Foundation honors under-recognized poets

Second annual Pegasus Awards given October 6 in Chicago

With a gala dinner ceremony in Chicago, The Poetry Foundation announced that Landis Everson, Tony Hoagland, and William Logan are the winners of its second annual Pegasus Awards. The prizes honor achievements not already acknowledged by other poetry awards.

The Poetry Foundation has established a family of prizes with an emphasis on new awards to under-recognized poets and types of poetry. Inaugurated in 2004, the Pegasus Awards are named annually in the fall. The Foundation believes that targeted prizes can help redress underappreciated accomplishments, diversify the kinds of poetry being written, as well as widen the audience for the art form. With this in mind, the Foundation, which publishes Poetry magazine and is lavishly funded by an Indiana philanthropist, has stated its intention to create additional prizes in the years ahead.

Landis Everson was the first recipient of the Emily Dickinson First Book Award which recognizes an American poet over the age of 50 who has yet to publish a first book of poetry. Everson, 79, was an inner member of the Berkeley Renaissance during the late 1940s with his friends Robert Duncan, Jack Spicer, and Robin Blaser. He encountered a young John Ashbery while working toward his Master’s at Columbia in 1951. In 1955 he made the first of three appearances in Poetry magazine, and also published in Hudson Review and Kenyon Review. But Everson had not written poetry for more than forty years when his rediscovery last year in Fulcrum 3 (The Berkeley Renaissance, edited by Ben Mazer) became the catalyst for a return to poetry.

Everson’s manuscript was selected from over 1,100 entries in the first annual Foundation contest. Of his collection, John Barr, president of The Poetry Foundation, said, “Landis Everson came of age as a poet in Berkeley in the 1940s and 1950s—then put his writing aside for 43 years. His sudden return comes in a flood of poems written in the past two years. The fresh, accomplished voice at our elbow sounds continued on page two: ‘Recognition’

It’s time again for annual Dues payments

Treasurer Roberta Bearden has been receiving quite a few new memberships and dues renewal payments for the coming year, which is a delightful thing to hear, since it eases the burden of last-minute rushes to meet the December 31 deadline.

As we near the end of the year 2005, it’s time to make certain each of us has individually paid our dues for the coming year, which are still just $15 annually. If in doubt, check with your chapter treasurer.

And, it’s equally important that the chapter treasurers transmit those dues to Roberta in a timely manner. The dues payment should be accompanied by a roster listing each member, including the correct spelling of the name, address, and telephone number. We’d also like to have e-mail addresses, to expedite communicating with you throughout the year. If you feel strongly that you prefer to receive your Updrafts in printed form, please note that on the list. These need to be received by Roberta before December 31, if at all possible, so allow time for slow mail during the holidays!

Now is also an excellent time to recruit new members, since dues paid now will be counted as paid through the end of December, 2006 — and they’re eligible to enter the annual contest and receive all the other advantages of membership.

As usual, chapter dues (even for new members) are paid to the chapter treasurer, and member-at-large dues are paid to the Members-at-Large Chairman, Frances Yordan. You can use the form in this issue.

Letter to the World chapter approved at Board Meeting

Membership is expanding in the most exciting ways! Student representative Sharon Gonnason from the Fairfield area presented a request for a student chapter at the Board Meeting October 22. She submitted dues and names of 13 members, with Greg Bennett as president, and more names to follow within 30 days. The Board approved the request by unanimous vote, with the new chapter to be called Letter to the World.

All of the more than 20 people who have been attending weekly afternoon meetings are students in the Fairfield community. Poetry Education Committee chair Linda McCarty is their local faculty adviser.
Recognition comes to poet at 79

continued from page one

like that of a major American poet—except that it belongs to none of them. It belongs to Landis Everson." Many of the poems in Everson’s winning manuscript, *Everything Preserved: Poems 1955-2003*, were written between 2003 and 2005. In addition to publication and promotion of his manuscript by Graywolf Press, Everson received a cash prize of $10,000.

Why did Landis Everson stop writing poetry for 43 years? That was the obvious question everyone was asking after hearing of the award.

Everson, 79, quiet, pixieish and a little frail after a cataract operation, answered, smiling, “Imagine, if you had written a letter to a friend in Chicago and you never had an answer, and you kept writing and writing and not getting any answer back, would you keep writing?”

It was not that his poetry had been rejected, but rather that, for him, poetry is a communication between friends, not a commercial enterprise. “I wasn’t seeing my friends,” he said simply.

Born in Coronado, Calif., where his father was a naval officer, Everson attended the University of California, Berkeley, and earned a master’s degree at Columbia University. He played a hoax on the English department by writing a thesis on an imaginary 17th-century poet, Sir William Bargoth. (The joke was discovered, but the department accepted his thesis anyway.) Although Everson’s poetry was published in some very good magazines, he said he missed the immediate reaction to his work he received from his friends, a satisfaction he didn’t get from having his work in print. “After being published the first time in a magazine, the thrill was gone,” he said.

