

# **NEWS 'N' NOTES**

## **Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas**

Founded February 5, 1931

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

Like us on Facebook!

**February 2020**

### **President's Address:**

Members,

Having had shoulder repair surgery at the beginning of the month, it seems my closest companions at the time are Dennis (at my beck and call!), his recliner (because it is electric) and the dog (who loves having someone sit with her on a somewhat continuous basis). What this slow time does encourage though is time for poetry—reading and writing. Sometimes we have to have an event in our lives to make us slow down from everyday activities so that we can partake in some of the other activities we enjoy. Having Dennis at my beck and call opens the door for thoughts for humorous poetry. The recliner gives a beautiful view to outside to enjoy Mother Nature. And the dog, well, she's just there for whatever love she can give and get at any time. Whatever your current activities are: **Spend Time On Poetry.**

Frieda Patton  
PRA President

### **2020 Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration**

The Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas will host its 2020 Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Room 124, 401 President Clinton Avenue in Little Rock. The Center is located on the Central Arkansas Library's main campus in the River Market next door to the Cox Building where many PRA meetings have been. The first floor has a gift shop and the meeting room is located at the rear of the shop. Registration will begin at 9:15 AM. There is no registration fee and lunch will be on your own. There are a number of eateries located across the street at the River Market.

Laura Trigg of River Market Poets will serve as Spring Celebration Chair. Featured speaker is Jake Sawyer, a poet and writer from Mena, Arkansas. Jake is currently a senior at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas, and is finishing a degree in Environmental Studies and English in preparation for a life spent exploring and advocating for the natural world. He received first prize in the Poet's Roundtable of Arkansas Jeannie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Poetry Contest in 2018. He also won the University of the Ozarks' Project Poet competition in 2017, then went on to manage and host the event in subsequent years. Members are encouraged to send 2 poems for Jake to critique and share at the meeting. Send your poems to Donna Smith, 58 Briarwood St., Greenbrier, AR 72058 by March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Each year PRA's Spring Celebration honors Dr. Lily Peter in recognition of her efforts to promote poetry in

Arkansas. For conference questions contact PRA President Frieda Patton at [patton.frieda@gmail.com](mailto:patton.frieda@gmail.com) or 501-847-5328.

(Use of Central Arkansas Library System meeting facilities does not constitute endorsement of the beliefs, viewpoints, policies or affiliations of the user by the library board or staff.)

### **Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration Agenda**

9:15 AM - Registration  
Early-bird dues payment  
9:30 AM - Welcome/Opening - Frieda Patton  
Spring Celebration Chair –Laura Trigg  
Brief background on Dr. Lily Peter  
9:45 AM - Introduction of Speaker Jake Sawyer  
10:35 AM - Break  
10:45 AM - Speaker continues  
11:30 AM - Light and Serious Verse Contests  
12:00 PM - Lunch in the River Market  
1:15 PM - Announcement of student winners  
Jeanie Dolan Carter Collegiate Memorial Awards – Donna Smith  
Sybil Nash Abrams Junior and Senior High Students – Laura Bridges  
2:00 PM Business Session – Frieda Patton  
2:30 PM Announcement of Spring Celebration Contests Awards –  
John Crawford, Pat Laster, and Frieda Patton

## **PRA Board Meeting Highlights of 2/1/2020:**

*Poetry Day 2020* will be October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Darragh Center in the Central Arkansas Library in Little Rock. Laura Bridges will act as PD Chair. Marie Allison will be PD Contest Chair. Poetry Day Contest Sponsorships with checks payable to PRA are due February 28<sup>th</sup> to PRA Treasurer Dennis Patton, 2512 Springhill Circle, Alexander, AR 72002. (See attached form also posted on PRA's website.) Contest details will be posted on the website in March. Entries with checks payable to PRA will be due by August 15<sup>th</sup> to Marie Allison, 165 St. Andrews, Hot Springs, AR 71913. The subject for the prestigious Sybil Nash Abrams contest this year is *Arkansas Towns*. Watch PRA's website for more information.

