



Chaparral Updrafts

from the
California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

Volume 69 #11

November, 2008

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CALIFORNIA
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October Meeting of the Executive Board and President's Message

Minutes of the meeting

Item 1, Roll Call: Cleo Griffith, Jim Gibson, Ursula Gibson, Jeremy Shuman, Roberta Bearden, Mary Rudge, Dorothy Marshall, Marge Voigt, Lee Collins, Joy Haas, Katharine Wilson, Judith Shernock, Greg Bennett, Elaine Lazzeroni, Ed Bearden

Item 3, Minutes: Eight members voted to approve the July minutes as amended by Mr. Gibson. Six members abstained. Minutes were accepted as amended. One member did vote for the amended minutes but had a slightly different memory of the discussion.

Item 4, Treasurer's Report: Twelve members voted to accept the treasurer's report and pay necessary club expenses. Three members did not vote on this item. Not voting was considered an abstention.

Item 6: New Business: Ten members voted to accept conference funds from Memorial Hospital and co-sponsorship of the 2009 convention. Two members did vote to approve but requested clarification of By-laws Article III section 7. I will agenda discussion of this item for the January meeting. Item was approved.

Item 7, Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned on October 24, 2008 at 5:00 pm.

President's Message and Filling in the Blanks

I consider the e-mail meeting successful. I believe it got the job done and was inexpensive. Consider this. Meeting in Ontario or Modesto is expensive. I don't usually spend \$25.00 to \$30.00 for a sandwich and tea which is a normal cost at a major hotel. Rooms are a hundred dollars a night and don't forget gas or airfare or Amtrak. If we have 12 members of the executive board at a face to face meeting the entire cost will be about \$1,500.00. In addition, some of us don't travel well. The downside is the lack of real time discussion. A partial solution is to use the reply all feature so every comment is shared. Some of you did this and others didn't.

A number of concerns were expressed. The most important being the purpose of the organization. As one member put it, "Do we want high priced speakers or do we want to get to know each other better?" Certainly we can discuss this item at our next meeting. In the meantime perhaps we could review the purpose of the organization as defined in the By-Laws booklet. Two members would appreciate continuing education units and we are working on this. If any of you are familiar with the process of securing approval please contact me. One member questioned the cost of the convention believing more information could have been provided to the executive board prior to a commitment. I agree. Convention costs would have been covered by fees and a Poet's and Writers Grant and are much less than the \$2,500.00 participation by Memorial Hospital. Basically the extra costs were for publicity, ticket printing and rental of the State Theater. I had to make a decision and made it agreeing to cover the \$600.00 to \$750.00 cost of the State Theater myself if needed. Fortunately, with the participation of Memorial Hospital I can save my money for my grandchildren. I simply believed that somehow we could make it work. I would never have committed CFCP to that entire expense without prior discussion and approval.

The other question I received was for more information on John Fox our principle convention speaker. If you Google John Fox or the Institute of Poetic Medicine you will find a lot of information and I hope you are as excited as I am.

Ed Bearden
President CFCP

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of What I Should Have Said

Before It's Too Late, I Just Want To Say

Dear body,
Yes, I know it's long overdue,
but please accept my apologies and my thanks.

Never appreciating what you've done for me
I've complained about superficial matters.
Fussing because my hair was too thin
I failed to compliment you
on legs that didn't need shaving,
on absent menstrual cramps and clear-skinned puberty.
I loudly lamented my round belly
and took as my due comfortable pregnancies
and swift, easy deliveries.

While I growled at my mirror
about eyes too small and breasts too large
you thumbed your nose at menopause
as it slipped by with barely a rumble.
It's true a few bouts of cancer hit us, but you won them all
and I didn't really need that uterus any more.

Now that we face our last hurdle together
I hope I can trust you to get us through
it with your usual efficiency and dispatch.

Sincerely, Your tenant.

Evelyn Stecher
Lincoln, CA
First Place

What I Should Have Said

In grade three Miss Lundeen always called the roll
and I am sure she said my name louder than anyone's.
I quavered, "Here"
She announced, "Now class, when your name is called
you are to go quietly to the library.
A lady there will be asking you questions."
Sallie Brown, you will go first."

Entering my favorite room, I felt secure.
The strange lady asked me dumb questions,
through a permanent smile
showing big, stained teeth.
I answered politely for a long time –
and then she gave a scenario and asked me
what I should do. I froze and she excused me.
As I was trying not to run in the hall
the answer came to me at once.

Later I learned that Miss Lundeen
never said my name louder than anyone's.
Later still I learned that the lady in the library
was administering IQ tests
and Miss Lundeen kept all our scores
penciled in her grade book by our names.
All through school I paid the price
for what I should have said.

Selma Calnan
Bishop, CA
Third Place

Tending to the words

I should have said the words,
but instead
I pushed them into my pocket
for safekeeping.

That night
you ordered so many words
they marched across the room
in secret time.
Some stopped at the walls
and hung there
like black and white pictures
of forgotten relatives
in a garden of jagged rocks.

Other long ones
lay down in a line
daring the silence to jump over.
The last ones were so sharp
they sliced through
the air like hand-picked darts.
I was hit once,
but didn't bleed enough to care.

Too late,
I fingered the words in my pocket,
but they had wilted and died.
I should have said them
fresh.

Catherine Moran
Little Rock, AR
Second Place

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>.

2008 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

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

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
<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.

September Contest Judge June Sylvester Saraceno is English Program Chair at Sierra Nevada College, Lake Tahoe and founding editor of the Sierra Nevada College Review. Her work has appeared in various journals including The California Quarterly, Ginosko, Moonshine Ink, The Pedestal, Poetry Motel. Her chapbook Mean Girl Trips was published by Pudding House Publications and her book Altars of Ordinary Light was published in 2007 by Plain View Press.

Treasurer's Message:

Dues are now due. They have been slow to come in this year. Please get with your chapter members and get the dues to me as soon as possible. Note on the membership form the new dues amounts. Please be sure to include updated addresses and emails with your dues. This is especially important if members are changing from Updrafts received by mail to receiving by email or vice-versa. Thank you. Roberta Bearden

We are still in need of a children's contest chair. Even if you don't want to do it on an on-going basis we desperately need someone for the 2009 contest which is coming up very shortly now. Please consider volunteering. Thank you.



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