



Chaparral updrafts

from the
California Federation
of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 60 years

Volume 66, No. 1 • February, 2005

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CALIFORNIA FEDERATION of CHAPARRAL Poets inc.

'California Voices' coming in April

Convention time will soon be here, and what a grand time that will be! Developing the theme of *California Voices*, Program Chair Mary Rudge has brought together an outstanding variety of sessions, including formal presentations, workshops, round-table discussions, and splashes of music and motion. CFCP, Inc. will be meeting in the Clarion Hotel in Oakland, formerly known as the Holiday Inn, April 22 – 24, 2005. Registration forms are included in this newsletter.

Those attending will discover a wide range of topics and events related to Poetry. Some are workshops on various aspects of the craft, from writing tips to where and how to publish. Some are awards and recognition for contests. Some invite us to sit back and *appreciate*.

When it is over, participants will take away a bet-

Weekend Sessions offered for credit

CFCP, Inc. has embarked upon an ambitious program to reach out to both teachers and students in California. Last summer and fall three meetings were held to form and begin the work of the Poetry Education Committee. As part of the work of that committee, the web site has been expanded to include an Education section, and CFCP has developed a proposal to offer University Extension credit for participation in the convention sessions.

California State University East Bay (formerly CSU Hayward) will award 2.5 quarter units of upper division graduate level credit to those who successfully complete the "educators' packet" of items that will be provided at the Convention. This consists of a workbook type collection of material, and will require a specified number of expository writings prompted by questions related to sessions attended, one or more original pieces of poetry developed as part of a workshop, and the first draft of a lesson for your own students incorporating methods learned during the sessions.

The fee is conveniently reasonable at \$44 per unit. Entitled *Poetry Education: Classroom Strategies*, the course is especially intended for teachers and other who are considering teaching poetry at any grade level, but others may enroll, if they wish. Please sign up in advance on the Registration Form, so that we have materials ready for you at the convention.

ter understanding of the wide field of options in creating and appreciating Poetry. And, as an added bonus, they'll have developed a little of that camaraderie that exists between poets and their close associates.

A major change this year is that CFCP will offer university credit for participation in the weekend's events (see the article on this topic).

The Convention formally opens at 3 pm with a Welcome given in several different languages, greetings and proclamations from the mayors and other officials of Bay Area cities, and an address from a well-known local politician. This will be followed by a panel discussion from publishers and editors, and then one on the difficulties of translation.

Keynote Speaker David Alpaugh will challenge us all with *The Professionalism of Poetry* at 7 pm. Alpaugh's wit, humor, and way with a story have made him one of the most popular poets in the Bay Area where he has been a featured reader over 100 times at books stores, cafes, colleges and other venues. He has taught at the University of California, Berkeley Extension; is host of the celebrated Second

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Picturing the Voices

With so many poets in California, how do we portray their voices? Selecting only those long since retired to anthologies brought a double handful of names, but who knows who they are, today? The Convention Committee has decided to include the images of many of the early poets as part of our overall display, so you'll be seeing not only the first poet laureate, but many other pioneers of poetry at the Convention.

But California's voices are not confined to musty books or dusty shelves; they are still strong and multitudinous, and we are asking for your help. Each member is invited — no, *requested* — to send a snapshot or wallet-size photo of yourself, even if you can't attend the convention, so that you, too, will have a "voice" this year. Wouldn't it be grand if we could

continued on page two: 'Pictures'

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>

Slate of Officers proposed for next two years

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of officer nominees for approval at the January meeting. Their nominations were:

President James Shuman

First Vice President David Lapierre

Second Vice President Katharine Wilson

Third Vice President Dan Saucedo

Fourth Vice President Donna Honeycutt

Treasurer no nomination

Recording Secretary Lee Collins

Corresponding Secretary Dorothy Marshall

Members-at-Large Chair ... Frances Yordan

This slate was approved by the Board to be presented to the membership.

The lack of a nominee for the position of Treasurer was discussed. Ursula T. Gibson, who has been treasurer for nearly eight years, has said that for health reasons she cannot continue to serve, but has agreed to stay in the position briefly to ease the transition.