He returned to San Francisco, meeting weekly with poet friends who were experimenting with serial poetry, but there were squabbles and quarrels over style, and in 1961 the group disbanded. Without his friends for an audience, Everson stopped writing.

He taught, painted, bought old houses and renovated them. He moved to San Luis Obispo, “because I didn’t know anyone there,” he said.

Around 1994, he ceased renovating houses. He was too old. So he did crossword puzzles, gardened and played with two blue jays that he had tamed. “They eat out of my hand,” he said. “I was waiting to die, very patiently, very agreeably, when the phone rang.”

He hadn’t given much thought to writing until he was contacted by Ben Mazer, a young Boston poet and contributing editor of the poetry journal *Fulcrum*, who was working on an article about the Berkeley Renaissance. Mazer had traced Everson and asked if he had any unpublished poems. He did.

That 2004 article included some of Everson’s poems, brought him recognition and led to a personal renaissance. He said he has written more than 100 poems in the last year.

“I’ve had an urge to make up for the 50 years I had not written,” he said.

With Everson writing again, Mazer sent his work to journals, and it was accepted, including by *The New Republic*, which published “Coronado Poet.”

Unbeknownst to Everson, Mazer submitted his poems for the Poetry Foundation prize. He won, and Mazer will edit the book to be published by Graywolf Press.

When he heard about the prize, he became depressed. Everson said. He didn’t sleep, didn’t eat. “I realized all the fun and games I had gone out of poetry; it was becoming professional.” But his spirits have lifted. “Without Ben, I wouldn’t be writing,” he said. “I have an audience.”

The Dickinson prize is particularly apt

beeldtje
Molecules of Life

Two professors of chemistry endowed the science museum with an inspired model six foot high, a double helix of DNA so colorful it arouses emotions, a Henry Moore playfulness to it, coupled with the graceful emergent torque of Venus de Milo. The human genome sculpturette of forty base pairs of DNA is only a fraction of the building blocks that make up the human blueprint.

Besides being a custodian of information, this molecule is the original live wire. Fingers are invited to flutter over the model, children dance around it. Nothing stays still for more than a nanosecond here or a millisecond there, the spark of life, so reliable, capable of constant interchange these small free radicals twirl, to split and split, and split again, spawning generations of dancing sons and daughters.

—Rick Thielo, Upland, CA
First Prize, June

The Dance Massacre of Spring

The poppings of white blossoming, plum first, apricot, pink peach, and white again the cherry—
Unsettled in a pool of water, wild mallards, two drakes in combat, rival for a hen, pinned down by her nape.
Ack, she sounds for distress, squack, she sounds for dismay, her yellow beak agape.
The swains plunder in purple sheen and complacent swagger.
From the fence springs a flash of white and gray, uncamouflaged, a feral cat pushes out his prey.
White blossoms and pigeon feathers, a pillow fight, harried feathers blasted every which way.

—Ariel Smart, Saratoga, CA
Second Prize, June

Snake River near Hoback Junction

I am Snake River, running to the sea. The Blackfeet watched my switchbacks as I traveled west, named me Snake. Winding in and out of canyon terrain, I benefit both man and beast. In narrow canyon walls, ever-flowing waters cramp between jutting rocks, spray mist amid roiling deluge. Shoshones thought me dangerous here, a Sidewinder, avoided places where I splashed against wedged rocks.
I am Snake River, moving to the sea. Today, river runners don buoyant vests, yellows, reds and blues, grab tiny oars, hunt my highest curves, act unafraid, scream through.

They’re unconcerned about their upturned rafts, or bodies hurled into my churling icy stream. They realize my trickery too late, feel my downward pulling power, as poisonous as venom to their lungs. I suck bodies deep into my pit where whirling currents defy gravity, strip them of buoyant vests.
I am Snake River, running to the sea. Rafters come, dare me to overturn their craft, to toss them high. Hoping to survive my stinging ways, white water seekers yell in glee or chant in sadness at my fatal bite.

—Theda Bassett, Salt Lake City, UT
Third Prize, June

Regeneration

Black crepe day, death slanting a shadow, people gather in public grief even as California flaunts her gold. Like a fawn finding its legs in yellowing grasses, memories still green, I watch egrets take off from the pond — a flurry of feathers, water droplets catching the light.
A mourning dove weeps its song, funeral cars inch the avenue, and I find solace where quail chuckle, rabbits pose, and we once hiked the meadow.

—Cleo Kocol, Roseville, CA
Second Prize, August

Fall

Yellow drying leaves pile up onto the bottom of the slanted windshield though left parked under the sweeping oak but for a short time.
Not so many that they won’t easily drift off with the accelerated breeze when the old vehicle moves on.

