



Chaparral Updrafts

from the
California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

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In this months updrafts I want to introduce myself. Those of you at the 2007 convention in Fresno know me as that nervous guy who couldn't even read a short prepared speech. I believe it was Whitman who said, "I am vast, I contain multitudes." While I can't make that claim, I am aware that each of us have many parts. Here are some of mine.

In my heart I am a farmer. My father raised peaches and nectarines, perishable fruits that required much care. While I never farmed, farming and farm images populate my poetry and while my father didn't encourage my farming he did encourage education. I have spent almost my whole life in Stanislaus County, living in the towns of Modesto, Ceres, Empire. I served in the Army at Fort Ord for basic training, Fort Sam Houston (near San Antonio Texas) for training as an army medic, and West Point, New York where I became a dental assistant assigned to the West Point Army Hospital.

It was at West Point that I began writing, mostly journaling with some poetry, although I didn't recognize it as such. My decision to write poetry came in 1964 when I met Philip Levine at Fresno State. Levine had written a group of four poems entitled *The Negatives*, —published in *New Poets of England and America*, edited by Donald Hall. I had never seen or heard such poetry or believed that I might be able to write poetry until that moment. Later, I became editor and business manager of *The Sentinel* the literary journal of Stanislaus State College.

My education is in Social Work where I hold an MSW. I also have a clinical license (as a Marriage Family and Child Counselor). I retired in 1990 after 24 years with Stanislaus County, most of it spent as a foster home and child protective services supervisor. After retirement I entered the real estate business as a real estate broker. In 1993 I formed my own real estate company and my wife Roberta joined me in the business in 1995. We do real estate sales and property management. It keeps us pretty busy but provides a flexible work schedule. In 1983 I was elected to the Empire School Board, a K-8 district with 4000 students, two middle school and five K-5 schools. I have been elected to six terms and do not plan to run when my current term expires this November.

My publication credits include 28 columns for the Modesto Bee, a daily newspaper. I have published poetry in the Acorn Review, The South-West Quarterly, Quercus Review, Penumbra, Stanislaus Connections —a local monthly newspaper where In June of 2005 I was featured poet, Black Widow's Web, Writing Through Cancer Anthology, California Quarterly, In The Grove, Modesto Poet's Corner, Song of the San Joaquin and Main Channel Voices (scheduled for publication on June 30, 2007). In the four years I have been a member of CFCP my poetry has been awarded a first place prize three times in the annual contest. This year I received the 2007 Literary Arts award presented by the Stanislaus Arts Council.

I am pleased to have been selected as your 2007-2008 president and look forward to getting to know each of you better.

Ed Bearden

CALIFORNIA
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of
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inc.

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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>.

2008 Convention Update: Ursula Gibson to wear two hats

It's not too early to begin thinking about the convention or to do some planning. Ursula Gibson has taken on the huge job of both Convention Chair (having to do with all hotel arrangements) and Program Chair (having to do with session content, speakers and the general overall satisfaction each of us hope to find at the annual convention). Marge Voigt is Hospitality Chair, (which involves individual packets, decorations and securing community donations). Marge is willing to help out at the registration desk and will be assisted by Elaine Lazzaroni. I have been discussing the position of Registration Chair with someone but have yet to receive a commitment. If you have an interest in this important convention position please contact me. I include here a more complete job description to assist you in making that decision.

The **Registration Chair** is in charge of receiving and recording all pre-convention registration forms. It is essential that he/she keep a careful and accurate accounting of all funds received, and that these are forwarded to the state treasurer in a timely manner. He/she must be in close contact with the other chairs so that plans for the various events are matched to the number of participants expected.

Let's all be prepared to help these folks in any way they need.

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of How to Advertise a Poem

Filimeala

Bent at my desk, I stare at pages,
Grasp for evasive thoughts. Still,
My pen rests by crumpled sheets.

Outdoors, green eyes speckled
With stars peer in at me. Wind
Stirs silver hair, braided with ivy.

From bare branches on soft wings,
Delicate feathers tinged in gold,
She glides in silence to my window.

Her emerald gown ripples in light,
Gathers moonbeams in deep folds,
Spills starlight on my blank papers.

Her long fingers reach for sky. She
Drips Shadows on my empty page.
Ink flows on pale sheets into poems.

In the Irish language, Filimeala means nightingale.

Niamh McGinley
First Place April

A Lonely Poet Dreams of Haiku

He sky writes his poems
in the blue above his town...
everyone looks up.

White petals descend
from cold blooms above the clouds...
a blizzard of poems.

Up on the rooftops,
a show of neon stanzas...
electric poems.

Moving in dark fog,
sweeping like long white fingers...
poems on spotlights.

The sun is sinking,
now warm poems are blooming...
within his fireplace.

Lee A. Collins
Second Place April

To Advertise A Poem

get out the sandwich boards.
Paste on your latest poem, print
enlarged---every succinct syllable
visible to view.

Press every passerby to read,
grasp meaning, eat, ingest your
words, your work.

Poetry needs love, and lovers
who do not yet know
what they will find entwined
within your braid of thought
and words...illustrations:

everything they ever knew,
hoped to know, and expect
to know, some far-off day,
sketched in minds-eye, that middle
place between the here, the then,
the never was nor hope-to-be.

Gather in the world, yet be
alone, for it is in that solitude
where you can craft from furied
blood, mixed with drops of love,
the poems which must, which will,
which tell the poet is, and always
sings even if there is no one
to hear, no one to care beyond
the one-hand clapping sound.

Pearl S. Selinsky
Third Place April

2007 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

January	Turnabout
February	Landscape of Winter
March	Hares, Lions, Lambs
April	How to Advertise a Poem
May	Spring Moon
June	Looking Forward
July	no contest
August	Doldrums or Daydreams?
September	Memories, Altered
October	Smoke (12 lines or fewer)
November	Fences
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 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 CHAPARREL
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 2007.

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.

Treasurer's Convention Report

The 2007 convention attendance was 66 people. This was seven less than our 2006 convention which had 73 in attendance. The following is a comparison between the 2006 and 2007 conventions in both income and expenditures. If you would like to know who attended please send a written request to the treasurer.

2007 Money Received		2006 Money Received	
Prize Books Sold	\$ 49.50	Prize books sold	\$ 36.80
Donations	\$1517.00	Donations	\$ 840.06
Banquet	\$2205.00	Banquet	\$1890.00
Luncheon	\$1400.00	Luncheon	\$1525.00
Registration Fees	\$1850.00	Registration Fees	\$2077.50
Late Fees	\$ 25.00	Late Fees	\$ 25.00
Fund Raisers	\$ 165.00	Fund Raisers	\$ 406.00
<u>Memorial Funds</u>	<u>\$ 625.00</u>	<u>Memorial Funds</u>	<u>\$ 625.00</u>
Total	\$7836.50	Total	\$7425.36

2007 Expenses		2006 Expenses	
Receptions	\$ 45.00	Receptions	\$ 322.09
Banquet	\$1642.70	Banquet	\$1422.40
Luncheon	\$1488.12	Luncheon	\$1533.67
Meeting Rooms	\$1066.80	Meeting Rooms	\$ 900.00
Speakers	\$1022.56	Speakers	\$1990.04
Reimbursements	\$1295.70	Reimbursements	\$ 693.00
Adult Contest	\$1536.00	Adult Contest	\$1360.00
<u>Youth Contest</u>	<u>\$ 630.00</u>	<u>Youth Contest</u>	<u>\$ 360.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$8726.88	Total Expenses	\$8581.20



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