
The Utah State Poetry Society's
POET TREE *August - 2015*



Website: www.utahpoets.com
Email: submissions@utahpoets.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Writers:

Both UTSPS and I have had an amazing year. I am overwhelmed with the quality and quantity of service hours donated by our members who continue year after year to ensure our success. *You* are the reason UTSPS, and the poetry we love, are alive and well in Utah.

Change is inevitable, but before we go forward, it is important to recognize the contributions of those who have served in our past; Orlan Owen as president, Geraldine Felt

as secretary, and Bob Bader as treasurer. We welcome O. William Asplund as the new president-elect, Eric Read as treasurer, Maurine Haltiner as secretary, and Bob Bader as the College/University Manuscript Contest Chair, Sue Leth as contest coordinator, as well as Lin Floyd, our chapter coordinator and new blogmaster. We solicit your support as we produce our Poet Tree newsletter, Justin Kennington puts our youth contest back on the map, and Donovan Obray explores ways to let the world know about us. I am also impressed with the PIP and Redrock programs in Southern Utah and am grateful for the tireless efforts of our members who make them successful. If you have never attended either of these events, you have missed a great opportunity to learn and make new friends. It is also a thrill, as all of you know, to submit a winning poem.

This year's April Festival was a great success. The venue and food were fantastic! We are sorry that some of you were unable to attend, but hope you will join us next year as Bill Asplund solidifies his plans. Some of the decisions made about the price and change of venue were difficult to make, but necessary. We will continue to work to make it a great experience for everyone, and we appreciate your support as well as your input.

Congratulations to our new Poet of the Year, Candy Lish Fowler, who won the April

Contest with her manuscript, *On a Road that Knows Me*. We are excited to see her book in print and to receive our individual copies. We hope you will put the October readings on your calendar and join us for a day of poetry.

Roger and Judy Johns have teamed up to work with the new Poet of the Year in securing a venue for our October reading of the Book of the Year and help with the preparations for the April Festival. As always, Kolette Montague clocks a record number of volunteer hours each year as she works to educate new members of the board (including me) and coordinates the April Contest along with her talented daughters. Unless you are involved behind the scenes, it is impossible to understand the hundreds of details that are a part of what makes everything else work for all of us. It is only one of many hats Kolette wears willingly. I appreciate all of you who have promised to support me and have made good on your promises, including our past presidents, our hospitality team and others.

If you have not had a chance to look at our new blogspot, go to utahpoets.com and look at it. This is a great way to get acquainted with our poets in UTSPS and their poetry. It also represents a new era for UTSPS as we take advantage of technology and the Internet. We are aware that some of you do not have email or access to the internet, but this is the direction the world has taken, and it is important for us to become part of the 'new age' if we are going to survive as a society and attract newer, younger members. From the very beginning, our recognized goals have included perpetuity and continuity. If we truly believe poetry has a valid place in our state and in our personal lives then we have to write it, promote it, and preserve it. The opportunities are endless as we contemplate an on-line newsletter, exposure in magazines and on television, updating and maintaining our website and Facebook page. Please consider contributing to all of the above, including helping whenever possible by volunteering in-kind (volunteer hours) and

monetarily. We are working diligently as an executive committee and board members to raise our standing in the community through involvement and education. Also, as a reminder, please submit your volunteer hours to dee at the end of each month.

Thank you, everyone, for all you have done and everything you are doing as we move into another year. It is my privilege to associate and to work with you.

Dawnell Griffin

President

UTSPS POET OF THE YEAR



Candy Lish Fowler, St. George Utah, was selected as UTSPS 2015 Poet of the Year with her manuscript, *On A Road That Knows Me*. It is only the second time in the fifty-year history of the award that a Southern Utah poet has won. Judge January Gill O'Neil said of Fowler's book, "There is no easy way into the truth; it is a personal, sometimes painful, and journey. But it is often marked with moments of light, vibrant and dynamic. This allows us to walk along through family, music, culture, and travel. These poems stayed with me." O'Neil is Executive Director of the Poetry Society of Massachusetts and Professor of English at Salem State University.

