



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

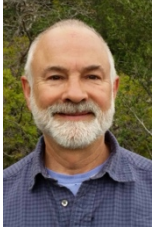
Strophes

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April 2024

Dear NFSPS Poets,



Paul Ford
35th NFSPS
President

The NFSPS Bylaws, Article I, Section B, start off with: "The NFSPS was organized in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, October 17, 1959." Over 64 years ago, a gathering of poets from ten different states committed themselves to create a national poetry organization. Their aspiration for future generations of poets is embedded in the NFSPS mission: "exclusively educational and literary" so as "to unite poets in the bonds of fellowship and understanding." As of April 2024, we are their descendants, a federation of 32 state poetry societies with approximately 3,600 members, all of us in our

individual ways attempting to live up to our organization's founding mission. Alone, each of us is quite limited in what we can accomplish, whereas together, we can promote the NFSPS ideals of education in the craft of writing poetry, lift the quality of what we write by helping one another, come to know more poets from outside our local areas, and through the voices in poems we share, hear of the human experience outside of our own lives. For me, the "together" feels so much more enjoyable as compared to before I joined the Utah State Poetry Society. Likely, many of you feel the same for the state society you joined with its wide diversity of poets and poetry activities.

Now to the business at hand: the 2022-2024 NFSPS Board term will come to an end on June 30th. Delegates from our state poetry societies who attend the June 5-9 convention in Roswell, Georgia, will vote in a new slate of ten Elective Board members. As the presiding NFSPS President, I will hand over the ceremonial gavel to the newly elected 36th NFSPS President. This new President and the other Elective Board members, with support from the many Appointive Board members, will lead NFSPS into our shared future. I plan to continue supporting NFSPS in whatever role is most needed as long as I have health (and am wanted!).

Each outgoing President has looked back on what hopes and plans we had for NFSPS during our term and, after taking stock, realize we made much less progress on initiatives we championed. For my start in July 2022, I focused on expanding NFSPS support for:

1. **Performance poetry** with the creation of the new Appointive Board role of Performance Poetry Advocate, with Kevin Campbell (aka, Noir Jente) to lead this effort. I have to say Noir has wonderfully exceeded my expectations in organizing our national slam competitions, from the Daytona Beach Shores, Florida, slam in October 2022, to the June 2023 slam in West Des Moines, Iowa, to the upcoming slam this June at the Roswell convention. Noir has led this effort with the help of many volunteers, along with support from NFSPS Board members, especially 1st Vice President Joe Cavanaugh.
2. **Learning Central**, a new initiative, was intended to become an online resource for sharing good organizational practices. These good practices would exist in the form of written procedures by societies that had been successful in addressing common challenges such as ways to increase membership, youth programs, grant writing. The list of what practices could be helpful to our societies is practically endless. In addition, Learning Central

could also host resources for good practices in the art of writing poetry. Sadly, Learning Central is still in its gestational phase. It is still more dream than reality.

As to the state societies that make up NFSPS, over the past two years we had two societies disband (Louisiana and North Dakota) and one join (Kansas). Yes, we have had a few contacts with poets in states not in our Federation, but none of these have yet matured into a society ready to join us. That said, one poetry group is progressing and has a good chance of becoming a new NFSPS state society soon.

An ongoing challenge for both NFSPS and our state poetry societies is how to replace members who no longer can continue in leadership roles with members who are willing to commit to a full term. This leadership succession issue is just the tip of the iceberg-sized challenge of an aging membership that is not being renewed as fast as we are losing members. If there were easy answers to these two issues of leadership and membership, they would have already been resolved. My sense is that each of us as poets need to make ourselves more visible in our communities. How can someone who might be interested in joining our state poetry society become a member if they never hear of our organization or never meet a poet member who invites them to the society's poetry events? In some sense, each of us can be an ambassador for our organization by putting ourselves into the public arena as a practitioner of the humanizing art of poetry. None of us have to be great poets to do this, just willing to stretch out a hand, perhaps with a poem to share.

There is still the organization leadership challenge of finding volunteers to step up to lead for a term. I have had many "no" replies when asking poets from across NFSPS to consider taking on open roles on the NFSPS Board. Somehow, either these poets have gotten to the point of being burned out from their past leadership roles and/or they have their own poetry projects that leave no room in their schedules for volunteer work. I see this as a cup half-full and a cup half-empty: in my search over the past year I have found volunteers for the NFSPS Board roles of Contest Sponsors/Brochure Chair with Susan Stevens Chambers taking over this role from Julie Cummings, and the Judges Chair role with M. Palowski Moore who has rounded up judges for this year's 53 annual contests. Sadly, we still have the Contest Chair and Youth Chair roles open. I took on the Contest Chair role for this year, otherwise we would not have had winners to report at the Roswell convention. The NFSPS Board as well needs someone to take over the Barbara Stevens Manuscript Competition Chair from Eleanor Berry. She has worked with this competition's 2023 winner, Jessica Barksdale, and 2nd VP Board member Steven Concert as Editor, to publish Jessica's *Let's End This Now*. Jessica's book will debut at our upcoming convention. As well, Eleanor has secured a highly esteemed judge, Diane Seuss, for the 2024 Barbara Stevens competition. I am sure Eleanor will be happy to advise the new Chair for this competition. Please consider these open Board roles as opportunities to learn, get to know poets outside your circle, and find some satisfaction, even happiness, in giving of your time to other poets and to poetry.

