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Gary Snyder leaves papers to UC Davis

Gary Snyder, Pulitzer Prize-winning California poet and friend of Beat poets Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and Philip Whalen, retired to his foothill retreat in 2002 after spending 16 years teaching at UC Davis. But he didn't pack everything up and take it with him. Instead, he left most if not all of his voluminous collection of letters and papers to the archivists at the university.

Sifting through what archivist John Skarstad calls "little windows on what was new, what was hoped and what was dreamed at the time" has become their mission.

With an \$86,600 federal grant, awarded by the California State Library, the university has assigned two archivists full-time to the sorting and cataloging project. They hope to be finished by November, after wading through 180 feet of shelves containing dozens of boxes stacked 12 feet high.

Because he left so much material to the university, his accumulated literary wealth, ranging from handwritten notes on scraps of paper to published books, will make it easy for researchers to trace the development of Snyder's poetry and reveal the depth of his continuing influence on modern poetry, the environmental movement, and American Buddhism.

Long-time poet remembered

The Santa Cruz Chapter recently sent a note and newspaper clipping to let us know one of their long-time members, Sylvia Knapton, passed away last month. Accompanying the message notifying us of her recent passing was a donation from the Santa Cruz Chapter with the hope that we "can find some application for this gift in the area of young people's poetry writing."

Sylvia was an education writer for the Oakland Tribune for 25 years, and moved to Santa Cruz 28 years ago. She is remembered there for her numerous civic projects and activities, especially in health care areas. Her commitment to her community was widespread and long-standing. She was a gourmet cook, could put a roof on a house, publish a book of poetry, go hiking with other seniors, engage in community events, and still find time for her family, her son Bruce observed.

The Santa Cruz Chapter points out that "Sylvia was interested in the encouragement of new writers." Much as we regret the loss of a faithful member, CFCP is grateful for the contribution, and indeed we will make certain that the funds are expended in the manner requested.

Among the papers left to the university are unfinished poems, manuscripts, and letters from Snyder's friends and fellow writers. Each item will be documented and described for an online catalog that will permit researchers to request copies of the documents.

Archivist Sara Gunasekara points out that the 50 years of letters represents only half the conversation, since Snyder's responses aren't generally included among the papers. Even so, it is a good record of the growth of an entire generation of poetic voices. And often, "you can hear the echo of Gary's response," Skarstad said.

Snyder, along with Ginsberg, Whalen, Michael McClure and others, helped launch the West Coast

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CFCP Convention set for 'Western Heritage' theme

Gathering at the Ramada Inn, Modesto, April 25-27, CFCP members from throughout the state will celebrate National Poetry Month with a theme of "Our Western Heritage."

Following Registration from 3 to 5 pm on Friday afternoon, guests will be feted at a Welcome Reception Buffet from 5 to 7. The Opening Program beginning at 7 pm will include introductions and a welcome by a city representative.

Opportunity for Read-Arounds will conclude the evening.

Events begin on Saturday at 9:15 am with options to attend sessions on topics ranging from on-line poetry

continued on page two: 'Detailed'

UC Davis preserves Snyder's papers

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Beat movement in 1955 with a poetry reading at the Six Gallery in San Francisco. But Snyder's work, influenced by the Zen Buddhism he practiced, had a different tone than other Beat poetry. "He gets branded with the Beat label because his friends were Beats, he was there at that time.... But when you look at Kerouac or Ginsberg, I don't think you're looking at the same mind-set," said Anthony Bliss, curator for rare books at UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library, and overseer of

the Bancroft's collection of Beat documents.

Snyder has published 18 books of poetry and prose, including "Turtle Island," which won the 1975 Pulitzer Prize for poetry.

A collection of this size provides a rare opportunity to focus on the development of a literary period. "It's too easy for things like this to get in the hands of book dealers and get scattered to the wind," Morrison said. Once the archivists' work is completed, researchers will be able to view the catalog at the Online Archive of California.

