

STANZA

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MAINE POETS SOCIETY

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 2

JULY 2017

NEWS OF OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 16, 2017, at the Belfast Free Library, 106 Main Street, Belfast, ME.

If you expect to attend, an RSVP to jamesbreslin7843@gmail.com by September 9 would be very helpful for our planning purposes. However, if you find a day or so before the meeting (or even the morning of) that you can come, please don't stay away simply because you haven't sent that RSVP.

As usual, there will be a \$12 registration fee which includes lunch. (Please note that the fee applies to all attendees and is the same even if individuals opt not to share in the lunch.)

Agenda for Meeting

9:30	Registration and coffee	1:00	<u>Contest</u> : Subject Fairy Tale/Popular Culture, any form (24-line limit). Judge: Jeri Theriault
10:00	Business Meeting	1:50	Judge reads her own work and/or offers poetry writing helps.
10:30	Open Mic (Poets' Corner) sign up at registration - first readers will be those who have not submitted a poem for the contest. A total of one hour will be allotted for this.	2:30	Announcements and closing
11:30	Mini Workshop		
12:00	Lunch - Book exchange to replace the Silent Auction (If books you bring are there at the end of the meeting, you may reclaim them. Otherwise they'll be given to Good Will.)		

Contest Submissions

(NOTE: Submission to a contest constitutes permission to publish.)

Send to: James Breslin
451 Bassett Rd.
Winslow, ME 04901

DEADLINE: August 16, 2017
1 poem (no fee)

- 2 copies of your poem (ONE with your name; one without)
- Envelope: Letter-size (long, #10) marked "CONTEST"
- INCLUDE SASE!!

Contest Poem—SUBJECT: Fairy Tale/Popular Culture (24-line limit). Refer to a fairy tale and use some recognizable aspect of pop culture. While innovative uses of "Cinderella" or "Snow White" are great, feel free to Google a list of less well-known tales. You can also look for models on poets.org and there's a journal called *The Fairy Tale Review*. Anne Sexton's *Transformations* is another source for models and ideas. Have fun!

ABOUT THE JUDGE

Jeri Theriault grew up in Waterville and attended Colby College as an undergraduate. She has been writing poetry most of her life. A full collection, *Radost, my red*, was published by Moon Pie Press in July, 2016. Her chapbook *In the Museum of Surrender* won the 2013 Encircle Publications chapbook contest. She has also written the chapbooks *Catholic* (Pudding House, 2002) and *Corn Dance* (Nightshade Press, 1994). Individual poems have appeared in journals and anthologies, including *Paterson Literary Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Rattle*, *The Atlanta Review*, *Orpheus and Company*, *Contemporary Poems on Greek Mythology*, *French Connections: An Anthology of Poetry by Franco-Americans*, and *The Return of Kral Majales*, *Prague's International Literary Renaissance 1990-2010*. A Fulbright recipient and three-time Pushcart Prize nominee, Jeri holds an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her teaching career included six years as English department chair at the International School of Prague. Now retired, she lives in South Portland and is married to the composer, Philip Carlsen.

MAY 2017 CONTEST WINNERS

Contest—Subject: Food; Judge: Alice Persons

First Prize—Gus Peterson

She Illustrates Robert Herrick

after "To the Virgins to Make Much of Time"

I didn't think much of it
when I asked the night before last
if she could pinch a square
of red marshmallow into
the prickling beauty of a rose
like they were doing on TV,
covering a cake, but the thorn
must have lingered until this evening
when, calling my attention from
whatever it was we were watching,
she unfurled the long white petals
of one hand, in which was cupped
a perfect bloom fashioned
from the red wax of the dinner cheese,
and before I could loosen
the astonished air caught in my throat,
she clapped, a single drop
falling to her plate like a tear
though nothing had gone dying.

Second Prize— James Breslin

Fed Up

The doctor's term for blimp I learned from Dr Reagan.
Obesity, he said, and wrongly I'd learn later, Froehlich's.
Quite rare for a girl, so he had my parents take a picture for a journal.
I think that they were paid, though I felt like a freak.

When they showed me the photo I screamed and tore it up.
This is why you shouldn't eat so much, they yelled.
That's why you get teased.
I guess that was my first job as a model.

My life became an everlasting diet. And still is.
I cheated when I could of course, to spite them.
Food became a dangerous friend to have around.
But I've learned to keep my distance.