Candy grew up in Granger, Utah, graduating as the Sterling Scholar in English. She attended the University of Utah as a Presidential Scholar majoring in Dance, minoring in English. She was the founder and director of Southwest Dance Theater in St. George, and has been featured in the Tribune and Deseret News. She has been an instructor at the University of Utah, Dixie State College and founded Tuacahn Center for the Arts dance program. Her poetry has won state and national awards including 2nd in the Utah Arts and Museums 2014 Writing competition, and all four categories of the National Chaparral Poetry Forum in 2015. Her work has been published in several poetry anthologies. Candy is a former member of the Utah Arts council.

In October, Candy will present her book, *On A Road That Knows Me*, in two separate book concerts. One will be held in Orem, Utah. The second will take place in St. George, Utah.

The first concert will be:

Saturday, October 10th
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Orem Public Library
58 N. State Street
Orem, Utah 84057-5508

The second concert will be:

Thursday, October 29th
7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Dixie State University
Eccles Fine Arts Concert Hall
225 South 700 East
St. George, Utah 84770

Candy has served as past president of the Dixie Chapter of the UTSPS and is a member of Redrock Writers. Candy appreciates the support and encouragement UTSPS offers all poets and has been inspired through the years by its many wonderful talented writers. She is married to Bill Fowler and they have four children plus sixteen grandchildren.

CHAPTER'S CLIFF NOTES

[Editor's Note: There were too few submissions from UTSPS Chapters. Share with members more than just when and where you meet. This responsibility belongs to chapter's president. Even if the president delegates this task, the president is still responsible for ensuring completion. Like Uncle Ben said, "With great power, comes great responsibility."]

Rhyme & Reason Chapter: The Rhyme & Reason Chapter continues with two meetings a month, except during our summer hiatus, when we seem to scatter to the four winds. We are comfortable with our regular schedule of the 2nd Wednesday afternoon meeting in Vera Bakker's lovely home. This allows us to take advantage of her gracious hospitality. On the 4th Wednesday evening we meet at the Bountiful Library (same place as the state workshops). Our *contact committee* reminds members about each meeting where we continue to improve our poetic skills, share our poetic successes, and enjoy the camaraderie of poet friends. Got poems? You bet!!

Oquirrh Chapter: If you are a member of the Oquirrh chapter, please contact Marney Zambrano (mezbooker@yahoo.com) so you can begin to shake off the ~~holiday~~ summer rust and start filling Tooele County and the world with poetry.

Ben Lomond Chapter: Donovan Obray is still trying to get his feet under him as Ben Lomond's new president: "I love poetry and I am honored to be a part of our society. Serving as the president of the Ben Lomond chapter is a humbling treat. I [find myself] surrounded by amazing and talented poets, playwrights, and authors who teach me so much. They've made me a better human being and a better poet." Ben Lomonds Poets look forward to working with Donovan Obray.

Redrock Writers: It's a "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" summer in Dixie. Redrock Writers continue to meet every third Thursday of the

month at 7 pm at the home of president, Markay Brown. Barbara Funke represented us in June at the annual convention of the National Federation of Poetry Societies held in St. Petersburg, Florida. Barbara, Markay Brown, and Candy Fowler were among the contest winners announced at the event. Our members are busy preparing for the Redrock Writers 2016 Seminar and annual Chaparral Poetry Contests. Our chapter also arranged for a UTSPS workshop featuring Danielle Dubrasky, English Department faculty member at SUU, to be held January 23, 2016. All is well in Dixie.

Dixie Poets Chapter: Alma Richie leads 21 active members all keeping poetically busy down in Dixie-St. George. We meet year-round on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the St. George Library for a lesson and critiques. There is also another chapter in town called Redrock Writers, who meet on the second Thursday, with poetry readings at Barnes and Noble bookstore.

WELL-KEPT SECRET

by Lin Floyd

It's time to let the news out that UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY is alive and well. No *Dead Poets Society* for us. Invite your friends and neighbors to visit your local UTSPS chapter with you or join our AT LARGE group of poets statewide and nationwide. All information regarding the benefits of joining UTSPS can be found on our excellent webpage by Paul Ford. See utahpoets.com/join/join.html.

