



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

## ***Newsbriefs*** ***2016, No. 2***

Greetings and salutations from the Board of the California State Poetry Society (CSPS)!

This second issue for 2016 comes to you in early July with Vol. 42 No. 2 of the *California Quarterly* (CQ), edited by John Forrest Harrell (Ahem. Yours truly. ☺).

### ***News from the CSPS***

Participation in our Annual Contest is so far too low for a proper competition, so the Board has voted to extend the submission period to the end of July. Reading fees are \$3 per poem for members and \$6 per poem for nonmembers, not expensive considering the prizes – \$100, \$50 and \$25 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively. Following the instructions in the enclosed 2016 CSPS Publication Guidelines, submit a file through our website or mail to:

**CSPS Annual Contest Chair**  
**3371 Thomas Drive**  
**Palo Alto, California 94303**

We have applied for and received an ISSN – an International Standard Serial Number – for the California Quarterly. You'll see it on the back of each issue henceforth. The ISSN identification for serials (magazines and journals) is maintained internationally through national centers. The number is unique for each name and publishing medium. If we change the name of the CQ, for instance, we'd need a new ISSN. If we began publishing it electronically, we'd need a new ISSN for that, too.

Please start using our website (<http://www.CaliforniaStatePoetrySociety.org>) when you get a chance. If you have news you'd like to share with the members of the CSPS, please contact me at the email address below my signature and I'll try to post it on the website or include it in an upcoming *Newsbriefs*.

***Don't forget to renew your membership for 2016!*** Pay via our website or send it to the address on the enclosed membership form – namely, to:

**CSPS Vice President/Membership**  
**2560 Calabria Court**  
**Dublin, CA 94568.**

Be careful how you show your poems on electronic media. If you publish poems on the Internet either in open blogs or in other open venues, they are usually considered “published” by poetry journals in general and by the CSPS in particular. Closed venues – those requiring a membership or approval from an administrator – are not. Facebook pages viewable only by “friends” are not, and the same is true for blogs or websites that are not viewable by the general public.

Our Facebook page (CALIFORNIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY CSPA CQ), managed by CSPA Secretary/Historian and **CQ** Issue Editor Margaret Saine, and renamed POETS OUT OF THIS WORLD, functions as an independent international forum for poets on Facebook. Margaret continues to administer the page, which is not public – that is, she continues to approve requests by poets to join it and poems posted on it are not considered “published” for the purposes of our contests and the **CQ**.

The webmaster (that would be yours truly) has been remiss in not posting notices of conferences and contests from around the country at [CaliforniaStatePoetrySociety.org](http://CaliforniaStatePoetrySociety.org) (the CSPA website) as he receives them. The same old doofus (ah, a word from the 1950s, I think) has finally straightened out the website instructions for CQ submissions – that is, poet’s name and contact information should be on every page of submissions. In addition, you will note more links on the **Links** tab.

The California State Poetry Society (CSPA) conducted two major poetry readings during the month of April – the National Poetry Month.

The first took place on the evening of April 7<sup>th</sup> in northern California at the Sausalito City Hall. Organized by the four northern California Issue Editors – Maura Harvey, Pearl Karrer, Nancy Cavers Dougherty, and Jeanne Wagner – of the California Quarterly (CQ), 29 poets read selections of their work that had appeared recently in the CQ. Wine and light refreshments were served to upwards of 75 attendees from around the Bay Area; the event began at 7 p.m. and lasted until after 9:30. The quality and variety of the poems generated a great deal of enthusiasm among the attendees: “It was one of the best poetry readings I have attended in years” (Claudia Chapline, CSPA Member); “California has such a hard time getting recognition for its poets. I hope **CQ** can grow into a journal that wakes everybody up to the talent here. There were more than a few real stand-outs tonight” (Katherine Hastings, 2014 CSPA Annual Contest Judge); “Many thanks to you and the other editors for creating the lovely reading in Sausalito! Richard and I both had a wonderful time and loved hearing the other **CQ** poets” (Dr. Lucille Lang Day, CSPA member); “I think the gathering made **CQ** come alive” (Sandra Wassilie, Bay Area poet and editor).

The second event on April 9<sup>th</sup> was held in southern California by *The Valley Poets*, a working poetry group founded in 1983 by CSPA Vice President/Communications Keith Van Vliet and meeting continually ever since. The group presented an “Afternoon of Poetry” at the Glendora Public Library in celebration of National Poetry Month. Library personnel (Gaetano Abbondanza) prepared a program book titled *Authors and Artists* that listed the names of the presenting poets and included one poem from each. Keith described the background of the group – from the mountains (Crestline) to the sea (Del Mar) and many places in between – and introduced the readers, providing a running commentary that included interesting facts about contemporary poets and poetry. Among those who read were Lee Collins, Linda Kraai, Kathy Leonard, Junnie Starshine, Virginia Bower, R. T. Sedgwick, Keith Van Vliet, and Dr. Andy Crawford. The event was well attended

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

The monthly contest topics and rules for 2016 are the same as they were for 2015; they are posted on the website and included in this mailing. This May was the first month a submission via our website won 1<sup>st</sup> place, so consider using [CaliforniaStatePoetrySociety.org](http://CaliforniaStatePoetrySociety.org) to submit your

poems! It's easier, less expensive (no \$.49 stamp, not to mention the cost of the envelope) and much faster. ☺

We began accepting submissions for the CSPA 2016 Annual Poetry Contest on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Reading fees are \$3 a poem for members and \$6 a poem for nonmembers. As I indicated above, the submission period for this contest has been extended to the end of July. Winning poems will be published in the fourth issue of **CQ** this year (Vol. 42, No. 4).

JoAn Howerton, the Director of the Mid-South Poetry Festival for the Poetry Society of Tennessee, has announced that the submission period for their annual contests (there are thirty-one of them, as well as a \$250 prize for the best contest-winning poem – “best of the best”) is open. The deadline is Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Information is available from her at [JoAn0620@att.net](mailto:JoAn0620@att.net) or 901-361-0077. Their website (<http://www.PoetrySocietyTN.org>) also has a downloadable brochure (we have a link to it on our **Links** tab).

Don't forget to check the following websites on a regular basis for their news, especially of contests, classes and conferences:

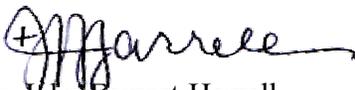
Poets & Writers Magazine	<a href="http://www.pw.org">www.pw.org</a>
Poetry Foundation	<a href="http://www.poetryfoundation.org">www.poetryfoundation.org</a>
Tupelo Press	<a href="http://www.tupelopress.org">www.tupelopress.org</a>

### ***The Mailing***

This **CQ** mailing includes the 2016 No. 2 CSPA *Poetry Letter*, a 2016 Membership Form, the 2016 Monthly Contest Topics and Rules, the 2016 CSPA Publication Guidelines, the April 2016 NFSPS *Strophes*, and this 2016 No. 2 CSPA *Newsbriefs*.

Praying you *all* have a *great* summer and *much* success with your writing, and 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)