*Door Prizes at PRA's Two Annual Events:* The board voted to seek volunteers to provide snacks and door prizes for Spring Celebration and Poetry Day events each year. Members who would like to help do so for the upcoming Spring Celebration please contact Laura Bridges at [llough3@gmail.com](mailto:llough3@gmail.com) by April 4<sup>th</sup>.

*PRA Sponsorship of Arkansas State Fair 2020 Contests* is still being negotiated with new management at the State Fair. PRA's board agreed this partnership meets with PRA's mission to promote poetry statewide to all ages. A final decision must be made by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If the sponsorship is agreed, contest instructions will be posted on the State Fair's website and on PRA's.

*Honorary Member Selection:* Due to the death of Honorary Member Mildred McKinney in September, the board selected another long-time member to replace her. Congratulations to Harding Stedler, PRA's newest Honorary Member.

**Want a PRA Handout for Events or a Sponsor?** See PRA's "2019 Year-in-Review" report posted on PRA's website under "Resources." It includes general information about PRA and NFSPS, plus highlights of statewide activities during the fiscal year.

### **Poetry Day Message from President Frieda Patton:**

PRA Members and Friends,  
In 1947, progressive American poets campaigned for a National Poetry Day. Among the pioneers of the group was Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni, who had previously founded the first poetry club in Arkansas and the southwestern United States in 1925—the University-City Poetry Club. On August 23, 1948, Arkansas became the eleventh state to recognize October 15 as National Poetry Day. In 1963, the Arkansas Senate established it as Poetry Day in Arkansas, and in 1969 Governor Winthrop Rockefeller named the day in honor of Marinoni. Each year this conference honors Arkansas Poet Laureate Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni who served 1953 through 1970.

Always celebrated in October, Poetry Day in Arkansas festivities include contests with awards totaling about \$4,100. The Sybil Nash Abrams Award, given to state residents only, offers prizes of \$1,000, \$400, and \$250. An annual Merit Award is presented at this meeting to the member who has exhibited outstanding service in encouraging poets in the art, and promoted an appreciation of poetry in the community. This meeting is conducted by members of PRA and is held in a central Little Rock location. There is no charge to attend the conference.

The 2020 Poetry Day in Arkansas has been scheduled for October 10, 2020 at the Darragh Center Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR.

Attached is the Poetry Day contest sponsorship form. If you or your branch desires to sponsor a Poetry Day contest, please fill out the form and a check made out to PRA. Mail both to Dennis Patton, PRA Treasurer, 2512 Springhill Circle, Alexander, AR 72002. The form and payment are due by February 28<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the form is attached and may also be found on the web. <https://poetsroundtableofarkansas.files.wordpress.com/2020/01/2020-pd-sponsorship-form.pdf>

Looking forward to seeing you on Poetry Day,  
Frieda Patton, PRA President

**Welcome New PRA Members!** Frances Cowden of Cordova, TN; Megan Holifield of Batesville, AR; Janis Womack of Benton, AR; Phil Flott of Omaha, NE; Karen Moulton of Flippin, AR; Lisa Osborn of Judsonia, AR; Rebekah Wilkins of Morrilton, AR; Carol Linzey of Siloam Springs, AR; Mike & Cheryl Ellicott of Colcord, OK; Anthony Wood of No. Little Rock, AR; Lisa Lindsey of Pangburn, AR; Brian Wagner of Judsonia, AR; Meesoh Bossard of Chicago, IL; and Paulette Mehta of Little Rock, AR.

### **PRA's Facebook Statistics for December-January:**

Our thanks to Laura Bridges for managing PRA's Facebook page. See statistics below.

#### *For December:*

Reach 444 people - down 39%  
Pageviews 47 - down 23%  
Post Engagements 209 - down 22%

#### *For January:*

Post reach 619  
Post engagements 290  
New followers 9  
New page likes 9

### **Announcing New Editor Karen Moulton of Flippin:**

Newly retired teacher and new PRA member Karen Moulton of Flippin, AR has graciously volunteered to take the role of PRA's Newsletter Editor starting with the May 2020 edition. Please share your thanks and send your news to Karen at [jkmoultons@yahoo.com](mailto:jkmoultons@yahoo.com).