In high school I got sick of fat and vomited my way to thin.
No way I'd go through adolescence as a whale.
I have some women friends but you wouldn't say we're close.
And sorry. But I think men over-rated. I'm seeing no-one now.

People think a working model has it pretty good.
I thought I did, but why then try to kill myself?
Fed-up perhaps, but why? I just don't have a clue.
So tell me, Dr Schechter, you're the shrink.

** Froehlich's Syndrome appears to affect males mostly. The more obvious and frequently encountered characteristics are delayed puberty, small testes, and obesity. (Web MD)*

Third Prize—Jenny Doughty
I Grow Beans, Therefore I Am

When I'm picking the beans I sowed in May
 that grew in June and ripened in July
 for August harvest, green and serpentine,
 warm and rough-surfaced, hung from the bush

that grew in June and ripened in July,
 ready to butter-steam or dill-pickle,
 warm and rough-surfaced, hung from the bush
 alongside green zucchini, yellow squash

ready to butter-steam or dill-pickle
 and serve to the family for supper
 alongside green zucchini, yellow squash,
 then I know that I'm alive in what I grow

and serve to the family for supper,
 my August harvest, green and serpentine
 that shows that I'm alive in what I grow,
 when I'm picking the beans I sowed in May.

First Honorable Mention—Sharon Bray
Apple Drops

In this season of falling apples
 and more green beans than I can pick,
 belted heifers greet me
 at the fence corner closest to the lane
 eager for what's in my apron pocket.
 Of course, cows don't smile
 like dogs do.
 They flick bovine tails in thank yous
 if I roll enough dented fruit
 under their electric fencewires.

Second Honorable Mention—Margie Kivel
Savories

after The Hundred Foot Journey

I cook you
 from the heart
 make you sweat
 give up your juices
 implode into sweetness
 on the lips
 all that you are
 is within me now
 released as sharp and soft
 hot and cold
 the taste of delicious.

Third Honorable Mention—Marshall Witten
The Dinner

Same side, small table, shoulder to shoulder, under
 a red umbrella, middle age professionals,
 wore wedding bands. Between them was a bottle
 of iced white wine, small platter of brie with baguette.

White linen blouse, black slacks, Ferragamo flats
 with leather straps around her slender ankles,
 her blonde hair in a French braid. His graying hair
 receding, well cut. He wore batiste blue shirt,

open collar, cuffs rolled to his elbow.
 They stared ahead, with furtive, checking glances,
 anxious faces, bodies tense and shifting,
 unanswered words aimed at empty chairs.

Between their painful pauses, pursed lips,
 she strained to stifle tears streaming over
 her cheeks, gaze vacant, straight ahead, unfocused.
 She tried to reason, plead. He grimaced, indifferent.

He tendered no touch, comforting gesture, link.
 His look lacked loving kindness, did not conceal
 annoyance with accusing public tears.
 She toyed with salad. He ate steak with gusto.

This despondent couple made me fret
 how they might heal the "rift within the lute."
 My wife sent me a worried, loving look.
 We left uneasy having seen too much.

A Reminder: To participate in MPS contests, you must be a current member of MPS. Membership terms run January through December 31. Dues are still \$20. Checks should be sent to our Treasurer/ Membership Chair Gus Peterson, 12 Middle Street, Randolph, ME 04346. All members are urged to renew for 2018 before December 31. If you are unsure about the status of your membership, please contact Gus at glp3324@gmail.com.

Electronic Copies of Poems for the Stanza

When you submit poems for our contests, please keep an electronic copy *as submitted* on your computer. If your work is selected for recognition by a judge (whether a prize or an honorable mention), please email an electronic copy to *Stanza* editor, Sally Joy, as soon as possible after you are aware of this. If you've made changes since your submission, please do not include them. Give us the poem as it was judged. Thank you.

Hospitality Chair Still Needed

The society is still in need of a Hospitality Chair, whose responsibilities are to take care of the morning and lunch set up, including bottled water, regular and decaf coffee, teas and cookies, plates, napkins and cups as well as the appropriate condiments. This is an appointed position, with a term of two years.

Check out our Website and our Facebook Page!

Please check out the MPS website (MainePoetsSociety.com) for all you need to know about the Maine Poets Society: Gatherings, Directions, Membership Application, Contests, Contact Information, President's Message, and more.