—Marnelle White, Angels Camp, CA
Third Prize, August
2006 Annual Poetry Contest
OPEN TO ALL POETS

PRIZES:  1st prize: $60.00  2nd prize: $40.00  3rd prize: $25.00

Categories  Titles are not counted as part of line limits  Line Limit
1. THEME:  Winds of the Chaparral, 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
7. Science and Technology: any aspect  28 lines
8. Lois Jeannette Dalton Memorial Award: any aspect of Humanity  24 lines
9. Anona McConaghy Memorial Award: any aspect of Friendship  24 lines
10. Roscoe Fortson Memorial Award:  Looking Backward (childhood memories in adult voice)  28 lines
11. Executive Board Award:  Jumping Ship; 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.
2006 Annual Poetry Contest
Junior – Senior High School

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 7, 8 and 9</th>
<th>1. Junior Serious Poem</th>
<th>2. Junior Humorous Verse</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades 10, 11 and 12</td>
<td>3. Senior Serious Poem</td>
<td>4. Senior Humorous Verse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 7 through 12</td>
<td>5. Special Theme: Winds of Change</td>
<td>6. Aileen Jaffa Memorial Award: Youth’s View of Humanity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

R U L E S

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.
because it comes from the donation to the Foundation by the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical heiress Ruth Lilly, 90, who has also written poetry but received no recognition. Her donation, announced in 2002, will eventually amount to about $175 million.

Ms. Lilly, who was institutionalized for depression, sent poems to Poetry magazine for years, but they had been rejected.

No one at the Foundation had met Ms. Lilly, who has recovered from her illness with the aid of Prozac, a drug developed by her family’s company. For her birthday in August, however, the Foundation printed a private edition of her poems and drawings, and she distributed the collection, “A Little Book,” to friends and family at her birthday party. After years of rejection, her work was in book form at last.

Everson and Lilly were not the only ones receiving gifts from the foundation. William Logan was named the recipient of the first Randall Jarrell Award in Poetry Criticism of $10,000 for poetry criticism that is intelligent and learned, as well as lively and enjoyable to read. The prize is intended for criticism aimed at a large general readership rather than an audience of specialists. “What were they thinking?” an astonished Logan asked. “ Critics are insects, as everyone knows, one of the plagues that poets have to bear.”

Logan, 54, is the author of four books of criticism: All the Rage (1998), Reputations of the Tongue (1999), Desperate Measures (2002), and The Undiscovered Country (2005); and co-editor of a book on the poetry of Donald Justice, Certain Solitudes (1997). Reputations of the Tongue was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award in criticism. Upon conferring the honor, Christian Wiman, editor of Poetry, noted, “William Logan has been called ‘the most hated man in American poetry,’ but the truth is that even those who can’t stand his opinions can’t keep themselves from reading him. He is provocative, incisive, inventive, and, best of all, he is a great prose stylist.”

Logan was a regular critic of poetry for the New York Times Book Review for almost twenty years and writes a biannual verse chronicle for the New Criterion. He has won the Citation for Excellence in Reviewing from the National Book Critics Circle, the Peter I.B. Lavan Award from the Academy of American Poets, the John Masefield and Celia B. Wagner Awards from the Poetry Society of America, and the J. Howard and Barbara M. J. Wood Prize from Poetry. In 2004 he received the Corrington Award for Literary Excellence. Logan is also the author of seven books of poetry: Sad-faced Men (1982), Difficulty (1985), Sullen Weedy Lakes (1988), Vain Empires (1998), Night Battle (1999), Macbeth in Venice (2003), and The Whispering Gallery (2005). He is a past recipient of the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholarship and has received grants from the Ingram Merrill Foundation, the Florida Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Logan resides in Gainesville, Florida, and in Cambridge, England. He teaches at the University of Florida.

The third Pegasus Award was the only one given last year. Tony Hoagland was named recipient of the second Mark Twain Poetry Award of $25,000, recognizing a poet’s contribution to humor in American poetry. The award is given in the belief that humorous poetry can also be seriously good poetry, and in the hope that American poetry will in time produce its own Mark Twain. Hoagland, 51, is the author of three collections of poetry: Sweet Ruin (1992) which received the 1992 Brittingham Prize in Poetry and the Zacharis Award from Emerson College; Donkey Gospel (1998); and What Narcissism Means to Me (Graywolf Press, 2003).

In presenting the award, Stephen Young, program director of the Foundation, said, “There is nothing escapist or diversionary about Tony Hoagland’s poetry. Here’s misery, death, envy, hypocrisy, and vanity. But the still sad music of humanity is played with such a light touch on an instrument so sympathetically tuned that one can’t help but laugh. Wit and morality rarely consort these days; it’s good to see them happily, often hilariously reunited in the winner’s poetry.” Hoagland’s other honors include two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Jenny McKean Moore Fellowship from George Washington University in 1999-2000. He lives in Houston, Texas, and teaches at the University of Houston.