It's been my honor and pleasure to serve PRA in this role for the past 7 years, Donna Smith

### **PRA Member Highlight – John Crawford:**

John W Crawford is a long-time member of PRA, and a native of Ashdown, AR. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist with a B.A. and B.S.E., from Drake University with a M.S.E., and from Oklahoma State U. with an Ed.D. in Literature Teaching. He taught writing and literature in Junior High and High School in Greene County, Iowa. Then he was a Literature and Writing Instructor at Clinton College in Iowa. After that he was an Adjunct Professor of Writing at Oklahoma State U. before moving to Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas as Professor of English Studies for 30 years. He's been Professor Emeritus and Adjunct Professor at HSU since 1997.

John has published poetry in numerous literary journals and anthologies nationally, won numerous poetry prizes regionally and nationally, including two 1st prizes in PRA's Sybil Nash Abrams Contest (plus one second and two honorable mentions), the Arkansas Haiku Prize, the Georgia Narrative Prize, and the Grand Prize of the International Poetry Society. He has 5 volumes of poetry and has submitted another for publication. As a faculty member at HSU, he read his poetry at various societies and national literary conventions. He was a longstanding member of the College English Association, and in 1997 was awarded Scholar/Teacher Status for his many years of service.

As a 51 year member of PRA, he has served as state PRA treasurer and as President of the Hot Springs chapter. In 1988 he won PRA's Merit Award. John also was named an Honorary Member of PRA. He is a charter member of the 31 year old *Wednesday Night Poetry Readings* in Hot Springs and continues to be active in poetry circles statewide.

(The Member highlight is a new feature that will tell a little something about a PRA member in each quarter's newsletter. If you would like to be highlighted, please send a brief bio on yourself to: PRA News Editor Karen Moulton, 2234 MC7055, Flippin, AR 72634 ([jkmoultons@yahoo.com](mailto:jkmoultons@yahoo.com)).

**Reminder!** The 2020-2021 PRA member fees are due June 30<sup>th</sup> and include NFSPS membership. Send \$20 (or \$15 for seniors and students) to Membership Chair Cathy Moran, 401 Auburn Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205. Include address, phone and email changes.

### **Poetic Wins, Activities & Publications:**

**Please send notice of activities/accomplishments to PRA News Editor Karen Moulton, 2234 MC7055, Flippin, AR 72634 ([jkmoultons@yahoo.com](mailto:jkmoultons@yahoo.com)).**

Congratulations to PRA Monthly Contest winners:  
**November** – 1<sup>st</sup> Barbara Blanks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Donna Nelson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cathy Parker; **December** – 1<sup>st</sup> Janis Womack, 2<sup>nd</sup> Faye Boyette Wise, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann Carolyn Cates, 1HM Dr. Emory Jones, 2HM Gail Denham, 3HM Delores Hinde;  
**January** – 1<sup>st</sup> Donna Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anne Carolyn Cates, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sara Gipson, 1HM Faye Boyette Wise, 2HM John

McPherson, 3HM Lisa Osborn. (See PRA's website for monthly guidelines:

<https://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/contests/monthlycontests2016/>. Please note, the February Monthly Contest information listed on page 7 in the current Yearbook, has been corrected to read: Subject - Any; Form - Heroic blank verse. Heroic blank verse is defined as combining the requirements of heroic couplets - minus the requirement of rhyming - with the requirements for blank verse.)

New Officers for the Siloam Springs Writers' Guild for the 2020-2021 term are: President - Mike Ellicott, Vice President - Cheryl Ellicott, Secretary - Rachel Kulp, Treasurer - Carol Linzey, Publicity - Rosemary Matthews. Congratulations to these new leaders.

