

News 'N' Notes

August 2023

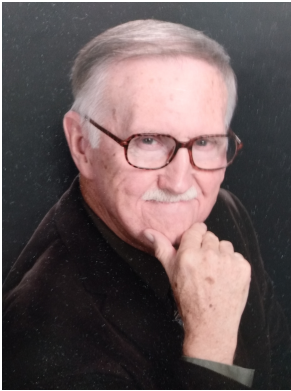
Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

Founded February 5, 1931

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

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

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President's Address

PRA Members,

The practice of regularly meeting together with fellow poets should not be lightly regarded. The value of unified effort is nothing new. The writer of Ecclesiastes observed that "...a threefold cord is not quickly broken," and the writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews urged Christians not to neglect meeting together for mutual encouragement. More recently, a paper by Mark Granovetter, entitled "The Strength of Weak Ties" has received considerable attention. Its thesis, according to Wikipedia, is that weak ties or acquaintanceships that are not necessarily friendships are especially important in the flow of information.

When we meet together with fellow poets we are more likely to meet with friends than mere acquaintances, but a quote of Barbara Oakley from her book *A Mind for Numbers* should be considered. "Those you study (meet) with should have, at least on occasion, an aggressively critical edge to them. Research on creativity in teams has shown that nonjudgmental, agreeable interactions are less productive than sessions where criticism is accepted and even solicited as part of the game."

At our monthly meetings of the Gin Creek Poets, we regularly critique each other's poems; poems that we are preparing for the monthly contest, or poems we would like input on. Discussions are lively and informative. No one gets offended because no one considers what has been put down on paper has been Divinely inspired. John Kenneth Galbraith put it this way: "...when I am greatly inspired, only four rewrites are needed." I hope all our chapter meetings embrace this attitude.

John McPherson

President, PRA



John at Siloam Springs
Writers Guild's Fifth Summer
Writers Conference

Congratulations and Newsworthy

Check here for the list of NFSPS Contest Award Winners

<https://nfspss.com/2023%20NFSPS%20Winners'.pdf>

Cathy Moran won two First Place and two Third Place prizes from Oklahoma; three First Place and three Second Place prizes from Mississippi; First Place from Utah; and Third Place from Pennsylvania. She also has a poem in the online journal, *Glacial Hills Review*.

Teresa Klepac's poem, "Cut the Too Tight String" earned Third Honorable Mention in the Winter 2023 Missouri State Poetry Society Contest in the Free Verse Category. In 2022 Winter Contest MSPS, she took Third Honorable Mention free verse for "Shattered Lives" and Third Place in the members only contest for "The Surge of the Sea."



Fay Guinn with her four awards won at the Arkansas Writers Conference in June. She also attended the Hemingway Pfeiffer Writers Retreat in Piggott, Arkansas. She recommends Matt

Pitt, a professor from TCU in Houston who served as a mentor at the retreat.

Laura Bridges won a First Place and an Honorable Mention in NFSPS contests.

Sue Frizzell has three books available on Amazon as paperbacks and eBooks under her full name, Sue Ann Hamiter Frizzell. The titles are: "On the Necessity of Love and Beauty: Selected Poetry"; "Walking the Poet's Path, Selected Poetry"; and "Like Resetting Diamonds: Selected Translations of Hermann Hesse's Brilliant Poetry."

Mike Wahl placed in four categories of the NFSPS 2023 contest: three Honorable Mentions and Third Place in contest #16.

May Monthly Contest Winners

Judge: **Dr. Emory D. Jones**; 18 entries
First Place: **Pat Durmon** "To Sadie, My Dog"

Second Place: **Barbara Blanks** "For the Love of Baxter"

Third Place: **Dennis Patton** "I Call Him Hobo"

First Honorable Mention: **Ann Carolyn Cates** "Tuxedo Cat, Rhett Butler"

Second Honorable Mention: **Barbara Shepherd** "Strange Adoption"

Third Honorable Mention: **Cathy Moran** "A Tribute to Listening"

Fourth Honorable Mention: **John Crawford** "My Bear and Neighbor Yap"

Fifth Honorable Mention: **Donna Smith** "My Cat Snores"

June Monthly Contest Winners

Judge: **Kitty Smith**, 20 entries

First Place: **Marilyn Joyner** "Magic of Night"

Second Place: **Cathy Moran** "Keeping that Place"

Third Place: **Janet Ryan** "Nature versus Nurture"

First Honorable Mention: **Alyssa Darby** "THE STEP"

Second Honorable Mention: **Donna Nelson** "A Sea of Sunflowers"

Third Honorable Mention: **Pat Durmon** "Warning to Victim Women"



Roundtable of Hot Springs met July 8th to initiate the newly elected officers. From right to left **Marie Allison**, President, **Laura Bridges**, Vice President, , Historian (not pictured), **Sheri Hayes**,

Parliamentarian, **John Crawford**, Counselor, **Dennis Patton**, who performed the initiation.

