

California Voices

- Plan now to attend the Conference in Oakland April 22 - 24, 2005 and participate in sessions specifically designed with classroom teachers in mind!
- Work in a close, informal relationship with both poet-educators and professional poets.
- Gain firsthand information from grade-level teachers on engaging your students in creation and appreciation of poetry.
- See and hear examples of work by students and adults at all grade levels.
- Learn how the concepts of poetry can present the Language Arts Standards in exciting and enjoyable ways.
- Develop your own lesson plan under the guidance of experts in the field.
- Earn up to 2.5 units of upper division, post-baccalaureate credit from CSU East Bay (formerly Hayward State).
- For information updates and links to download Registration Forms, visit www.ChaparralPoets.org/CAvoices1.html

www.ChaparralPoets.org

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April 22 - 24, 2005
Oakland Clarion Hotel

Conference on Poetry: Teaching, Creating, Appreciating

The California Federation of Chaparral Poets, Inc.

is the oldest poetry organization in the state, and seeks opportunities for the reading, writing, critiquing, and appreciation of poetry. To address these goals CFCP has adopted the following statements of purpose:

- to further education in the teaching and writing of poetry by children with our annual Children's Poetry Fair; for youth with our yearly statewide contest; for adults with workshops, open competitions and local Chapters of CFCP.
- to increase appreciation of poetry through all channels, including schools, media, and public gatherings.
- to promote fellowship among poets through the annual State Convention and periodical newsletter, *Chaparral Updrafts*.

The first CFCP conference was held at Glendale in 1940. By 1963, when the conference was held in Sacramento, CFCP had become one of the largest poetry groups in the world, with 30 chapters located throughout California, as well as members from more than a dozen other states.

In 2001, CFCP, Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit institution. It continues its mission of promoting educational opportunities among the youth of California.

What to expect at the Conference

CFCP Conventions follow a format providing a wide range of topics and events relevant to Poetry. Some are workshops on various aspects of the craft, from writing tips to where and how to publish. Some are awards and recognition for entries in CFCP-sponsored contests. Some invite us just to sit back and *appreciate*.

When it is over, participants will take away a better understanding of how to create poetry, as well as how to teach it. And, as an added bonus, they'll have developed a little of that camaraderie that exists between poets.

A separate room is provided for authors' exhibits. Books and periodicals, as well as archival materials including photographs, old documents, and other items of historic interest, are on display. Some items are for sale.

One of the highlights for many attendees is the traditional Bardic Circle, a poetry read-around open to all in attendance, in which poets read from their own work. These are held each evening after the day's regular sessions are concluded.

The Poets' Luncheon on Saturday and the Golden Pegasus Banquet on Sunday evening are optional events, but are times in which new acquaintances become friends, friendships solidify, and exchanges of thoughts and ideas on a variety of topics enrich the experience.

- The Convention officially opens at 3 pm with Welcomes from local officials, followed by a publishers/editors panel and a panel on the difficulties of translating poetry. The afternoon is

a time of gathering in, greeting old friends and meeting new people, and beginning to focus on the weekend ahead.

Those planning to earn course credit must attend the Educators' Welcome and Orientation at 6 pm. Bay Area poet David Alpaugh, keynote speaker for the evening, will extend the *Challenge of Professionalism in Poetry*.

- The Children's Poetry Fair Exhibit opens Saturday morning, followed by a series of sessions and workshops including the keynote address from Katie McAllaster Weaver on *Writing with Children in Mind*.

The afternoon brings awards for the Youth Contest, in which all the winning poems are read aloud. Winning students are invited to attend, and many bring their parents with them.

Don't miss the Classroom Teachers Panel discussing *How I Get Students Interested in Writing Poetry*.

- On Sunday morning educators have a session on *Poetry Basics* followed by time to begin *Developing a Lesson for Your Students*.

The afternoon features awards for the adults who have participated in the annual contest. Each of the three to five winning poems in each of twelve categories is read aloud, either by the author or a poet-reader.

The evening concludes with a Banquet featuring a keynote speaker and two or three prizes awarded to recipients who are unknown until the announcement at that time.