

Chaparral updrafts

from the
California Federation
of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 60 years

Volume 66, No. 6 • September, 2005

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CALIFORNIA
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Al Young brings poetry to the people New state poet laureate wants to reconnect the art with the public

"It is only very young and inexperienced cultures that don't understand that art and culture are the most important byproducts of any society," said Al Young in his first official appearance as Poet Laureate, at the California State Fair in mid August. "You're

not remembered for your armies or your navies.... You're remembered for your music and for your stories. For your literature. For your dance. For your film. For your painting. For your great art. That is what ennobles a society."

It was, in a sense, his inauguration speech, following his May 12 appointment by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and for Young, an enthusiastic ambassador for an art form he's loved since childhood, this was the perfect place for poetry, which he sees as a primal form of communication that has lost its

connection with the masses.

"We Californians like to think of ourselves as being in the vanguard, being one step ahead of the rest of the nation," Young said, his deep voice resonating as he added that California's education funding ranks near the bottom compared with other states—and dead last for the arts. "It tells you a lot about where we put our values and what we think is important... We need to put pressure on our legislators to put the money back into the arts, because that's what enriches us."

He blames the modernists.

"Eliot and Pound and that whole bunch made poetry seem difficult," Young said in an interview. "They generated the idea that if poetry weren't obscure or

continued on page two: 'Al Young'

Treasurer transition a smooth summer event

At the July meeting, outgoing treasurer Ursula T. Gibson closed the books on her more than eight years of service in that capacity and turned them over to Roberta Bearden, whose appointment to the position by President James Shuman was formally approved by the Board.

Roberta, a member of the Poets of the San Joaquin chapter, is also a member of the PSJ Editorial Board and has been published in the *Modesto Poets Corner*, the *Poets of the San Joaquin Anthology*, *Song of the San Joaquin* and in *Quercus Review*.

Roberta owns Choice Investments Realty with her husband Ed. She retired from a management position with Stanislaus County in 1995. Roberta holds a California Real Estate Brokers License; a Masters Degree is Public Administration and has achieved her Competent Toastmaster designation. She was selected Outstanding Woman in Stanislaus County in 1991 for her volunteer work with people with disabilities. She has an extensive background in training and public speaking.

She is a member of the Rental Property Association of Central California; the Central Valley Association of Realtors, California Association of Realtors and Stanislaus County Property Managers Council.

Local chapter treasurers should make note of her address, which is listed on page two.

Board Meeting set for October 22 in Fresno

All chapter presidents (or their designated representatives) are urged to attend the next CFCP, Inc. Board Meeting, scheduled for October 22 at the Piccadilly Inn, 2305 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno, 93711. The telephone number is 1 559-226-3850.

Chapter presidents, along with state officers and committee chairs, are voting members at Board meetings, and their input is needed in planning events for the future. In addition, all other CFCP members are welcome to attend, especially members of local area chapters.

The meeting will begin at 11 am, with a break at noon for lunch.

Located in the northwest part of Fresno, the Piccadilly Inn will be the site of the next two conventions. It is also under consideration as a possible central site for all future meetings. Members at the Convention in Oakland agreed to a trial of holding all meetings at the same location. We urge you to show your support by attending!

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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.

Be sure to visit our new web site:

<http://www.ChaparralPoets.org>

New Youth Contest Chair

Elaine E. Harper, a member of the Tumbleweed chapter, has accepted appointment to the position of Youth Contest Chair. She joins the Board with an impressive array of credentials. Currently a faculty member at Claremont Graduate University, she has been a teacher in grades 1,2,4,5,6, and a mentor teacher for K-2, in the Pomona USD; an elementary school principal at several schools in the Bonita USD, and an instructor in Teaching Reading and Language Arts at University of La Verne.

She has been a presenter at numerous conferences, a consultant in language arts to a number of school districts, a professional storyteller, a member of the Reading and Language Arts Advisory Council at ULV, a Lead Program Reviewer for the California State Department of Education.

Now she has turned her energy and enthusiasm on helping CFCP promote poetry among the youth of California. She has not only volunteered to serve on the Education Committee, she has consulted various poetry educators both within and outside of CFCP to develop a Youth Contest Criteria which will be available for both students and teachers to assess the student work before submission, as well as providing copies to the judges so that they will be aware of the kind of poetry CFCP intends to encourage.