Detailed schedule of Convention program

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to slam poetry, haiku to limericks, the California Quarterly to teaching poetry to young people.

Participants will have an opportunity at the Poets Luncheon to get acquainted with one of the various presenters of the day: one or two will be seated at each table, so that participants will be able to ask questions, gather more ideas, and pick up another suggestion or two. The afternoon will continue with more fun workshops, including a Poetry Primer for beginners and young people, how to use homespun ideas to write great poems, and concluding with the Junior-Senior Awards presentations and readings. The Children's Poetry Fair will continue throughout the day in the lobby.

After dinner on your own, the evening will

offer an editors' round table featuring editors of five different poetry magazines, followed by a workshop on how to master — and enjoy — French forms. Of course, another Read-Around will conclude the evening.

The annual membership meeting will begin at 9:15 Sunday morning, followed by a playful workshop on short forms.

A performance by a local group of poets, The Licensed Fools, will begin the afternoon, followed by the Adult Contest Awards and readings.

A no-host reception and silent auction from 6:30 to 7 pm will lead into the Golden Pegasus Banquet from 7 to 9:30 pm. Guest speaker for this event will be Susan Wooldridge, author of the highly-acclaimed *Poem Crazy*.

Still have poems to share? Still have energy left? One of the "unofficial" events of almost every convention is the read-around on Sunday evening. This one often occurs in the guests' rooms, and with the suites laid out as they are, it's almost certain to occur again this year!

Be sure to reserve space for a Book Table

Friends and visitors alike are always anxious to browse through the rich variety of materials offered at the Book Tables during breaks from the other events at the Convention. Marnelle White has offered to be the coordinator for those wishing to display books and pamphlets of their own work for sale. **Please contact her in advance of the Convention in order to be assured of a space!**

It's quite acceptable for two or three people to go together for one display, but you need to let Marnelle know your plans (call her at 209-523-2216). Unfortunately, she will not be able to conduct sales on your behalf or monitor your materials, so you need to arrange with friends to share that duty. The room will be locked when we're not using it, so you don't have to worry about security.

Contest for 2002 photography

Now is the time to be thinking about those snapshots and photographs you took at last year's Convention— or maybe something from a special local chapter event. Do you have one or more that are memorable and worth sharing with the rest of us? Get them ready, add a clever caption to go with each one, and send them to this year's Photography Chairman, Claudia Cobleigh. Her address is 1270 Chadwick Court, Modesto, CA 95350.

Categories will include Most Artistic, Best Story Quality, and Funniest. There is no limit to the number of entries, and no fee. Entries must be **received** by April 12. Be sure to include your name on the back of each photo (an address label works nicely for this).

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 finalized for '04 – '05

We are again reporting the results of the Nominating Committee, which presented a slate of officers for the coming two years. At the CFCP, Inc. Board Meeting on January 25, 2003, held at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, the Board approved the report of the Nominating Committee. The slate of nominations is as follows:

president James Shuman
first vice president Jeremy Shuman
second vice president Katharine Wilson
third vice president Pegasus Buchanan

fourth vice president Eric Donald
treasurer Ursula T. Gibson
recording secretary Lee Collins
corresponding secretary .. Dorothy Marshall
member at large chair Francis Yordan

Since no other nominations were received by the Nominating Committee **by the deadline of March 10**, the slate as reported here has been accepted.

Officers for the coming two years will be installed at the Convention.

Monthly Contest Winners

The Midnight Season

Morning sky hangs gray, pulls mist like a silver cape over cedars that shudder in February-rime. Silence folds distant footsteps into phantom fog.

Life goes dark. Demons hide in corners with spiders; storm out each time I play jazz or smile at antics of pets at play—demand a return to despondency.

Just to take pleasure in an instant of normalcy, I splash on *Estee Lauder's Beautiful*—before I dress in two shirts, stretch-leggin's, an old blue jogging suit.

