



Chaparral Updrafts

from the
California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

Volume 68 #10

November/December 2007

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www.ChaparralPoets.org

A strange thing happened on the way to the 2009 annual convention. I called Kate Ozbirn, President of the California State Poetry Society to discuss a joint NFSPS/CFCP 2009 convention and she hung up on me. Wait, wait, don't blame her. In all fairness she felt slighted that the idea hadn't come from her. Several years ago she had a similar idea she said, to bring the National Federation of State Poetry Societies to California for a national convention jointly sponsored by CSPS and a local college. It would have worked, she said, except the college she had hoped would jointly sponsor the event, dug-up their parking lot and she didn't think it would be the best place for a bunch of poets, that the dug-up parking lot would have been a hazard. She's probably right. Speaking just for myself, I'm always seeming to step in something. Kate felt slighted (and said so) that Sam Wood president of the Nevada State Poetry Society had called me rather than her. She felt slighted (and said so) that Doris Stengel, the current President of NFSPS had talked to me and not her. (Doris talked to me because I called her to get information I needed before I proceeded. Doris was helpful, advised me to call Kate) Doris liked Sam's idea of a joint NFSPS/CFCP convention in California. She said they have wanted a national convention in California for years. In all fairness to Kate her pique is understandable. This was a bad time for her to think about it. She said June of 2009 wouldn't work for her as she would be out of the county, I think she mentioned London, teaching, and besides she was busy with her career and family. Then, she said "Goodbye," and hung up the phone. Don't get me wrong. I work in real estate and before that I made my living as a Child Protective Services Investigator and Supervisor. I have been hung up on before. I have been hung up on by attorneys and judges, by rich people who didn't need or want to sell property and by people so poor they will never own their own home, but I take poetry seriously and Ms. Ozbirn's unwillingness to talk about the future of California poetry is disturbing to me and I wonder how she sees her role as president of CSPS. This is a lost opportunity. There are 50 states. NFSPS has set their 2008 convention in Utah and the 2010 convention in the deep south, Arkansas/Louisiana/Tennessee have been discussed. Who knows when they will look toward California again? As for me, I'm planning to go to Utah in June of 2008. After talking with Doris Stengel, I'm convinced it will be a good show.

Staying with a convention theme, CFCP will have a 2009 convention. I have appointed, with executive board approval at the October meeting, Marge Voigt (Tumbleweed) as Convention chair and Debee Loyd (Member at large) as Program chair. I am excited by their willingness and I believe ability. The 2009 convention has need of hospitality and registration chairs. Please contact me if you have an interest in serving in any of those capacities and supporting Marge and Debee. We are still looking at Modesto for the 2009 convention with Ontario as a back-up location.

Ed

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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>

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of Memories, Altered

Tag

Tanbark churns up dust,
Victim of a wild chase
Around the playground.
A girl near fails the race
But for that flying leap!
Slides serve a deft escape.
Peeved, the *it* harrumphs,
Lunges in a sudden swipe;
Her hand strikes fabric.

Triumphant cries
From both at once:
“You *missed!*”
“I *got* you!”
They squabble.

A shout—they squint
At mad signals afar:
Indes, ring, and thumb!
Flee? Ah, recess monitors
Now march their way.
In a wink the two vanish,
Stealing breathless away,
Arm in arm, once again
The best of friends.

Adela Chang
2nd Place

Clouds

I thought of the boy
I daydreamed up as a kid,
Even gave him a name—
Scott Peace.
We’d lie on the grass
out front, this was before
My Dad turned it
into a Japanese Garden,
and spoke of images floating free.
It wasn’t silly to this boy,
He’d take in the cirrus
and the nimbus,
see horses or cows,
sometimes a submarine.
I’d see mermaids
and dolphins, a natural
setting of see in the sky.
We’d hold hands,
prop our knees up,
speak in simple forms
until we ached and he left
usually by distraction.
Never did meet a boy
that noticed the clouds
or held my hand
and spoke in simple forms.
I do have a dog
who likes her walks.
And I can still see
the mermaids and the dolphins,
the beauty of a blue
so pure, the clouds
have no choice but to make
something
of themselves.

Angelique Arnold
1st Place

What’s His Name (Triolet)

It’s probably not a good sign,
But I can’t remember his name.
Is he some relation of mine?
It’s probably not a good sign,
you think my mind’s in a decline?
Oh, surely there’s someone to blame!
It’s probably not a good sign,
I still can’t remember his name.

Betty Provost
3rd Place

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 CHAPARRAL
POETS, INC.**

Mail contest
entries to

**Cleo Griffith
Monthly Contest Chair, CFCP, Inc.
4409 Diamond Court
Salida, CA 95368-0632**

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.

Where there's Smoke

OCTOBER MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS
on the topic of Smoke (12 lines or fewer)

How we puffed on candy cigarettes,
parents never refusing us that vice,
then imagined red lips at Mother's mirror,
slipped into her heels and stuck that white stick
between two fingers, mimicking movie stars
she watched on old flicks while folding laundry.

In adolescence we learned not to flaunt such vices
by comments dropped about such women.
What people didn't say was they were afraid.

Those flaming red lips.
That circling smoke.
All that fire within.

Del Todey Turner
1st Place

Smoke...

Is what the song says gets in your eyes when you fall
in love; a screen that hides the truth; is hazardous to
your health; a sign to call the fireman; is what flushes
the varmit out of his hole or what billows forth from

anger's nose. Erase the "e" and add a "y," the color
of clouds in a rain-soaked sky; the look smoldering in
Salome's eyes; the flavor of summer on a backyard grill;
a cedar-scented memory in December's evening chill:

chestnuts, parboiled by Dad in a pot on the stove,
placed in an old dented pie tin over hot coals; brown
shells popping open to squeals of delight; eager fingers
to hungering mouths; opulent savoring of a winter's night.

Mariam F. Berks-Roberts
3rd Place

Watching for smoke

Smoke was the first sign of life in days.
Thin wisps curled over the top of trees
like gray fingers touching each leaf.
As I moved closer, I could see the chimney
puffing out circles as rich as father's pipe
at twilight. A bit of fire poked through
now and again, pushing smoke past
the bricks stacked roughly over the cabin.
Those billowing clouds drew me near enough
to feel the pain inside easing with every step.
It was the mystery of life waiting
behind the smoke that gave me a glimpse of hope.

Catherine Moran
2nd Place

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Chaparral Updrafts (ISSN 1543-5903)
Published monthly except January, July and
October by the California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc. at P. O. Box 1750
Empire, CA 95319-1750. Subscription price
of \$3.60 is included in annual dues.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc.
P. O. Box 1750 Empire, CA 95319-1750.

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Volume 68 No. 4, May, 2007

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