



Chaparral Updrafts

from the
California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

Volume 69 #5

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Ed Bearden, PSJ
P. O. Box 1750
Empire, CA 95319
209-522-9600
209-491-0950 (Fax)

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Presidents Message

The 2008 convention is dead, long live the 2009. Wow! We had about 70 persons show up in Ontario for some things old and some things new. What's old is the great fellowship and camaraderie that starts at the convention and follows us all the way home. Congratulations to Mary Rudge winner of the Pegasus for her fine poem, *The Poets* and to Norma Kahout winner of the Road Runner Up for *Marsh in December Rain*. The new, found us with a 2008 edition of the Roster and By-Laws booklets with new job descriptions that should enable us to better understand not only what we do but how we do it. We also delayed announcing annual contest winners until the awards presentation itself. Delaying those announcements made the event more exciting than I would have imagined.

We did go over budget for the convention. We do not have final figures yet as the hotel is giving us a refund check and it hasn't arrived. An accounting will be given at the next executive board meeting.

I have saved the best until last. The 2008 convention was grand because of the hard work and/or participation of: Ursula Gibson, Marge Voigt, Jim Gibson, Roberta Bearden, Jim Shuman, Lisabeth Shuman, Elaine Lazzeroni, Cleo Griffith, Nancee Maya, Lillian Yoppini, Dr. Joyce Wheeler, Lee Collins, Deborah Kolodji, Linda McCarty, Katharine Wilson, James Lyon, Dan Saucedo, Don Feliz, Helen Graziano, Steve McCord, Bill Sehl, Meredith Laskow, Mary Rudge, Marlene Hitt, Elsie Feliz, Norma Kahout, Evelyn Leggett, Sarah Anaelum, Angie McCord, Dr. Shirley Wallace, Meghan Pence, Linda Prather, Carol Louise Moon, Dorla Shuman, Ashley Klopstock, Athena Mercado, Alice Hall, Tom Griffith, Patricia Dreyfus, Angeline Todd, Tamra Echols, Myrna McNally, Ashley Klopstock, Lynn Hansen, Dr. Richard Anderson, Sky Soleil, Susan Beem, Mariam Berks-Roberts, Torre Houlgate-West, Sarah Brown, Justin David Todd, Ojastro Todd, Ernestine Emrick, Keith Van Vliet, all those who registered at the convention and all of our wonderful presenters. Thanks everybody.

Here it is, the first announcement of the 2009 convention chaired by Jeremy Shuman with program by debbie loyd. It will be in Modesto at the Double tree Hotel May 1-4, 2009. We will be setting the theme for the 2009 convention at the July meeting. Remember it is the 70th anniversary of the California Federation of Chaparral Poets. If you have any ideas you can email me at Choc624@sbcglobal.net or bring your ideas to the meeting.

CALIFORNIA
FEDERATION
of
CHAPARRAL
poets
inc.

Chaparral updrafts

Editor & Publisher.....Ed Bearden
P. O. Box 1750 Empire, Ca. 95319
209-522-9600 FAX 209-491-0950
Email: Choc624@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer.....Roberta Bearden
P. O. Box 1750 Empire, Ca. 95319
Email: Bert714@sbcglobal.net

Corresponding Secretary...Dorothy Marshall
430 Eleventh St. Pomona, CA 91766
888-308-7488

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>.

A Short Bio on the March contest judge:

Cynthia Brackett-Vincent [Farmington, ME] has published the *Aurorean* poetry journal since 1995, and holds a B.F.A. in Creative Writing. She's had over 100 poems appear in journals, online, and in a chapbook; three of her articles appear in *Educators as Writers: Publishing for Personal and Professional Development* (Peter Lang, 2006). She's judged poetry locally, regionally and nationally, including *Writers Digest's* yearly competition. <http://www.encirclepub.com/poetry/aurorean>

Just another short note. Deborah Kolodji got an honorable mention on another poem in this same category for her poem "In the Museum" good work Deborah.

Grandmother's Story:
After Reading Flannery O'Connor's
"A Good Man Is Hard to Find"

A maiden becomes a loathly damsel,
traveling with a black valise,
hulk-shaped like a hippopotamus.

She makes up a silly lie,
innocent enough
but it takes a wrong turn.

A battered hearse-like car,
whirring like a cloud of crickets
veers off the county highway
into a rutted dirt road
leading into a thicket,
gaped like a blackening, open mouth.

Tall, piney trees quiver.
We're off the beaten track,
a fairy tale journey into darkness,
throwing everything off balance.

The haggard grandmother is some talker.
"Look up at the sky,"
she tells Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm.
"Twelve brother swans
fly over yonder."

And what else?

"A princess in a castle tower
looks down at ninety-seven suitors
decapitated and impaled on stakes."

Their eyes pecked out,
The crows do well.

Ariel Smart
Saratoga, CA
Third place

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of Grandmother's Story

Pioneer Grandmother

The churn
by the stone hearth,
seventy years later –
the milk fat of her memory
remains.

Time spent
over washboards
the heat of fall canning –
buttermilk biscuits, apricot
preserves.

Bright scraps
of old fabrics
braided into rag rugs,
pieced into quilts, tiny stitches –
our lives.

Deborah P. Kolodji
First Place

Grandmother's Window

I hear the voices of my mother's land
But have no words for such a place
Where lost shadows waltz up walls.

Grandmother's scent floats along—
Old Yarn, jasmine tea, flower spices,
Stacked books near her golden niche.

Thick sunlight glows on soft curtains;
Tiny leaves grow upon etched glass.
In my reflection I long for her, alive.

Grieving, mother paces the open floor,
Then leads me to the window to watch
Tiny blooms reaching for grandmother.

Mabel Hsu
Saratoga, CA
Second Place

2008 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

RULES

JANUARY	Water
FEBRUARY	Blues and ballads
MARCH	Grandmother's story
APRIL	Fashions
MAY	Sitting on a train
JUNE	Plastic Pleasures, Tacky Treasures
JULY	NO CONTEST
AUGUST	Pearls and Platinum
SEPTEMBER	What I should have said
OCTOBER	Boredoms (12 lines or less)
NOVEMBER	Spangles and tangles
DECEMBER	NO CONTEST

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 CHAPARRAL
POETS, INC.**

Mail contest
enteries 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
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.

President's announcements:

The Executive Board will meet on July 19, 2008 at the Ontario Marriott. We have room 320 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The meeting starts at 11:00 am. Those who have a place at the table are current executive board members, past presidents, presidents of local chapters and presidentially appointed committee members.

If you are planning on attending the July 19 meeting (any CFCP member is welcome to attend) we need to have that information soon and be informed of your menu selection. The menu is Deli Sub w/potato salad or Chicken Caesar Salad. Dessert is either chocolate cake or carrot cake. The cost is \$19.00 including tax & tip. Coffee, ice tea or hot tea is provided. If you let us know as soon as you read this we would appreciate it. Call or e-mail today, 209-522-9600 or Ed at Choc624@sbcglobal.net or Roberta at bert714@sbcglobal.net. The final menu must be into the hotel by July 14, 2008 but please don't wait that long to respond.

The top agenda item for the July meeting is the appointment of nominating and election committees. It's important we get an early start as several executive board members are retiring and finding willing replacements is important. These appointments are not made by the president but are made by the executive board itself.

I am preparing the July agenda and need to plan ahead with the October and January agendas. We will have live meetings in Ontario (July) and Modesto (January) with an electronic (think email) meeting in October. A couple of test runs has convinced me some email meetings are possible. We must find ways to reduce cost. Please contact me with suggested agenda items.



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