

Chaparral updrafts

from the
California Federation
of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 60 years

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State Poets Laureate gather for national meet

At the invitation of New Hampshire Poet Laureate Marie Harris, who noted that 31 states and the District of Columbia have laureates but most of them had never met their counterparts, 16 poets and an audience of 200, among them teachers, librarians and other poets, concluded National Poetry Month with a first-of-its-kind conference. Early promotional literature indicated the aim was “to provide a forum for a lively exchange of information, ideas, and concerns that will address the sometimes controversial role of the poet laureate and place of the poet in contemporary society.”

The meeting at the Highlander Inn at Manchester, New Hampshire, occurred April 25th and 26th. Friday was devoted to a series of readings at more than two dozen New Hampshire locales, and the poets laureate spent Saturday in panel discussions on the role of poets in public life. The group — some of whom are called “writer laureates” — was hosted by the New Hampshire Writers’ Project. The conference theme of “Poetry and Politics” was carried out in many of the panel topics and the conference-opening speech of Maxine Kumin, former New Hampshire poet laureate and well-know anti-war advocate. It was, according to Denise Hart, writing in *Poets &*

Writers magazine, an attempt to “discuss the ambiguities and perceived responsibilities of being a state-endorsed poet, and [to] explore what happens when poetry intersects with politics, education, and community.”

Although more than forty states and the District of Columbia have made provisions for poets laureate or state writers, only 31 positions are currently filled. Usually the poet is selected or nominated by the governor, and the job is largely “without a description and without compensation,” according to Ms. Harris.

Among those attending were writers of a variety of personal styles and degrees of recognition. Larry Woiwode, poet laureate of North Dakota, is an acclaimed novelist, while Jim Irons, poet laureate of Idaho, has never published a book. Ellen Kort, poet laureate of Wisconsin, carries chalk so she can write poems on sidewalks whenever inspiration strikes; Ms. Harris believes in being seen taking out the garbage so that others will understand that poets are ordinary people. Maggi Vaughn, a determined “poet of the people” from Tennessee, says what’s wanted in a poet laureate is “someone who can go to the crossroads

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Board Meeting set for July 26

It’s nearly time for the next CFCP, Inc. Board Meeting, which has been set for July 26 at the Marriott Ontario Airport Hotel, 2200 E. Holt Boulevard, Ontario, 91761. The telephone number is 1 909-975-5000.

All state officers, committee chairs, and chapter presidents are urged to attend, since they are considered voting members and their input is needed in planning events for the future. In addition, all CFCP members are welcome to attend, especially members of local area chapters.

Plan to meet at 11:00 am in room 320 for a luncheon/working meeting.

The menu has been pre-selected to provide either an Oriental Chicken Salad or a Turkey Croissant sandwich with potato salad. Each option includes dessert and coffee, for \$13 per person.

NOTE: Please RSVP to Convention Chair Marjorie Voigt with your menu preference no later than July 23!

In choosing the Marriott, CFCP has secured an excellent hotel with spacious meeting areas for the 2004 convention, and the Convention Committee is

continued on page six: ‘Meeting’

Call for Bids still open to host 2005 Convention

Although an earlier invitation was sent out to Chapter presidents, no bids to host the Convention in 2005 were presented at the General Meeting held during the Convention in April. Following our usual rotation, it would be expected to be held somewhere in the northern part of the state. Thus, the call for bids remains open, although the Board will begin exploring options with the expectation that a decision can be reached no later than the October Board meeting.

At the April meeting, President Shuman an
continued on page four: ‘Bids’

Meeting Dates Set

At the Business Meeting during the Convention, President James Shuman announced the meeting dates for the Executive Board for the coming year. These will be at approximately 90-day intervals.

Board members and Committee Chairs are urged to enter these dates on their calendars now, so that conflicts can be avoided. Chapter presidents are reminded that they *do* have a vote, and thus their representation at Board Meetings is strongly encouraged, and it is hoped that by announcing these dates in advance, more people will be able to attend.

The dates and locations of the meetings are set as:

- July 26, 2003 at the Ontario Marriott, the site of the 2004 Convention
- October 25, 2003
- January 24, 2004
- April 30 – May 2, 2004, next year's Convention, at the Ontario Marriott

Locations for the October and January meetings are open. If any chapter would like to host one of these meetings (there is no charge to the local chapter), contact President Shuman to initiate the necessary arrangements.

