

Poets of the Palm Beaches

Vol. 25 No 1

Newsletter

January, February, March, 2010

Our mission is to support and encourage the creation of original poetry in Palm Beach County, Florida

Message to Members

2010 Dues

Please use the membership form in this newsletter (print it out if you're receiving this electronically) and mail it along with your check, or go to the website (www.poetsofthepalmbeaches.com) and use PayPal. If any of your contact information has changed, (phone, address) please email us (contact@poetsofthepalmbeaches.com). A reminder: you must be at least a part time resident of Palm Beach County, Florida to be a member. Thank you for joining or continuing your membership.

6th Annual Palm Beach Poetry Festival-January 18-23, 2010

<http://www.PalmBeachPoetryFestival.org>

To order tickets, call or visit the Crest Theatre Box Office: 51 North Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444; 561-243-7922, extension 1. Tickets are for sale now online for individual events. Individual event ticket prices are \$12 General Admission, \$10 for seniors, \$8 for students. Group discounts are available for groups of ten or more.

Monday, January 18: 8:00 pm–9:00 pm Poetry of Witness, a Conversation with Carolyn Forché & Ilya Kaminsky.

Tuesday, January 19: 2:00 pm–3:00 pm Craft Talks Kevin Young: Lines & Line Breaks, Humor in Poetry, Stephen Dobyns: The Poem, The Threshold, and Us.

8:00 pm–10:00 pm Kickoff Reading: Mary Cornish & Thomas Lux.

10:00 pm Open Microphone: everyone invited at Dada Restaurant – across the street from the Crest Theater.

Wednesday, January 20: 5:00 pm–8:00 pm Festival Gala: Cocktails & Dinner Individuals \$150 – Couples 250\$.

8:00 pm–10:30 pm Gala Reading: Kevin Young & Stephen Dobyns.

Thursday, January 21: 3:00–5:00 pm Workshop Participants Reading I. Free Event

8:00–10:00 pm Reading: Florida Poets: Jay Hopler & Sidney Wade with High School Poetry Awards (Awards will be presented to winners of the High School Poetry Contest)

Friday, January 22: 3:00 pm–5:00 pm Workshop Participants Reading II. (Free Event)

8:00-10:00 pm TGIF Reading: Ilya Kaminsky & Carolyn Forché.

Saturday, January 23: 2:00–4:30 pm Panel Discussion: Beloved & Influential with David Wojahn, Marie Howe, Thomas Lux, Kevin Young, Carolyn Forché Stephen Dobyns, Ilya Kaminsky and Mary Cornish

7:00–9:00 pm Finale Reading: David Wojahn & Marie Howe.

9:00 pm – Coffee House Performance Poetry & Party

10:00–11:00 pm Performance Poets: Andrea Gibson & Anis Mojgani.

11:00–12:30 DJ Dance Party: DJ-Scott Cunningham.

2010 Annual Student Contest

See rules inside and please share them with everyone you know.

Poets of the Palm Beaches



Our mission is to support and encourage the creation of original poetry in Palm Beach County, Florida

Events for January, February & March 2010 — Open to the Public

7622 Trapani Lane; Boynton Beach, FL 33472 561-439-4044

contact@poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

www.poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

Sunday

January 17 (featured reader is Bill Pearl)

(Every 3rd Sunday)

February 21 (featured reader is Dwight Stewart)

March 21 (featured reader is Diana Loy)

Our Primary Monthly Reading. Contest with cash prizes. Open to the public. Original work only. Place: Palm Beach Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, 823 North A Street, Lake Worth. Just a little more than one block South of 10th Ave North. Time: 2:00 PM. (Doors open at 1:45 PM)
Donation: \$2 for members and their guests, \$3 for non-members. Free for high school students.

