



**California State Poetry Society**  
Post Office Box 7126, Orange, California 92863

## ***Newsbriefs*** ***2014, No. 1***

Greetings from the Board of the California State Poetry Society (CSPS) to you all! We hope you're finding a little time to write!

This first issue for 2014 comes to you in April of 2014 with Vol. 40 No. 1 of the *California Quarterly* (CQ), edited by Margaret Saine.

### ***2014 Membership Drive (Repeating from the Last Newsbriefs)***

Please renew your membership for 2014 – and *please* give the second, bottom copy of the membership form to a relative, a friend or a neighbor who *desperately* needs more poetry in his or her life! And this should be all of us, I think. The deadline for updating the list of CSPS poets with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (and therefore being allowed to participate in their many contests this year) has past, but renew *anyway*!

### ***The Year Just Past***

The CSPS Executive Board elections concluded last year with the following results:

President	Vacant (I continue to serve as the Acting President)
Vice President	Keith Van Vliet
Secretary	Ute Margaret Saine
Treasurer	John Forrest Harrell
Membership Chair	Richard M. Deets

The elections are held in the fall of odd-numbered years and the offices are held for two years beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> of the subsequent even-numbered year. Officers can succeed themselves (I have been the Treasurer, for instance, for over twenty years and Profs. Torre Houlgate-West and Kate Ozbirn each served as President and Managing Editor for over a decade).

When you have news you'd like to share with the members of the CSPS, please email me at the email address below my signature and I'll try to include it in an upcoming Newsbriefs.

### ***News from Members and Contributors***

CSPS editor Margaret Saine has been busy in Italian, as it were. Her introduction to the poetry of Italian poet Graziella Ardia has been published in *I Miei Spazi d'Anima (Spaces of my Soul)* by Vertigo Edizioni, Rome. She also translated the work of the Italian poet Adriana Scanferla; the poems in Italian and English were published in *Mentre Berlino Felice Danzava (While Berlin Was Happily Dancing)*. Finally, her first book of Italian poetry, *Paesaggi che Respirano (Breathing Landscapes)* will be published shortly by Teseo Editori, Frosinone, Lazio, Italy.

While visiting Cuba in January under a cultural program sponsored by the United States Department of State, CSPS editor Maura Harvey met members of the Havana and the

Cienfuegos chapter of UNEAC, Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba, (Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba). The energy and excitement with which they shared poetry with Americans – and specifically over the possibility of publication in the *CQ* – has engendered a commitment in her to getting to know them and perhaps developing an ongoing poetry exchange program.

### ***Contests, Contest Databases and Others***

The Alabama State Poetry Society has announced its *2014 John and Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition*. The deadline for submission of 20-24 pages of poetry is May 31<sup>st</sup>; the winner gets \$100 and twenty-five copies of his or her chapbook. For more information write to:

New Dawn Unlimited, Inc.  
Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition  
1830 Marvel Road  
Brierfield, AL 35035

or email Jerri Hardesty at [WtRabbit1@aol.com](mailto:WtRabbit1@aol.com).

The 2014 Arkansas Writers' Conference will be held June 6-7 at Pulaski Technical College. There are 35 contests, submissions for which must be postmarked on or before April 18<sup>th</sup>. For more information, email Sara Gipson at [SaraGipson@aol.com](mailto:SaraGipson@aol.com).

The Great River Shakespeare Festival's Maria W. Faust Sonnet Contest is accepting submissions of up to three sonnets for \$5. Checks should be made out to Ted Haaland/Maria Faust Contest and everything mailed to:

Great River Shakespeare Festival Sonnet Contest  
c/o Emilio DeGrazia  
211 West Wabasha Street  
Winona, MN 55987

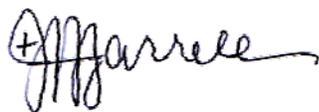
Entries must be postmarked no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> and winners will be announced by August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Email Ted at [FaustTed@gmail.com](mailto:FaustTed@gmail.com) for more information.

### ***The Mailing***

This *CQ* mailing includes the *Newsbriefs*, a 2014 CSPS Membership Form, the 2014 CSPS Publication Guidelines, the 2014 CSPS Monthly Contest Topics and Rules, *two* issues of *Strophes* (the NFSPS will *no longer* be using the USPS for its mailings, as packages are simply lost – this is *not* a problem with FedEx or UPS) and the *Poetry Letter*.

It is my prayer that *unbelievable* poetry just *bust out* of you! On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Editors, I remain,

Very truly yours,



Dr. John Forrest Harrell  
PRESIDENT (Acting)  
TREASURER  
[JFHarrell@gmail.com](mailto:JFHarrell@gmail.com)