The Foundation also announced the publication of Samuel Menashe’s New and Selected Poems by the Library of America. Menashe was the winner of the Foundation’s 2004 Neglected Masters Award, a prize designed to bring renewed critical attention to the work of an under-recognized, significant American poet.

The Poetry Foundation is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring the best poetry before the largest possible audience. In the coming year, the Foundation will sponsor a national recitation contest in the schools, a major new poetry website, and an unprecedented study to understand poetry’s place in American culture.

The Poetry Foundation also announced plans to move by year’s end to larger quarters, and in a letter to Poetry subscribers, Foundation President John Barr said the goal is to build a permanent home one day which would contain a large book collection and serve as a think tank, “an Aspen Institute devoted to verse.”

Information for this article was gathered from press releases, online biographies, an article by Charles Storch of the Chicago Tribune on October 7, and an article by Dinitia Smith of The New York Times on October 17.
Check this page!

The October contest is closed, but up for November is any poem of 28 lines or less on some aspect of 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 goes on the back.

The November issue will announce the categories for next year, so you won’t be wanting to keep copies of this page much longer, except to share when people ask how to join CFCP. Begin planning your strategy now for recruiting more members, and more contest entrants. Maybe leave a few at your library or on the bulletin board at the local college or university—it’s a good time for recruitment!

2005 CFCP, Inc. Monthly Contests

<table>
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<th>MONTH</th>
<th>THEME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>Changes</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
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<td>MAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>Exploration, Nature &amp; Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td>no contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUGUST</td>
<td>Short Poem 12 lines or fewer</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>Fun with Numbers</td>
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<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>California</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER</td>
<td>no contest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

How to Become a Member

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.
80th annual Berkeley Poets’ Dinner/Contest announced

Contest information was recently released for the eightieth annual Poets’ Dinner/Contest, long known as the Berkeley Poets’ Dinner. This contest requires the poets to be in attendance at the awards luncheon in order to receive their awards.

The Luncheon will be held April 8, 2006 at Spenger’s, Atlantic/Pacific Room, 1919 Fourth Street, Berkeley (near the I-80/University Avenue freeway exit), will feature Guest Speaker Robert McNally.

Contest Theme is “Tomorrow;” postmark deadline for all entries is January 31, 2006. The eight categories are: Beginnings & Endings, Humor, Nature, Love, Spaces & Places, People, Poet’s Choice, and Theme (Tomorrow).

Each submitted poem must be original, unpublished in any way, in English, not a previous prize winner or honorable mention winner. The Grand Prize and other winning poems may be included in a future anthology. Others will be destroyed after 4/08/06. 40 line maximum, any form, any style.

Limit of three poems per person; one per category. Each poem should be typed on ONE side only of 8 ½ x 11 white paper, with the category topic in the upper right-hand-corner. DO NOT put your name or other identifying information ANYWHERE on the poem. Include THREE clear copies of EACH entry.

The Dorothy Tyrrell Grand Prize of $60 is chosen from among the top three winners in each category. In addition, each category will award a $30, $20, and $15 prize and three Honorable Mentions.

Winning entries will be read and awards presented ONLY at this banquet. On slips provided at the lunch tables, poets will write their name, the title and first line of each poem submitted. They’ll use the slip to claim a winning poem immediately after it is read. If there is no claim, the prize will go to the next ranked submission.

Mail entries to Contest Chair: Joel Fallon, 327 Gull Point Court, Benicia, CA, 94510.

Luncheon choices include petrale sole, grilled chicken breast, and grilled vegetables and polenta, at $24 each. Make check to Poets’ Dinner and mail with SASE to Richard Angilly, 1515 Poplar Avenue, Richmond, CA 94805-1662. Include your name, address, and telephone number with your lunch selection. Complete entry details are available upon request from Mr. Angilly when accompanied by a SASE.

Plans set for annual Jack London birthday celebration

Alameda Island Poets Chapter will host the annual Jack London’s Birthday reading and celebration Thursday, January 12, 2006 at Spellbinding Tales Bookstore, in Alameda.

The day will begin with a 10 – 11 a.m. pilgrimage to his birthplace, a home near the corner of Third and Brannon in San Francisco. For more than twenty years poets have gathered there on his birthday to place flowers, have a brief ceremony and read poems.

After having lunch together, poets will arrive at the Alameda Bookstore where there will be cake and reading of excerpts from Jack London’s works, followed by an open poetry reading, from 1 – 3 p.m. Students of local schools will be invited. All are welcome to participate. Spellbinding Tales Bookstore is at 1910 Encinal Avenue, Alameda.