(continued page 3)

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.**

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder

Honorary Chancellor: Lance Larsen

EXECUTIVE BOARD ~ 2022-2024

Elected, NFSPS Convention, June 2022

PRESIDENT: Paul Ford

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CALIFORNIA: California State Poetry Society

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GEORGIA: Georgia Poetry Society

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STROPHES

Strophes, the newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., is published four times a year: August (*June 25th) ~ October (*August 25th) ~ January (*November 25th) ~ April (*February 25th). News items and information on contests may be sent via regular mail or email, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

Julie Cummings, *Strophes* Editor
9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO. 80433
jcummings3@gmail.com

* Submission Deadlines

Strophes is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$4.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a #10 SASE and \$1.00 per copy.

**NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS
(Presidential Advisors)**

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*Clinton Larson	Pat Stodghill
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*WauNETA Hackleman	Eleanor Berry
*Jack Murphy	*Jim Barton
*Barbara Stevens	Julie Cummings
*Henrietta Kroah	

* Deceased

(President's message, continued from page 1)

I hope to see many of you during the June 5-9 convention in Roswell, Georgia (just north of Atlanta) to share in our *Voices Set Free*. And I have worked for months now with Lucinda Clark, Past President of the Georgia Poetry Society, and other key GPS members. If you can't travel to Roswell, consider attending via Zoom. You will hear winning poetry, performance poetry, and inspiring speakers.

Your servant in poetry (*servus poetarum*), Paul Ford, 35th NFSPS President
 president@nfspns.net (note .net, not .com)

WASHINGTON STATE POET WINS BARBARA STEVENS AWARD

This June the NFSPS will release *Let's End This Now*, a book by Jessica Barksdale of Vancouver, Washington. Her manuscript was selected by Edward Hirsch as the winner of the 2023 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition.



Hirsch also recognized five other manuscripts:

- For 2nd place, *True Crime*, by Juliana Gray of Alfred, NY
- For 3rd place, *The Bodies, No Matter*, by Maura Candela of Garden City, NY
- For honorable mention, *The Beautiful Winding*, by Allen Shadow of Catskill, NY
- For honorable mention, *Seemingly Normal*, by Hilda Weiss of Santa Monica, CA
- For honorable mention, *WORK*, by Patricia Sheppard of Belmont, MA

Jessica Barksdale has published two previous poetry collections, *When We Almost Drowned* (2019) and *Grim Honey* (2021). Her sixteenth novel, *What the Moon Did*, was published February 2023 by Flexible Press, and her short story collection, *Trick of the Porch Light*, in September 2023 by Mouthfeel Press. She has been nominated for eight Pushcart Prizes in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction.

Jessica taught at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, California, and continues to teach for UCLA Extension and in the online MFA program for Southern New Hampshire University.

Edward Hirsch said this about Jessica's manuscript:

Let's End This Now is a courageous, haunted, bracingly honest book. In these stylistically spare and emotionally unsparing poems, a woman confronts the hard truths of her own life. She will not look away from her complicated experiences as a sister and daughter, a wife and mother, and states things, often against herself, that others would not say. The result is an unremitting, utterly trustworthy, and unforgettable testament.

The speaker in many of the poems in this collection is the lyrical "I." Two poems that particularly demonstrate the strength of this work are "My Dead Father and I Talk in the Bathroom" and the title poem, "Let's End This Now."

In "My Dead Father and I Talk in the Bathroom," we see a woman confronting the spirit of a father too often missing from her life, and

dealing with the aftermath of his death, along with unwelcome signs of her own aging:

...me a woman with graying hair
 in one place and too much hair in another, me still
 and always a fifteen-year-old girl, looking into a mirror
 and seeing only herself. My father nods,
 hands me the tweezers.

In "Let's End This Now," she explores the difficulties of a different kind of troubled relationship:

...See me clinging and sad,
 and he, afraid and pathological. Note all the ensuing
 therapy,
 this a desperate rebound after a long marriage. But instead
 of that story, let's end this now, the killer holding his
 breath,
 plan right on schedule as we open the cabin door.

NFSPS Second Vice-President Steven Concert is editing and designing *Let's End This Now*, working closely with Jessica to have the book released in time for this year's NFSPS Convention.