We also have a Facebook page. This link should take you to that page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1747588905507733/>. When you indicate an interest in joining the group, Jenny (as Administrator) will be able to confirm your request. You can also search within Facebook for Maine Poets Society. Choose the option that says "public group."

Publication News

Books

Bill Frayer, *Anatomy of Time*, 2016, available on Amazon.

How to Submit Publication News:

Members may submit to the *Stanza* and the website: (MainePoetsSociety.com) news of recent publication of individual poems, books of poetry, or books related to poetry.

- Format for book publications: member's name; name of book; publisher; date of release.
- Format for poem publications (submit news any time *after* publication, in print or online): member's name; name of poem; journal or website name; name of press if different from journal (e.g., "*the Aureorean*; Encircle Publications"); date on journal (and/or volume and issue number) or website.

Deadline for Member and Publication News for the next *Stanza*: November 21, 2017.

Reminder: Maine Poets Society dues include membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Thus, you may enter many of their contests offering cash prizes. You also have access to their newsletter. Go to their website: <http://www.nfspd.com/> and click on "Strophes" at the left-hand side of the home page for access to the newsletter. Hard copies of the most recent "Strophes" will be available at our general meetings.



President's Message

Greetings, fellow Maine poets (and a few from neighboring states). I feel slightly intimidated being a new President in an organization of such talented people, but I hope I can help to keep MPS working for all of us as a resource and an inspiration as well as keeping our meetings a gathering place for those of us who love poetry.

If you are on Facebook, please check out our Maine Poets Society Facebook page and feel free to write on it anything that pertains to your life in poetry or that you think would be of interest to poets in Maine. We also have a newly-created private Facebook group called Maine Poets Society Round Robin, on which members can post drafts of poems and ask for feedback from other members. Please send me a direct message on Facebook if you would like to be added to this group. Poems on this page are not visible to non-members, so cannot be searched by Google and therefore count as 'unpublished' if you want to submit them somewhere.

Check out the section about Opportunity Grants on our website, <http://www.mainepoetsociety.com/>. You'll find it in the "Membership" section. We still have funds available for this year. Any current member (as of January 10th) who has not received a grant within the last three years is eligible to apply. Many of our members would benefit from joining the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, which runs many excellent workshops in different parts of the state, as well as notices of readings and other events. See <http://mainewriters.org/events/category/workshops/> for details.

Please also enter our fall contest, which will be judged by Jeri Theriault, an excellent Maine poet whom I had the pleasure of attending a Frost Place conference with a few years ago. She has set a broad topic that most of us should be able to connect with. If you have not yet renewed your membership, you need to do so to be eligible to enter our contest.

The confines of a topic or form are often one of the best ways we can stimulate new work. The apparent freedom of all the options available can kill creativity. Placing some constraints on yourself acts as a challenge. Remember Dr Seuss? His editor bet him he couldn't write a book with only fifty different words, and he came up with *Green Eggs and Ham*, one of the bestselling children's books ever. This meeting's contest asks us to use some aspect of popular culture and I doubt whether there is one of us who never watches TV, goes to the movies, listens to the radio, surfs the internet, or even looks at adverts!

I look forward to hearing the contest entries and to seeing as many of you as possible at our meeting at the public library in Belfast on September 16th.

And remember the words of Octavia Butler: "You don't start out writing good stuff. You start out writing crap and thinking it's good stuff, and then gradually you get better at it. That's why I say one of the most valuable traits is persistence. It's just so easy to give up!"

Jenny Doughty, President.

STANZA, Maine Poets Society
16 Riverton Street
Augusta, ME 04330

FIRST CLASS

Stanza is the tri-annual
newsletter of the
Maine Poets Society
promoting good poetry
since 1936

FMI or to join, write
Gus Peterson
12 Middle Street
Randolph, ME 04346

Board Members

Jenny Doughty, President, jmdought@maine.rr.com
James Breslin, Vice President and Program Chair, jamesbreslin7843@gmail.com
Bill Frayer, Secretary, billfrayer@gmail.com
Gus Peterson, Treasurer & Membership Chair, glp3324@gmail.com
Sally Joy, Publicity, Newsletter jsjoy@roadrunner.com

Webmaster, DiTa Ondek dita@dita.org

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MPS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1747588905507733/>. When you indicate an interest in joining the group, Jenny (as Administrator) will be able to confirm your request. You can also search within Facebook for Maine Poets Society. Choose the option that says “public group.”