We would like at least one of them to be in the northern part of the state.

Poet Adrienne Rich Wins Prestigious Bollingen Prize

Earlier this year, a three-judge panel named Adrienne Rich the 2003 winner of Yale University's Bollingen Prize in American Poetry.

Rich's "honesty at once ferocious and humane, her deep learning, her continuous poetic exploration and awareness of multiple selves" were cited by the judges in awarding her the prize. "In her most recent work there is a renewed intimacy and commitment to the imagination's sustaining power," they noted.

This year's judges were Willard Spiegelman, professor of English at Southern Methodist University, and poets and Bollingen Prize winners Louise Glück and John Hollander.

Based on a lifetime's achievement, the prize also honors Rich's 2001 book *Fox: Poems 1998-2000* and earlier work.

Poets Laureate attend national convention

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and big cities, and people will understand them."

On Friday the poets made appearances throughout the state, each giving three free readings at such public places as libraries, schools and community centers. Most of these readings were well-attended and well-received. On Saturday the poets assembled in a series of panel discussions, including "Poetry and Education," "Poetry and Community," "Poetry, Human Creativity and the Brain," "Poetry and the Media," "Poets and Politicians: Parallel Worlds," "Poetry and the Spirit: Ancient Mantras, Health and Healing" and "The Poet as Citizen."

Paraphrasing Shelley, "Welcome, unacknowledged legislators of the world" was the greeting Maxine Kumin chose to begin her 9 a.m. address. She named a wide range of poetry, writing styles, and points of view as valid. "All poetry is political," she said, recounting some of her experiences with various national poetry boards. She said it is more important than ever to acknowledge poetry's power to make a difference in the world. Quoting Kurt Vonnegut, who said that writers "have been allowed to say what we want for 200 years, and politicians are still wholly unafraid of us," she asserted that times were

changing. "Now that Laura Bush has canceled the White House poetry event, we know that politicians are not wholly unafraid any more."

Many of the poets commented on what they felt was poetry's newfound power. Most felt that the postponement by the first lady of a White House poetry conference earlier this year after she learned that invited poets were exchanging anti-war poetry was one of the best things that had happened for poetry in a long time. "Ever since Laura Bush, my readings have been crowded," said Grace Paley, 80-year-old poet laureate of Vermont.

Others commented on the positive role the Internet has had, and attributed interest to the Favorite Poem Project first begun by Robert Pinsky when he was poet laureate of the United States.

Many of them see their role as educational. In addition to reading and speaking at the opening of the state legislature, Delaware's Fleda Brown visits poetry teachers around the state, and reads at six schools each year. Mary Crow sees her charge as poet laureate of Colorado as including display of poems on local buses, training graduate students to teach poetry, and "giving awards to local teachers for the innovative use of poetry in the public school classroom."

George Garrett, serving a two-year appointment in Virginia, is attempting to "de-

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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>

Monthly Contest Winners

Get Out the Vote

Get out the vote! Get out the vote!
Gather here from near and far.
If you vote the way you should,
You'll have credit at the bar.

Get out the vote! Get out the vote!
A valued voter we have found.
He's registered here and registered there
And votes both ends of town.

Get out the vote! Get out the vote!
Where did this missing voter go?
It really doesn't matter where,
He lived here seven years ago.

Get out the vote! Get out the vote!
For every voter we must log.
Our candidate won't discriminate
Just because it is a dog.

Get out the vote! Get out the vote!
We've found a cellblock full of stars.
They're as absentee as they can be,
Just pass their ballots through the bars.

Get out the vote! Get out the vote!
Support our man the full amount.
Just because they're in the grave
Doesn't mean their votes won't count.

—Eugene V. Shea, Hanna, WY
First Place, April

Lessons in Zoology: 1

When Aristotle played voyeur
To study the Dibranchian order,
He made his notes of him and her
Sans camera or tape recorder
As he viewed in studied concentration
Squid engaged in copulation.

Today, for scientific notes,
Students all, howe'er plebian,
Have access to glass-bottomed boats
To traverse the Aegean sea in.
They even package air. There are
Paparazzi in the ocean
Spying on the squid's boudoir,
Recording color, sound and motion.