Special Second Contests:

January will be Haiku, February will be Villanelle, March will be Cinquaine

Third Sunday Reading Rules:

(1) Original work only. (2) One poem per round. (3) No poem more than one 8 1/2 x 11 page, in normal 12 point font. (4) Prose Poems no more than 250 words in normal 12 point font. (5) No introductions please. State your name, the name of your poem, and the form of your poem. All present may enter the contest, which is judged by the featured reader. Submission of a poem automatically conveys permission to print it in this newsletter and on our website if it wins. All rights revert to the authors upon publication. After the first round will be the Special Contest. The same rules apply as just stated, except that it must be the designated FORM. All present may enter the contest who have a poem written in the form, even if they entered the first round contest. For the 2nd round, the same rules apply, or up to 3 poems, if none is over 5 lines. There is no contest for the 2nd round.

Tuesday

January 12, February 9, March 9 *(Every second Tuesday)* Time: 6:30 PM.

Place: Jupiter Library — 705 Military Trail, Jupiter, FL33458 (561- 744-2301 x 124).

Workshop: Open to the public. No charge. The participants will generate new poems every month. Bring paper and pen. Contact: Marjorie Wolfson 561-575-2376.

January 19, February 16, March 16 *(Every third Tuesday)* Time: 7:00 PM.

Place: Boynton Beach Barnes & Noble Bookstore — 333 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach.

Workshop: Open to the public. Original work only. No charge. Bring at least 12 copies of one poem. Contact: John Palozzi 561-588 -9829.

Wednesday

January 6, February 3, March 3 *(Every first Wednesday)* Time: 6:30 PM.

Place: Panera's Cafe — 771 Village Blvd., West Palm Beach.

Workshop: Open to the public. Original work only. No charge. Bring at least 12 copies of one poem. Contact: Charles Scheitler 561-833-2981.

Creative Poetry Writing Workshop

Ongoing every Saturday 10 AM to 12 PM at the

Palm Beach Friends (Quaker) Meeting House 823 North A Street in Lake Worth.

\$10 per workshop. For more information call John Palozzi at 561-588-9829

Monthly Contest Prize Winners for October 2009

The featured reader and judge for the October reading was *Jocelyn Noe*

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FIRST PLACE

The Saga of Christopher
by John J Buchholz

The fallen leaves from deciduous trees, forms a colorful quilt, under naked trunks with shivering limbs, then dries in shades of various browns, a shroud to match the fertile ground. Then crystals embroider a frozen lace and weave a shawl of virgin white, for dormant seeds, hibernating till spring thaws, melts drifted snow, a signal for seeds to sprout and grow. A baby green found only in spring, nursing flowers with fragrance, like a soul unseen, hermit truffles deep underground, delicacies found by rooting hogs. Nature's scribes write history books, with rings of growth and carbon dates, on the face of ancient stumps. There was a child that lived less than six days, with a grandfather whose grandfather, lived for ninety-six years, like a treasured morel sheltered in fallen leaves from the branches of deciduous trees, a minor role but an integral part in the saga of a family tree.

SECOND PLACE

Heaven
by Ruth E. Dickinson

So long ago,
like a dream.

We awoke to the low,
sonorous moos
of cows-
fawn-colored jerseys,
with huge, deep-brown,
kohl-rimmed, mournful eyes.

The house, the store
in foreclosure,
we'd moved to the country,
to a small, rented bungalow
surrounded by fields,
pasture for the landlord's new mothers,
their offspring.

We'd lie down
beside the calves,
my brother and I,
breathe in their smell-
milk, sweetgrass--
feel a slow, wet tongue
move across an outstretched palm.
Oh, we were in heaven then!