Al Young is new state Poet Laureate

continued from page one

learned, then it wasn't really poetry.... For Americans in the 19th century, poetry was one of the main forms of entertainment. People memorized poems, they sat around and read it to each other. They bought poetry. Poetry was reviewed like novels are now." With modernism, "poetry disappeared into the academy. We teach it as something that we're not going to naturally understand."

In his eyes, poetry is a communal process that doesn't take meaning until other people plug into it. He describes this as a magical force, saying that poetry is one of our basic human languages.

Young aims to bring poetry back to a place of common discourse, which he admits could be a tall order in a society that technology — from the Internet to iPods — has atomized. The more isolated individuals become, the less they can see themselves in others, he believes.

Young sees his role as poet laureate as using the distilled purity of poetry to breach walls of isolation.

"I think about things like that and try to work them into my teaching and into my poetry," Young said. "I'm fascinated by the concept of there's a bigger us, and there is no 'other.'"

Ironically, Young hopes to use technology to help create a virtual community of poets. He wants to launch a website through the state library that would serve as a virtual clubhouse for California poets.

"It would be of particular use to students and teachers," Young said. "We're hashing it out, but I think it could be a really good thing. There's so much going on with poetry in California."

Underscoring the importance of poetry and the literary arts, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger noted in his appointment of Al Young that the role of the poet laureate is to inspire an emerging generation of literary

artists and to educate all Californians about the many poets and authors who have influenced our great state through creative literary expression.



Al Young

"Al Young is a poet, an educator and a man with a passion for the arts. His remarkable talent and sense of mission to bring poetry into the lives of Californians is an inspiration," the governor said.

The position of California Poet Laureate was created by legislation authored by Assemblywoman Fran Pavley (AB 113) and signed into law in 2001. Under this legislation, the

California Arts Council solicits nominations from literary groups, public and private arts organizations, literary critics and universities for the position. A panel of literary professionals is then convened to review the candidates and four nominees are submitted to the Governor. The Governor makes the final determination and appointment to the position. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$10,000 to be paid over the course of the two-year term. An individual can only serve twice.

Each laureate must make at least six public appearances and undertake a project "to bring the poetic arts to Californians and to California students who might otherwise have little opportunity to be exposed to poetry."

"What interested me was the possibility of using a poet laureate to inspire children," said Pavley, a former middle school teacher. "The original concept was to make visits to public schools."

"In choosing Al Young, Governor Schwarzenegger has found a gifted poet who believes that poetry belongs to the people and has the capacity to improve society and transform lives," said State Librarian Emeritus Kevin Starr.

The other three nominees were Wanda Coleman of Marina Del Rey, Luis Rodriguez

of San Fernando and Carol Muske-Dukes, a poet, fiction writer, critic, reviewer and USC English professor.

Young was surprised by his appointment. The governor is a Republican; Young's politics veer to the left, and he is a sharp critic of both the war in Iraq and what he sees as a Republican White House bent on Orwellian twists of language to subtly influence political opinion. "It degrades your thinking processes," he observed.

Poetry is the antidote, the dissipater of fog.

"Poetry is important in this respect because it freshens the language of the mind, the attitude of the mind toward language," Young said.

Individual experience

"To be skillful, to be surprised, and to have people, often, come away with a fresh interpretation of your work every time is amazing," said Young, chuckling at the thought of doing anything else with his life besides writing.

Besides covering a range of topics, Young writes in many voices. He believes it's boring to establish a distinguishable voice in every poem.

"It's always very exciting because I have no idea what shape or form it's going to take," Young said of his work.

Young, 66, was born near Biloxi, Mississippi, and moved to Detroit at age 10. After studying at the University of Michigan from 1957 to 1960, he moved to Berkeley in 1961 because "this was where everything was happening." He's lived in the Bay Area ever since, writing and teaching at UC Berkeley, Stanford and other schools. He has also traveled extensively, giving readings from India to the Middle East while publishing eight books of poetry, 10 novels and essay collections and two screenplays.

Even at the age of 3 when Young learned to read, he knew that he would become a poet.

As he was growing up in Mississippi and Detroit, oral recitation and storytelling were fundamental aspects of his childhood. He said that people entertained each other by telling stories and reciting poetry to one another.

"I thought the coolest thing to do was to write and to share insights with others," he said.

He began publishing poems, stories, and articles in his early teens before attending the University of Michigan, where he co-edited "Generation," the campus literary magazine.