The *Geographic* recently
Published a color photo of
A pair of squid (perhaps in love)
Doing what comes squidishly.
Aristotle's observations
Were in the caption duly noted
(In our intercourse with ancient nations
Only the squid have not been quoted),
The photo proving those sportive squid
Do just what that old Greek said they did.

Whatever license years allow
One thing was certain then, as now:
In terms of scholarly alliance,
Sex is not divorced from science.

—Jack Fulbeck, Covina, CA
Second Place, April

IF MEN FALL IN LOVE WITH THEIR EYES
and women fall in love with their ears
I've observed through many years
your eyes had more reward
than did my ears.

—Dee McCollum, Ocala, FL
Third Place, April

New Committee named to assist with Convention planning

At the General Meeting during the April Convention, President Shuman announced the formation of a Standing Committee on Convention Planning. This committee is *not* intended to supplant the Local Committee; rather, it is expected to serve the Board as an advisory and low-level decision-making body, and to assist the local hosting chapter in its planning in between Board Meetings.

However, because of the wide range of experience the members of this committee possess, it is to be expected that it will be able to provide the Local Committee with ideas, suggestions, and advice to ease the uncertainty and difficulty many local committees have experienced. This is especially

true in regards to the second part of the mandate which was given to it.

This committee will consist of a Chairman who has extensive convention planning experience, and is preferably a member of the Board, and four to six additional members who have been previously involved in the planning process.

The mandate given to this Committee is:

- to be an advisory group providing assistance to local committees in planning and conducting conventions,
- to be responsible for collecting, developing, and maintaining all documents, guidelines, and resource lists pertinent to convention planning and execution, and to make

such resources available to future convention committees.

The Committee appointments were: Katharine Wilson, chairman; Pegasus Buchanan, Joyce Odam, Kathy Kieth, Elaine Lazzeroni, Marjorie Voigt, Nancee Maya, and Cleo Griffith. The president will be an ex officio member.

The Committee has already been hard at work gathering information and ideas, and will make its first report at the Board meeting on the 26th. If anyone has any suggestions that they would like to have considered, now is the time to mention them! Get in touch with chairman Katharine Wilson or one of the other members as soon as possible!

First-ever event draws Poets Laureate

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velop community among poets at all levels” while searching for ways to expand the use of poetry in education. Baron Wormser, second poet laureate of Maine, is “particularly interested in working with teachers on the teaching of poetry.”

But North Dakotan Woiwode observes, “A poet laureate should not be a mere figurehead or adornment, but called upon to add dimension to the daily grind of partisan politics.”

On Saturday night at the gala dinner at the Manchester Holiday Inn, Ms. Harris, the New Hampshire laureate, read from her poem about the minting of the New Hampshire quarter:

*But even gussied up, the quarter's still
a common coin, clinking in the pockets
of poor and rich alike, a coin with which
to buy time for a load or two of laundry.*

The evening's featured speaker was the newly-confirmed chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, poet Dana Gioia, who sidestepped the event's main theme of “Poetry and Politics.” At an earlier news conference he had been asked about the postponed White House event and said he had no comment. As for politics and poetry in general, he said, when poetry is read “only as conceptual, ideological speech, it diminishes its role as art.”

He began with a poem of his own, “California Hills in August,” and repeated a theme voiced earlier by others, that rap, and cowboy poetry, and slam all indicate a resurgence in popular poetry coinciding with a resur-

gence in “literary” poetry.

“This enormous reawakening is now an undeniable fact of contemporary American cultural life,” he said. “This is a moment of marvelous possibility... What you have at your disposal may be merely symbolic. But we poets are masters of using symbols. You have the only necessary resource, your voice, and your vision. Working together we can make America what it deserves to be.”

Poetry and Politics was a collaborative project produced by the New Hampshire Writers' Project in association with the Academy of American Poets and the State of New Hampshire, through the Department of Cultural Resources, with funding support from Jefferson Pilot Financial, Verizon, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire Humanities Council and the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

Information for this article was drawn from a number of sources, including:

Poetry & Politics Information Page and Media Kit.
<http://www.nhwritersproject.org/poetryandpolitics/>

Poetry Daily, April 28, 2003: “Snapshots at a Conference” by Daisy Fried.
<http://poems.com/essafrie.htm>

Poets & Writers, February, 2003: “The United State of Poets Laureate,” by Denise Hart.
www.artsjournal.com/publishing/redirect/20030227-17417.html

The New York Times, April 28, 2003: “Laureates Convene, Waxing Poetic” by Dinitia Smith.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/28/books/28POET.html?ex=1058068800&en=6779702f1850e4f1&ei=5070>

A new poetry 'zine to watch

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA POETIX can be found at <http://www.poetix.net/> billing itself as the “*Poetry & Spoken Word Gateway*” and serving Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, San Gabriel, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo.