PRA Members Attend NFSPS

Convention by Diane Stefan and Pat Durmon

PRA members **Diane Stefan**, Nancy **LaChance** (current president of Missouri State Poetry Society), and **Pat Durmon** attended the NFSPS (National Federation State Poetry Societies) Convention in W. Des Moines, Iowa, June 21-25, 2023.

Among the many projects of NFSPS that support poetry and poets, the NFSPS

sponsors a 53-category annual contest with cash prizes topping

\$8,000. The competitions

also include the Stevens Manuscript, Meudt and Kahn Memorial chapbook

awards for college undergraduates,

Manningham Trust Student Competition for

grades six to eight and nine to twelve, and the

Black-Berry Peach Poetry Prizes for spoken-

word and written poetry.

One thing Diane and Pat learned was that Iowa Poetry Association now has 310 members. Because that seemed like a high number, Pat asked the president of IPA "How did that happen? How was Iowa able to accomplish that?" Dawn Terpstra replied, "We have bridged the gap between spoken and written poetry by inviting stage poets to join our state poetry association."

In fact the overall theme of NFSPS convention this year was *Catch Poetry: Stage and Page*. (These terms "stage poets" and "page poets" were coined by the sponsors of Black-Berry Peach Competition.) Stage poetry encompasses

performing or slam poetry; page poetry refers to traditional written poetry.

There was much encouragement in workshops, reading, competitions for page poets to read their poems as they felt them when they wrote them. Stage poets were encouraged to write down their creative works.

At the convention, NFSPS members were invited to attend and even judge

competitions of the Black-Berry Peach contests. Diane and Pat thought it was a good introduction to Stage Poetry.

In addition, when PRA members' names were called for winning poems in the 53 contests, Diane and Pat cheered loudly!



Seated Left to Right Pat Durmon, Nancy LaChance; Standing Diane Stefan

In a roll-call of all state societies, **Pat Durmon** was honored to read the names of all the deceased members of Poets Roundtable of Arkansas.

Overall, Diane and Pat agree that it was educational and worthwhile to have attended the National Poetry Convention. It helped them to become aware of options for increasing membership and for experiencing a wider variety of poetry.

Welcome New Members

Janice Canerdy, Steven Cossè, Sherri Croom, Donna Geise, Mark Hudson, Irene Hunt, Howard Lee Kilby, Teresa Klepac, Ian McPherson, Rita Aiken Moritz, Danny Ramsey, Jane Weathers, Sheila Wyatt

Recommended Reads

From **Sandy Soli**:

Ted Kooser, former U.S. poet laureate, is on Facebook and posts his lovely poems about once a week. He is elderly, like many of us, and likes to post new poems instead of waiting for any more books to come out.

"Friend" requests will be accepted. I treasure

my signed copy of his moon poems, the last book he published. I also recommend George Bilgere, if you don't know his work. He is a wonderful poet, using everyday language, nothing high-fallutin'. Billy Collins recommended George and I enjoy his poetry too.

From **Mike Wahl**:

There are some pretty neat free poems to read at the current quarterly issue of: <http://www.songsoferetz.com/>

From **Larry Witherspoon**:

I am reading *Flying Yellow* by Suzanne Underwood Rhodes ... outstanding, love it. Check it out when you can.

Poetry Day Plans Complete

PRA's 2023 Poetry Day Conference is scheduled for October 14 at the Parkview United Methodist Church, 514 North Border Street, Benton, AR. Registration will begin at 9:00 am and the conference will begin at 9:30 am. There is no registration fee and a lunch will be available at \$8.50 a meal.

Dennis Patton will serve as Poetry Day Chair and **Christine Henderson** will serve as Poetry Day Contest Chair.

The featured speaker is Michael Blanchard of University of Central Arkansas. Michael Blanchard joined the Department of English as an adjunct faculty member in the fall semester of 2018. In addition to his teaching duties, he serves as editor of *Slant*, the department's journal of contemporary American poetry. at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, and the University of Louisiana. Recent publications include four books of poetry: *Naming the Silence: New & Collected Poems* (2017), which was nominated for the Patricia Goedicke Award for Poetry; *And the Mountain Replied: 39 Poems* (2019); *Stones in the Path: New Poems* (2020); and *The Pearl Diver's Daughter & Other Poems*, a collection of 45 poems which an editor of *Southern Literary Review* described as

"finely crafted and inventive" and "layered and lyrical."