Jessica entered the Barbara Stevens Competition as a non-member, but she has received a one-year complimentary membership in the Oregon Poetry Association as part of her award. She will attend the 2024 NFSPS Convention in Roswell, Georgia, and read from her new book there. Copies will be for sale at a discounted convention price, and she will be available to sign them.

Please join us in congratulating Jessica—and in commending the nearly 250 other entrants in the 2023 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition. ~ Eleanor Berry ~ Terry Jude Miller

CUPDATE! COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS

This year's CUP Competition had 31 submissions from 24 schools in 15 states. Our winners are *Creator & Destroyer* by Jasper Beck from Western Oregon University and *A Living Thing* by Emily Ledbetter from Snead State Community College in Alabama.

This year's judge, Lana K. W. Austin, said that "from the first poem, [she] fell in love with *Creator & Destroyer* because [she could] see, smell, taste, touch, and hear the worlds these poems inhabit that are dripping with luscious verisimilitude. Deft technical precision is evident, yet organically incorporated, when considering the chapbook's sonic splendor."

The judge also said "*A Living Thing* is a collection with deftly displayed technical precision that helps balance a potent and palpably raw kick-you-in-the-gut group of poems with immense emotional depth" and that the "chapbook grabbed [her] heart and my mind and still hasn't let go."

Please join us in congratulating these student/poets! *Creator & Destroyer* and *A Living Thing* will launch at convention in June and will be available for purchase via Amazon. ~ Jessica Temple, 4th Vice President & CUP Chair



2024 NFSPS CONVENTION



Members of the NFSPS Board and the Georgia Poetry Society invite all members of NFSPS to Roswell, Georgia, June 5-9 for the NFSPS National Convention and BlackBerry Peach National Slam Poetry Competition. Register now for **VOICES SET FREE** and join us for

NFSPS's national event featuring panels, workshops, performances, and contest results! Register at [NFSPS.net](https://nfsp.net) or using the enclosed form.

THE BLACKBERRY PEACH NATIONAL SLAM POETRY COMPETITION WILL BE HELD AT THE 2024 NFSPS CONVENTION IN ROSWELL, GEORGIA JUNE 5 - 9

The BlackBerry Peach poetry competition will enter its eighth successful year of the Spoken and Written Word contest. This year's winners will perform at the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon, June 9th. This year the BlackBerry Peach National Poetry Slam Competition, now in its third year, will be held as part of the NFSPS annual convention for the second time this year.

The slam competition will run from June 5th through June 8th, with the entire tournament including Finals taking place at the host hotel. There will also be a Youth Mini-Festival featuring workshops from esteemed presenters, a National Youth Poetry Slam, and a Youth Open Mic. The BlackBerry Peach National Poetry Slam will offer many side events, including a NUPIC and an Erotic Poetry Open Mic. This will provide an exciting opportunity for all types of poets from all over the country to gather together for performances and competitions, readings, presentations, meals, and face-to-face get-togethers.

Those who are unable to attend the convention in person will still be able to participate via ZOOM. Registration details for participation in this year's National Poetry Slam Competition and the entire Convention Program are available at [NFSPS.net](https://nfsp.net).

If you have any questions or need more information about the BlackBerry Peach contests, including the opportunity to become a Silver, Gold, or Platinum Sponsor, or about the BlackBerry Peach's involvement in this year's convention, please contact Jcavanaugh1@gmail.com. ~ *Joseph Cavanaugh, First Vice President*

FELLOWSHIPS HELP WITH COSTS OF ATTENDING CONVENTION

NFSPS Conventions are a wonderful opportunity to connect with poets from all over the country, and attending in person provides a far richer experience than Zoom. Informal conversations, unscheduled get-togethers to share poems, one-on-one chats with presenters—these and many other rewarding encounters are only possible at the in-person gathering. However, the travel and hotel costs can be challenging or prohibitive. That barrier to attendance is what Convention Attendance Fellowships are intended to overcome. Instituted during the 2014-2016 Board term, they have been offered every year since, except for 2020, when the Convention was canceled because of the COVID pandemic, and 2021, when it was entirely virtual. They are funded by the NFSPS portion of profits, if any, from the prior year's Convention, plus what can be prudently drawn from the General Fund.

Although they can't cover full costs for anyone, they can supplement travel budgets by a few hundred dollars. If such a supplement might enable you to attend the 2024 Convention in person, do consider applying for a fellowship. The more members that attend, the more valuable the Convention can be for everyone.

Applications for this year's Convention Attendance Fellowships are now available online at <https://nfsp.net/>. All members of affiliated state societies are eligible to apply EXCEPT those who received fellowships for the past two consecutive years. The deadline for applying is April 21. We're aiming to notify applicants by April 30.

