



Chaparral Updrafts

from the
California Federation of
Chaparral Poets, Inc.

serving California poets for over 65 years

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Presidents Message

Well the hard decisions concerning the 2008 convention have been made and made easily due to the hard work of Marge Voigt, Ursula Gibson, Elaine Lazzeroni, Elaine Harper with input from Dan Saucedo, Katharine Wilson et. al. While the approved convention budget appears to be in the red, that is, we are projecting the convention will cost more than we will bring in we were assured by treasurer Roberta Bearden that we do have the money in reserve. There are two events that could put the convention in the black. The first is a stronger participation than we had in Fresno last year and the second is the pending result of a Poet's and Writer's Grant application. So mark your calendars now for the April 25, 26, 27 convention at the Marriott Hotel in Ontario. The theme this year is **Choices** with all other contest categories remaining the same.

The board approved my request for a change in the deadline for the annual contest. You will need to postmark your contest entries by **January 15, 2008**. This change was made to accommodate my request and intention for blind judging. I also announced my intention to put our Vice Presidents to work acting as judges themselves. Katharine Wilson will select the Roadrunner Up, Dan Saucedo will select the Executive Board, Jumping Ship category and Dave Lapierre will oversee the selection of the Theme winner. I will be making the selection of the Pegasus award. Blind judging has always been done in all categories except the Roadrunner and the Pegasus. The Executive Board approval of the earlier start date will make that possible and you should still be able to see the results on line at about the same time as last year. Prior to the July meeting I received correspondence from member Claire J. Baker suggesting we not only treat all contest judging in a blind fashion but also select judges from out of state. Some, but not all, of the categories are currently judged by out of state qualified poets. This important point raised by Claire will be discussed at future board meetings. If you have input in this matter please bring it forward through your chapter president at our quarterly board meetings.

Jeremy Shuman, Rooster and By-Laws Chair has brought forth a set of proposals relating to a number of positions and procedures in the organization. I have included his memo to me in its entirety. This is the sort of proposal that will require discussion over several meetings. At the July Board a committee consisting of Marge Voigt, Dan Saucedo, Lee Collins with myself as chairperson will begin consideration of Jeremy's suggestions. Specifically we will be considering role definitions within the organization. Something to be included in the standing rules that would describe the duties of the convention chair, program chair, 3rd vice president and so forth. A lot of thought went into Jeremy's proposal and we will consider it carefully.

CALIFORNIA
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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.

Visit our website:
<http://www.ChaparralPoets.org>.

Publication of Proposed Bylaws Change

At the January meeting the executive board approved publication of the following by-law change: Article IV section 3(d) delete the words “in May.”

At its July meeting the executive board approved publication of the following by-law change: Article III section 1, By-laws chair Jeremy Shuman reported language describing a “California Poets only category” as outdated. This board approved change will remove the outdated language. A change in bylaws requires publication to the entire membership. Action on this item will take place at the business portion of convention 2008.

If you have an item for the meeting agenda or if you have an idea for Updrafts please email Ed Bearden at Choc624@sbcglobal.net.

OH, TO LAUGH AGAIN

years ago it was different
he liked the young alert eyes
turned to the front of the room
waiting for him to toss them a one-liner
which they would acknowledge by smiles
or outright laughter proving they listened to
what went on in his class.

He was more alive too not only his
eyes sparkling with the fun of making
a class hum with interest and awareness
humor was more acute
more spontaneous and the air in the room
crackled with lively exchanges
about subjects with some substance.

his burnout came on slowly
not just one thing but a pile
of inconsequentials that grew larger
each year when autonomy in the class
began to erode and the monster
Standardized Testing recognized
only teaching for the test.

the days are dreary now for the groups
he has now are generally bored
parents do not keep appointments
which means the only brightness
in his days now is that each one
is an X on the calendar that means
soon he can retire with no looking back.

FIRST PLACE JUNE 2007
Virginia T. Dall
Modesto, CA

SUMMING UP

Seventy was too soon for summing up
though the slope could be clearly felt
beneath my cautious feet.