HONORABLE MENTION

SHUTTERED
by Raymond P. Neubert

Saturday ritual mine
Modest lush
Green balcony container garden
Three flights top
Coastal sunrise Western set

Sixty-six sheltered refractions
Block personal southern view
Seventeen un-shuttered
Summer lives
Camera zooms
Second floor left
Asian lady walking east
Then west
Same floor right
Pudgy man smoking
Greets the sunrise
Third floor apex
Bathroom lights flash
On then off
Then on again
Eighth floor center left
Man in shorts
Runs past window
Seconds later
Repeats
Summer exercise
Four overgrown
Empty
Ground floor patios

I return to water my plants
Left to right
All drink
Succulents
Bromeliads
Ferns and grasses
One dried geranium
One more mystery
One sheltered life

SPECIAL CONTEST

The Ballad of Old Jessie
by John Vincent Palozzi

Old Jessie went to Las Vegas
on a hot September day
determined to hit the tables
and gamble his life savings away

Black Jack, roulette and poker
he loved to throw the dice
he bet all his money on one throw
and he bet not once, but twice

Old Jessie went to Las Vegas
to gamble his life savings away

HONORABLE MENTION

The Day My Neighborhood Came Alive
by Janice Fine

To be terse,
when I looked worse
then ever before
I sallied forth once more
to the mailbox on the street.
There was no one around to meet.
My faded worn robe was wrapped 'round me.
My face was well greased with vitamin E
Two curlers stood atop my disheveled hair.
People appeared from nowhere and stopped to stare.
The man down the block tooted as he drove his truck.
Miss critical - fancy neighbor appraised. What darn luck!
Wobbly pups wiggled tongues and wagged weapon-like bushy tails.
Avon and Mary K. tried to hide my face, yet ply their sales.
A thin boy hollered and groaned, shaking like a speckled, blowing leaf.
Quickly I covered my head in my arms amid cries of great relief.

Now to be terse,
when I look worse
then ever before
I sally forth no more.
Sly as a sleek, slinky fox
I let mail pile up in the box.

They plied him with cheap liquor
and comped him a nice room
they wanted all his money
which they hoped they'd have real soon

Old Jessie went to Las Vegas
to gamble his life savings away

Well he went from table to table
trying his best to lose
and every time he threw them dice
they brought him a shot of booze

Old Jessie went to Las Vegas
to gamble his life savings away

It seemed that no matter how hard he tried
he couldn't get rid of his cash
no matter what number he decided to play
he wound up increasing his stash

Old Jessie went to Las Vegas
to gamble his life savings away

So finally Old Jessie called it quits
and decided he'd better go home
His wife was probably worried sick
wondering to where he did roam

Old Jessie went to Las Vegas
to gamble his life savings away

"I just wanted to have some fun"
is what Old Jessie did say
"Money's not worth having
If I cant throw some of it away"

Old Jessie went to Las Vegas
to gamble his life savings away

Monthly Contest Prize Winners for November 2009

The featured reader and judge for the November reading was Trudy Livingstone

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FIRST PLACE

Screaming
by Mary Kelly McCormick

Our mother died screaming
on her back, her legs spread
in childbirth, baby quiet
in its dry passage,
pushing south toward
a life it didn't want.

She was screaming
for our father
who was working,
for our sister pounding
on the locked door,
for a reprieve
from the red pain.

Her unanswered screams
echoed through the halls,
rooms, closets.

While I drew a teddy bear
on the blackboard at school
she slipped away from us
and I, drawing
with my eight-year-old hand,
made the bear's belly round
and gave it large, startled eyes.

SECOND PLACE

Homing
by Ruth E. Dickinson

Something holds me here,
A greenness, treeness,
salty sweetness
hold me homing here.
Birdsong,
peeping-frog song,
the bell buoy's fogsong
hold me homing here.
Something sought,
longed for
holds me homing here.

HONORABLE MENTION

Giving Thanks
by Victoria Maynard

In days of yore, a feast was planned
to celebrate this brand new land
a place, where people would be free
to live, and worship reverently
not fearing their religions, banned.

They learned to farm and till the sand
a meager harvest, yet so grand
the Wampanog 's, shared their bounty
In days of yore.

We thank that small courageous band
our forefathers, who set their hand
against the winter's cruelty,
surviving, through frugality
and daily toil; They made their stand,
In days of yore.