The Nominating Committee approached several people with the treasurer's position, but none accepted. Thus, that position has been opened to the general membership, with this caveat: anyone who is interested in serving the organization in this position should submit their name and a brief résumé outlining their qualifications to President James

Convention to feature 'California Voices'

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Sunday Poetry Readings in Crockett; publishes *Carquinez Poetry Review*; and is a permanent member of the board of trustees of *The Ina Coolbrith Circle*.

Sound, Substance, Style — Poetry Diversity will present current trends in Bay Area poetry through the interpretive work of five local poets, followed by the traditional Bardic Circle read-around to close Friday evening's activities.

Saturday begins with the Children's Poetry Fair Exhibit in one room and in another, authors' exhibits of books and periodicals, as well as archival materials including photographs, old documents, and other items of historic interest, will be on display.

A choice of poetry workshop or roundtable discussion at 9 am leads to the Keynote Speaker, Katie McAllaster Weaver, addressing us on *Writing with Children in*

Mind. Her poems have appeared in *Hazmat, West Wind Review, Writers' Forum, Thunder Sandwich, Suisun Valley Review* and the *Carquinez Poetry Review*, among others. Her children's poetry has been featured in numerous magazines and her children's picture book, *Bill in a China Shop* has won awards both in the U.S. and U.K. Another children's book is due out from Simon & Schuster in 2008.

The morning's events will be rounded out with a series of sessions on the haiku form, concluding with *Haiku 4 U* by President James Shuman.

The Poets' Luncheon on Saturday and the Golden Pegasus Banquet on Sunday evening are optional events, but are times in which new acquaintances become friends, friendships solidify, and exchanges of thoughts and ideas on a variety of topics enrich the experience. The Luncheon will include a Hawaiian Language interpretation by dancer Alberta Jay.

At 1:30, the Youth Contest Awards will be presented, and at 3:30 there will be a *Tribute to Poets Laureate*, beginning with a 15 minute *Celebration of the Muses* dance presentation followed by a series of panels of poets who have held the laureate title for their community.

Classroom teachers will have a panel on *How I Get Students Interested in Poetry* followed by a discussion/assessment of the Children's Poetry Fair.

The evening will offer *Poetry Into Rhythm and Song* featuring Bay Area poets and songwriters performing their own work, followed by another read-around to close the event-filled day.

Sunday morning offers a choice of *Writing for Spirituality* or *Poets in Wartime*, followed by the General Membership Meeting. Educators have a session on *Poetry Basics* followed by time to begin *Developing a Lesson for Your Students*.

The afternoon features the Annual Contest Awards, recognizing the authors of the outstanding poems in this year's contest. Each of the three to five winning poems in each of twelve categories is read aloud, either by the author, or by a poet-reader.

The evening concludes with the Golden Pegasus Banquet, the highlight of the Convention. Featuring a keynote speaker and the

Picturing the Voices

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have pictures of everyone in the entire organization!!!! If you don't have any pictures handy, make sure someone brings a digital camera to the next meeting, and be sure to shoot a bunch.

You may send prints directly to Decorations Chair debee loyd, 1127 Grantland Court, Modesto, CA 95350. Send digital images as an attachment to an e-mail message to James Shuman at <jshuman@telis.org>. Deadline for submissions is April 8. Sorry, but we cannot guarantee return of original photos.

And be sure to look for yourself at the Convention! You'll be hanging out in good company, we promise!

Monthly Contest Winners

on the topic of *Changes*

Circle

A life
remembers
the hour of death

As it spirals
up to a blue orb
turning in the Void,

Skirting the path
of infinity where
there is peace.

Yet the life returns
to worn battlegrounds,
to warring spirits

Shaking the ribcage of memory
its bones rattling
inside a dream

Waiting
for tomorrow
already a long time ago.

—Elizabeth A. Bernstein,
Paradise, CA
First Prize, January

Once

I hungered
for the silly songs
we used to sing
until —

met again,
so many years
apart,
we opened mouths
and heard
how disparate
our tunes.