Poetry Day is the main poetry event in Arkansas. Each year this conference honors Arkansas Poet Laureate Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni (1953-1970). As a result of her efforts to promote poetry in Arkansas, Governor Ben Laney proclaimed October 15, 1948, the first annual Poetry Day in Arkansas. For conference questions, contact **John McPherson** at mcperson8391@gmail.com or 501-305-9972.

PRA Member

Profile Steve Cossé

I'm a new member of PRA, and I look forward to getting to know the PRA, its members and their art. My wife, Andrée, and I are from New



Orleans and moved to Arkansas in 1991, and now split our time between Hot Springs and New Orleans. We love and enjoy our four children and ten grandchildren.

Since retiring from full time employment, I enjoy quiet moments struggling to write down thoughts, feelings and emotions. I have no training or experience writing much of anything other than business and professional communications over a very long career. It took quite a while to work up the nerve to "publish" on Facebook, and thereby expose my innermost self to family, friends and the odd Facebook stranger. Although I thoroughly enjoy both, I have a genuine preference for poetry over prose—it requires more thought, emotion, structure and hard work; and as a result, the reward upon completion is more fulfilling and gratifying.

Many years ago, my high school literature teacher spent a few weeks teaching the

basics of poetry structure (iambic pentameter, etc.) as a prelude to Shakespeare, his plays, and his amazing poetry. Shakespeare's pure genius, his preternatural ability to express the human experience in a rhythmic yet measured manner has held me in awe ever since. I don't keep a journal, but on occasion I do scribble down, or mentally note certain words that I think may have "possibilities" for future use in poetry or prose. For example, two words I once noted were "tousled" (a word my wife casually used) and "threads." Months later I put them to use in a phrase "the tousled threads of busy life" in a poem I wrote called "The Quiet Time." I tend to write as an event, mood or inspiration arises, and almost always it's very personal as seen in "Enduring Sorrow." I have enjoyed a very long and fulfilling business career spanning many decades—starting as a junior accountant trainee and ending as CEO. I've traveled to six of the seven continents while conducting business and experiencing many remarkable cultures and peoples. Of course, my wife and I are most proud and loving of our four children, their spouses and our ten (10) beautiful grandchildren (ages 6 to 24). I could go on and on and on about my wonderful family. I enclose a very personal poem I wrote a few years ago.

Enduring Sorrow

Gone so many long, long years ago
 So much Life never shared or seen
 All the many things that would've been,
 Where he waits in Peace, I cannot yet go.
 What wonders and pure Joy
 His bright smiles would've brought
 In place of pained Memory so distraught,
 Helpless in the lonely struggle of a baby boy.

"Move on, let go", the Wise in sympathy say,
 "Do not suffer this Sorrow to diminish
 The Love of those you now so cherish",
 And Cherish I do, yet mourn the one so far away.

This I know, dear Dad holds him near
 'Til in sweet Reunion I join them, no longer here.

PRA Member Profile Teresa Klepac



I have been writing since my fourth-grade teacher in Dixon, Mo. Elementary School allowed me to use my spelling words in a short story rather than just in random sentences, and when I was in junior high in

Columbia Mo., I joined a small after school writing club. However, I didn't really start writing poetry until I was in high school in an Independent Studies Class with Mr. Conrad Stawski who encouraged me to write poetry as well as fiction. I had one poem published in the school newspaper. I also have a degree in Journalism (BJ) from the University of Missouri, though I studied creative writing there as well. I studied poetry and in particular, poetry taught by Larry Levis.

I use a variety of ways to write, though I'm not much for journaling. I do have several journals and notebooks that are filled with bits and pieces of life. Writing for me starts at my computer, but if something inspirational knocks at the door, I use a journal to jot it down. These days, I keep poetry going with my Missouri State Poetry Society Chapter, The Merry Bombadils. We are engaged in a Round Robin project writing sonnettes and have created poems the last few years for a group chapbook. Our

chapbooks include EIEIO poems (form created by one of our members), Triolets and Rondelets, and another of Cinquains. I've learned several forms and meters. We send our poems through the mail for critique and comments. I belong to another group called The Columbia Writers Group. There are five of us who share our poetry, fiction, and non-fiction and encourage each other to publish. I recently joined the Columbia (Mo.) Writers Guild, too. I am also a member with Of Rust and Glass Midwest Creative Community.