With a staff of a dozen young writers and “editors,” its sections include *Poetry News*, *SoCalendar*, *Venues*, *Features & Interviews*, *Graffiti*, *Closeup*, *Getting Published*, *In Review*, *Workshops &*, *Po Daze*, *On Tour*, *Chapbooks*, and *Tebot Bach**

Tebot Bach* is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to strengthening community, promoting literacy, and broadening the audience

for poetry through Community Outreach Programs and Publishing, and to demonstrating the power of poetry to transform one's life experiences through readings, workshops, and publications. Poetix is such a publication.

Tebot Bach is now accepting submissions for a new Anthology of California poetry, to be published in 2004. Submissions are open to all California and California affiliated poets. Deadline is October 1. You may submit up to three poems. For full details, please visit the web site or contact: *California Anthology*, Attention: Paul Suntup, 384 Giotto, Irvine, CA 92614.

*Tebot Bach is Welsh for little teapot.

Griffin Poetry Prize awarded

Announcement was made in Toronto on June 12 that the Canadian and International winners of the 2003 Griffin Poetry Prize are Margaret Avison for *Concrete and Wild Carrot* and Paul Muldoon for *Moy sand and gravel*. Muldoon was winner of the Pulitzer for the same book earlier this year. The C\$80,000 Griffin Poetry Prize, the richest poetry prize in the world for a single volume of poetry, is divided between the two winners. The prize is for first edition books of poetry published in 2002.

More than 300 guests attended the awards celebration, including poets, publishers and other literary luminaries.

Judges for 2003 are poets Michael Longley (U.K.), Sharon Olds (U.S.A.) and Sharon Thesen (Canada) who, between them, read 327 books of poetry from 16 countries.

Judges are selected on an annual basis by the Griffin Poetry Prize Trustees, Margaret Atwood, Robert Hass, Michael Ondaatje, Robin Robertson and David Young.

The Griffin Trust was created to serve and encourage excellence in poetry written in English anywhere in the world. Eligible collections of poetry must be submitted by publishers in the calendar year of their publication.

Bids for 2005 still open

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nounced the formation of a new Standing Committee to assist local chapters in the planning and preparation of a Convention. Under this plan, a portion of the burden will be shouldered by the state organization, so that local members will not be expected to provide all the effort themselves. In a related article, you can find more information regarding this committee and its functions.

Thus, the prospect of bringing a convention to various communities across the state is more viable than it had been previously. It will now be possible for us to go into areas where only one or two members reside, if they wish to have this kind of opportunity to promote poetry and CFCP.

A two-year planning cycle provides more time to promote the concept locally and solicit community support for the event.

Any chapter or local group or members at large who would like to have the convention in their area should contact the president at once so that their proposals can be considered.

A handy info-page

We get frequent queries as to how to join CFCP, or for a listing of the monthly contest categories and rules. In this issue of *Updrafts* we have included both of them on the same page, which provides a convenient reference source as well as one that can be photocopied and given to prospective new members.

Send in your poems to the monthly contest... it's where many of us first see our names in print! and the price is so minimal you can hardly afford to pass up the chance. Notice that many of the categories this year are open-ended enough to accept almost any type or style or subject. Look through that collection you've been holding back and see if you have something to enter.

Also, the membership year has just entered the second step of the pro-rated formula, meaning that from now through July new members can join for just \$7⁵⁰. Please think in terms of making a copy and giving this handy form to an interested friend or acquaintance. It can be completed and returned (along with a check) to your chapter treasurer, who will then send it in to the state.

Make a few copies of this page to carry with you and hand them to your friends and acquaintances. Leave a few copies at your library or on the bulletin board at the local college or university. Get the word out!

CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

Except where otherwise indicated, poems are limited to 28 lines

RULES

- JANUARY** — Free Verse
- FEBRUARY** — Poet's Choice
- MARCH** — Any Subject, Any Style
- APRIL** — Light or Humorous Verse
- MAY** — Poet's Choice
- JUNE** — Children, Pets or Places
- JULY** — *no contest*
- AUGUST** — Poet's Choice
- SEPTEMBER** — Any Subject, Any Style
- OCTOBER** — Any Poem 24 Lines or Fewer
- NOVEMBER** — Nature (any style)
- DECEMBER** — *no contest*

Contests are open to all poets in the United States and Canada. Each poem submitted 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-hand corner of the reverse side. Address labels are acceptable. Multiple entries are especially welcome.

Only UNPUBLISHED POEMS and poems not previously awarded a money prize are eligible. A fee of one dollar (\$1.00) must accompany entry for each poem submitted. 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 Newsletter.

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

➔ Pegasus Buchanan
mail contest Monthly Contest Editor, CFCP, Inc.
entries to 1422 Ashland Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711



YES!

I definitely want to be a member of the
California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc. for the year 2003.

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. 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.**

How to Become a Member

check the appropriate item:

- _____ Membership Annual/Renewal \$15.00
- _____ New Member (February 1 to April 30) \$12.00
- _____ New Member (May 1 to July 31) \$7⁵⁰
- _____ Spouse (1/2 regular member) \$7⁵⁰, \$6, or \$37⁵⁰
- _____ Junior (under 21; show proof of age) \$3.00
- _____ Donation (specify amount)

_____ I am interested in joining a Chapter in my area (name Chapter if known)

_____ 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 _____

New Members: 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.

Poets of the Vineyard announces winners in national contest

Winners in the national contest sponsored by Poets of the Vineyard have recently been announced, and they include several CFCP members.

The Grand Prize went to Ruth Wildes Schuler from Novato, CA. She is not a member of CFCP, but some friendly overtures, would certainly be in order, it seems.

Among CFCP member winners were:

Claire J. Baker, San Pablo, *Golden Anniversary*, first prize in Category E, Theme on Vineyards; and *Sewing Circle*, first honorable mention in Category D, Short Poems.

Jeanne Meech Park, San Diego, *The Gardener*, second prize in Category A, Traditional Forms.

Judy Cheung, Santa Rosa, *A Gift*, second prize in Category D, Short Poems; and *Tending Creation*, second honorable mention in Category B, Long Free Verse.

Helen V. Malkerson, Oakland, *The Precious Grape*, third prize in Category E, Theme on Vineyards.

Cleo Fellers Kocol, Roseville, *The Final*

Edit, second honorable mention in Category C, Poems That Tell a Story.

Congratulations to each of these members and all others who entered this national contest. Other winners were from New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Florida, Illinois, Tennessee, and Texas.

Poets of the Vineyard is preparing its an-

nual Anthology, which will include all the winning poems for which they have received publication permission. Price will be \$12 each, plus \$2 each for shipping and handling. Contact Judy Cheung, POV president, if you would like a copy.

Watch for announcements regarding next year's contest.

Reminder: State Board Meeting coming soon!

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hard at work developing ideas and plans. Program Chair Pegasus Buchanan is anxious to present a set of sessions that will meet your exacting expectations. This meeting is our opportunity to give the hotel a good looking-over so that we will know what the facilities are like that we will be using.

We will also be giving the Convention Committee some guidance on ideas and specific proposals as they move forward with their planning. In addition, there are a number of other pending issues for the Board to consider.

The Marriott is very near the Ontario Air-

port, and provides shuttle service for those who might wish to fly in to the meeting. For those coming from the north and west, take the I-10 toward San Bernardino. Take the Vineyard Avenue exit (this is shortly before the exit to the Airport). Turn right onto Vineyard Avenue, and proceed for .45 mile to the intersection. Turn left on E Holt Blvd. and go east for 0.24 miles to the hotel on the right.

Those coming from the south and east should take the I-10 to the Holt Boulevard exit, which immediately follows the airport exit. After passing under the freeway the ramp becomes East Holt Boulevard; continue on it about .07 mile to the hotel on the left.

Meeting dates
Major Poetry Prize Winners
Convention Planning Committee
• Inside: Poets Laureate Meet

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