—Pearl Stein Selinsky,
Sacramento, CA
Second Prize, January

It's Just the Way You See It

Down the block, trash bins wait
in irregular array,
bright Dutch-blue and military green,
lidded, with wheels on rear bottoms,
emptied by the mechanical arm
that drops down

from a noisy, behemoth vehicle,
and that, with rasping complaints,
seizes each bin, pivots it so the contents
fall into the truck's maw,
replaces the container at the curb,
to wait for the back yard return.

Some are upright, in regulation position,
covers closed. But there is deviance:
a deep-green bin reels back

on its wheels in the gutter,
another leans nearly prone on the sidewalk;
the tops of some are carelessly open. And
at the end of the block, stands a blue bin,
unemptied, its cover ajar with
a costly walker and invalid's bath chair.

—Norma Kohout, Sacramento, CA
Third Prize, January

installation of Officers for the 2005–2007 term, it concludes with the awarding of the Roadrunner-Up and Golden Pegasus trophies for outstanding work. Winners of these awards are not known until they are announced at the ceremony.

Often, a few poets convene in a suite or other large area for a final session of read-arounds before saying good-bye for another year.

But this year, the Convention still isn't over! There is an optional Monday morning bus tour of *Sites of Historical Literary Significance in Alameda*, conducted by Mary Rudge, Poet Laureate of the City of Alameda. Space is limited, so it's first come, first served on reserving a spot for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

From beginning to end, don't miss out on any of the wonderful sessions at *California Voices*.

CFCP, Inc. Elections Ballot 2005

Please select no more than one candidate for each office, and mail your ballot by April 8 to Marjorie Voigt, 1017 Oliver Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030.

President

James Shuman

First Vice President

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Katharine Wilson

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Fourth Vice President

Donna Honeycutt

Recording Secretary

Lee Collins

Corresponding Secretary

Dorothy Marshall

Members-at-Large Chair

Frances Yordan

Have you adopted a School?

There's still time to include your neighborhood elementary school in the Children's Poetry Fair

Hints and suggestions have been made in the past that chapters — or even individual members — could volunteer to assist teachers in nearby elementary schools, promoting the appreciation and production of poetry. Several individuals, and some chapters, have "adopted" one or more elementary schools by volunteering to work with teachers in presenting poetry to the students, and in some cases, helping the students to write their own poems.

Here's where you can take this cooperative venture a little further. Why not request permission to collect some of the poems they have written, and perhaps some photos of students and chapter members interacting, and create a display to share at the Convention?

The Board recently approved a plan whereby each chapter should provide at least one display from an elementary school in its geographic area, showing examples of the work being produced. The display can be prepared on a standard three-panel cardboard fold-out (usually 24 x 36 inch with two narrower side panels) and brought to the Convention, or the material can be mailed in advance to the Chair of the Children's Poetry Fair, Linda McCarty, at 4077 Shaker Run Circle, Fairfield, CA 94533. The deadline for mailing the material is April 8.

Items to include in the display include, of

Take the Alameda Literary History Tour 9-12 Monday

As a final treat to an already delightful weekend, Program Chair Mary Rudge (who just happens to also be the Poet Laureate of the City of Alameda) will lead a literary history tour on Monday morning following the convention. A series of stops are scheduled at important points in Alameda and Oakland, where tour participants can take photos, stand in the same locations, see the same sights — perhaps experience the same moods — as some of the leading literary figures from Bay Area history.

Price of the three-hour tour is \$20, with a limit of about 30 people. Be sure to sign up for the tour on your Registration Form to ensure you a space in the group.

course, selected poems (enlarged in a copy machine or printed at 24-point is good), the name and address of the school, captions to go with the photos, and a brief account of the classroom activity which produced the poems. The names of chapter members who participated should also be included.

If you are bringing the material with you, please have it ready to display, and give it to the person at the Registration Desk when you arrive. If you are mailing your material, please send the above items loose in a flat package, and Mrs. McCarty's Poetry Club students will help prepare the display for you.

This Convention is a little different

That's right! From the very beginning, the Board chose to experiment with a new model for this convention. The most apparent difference is that there is no single Host Chapter. Instead, the Convention Committee is composed of members of seven different chapters. These are Alameda Island Poets, Robert Frost, Poets of the San Joaquin, Jeannette Gould Maino, Orpheus, Valley Writers, and Members at Large.

