealous banner. It’s a simple yet revolutionary plan: on every school day of the year, Collins wants high school kids at every school in the nation to hear one poem read aloud. The reader can be a student, a teacher or a coach, and the poem can be read either through the school’s PA system or at an assembly. The number “180” refers to the number of school days in the year, as well as “a turn around, back to poetry.”

For the past 30 years, Collins has taught English at Lehman College, City University of New York in Manhattan. He created the program for high school students, because as a high school student himself, Collins says he was limited to “very dusty school room” poetry. “I think that high school is where the poetry gets beaten out of you. High school is where poetry goes to die,” he says. “The typical poetry in the classroom is 15-to-600 years behind the times, so the point of Poetry 180 is to get kids interested by exposing them to poetry that is fresh, contemporary, human and direct, by poets that they probably would not have heard of otherwise.” He concedes that most high school students dislike poetry, but he feels that is because “they just haven’t read the right poem yet.”

Collins stresses there should be no lesson plan or analysis of these daily poems; the goal is to have an aural experience of the poem, so that poetry becomes part of everyday life rather than staying under the heading of “English Literature.” With that in mind, he se-



Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry

by Billy Collins (Editor)

List Price: \$13.95

Paperback: Dimensions (in inches): 0.83 x 8.00 x 5.16

- **Publisher:** Random House Trade Paperbacks; (March 25, 2003)
- **ISBN:** 0812968875

A dazzling new anthology of 180 contemporary poems, selected and introduced by America’s Poet Laureate, Billy Collins.

Inspired by Billy Collins’s poem-a-day program with the Library of Congress, *Poetry 180* is the perfect anthology for readers who appreciate engaging, thoughtful poems that are an immediate pleasure.

A 180-degree turn implies a turning back—in this case, to poetry. A collection of 180 poems by the most exciting poets at work today, *Poetry 180* represents the richness and diversity of the form, and is designed to beckon readers with a selection of poems that are impossible not to love at first glance. Open the anthology to any page and discover a new poem to cherish, or savor all the poems, one at a time, to feel the full measure of contemporary poetry’s vibrance and abundance.

With poems by Catherine Bowman, Lucille Clifton, Billy Collins, Dana Gioia, Edward Hirsch, Galway Kinnell, Kenneth Koch, Philip Levine, Thomas Lux, William Matthews, Frances Mayes, Paul Muldoon, Naomi Shihab Nye, Sharon Olds, Katha Pollitt, Mary Jo Salter, Charles Simic, David Wojahn, Paul Zimmer, and many more.

lected 180 contemporary poems, and discourages teachers from structuring lesson plans around the poems. The poems are posted on the Library of Congress Web site for easy access and this is the first time a Poet Laureate has used Internet technology for outreach. The author of seven collections of poetry encourages schools to start the program at any time.

“I think that there is a poem out there for every high school student, and I think when they hear it that a light bulb will light up.

That they will have that moment where they are thinking two very different thoughts: ‘I hate poetry. But I like that thing I just heard,’” Collins says.

In March, 2003, Random House released “Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry” edited by Billy Collins. Now it is possible to own the entire collection of poems selected by our nation’s Poet Laureate, and at a price so reasonable that anyone can afford it. The book is already available at several online booksellers, in both new and used options.

New Committee named to assist with Convention planning

At the Convention, President Shuman announced the formation of a Standing Committee on Convention Planning. This committee is *not* intended to supplant the Local Committee; rather, it is expected to serve the Board as an advisory and low-level decision-making body, and to assist the local hosting chapter in its planning in between Board Meetings.

This committee will consist of a Chairman who has extensive convention planning

experience, and is preferably a member of the Board, and four to six additional members who have been previously involved in the planning process.

The mandate given to this Committee is:

- to be an advisory group providing assistance to local committees in planning and conducting conventions,
- to be responsible for collecting, developing, and maintaining all documents, guide-

lines, and resource lists pertinent to convention planning and execution, and to make such resources available to future convention committees

The Committee appointments were: Katharine Wilson, chairman; Pegasus Buchanan, Joyce Odam, Kathy Kieth, Elaine Lazzeroni, Marjorie Voigt, Nancee Maya, and Cleo Griffith. The president will be an ex officio member.