He has been a poet, writer, teacher and lecturer throughout his literary career. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University

of California, Berkeley in Spanish. He has taught poetry and fiction writing at a number of universities nationwide including the University of California, Berkeley; the University of California, Santa Cruz; the University of California, Davis; and Stanford University. Versatile and prolific, his works have appeared in the New York Times, Chicago Review, Seattle Review, Rolling Stone, and the Norton Anthology of African American Literature. As a screen writer, Young has worked with Sidney Poitier, Bill Cosby and Richard Pryor.

Young has also received numerous awards including the Wallace Stegner, Guggenheim, Fulbright, National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, the PEN-USA Award for Non-Fiction, and the Pushcart Prize, as well as two American Book Awards and a New York Times Notable Book of the Year citation.

"Some people still think if you can understand a poem, it's not very good," Young said. He believes that "when you have a poetry scene, where only poets are reading, listening and critiquing poetry, well, that's like an echo chamber."

That said, he's optimistic about the state of the state's poetry scene. "We're going through these dark critical days, which is when poetry always surfaces. Poetry is the original human language, not the official-speak...."

And he likes how today's poets have largely stopped rhyming, use ragged lines and speak in language that people can access, and how many of them circumvent printing presses by typing poems on computers and printing "books" themselves.

"When all you have is your body and voice, poetry is the art form that's still there."

Of all his writing, Young's favorite is a 64-word poem titled "For Poets." In it he says:

"Come on out into the sunlight Breathe in trees Knock out mountains Commune with snakes & be the very hero of birds."

For him, the best part is the last line: "Don't forget to fly."

Those four words, he says, express the idea that we are capable of imagination, able to access the higher parts of ourselves, to achieve the miraculous.

"When you do that, a lot of barriers come tumbling down," he said.

This summary was compiled from press releases and news reports including articles by Scott Martelle, *LA Times* Staff Writer; Koren Temple, *Palo Alto Weekly Online*; and Sarah Phelan, *Santa Cruz Metroactive*.

Poetry Boot Camp An Internet Workshop with Molly Fisk

They say there's nothing new under the sun, but here's an interesting web site that was recently called to our attention, unlike anything we had ever heard about. We're not selling anything, but we thought you might be as intrigued as we were by this new way of offering poetry workshops. From the site:

- October 16 – 21
- November 13 – 18
- December 4 – 9
- Fee \$150

What if you postponed everything else in your life for six days and just wrote poetry?

Poetry Boot Camp™ is a quick way to jumpstart your writing, improve your poems, and overcome writer's block — in only six days.

During the camp you'll generate six new poems. You'll learn more about poetry by critiquing other poets and having your own work critiqued. In addition, you'll get the nurturing and support that comes from being part of a family of poets — sharing the experience with people who are working as hard on their writing as you are.

The critiquing is kind but honest, giving participants a safe place to show new poems and some ideas about improving them. The excitement of reading and writing new work pushes people through the barriers they may be up against in their writing.

This is a great place to try different things: going deeper into tough subjects, experimenting with new forms, exploring different voices, people pick up ideas from each others' poems, too, and are inspired to try new approaches to their own work.

How It Works: Each camp is organized in groups of up to ten poets. Participants write a poem every day for six days and e-mail it to everyone else. Participants are assigned one poem of someone else's to critique every day. Molly critiques everyone's poem every day.

So, for your \$150, you write six poems and get 12 critiques, including six from the expert, Molly Fisk. Here's the web address, if you're curious to see for yourself:

<http://www.poetrybootcamp.com/>

California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

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• Submit entries to:

Lisabeth Shuman, 2006 Contest Chairperson

California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

2521 Meadow Rue Dr, Modesto, CA, 95355-3910

2006 Annual Poetry Contest OPEN TO ALL POETS

Postmarked Deadline:
January 31, 2006

PRIZES: 1st prize: \$60⁰⁰ 2nd prize: \$40⁰⁰ 3rd prize: \$25⁰⁰

Categories	Titles are not counted as part of line limits	Line Limit
1. THEME: <i>Winds of the Chaparral</i> , one first prize only		28 lines
2. Fixed Forms (specify form)		what form requires
3. Short Poem		13 lines
4. Any Subject, any style		28 lines
5. Light or Humorous Poem		24 lines
6. Nature: any aspect		24 lines
7. Science and Technology: any aspect		28 lines
8. Lois Jeannette Dalton Memorial Award: any aspect of <i>Humanity</i>		24 lines
9. Anona McConaghy Memorial Award: any aspect of <i>Friendship</i>		24 lines
10. Roscoe Fortson Memorial Award: <i>Looking Backward</i> (childhood memories in adult voice)		28 lines
11. Executive Board Award: <i>Jumping Ship</i> ; first, second and third prizes only		40 lines

RULES

POSTMARKED DEADLINE: Midnight, January 31, 2006. Members whose dues are not paid by December 31, 2005 will not be eligible for the competition without paying the nonmember entry fees. **Please do not include dues payment with poetry submissions!**

ENTRY FEE: A three dollar (\$3.00) fee is required of nonmembers for each poem entered.

