



# Chaparral Updrafts

from the  
California Federation of  
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

Volume 70 No. 2

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[www.ChaparralPoets.org](http://www.ChaparralPoets.org)

May Day. May the 1<sup>st</sup>. Marking the end of a half in the year in the Northern Hemisphere. May Day can be raucous and noisy although I haven't seen much of that lately. Raucous takes on new meaning when you are almost 70 and remember sprinting across a 10 acre newly planted walnut orchard which consists of twigs sticking out of the ground, twigs not as tall as you are, and thinking you can't be seen after leaving a basket of flowers on a neighbors door step. Raucous means running as if the Red Army is after you. May Day, when Russian tanks and missiles roll smartly past the Kremlin with members of the Red army as bookends, eyes right, pointed at Nikita Khrushchev in salute. May Day, a celebration of poets in Modesto, balancing metaphor and meter. Poets reading to each other hoping to remake the world in *poet's choice* and not just Maypoles and greenery. May Day, the 2009 CFCP convention date.

Included with this Updrafts is the much needed and sought after enrollment form for this year's convention. That's right, the 2009 convention convenes on May 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. In between we will have workshops and food and awards and the introduction and presentation of a new two year slate of officers.

Our annual meeting will occur at a "Breakfast Brunch" on Sunday. Installation of officers and presentation of awards will be at the dinner meeting. Meals are priced at \$24.00 and \$38.00, respectively. Brunch is something called the All American Breakfast which includes: Coffee, Tea, orange juice, grapefruit juice, scrambled eggs, and choice of meat (sausage, bacon or ham), potatoes and muffin. The dinner buffet will include tossed green salad with assorted toppings; fresh fruit salad and assorted relishes; roasted red potatoes and buttered broccoli; rolls with butter; coffee and iced tea; choice of either pork loin in mushroom gravy or herb-roasted chicken quarters; assorted cakes for desert. There is a Vegetable Wellington for those who prefer a vegetarian option. Vegetarian dishes will need to be pre-ordered. Our featured speaker is Mr. John Fox from the Institution of Poetic Medicine. He presented several years ago, before my time but some of you may remember him. I'm excited about inclusion of the greater community. We are able to offer continuing education units for Physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists and others in the helping professions. I know some of you fit those categories and will be excited to learn CEU's will be included without additional fee. See you at the Doubletree. May Day in Modesto will never be the same.

CALIFORNIA  
FEDERATION  
OF  
CHAPARRAL  
poets  
inc.

# 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.

Visit our website:  
<http://www.ChaparralPoets.org>.

## Treasurer's Report:

This year we will elect a new treasurer. I have been busy making sure things are ready to pass on to the new person. If you have any questions, concerns or comments I would appreciate hearing from you.

We currently have \$13,477.04 in our checking account. That is an average amount for this time of year. This has been a challenging year for me as treasurer due to a change in dues amount which meant a lot of extra work for club treasurer's and I appreciate all of the help I received from those hard-working people to be sure dues were in correctly.

We welcome many new members from our youth chapters and the renewal of the El Camino chapter. We lost the Santa Cruz chapter and we wish all of those members well in their future poetry writing.

See you at the convention May 1,2,3.

## MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of Beginnings

### FIRST PLACE

Mass Production

Geared up by the assembly lines  
that turned out tanks and planes,  
after the Great War ended,  
babies were produced  
with the same efficiency and speed.  
They rolled in too fast to keep  
baby books up to date or sort and label pictures  
properly, but still with that  
quality control moment  
of assessment on arrival.

Hefting the feel of newborn weight,  
marveling at softness of skin,  
gentle fragrance of breath,  
and gazing, gazing  
into eyes as clear  
and shiny as new marbles –  
memorizing each other.

Decades later  
with the herds lowing and milling  
at "Arrivals" in airport and train stations  
the sightings were sure.  
No beards or fashions intervened.  
An angle of the head,  
a crinkle at the lip,  
a glance of the eyes,  
— mine.

### SECOND PLACE

Heritage of the West

As rugged as the mountain peaks  
Whose snow capped summits touch the sky,  
From sheltered lands they came to seek,  
Harsh lands forbidding to the weak,  
Where winter snows in summer lie.

In mud and snow and boots worn through.  
In heat and dust of summer drought.  
A land so big, they were so few.  
They improvised and made things do  
And looked the Devil in his mouth.

Dreamed and made their dreams come true  
Despite this cruel, relentless land.  
And managed all as best they knew  
And from this humble start, there grew  
An empire carved from sage and sand.

Across the years, their heritage spans,  
The spirit that built and tamed the West.  
Who worked and fought and won these lands  
With freezing feet and work worn hands.  
Hold high their torch with which we're blessed.

Eugene Shea  
Hanna, Wyoming

### THIRD PLACE

Genesis

In the beginning  
darkness opened the eye of dawn  
summoned life  
from fire

Kindling the infant  
bed of the sea  
and winds of prophecy  
stirred the magma of souls

Searing the tunnel  
at the end of light  
where desire begat flesh.

Now compassion becomes  
too hard to bear and  
like death

The watery eyes  
of fishes never reveal  
what they know.

Elizabeth A. Bernstein  
Paradise, CA  
Published: Taj Mahal Review, India, 2000

## 2008 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

JANUARY	Beginnings
FEBRUARY	Love
MARCH	Nature
APRIL	Light, Humorous
MAY	Journeys
JUNE	Vacation
JULY	NO CONTEST
AUGUST	Any subject, any style
SEPTEMBER	Harvest
OCTOBER	Portraits
NOVEMBER	Holidays
DECEMBER	NO CONTEST

### RULES

Contests are open to all poets in the United States and Canada. Each submission must be typewritten on standard size paper with the contest month in the upper right-hand corner. Send TWO COPIES of each poem with author's name and address in the upper right corner on ONE copy. Put no identification on the second copy. Address labels are acceptable. Multiple entries are welcome.

Only UNPUBLISHED POEMS and poems not previously awarded a monthly 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

**\*\*Please add \$5.00 to your check if you get your Updrafts by 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 \$20.00 \*\*
- \_\_\_ New Member (2/1 to 4/30) \$15.00
- \_\_\_ New Member (5/1-7/31) \$10.00
- \_\_\_ Spouse (1/2 regular member) \$10.00, \$7.50, or \$5.00
- \_\_\_ 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.

## Convention Message:

We are including the registration forms for the convention to be held May 1, 2, 3 in Modesto. Please return your registration forms as soon as possible. The deadline for regular registration is April 9, 2009. After that you will need to include a late fee of \$5.00 to your registration. If you want a vegetarian meal at dinner it must also be noted on the registration so we can let the hotel know ahead of time.

We have a partnership with Memorial Hospital of Modesto to pay for Mr. Fox's presentation and offer the CEU/MEU's. Usually these continuing education units are not free and can be fairly costly. You can go to [www.poeticmedicine.com](http://www.poeticmedicine.com) and find out about John Fox. He has also listed our convention on his website. Also, please note that the registration form lists the State Theatre as the venue for Mr. Fox. We have moved that to a conference room at the hotel which will make it more convenient for everyone.

I know we are a bit late with the convention information so we want to urge you not to wait to sign up. We believe it will be a fun weekend packed full of excellent workshops, time to visit and this year we elect new officers so it is a good time to be involved.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call 209-522-9600 and speak to Ed or Roberta regarding the convention. If you get an answering machine you will get a message about the real estate office but just leave us a message. We'll get back to you.



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