Online poetry resources reviewed

The Academy of American Poets

<<http://www.poets.org/>>

Founded in 1934, this organization is well known for supporting American poets at all stages of their careers and fostering the appreciation of contemporary poetry. The largest organization in the country dedicated specifically to the art of poetry, the Academy sponsors a number of national Awards and Programs, but is best known as the sponsor of National Poetry Month, an annual celebration of the richness and vitality of American poetry; the Online Poetry Classroom, an educational resource and online teaching community for high school teachers; and the Poetry Audio Archive, a collection of audio recordings of poetry readings. Additionally, the Academy maintains one of the liveliest and most comprehensive poetry sites on the Internet, at www.poets.org. This comprehensive website is an excellent internet starting-point for anyone interested in contemporary American poetry, poets and poetics.

Electronic Poetry Center

< <http://epc.buffalo.edu/>>

Poetics Program/Department of Media Study, 231 Center for the Arts, SUNY, Buffalo, NY 14260-6020

The EPC serves as a central gateway to resources in electronic poetry and poetics at the University at Buffalo and on the Web at large.

The EPC itself makes extensive resources available through its E-Poetry and Author libraries. These libraries provide curated lists of resources on a focused range of authors for personal use, research, and teaching. Additionally, the EPC curates lists of links to similar digital and literary projects, related book publishers, literary magazines, and other resources. In addition the EPC offers substantial sound resources that will not be found elsewhere.

Haiku Society of America

<<http://www.hsa-haiku.org/>>

A nonprofit organization founded in 1968 to promote the writing and appreciation of haiku in English.

Membership is open to all readers, writers, and students of haiku. The HSA has been meeting regularly since its inception and sponsors open lectures, workshops, readings, and contests. At present the HSA has a total of 884 members around the country and overseas.

The Society's journal, *Frogpond*, which features work by HSA members and others, as well as articles and book reviews, is in its 25th year of publication. The HSA also publishes a quarterly *Newsletter*, containing reports of the Society's national meetings and news of regional, national, and international events.

The Marin Poetry Center

<<http://www.marinpoetrycenter.com/>>

The Marin Poetry Center, founded in 1981 by a small group of local Northern California poets, is an organization designed to nurture an environment of poetry. Originating through College of Marin teachers and students, the organization spread throughout the county, embracing all comers from new poets to established writers, the curious and the inquisitive. Through sponsored readings, workshops, poetry contests and related events, the Center provides a place for poets to meet and speak.

Currently headed by a dedicated Board of Directors, the Marin Poetry Center offers a variety of activities for poets and lovers of poetry. The active Board rotates membership every two years and creates a place for the Center members to become participants in the art of listening as well as the art of writing. The organization seeks volunteers for upcoming events and committee work and welcomes fresh ideas.

The Marin Poetry Center provides many opportunities for the poet to meet other poets - to hear some of the best poetry written in our time, read here at Falkirk by the author. We want our members to know they are the vitality of our organization. Please join us and volunteer to help us as we grow.

Poetry Book Society

<<http://www.poetrybooks.co.uk/>>

Founded in 1953 by T.S. Eliot. Provides information, guidance, educational resources, and new poetry books at discounted prices to poetry lovers worldwide.

Whatever your poetry tastes, whether connoisseur, occasional browser or an absolute beginner, the Poetry Book Society can provide a membership package or a book sale service designed to suit your needs.

Books of the Quarter

Every three months the PBS undertakes a selection procedure during which our panel chooses the best new poetry collections published during the quarter and we offer them

Oxford Academy

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Shuman contacted the principal, Thomas Peters, and made arrangements to present the awards at an assembly on Friday, May 9, during the students' elective period. He also contacted the sponsoring teacher, Mrs. Elisabeth Fisher, and gave her a general idea of what to expect, and made arrangements with Eric Donald, president of nearby Orpheus chapter, to be present and assist with the presentations. Marjorie Voigt, Convention Chair for 2004, also attended.

Since this was an optional assembly for a student body of approximately 1100 students in an academic school, we had estimated attendance at perhaps 50 to 75. But at the appointed time, the Little Theater was soon filled to capacity and beyond, with students sitting on the floor and standing along the walls — perhaps 250 or more!

Shuman read the winning poems and then announced the student's name, with Donald presenting the certificate. He then read all 13 certificates that had been prepared for Mrs. Fisher, as is customary, one for each winning student.

Finally, he invited all staff and administrators to come forward, and presented a special certificate commending the school "for the outstanding support and encouragement of their students in the expression of Poetry and Creative Writing". He concluded by announcing to the audience that all 13 students were now members of CFCP, Inc. and encouraged them to continue their efforts in writing poetry.