JUDGES: Entries will be judged by non-member professionals from the Western US.

ADVICE and ASSISTANCE: CFCP, Inc. has begun developing a new Education Programs section of its web site. You are encouraged to visit [www.ChaparralPoets.org/education.html] for information, ideas, examples, and answers to your questions.

SUBMISSIONS: All entries must be typewritten on standard white paper, one poem per page. Send 2 (two) copies of each entry. NO CARBONS. On BOTH copies in upper right hand corner, type: number and category name. On 1 (one) copy only, in upper left corner, type: your name, address, and member affiliation (use of mailing labels is acceptable, but designate chapter, member-at-large, etc.). This copy is needed for the printer, program readers and special awards judges. Submit ALL poems in ONE envelope. The Winners List will be posted at the CFCP web site [www.ChaparralPoets.org/winners.html] approximately one month before the CFCP Convention. **This will serve as your official notification!** Those who wish a printed list of winners and letter of notification, please include SASE. Prizewinning and honorable mention poems will be read and awards presented, Sunday, April 23, 2006 at the Piccadilly Inn, 2305 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711. Exact time and location TBA.

EXCLUSIONS: Entries not complying with the rules will be disqualified. Submit only original poems which have never been published, printed or produced in any form, nor awarded a prize in any contest nor submitted to an editor or other contest while being considered for the CFCP awards. Only one poem may be submitted in each category. Do not submit the same poem to more than one category. Winners and honorable mentions are not to appear in publication or be entered in another contest whose awards are announced prior to April 23, 2006.

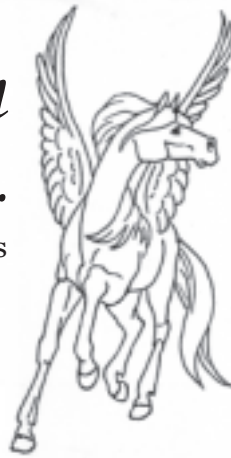
PUBLICATION: All poems remain the property of the author. However, the California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc. reserves the right to publish poems which receive recognition in their publications. Keep a copy of your submissions. No manuscripts will be returned.

SPECIAL AWARDS: Special awards are chosen by judges other than the category judges. The **Golden Pegasus Trophy** will be chosen from Member prize winners. The **Roadrunnerup Trophy** will be chosen from poems which received honorable mention. The **Beth Martin Haas Memorial Award** for a Member distinguished by excellence of service to poets and poetry will be selected by the family of Beth Martin Haas. The **Lois Jeannette Dalton Memorial Award** will be selected by Joyce Dalton Wheeler. The **Anona McConaghy and Roscoe Fortson Memorial Awards** will be chosen by judges other than the category judges.

California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

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• Submit entries to:

Elaine E. Harper, 2006 Contest Chairperson
6501 Canterwood Road, La Verne, CA 91750
Phone: 909-593-7368

PLEASE USE FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

2006 Annual Poetry Contest Junior–Senior High School

NO ENTRY FEE

1st prize: \$30.00 2nd prize: \$20.00 3rd prize: \$10.00

Poems can be any subject, any style in categories 1–4. Maximum length (not counting titles) for all poems 20 lines.

Categories:

GRADES 7, 8 AND 9

1. Junior Serious Poem

2. Junior Humorous Verse

GRADES 10, 11 AND 12

3. Senior Serious Poem

4. Senior Humorous Verse

GRADES 7 THROUGH 12

5. Special Theme:
Winds of Change

6. Aileen Jaffa Memorial Award:
Youth's View of Humanity

RULES

1. Poems must be UNPUBLISHED and NOT HAVE WON A PRIZE in another contest.
2. You must be a California resident.
3. Enter ONLY ONE POEM IN EACH CATEGORY for which you are eligible.
4. Submit TWO COPIES of each poem.
5. IDENTIFY THE FIRST COPY of each poem in the following manner:
 - a. On the bottom, write and sign a statement that you are the sole author of that poem.
 - b. In the upper LEFT-HAND corner:
Category Number and Name
Grade in School
Author's Name
Author's Address, City and ZIP Code
 - c. In the upper RIGHT-HAND corner:
Teacher's First and Last Name
School Name
School Address, City and ZIP Code
School Phone Number and Area Code
6. The SECOND COPY of each poem must have NO identification at all (Judge's copy).

