



# Chaparral updrafts

from the  
California Federation  
of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

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## Richard Wilbur wins Lilly Prize

Poet Richard Wilbur is the winner of the 2006 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Poetry Foundation recently announced. He received \$100,000. The judges were poets Linda

Gregerson, Don Paterson, and Christian Wiman, who also edits *Poetry* magazine. The annual prize “honors a living U.S. poet whose lifetime accomplishments warrant extraordinary recognition.”

Wilbur’s books of poetry include the Pulitzer Prize-winning *New and Collected Poems* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1988); *The Mind-Reader: New Poems* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976); *Things of This World* (Harcourt, Brace, 1956), which won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize; and *The Beautiful Changes and Other Poems* (Reynal and Hitchcock, 1947).

He is also the recipient of the Wallace Stevens Award, the Gold Medal for Poetry from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, two Guggenheim Fellowships, and the Bollingen Translation Prize. In 1987 he was named the second poet laureate of the United States.

The annual Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, administered by the Poetry Foundation, has awarded over a million dollars since it was established in 1986. Past recipients include Yusef Komunyakaa, Philip Levine, W. S. Merwin, Adrienne Rich, and Kay Ryan.

## Linda Gregg wins PEN/ Voelcker Award for Poetry

Established by a bequest from Huncce Voelcker, the PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry was presented for the seventh time on the evening of Monday, May 22, 2006 at the Walter Reade Theater at Lincoln Center in New York. It was given to Linda Gregg.

The award is given to a poet whose distinguished and growing body of work to date represents a notable and accomplished presence in American literature. The poet honored by the award is one for whom the exceptional promise seen in earlier work has been fulfilled, and who continues to mature with each successive volume of poetry. The award is given in even-numbered years and carries a stipend of \$5,000.

In their citation, the judges write: “Linda Gregg has been writing poetry for over forty years. A visionary poet in a world that is ‘always too much with us,’ Ms. Gregg has never taken on a full-time job, preferring to devote herself to poetry, and while she has on occasion taught at the University of California, Iowa, and Princeton, she would rather be walking down the Old Byzantine trail on Paros in Greece or along the Indonesian shores of Pangaritis. In each of her books (*Too Bright to See*, *Alma*, *The Sacraments of Desire*, *Chosen by the Lion*, *Things and Flesh*, and *In the Middle Distance*), daily life is refreshed by the return to a mythic sublime, honoring a realm where solitude and solidarity are joined in a precarious dance.”

Judges for the 2006 award were Michael Hofmann, Timothy Liu, and Vijay Seshadri.

## Anne Pierson Wiese receives the 2006 Walt Whitman Award

The Academy of American Poets announced on May 15 that Anne Pierson Wiese has won the 2006 Walt Whitman Award for her first book-length collection of poems, *Floating City*, which will be published in the spring of 2007 by Louisiana State University Press. The winning manuscript was chosen by Kay Ryan from over 1,250 entries in an open competition. The Academy of American Poets has awarded Ms. Wiese a \$5,000 cash prize and will purchase copies of her book for distribution to its members. She will also receive a one-month residency at the Vermont Studio Center. The runner-up was Kevin McFadden for his manuscript *Hardscrabble*.

On selecting Ms. Wiese’s manuscript for the award, Kay Ryan wrote:

This remarkable book is proof that a light hand is the most masterful. Anne Pierson Wiese’s poems read so easily and pleasurably that one hardly realizes one has been confidently moved to a slightly different dimension, a world resembling ours but better observed, and quieter — in the best sense. Wiese understands the virtue of restraint — how the right word, the exact detail, clarity of form, invite the mind instead of stunning it. This is completely accomplished poetry of a very brave kind, daring to be immodestly good — modestly.

Anne Pierson Wiese was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She is a graduate of Amherst College and the New York

*continued on page two: ‘Wiese’*

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# 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>

# Monthly Contest Winners

on the topic of *With a Song in My Heart*

## The Silver Bird

Oh, perfect singer—white feathered bird,  
silver in sudden flight—

startled by me—creating you.  
The world is a cage. Let it hold you.

Even I am a cage.  
Come in here with me,

I will hold the bars open—  
feel your heart beating

when your wings  
fold into my hand.