There was a great deal of picture-taking, as well as cheering and applause, as each student was recognized. Afterward, several parents took pictures of the entire group, including the CFCP representatives.

It was apparent that the school community was thrilled with the recognition their students had achieved.

to members at discounted prices. Since we receive books directly from the publishers members can often get hold of them from us before they even appear in the shops.

Poetry Society

<<http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/>>

Provides advice and information for poets,

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Online poetry sites vary greatly in quality, purpose

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as well as publishing the *Poetry Review* and *Poetry News*. Headquarters in Great Britain.

Poetry Society of America

<<http://www.poetrysociety.org/>>

Aims to raise the awareness of poetry, to deepen the understanding of it and to encourage more people to read, listen to, and write poetry. It sponsors a number of contests and activities, including a Chapbook contest, and is a partner in the Poetry in Motion project, the Favorite Poem project, among its many activities.

Poets & Writers, Inc. <<http://www.pw.org/>>

The nation's largest nonprofit literary organization. Offers seminars and publication opportunities, financial support for workshops, and guidance for creative writers. Also find excerpted articles from *Poets & Writers Magazine*, and online database of contemporary poets and fiction writers.

Poets & Writers, Inc. is the primary source of information, support, and guidance for creative writers. Founded in 1970, it is the nation's largest nonprofit literary organization. The national office is located in New York City. The California branch office is based in Los Angeles.

Poets & Writers Magazine, the organization's flagship publication, is the leading journal of its kind for creative writers. Along with essays on the literary life and interviews with contemporary writers of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, the magazine publishes articles with practical applications for both emerging and established writers. In addition, it provides the most comprehensive listing of literary grants and awards, deadlines, and prize winners available in print.

Sacramento Poetry Center <<http://www.sacramentopoetrycenter.org/>>

Nonprofit organization for the literary arts, providing forums for local poets and bringing some of the nation's most significant poets to Sacramento audiences. Sponsors an annual contest; deadline is May 31.

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies <<http://www.nfmps.com>>

A well established organization promoting poetry across the United States. The National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) is a non-profit organization, exclusively educational and literary. Its pur-

pose is to recognize the importance of poetry with respect to national cultural heritage. It is dedicated solely to the furtherance of poetry on the national level and serves to unite poets in the bonds of fellowship and understanding.

The NFSPS sponsors fifty annual poetry contests with cash prizes totaling over \$6,000, including a grand prize of \$1,500. It also sponsors a contest for a collection of poems by one poet, with a cash prize of \$1,000.

California:

California State Poetry Society

Kate Ozbirn, Engl. Dept. Chapman Univ. 1 University Dr. Orange, CA 92866

The Arizona State Poetry Society

<<http://www.azpoetry.org>>

The official website of the ASPS. The ASPS strives to make poetry accessible to all through workshops and events for all ages. This is an interactive site with forums, chat, and free email.

Poetry Society of Texas

<<http://members.tripod.com/psttx/>>

Founded to promote public recognition of the art of poetry, and encourage writing of poetry by Texans. Offers outreach program, education and publication opportunities, fellowship and support to members. Information about membership, events, programs and contests available to members and the public.

The Poetry Society of Virginia <<http://www.poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/>>

Encourages excellence in the writing and appreciation of poetry by sponsoring writing contests, reading contests, workshops, open readings and guest readers at meetings throughout the state.

University of Arizona Poetry Center

<<http://www.coh.arizona.edu/poetry/default.html>>

This center was established in 1960 by writer and editor Ruth Stephan 'to maintain and cherish the spirit of poetry.' The center's website includes a 3D virtual reality "tour" (requires QuickTime browser plug-in).

Poetry Contest Scams

<<http://www.poemtrain.com/scams.htm>>

Poetry and writing contests lure you with the possibility of large cash awards, the promise of publishing your work and a wide

array of other marketing tactics designed to play on the ego and vanity of all writers. The sad truth behind many of the more alluring poetry contests is that they are scams.

Awards FAQ – the Academy of American Poets <<http://www.poets.org/awards/faq.cfm#1>>

Four warning signs to alert you to a possible scam instead of a legitimate contest.

Would-be poets and scam artists <<http://www.toad.net/~andrews/scam.html>>

An article by Allan R. Andrews about Prof. Jenijoy LaBelle's investigation of the International Library of Poetry.

Getting the Scoop on Poetry Contest Scams <http://www.absolutewrite.com/specialty_writing/poetry_scams.htm>

Five steps to take to ensure that you are not falling victim to a vanity scam.