- Teachers of winning students will receive Certificates of Recognition.
- Honorable Mention winners may receive Book awards.
- Winning poems will be published in a copyrighted booklet which will be offered for sale. However, poems remain the property of the author, to whom all rights revert.
- Teachers submitting poems for students are asked to select no more than 6 entries per class. Topics should be chosen by authors.
- Criteria for judging include: meaningful content, natural language, vivid imagery, precision in word choice, effective sound patterns, legibility, correct grammar and spelling. **Proofread carefully before submitting.**
- Please visit <<http://www.ChaparralPoets.org/education.html>> for information, ideas, examples, and answers to your questions.

KEEP ORIGINALS OF YOUR WORK! Entries will not be returned. For a list of prize winners, send a SASE.

Winners will be notified by April 1, 2006. Non-conforming entries will not be judged. Language and themes MUST be in good taste. Decisions of the judges are final.

The Awards Ceremony will be held Saturday, April 22, 2006 at the Piccadilly Inn, 2305 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93711. Exact time and location TBA. The public is invited to attend.

Academy of American Poets announces \$130,000 in prizes

On September 19 the Academy of American Poets announced the recipients of three major awards for poetry.

The winners are Gerald Stern (Wallace Stevens Award for proven mastery in the art of poetry, \$100,000), Claudia Rankine (Academy Fellowship for distinguished poetic achievement at mid-career, \$25,000), and Barbara Jane Reyes (James Laughlin Award for a second book, \$5,000).



from the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. For many years a teacher at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop, Mr. Stern lives in Easton, Penn-

American Writing at the Crossroads of the Century, and *The Garden Thrives: Twentieth Century African-American Poetry*. She teaches in the writing program at the University of Houston.

From the judge's citation for the Academy Fellowship:

"Claudia Rankine has made of her savage and stern intelligence, her ruthlessness and her terror, great art." — Academy Chancellor Louise Glück

Barbara Jane Reyes has been selected as the recipient of the 2005 James Laughlin Award for her second collection of poems, *Poeta en San Francisco* (Tinfish Press). The James Laughlin Award is given to commend and support a poet's second book of poetry. The award was established by a gift to the Academy from the Drue Heinz Trust in honor of the poet and publisher James Laughlin (1914–1997). Ms. Reyes will receive a cash prize of \$5,000, and the Academy will purchase copies of *Poeta en San Francisco* for distribution to its members. This year's judges were James Longenbach, Mary Jo Bang, and Elizabeth Alexander.

These three awards are among seven major annual book awards awarded by the Academy. The recipients will be honored at the Academy's awards ceremony on Thursday, November 3, 2005, at Lang Auditorium, New School, 55 West 13th Street, New York City, at 7:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

Gerald Stern has been selected as the recipient of the 2005 Wallace Stevens Award. The Wallace Stevens Award is given annually to recognize outstanding and proven mastery in the art of poetry. Established in 1994, the award carries a stipend of \$100,000. The jurors for 2005 were: Academy Chancellor Frank Bidart, Academy Chancellor Lucille Clifton, and the poets Toi Derricotte, Sharon Olds, and Kevin Young.

Mr. Stern was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1925. His books of poetry include *Last Blue: Poems* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2000); *This Time: New and Selected Poems* (1998), which won the National Book Award; *Odd Mercy* (1995); *Bread Without Sugar* (1992), winner of the Paterson Poetry Prize; *Leaving Another Kingdom: Selected Poems* (1990); *Two Long Poems* (1990); *Lovesick* (1987); *Paradise Poems* (1984); *The Red Coal* (1981), which received the Melville Caine Award; *Lucky Life*, the 1977 Lamont Poetry Selection of the Academy of American Poets and nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award; and *Rejoicings* (1973). His honors include the Paris Review's Bernard F. Connors Award, the Bess Hokin Award from Poetry, the Ruth Lilly Prize, four National Endowment for the Arts grants, the Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Jerome J. Shestack Poetry Prizew, the Academy Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets, as well as fellowships

sylvania, and New York City.