Eleanor Berry for the Convention Attendance Fellowship Committee

VOICES SET FREE SPEAKER BIOS

SUNDAY KEYNOTE: TAMIKA HARPER, aka GeorgiaMe, hails from the beautiful Westside of Atlanta, Georgia. She is an award-winning International Spoken Word artist, and has received Tony, Emmy, and Peabody Awards. She is the founder of the Tamika Festival, the worlds largest URBAN Fringe!

She has appeared in TV and film, including appearances on Def Poetry Jam, The Today Show, The Tonight Show, and Showtime at the Apollo to name a few. Tamika has performed for over a million LIVE, and has shared stage/screen time with Jill Scott, Tyler Perry, Viola Davis, Mo'nique, Queen Latifah, LeBron James, Killa Mika, and many more. She is blessed to share her gifts for the elevation of ALL.

FRIDAY KEYNOTE: DEVEATA WILLIAMS-POUGH, aka LadyVee DaPoet, is an advocate for quality creative expression. She is the author of 5 poetry collections, hostess of the Art Out Loud Open Mic and Do You Lyric Lounge Open Mic Variety Show in Atlanta, GA and owner of LadyVee Productions, LLC, a live entertainment entity for independent performing artists. Her most notable awards in her career are 2023 ATL's Hottest Spoken Word Artist and Best Event Specialist 2018. Her goal is to inspire, educate, and uplift others with her poetic voice.

KEVIN W. CAMPBELL, aka Noir Jente, DeLand, Florida, an accomplished writer, poet and spoken word artist, is a published author whose work has appeared in many magazines, journals, and anthologies, including the 2022 BlackBerry Peach Prize compilation. He has served as Poetry Slam Coordinator of

Mainstreet Art and Culture Slam of DeLand since 2014, and Poetry Slam Coordinator of both the Florida State Poets Association and the Creative Happiness Institute since 2015. Kevin is on the NFSPS Board as its Performance Poetry Advocate. Mr. Campbell has curated the annual Poetic Visions Competition for the Museum of Art-DeLand since the contest began in 2020. He has served on the board of the African American Museum of the Arts of DeLand since 2015 and is currently its Vice-Chair.

KELSEY BIGELOW is a poet and speaker based in Des Moines. She spends her time working as a mental health poet sharing this therapeutic tool with audiences of all ages across the world. She is the author of "Far From Broken" (2024), "The Coffee Cherry" (2023) "Depression Holders and Secret Keepers" (2021), and "Sprig of Lilac" (2018). Her work is published with Central Avenue Publishing, Pile Press, Lyrical Iowa, Backchannels Journal, Spirit Lake Review, and elsewhere. Kelsey is a 2024 Pushcart Prize nominee, a 2023 Button Poetry Video Contest Finalist, and a 2023 Central Avenue Poetry Prize shortlist finalist.

She's the founder and leader of the Des Moines Poetry Workshop, the chair for the Iowa Poetry Association Poetry Slam, the co-tournament director for the BlackBerry Peach National Poetry Slam, and more.

LUCINDA J. CLARK is the founder of the Poetry Matters Project. She has worked with visual artists and authors on the protection, promotion and marketing of their creative works for over 25 years. She is a contributing poet of the View from The Middle of The Road Series of which there are now five editions. She has also worked with poets ranging from middle schoolers to seniors on a series of anthologies, from these efforts she has published four anthologies with another set for end of this year. Clark is a member of the Atlanta Writers Club, Augusta Authors Club, and Past President of the Georgia Poetry Society, Through her work in publishing , P.R.A. Publishing, she is a member of Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), Poet's House and the Woman's National Book Association (WNBA-D.C. Chapter).

DHAYANA ALEJANDRINA is a poet, community facilitator, creative writing mentor and author of "Agridulce: Poetry and Prose." She began her literary journey at age nine in Santo Domingo, continuing it after immigrating to the United States in 2009. Her work explores the transformative power of words, delving into inner growth, culture, identity and healing. Alejandrina recently assumed the role of Lead Poetry and Cultural Collaborator for Afriqué Noire Magazine and is working on her second poetry collection. You can connect with her @dhayanaalejandrina or via email dhayanaalejandrina@gmail.com

JOHN R. HINTON is the president of the Poetry Society of Indiana. A prolific writer, he posts several of his poems daily on social media sites, as well as presenting daily prompts that encourage creativity in others. He has traveled the state, hosting workshops, open mic events, and presentations. John sees the potential we all have to become writers, and as writers, to form connections that can cross all boundaries. Never static, he's always seeking new avenues for poets and first-time creative writers to share words, ideas, and personal history, and to make lasting bonds in local communities, within our state, and across the globe. He is the author of two poetry collections: *Blackbird Songs* and *Held*.