Vanity Anthologies <<http://www.sfwaw.org/beware/contests.html#Vanity>>

Unlike true anthologies, where writers are paid for their contributions, contributors to vanity anthologies pay the publisher. A brief discussion of how Vanity Anthologies operate, names of some of the more well-known groups involved, and how to avoid getting taken in.

Bad Poetry <<http://unix.cc.wmich.edu/~cooneys/poems/bad/index.html>>

Western Michigan State University, English Department, Seamus Cooney

To achieve memorable badness is not so easy. It has to be done innocently, by a poet unaware of his or her defects. The right combination of lofty ambition, humorless self-confidence, and crass incompetence is rare and precious.

For the student, having a genuine insight into the true badness of some poems is, I think, a necessary corollary of having a grasp of what makes good poems good. So these pages present some classics of badness: supreme achievements of the lame, the naive, the meretricious, the bathetic, and the sentimental.

A Small Anthology of Poems

<<http://unix.cc.wmich.edu/~cooneys/poems/index.html>>

Western Michigan State University, English Department, Seamus Cooney

A collection of classics to provide contrast to the Bad Poetry examples.

A handy info-page

We get frequent queries as to how to join CFCP, or for a listing of the monthly contest categories and rules. In this issue of *Updrafts* we have included both of them on the same page, which provides a convenient reference source as well as one that can be photocopied and given to prospective new members.

Send in your poems to the monthly contest... it's where many of us first see our names in print! and the price is so minimal you can hardly afford to pass up the chance. Notice that many of the categories this year are open-ended enough to accept almost any type or style or subject. Look through that collection you've been holding back and see if you have something to enter.

Also, the membership year has just entered the second step of the pro-rated formula, meaning that from now through July new members can join for just \$7⁵⁰. Please think in terms of making a copy and giving this handy form to an interested friend or acquaintance. It can be completed and returned (along with a check) to your chapter treasurer, who will then send it in to the state.

Make a few copies of this page to carry with you and hand them to your friends and acquaintances. Leave a few copies at your library or on the bulletin board at the local college or university. Get the word out!

CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

Except where otherwise indicated, poems are limited to 28 lines

RULES

- JANUARY** — Free Verse
- FEBRUARY** — Poet's Choice
- MARCH** — Any Subject, Any Style
- APRIL** — Light or Humorous Verse
- MAY** — Poet's Choice
- JUNE** — Children, Pets or Places
- JULY** — *no contest*
- AUGUST** — Poet's Choice
- SEPTEMBER** — Any Subject, Any Style
- OCTOBER** — Any Poem 24 Lines or Fewer
- NOVEMBER** — Nature (any style)
- DECEMBER** — *no contest*

Contests are open to all poets in the United States and Canada. Each poem submitted must be typewritten on standard size paper with the contest month in the upper right-hand corner. Send ONE COPY of each poem with author's name and address in the upper left-hand corner of the reverse side. Address labels are acceptable. Multiple entries are especially welcome.

Only UNPUBLISHED POEMS and poems not previously awarded a money prize are eligible. A fee of one dollar (\$1.00) must accompany entry for each poem submitted. Send cash or make checks to CFCP, Inc. DEADLINE is the last day of the contest month. Envelope must be postmarked no later than 12 midnight of that day. *Print contest month on outside of mailing envelope.*

NOTE: *In any month wherein insufficient entries are received, those poems which were submitted will be held over and judged with the entries for the following month.*

1st prize: \$25.00 2nd prize: \$15.00 3rd prize: \$10.00

Poems will be returned only if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Allow one month after closing date of contest before sending poems elsewhere. Winning poems will be printed in the Chaparral Newsletter.

**CALIFORNIA
FEDERATION
OF CHAPARRAL
POETS, INC.**

➔ Pegasus Buchanan
mail contest Monthly Contest Editor, CFCP, Inc.
entries to 1422 Ashland Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711



YES!

I definitely want to be a member of the
California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc. for the year 2003.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

E-MAIL _____

Your membership includes all issues of the newsletter; Updrafts, free entry in the Annual Contest, Monthly Contest information, and Membership Roster every 2 years during the membership period. All memberships renew between 8/1 and 12/31 yearly. Persons joining between February 1 and July 31 will use the pro-rated formula. Memberships received between August 1 and December 31 will be extended for the following full year.

