



Chaparral Updrafts

from the
California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

Volume 69 #10

October, 2008

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President's Message

A sad announcement: CFCP member and Youth Contest Chair, Elaine Harper, passed away Friday, September 19, 2008. Family members report she passed peacefully in her sleep. She had pancreatic cancer. I spoke with her a few days prior to her death. She wanted each of you to know how honored she has been to have served as Youth Contest Chair and how humbled by your support. She is truly grateful to each of you for your help and consideration. Elaine wanted each of you to know Chaparral has been a wonderful organization to belong to and she has made many fine friends. Elaine will be missed by her CFCP family.

Follow-up: In my last newsletter I advertised for a number of CFCP positions. Marge Voight, convention chair for 2010, has informed me Elaine Lazzeroni had agreed to accept the position of Program Chair and Jim Lyons and Lee Collins have agreed to accept the position of hospitality co-chairs. A number of positions are needed. Roberta and I are leaving the positions of president and treasurer when our current terms expire in May at the 2009 convention. If you are interested in either president or treasurer positions please contact Carol Frith, Nomination Chair. Other positions available are 2nd and 4th vice presidents, a poetry education chair and youth contest chair. Remember, read your new by-laws booklets to see what each position requires. Job descriptions have recently changed; now is a good time to review the changes.

By-Laws booklets: Each member should have received a by-laws booklet in the month of September. Some were sent to individual members, others were mailed in bulk to chapter presidents. If you haven't received one or need extras for your club please contact me at Choc6254@sbcglobal.net.

Correspondence: After the July meeting I received a request from a member that copies of executive board minutes and upcoming agendas be provided prior to the meeting. It has been my practice to make that information available in Updrafts. If this information is missing from your updrafts please contact me.

Ed Bearden, President CFCP

CALIFORNIA
FEDERATION
of
CHAPARRAL
poets
inc.

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of Pearls and Platinum

Pearls and Platinum

A platinum relationship is immortal
Hopes beyond and behind each portal
He a silver fox in tux and scarlet cummerbund
She ink black velvet and pearls
Atoms power their minds, collide like comets
Made of particles and icy crystals.

They feed on Shakespeare
Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediment
Unearthly – elite travel to planetariums for string quartets
And on a moonlit night, stars like a string of pearls
Stretch in a line from home to heaven

Holy Minerva! burst full grown from the head of Zeus
And Goddess Aphrodite tickling Zeus' testicles
Inspiring wondrous art – Botticelli
Venus on a half shell
Rising from the lustrous waves
A pearl – a minor irritation in an opalescent shell

Put a pearl in the ear that has not been cut off
To hear the sound of the sea and the moan of sirens
Plant pearly everlasting
Beauty lives and dies as flowers now do
Nothing is forever

Addiction – to the sheen and glint
Of platinum and pearls
Memories might fade but patina lingers on
A little night music – under shooting stars

Helen Graziano
Claremont, CA
FIRST PLACE

Pearls and Platinum

Eliza, my best friend,
Whose insecurities I cannot comprehend,
Finally admitted to me,
"I know you think
That I am unsophisticated,
Rude and impertinent,
And you pity my silliness."

I hesitated, then she exclaimed,
"I wish I wore satin gowns and pearls!
How I would be graced
In my circle of guests
And charm them all with my refined tastes!"

Somehow my heart, I confess,
Would not allow me to see her
Brilliance filtered and processed
A satin gown replace her cotton sundress,
A string of pearls her friendship necklace...

"Eliza," I said,
Undaunted by her scowl of the simple name,
"Promise me you won't wear pearls."

Perhaps she knew that I didn't want her to change,
That I liked her just the way she is,
That in my eyes she had already blossomed into a
social treasure,
because she began to smile and laugh freely,
Her necklace shining strongly and perpetually,
Just like platinum.

Kathleen Feng
Walnut, CA
SECOND PLACE

As If Danced In The Sea

The deepest night of ocean as when
florescence glows, the stage is set;
the audience waits, subdued:
he is darkness, the oyster ample, sinewy body taut,
she pressed against him seems part of him
(spotlight dimmed appears as watery moon)
the music...and he releases her, the pearl shaped
in his embrace appears from outward flowing arms,
glides into the tide backwards;
then upwards effortlessly his black body
in graceful leap after he reflects the soft floor:
they move as sea creatures turn, counterturn;
the illusion of floating,
swaying to the rhythm of ebb and flow
when above him lifted on swarthy shoulder,
her pale, supple form holds trust in arm that
holds her high as if buoyant water sustains her.
And when the dance is over, entwined arm in arm,
he – obsidian strength, she – ivory grace
emerge from their choreographed fantasy
awash in applause, joy rising in smiles
for a performance, they sense, of platinum.

Miriam F. Berks-Roberts
Vacaville, CA
THIRD 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
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

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.

In Memory of Elaine Harper:

Elaine E Harper, long time resident of the Inland Valley, passed away peacefully in her home in LaVerne on Friday, Sept. 19th, 2008. She is survived by her daughter, Claire, her granddaughter Jeanne and her great granddaughter Dina, as well as many friends she truly felt were family. Elaine was born Dec. 19th, 1925 in San Bernardino, daughter of Joe and Marie Gross. She grew up in the foothills and went deep sea fishing with her Dad forming a great love of the outdoors. She graduated from Pomona College and received her MA degree from Claremont Graduate School. She remained in the area her entire life, living and working primarily in Pomona, San Dimas and LaVerne as a teacher, a consulting teacher and an elementary school principal, primarily at Allen Avenue and Grace Miller schools. Upon "retirement," Elaine taught at the University of LaVerne, serving as a faculty member at Claremont Graduate University. Recently, she focused on the Youth Poetry Contest, and serving as Youth Contest Chair for CFCP. Elaine was passionate about creating opportunities for learning for children and adults alike. Elaine also loved traveling and storytelling. She collected children's stories, legends and fairytales from around the world and took great delight in sharing them with children and friends. She was active in the California Federation of Chapparel Poets (CFCP), and wrote beautiful poems which will be treasured by family and friends. Among the many recognitions and opportunities Elaine received, she was particularly proud of her service as Chairma n of the Commission on Education Policy for CTA, her honorary Life Membership in the PTA, her Continuing Service and Volunteer Service recognition and receipt of the Margaret Lynch Exemplary Service Award from the IRA-CRA. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Lambda Theta and Phi Delta Kappa from whom she received an Educational Leadership Award. Although Elaine received many public rewards, it was her relationships with children, families, colleagues and her University students that were the most important to her. She has touched generations, both personally and through the work she has done with teachers. She did not wish to linger in life past her ability to enjoy it. She managed her release from the pain of cancer with the indomitable spirit that characterized her life. Elaine requested that donations be made to Bonita Council PTA "Hands on History," 115 W. Allen Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773.

The Poets of the San Joaquin will be publishing some of Elaine's poetry in their publication Song of the San Joaquin. We will let you know when the Song is available.



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