JONATHAN SAMUEL EDDIE is an award-winning teaching and performance artist who travels the country, empowering students through poetry to improve their emotional health and personal growth. He most recently received the 2023 Governor's Award for Arts and Humanities. Jonathan has performed his unique brand of comedic poetry and storytelling nationally. He has been featured on Write About Now, The Root, and Lucky Jefferson. Jonathan was a runner-up for The Missouri Review's Miller Audio Prize for Humor. He has opened for comedians such as Bruce Bruce and Earthquake. He is the founder of the Fountain City Teen Poetry Slam, Inc.

ANTHONY CORDOVA is a spoken word poet/ video podcast host of *Poetic People Fighting Racism*, in which he uses his poetry to spark conversations about discrimination. He co-hosts a relationship video podcast—*I'm Right. I'm Right!*—with his wife, **JILL COX-CORDOVA**. She's a *Library Journal* associate editor. She earned an MFA in Creative Writing and a master's degree in broadcast journalism. She worked at CNN.com, The Weather Channel, MSNBC, and more and freelanced for *Essence* magazine.

ED MABREY is the greatest poet in the history of Poetry Slam—4 World Championships, 7 Regional Championships, and over 500 wins. An NAACP Image Award Nominee, Ed's been on TV One, as well as ABC, FOX, HBO, CNN, CBS and NBC. Ed has performed at over 400 colleges. A Cave Canem fellow, Watering Hole graduate fellow and Scioto Retreat Cohort, Ed is a Pushcart nominee and was commissioned to craft a speech encompassing the Freedom Award recipients for 2017-2022 for the National Civil Rights Museum. Ed is a choreopoet, screenwriter, and actor. Most recently, Ed is a 2023 Grammy Voting Member and proud member of Phi Theta Kappa.

BARBARA BARRY-NISHANIAN, affectionately known as "Miss Joycine" in Macon, Georgia, was awarded the "Southern Women's Achievement Award" for the state of Georgia in New York City. In the early 1960s, she applied for a job that was only open to men at The New York Times but didn't get it. However, she won the heart of the firm's Vice President and married him, and they have been together for 58 years and have one son.

Barbara's determination to defy societal expectations and her exceptional qualities led her to become the President of GPS at the age of 86. She retired as the owner of Joycines, Art, Attitude & Accessory Gallery in 2003 but launched Macon's inaugural "First Friday." In 2016, due to a dying request of her childhood friend, Barbara ventured into the world of poetry and gained international recognition. Her life reflects a legacy of spirituality, creativity, courage, and leadership.

CALEB "THE NEGRO ARTIST" RAINEY, is an author, performer, and producer. His debut book, *Look, Black Boy*, was awarded first prize in the North Street Book Prize, and his second book, *Heart Notes* was published in 2019. He released two spoken word albums and in 2023, as a part of the Brucemore Artisan in Studio program, Caleb produced his first short film, *Willing to Grow*. He is the winner of several slams across the United States, and competed in the 2023 UNESCO Slam-0-Vision global poetry slam where he ranked 7th worldwide. He has shared the stage with spoken word titans such as Siaara Freeman, Denice Frohman, Javon Johnson, Ebony Stewart, Anthony McPherson, Danez Smith, and Patricia Smith, and videos of his performances can be found on his YouTube channel, Write About Now, and Button Poetry.

When he is not writing and performing, he is actively curating a community of spoken word poets in Iowa City through his high school program, IC Speaks, and producing events like the Mic Check Poetry Fest.

IHOR PAVLYUK is a Ukrainian poet, writer, teacher, and translator. He earned his Ph.D. in Social Communication. He was named People's Poet of Ukraine in 2020. He is an English Pen Award and Switzerland Literary Prize winner. His works have been translated into Russian, Belarusian, Polish, English, French, Chinese, Latvian, Bulgarian, Japanese and Italian. He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies for 2024.

As the People's Poet of Ukraine, he reminds Ukrainians of the strength and power of their past history and urges them to see their future with hope, dignity, and power. His appearance at this year's NFSPS Convention follows a tour of the United States where he used his poetry to convey the difficulties his country faces as a result of the Russian invasion and helped raise funds to help the ever-growing number of orphans in Ukraine.

NFSPS, Inc and Georgia Poetry Society

Co-Hosted Annual Convention

Doubletree Hilton Roswell, Georgia

Wednesday, June 5 through Sunday, June 9, 2024

All times Eastern Time Zone

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

9:00 am – 3:00 pm Registration table opens
 10:30 - noon Open Mic Poetry Reading *
 Noon Lunch on your own
 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Bookroom Opens (set up only)****
 2:00 -- 3:00 pm Slam Orientation
 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Writing Workshop
 5:30 pm Pizza Party!
 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Reception Cash Bar
 6:30 pm – 11:00 pm **Blackberry Peach Poetry Slam**