I'm raw inside where tenderness can't hide; cold seeps into flesh like rain slides into soft earth.

—JoAn Osborne
First Place, January

Our Last Persimmon

Well ripened, cut from blossom tip to stem in equal halves, its sweetness lingered long; no puckering from tannins in the thin and fragile skin, the last remaining fruit of season's crop seemed manna heaven-sent, a thing to share as we have shared our home with yard where grew the tree. Unwelcomed day when aging bones demand we sell the place! We only hope that others knowing fruit of love will care for our persimmon tree, enjoy the goodness of its yield from year to year while looking forward to the next to come.

—Roger Reeve, Alameda, CA
Second Place, January

Elizabeth's Hand

Knotted veins like a road map pulse beneath the fragile age-blotched skin. Once her hand gentled babies, painted woodwork played sonatas. Now it twitches in her lap, as though riffling backward through a favorite novel to its beginning.

—Arlene L. Mandell,
Santa Rosa, CA
Third Place, January

Ramada Inn set to welcome Chaparral Convention-goers

Extending a hearty Central Valley welcome, the Ramada Inn, Modesto, located at 2001 W. Orangeburg Avenue, has offered a flat room rate for the Convention, but requested that the host chapter to take care of the preregistration details and payments.

Thus, each room reserved through Poets of the San Joaquin — **not the hotel directly** — will be billed at the rate of \$67.58 per night, including all taxes (you are personally responsible, of course, for incidentals). That means you can tell us how many will be in your rooming group, any special needs you have (are stairs a problem? you may prefer to stay upstairs, where the meeting rooms are located, since there are no elevators), and we will do the best we can to accommodate you.

Most of the "double" rooms include two queen beds; most of the "executive" rooms include one king-size bed. The suites also include a sofa that opens into a double bed. Rooms also include a wet bar, refrigerator, coffee maker, microwave, daily newspaper, and fresh flowers from the rose garden.

Other amenities include:

- 24-hour Front Desk
- Outdoor Heated Pool
- Sunning Deck and Public BBQ area

- Adjacent shops/commercial services
- Color television with Cable
- In-Room Movies
- Complimentary Continental Breakfast
- Free local telephone calls
- AM/FM alarm clock
- In-room safes
- Handicapped rooms/facilities
- Laundry/valet services
- RV or truck parking
- Pets allowed
- Baby-sitting/child services

Shopping centers, banks, health clubs, theaters, office supply stores, and churches are conveniently located, some within walking distance. There is a wide range of food service establishments, from coffee shops and fast food outlets to full-service restaurants, many located within a mile or less of the hotel. A new Mexican Restaurant is opening just two doors down the street; a Krispy Kreme donut shop is another block away; steak houses, Italian, Chinese, and salad specialties houses are within a few minutes' drive.

The local chapter will have addresses and telephone numbers for many of these locations, and will assist you in finding them.

Reservations must be **received** by PSJ by

April 1, 2003. But because we want to help you to secure the room that is best for you, please do send in your reservation as soon as possible, since special requests will be taken on a first-come basis. **Note that the mailing address for your hotel reservation is not the hotel!** It is:

Reservation
Poets of the San Joaquin
PO Box 1161
Modesto, CA 95353-1161.

Young Poets offered special Convention invitation

Because several Convention activities are designed especially for young poets and others may be of interest to them, K-12 students are invited to attend these presentations free of charge, and any teacher or parent accompanying one or more students is also welcome to attend free of charge (lunch not included). Regular one-day registration is \$15.

The afternoon concludes with an Awards Program for junior-senior high school poets from throughout the state beginning at 4:00 pm. All K-12 students and their parents and teachers are invited to attend the Awards Program at no charge.

Annual National Contest announced by Poets of the Vineyard

the Poets of the Vineyard have announced their annual National Poetry Contest for 2003, with over \$500 in prizes. Postmark deadline is April 30, 2003.