Not sure what to say about my revision process. I revise as needed. The various groups I've mentioned above help with critiques and making poems stronger. I may occasionally revise a poem from several years ago, or those most recently written. If the poem is metered, I have to do a lot more work. I find the input of others helps develop stronger poems. I enjoy writing form poems but I particularly enjoy free verse.

I am a voracious reader and may be reading several books at a time including mysteries, fantasy and science fiction, classics, and poetry from daily on-line journals such as Rattle. One of my favorite pastimes is strolling through used book stores or the library. I'm currently writing a fantasy adventure novel and a children's novella. My fantasy novel, *Lethe's Wharf* was self-published in 1996 by Spungold Publishing. I've published flash fiction in Still Points Art Quarterly, *Catbird Seat*; Blood and Bourbon, *Vagrant Magic*; Pure Slush, *American Ramble*; and BlueHouse Literary Journal, *Reflections on Stone*. Of Rust and Glass Magazine published my poem *Snowbound Missouri Winter*; and poems, *Letters from Baka* was published in Penumbra On-Line, and *Rocker Heirloom* in Tigershark. *Agoraphobia is now our new Normal – Safe Person* was included in the anthology *Hard Times Happen* flash fiction

literary competition April 2020. My poetry received awards from MSPS Winter Contest 2022 and 2023: Third Honorable Mention free verse for *Shattered Lives* and Third place members only for *The Surge of the Sea* (2022) and Third Honorable Mention for "Cut the Too Tight String" (Winter 2023).

Rocker Heirloom

Published in *Tigershark* Issue 29
May 2021

She loved that rocking chair.
a battered thing found
at a flea market
off highway 63.
A tarnished chair with
scraped arm rests,
a battered back
came between us.
Old memories, old furniture.
Not the chair she gave me
the one I took.
I liked it better than the barrel rocker.
Neither of us understood antiques
which chair had a better pedigree.
Now I run my hands
over the scratched surface,
see her quilting in it –
Rocking, rocking in time
singing old hymns –
Songs about forgiveness,
Drunkards, dancing,
Prayer and Power,
power in the blood.
Saving grace
the sound is sweet.
Memories are my heirloom.

Words Matter

This anecdote was submitted by **Larry Witherspoon**.

"If I am not mistaken, I believe Mr. **John McPherson** says, "If you do not enter a contest, you can't win." And, because of the encouragement of **Dennis**

and **Frieda Patton**, I decided to enter the NFSPS 2023 Poetry Contest. I did not win! I did enter 17 poems. My hope was to at least come in the top 10 of at least one of the contests. I got First Honorable Mention in the number 33 contest, The Robbie Award. I am so happy! I am not bragging or trying to toot my own horn. I really can't believe it. This has, however, given me confidence to keep writing, keep trying to improve, and of course, enter more contests, even if I never finish in the top 10 again. Thank you so very, very much **Dennis** and **Frieda** for all your help and encouragement. I will keep writing."

Notes from Suzanne, *Arkansas Poet Laureate*

A friend recently sent me this quote, which I think offers a provocative angle on the role of poetry as a lens by which



we might interpret our experience in a world of trouble and goodness: "You don't see something until you have the right metaphor to perceive it." -Robert Stetson Shaw, American physicist. (Of course, poets and scientists aren't very far apart in their reliance on intuition and interpretation to discover truth—subjective and objective truth, respectively.)

As poets and lifelong students of poetry, you and I reading this newsletter—so ably and creatively put together quarterly by **Karen Moulton**—know the unique power of metaphor to allow us to see farther, all the way to the universal through something as simple as a cricket or a bowl. In this transference of the private perception to the public plane, our bonds as humans are

recognized and strengthened, for isn't poetry and language itself built on and designed for relationships? Consider John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God."

I see the ties that bind us in the faces of an audience when I give readings and workshops. What a gift to me, the nods of recognition, their appreciation, that tell me, *I was there, these are my stories*. It's what I feel too when I listen to Donald Hall on YouTube read "Names of Horses" or hear Arkansas poet **Paulette Guerin** in person read "Summer, Greers Ferry Lake."

In my last column I mentioned my current laureate project of bringing poetry to the residents of Magdalene Serenity House. I can tell you this is one of the best things I've ever done. It's deeply gratifying to encourage and affirm the creative gifts of these special women through poetry prompts and activities, to share poems with them that model the concepts, and then to have them write poems that turn my head around, poems I'm collecting in hopes of having them privately published as a book (dependent on a grant I applied for).