ROUND ONE

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

9:00 am - 12:00 pm NFSPS Inc Board Meeting
 9:30 am – 5:00 pm Registration table opens *Rotunda*
 9:30 am – 12:00 pm Book room (set up only, no sales)****
 10:00 -- 12:00 pm You Be the Judge Open Mic **
 12:30 pm Taco Party !
 1:00- 4:00 pm Book Room opens for sale of books
 1:30 – 4:00 pm **PANEL DISCUSSION**

HOW WE APPRECIATE POETRY

Noir Jente MC

Kelsey Bigelow

LadyVee DaPoet

Lucinda Clark

4:00 pm Break
 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Reception Cash Bar
 5:00 - 6:15 pm OPENING Dinner
 6:00 pm Convention Madness Winners read
6:30 pm – 11:00 pm BLACKBERRY PEACH POETRY SLAM ROUND TWO
 11:00 pm-Midnight Open Mic Poetry Reading *

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

7:30 - 8:30 am Open Mic Poetry Reading*

9:00 - 5:30 pm Book Room Open
 8:30 – 11:00 am NFSPS Inc Contest Awards
 10:00 - 11:00 am Youth Poetry Workshop

Dhayana Alejandrina

COLLABORATIVE STORY BUILDING***

11:00am - 11:15am Break
 11:15 am – 12:15 AM Youth Poetry Workshop **Ed Mabrey**
LOVE IS A HOUSE***

11:00 am - 11:45 am Workshop for Adults **John Hinton**
TURNING THE TANGIBLE
INTO THE INTANGIBLE***

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm Luncheon: Youth and Adults
 Invocation Poem

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm Barbara Stevens Manuscript Award

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm Break

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Fun activity/fellowship for Youth
 Festival

2:30 pm – 4:15 pm NFSPS, Inc. Contest Awards

3:15pm - 4:15 pm Youth Poetry Workshop **Caleb Rainey**

MAKING YOUR PERFORMANCE POP***

4:15pm – 4:30 pm Break

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm Youth Poetry Slam and open mike

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Reception Cash Bar

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Dinner

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADULT SLAM FINALISTS

Poem by Invocation Contest Winner

Poem by Youth Slam Winner

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Georgia Keynote: LadyVee DaPoet

The Power of Poetry to Change Minds & Change Lives

8:30 pm - 8:45 pm Break

8:45 pm – 10:00 pm Open Mic Poetry Reading*

10:00 pm – 12:00 pm NU PIC (slam event)

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

7:30 - 8:30 am Open Mic Poetry Reading*

9:00 - 5:30 pm Book Room Open

8:30 - 5:00 pm Registration Open in Bookroom

8:30 - 9:30 am State President's Meeting

9:30 - 9:45 am Break

9:45 - 12:00 pm Plenary Session (*elections, reports, delegate votes*)

12:15 - 12:45 pm Luncheon

Invocation Poem

Manningham Winners

12:45 - 1:00 pm Break

GEORGIA SHOWCASE

1:00 - 2:00 pm **Anthony and Jill Cordova** Workshop

POETRY AS A TOOL TO

ADVANCE SOCIAL CHANGE***

1:00 - 2:00 pm **TBA**

3:00 – 3:30 pm **Barbara Barry-Nishanian** Georgia Poetry Society

3:30 - 5:30 pm NFSPS Inc Contest Awards

5:15 - 5:45 pm Autograph signing at book room for Speakers

5:00 – 8:00 pm Reception Cash Bar

5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner Invocation Poem

College Undergraduate Poetry Contest Winners

6:30 – 11:00 pm FINALS BLACKBERRY PEACH SLAM

11:00 pm Open Mic Poetry Reading*

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Open Mic Poetry Reading*

9:30 - 2:15 pm Book Room Open
 9:30 - 11:45 am **Ihor Pavlyuk**
WRITING POETRY UNDER FIRE ***
 12:00 - 2:00 pm Luncheon Invocation Poem
 Blackberry Peach Spoken and Written Poetry
 2:00 - 2:15 pm Break
 2:15 - 4:00 pm **Workshop by Keynote Tamika Harper******
 4:00 - 4:30 pm Autograph signing for keynote
 4:15 to 5:30 Bookroom-pick up all books (no sales)
 6:00 - 8:00 pm Cash Bar
 6:00 - 8:30 pm Dinner
 Invocation Poem
 7:30 - 8:30 pm **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Tamika Harper**
 8:30 - 8:45 pm Break
 8:45 pm to finish NFSPS Inc Contest Awards
 10:00 pm Open Mic Poetry Reading
MONDAY, JUNE 10
 9:00 am - noon Optional Tour

*Open Mic Readings: First half hour no more than 3 minute poem.
 Second half hour, longer poems allowed (no essays, readings of non-poetry)

** You Be the Judge- Audience will choose winners

***Workshop Descriptions will be available at NFSPS.net

****Are you attending convention and want to sell books in the bookroom? The guidelines and forms will be available Mid-April on the convention website at nfsp.net

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY just wrapped up our adult contest with a virtual reading of the prize winners. Poets from all across the country were present. Our members once again collaborated with the Addison Center for the Arts for a wonderful exhibit. We are also preparing for a series of discussions about the many aspects of publishing and what it takes to get a manuscript ready. For April, National Poetry Month, we will have a daily prompt and will end the month with a virtual open mic. “Emily Dickinson,” portrayed by local actress Paddy Lynn, will share Dickinson's poems on Zoom.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY: All Chapters of the **Massachusetts State Poetry Society** – Louise Bogan, CREW, and North Shore Poets – continue to meet in person or on Zoom, and round-robin by mail.

