



# Chaparral Updrafts

from the  
California Federation of  
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

Volume 70 No. 3

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## The Presidents Message or The Last Word

This is my last updrafts, my swan song, my good-bye until we met again. Meeting again means at the convention in Modesto on May Day. Last messages are traditionally places and times when an outgoing president pats himself on the back for the things (he thinks) he's accomplished, gives credit where credit is due, and bemoans all the things left undone. So here goes.

First, my thanks to the executive board. The work you do is awesome. Just being willing to take the time and carefully consider the best course of action for an organization as complex as CFCP is very important business. You are the reason we continue to exist.

Now for some of what I think of as accomplishments. We have an up to date by-laws booklet. Lots of folks worked on this project and it was hard work. I want to name some of them: Jim Shuman, publications chair, Jeremy Shuman for his prior role as bylaws chair and parliamentarian, two positions which have vanished, Marge Voight, Dan Saucedo and Lee Collins who worked on needed revisions. My thanks to all of you who filled needed chair positions where the yeoman work is done. The sort of work that's daily and important. The role of parliamentarian has passed to the various vice-presidents. I also laid on the VPs the task of judging the various annual contests. This is the second year Dan Saucedo has judged the theme and Katharine Wilson the road Runner Up. Last years jumping ship award was selected by David Lapierre with Ursula Gibson making that selection this year. My thanks to you all, and oh yes, all selections were made without prior knowledge of the writer.

Now for some failures, mea culpas and regrets. While most job descriptions were finished two or three were missed and need at some point to be included in the next revision. We have also lost a chapter, specifically the Santa Cruz, and while we have gained some new members we have also seen the passing of some old friends who will be missed.

Now I want to go full circle. When I accepted the position of president in 2008 my very first words were in pursuit of a permanent home for the CFCP convention. In this regard I failed and failed miserably. I am leaving our new president a tougher job than it needs to be because of this failure. At the 2004 convention in Oakland the responsibility for convention business shifted from the individual chapters to the executive board with convention and program chairs appointed by the

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CALIFORNIA  
FEDERATION  
of  
CHAPARRAL  
poets  
inc.

## FEBRUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of Love

### FIRST PLACE

The Cherry Tree  
-a villanelle-

We once kissed under the cherry tree  
As winter sky melted in the glade.  
Though blossoms wilt, remember me.

I snuck from the farm, you the city,  
A meeting our parents had forbade.  
We once kissed under the cherry tree,

Yet our flushed faces they would see  
When we returned from blooming shade.  
Though blossoms wilt, remember me.

Thus, you opened your hand, set mine  
free  
As above us bright flowers began to fade.  
We once kissed under the cherry tree.

You shook your head, ignored my plea  
And departed from the pink cascade.  
Though blossoms wilt, remember me.

I often remember you when lonely;  
Forever with you my heart has stayed.  
We once kissed under the cherry tree  
Though blossoms wilt, remember me.

Sarah Tang  
Saratoga, CA

### THIRD PLACE

Beyond

I remember you in thick night;  
Your arms reach towards sky  
As if aching to push past heaven.  
Pale lips curve to a smile; Nikes  
Soar while you unleash a whoop  
Of delight, soul laughing at gravity  
For that one last breath of ecstasy.  
Scared for your fall, I jerk awake,  
Rub swollen eyes to find myself  
Huddled in the last pew as I listen  
To shaken mourners whispering,  
*We though we knew him so well.*

My heart lurches; they didn't know:  
The you who climbed atop my car,  
Lungs screaming as night sped by;  
The you who laughed at my cries  
While begging me to drive faster.  
No, they didn't know the you who  
Dragged me to rooftops, pulling me  
Close to the edge, while you feasted  
On thrill. No, they didn't know  
The you I tried to hold onto until  
You tore past life's boundaries,  
*Too quick for me to pull you back.*

Kara Wang  
Saratoga, CA

### SECOND PLACE

Hues of the Heart

My daughter wants to know why  
there is a diminutive blue box  
on the wicker jewelry bureau  
in her earth-tone-meticulous mother's bedroom

The marine blue bottom is roofed  
by a Sedona russet brown top  
Yet the blue emblazons like a lighthouse beacon  
over a color-depleted desert of ebony night  
bleached cow skulls and leather skinned varmints  
The polished agate candle holder  
her father gave me for Christmas is confined  
to an outdoor table for daring to have a green streak

I can't tell her it has to do with fingerprints  
How holding the box another man last held  
is the closest thing to touch that we have  
How the gold toe ring inside almost closes  
but not quite the miles that separate us  
How I think of his saltwater blue eyes  
rolling over me like waves

Instead I tell her how the aquatic hue of blue  
plumps up a parched landscape  
How fog can combine with desert sweat  
Consummate in grains of sand that polish  
a woman's skin until it glows in that Sedona rust  
My daughter says she just wanted  
to know about the blue box

Ellaraine Lockie  
Sunnyvale, CA

Previously published in *Ibbetson Street*

**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.

Visit our website:  
<http://www.ChaparralPoets.org>

## 2009 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

Except where otherwise indicated, poems are limited to 28 lines of text. All forms accepted for all categories.