Thinking again about Shaw's quote about metaphor: writing poems this year has offered a fruitful and redemptive way of processing grief over losing my beloved Wayne. I completed my chapbook (renamed "Under This Wing") which is currently being considered by a regional press. Even the darkest poems take on light. Such is the power of metaphor.

As for news, here are a few items:

- Our PRA branch, Ozark Mountain Poets, is going very well. We meet the last Tuesday of each month and usually average six to seven people. Friendships are growing, poems and critical ability too.
- The virtual poetry workshop I'm currently teaching through the Muse Writer's Center is winding down. I'll

be teaching it again in the fall, so please consider signing up (scholarships available). See the-muse.org or email me for more information if you're interested. PRA members **Gloria Tran** and **LaDeana Mullinix** are in the current class, which ends August 21. It's always a fruitful and enlivening experience.

- My fall engagements are filling up, including a reading and shared creative writing class at Ouachita Baptist University, a workshop at the True Lit Festival at Fayetteville Public Library, a reading at Wednesday Night Poetry in Hot Springs, an art exhibition (including poetry) with Spectra, my church's art ministry, and a reading at Faulkner County Library.

Your fellow ambassador for poetry,
Suzanne

June PRA Board Meeting News

A motion was passed to pay Spring Celebration and Poetry Day speakers a flat fee of \$250.

Steve May has agreed to serve as webmaster for the \$500 yearly stipend. Steve May and Karalin Rogers have agreed to make the transition by July 1.

The Board agreed that Poetry Day lunch would be Build a Sandwich with members asked to donate bread, condiments, chips, and desserts. **Christine Henderson** will purchase lunch meat and cheese. Members will be charged \$8.50 to cover the cost of meat and cheese. Any proceeds will be donated to the Parkview United Methodist Church, the Poetry Day venue. Someone from the Saline Branch will collect money on Poetry Day.

River Market Branch in Little Rock has closed.

On the topic of recording the Poetry Day speaker, the Board had many questions about what would be recorded and how recording the speaker would require the speaker's permission. The topic was tabled to allow **Dennis** and **Frieda Patton** to discuss the parameters of recording with the volunteer wishing to record.

Due to health and job issues, **Laura Bridges** has resigned as PRA Student Contests Co-Chair. President, **John McPherson**, and Board members will seek members to fill the Student Contests Chair and Membership Chair. (Since this meeting, **Lisa Lindsey of Searcy** has volunteered to be the Student Contest Chair. Thank you, Lisa!) Other duties that **Frieda Patton** currently does were covered as follows: **Christine Henderson** volunteered to type the Poetry Day brochure; collect monthly contest sponsorships and type contest list; type Poetry Day winner's lists to be posted on the web; and create certificates for all Poetry Day contests. **Karen Moulton** volunteered to be the Website coordinator who informs the webmaster when additions/changes are needed for the website.

The **Pat Laster** Collegiate Poetry Contest has been funded once again by **Lydia Cheatham**.

Due to the changes in the Sybil Nash Abrams Trust, the wording regarding the award in the yearbook was revised. Please check the changes when you receive your yearbook later this summer.

Transition

The PRA extends its sympathy to **Christine Henderson** whose mother passed away on August 2, 2023.

Feature Interview:

Meet Eugene and Paul Linzey

When I attended the Fifth Summer Writers Conference sponsored by the Siloam Springs Writers Guild, I had the great fortune of interviewing PRA member Eugene Linzey and his brother, Dr. Paul E. Linzey, keynote speaker for the one-day conference. Eugene is the president of the Siloam Springs Writers Guild. I did some research prior to sitting down with these brothers and found out they are native Californians who share a love of music, writing, and ministry. That made me wonder about their early family life and what influenced them to pursue these interests. It turns out their father had been a Navy chaplain and their mother's family owned a music store. Both Eugene and Paul sing and play instruments: Eugene, clarinet; Paul, trumpet and keyboard. Eugene likes military marches and hymns. Paul is about to record his first solo album. He writes country-western, church, and love songs. He has written 75 songs to date. The similarities don't stop there. Eugene has been a bi-vocational minister since he was 22 years old and is currently a community chaplain. Of the four books he has written, two of them are compilations from the newspaper columns he wrote: *Reflections on Faith & History* while working in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and *Reflections on Life* from the Siloam Springs, Arkansas newspaper column he continues to write. Eugene was an operations officer when he worked in the science lab in New Mexico and wrote operations manuals and hazard control plans for physics division. He also wrote weekly character articles to help improve the culture of the lab. He previously



worked at the Boeing Aircraft Company in Seattle and Everett, Washington, working on the 727, 747, and 757 commercial planes. He wrote animal articles and a column in the NM newspaper titled *Bible Answers*. People

asked questions and he answered many of them in the paper, starting in 2001. Two years ago, Eugene was named Northwest Arkansas Journalist of the Year. Eugene's poetry writing is mostly love notes to his wife of 57 years. He says, "I write poetry but I don't claim to be a poet."