Categories include:

- A: Forms or Rhyme and Meter** (no free verse nor random verse). If a formal form is used, specify in upper right corner.
- B. Long Free Verse**, up to 32 lines.
- C: Poems that Tell a Story**, up to 32 lines.
- D. Short Poems** (haiku, senryu, tanka, triolet, cinquain, free verse, etc.) up to 10 lines.
- E. Theme on Vineyards or Grapes**, up

to 32 lines.

One Grand Prize of \$75 will be awarded. Each category will offer prizes in the following amounts: First Prize, \$50, Second Prize, \$25, third Prize, \$15, plus three Honorable Mention Certificates.

Send two copies of each poem typed on white 8 1/2 x 11 paper. In the upper right of each sheet, write the category and name. On one copy, write no other identification. On the second copy, in the upper left, write your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and "member" or "non-member."

Send only one poem per page, and no hand-written poems. Line limits do not include titles or stanza breaks. No limit on number of entries, but each poem may be entered

in only one category.

Controversial topics are encouraged, but offensive content and language does not win this contest. All poems must be suitable for a general audience. Entry fees for non-members are \$4 per poem, or 3 poems for \$10. For members of POV, the fees are \$3 per poem, or 5 poems for \$10. Annual membership in POV is \$12. Make all checks and money orders payable to Poets of the Vineyard.

Mail all poems and fees in one envelope to: Contest Chairperson, Emma J. Blanch, 21 Ludlow Drive, Milford, CT 06460-6822. No poems will be returned.

In past years, CFCP members have been among the prizewinners.

National Poetry Map of America unveiled for National Poetry Month 2003

Since the Academy of American Poets launched National Poetry Month in 1996, it has grown exponentially and become the largest, most democratic celebration of any of the arts in America, with an estimated audience that now reaches into the tens of millions.

For National Poetry Month 2003, the Academy is launching a new project that illustrates the pervasive presence of poetry in America, is providing information and free resources, and is producing an event that displays poetry's profound influence on our national culture.

National Poetry Map

On April 1, 2003, the Academy will unveil a National Poetry Map of America on its award-winning website, www.poets.org, with state-by-state listings of:

- Poems, poets, and poet laureates from each state;
- Poetry journals & publishers;
- Poetry organizations and reading series;
- Bookstores with strong poetry sections;
- Festivals, conferences & writing programs, and much more.

"The National Poetry Map is a grand new project that the Academy hopes will grow and grow," observes Executive Director Tree Swenson. "The map will celebrate the thriving poetry communities in every state in the country, and we're counting on people in those communities to help build this part of our website. It is breathtaking to discover how many resources exist. The map should be a handy tool to help people find good poetry in their own back yard."

Free Poetry Books & Free Posters

Each April, the Academy creates and distributes—for free—almost 200,000 National Poetry Month posters to U.S. schools, libraries, bookstores, and community centers to help promote the month-long celebration and to increase poetry awareness. This year's poster features a map of the United States, with lines of poetry by Sylvia Plath, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Robert Creeley, T. S. Eliot, and many others contained in the shape of the states.

Through its ongoing campaign to expand the audience for poetry, the

Academy will help "put poetry on the map" more than ever before.

In addition, the Academy will partner with the American Poetry & Literacy Project to promote and distribute free copies of the new collection *Across State Lines: America's 50 States as Represented In Poetry* (Dover Publications). For more information, visit www.poets.org/aplp.

"Poetry & The Creative Mind"

On April 1, the Academy will host "Poetry & the Creative Mind," co-chaired by Jorie Graham and Rose Styron with honorary chair Caroline Kennedy, and featuring some of America's leading artists, scholars, and public figures, including: Laurie Anderson, Antonio Damasio, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Frank McCourt, Jessye Norman, George Plimpton, Natalie Portman, Zadie Smith, Frank Stella, Meryl Streep, and William Styron. This event was conceived as "a celebration and exploration of the ways in which poetry helps shape America's culture by inspiring and instructing the great individuals to which that culture gives rise." The event will take place at the Julliard Theater, Lincoln Center, in New York.