I will sing you my lost song  
and you will emulate

and I will pretend we belong together  
in this vast cage of existence.

Look how my mirror trains you...  
how the sky lifts you...

Don't you remember anything,  
poor broken childhood, reading about this...?

—Joyce Odam, Sacramento, CA  
*First Place, April*

## Our Song

Scoring the staff, invisible  
notes imprint tomorrow—  
muted or mellow— they  
flow in measured moments,  
to be lifted up and owned.  
We never played musical  
chairs or let boom box beats  
and obscure words  
break the rhythm of  
a song long sung.  
Melodies, standing alone, blend  
as we face a future hanging on  
a song yet to be sung. We hear  
its sweet notes repeated,  
a duet in time.

—Cleo Kocol, Roseville, CA  
*Third Place, April*

## Wiese wins Whitman

*continued from page one*

University Graduate Writing Workshop, and currently lives and works in New York City. Wiese received a 2005 Fellowship in Poetry from the New York Foundation for the Arts and was a winner of the 2004 "Discovery" / *The Nation* Poetry Contest. Wiese's poems have appeared in many journals, including *The Nation*, *Prarie Schooner*, *Raritan*, *Atlanta Review*, *The Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Quarterly West*, *Rattapallax*, *The Carolina Quarterly*, *The Hawai'i Pacific Review*, and elsewhere. Her work will also appear in the anthology *Broken Land: Poems of Brooklyn*.

**Kay Ryan** was born in California in 1945 and grew up in the small towns of the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert. She received both a bachelor's and master's degree from UCLA. Ryan has published several collections of poetry, including *The Niagara River* (Grove Press, 2005); *Say Uncle* (2000); *Elephant Rocks* (1996); *Flamingo Watching* (1994), which was a finalist for both the Lamont Poetry Selection and the Lenore Marshall Prize; *Strangely Marked Metal* (1985); and *Dragon Acts to Dragon Ends* (1983). Ryan's awards include the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, a Guggenheim fellowship, an Ingram Merrill Award, a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Union League Poetry Prize, the Maurice English Poetry Award, and three Pushcart Prizes. Her work has been selected four times for The Best American Poetry and was included in *The Best of the Best American Poetry* 1988 – 1997. Ryan was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2006. Since 1971, she has lived in Marin County in California.

## Nocturne

What wakes me            isn't sound  
   but moonlight.            I wander  
through                    the rooms,                    the cat  
trailing,     her purr loud  
   in the brilliant     silence,  
her shadow            huge     on the wall.

So often     I sleep     and wake  
and sleep,     dreams     dissolving  
   like water     seeping  
       into sand  
beneath a stream.

As I slip     back     to our bedroom,  
wood smoke     drifts     through  
the screen.     I am tempted  
to wake you.

—Arlene L. Mandell, Santa Rosa, CA  
*Second Place, April*

## You will want to save this page!

Included in this issue are the winners of the monthly contest for April, 2006 — but there are still several other exciting new topics. And it's not too soon to start on the ones that interest you!

With different categories ten months of the year, there are 30 chances to win recognition. But, of course, it *is* necessary to actually send your poems to the Contest Chair!

Be sure to discard any old versions of this page, so that the poems you submit are for the correct topics and that you have followed the current rules. The rules have changed a bit, to make things clearer and the process smoother to operate. Notice that line length does *not* include the title or blank spaces, and you are asked for *two* copies of each poem.

For your convenience we have included the membership form below. If you know of anyone who neglected to renew their membership, give them this form, but first run off a few blank copies to have available for recruitment.

It's a great idea to place copies of this page on the bulletin board at local libraries and universities, and to carry a few copies with you to hand to friends and acquaintances. One-to-one discussion is our best ally as we continue the drive to increase membership. We need your help!