Baxter County Poets' Association is sponsoring a poetry contest for the Baxter County area called "Lyrics Dear to the Heart". Deadline is March 21, 2020. Entries must be original, 40 lines or less; any subject, any form. See more information at Baxter County Poets' Association on Facebook. Mail two copies with name, address and phone number on the top right FRONT of one copy, and mail to Elizabeth Dail, 41 Thunderbird Hollow Ln., Norfork, AR 72658. Entries must be postmarked by March 21<sup>st</sup>. Prizes will be awarded for First (\$100), Second (\$50), Third (\$25), and two Honorable Mentions.

Cathy Moran (River Market-Little Rock) recently won: two 1<sup>sts</sup> and a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tennessee, plus a 2<sup>nd</sup> and three HMs from Ohio.

Terrie Jacks (Member-at-large, Baldwin, MO) won a 1<sup>st</sup> in the Missouri State Poets' Society 2019 summer contest; 2HMs in PRA's Poetry Day Contest in October; 2HMs in Poetry Society of Texas' November Contest. She also read at the *Celebrate Poetry 2019* program at the St. Louis County library October 23, 2019. Her haiga was the cover for online journal *Failed Haiku* Nov, 2019, plus she had four more published in the journal. She also had several poems published in *Fireflies Light*, an online journal published by Missouri Baptist University.

LaVern McCarthy (Member-at-large, Blair, OK) has published a new book of poems called *Porch Swing Rhyme*. She also won 1st Place in Austin Poetry's monthly contest for November 2019.

Pat Laster (Saline County) has a poem, GLOSS ON THE NUMBER THIRTEEN, in the Missouri State Poetry Society's anthology GRIST. After the editor of SOUTHERN STANDARD's poetry column died, the Standard's editor Joe May asked Pat to resume the job. (She began it while living in Arkadelphia during the late 1990s). She did, vowing to use only poems from poets in the southwestern part of Arkansas where the readership is. She's also preparing a year-long flip calendar of haiku that she hopes to have ready by Lucidity in late March/early April.



Barbara Robinette (Baxter County) published 5 poems in PRA's *Turning Home* anthology, a poem in a Highland Park Poetry Publication, a haiku in the Haiku Society of America's anthology *A Moment's Longing*, and 2 senryu in the January issue of the online English senryu journal *Failed Haiku*. She also won a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Illinois State Poetry Society's annual contest.

**Reminder:** PRA Members may post their Poetry Book titles on PRA's website for sale. Links to the author are included for potential buyers to deal directly with the authors. Members who wish to post their books please contact President Frieda Patton.

### **Upcoming Deadlines/Events/Contests**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each Month:** PRA's Monthly Contest entries are due by mail to Chair Renee Ramsay, 249 Garden Lane, Floral, AR 72534. See details in PRA's yearbook, plus website links to poetry resources at: <https://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/resources/links/>.

**February 5:** Happy 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday to PRA!

**February 28:** PRA's 2020 Poetry Day Contest Sponsorships due to PRA Treasurer Dennis Patton. Forms are posted on PRA's website.

**March 1:** Oregon Poets' Spring Contest deadline. Go to [oregonpoets.org](http://oregonpoets.org) and click "Contests" tab.

**March 1:** Deadline for Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat registration, contest poems, critique workshop poems, and hotel reservation. See more at [www.luciditypoetryretreat.com](http://www.luciditypoetryretreat.com) or contact Birma Castle at [birmacastle@yahoo.com](mailto:birmacastle@yahoo.com) or 409-866-3219.

**March 7:** Send Critique Poems for PRA's Spring Celebration to Donna Smith, 58 Briarwood St., Greenbrier, AR 72058.

**March 15:** PRA's Spring Celebration contest entries (for members only) are due. See guidelines at: <https://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/contests/>.

**March 15:** NFSPS annual contest entries due. See details at: <http://www.nfsps.com>.

**March 15:** PRA's Jeannie Dolan Carter Collegiate Contest entries due. See details on PRA's website: <https://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/contests/>.