*** Those who desire to continue membership with a chapter, please remit dues to your local chapter treasurer.**

How to Become a Member

check the appropriate item:

- _____ Membership Annual/Renewal \$15.00
- _____ New Member (February 1 to April 30) \$12.00
- _____ New Member (May 1 to July 31) \$7⁵⁰
- _____ Spouse (¹/₂ regular member) \$7⁵⁰, \$6, or \$37⁵⁰
- _____ Junior (under 21; show proof of age) \$3.00
- _____ Donation (specify amount)

_____ I am interested in joining a Chapter in my area (name Chapter if known)

_____ I wish to join as a Member-at-Large.

_____ We wish to form a Chapter of our own (5 or more Regular Members are required to form a new Chapter) to be called _____

New Members: Clip this form and mail along with a check or money order made payable to CFCP, Inc. to: Frances Yordan, Members-at-Large Chairman, 2575 W. San Jose Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711-2733.

Launching e-mail version of newsletter proves difficult

The artist in me would like to talk about design possibilities, and use of photographs, color and graphics to enhance the message. I would like to tout our increased ability to share our creative endeavors with the world. My technophile would prefer to extol the benefits of cross-platform compatibility, multi-media and streaming audio, global access, and participation in the wired world. But it isn't really about any of these things. It isn't the art, although art is present. It isn't the technology, although the technology is necessary for it to work. No, the simple truth is it's all about economics.

Production, duplication and mailing expenses for the newsletter consume a growing portion of our annual dues. Much of the rest pays for convention expenses and contest prizes. While the problem is not a new one, it has gotten steadily worse in the last few years, finally reaching a crisis point in 2001, when it became clear that expenses were exceeding income. The obvious answer was to reduce or eliminate expense, wherever possible; this meant reducing the amount spent on duplication and postage each month. Electronic distribution seemed a good alternative and we began collecting e-mail addresses to that end. Approximately 30% of the membership report having an e-mail address. Using the published subscription price of \$3.60, that represents potential savings of \$180 – 220 each year.

Several technical complications prevented us

from distributing the newsletter electronically until the fall of 2002, when a test copy was mailed out to several members around the state. Their reactions helped us refine the process. In February 2003, all members who had notified us of an e-mail address received an electronic copy *in addition* to their regular hard copy; in March, they received *only* an e-mail copy. The March issue was also posted to the new web site as a PDF file, to enable viewers to download and print out a copy for themselves.

March should have marked the beginning of savings, since we anticipated 50-60 fewer copies, and correspondingly lower expenses. However, approximately half of the e-mail messages were returned as undeliverable. In a few cases, a full mailbox was the culprit, while in others a simple typo pulled us up short. Unfortunately, in several cases it appears that the member either changed service providers or changed screen names, but forgot to pass on the information.

We *can* realize the savings inherent in electronic distribution, as well as reaping the benefits of a world wide web presence, but only if we make a personal and collective commitment to participate in the digital age and support the initiatives undertaken by the executive board. If you have an e-mail address, be sure you report it by e-mail to the State Treasurer at <UrsulaTG1@aol.com> and the Roster & By-laws Chairman at <jeremys@myrealbox.com>.

Next Board Meeting set

The Marriott Ontario Airport Hotel, 2200 E. Holt Boulevard, Ontario, 91761, will be the site of the next CFCP, Inc. Board Meeting, scheduled for 11:30 am, July 26, 2003. The telephone number is 1 909-975-5000.

The Marriott is very near the Ontario Airport, for those who might wish to fly in to the meeting. For those coming from the north and west, take the I-10 toward San Bernardino. Take the Vineyard Avenue exit (this is shortly before the exit to the Airport). Turn right onto Vineyard Avenue, and proceed for .45 mile to the intersection. Turn left on E Holt Blvd and go east for 0.24 miles to the hotel on the right. Those coming from the south and east should take the I-10 to the Holt Boulevard exit, which immediately follows the airport exit. After passing under the freeway the ramp becomes East Holt Boulevard; continue on it about .07 mile to the hotel on the left.

Convention Chair Marge Voigt has secured an excellent hotel with spacious meeting areas, and her committee is hard at work developing ideas and plans. Program Chair Pegasus Buchanan is anxious to present a set of sessions that will meet your exacting expectations. Now is the time to be making suggestions to these two committee chairs.

And since this meeting will set the overall scope for next year's Convention, it is important that everyone attend if at all possible.

• **Inside: Pulitzer Prize
Poetry 180 update
Convention summary
Meeting dates**

...serving California poets for over 60 years

Chaparral Updrafts
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