Currently, the annual Gertrude Dole Memorial Contest (\$25, \$15, \$10 in prizes) deadline is April 15th. The Naomi Cherkofsky Memorial Contest (\$50, \$30, \$20) has a deadline of June 30th. Our National Poetry Day Contest Brochure, with 25 contests, is available; deadline is August 1st. Those interested in sponsoring one of these contests for the 2025 brochure are welcome – with your choice of prizes, subject, form, and judging preference. For all entry forms, send SASE to Pres. Jeanette C. Maes, 64 Harrison Ave., Lynn, MA 01905. ~ *Beverly Barnes, Reporter*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE: In December, **Poetry Society of Tennessee's** membership surpassed 100 members. The

Board is reviewing its foundational documents and assessing member needs as they plan for the coming program year, which runs May through April. PST will hold its 67th Annual Poetry Festival via Zoom on April 13, 2024, from 2:00-5:00 pm Eastern. Judging of festival contests is underway. William Wright is workshop leader and guest judge for the “Best of Fest” contest. Susan Chamberlain, Thomas Holmes, Crystal Robbins, Aime Whitemore, and Matthew Wimberley have also served as guest judges. Howard Carman is Festival Chair and Deborah-Zenha Adams is Festival Contest Chair.

PST virtual monthly membership meetings featured educational programs, members-only contest announcements, generative writing, and poetry shares. Jake Lawson is Program Chair and Russell Strauss is Contest Chair. PST critique groups met monthly.

PST's Regional Connections Committee is planning a regional collegiate student poetry contest. PST Student Contest judging is underway. Seth Grindstaff is Student Contest Chair.

PST updated its website, ran social media campaigns for PST activities, and continued both its monthly newsletter and blog. Matthew Gilbert chairs Communications. J. Michael Ramey is Webmaster. Get society information on the website (www.poetrytennessee.org) and blog (<https://poetrytennessee.com>). Follow PST on Facebook and Instagram: @poetrysocietyoftennessee.~ *Lisa Kamolnick, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS: After **Poetry Society of Texas'** Annual Awards Banquet in November, we resumed monthly meetings on Zoom in December, with a program by Diane Glancy, author of *Jawbone*, winner of the 2023 William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest, sponsored by the Fort Worth Poetry Society, in cooperation with the Poetry Society of Texas.

The January meeting started with the annual Memorial Program, in which we remember poets we lost the previous year. Several outstanding individuals were honored in the presentation by Vice-President Catherine L'Herisson. Program Chair. JDarrell Kirkley hosted our annual Poem-A-Thon, in which poets in attendance have an opportunity to share one or more of their poems or a favorite poem by another poet.

Our February speaker, Cordney “MAC Woods” McClain, from Oklahoma, was introduced by Michael Guinn, and his program was enjoyed on Zoom. On February 3rd, the Mockingbird Poetry Society in McKinney hosted their third annual Art Meets Poetry exhibit and program, in which artists and poets collaborated. It was well-attended; financial donations and raffle ticket sales for a chance to win one of the paintings were later given to local food charities.

The winner of the 2024 William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest will be announced in April, National Poetry Month, at the PST meeting.

Denton Poets' Assembly and co-sponsor, Denton Public Library, in collaboration with area visual artists, will host “Merging Visions 2024” from May 10th, 2024 through August 3rd, 2024 at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center in downtown Denton. Begun in

2008, this is the fourteenth year for this outstanding exhibit and program. Since 2011, a professional color catalog has been produced, pairing the art and poem of each participant.

Other PST chapters/members remain active in poetry programs and events all over the state – activities too numerous to mention!
~ Catherine L'Herisson, Vice President

WYOPOETS' chapbook, *Upon the Wind*, will be unveiled on April 25th, 2024, at our annual workshop. On wyopoets.org, go to "Contests," and then "Chapbooks for Sale" for purchase details. This year's workshop will be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper, Wyoming, on the evening of April 25th and all day the 26th. Please go to "Events" on the website, then "Workshop" for registration details. Our workshop leader this year will be Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. She hails from Placerville, Colorado, and was Miguel County's first Poet Laureate (2007-2011), Western Slope Poet Laureate (2015-2017), and a finalist for Colorado Poet Laureate in 2019. The WyoPoets' spring workshop is supported in part by a grant from the Wyoming Arts Council, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Wyoming Legislature. ~ Myra Peak, Secretary

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

NFSPS ANNUAL CONVENTION JUNE 5-9

Reserve your room by **MAY 5th, 2024**
Register for in-person by **May 20th, 2024**
Register for ZOOM by **June 1st 2024**

CONVENTION MADNESS Contest entries due April 6th, 2024 Nfspd.submittable.com

INVOCATION POEMS Due April 6th, 2024

BlackBerry Peach SLAM Entry Period:
Information at nfspd.net!