HONORABLE MENTION

Elderly Mother
by Shirley Kent

Dark coal clouds of forgetfulness
Ever keeping one's soul on track
Diamond facets of mindfulness
Hiding under shadows of black

Ever keeping one's soul on track
Tasting sour like some bad Bordeaux
Hiding under shadows of black
With mind scattering to and fro

Tasting sour like some bad Bordeaux
Buried memories of our past
With mind scattering to and fro
Not knowing what has happened last

Buried memories of our past
Diamond facets of mindfulness
Not knowing what has happened last
Dark coal clouds of forgetfulness

SPECIAL CONTEST

Thanksgiving Day
by John Vincent Palozzi

Thanksgiving Day comes once again
it's time to pray and say amen
then pass the bowls filled with the food
we've come to share. Do not exclude
the crude or rude who have no yen

from feasting on the julienne
or from partaking of the hen.
We all must feed the multitude
Thanksgiving Day.

So let us join with kin and friend
around the table once again
with joy and loving attitude
to fill this yearly interlude.
For that's the purpose of this when —
Thanksgiving Day!

Monthly Contest Prize Winners for December 2009

The featured reader and judge for the December reading was Victoria Maynard

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FIRST PLACE

Cliche Alphabet
by Riva Dunaief

Abandon hope, all ye who enter here,
Batten down the hatches, this is the
Calm before the storm! In the
Dead of night I became an
Eager beaver, felt
Free as a bird and
Girded my loins to
Have a field day.
In a nutshell, I arose to put my
John Hancock on the whole
Kit and kaboodle of the alphabet. It was a
Labor of love, so
Make no bones about it, the
Name of the game is
Odds and ends cliches. With the
Patience of Job, I
Quaffed a brew and
Racked my brain to
Scratch the surface of cliches, so
Take it or leave it! But, I'm
Up against it. It's become a
Vicious circle, so I guess I'll
Wash my hands of this effort,
XXX out all my lines and admit
You can't win 'em all. Time for some more
ZZZZ's

HONORABLE MENTION

Heart Throb
by Blake Valin

Desire flutters about -
inappropriate angel
rattling rusty sensations.

Sigh

He walks like a religion -
sinuous grace
a complicated study.

Sigh

I accept him like a sunset -
never enough
out of physical bounds.

Sigh

My affirmation of wisdom -
"This is as good as it gets."
Silent prayers say otherwise.

Sigh

SECOND PLACE

My Girl
by Norma Jagendorf

I want to lift the cloak of sadness from your young shoulders
move it to my not very broad but well-seasoned ones.
I want to pierce
that gray cloud that follows you.
with sunshine
If only I could find ways
to smooth the path of your future I would line it with rose petals
and poems of love.

HONORABLE MENTION

Grang - Grang's Home
by Olive Forrester

Grang-Grang, a woman of ideals high,
Escaped the clamor of teenage fighting to rest in
Mother Earth's
Welcoming breast by digging under the floor
of the little wooden house propped up by two saplings strong
Clinging to the stoneless hillside steep .

Single-handed she fashioned walls smooth beveled,
with a spoon seemingly with trowel of steel,
with a niche to shelve
The Holy Bible , prized possession sweet, with
bed, table for oil lamp only , straight backed
Rickety chair, and fastened on the wall a calendar with
Worship days marked , and Jesus looking down with
out-stretched arms blessing Grang - Grang's peaceful happy
under ground dirt floor castle.

SPECIAL CONTEST

The Meaning of Life is to See
(Hui Neng, 7th Century Chinese Sage)
by Shirley Kent

Great knowledge thirsts when Art of Seeing lost.
While life evolves to meaningless vacuum,
Does lack of vision readily presume
That feelings, love, grow old no matter cost?
What craft employs emotions not wind-tossed
But sweet sensations that shall ever bloom?
Momentary or lasting, like in womb
Ensnared, deep precious truths become uncrossed.

Intensify consciousness. Don't expand.
As eye perceives, draw life. Make wonder, awe
For simple things begin great commonplace
Epiphanies. No boastful Mes demand
Chambered abodes. Endure not life's crammed craw
Like pebbles grinding corn. Ego Erase!