Exciting plans are under way for UTSPS bookmarks and posters to be distributed by chapter members throughout their communities: [for] libraries, colleges, and other gathering places to give our poetry society a voice [and presence] for fall. Take the opportunity to announce your meeting times and location in local newspapers or with a poster in a prominent place. Poets can't join us if they don't know we exist. A personal invite is the most appropriate way to build membership.

Spotlighting individual UTSPS poets and their poetry is the goal of our new blog by Lin Floyd. Info on all current chapter presidents has been published at utahpoetry.blogspot.com. UTSPS officers and members are next. Send a short bio 100 words or less, a photo, and short poem that has been published or that you don't want to contest with because online posting is considered publishing. Send info to lin@sunrivertoday.com. Let's gather new poets to strengthen our organization.

CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

2016 CHAPARRAL POETRY CONTEST

NEW DATES!

Entries welcome: postmarked Sept. 1, 2015, through Dec. 1, 2015. Full details/guidelines can be found online at www.redrockwriters.org

Details will also be made available on www.utahpoets.com

2015 PANORAMA SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submission Period: Until Sept 30, 2015

Enter poems by email to submissions@utahpoets.com, must be received by September 30; if you do not have Internet access then regular mail submissions must be postmarked by September 30.

Submit one copy of each poem, with name of poet, city, and state (no street address), including awards and other publication information. Eligible poems may **not** have been previously published in a UTSPS-sponsored publication. Use flush-left margins, though some deviations from this requirement may be allowed at editor's discretion. Each poem must be typed or computer-generated with no more than 35 lines (include title, epigraph, blank lines, poet's name/city/state, awards, publications). Line width: maximum of 57 characters (include letters, spaces,

punctuation). Up to four submissions for consideration. Guidelines **MUST** be followed exactly or submission may not be considered for publication.

Members interested in submitting their photography or artwork to be considered for the cover of the 2015 *Panorama* should consult UTSPS website for details:

www.utahpoets.com.

For complete details on how to submit poems, refer to the UTSPS website.

PARTNERING WITH SMITH'S STORE

The UTSPS is an official Smith's *rewards partner*. To make this work, we need each of you to take a moment to go online and register your rewards card, then our Poetry Society will be credited with your purchases. This does not affect your personal rewards points. A little effort by each will result in a nice return for all. Smith's will donate money to our non-profit. This money will be added to our general funds for sustaining great programs and functions throughout the state. Rewards card in hand, visit www.smithscommunityrewards.com and follow the few easy steps: Sign In> My Account> Enroll Community Rewards> input10422> Select the Society> Save.

REMEMBER TO USE YOUR REWARDS CARD EACH TIME YOU SHOP AT ANY SMITH'S STORE.

POETRY FESTIVAL IN SOUTHERN UTAH 2016

Plan now to spend a weekend next spring in Southern Utah immersed in poetry and creative writing ideas. On Thursday, March 3, 2016, at 7 pm in the Springdale Canyon Community Center, Z-ARTS will present a free lecture on Plein Air Poetry of the Natural World by visiting poet Dr. David J. Rothman, Director of Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Western State Colorado University. On Friday, March 4, 2016, from 9 am to 4 pm the seventh annual POETRY IN THE PARK

will not take place. At Zion Park Lodge, Rothman will be presenting a Poetry Workshop surrounded by the natural beauty of Zion Park's red rock country. Free admission to the park and a guided naturalist walk are included. Made possible by a partnership between Utah State Poetry Society and Zion Natural History Association with partial funding from the Utah Department of Arts and Museums and NEA, details are available at www.poetry-in-the-park.com.

The 20th annual awards from the Chaparral Poetry contest at the Social Hall begin on Sat, March 5th from 9 am to 4 pm; the Seminar features a distinguished faculty exploring: Cowboy Poetry, Writing with Tension, Photo Journalism and Plein Air Poetry. More information is available at www.redrockwriters.org. Fees are \$60 each for Poetry in the Park, and Redrock Seminar with discounts for UTSPS members. Lodging is available at reduced prices at Zion Park Lodge or in Springdale or St. George, which has a regional airport with connections to Denver and Salt Lake City. From the Las Vegas airport, shuttles are available to St. George and carpools to Zion Park. Don't miss this wonderful learning opportunity in inspiring Utah so make lodging and travel arrangements now.