From the judge's citation for the Wallace Stevens Award:

"Gerald Stern has made an immense contribution to American poetry. His poems are not only great poems, memorable ones, but ones that get into your heart and stay there. Their lyrical ecstasies take you up for that moment so that your vision is changed, you are changed. The voice is intimate, someone unafraid to be imperfect. Gerald Stern's poems sing in praise of the natural world, and in outrage of whatever is antihuman." —Toi Derricotte

Claudia Rankine has been selected as the recipient of the 2005 Academy Fellowship. The Fellowship of the Academy of American Poets has the distinction of being the first award of its kind in the United States. The Academy Fellowship, given in memory of James Ingram Merrill, is awarded to a poet for distinguished poetic achievement at mid-career and provides a stipend of \$25,000. Fellows are nominated and elected by the Academy's Board of Chancellors, a body of seventeen eminent poets.

Ms. Rankine is the author of four collections of poetry, including *Don't Let Me Be Lonely* (Graywolf, 2004), *PLOT* (2001); *The End of the Alphabet* (1998); and *Nothing in Nature is Private* (1995), which received the Cleveland State Poetry Prize. She is co-editor of *American Women Poets in the Twenty-First Century* (Wesleyan University Press). Her work has been published in numerous journals including *Boston Review*, *TriQuarterly*, and *The Poetry Project Newsletter*. Her poetry is also included in several anthologies, including *Great American Prose Poems: From Poe to the Present*, *Best American Poetry 2001*, *Giant Step: African*

selected as the recipient of the 2005 James Laughlin Award for her second collection of poems, *Poeta en San Francisco* (Tinfish Press). The James Laughlin Award is given to commend and support a poet's second book of poetry. The award was established by a gift to the Academy from the Drue Heinz Trust in honor of the poet and publisher James Laughlin (1914–1997). Ms. Reyes will receive a cash prize of \$5,000, and the Academy will purchase copies of *Poeta en San Francisco* for distribution to its members. This year's judges were James Longenbach, Mary Jo Bang, and Elizabeth Alexander.

Ms. Reyes was born in Manila, Philippines, and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She received her undergraduate education at the University of California Berkeley and her MFA in Creative Writing (poetry) at San Francisco State University. Her work was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and appears or is forthcoming in *Asian Pacific American Journal*, *Chain*, *Interlope*, *Nocturnes (Re)view*, *North American Review*, *Tinfish*, *Versal*, in the anthologies *Babaylan* (Aunt Lute, 2000), *Eros Pinoy* (Anvil, 2001), *Going Home to a Landscape* (Calyx, 2003), *Not Home But Here* (Anvil, 2003), *Pinoy Poetics* (Meritage, 2004), and forthcoming in *Red Light: Superheroes, Saints and Sluts* (Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp, 2005), and *Graphic Poetry* (Hong Kong: Victionary, 2005). Her first book, *Gravities of Center*, was published by Arkipelago Books (San Francisco) in 2003.

From the judge's citation for the James Laughlin Award:

"If William Blake were alive and well and sitting on a eucalyptus branch in the hills above the bay, this is the poetry he would aspire to write." —James Longenbach

Check this page!

The September contest is closing, but coming up for October is any *California*, and for November, *Family*. And coming next year Contest Chair Cleo Griffith has plans for a whole new set of topics!

With different categories ten months of the year, there are 30 chances a year to win recognition. But, of course, it **is** necessary to actually send your poems in to the Contest Chair! Be sure you have discarded any old copies of this page, so that the poems you submit are for the correct topics and that you have followed the current rules.

The topics and rules did change a bit for 2005, following the Board's approval last October. Most notable is the fee per entry, which is now \$2 per poem, or 3 poems for \$5.

Also, remember that you need to submit only one copy of each entry for this contest, but that your name and address information go on the **back**.

Keep copies of this page handy to share when people ask how to join CFCP. Also, think in terms of carrying extra copies to give to interested friends or acquaintances. And maybe leave a few at your library or on the bulletin board at the local college or university. Remember that August begins our new membership year—a good time for recruitment!