National Poetry Month Resources

Tip Sheets: www.poets.org/npm/resources.cfm. If you are a teacher, a librarian, or a bookseller or an enthusiast simply interested in learning more about poetry, consult our online resources for practical suggestions on how to set up programs, events, classes, and displays, along with selected success stories of National Poetry Month programs and events from around the country.

Online Poetry Classroom: www.onlinepoetryclassroom.org. Teachers and educators should also be sure to visit the Online Poetry Classroom, a program that combines poetry and technology and offers free curriculum units for high school English and Language Arts teachers.

Other Events For This Year's NPM Celebration

To find out more about National Poetry Month events in your area, check out the National Calendar of Events on www.poets.org. And if you are planning to host an event of your own that you would like listed on our site, please let us know by entering the information at www.poets.org/cal.

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 first step of the pro-rated formula, meaning that from now through April new members can join for just \$12. 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
- JULY** — *no contest*
- JUNE** — Children, Pets or Places
- 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 \$3²⁵
- _____ 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.

Have you paid a visit to the new web site yet?

As we announced last month, CFCP has now established its own web site, www.ChaparralPoets.org. New pages are being added frequently, and members are invited to begin visiting on a regular basis to watch the progress and make suggestions for improvement. There, you will be able to access PDF copies of the newsletters, information regarding conventions, membership applications, and much more.

We are ready to begin posting information regarding each of the local chapters, for

Brentwood chooses a Poet

The City of Brentwood recently joined the ranks of the literati with the appointment of Mary Jane Barnes-Lawson as the city's first Poet Laureate. Barnes, a former Liberty Union High School English teacher and well-known poet, was nominated by the Brentwood Arts Commission. Former Mayor and City Councilwoman Barbara Guise praised Barnes-Lawson for her work in the field of literature and called the honor "very prestigious." Brentwood is in eastern Contra Costa County, on Highway 4 between Concord and Stockton.

which we of course need some direct input from members of those chapters. Please feel free to send your ideas and suggestions to webmaster@ChaparralPoets.org.

The first pages for many of the sections are already there, but it is intended to expand in the months ahead, so keep coming back — and tell all your friends that we now have a "presence" in cyberspace!

Think tax-deductible donations

As we prepare for tax time, many of us review the various agencies to whom we have made contributions, and mentally plan for this year's donations. Don't forget CFCP, Inc! We gladly accept donations in any amount, and most convention-related expenses except food costs can be counted as tax deductible.

Special thanks go out to several members and friends who have given generously to help fund the various activities of CFCP, Inc. the past few years. And thanks to those who have remembered CFCP, Inc. in their donations and gifts this year. It is through the generosity of many individuals that CFCP, Inc. continues its work. Please consider "sponsor-

Establishing the web site signals the beginning of sending the newsletter by e-mail to as many as can receive it in that way. This issue is sent in the appropriate format for you. If you receive a copy in the US mail, it's because we haven't yet received your e-mail address. Please contact membership chair Jeremy Shuman at jeremys@myrealbox.com to let us know what it is.

ing" a prize category or some other CFCP expense; it's not too late to be included. And, your gifts are tax-deductible!

CFCP, Inc. accepts donations from both individuals and corporate entities. For more information on how to make a donation, or various categories and events in need of a sponsor, contact treasurer Ursula T. Gibson, or president James Shuman. If you are thinking of a larger bequest, we can help you set it up so that it benefits those groups or individuals you would prefer.

Speak with your friends and acquaintances; remember CFCP in your charitable gifts this year!

- *Dates: April 25 – 27 in Modesto*
- *Inside: Convention Information and full Registration Materials*

-serving California poets for over 60 years

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