As you read through the various articles you may have been struck by the fact that the addresses of the various chairs were all over the state. And that is the intention — to be as inclusive as possible in involving everyone in a chance to participate.

And the Board has determined one more way for every chapter to participate. Each year those attending the Convention are delighted with a "goody bag" of various gift items from local merchants and businesses. This year, each chapter is requested to obtain approximately 100 pieces of one or two such items from their community and send them in advance to Hospitality Chair Claudia Cobleigh, 1270 Chadwick Court, Modesto, CA 95350.

These items should be requested from various institutions in your own community. In the past the gifts have included pens, note pads, magnets, key chains, etc. Whatever is offered is fine, if the chapter members feel it represents their area. Donations of fewer than 100 items are also welcome.

Changes to contest rules puzzling some

Most members have responded enthusiastically to the new contest categories. Results for January are included in this issue, and a large number of February entries have arrived. Unfortunately, a few of them continue to be based on last year's information.

Monthly Contest Chair Cleo Griffith emphasizes that everyone needs to "read the fine print" in the contest schedule, since not only have the categories changed, but also the entry fee. Please be sure to send in the correct amount with your poems, which is \$2 per poem, or 3 poems for \$5.

The March category, *Off-the-Wall!*, should be an enjoyable one for all members and friends. As the title implies, it is pretty open-ended, but we do hope you will exercise your creativity on the word-play opportunities that are suggested. How effectively can you incorporate the theme title into the subject or style of your poem?

Fun With Numbers, our September category, gives everyone a chance to play with poetry and numbers at the same time. This can be a form (*Triolet*, *Cinquain*, *Etheree*, etc., in which case please identify the form) or about numbers, or a combination of the two. You can make a poem from a license plate number, an address, telephone number or the ages of your family, or anything countable, or uncountable, such as raindrops during a December storm. It can be serious or funny... everyone should be able to participate in this category.

Monthly Contest Chair Cleo Griffith <cleor36@yahoo.com> will be glad to answer any questions to further clarify this category and she can send some examples. Below is one sample:

Triolet for Three

The seagull swims in otter's wake
content to feed on drifted specks
of clams the otter strikes to break.
The seagull swims in otter's wake
but will not share what she can take
with her own mate who flies and checks.
The seagull swims in otter's wake
content to feed on drifted specks.

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Changes *continued from page 4*

It's not too soon to get your entries ready for the March contest, in which the topic is "Off-the-Wall!"

There are new topics and rules for 2005, since the Board authorized some changes at its October meeting. Most notable is the fee per entry, which is now \$2 per poem, or 3 poems for \$5.

Also, several of the topics have been changed, to provide a bit more variety and challenge to your creative juices! Several people suggested other topics, as well, so we ended with more than enough for ten contests. No fixed form contests were included, since in recent years these have seen a very limited number of entries.

With a new category every month, there are 30 chances a year to win recognition. But, of course, it *is* necessary to actually send your poems in to the Contest Chair! Be sure to discard any copies of previous years' contests rules, and be thinking of entries for 2005. Pin a copy of this page to your bulletin board for quick reference.

Keep copies of this page handy to share when people ask how to join CFCP. Also, think in terms of carrying copies to give to interested friends or acquaintances. And maybe leave a few at your library or on the bulletin board at the local college or university.



YES!

I definitely want to be a member of the
California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc. for the year 2005.

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. New 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.

2005 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

JANUARY	— Changes
FEBRUARY	— Portraits
MARCH	— Off-the-Wall!
APRIL	— Historical
MAY	— Light or Humorous Verse
JUNE	— Exploration, Nature & Science
JULY	— <i>no contest</i>
AUGUST	— Short Poem 12 lines or fewer
SEPTEMBER	— Fun with Numbers
OCTOBER	— California
NOVEMBER	— Family
DECEMBER	— <i>no contest</i>

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 ONE COPY of each poem with author's name and address in the upper left corner of the reverse side. Address labels are acceptable. Multiple entries are welcome.

