



# *Chaparral* Updrafts

from the  
California Federation of  
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

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serving California poets for over 69 years

Volume 69 #8

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Ed Bearden, PSJ  
P. O. Box 1750  
Empire, CA 95319  
209-522-9600  
209-491-0950 (Fax)

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## Presidents Message

**The July meeting** of the executive board of CFCP was outstanding for the amount of work that was accomplished. I will summarize the major changes in this message. Knowing a large number of new officers would be needed for the 2009-2011 term I brought a request to the board for an early formation of a nominating committee. We will need new officers in the following positions: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Fourth Vice President, Treasurer/ Roster, Poetry Education Chair. Carol Frith has been asked to lead a three person nominating committee and is considering it. Nominating committees and election committees are appointed by the executive board and not by the president. If Carol does accept this responsibility some of you could be hearing from her regarding these various positions or serving with her as a member of the nominating committee.

**2009 Convention:** Jeremy Shuman and debee loyd have done an excellent job of defining the basic framework for the 2009 convention in Modesto. It will take place May 1, 2, and 3. So mark your calendars. The principal speaker will be John Fox who has worked for many years with poetic medicine. The theme for the convention is "Hope."

**Dues Change:** The executive board decided it is time for a dues increase. The last increase in dues was eight years ago. If you receive your Updrafts by e-mail the annual proposed fee is \$20.00. If you receive your Updrafts by mail the proposed fee is \$25.00. The difference represents the increased cost in processing paper copy. It is also necessary to cover the cost of the annual contest, the largest expense of the convention. A ballot for your wish in this regard is included. You can mail, or e-mail your response.

**Contest Changes:** Changes have also been made in the annual contest. Line length for most categories has been increased from 24-28 lines to 32 lines. Line length for the Jumping Ship category is increased from 40 to 60 lines. The category Friendship is no longer a memorial category. It will be sponsored by the CFCP organization. One exciting aspect of the annual contest is the addition of a "California" category. Each CFCP sponsored category add to the cost of the convention.

**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** As a fundraiser to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CFCP it has been suggested we publish a collection of Pegasus's winners. We need information from 1970 to 1990 on winners and copies of poems. Please forward information about Pegasus's winners to Publications Chair Jim Shuman at [jshuman@telis.org](mailto:jshuman@telis.org) or 209-523-6954.

**The next meeting** of the executive board will be an electronic meeting by e-mail. If any of you have an item you would like included please call or e-mail me.

Thanks, Ed

## Remembrances

Three of our members recently passed away. Fern Tobey of Santa Cruz, Kathy Kimbell Fortson, wife of Roscoe Fortson and Marguerite Price of Valley Writers. Here are two remembrances for Kathy and Marguerite. If anyone from Santa Cruz would like to write a memorial we would be happy to print it too.

We are saddened to announce that Marguerite Price, who was a member for a number of years (through the ValleyWriters Association) died of cancer on June 24th. A former teacher and librarian, her love of literature and interest in young people led her to be youth poetry contest chairperson for several years. Before taking that position, she assisted in the preparations for that event for years and served as a judge for it. Many will remember her enthusiastic participation in conventions and board meetings. We will miss her but she leaves us a legacy of outstanding poetry. Norma Green

Katherine Kimbell Fortson died On July 4, 2008. She was the widow of Roscoe Edward Fortson, who died July 17, 2002. They had three sons, Kyle, Bruce, Kevin Edward, & Kristopher Arthur and 5 grandchildren, Katherine, Sydney, Noah, Avery & Kristian. Kathy worked for L.A. County in both the Public Social Services & Department of Regional Planning for 35 years & retired in 1991. She was buried at Forest Lawn Covina Hills on July 10th next to Roscoe. Marge Voigt

## MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS on the topic of Setting on a Train

### Railroad Ties

Steel tracks tied me to my dad  
over ten summers. Steel tracks  
dug like a silver barrette  
across dirty strands of earth.  
A coach car sealed me in,  
skidding across the hours  
to St. Louis. Cocooned  
by glass and metal frames,  
like a curious caterpillar  
I squirmed to touch every sound  
pushing me along. Wheels  
and pistons grinding steel,  
walls rubbing against the curves  
like starched sleeves,  
whistles painting memories  
of towns squinting through  
dusty fences. Years  
of wandering between parents  
waiting with still hands,  
between stations collecting people  
like second-hand furniture,  
then discarding them  
one at a time. Railroad tracks  
tied my separate worlds.  
The strength of that steel endures  
over a handful of lost dreams.