UTSPS CALENDAR

Sat. Sep. 12, Board Meeting place TBA
Sat. Oct. 10, Candy Lish Fowler Book Concert
Orem Library, 2:00 pm
Thurs. Oct. 29, Candy Lish Fowler Book Concert
Dixie State University, 7:00 pm
Sat. Nov. 7, Workshop with Jon Sebba & Judy Johns
Place TBA
Dec 1, 2015, Chaparral Poetry Contest deadline
Jan. 5, 2016, Membership dues deadline \$30 for 2016
Feb. 1, 2016, State Poetry Contest deadline
March 4, 2016, Poetry in the Park
March 4, 5, 2016, Redrock Writers Seminar
March 15, 2016, NFSPS Contest deadline

2015 Governing Board & Officers

Dawnell Griffin President
William (Bill) Asplund.....President-Elect
Eric Read*.....Advisory President
Maurine Haltiner..... Secretary
Eric ReadTreasurer
Roselyn Ostler*..... Membership Chair
Steve LeitchMailing Coordinator
Paul Ford.....Webmaster
Lin Floyd.....Chapters Coordinator
Steven Craner.....Workshop Chair
deePoet Tree Editor
Roselyn Ostler.....Panorama Editor
Donovan Obray.....Publicity Chair
Robert Davis.....Book Sales Chair
Marney Zambrano & Louise Cook
.....Hospitality Chairs
.....Historian/Librarian
Justin Kennington.....Junior Creative Director
..... Junior Creative Clerks
Kolette Montague*
.....Contest Chair/Finance Committee Chair
Sue Leth.....Contest Clerk
Louis & Chrystie Cook.....Judges Coordinator
Clarence Socwell*
.....Laureates President/Poetry Exchange
Elaine Christensen
.....Laureate Book Contest Chair
Gail Schimmelpfennig
.....Laureate Publication Chair
Frank DeCaria.....Laureate Book Sales
Judy & Roger Johns
Critique Bureau/ Laureates Book Venue Chair
D. Gary Christian.....Legal Consultant
Bob Bader.....College/Univ. Mss
Contest Chair

*Administrative Advisors (past presidents) also
Vera Bakker, Kevin Clark, Robert
Frederickson, LaVerna Johnson, Orlan Owen,
Joel Passey, N. Colwell Snell, Eric Read, and
Kolette Montague

Chapter Presidents

Ben Lomond (Ogden) Donovan Obray
801-391-9010 dobray@hotmail.com

Cedar City Peter Wilkins
435-586-9594 peterwcd3@hotmail.com

Dixie Poets (St. George Area) Alma Richie
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Oquirrh (Tooele) Marney Zambrano
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RedRock Writers Markay Brown
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Rhyme & Reason Kolette Montague
(Bountiful) 801-292-0283 poetkmm@msn.com

Valley Winds (Salt Lake) Paul Ford
801-633-2875 pmford3@yahoo.com

Word Weavers (Utah Valley) Pat Johnson
801-885-1532 pat.johnson3@comcast.net

Write On (north Utah Valley) Cindy Bechtold
801-372-2691 cindy@spiritmountain.net.

UTAH SINGS: Volume Nine

The ninth volume of Utah Sings is
available for purchase online at lulu.com.
Thank you to editor Merrijane Rice for helping
us in continuing to bridge the traditions of our
past with our visions of the future.

CHANGES AFFECTING YOU

Beginning 2016, annual dues **will be \$30**. Student dues remain the same. Still the best deal in town!

Contest rule changes, including the decision by the Laureates, beginning with the 2016 publication, the Book of the Year will be a **quality paperback** publication. This will insure more years of this long-time tradition.

Electrifying! In order to save money and time, we are considering on taking most of our information publications online. Members without Internet access will continue to receive paper editions. It seems a natural step to have The Poet Tree, the contest rules, and contest winners list available on our website. We are also looking into the possibility of doing the membership directory and the Strophes on line.

NEEDED: JUDGE COORDINATOR FOR 2016 CONTEST

This volunteer works from a provided list to obtain judges for the categories of the contest. Most of this work is done via email. It takes some record keeping skills, some communication skills, and a willingness to serve. Without judges, we have no contest. Please contact Contest Chair Kolette Montague if you are able to take on this assignment.