**March 18:** Deadline for Louisiana State Poetry Society's Spring Festival Contest open to all. See <http://louisianastatepoetrysociety.org/lspc-contests/>.

**March 21:** Today is *World Poetry Day*. It has been celebrated annually since 1999 when it was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to encourage a return to poetry recital, promote teaching of poetry as art that enables society to regain and assert its identity.

**March 28:** Deadline for Alabama Annual Spring Contests open to all. For more information see: <https://www.alpoets.org/contests> or contact Jerri Hardesty at [wytrabbit1@aol.com](mailto:wytrabbit1@aol.com).

**March 31-April 2:** Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat #28 in Eureka Springs, AR. See more at [www.luciditypoetryretreat.com](http://www.luciditypoetryretreat.com).

**April:** April is National Poetry Month. Celebrate!

**April 4:** Volunteers who wish to help provide snacks and door prizes for Spring Celebration please contact Laura Bridges at [llough3@gmail.com](mailto:llough3@gmail.com) by today.

**April 18:** PRA's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration at Little Rock's Butler Center. Watch PRA's website.

**June 11-14:** The 2020 Annual NFSPS Convention will be held in Kansas City, Missouri June 11-14<sup>th</sup> at the historic Holiday Inn Aladdin Hotel Downtown. This event will be hosted by NFSPS. Room and Convention Registration information will be posted as soon as available at <http://www.nfsps.com/conv.html>.

**June 30:** PRA membership fees and information updates due to Membership Chair Cathy Moran. Be sure to include your email address, plus any branch changes in officers/dates/times. Printing of the new yearbook is scheduled for July.

**August:** Watch the mail for 2021 PRA Yearbooks.

**August 1:** Deadline for Massachusetts State Poetry Society's National Poetry Day Contest 2020. See more at: <http://mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com/id22.html>.

**August 15:** PRA's 2020 Poetry Day Contest entries due. See details to be posted in March on PRA's website and in the May newsletter.

**October 10:** The 2020 Poetry Day in Arkansas will be hosted by PRA at the Darragh Center Auditorium, Main Library, 100 Rock Street, Little Rock, AR. Watch PRA's website for updates.

PRA members receive the quarterly *News 'N Notes* via email and web posting. The NFSPS quarterly *Strophes* newsletter is available online via link from PRA's website. Members may request copies of both by postal mail. Branch Presidents are asked to assure that all members have access to these publications.

**For More Information -** Check PRA's website for updates on Arkansas activities and like us on Facebook. Also check the NFSPS web site ([www.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.com)) for national news, contests, and links to other state poetry societies. Please alert PRA Membership Chair Cathy Moran with any changes in member contact information or branch meeting places/times/officers. PRA currently serves 121 members and 10 branches statewide.



## POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

Founded February 5, 1931

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

### **2020 Arkansas Poetry Day Contest Sponsorship Form**

**Sponsorship Requirements:** A minimum of \$30.00 is required to sponsor a contest, and the first place winnings must be no less than \$25.00. PRA encourages higher level awards, similar to other states, to promote contest participation. If you have questions contact PRA President Frieda Patton at: [patton.frieda@gmail.com](mailto:patton.frieda@gmail.com).

**Form:** Complete this form and return it with your payment by the deadline to assure that your contest is listed in the Poetry Day Contest Brochure posted in March on PRA's website.

**Deadline:** The sponsorship form and payment are due **February 28, 2020.**

**Address:** Send this form with your check (payable to PRA) to: Dennis Patton, PRA Treasurer  
2512 Springhill Circle  
Alexander, AR 72002

**Name of award:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Form:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Line limit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other requirements may be noted here or on reverse:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Awards:</u></b>	First place \$ _____	Second place \$ _____	Third place \$ _____
	First HM \$ _____	Second HM \$ _____	Third HM \$ _____

**Eligibility:** Open to all poets ( ) Open to PRA Members only ( )

**Judging:** I will be responsible for judging this contest ( ) Please get a judge for me ( )

**Donor's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_