Only UNPUBLISHED POEMS and poems not previously awarded a money 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 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 Updrafts** newsletter.*

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

► Cleo Griffith
mail contest
entries to
4409 Diamond Court
Salida, CA 95368-9632
<cleor36@yahoo.com>

How to Become a Member

check the appropriate item:

Membership Annual/Renewal \$15⁰⁰
 New Member (February 1 to April 30) \$12⁰⁰
 New Member (May 1 to July 31) \$7⁵⁰
 Spouse (½ regular member) \$7⁵⁰, \$6⁰⁰, or \$3⁷⁵
 Junior (under 21; show proof of age) \$3⁰⁰
 Donation (specify amount)

I am interested in joining a Chapter in my area (name of 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 Chairman, 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 806, Tujunga, CA 91043-0806.

Clarion Hotel in Oakland set for April 22 – 24 state Convention

The Clarion Hotel Oakland Airport is located at 500 Hegenberger Road, Oakland.

The former Holiday Inn Oakland Airport is located just minutes from the Oakland International Airport. All guests have access to the 24-hour complimentary shuttle to and from the airport as well as free parking.

Spacious guest rooms have been recently renovated for your improved comfort. The carefully appointed rooms feature an array of in-room amenities and modern decor. Each room features one king or two full-size beds, a hair dryer, coffee maker, iron, ironing board and 27-inch remote controlled cable TV and high-speed Internet access. Also included is a full Continental breakfast for two; extra breakfasts per room are \$5 each.

Special rates including taxes are based upon whether you choose the Tower section or the Courtyard section of the hotel, and whether you choose one king bed or two double beds. They are: Courtyard, king, \$88.80; Courtyard, two doubles, \$98.79; Tower, king, \$105.45; Tower, two doubles, \$116.55.

There are no room charges for children, 18 and under, when they occupy the same room as their parents.

Rollaway beds are \$10.00 per night; cribs are available at no extra fee. Rollaway beds are subject to availability and should be requested at time of booking.

Check-in time is 3 pm; check-out is 12 noon. Upon check-in photo identification and credit card or cash deposit is required for incidental charges.

The 293-unit Clarion Hotel Oakland Airport features Vanessa's Restaurant, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner; McLeod's Bar & Grill, decorated with Raiders memorabilia; a fitness room; outdoor pool; business center; and on-site car rental agency. In addition to its own dining facilities, the hotel is close to area dining, entertainment and shopping venues.

Other amenities include: clock radio, desk, dry cleaning, fax machine, gift shops or newsstand, golf course, handicap accessibility, interior room entrance, laundry facilities, non smoking rooms, photocopy machines, room service, safe, safe-deposit box at front desk, tennis court, turndown service, voice mail, wake-up calls, and family rooms.

Oakland Airport is one mile from Oakland International Airport and within walking distance of the Oakland Coliseum, home

of the Oakland Raiders, Oakland Athletics and Golden State Warriors. The hotel is near many area attractions, including the Oakland Convention Center, Alameda Beach, Jack London Square, the University of California at Berkeley and the Oakland Zoo. Downtown San Francisco, Fisherman's Wharf, Chinatown are 15 miles from the hotel. Napa Valley is 50 miles away.

Those who are flying can take advantage of the free shuttle service from the Oakland Airport. For those driving west on 580, take 238 via the exit on the LEFT toward 880 and Oakland. After 2.3 miles merge onto 880 N via the exit on the LEFT toward Oakland. After 4.6 miles take the exit toward Hegenberger Road / Coliseum. In quick succession, turn LEFT onto Edes Avenue, turn LEFT onto Hegenberger Road, make a U-turn onto Hegenberger Road, and enter the Clarion parking lot at 500 Hegenberger Road, Oakland.

Those who are driving east on 880 S toward San Jose, take the Hegenberger Road exit toward Oakland Airport / Coliseum, turn LEFT onto Hegenberger Road, cross over the freeway, and enter the Clarion parking lot at 500 Hegenberger Road, Oakland, CA 94621-1320.

Convention, Hotel Registration Forms

Call for photos, donations

Slate of Officers nominated

Courses credit offered for weekend

California Voices' Convention Info

• Inside:

Reviewing California poets for over 60 years

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