State Annual Reports:
One week prior to convention- send to
President@nfspd.net and Secretary@nfspd.net

Board and Committee Annual Reports:
One week prior to convention or when
complete in special cases. (Treasurer, Contest
Chair)

PLEASE BE WARY OF SCAMMERS

I have had many NFSPS members forward scam emails to me with "Paul Ford" as the purported sender. Often the message is a direct request to help "me" with buying a gift card or some other monetary assistance. There are more subtle scammers who initially ask if the recipient is available. Please, whenever you get an email with my name as the sender, check to see if the message is actually sent from president@nfspd.net or pmford3@gmail.com. If it isn't, I suggest you report the email as scam/phishing to your email provider. For example, with Gmail I can click on the three horizontal dots to the top-right of the message and select either Report Scam or Report Phishing. Please be careful. And know I will not ask you for money in an email.

~ Paul Ford, 35th NFSPS President

THE ART OF LISTENING ANTHOLOGY

Linda Eve Diamond, longtime sponsor of the Listening Poem Award, just published a free ebook, with more than 60 contributors: *The Art of Listening: An Anthology of Listening-Themed Poetry and Visual Arts* (2023), Linda Eve Diamond, ed. available as a free download.

This collection includes several NFSPS members, including two winners of the NFSPS Listening Poem Award, with credits to their earlier publications in *Encore*.

Here's the link to the book page and free download:
<https://www.lindaevediamond.com/art-of-listening>

ENCORE PRIZE POEMS 2023



The 2023 anthology of prize-winning poems awarded at the "Catch Poetry: Stage and Page" NFSPS convention is available on amazon.com. All

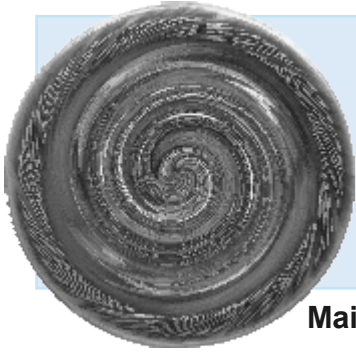
royalties from *Encore* sales support NFSPS.

~ Kathy Cotton, *Encore* Editor

*******The Convention Fellowship Application is available at nfspd.com and on the convention registration site at nfspd.net Need assistance to attend the convention? Apply now!**

NFSPS CONTEST BROCHURE

The NFSPS 2025 Contest Brochure is set to be included in the August 2024 print edition of *Strophes*. It will also be available online at nfspd.com and nfspd.net. You may also request a copy by mailing a SASE with adequate postage for 4 pages to Julie Cummings, 9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433. Please write a brief note that the SASE is for a brochure.



NFSPS National Convention VOICES SET FREE

Mail FORM to: Mary Schmidt- 2353 Youngman Ave #116, St. Paul, MN 55116

Start Date: June 5, 2024 End Date: June 10, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- FULL - CONVENTION 2024 PACKAGE REGISTRATION \$338.00 _____
- ZOOM REGISTRATION \$125.00 _____
- REGISTRATION ONLY \$125.00 _____
- GUEST REGISTRATION \$338.00 _____
- FRIDAY PASS REGISTRATION \$50.00 _____
- SATURDAY PASS REGISTRATION \$50.00 _____
- SUNDAY PASS REGISTRATION \$50.00 _____
- ALL MEALS \$213.00 _____

WEDNESDAY DINNER PIZZA PARTY \$16.00 _____

SATURDAY LUNCH \$19.00 _____

THURSDAY LUNCH TACO BAR \$16.00 _____

SATURDAY DINNER \$31.00 _____

THURSDAY DINNER \$31.00 _____

SUNDAY LUNCH \$19.00 _____

FRIDAY LUNCH \$19.00 _____

SUNDAY DINNER \$31.00 _____

FRIDAY DINNER \$31.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$

Reserve your room at the DoubleTree Hilton in Roswell, Georgia by May 5, 2024

Convention Room price includes parking and breakfast. Booking Link: <https://group.doubletree.com/dkyp1w>

The NFSPS Group Code is 90G Reservations may also be made via telephone by calling 770-992-9600, #1 for reservations and referencing the Group Code. Please secure your rooms early and register all guests staying in the guest room.