Catherine Moran  
Little Rock, AR.  
First Place

As Our Train Turns North  
  
the suddenly risen moon  
is hanging alone in the night sky  
  
absolutely full  
intensely  
tangerine  
against a great sheet  
of deepest cobalt blue  
  
no clouds and no trees  
only that brilliance  
over the bay

Norma Kohout  
Sacramento, CA  
*Published in Poets Forum Monthly*  
*Spring, 2004*

Third Place

### Coming Down "The Hill" On Train Number Five

Rolling west from Reno's neon towers,  
three locomotives  
pull The Zephyr over Donner summit,  
  
where snow sheds overlook the lake  
and wooden flumes hold a flow  
of green water,  
running fast at the feet of incense cedar,  
and sugar pine and red fir.

The train rumbles along mountain sides  
sparkling with volcanic talc.

Dark hiatus of a tunnel. Outside,  
slabs of granite, silver-gray, glitter  
in the sunlight,  
and the beginnings of gold  
in black oak leaves.

Muted on-and-off creaking  
in the undercarriage of our coach.  
Another tunnel shuts off  
the warm October sun.

Suddenly, madrone trees,  
manzanita.  
Grey-green chaparral.  
Yellow-grass meadows  
Fences. Signboards. Roads. Cars.

Norma Kohout  
Sacramento, CA  
*Published in Broadsides, 2006*

Second Place

## 2008 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

JANUARY	Water
FEBRUARY	Blues and ballads
MARCH	Grandmother's story
APRIL	Fashions
MAY	Sitting on a train
JUNE	Plastic Pleasures, Tacky Treasures
JULY	NO CONTEST
AUGUST	Pearls and Platinum
SEPTEMBER	What I should have said
OCTOBER	Boredoms (12 lines or less)
NOVEMBER	Spangles and tangles
DECEMBER	NO CONTEST

### RULES

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  
enteries 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  
*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 \$15.00  
 New Member (2/1 to 4/30) \$12.00  
 New Member (5/1-7/31) \$ 7.50  
 Spouse (1/2 regular member) \$ 7.50, \$6.00, or \$3.75  
 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.

## MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

### on the topic of Plastic Pleasures, Tacky Treasures

Favorite Pen

Your transparent tube is empty!  
I see right through you; we're even:  
you've seen through me for years.  
All the times I crossed out,  
margin-inserted, arrowed, circled,  
made sudden starts and stops,  
you companioned my drift, remained  
a handy blue-blooded friend.

Never cringing, you flowed with  
my paper passions though often  
they resembled hieroglyphics or,  
when read aloud, sounded like  
a foreign language.

Sadly,  
it's time to say farewell,  
my extra right-hand finger, eager  
transfusion, drum, dream,  
bridge, bridge, bridge.

Claire J. Baker  
Pinole, CA  
First Place

A Triversen For Time-Sensitive Terms:

*Tacky/Treasured:*

The cheap salt and pepper sets from Woolworths  
have transmuted to – it's amazing –  
expensive collectibles;

the poor taste of Jean Harlow's cleavage and platinum  
hair, painted on a *Red Dirt* movie sign  
are current style;

and the tacky twerp in junior high –  
grown up, filled out, polished, seasoned –  
is a social treasure.

Norma Kohout  
Sacramento, CA  
Third Place

### A Sonnet for the Sensor

Life's cluttered with sensors we're programmed to trust  
like benign-sounding buzzer or bell  
But the Age of Irony's developing rust  
as the ranks of the "tech-challenged" swell.

With the séance passé, science now heads our way  
with sensors that work far off stage  
for Motion, Proximity, Gas – the array  
goes from Ultra-sound on to Old Age.

And the most diabolical that fills me with fear  
when my bills are all paid and vacation time near  
is the Solvency Sensor that secretly knows

Time to trigger a flood, a disaster or crash  
to max out my credit card, suck up my cash  
and doom me forever to hand-me-down clothes.

Selma Calnan  
Bishop, CA  
Second Place



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