Easy to slide into being seriously
not important anymore.

So easy to be a guiltless helpee, free to be
out of touch with how things really work,
the name of the latest pop celebrities (who cares?),
lost at references in hip comedy routines (I care!),
to occupying a corner in other people's lives.

Hearing, when I speak, the anxious echoes of my mother's voice,
trying vainly to be in charge of some small place in the
universe,
kindly patience in reply.

Thinking my duty was done, I missed it.
Feeling half submerged in the forest floor
while stalwart trees all around
reach for the sun, and saplings too.

Well, it seems the eighties don't work for me either.
I've just about had it with white-haired ladies
ushering me through doors.
Is that a second wind blowing,
a slight upturn in the path?

Do I really have to waste these years
sorting photos, discarding, leaving things neat,
or maybe use whatever time I have
to write another poem?

SECOND PLACE
JUNE, 2007: LOOKING FORWARD
Evelyn Stecher
Lincoln, CA

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

on the topic of Looking Forward
June, 2007

CONSTELLATION FANTASY

Dear one, we will meet again
near the birthplace of cosmic dust.
No supernova, black hole, meteor
storm or warring magnetic fields
could cancel our reunion.

I sip the Chablis of memory,
memorize your face. You remain
as close as my breathing.

Take a lantern for the trip? True,
the moon holds no glow of its own
to serve as a lantern. But the sun
and earth reflect on the moon
a kingdom of luminosity.

Never fear: no solar or lunar
eclipse will darken the way.

Guided by golden birds,
I will land gently near
the center of your constellation.

When at last we meet,
all will be still, lit, expectant.
With his hunting dogs calm
as cirrus clouds, Orion
will witness our hands touching.

THIRD PLACE JUNE 2007
Claire J. Baker
Pinole, CA

2007 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

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

January	Turnabout
February	Landscape of Winter
March	Hares, Lions, Lambs
April	How to Advertise a Poem
May	Spring Moon
June	Looking Forward
July	no contest
August	Doldrums or Daydreams?
September	Memories, Altered
October	Smoke (12 lines or fewer)
November	Fences
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 of 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 CHAPARREL
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 2007.

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.

Treasurer's Message

At the July meeting the board decided that the pre-convention registrations will come to the treasurer instead of the Registration Chair. Registrations must be received by the treasurer no later than April 12, 2008. Anyone registering after that date will need to bring their registration to the convention to be received by the Registration Chair.

Beginning August 1, 2007 member dues will need to be paid. The board requested the treasurer begin to send chapter presidents or treasurers a membership list each month. Those membership lists need to be reconciled with the chapter list and returned to the treasurer as quickly as possible. Every attempt will be made to do this by email.

Below is the treasurer's report that was given at the July 21, 2007 meeting in Ontario, California.

There is currently \$2,316.01 in the check book. This includes the memorial funds. We have \$5,500 in a six month certificate of deposit with Washington Mutual Bank.

On January 1, 2007 we transferred \$2,996.82 from the 2006 checking account and \$1,535.00 in memorial funds. At that time we also had a certificate of deposit in the amount of \$5,000.00. The McConaghy memorial fund is \$125.00 in the red. It needs to be funded a minimum of \$250.00 and preferably more.

We have nineteen chapters with a total membership of 282 members. Many of our members are affiliates of other chapters. Some of our members, such as past presidents, receive free memberships.

The convention for 2007 had \$7,070.50 in total income. We spent \$9,816.04 including contest prizes. This left a deficit of \$2,745.54 for the 2007 convention. This was offset by \$580.00 in Memorial Funds making a final deficit of \$2,165.54. The actual income and expenses is listed on page four of this report.

Proposed Budget for 2008

Estimated Income		Estimated Expenses	
Dues	\$4000.00	Updrafts	\$2100.00
Donations	\$ 300.00	Website	\$ 100.00
<u>CD</u>	<u>\$5500.00</u>	Bylaws Book	\$ 400.00
		Convention Overage	\$2500.00
		<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>\$1000.00</u>
Total Income	\$9800.00	Total Expenses	\$6100.00



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