Rules for a Haiku: From:LOOKING AT HAIKU by Elizabeth St Jacques ©1998 (condensed version)

Because haiku deals with a moment that is presently happening, it is best written in the present tense. A haiku also contains a seasonal word that implies the season rather than stating it outright. Instead of "Springtime," the poet will say "robin." melting snow. Let the reader participate in the experience. The greatest compliment a haiku poet can receive is for a reader to discover their own experience through it.

While some excellent three-line 5-7-5 haiku are being written today, it's not uncommon to read one, two, four and even five line haiku, all of which have fewer than the traditional seventeen syllable count. Brevity is essential, so the tighter you write, the better. The modern rule is NO MORE than 5, NO MORE than 7, NO MORE than 5. When writing haiku, set aside the usual poetic devices such as metaphor, alliteration, rhyme, etc.

Let's look at a haiku by H.F. Noyes:

blue irises
one finger tall --
the morning sky

Immediately, one feels the relaxed mood of this poem, the solitude of a clear morning sky, its blue serving as a backdrop for the more pronounced blue of the irises. And because the flowers are only "one finger tall" the reader realizes he/she is looking at them from a distance. It is an unhurried time, nothing more pressing than to discover these beautiful flowers standing beneath a new morning sky.

As you will note, this haiku has only twelve syllables. To tighten (or lengthen) it would destroy the sharp pure image that the author presents. Insofar as arrangement, the first line balances perfectly with line three. Although "blue" is not mentioned in the final lines, one automatically thinks of a blue sky. Between these lines, the "one finger tall" is the human element. Is it really coincidental that the poet chose to place this line between two images of nature where humans/beasts/birds naturally dwell in the order of existence?

As shown, there is much more depth to haiku than the eye initially realizes. A great deal of thought goes not only into line arrangement and word choice, but in the presentation of a lean image (the pure image) that permits the reader to fill in the spaces via personal experience and imagination.

Rules for a Villanelle:

It shall be of 19 lines - 5 stanzas of 3 lines, the 6th. and final stanza to be 4 lines. Each line shall be of ten syllables. The rhyme scheme shall be ABA for the first 5 stanzas - with ABAA for the 6th. Certain lines are to be repeated, word for word: Line 1 shall recur in lines 6, 12 and 18. Line 3 shall recur in lines 9, 15 and 19. Example: Come With Me To This Island in the Sea - a Villanelle by Andrew Shiston

Come with me to this island in the sea
Tears of stone shed by ancient mountains bones
The curving shore for all good men to see

From storming seas and flooding rip tides free
This island of white stone, only Neptune owns
Come with me to this island in the sea

Stand-alone on these stark broken cliffs, that be
From pounding of the sea, the broken stones
The curving shore for all good men to see

Portland's sheltered stony bay, that's in the lee
The island and her Pulpit Rock that groans
Come with me to this island in the sea

Steer your ship toward the Bills lightning tree
Sail safe to the bay, from the wind that roams
The curving shore for all good men to see

Come all Gods seamen, pray, come walk with me
Find peace away from King Neptune's unholy moans
Come with me to this island in the sea
The curving shore for all good men to see.

Rules for a Cinquain: 5 lines. 1st line = 2 syllables, 2nd line = 4 syllables, 3rd line = 6 syllables, 4th line = 8 syllables, 5th line = 2 syllables. Developed by **Adelaide Crapsey, 1911-1913**. Examples by Adelaide Crapsey:

November Night

Listen . . .
With faint dry sound,
Like steps of passing ghosts,
The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees
And fall.

Anguish

Keep thou
Thy tearless watch
All night but when blue-dawn
Breathes on the silver moon, then weep!
Then weep!

The Guarded Wound

If it
Were lighter touch
Than petal of flower resting
On grass, oh still too heavy it were,
Too heavy!