2005 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

- JANUARY** — Changes
- FEBRUARY** — Portraits
- MARCH** — Off-the-Wall!
- APRIL** — Historical
- MAY** — Light or Humorous Verse
- JUNE** — Exploration, Nature & Science
- JULY** — *no contest*
- AUGUST** — Short Poem 12 lines or fewer
- SEPTEMBER** — Fun with Numbers
- OCTOBER** — California
- NOVEMBER** — Family
- 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 ONE COPY of each poem with author's name and address in the upper left corner of the reverse side. Address labels are acceptable. Multiple entries are welcome.

Only UNPUBLISHED POEMS and poems not previously awarded a money 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 wherein 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 a 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.**

➔ Cleo Griffith
mail contest Monthly Contest Chair, CFCP, Inc.
entries to 4409 Diamond Court
Salida, CA 95368-9632
<cleor36@yahoo.com>



YES!

I definitely want to be a member of the
California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc. for the year 2006.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

E-MAIL _____

I PREFER TO RECEIVE MY *UPDRAFTS* NEWSLETTER BY: _____ E-MAIL _____ 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.

*** Those who desire to continue membership with a chapter, please remit dues to your local chapter treasurer.**

How to Become a Member

check the appropriate item:

- _____ Membership Annual/Renewal \$15⁰⁰
- _____ New Member (February 1 to April 30) \$12⁰⁰
- _____ New Member (May 1 to July 31) \$7⁵⁰
- _____ Spouse (1/2 regular member) \$7⁵⁰, \$6⁰⁰, or \$3⁷⁵
- _____ Junior (under 21; show proof of age) \$3⁰⁰
- _____ Donation (specify amount)

_____ I am interested in joining a Chapter in my area (name of 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 Chairman, 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.

Plan to attend Board Meeting October 22

continued from page one

The October meeting is important, since that is when the Board reviews and approves many details for the coming convention. Although the Theme of the Convention and the various categories for the annual contest were decided in July, many other details are still under discussion. Additional volunteers for the Convention Committee are still needed, to help implement the ideas and plans that will be proposed. Further, since this is the second year in which the convention has been developed without a local host committee, the Board now recognizes the need for an adequate team of helpers.

In addition to work on the 2006 convention, we will discuss plans for the 2007 convention, among several major pieces of business. If you have any items you would like to see discussed, please contact president James Shuman ASAP so they can be included on the agenda. The meeting is expect to conclude by 4:30.

The luncheon menu has been pre-selected and includes rolls and butter, coffee, tea, and dessert. Choose one of the following entrées:

Herb Roasted Chicken with seasoned red potatoes, veggies, salad, and assorted dressings.

Cobb Salad with bleu cheese on the side and assorted dressings.

All options are the same price, which is \$16 per person, including service charge and sales tax.

NOTE: Please contact host David Lapiere at <Dalapcrepes@aol.com> or 530-527-0244 or president James Shuman at 209-523-6954 **ASAP** so that reservations will be made for you.

To reach the Piccadilly Inn, those coming from the north and west, take Highway 99 to the Shaw Avenue exit. Turn right (east) on West Shaw Avenue and travel 3 miles to the hotel on the right, at 2305 W. Shaw Avenue.

Those coming from the south, take Highway 99 to the Ashlan Avenue exit. Turn right on West Ashlan Avenue and travel 1 mile. Turn left on North Marks Avenue and travel 1 mile. Turn right on West Shaw Avenue and travel .6 mile to the hotel on the right, at 2305 W. Shaw Avenue.

Literary contest cautions

Those who are new or inexperienced at the fine art of entering contests would find their time well spent to visit the web site at <<http://windpub.com/literary.scams/>> where they will find instructive comments regarding a list of dubious to outright fraudulent Poetry Contests.

This web site states that it is provided as a public service by Wind Publications. Its opening page text states:

Hidden among the many sponsors of legitimate literary contests advertised on the internet lurk those who care little about literature, its audience, or authors. These organizations and individuals exist solely for profit through their so-called writing or poetry contests. Often you'll find these "free" poetry contests lavishly advertised in your local newspaper. Before you consider entering any free on-line literary or writing contest you can do yourself a favor by checking out the following links.

Following this statement are 25 links to descriptions of questionable sites, with explanations of their dangers and why they are hazardous.

• **Inside:**
Al Young, new State Poet Laureate
\$130,000 in awards to Poets
Roberta Bearden new treasurer
Elaine Harper new Youth Contest chair
Board Meeting October 22 in Fresno

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc., 2521 Meadow Rue Drive, Modesto, CA, 95355-3910.

