



Chaparral Updrafts

from the
California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

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President's Message

I have just returned from a successful but disappointing Executive Board Meeting in Ontario. Successful because a report by Convention/Conference Chair Ursula Gibson, left me feeling good about the 2008 convention. Workshop leaders and speakers are in place, many from our own organization. Ursula was successful in securing \$450.00 from a Poets and Writers grant to pay for some conference costs. We first sought such monies for the 2006 convention when secured funds allowed us to bring California Poet Laureate Al Young to Fresno. I believe grants such as that provided by Poets and Writers could become a staple of future conference planning.

The meeting was disappointing because of Marge Voigt's decision to withdraw from the position of Convention Chair for the 2009 convention. Sentiment at the Ontario meeting was strong to return to a North-South convention schedule and it was decided to hold the 2009 convention in Modesto. Marge believes a Convention Chair closer to the actual site of the convention would better facilitate conference planning. **Consequently, I would like to hear from any of you regarding your willingness to act as Convention Chair for the 2009 convention in Modesto.** Please contact me as soon as possible. Member at large, Debbie Loyd, was appointed Program Chair for 2009 at the October board meeting. The convention chair and program chair will need to coordinate some aspects of the convention. Following that discussion, a decision was made to return to Ontario for the 2010 convention and subsequent to the Ontario meeting I have appointed Marge Voigt once more as Convention Chair; this time for the 2010 convention which will be in Ontario. I will be asking the Executive Board to ratify that appointment in the near future.

While I regret Marge Voigt's decision to withdraw from the Convention Chair position in 2009 and applaud her decision to accept the same position in 2010, it does permit me to make an important point first made at the 2005 convention in Oakland. The convention is no longer a chapter (host) responsibility. The various roles needed to bring off a successful convention are no longer tied to geography. They are tied to the interest and skill of those people who choose to accept the responsibility. If this seems a surprise to some of you who well remember host chapters (I don't), look no farther than the very successful 2006 and 2007 conventions in Fresno lead ably by Dan Saucedo and Dave Lapierre, who were far apart in geography but united in goal. As for getting from one place to another physically, consider this.

It's a tough drive from Northern California to Southern California or the reverse. It's more than just a few dollars for gas. In discussion with my wife Roberta and PSJ President Bill Sehl, we think we could consider a charter bus solution. I have contacted a charter bus company in Stockton and have learned the bus will take us door to door from Stockton to Ontario for about \$80.00 each. The bus holds between 47-50 people and is a luxury model with comfortable reclining seats and on-board bathrooms. It's a 99 HiWay route, meaning some from Red Bluff or Sacramento could catch the bus in Stockton. It could stop in Modesto and later in Fresno, picking up passengers along the way.

I don't know if this is a good idea or not. What I do know is that a lot of folks have told me transportation is a problem. I think some new ways are worth consideration. It's time to stop talking about what we can't do and start talking about what we can do. President Sehl has promised to begin that dialogue with PSJ. I urge you to consider different ideas such as this at your next chapter meeting.

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of
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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>.

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the January topic of Water

Neap Tide

The gulls and terns have breakfasted. We know
By three-tined spoor fine-etched in spongy sand.
Bare feet leave giant trails, a double row
Of deep depressions in the smooth, brown band.

Small bubbles break to foam where sand crabs hide
Near crumbling fortress, ramparts capped with shells.
Land's scalloped border left by ebbing tide
Retains some water-softened shapes and tells

Enough of the design for us to learn
The workings of a Sunday builder's mind.
These random remnants waken our concern
For telltale evidence we leave behind.

Our tide has crested. Will its turn erase
All we have built or leave some fossil trace?

Second Place Elaine Lazzeroni

Within the water

I began you with quiet water,
unfolding your tiny fingers
that stretched into the shadows like truth.
It dripped from your first movements
down that dark hall through the smallest door.
You spit like a frantic child gasping
for pure air.

I poured the next water over your forehead
straight from the Sea of Galilee.
I had gathered the drops in a small jar
and they waited six months for you.
It coursed
in tiny, holy rivulets like a liquid prayer
inoculating against paganism.

Then pneumonia arrived with a stranger's face,
and your breath rasped against the wall
like a frozen branch on glass.
It was a valiant fight
and you wrestled with that drowning tide.
I dragged you to solid land
and the safety of dry air.

Years later, you walked down a silent street
and conveniently lost the way back.
I stood in the rain
for hours,
throwing lost phrases into puddles,
and holding the water with both hands.

Catherine Moran First Place

Cold Waters

It must be a rural myth. Something told for true
that never happened, but told anyway because
someone is afraid it might happen or thinks it
could happen and if it did happen it would be tragic.

***A sudden change in temperature
will cause one sharp intake of breath
to be a last great heart stopping gasp.***

I first heard the story told of pigs taken to market in
an open truck, snouts gaping, breath coming in quick pants.
Someone well meaning, merciful, takes pity on the pigs and
tosses in a bucket of cold water to cool them down. Two of
the five drop dead. Back legs churr, beating the metal sides
of the truck before silent astonishment overcomes them all:
pigs and men. Water dripping from truck to ground is heard
clearly, each splatter recalled in the telling.

Stories about death always have warnings, lessons to be learned.
"Don't dive in the water if it's too hot," dad said, after telling the
story of the pigs, "go in slowly." I understood the caution.
Watched water skiers shiver from warm cars to cold lake waters
during the annual New Years day initiation of the polar-bear club.
Heard of sprints from Finland's hot saunas to icy waters. Steam
rising from naked bodies as if water had been poured on hot rocks
but I never saw a heart stop.

The tale is cautionary. Small steps into cold waters.

Third Place Ed Bearden

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
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.

It's time to get your convention registration forms into Treasurer Roberta Bearden. These can be mailed to P. O. Box 1750 Empire, CA 95319. Be sure and get the forms that have lunch and dinner menus on them or send along your selections with the registration form. The menu for the poets lunch is either Oriental Chicken Salad with fresh rolls and butter or a Turkey Croissant Sandwich with potato salad and pickle wedge. Dessert choices are carrot cake or chocolate cake.

The menu for the banquet is Flank Steak Florentine with garlic, spinach and sundried tomatoes or Grilled pacific salmon marinated in sherry ginger garlic served with citrus ginger pesto. Dessert choices are carrot cake or chocolate cake.

With both lunch and dinner a vegetarian substitute may be ordered. There isn't any information on what that might be. With all meals you get coffee or tea.

Helen Malkerson, a long-time CFCP member-at-large and a member of the Ina Coolbrith Circle passed away in January 2008. Helen was in her nineties and as recently as 2006-2007 she was a winner in our monthly contest. She will be missed by everyone.

January Monthly Contest Judge Short Bio:

Melody Sherosky is owner of The Blind Press and helps small press poets publish their work both digitally and in print. More information can be found at www.theblindpress.com. She was editor of The Blind Man's Rainbow literary journal for more than 14 years.



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