### RULES

JANUARY	Beginnings
FEBRUARY	Love
MARCH	Nature
APRIL	Light, Humorous
MAY	Journeys
JUNE	Vacation
JULY	NO CONTEST
AUGUST	Any subject, any style
SEPTEMBER	Harvest
OCTOBER	Portraits
NOVEMBER	Holidays
DECEMBER	NO CONTEST

Contests are open to all poets in the United States and Canada. Each submission must be typewritten on standard size paper with the contest month in the upper right-hand corner. Send **TWO COPIES** of each poem with author's name and address in the upper right corner on **ONE** copy. Put no identification on the second copy. Address labels are acceptable. Multiple entries are welcome.

Only **UNPUBLISHED POEMS** and poems not previously awarded a monty prize are eligible. A fee of \$2.00 must accompany each poem submitted (3 for \$5.00). 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 where 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 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 Updrafts newsletter

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

Mail contest  
entries to

**Cleo Griffith  
Monthly Contest Chair, CFCP, Inc.  
4409 Diamond Court  
Salida, CA 95368-0632  
<cleor36@yahoo.com>**

**YES!** I definitely want to be a member of the California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc. for the year 2008.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive my Updrafts Newsletter by: \_\_\_email \_\_\_US Mail

**Please add \$5.00 to your check if you get your Updrafts by US 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. New memberships received between August 1 and December 31 will be extended for the following full year.*

### How to Become a Member

Check the appropriate item:

___Membership Annual/Renewal	\$20.00
___New Member (2/1 to 4/30)	\$15.00
___New Member (5/1-7/31)	\$10.00
___Spouse (1/2 regular member)	\$10.00, \$7.50, or \$5.00
___Junior (under 21 show proof of age)	\$ 3.00

\_\_\_Donation (specify amount) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_I am interested in joining a Chapter in my area (name of chapter) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_I already belong to Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Members-at-Large:** Clip this form and mail along with a check or money order made payable to CFCP, Inc. to: Frances Yordan, Members-at-Large Chairperson, 2575 W. San Jose Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711-2733. All others: Send this form along with a check or money order made payable to CFCP, Inc. to: CFCP Treasurer, P. O. Box 1750, Empire, CA 95319.

Treasurers Message:

We currently have \$12,436.14 in CFCP funds. We have pre-paid most of the hotel expenses so things are looking good for this years convention. We will have speakers to pay for and we are expecting a poets and writers grant to help with those expenses. We have received thirty-six registrations so far for the convention. Remember the deadline is quickly approaching for making your hotel reservations and for getting in your registration at the lower rate. We are very excited about this years convention and the theme of Hope. We are combining poetry and medicine with our featured speaker John Fox from the Institute of Poetic Medicine. You can check out Mr. Fox at [www.poeticmedicine.com](http://www.poeticmedicine.com) and read all about him. We are offering free continuing education units to doctors, nurses, and some of the behavioral sciences such as LCSW's and MFT's. In addition we will have our usual teacher units but they are not free. We are partnering with Memorial Hospital to offer these units and we appreciate their involvement.

Also, this year we will elect new officers. You will not want to miss the chance to vote on the new slate of officers. Both Ed and I have enjoyed our tenure as President and Treasurer and we look forward to being able to take the time to write more poetry. Holding an office in our organization can be a rewarding experience and we urge our younger members to think about starting a chapter when they move on to college and getting involved in running the organization. Remember the California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc. is one of the oldest poetry organizations in the United States. This year we celebrate our 70th anniversary. How many organizations do you know of that have been around that long?

You can now go to the website - [www.chaparralpoets.org](http://www.chaparralpoets.org) and view the winners of the adult contest. Congratulations to all who had a winning poem. To those who did not this year, there is always next year. Submit again, you never know.

That's about all of my news for this month. Hope to see you May 1,2,3 in Modesto at the Doubletree Hotel.

Roberta Bearden



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president. If you have never organized the convention, it's a huge job with hundreds of details; details that could be made much easier by having a permanent location where things are known to us and we are known to our host city. Fresno it seemed to me was ideal, with back to back 2005-2006 conventions. After that, we once again broke loose our moorings and began to float from Fresno to Ontario to Modesto and next year back to Ontario. Those of you who continue to insist on such movement need to understand it is very difficult, making the job of President and the various chairs cumbersome and unwieldy. So I leave with my failures and this admonishment. Find a home for CFCP before our migrant behavior requires us to leave too much along-side the road on the way to the promise land.

Lastly there is a glimmer of hope. It's the non-profit tax status acquired by the organization prior to my becoming involved in a leadership role. What that tax status means to those of you in a current leadership role: executive board, special chairs or committee work. The money you spend on behalf of the CFCP becomes a tax deductible donation to the organization. Those expenses include meals, lodging, phone calls, paper and transportation. In other words your documented "donation" can be used to off-set actual costs. Make use of this tax status, you will earn it.

**Aloha**

**from Ed and Roberta**

We're just too old people  
holding hands and eating  
apples. We keep our  
minds sharp figuring out  
the puzzles on Wheel of  
Fortune. We walk for  
exercise. But when the  
exercise is over, and Wheel  
has spun, we're just two  
old people holding hands  
and eating apples.

**Good luck and good writing.**

