



Chaparral Updrafts

from the
California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

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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

In yesterdays world there were hunters and gatherers. In today's world there are, well, hunters and gatherers. One would think that having grown up in a tradition that includes pheasant hunting during the Thanksgiving holidays I would be a hunter, going straight to the point. I'm not. I'm a gatherer. I wonder around picking random thoughts out of the air and sticking them together in ways that only make sense to me.

So the theme for this newsletter is communication. In September I reported a long-distance vote changing the way the annual contest was judged. That experiment I consider successful and changes were made. How they will work in practice will be a question answered in April at the annual convention. Well I've done it again. This time we held a long distance vote on the subject of approving a new chapter. So here I want to welcome and congratulate the *Writers of the Saratoga*, and Rachel Kim, the group's first president.

For the writers of the Saratoga timeliness was very important and once again we needed a quick response from the executive board. The importance and result of the Boards quick action in the matter of membership means a no fee submission for the annual contest for this new chapter. They had paid their dues pending our acceptance so they were ready to go. We want to see some winners from our new members. The executive board was surveyed a third time in the matter of ratification of a slate of contest judges for the monthly contest. Ratification is a matter that might have been dealt with at the October meeting but for an omission on the part of your president, so I iron my hands and think each of you for your cooperation.

Long distance voting is working. I will be using long distance meeting tactics because they work, they are fast, and they are cheap. I have noticed an unanticipated benefit. Some of our members who are eligible for the executive board, but do not attend meetings, have begun to sign in on various issues. These folks are current chapter presidents or past state presidents who have standing on the executive board but for whatever reason do not attend scheduled executive board meetings. I appreciate each of them, the response I receive to my requests, and the voice they provide. I look forward to meeting them face to face.

My request and the point of this long communication themed message is this: I am a gatherer and I want to gather up an e-mail address or e-mail message address from each person eligible to attend executive board meetings. We will always have a community meeting at the annual convention but next year I plan to hold one of the three remaining meetings electronically. Please, executive board members, I need your e-mail address. My email address is choc624@sbcglobal.net

CALIFORNIA
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of
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inc.

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Editor & Publisher.....Ed Bearden
P. O. Box 1750 Empire, Ca. 95319
209-522-9600 FAX 209-491-0950
Email: Choc624@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer.....Roberta Bearden
P. O. Box 1750 Empire, Ca. 95319
Email: Bert714@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary...Dorothy Marshall
430 Eleventh St. Pomona, CA 91766
888-308-7488

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>.

Treasurer's Report

Dues for 2008 were due by December 31, 2007. There are at least two chapters that I have not received any dues for and a number of others who have members listed but I have not received money for them.

I have attempted to contact those chapters who have not paid as of January 9, 2008 but so far I have not been successful with getting dues. Please note that any dues received after January 1, 2008 will be credited to membership but those members will not be able to enter the annual contest free.

The 2008 Membership roster will be presented at the January 19, 2008 meeting in Ontario. Hopefully by then we will have all the member chapters reporting in with their checks.

Remember that reservations and money for the 2008 convention are to be sent to the treasurer directly this year. Hopefully most of our members will get their reservations in early. Thanks for your help.

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of Fences

Fenced

Wrists without watches
freed us as youngsters.

"Two hairs past a freckle,"
we'd giggle when asked

to tell them the time,
which then seemed so vast.

Two shrubs past a cow
on my route near its bend

make me glance at my wrist,
where time has an end.

Now worn by a watch,
fenced by schedules, I'm led

like a freckle of cow,
jogging off to her shed.

Sherry Sheehan
FIRST PLACE

Sisters

From the wickedest barbed sticks
bristled and pronged
she built her fence.
From nettles and snags
prickled and spurred,
from harsh burrs and sharp quills
snaggled bear grass and all of natures
razor edged scalpels,
pleached with the thorned canes
of innocent roses,
deep in the forest where we wandered,
she built her fence.

I fashioned mine among the twisted roots
deep in my coward's hidey-hole
and we each hunted alone.

Seasons rotted the stick and roots,
crumbled the maze of canes,
froze and flooded away brambles
and itchy thistles alike.

Still, over the low stubble
of the fortification
my foot will not pass.

Evelyn Stecher
SECOND PLACE

The Smallest Bull

We three bulls, from Oklahoma came,
In search of love, in search of fame.
Jumbo was huge, Ferdinand this tall.
Third was me and of course I'm small.

The first of May was our lucky day.
The fence fell down. We're on our way.
Second day out and what do we spy?
Heifers so comely, make any bull sigh.

The fence was high. The fence was
strong.
But Jumbo jumped it and waved, so
long.
Two days later, across the Kansas line,
Another herd of cows, and oh so fine.

The fence was high but my friend was
fast.
Ferdinand cleared it and I'm the last.
I plod on alone, no heifers to court.
The fences too high or I'm too short.

The trail 's been long; it's sure a pity
Haven't seen many cows in Kansas
City.
The moral of this is and still true today,
A little bull goes, a long, long way.

Eugene Shea
THIRD PLACE

2008 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

RULES

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

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
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.

The next executive board meeting will be held at the Ontario Marriott on January 19, 2008 at 11:00 AM. All chapter presidents, board members and other members are invited to come. The lunch is a choice of Oriental Chicken Salad or Turkey Croissant Sandwich with either chocolate cake or carrot cake for dessert. The price is \$19.00 including tax & gratuity. Contact either Ed Bearden or Marge Voigt with your lunch order if you will be attending.

We are excited to report a new chapter for CFCP, Inc. Welcome to the Writers of the Saratoga Orchard based in Saratoga, California. We look forward to seeing our new members in Ontario in April for the convention.

In the President's request to ratify monthly contest judges for 2008 as requested by contest chair Cleo Griffith the electronic poll was 20 yes votes and 2 no votes. The submitted slate of judges was ratified.

Don't forget the 82nd Annual Poets' Dinner/Contest. Deadline for contest entries is January 15, 2008. You must be present to win so get those poems submitted and the luncheon reservations made. Hope to see you there.



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