Poets of the Palm Beaches



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www.poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

Our mission is to support and encourage the creation of original poetry in Palm Beach County, Florida

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Poets who maintain at least a part-time residence in Palm Beach County are eligible to become members. The membership dues are \$20 from January 1st through December 31st of every year, and include: 1) Receipt of the bimonthly newsletter. 2) Reduced admission fee to all functions and contests. 3) Publication of one original poem in the annual members' anthology. 4) Receipt of one free copy of the annual anthology. 5) The right to be a featured reader at one monthly reading within a 12-month period. First time members joining after July 1st may elect to pay a pro-rata share of \$10 for the remainder of the year.

Please fill out the form below, detach, and mail to: **POETS OF THE PALM BEACHES**
7622 Trapani Lane; Boynton Beach, FL 33472 Make checks payable to: **Poets of the Palm Beaches.**

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Your newsletter will be e-mailed to you at:

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE _____

SUMMER ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please indicate which months are to be sent to the summer address: (only for US mail) _____

Please check: ___ Renewal ___ New Member starting in the month of: _____, 2010

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES:

PATRON \$100 BENEFACTOR \$75 SPONSOR \$50 FRIEND \$30 BASIC \$20

I would like to make an additional tax deductible contribution to The Poets of: _____

Please earmark this donation for "Student Contest" _____ or for "General Operation" _____

YOU MAY REMIT PAYMENT BY CHECK OR PAYPAL (ONLINE)

Poets of the Palm Beaches is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged and are fully tax deductible

Poets of the Palm Beaches



7622 Trapani Lane
Boynton Beach, FL 33472

Support The Poets

Renew your membership for 2010

Join for the first time

Attend the monthly readings and workshops

Tell other poets about us

Help publicize our events

Help us find a newsletter editor

Help us with publicity

Volunteer

But most of all – keep writing!

PPB Board of Directors

President

Diana Loy (561) 965-4421

Treasurer

Cora Lee Palma-Hayden (561) 732-9455

Secretary

Jocelyn Noe (561) 753-7121

VP – Membership

Marjorie Wolfson (561) 575-2376

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Norma Duncan (561) 965-5523

VP – Poets' Website

Ron Rosoff (561) 459-1505

VP – Publicity

Thomas J. Pangia (561) 842-8388

VP – Contest Chair

Jocelyn Noe (561) 753-7121

VP – Consultant

John Palozzi (561) 588-9829

General Contact Information

Email: contact@poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

Phone: (561) 439-4044

Web: www.poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

2010 Annual Student Poetry Contest Rules

Poets of the Palm Beaches, Inc.
7622 Trapani Lane, Boynton Beach FL 33472
561-439-4044
contact@poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

This contest is open to Palm Beach County Students only.

DEADLINE: Postmark, 04/30/10.

Student Poetry: Any form, 40 line limit. Open to grades 9 — 12.

There is NO ENTRY FEE.

There will be Cash Prizes and Honorable Mentions awarded. The winning poems will be published in our 2010 Anthology. The winners will be given free memberships for 2010.

RULES: 1) Entries must be typed, computer-generated or Xeroxed on one side of 8 1/2 X 11 paper, single or double-spaced. No artwork or fancy fonts.

2) Send 1 copy of each poem. Only ONE poem per page. Each poem must have a TITLE. Put school name and grade level on each poem upper left. On the upper right, show student's name, address, telephone number and e-mail.

3) Keep copies of your poems. None will be returned.

4) You may submit from one to five poems, but they should all be sent in the same envelope.

5) Poems that have previously won awards in our contest may not be submitted again.

ENTRIES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF ALL RULES ARE NOT FOLLOWED PRECISELY

JUDGING: Members of the Board of The Poets will judge the student contest. Results will be announced and prizes awarded on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at the 3rd Sunday Reading, at 2PM.

CONTACT: Send entries, requests for rules and/or winners' list (with SASE) to:

2010 Annual Student Poetry Contest

PO Box 1434

Lake Worth, FL 33460