Eugene writes a blog that is also called *Reflections on Life*. You can find it at: <https://genelinzey.com/>

Paul was a pastor before serving as an army chaplain. He was an editor and writer for Life Publishers' *the Warriors Bible*, which was published in 2014. He retired from the military in 2015 at the rank of Colonel and was the Protestant pastor at the United States Naval Academy. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, Master of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry as well as an MFA in Creative Writing. His writings have won the first place Peach Award at the North Georgia Christian Writers Conference and the first place Gold Award at the Florida Writers Association's Royal Palm Literary Awards.

Paul has always loved rhyming, alliteration, and the sounds of words. He began writing poetry when he was a kid. He could be counted on to write poems for family get togethers. Even as chaplain, he wrote a two-page poem for the "funeral" of the camp alarm clock, Otto. After completing his MFA at the University of Tampa, he went on to teach creative writing at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, where he was also Chair of the Department of

Humanities for a term. He conducted the annual Expressions Writers Conference and served as a faculty member for the Florida Writers Association Annual Conference. Paul has written four books: *WisdomBuilt*, *Biblical Principles of Marriage*, *Safest Place in Iraq*, *Butterfly Believers*, and co-wrote *Military Ministry: Chaplains in the Twenty-First Century* with Dr. Keith Travis. Paul is teaching part-time at Called College in Carlinville, Illinois. He loves poetry and started the Annual Ekphrastic Challenge where students visit museums seeking art to inspire their poems. Students are guided through the complete process from inspiration to publication. Much of his non-fiction work contains poetry in the form of couplets or inserted into dialogue. He likes to weave poetry into his sermons. Paul and his wife of 47 years share a passion for travel. Paul is also a photographer capturing stunning images of their destinations such as Assisi in Italy.

Eugene and Paul are daily writers. Paul's mornings are spent running errands and conducting research. He writes after 2:00 p.m. into late night. Paul keeps a book going at all times. Each week he either writes a chapter for that book or an article for one of the many military or religious magazines he contributes to. Eugene is also a late night writer. He says he averages three to five hours a day usually starting at 10:00 p.m. and going to at least 2:00 a.m. Sometimes he writes for 12 hours straight – taking a 5-minute break every two hours.

Paul's writing influences include Billy Collins having attended two of his readings while in Orlando, Robert Frost, Longfellow, and Rudyard Kipling. He also lists his wife, who wrote her dissertation on John Donne, and his brother, Eugene, who he considers his first mentor, as influences. Eugene derives inspiration from Dr. John Calvin Holsinger, Billy Graham, and the Apostle Paul, as well as from hymns with their

quatrain structure. He credits his wife for motivating him to write for newspapers. Paul was the keynote speaker at the very first Siloam Springs Writers Guild Summer Writing Conference. Eugene says the idea to have a conference was Paul's and now the Siloam Springs Writers Guild has successfully held its fifth one with Paul returning as keynote speaker.

Paul is the founder and Eugene is the president of P & L Publishing and Literary Services. In case you are curious, the L is for Linda, Paul's wife, who helped start the business. You can contact them at plpubandlit2@gmail.com.

Many thanks to Eugene and Paul for being generous with their time and stories for this interview.

From the Editor

I attended the Writers Guild Summer Conference where I heard our PRA President, John McPherson, deliver a talk on the PRA and the importance of poetry. I signed up for the Poetry Postcard Fest which has got me writing poetry albeit short poems again after about a three month hiatus. I participated in this years ago and decided it was time to be part of the postcard/poem a day during August again. I'm sort of jumpstarting my poetry writing with a Saturday virtual class with Rick Barot and a weeklong generative workshop, again virtual, with Kim Addonizio. I hope your poetry writing is going well and that the muse continues to visit you. Be thinking about what you can contribute to the November issue of News 'N' Notes.

Stay safe.
Keep poetry alive.

Karen Moulton