INVITATION

If you are a dreamer, come in,
If you are dreamer, a wisher, a liar,
A hope-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer...
If you're a pretender, come sit by my fire,
For we have some flax-golden tales to spin,
Come in!
Come in!

~Shel Silverstein
First poem from
Where the Sidewalk Ends.

WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS

by dee

I hope any lover of poetry is familiar with the works of Shel Silverstein. Their effect on me as a child reached the heights of profound.

When I was ten years old, his books, *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and *A Light in the Attic*, were part of my school's library collection. Due to their popularity, they never sat on the library shelf. Once the books were returned, out again they went. These were the only two books in the school library requiring a waiting list, not a list with two or three names but normally ten or more names. When my name made it to the top of the list, I excitedly rushed to the library to check out one of Silverstein's wonderful books; then, for the next week I would read it over and over, too many times to count. I read, I laughed, I would not do homework, or even go outside to play. By 5th grade I had memorized my favorite poems.

This was my first exposure to poetry, this silly children's poetry book with funny drawings and new words you would say over and over until the laughter made it impossible to utter them anymore. I didn't realize this at the time; I was too busy running through the imagination of Shel Silverstein, akin to a grand playground you never want to leave for supper.

It only takes a few seeds to begin to grow; Shel Silverstein's books were my seeds, thrusting something new and exciting into my life were they still grow to this day.

I often wonder about the other names on the waiting list; were they affected the same as I? Did they grow to love writing, reading, or sharing poetry? Did they read under their covers at night after bedtime, like me, and did they learn where the sidewalk ends and a new one begins? I truly hope so.

The Poet Tree would love to publish articles about how our members experienced poetry as children. If you send them, I will share them!

FINAL TOMFOOLERY!!!

First, I offer my most profuse apologies for the lateness of August's newsletter! Members would be well within their rights to bind me to a stake and cast stones upon me. I would willingly subject myself to this Shirley Jackson ritualistic behavior, as long as the stones were cupcakes...red velvet...cream cheese frosting...with sprinkles.

There are exciting changes coming in the future for the UTSPS. Our society president, Dawnell Griffin, is very receptive to ideas to help bring the UTSPS to full potential. One change is already in place, you might have noticed an unfamiliar email address-submissions@utahpoets.com-in this Poet Tree edition. This email will be used for members wishing to make submissions to the Poet Tree. This centralized email will streamline the submission process. As editor, I will be able to see all the submissions in one place and eliminate email to the masses, allowing me to work one-on-one with chapter presidents. There are other uses being considered for this email, but we will walk before we run.

I am proud to be involved with the UTSPS and I am looking forward to being part of the changes on the horizon. Are you?

love, luck, and lollipops,

~dee

THE GO GREEN, SAVE GREEN INITIATIVE

“With great power, comes great responsibility.”

~Uncle Ben

Since the UTSPS is a non-profit organization, managing money is essential. Any avenue where the society is able to save money should be explored. How does this relate to The Poet Tree? As the editor, I want to propose making The Poet Tree a digital product available on the UTSPS website or via email. Members without Internet access would still receive their newsletter through the services of the United States Postal Service. This will reduce printing/shipping costs for the UTSPS. This would also open up an opportunity to publish The Poet Tree on a quarterly basis. The February/August issues would remain eight pages while the May/November issues would be four pages. Using this publishing schedule, information will remain current and allow for a variety of content to be included (i.e. poetry book reviews, poetry form lessons, etc.). Please think this over, and in the near future, an email will be sent soliciting opinions. Once a general consensus has been reached, the information will be forwarded to the UTSPS board for a decision. If you have any questions, please send them to submissions@utahpoets.com. Thank you.

The Finance Committee continues to look for viable income sources for our Society. If you hear of a possible grant, benefactor, donor or co-sponsor, please notify a member of the Finance Committee, our Society President or President-Elect. We are happy to pursue any lead that may help the Society remain financially solvent and productive.

You can help champion the art of poetry in Utah by supporting our work with a tax-deductible gift. The Utah State Poetry Society is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue code and meets all 20 Better Business Bureau charity standards. Make a check out to UTSPS and mail it to UTSPS, 864 Bonita Way, Centerville, Utah 84014. Thank you.



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