## 2006 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

- JANUARY** — In a Foreign Land
- FEBRUARY** — Chasing Rainbows
- MARCH** — Planes, Trains & Automobiles
- APRIL** — With a Song in My Heart
- MAY** — Tell Me a Story
- JUNE** — Metamorphosis
- JULY** — *no contest*
- AUGUST** — Wine and Food
- SEPTEMBER** — Anthropomorphism
- OCTOBER** — Invitation to a Waltz
- NOVEMBER** — Madcap Moments  
*(12 lines or fewer)*
- 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 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.*

of **CALIFORNIA  
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POETS, INC.**

➔ Cleo Griffith  
mail contest Monthly Contest Chair, CFCP, Inc.  
entries to 4409 Diamond Court  
Salida, CA 95368-9632  
<cleor36@yahoo.com>



# YES!

I definitely want to be a member of the California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc. for the year 2006.

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*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.**

### How to Become a Member

*check the appropriate item:*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Annual/Renewal .....\$15<sup>00</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ New Member (February 1 to April 30) .....\$12<sup>00</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ New Member (May 1 to July 31) .....\$7<sup>50</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse (1/2 regular member)..... \$7<sup>50</sup>, \$6<sup>00</sup>, or \$3<sup>75</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ Junior (under 21; show proof of age) .....\$3<sup>00</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Jordan, 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 1750, Empire, CA 95319.

# Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Peter Viereck dies

Peter R. Viereck, professor emeritus of history at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, died May 13 after a long illness. He was 89.

Viereck is thought to be the only American scholar to receive Guggenheim Fellowships in both poetry and history. A member of the Mount Holyoke faculty since 1948, he retired in 1987 but continued through 1997 to teach his survey of Russian history. The recipient of many major awards, including a Pulitzer Prize for his first book of poems, *Terror and Decorum: Poems 1940-1948*, he is the author of numerous articles, essays, and books of history, cultural and political analysis, and poetry. Among his books are *Metapolitics: From the Romantics to Hitler*; *Conservatism Revisited: The Revolt against Revolt, 1815-1949*; and *Strict Wildness: Discoveries in Poetry and History*.

“Professor Viereck excelled in many fields. He was an excellent poet, a superb historian, and an extraordinary teacher who touched the lives of generations of Mount Holyoke students,” said Mount Holyoke President Joanne V. Creighton. “He was a profound thinker who helped influence the course of American culture and political life. His contributions will not be forgotten.”

Viereck was educated at the Horace Mann School for Boys in New York City, graduated

*summa cum laude* with an S.B. from Harvard University in 1937, performed graduate work at Christ Church, Oxford, as a Henry Fellow, and received both his M.A. (1939) and Ph.D. in history (1942) from Harvard. At Harvard he was one of few students in history to receive both the Garrison Prize for the best undergraduate verse and the Bowdoin Medal for the best prose.

After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, Viereck taught briefly at Harvard University and Smith College.

Upon his retirement from Mount Holyoke in 1987, he was lauded for his imagination, grace, discipline, and spirit and for teaching “generations of Mount Holyoke students all that is humane about the humanities.”

Viereck’s interest in Soviet rebel writers made him instrumental in bringing Nobel prize-winning poet Joseph Brodsky to Mount Holyoke. In 1995 Viereck’s work *Tide and Continuities* opened with a rhymed foreword by Brodsky.

Recently, Viereck was the subject of a lengthy profile titled “The First Conservative: How Peter Viereck Inspired—and Lost—a Movement” in the October 24, 2005 *New Yorker* magazine. The piece was written by noted author and journalist Tom Reiss.

According to Reiss’s article, Viereck was a seminal figure in the birth of American conservatism in the second half of the twentieth century, but he soon moved apart from mainstream conservatism. For example, he was a vocal critic of Senator Joseph McCarthy and his excesses. Reiss wrote:

“Viereck became a historian, specializing in modern Russia, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet.... He gave the conservative movement its name and, as historian George Nash, author of *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America*, says, he ‘helped make conservatism a respectable word.’ Moreover, Viereck’s belief that the United States could be a moderating influence, confronting the forces that threaten freedom and democracy without succumbing to liberal optimism, became a central tenet of conservative thought ....

“Yet Viereck never became a rallying figure. Conservatism remained largely an intellectual movement during its first several decades, a loose affiliation of scholars and writers.... Viereck was an anomaly, insisting on a moral distinction between the moderate and the totalitarian left, and, as conservatives began to attain political influence, denouncing what he perceived as the movement’s demagogic tendencies.”

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