



September, 2018

The Connecticut Poetry Society Newsletter

The CPS website is <http://ctpoetry.net/>.

While you're online, *Friend us on Facebook.*

CPS Honorary Board

Rennie McQuilkin, Connecticut Poet Laureate,
2015-2018

Marilyn Nelson, Connecticut Poet Laureate,
2001-2006

Vivian Shipley, Connecticut State University
Distinguished Professor at SCSU

CPS Officers

Co-Presidents: Tony Fusco & Pat Mottola

Vice President: Victor Altshul

Secretary: Christine Beck

Treasurer: Mark Sheridan

Contests: Joan Hofmann

Webmaster: Tony Fusco

Membership: Tony Fusco

CRR Editor: Ginny Connors

Newsletter: Ginny Connors

Program Director: Victor Altshul

Board Meeting Coordinator: Julia Paul

Interested in Getting More Involved?

We are looking for someone to take over as Membership Chair and we'd like a Publicity Chair. We also need help compiling a database of CT libraries, especially college / university libraries and those in larger towns. Contact Tony Fusco or Pat Mottola if you can help.

Summer Picnic, Summer Delight

The CPS annual Picnic, held once again at the beautiful oceanfront home of Vivian Shipley and Ed Harris, was a great success with over forty people in attendance. The hot weather did not wilt the enthusiasm and camaraderie of CPS members and their guests. The open mic was an inspiring representation of poetry at its best, with a diverse range of styles and topics. Co-presidents Tony Fusco and Pat Mottola paid tribute to Ed and Vivian with poems written in their honor. As always, fine food offerings proved that CPS members can not only write, they can cook! Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to the CPS Executive Board for once again arranging an uplifting and enjoyable event.

Tony Fusco, Marilyn Nelson, and Dolores Hayden at



the picnic

CPS Chapters & Presidents

Danbury

Liz Massey
finchwhistlehaven@gmail.com

The Danbury chapter meets at Bethel Library, 189 Greenwood Avenue, on the second Saturday of each month, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM Bring 6 to 8 copies of a poem for the workshop, or just come to listen and respond. To receive an e-mail reminder each month, contact Liz.

Farmington Valley

Terence McCaffrey
860-416-6684
tmccaff24@hotmail.com

This chapter meets one Tuesday of each month in the library at Tunxis Community College from 6-8 pm. Contact Terrence to get more information and to get on the email notification list.. Bring copies of your poem if you want feedback.

Greater Hartford

Julia Paul
Julia.Paul@cox.net

The Greater Hartford chapter meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month, Sept. through June from 2-4 pm at Welles Turner Library, 2407 Main Street, Glastonbury. Bring copies of a poem to share if you want feedback on your work.

Manchester

Linda Richardson
wwpoetryclub@gmail.com

The Manchester chapter meets from 1-3 pm on the second Saturday of each month from September through June at The Arbors, 403 West Center Street in Manchester. Bring ten copies of a poem to share, although we do not give serious critiques of the poems. The chapter meets informally in July and August at the same location.

Middletown

Pamela Guinan
860-563-5761
Pamela.cps@hotmail.com

The Middletown chapter meets at the Russell Library, 123 Broad Street at 6 pm on the last Wednesday of each month. Bring copies of a poem for reading and critique.

New Haven

Vic and Laura Altshul
lauraaltshul130@gmail.com

The New Haven chapter meets on the third Saturday of the month at the Friends Room at Miller Memorial Library, 2901 Dixwell Ave., Hamden, from 10:15 am-12:15 pm.

Southbury

Marion McGauhy
860-354-2157
Mcgauhy@aol.com

The Southbury Chapter meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 2 pm. Meetings are held at the Southbury Public Library, 100 Poverty Road. New and prospective members should contact Marion for summer meeting schedule times as the library's hours change during the summer.

Wilton

Ray Rauth
Rayrauth@optonline.net

This group meets every third Saturday from 2 to 4 pm in the Wilton Library, 137 Old Ridgefield Road. Members bring in copies of poems to distribute to all of the attendees. The poems should be no more than 40 lines.

No chapter in your area?

Consider starting one! All that's required is a regular meeting time, a place to meet, and a willingness to work with CPS poets.

Co-Presidents' Message

For many, autumn is the most beautiful time of the year with the trees turning colors, the milder weather and seasonal activities. Students and teachers are back to work; harvest and fall themes and fairs will be a focus for many.

The Connecticut Poetry Society (CPS) is planning our annual holiday party. As many who attended last year's festivities know, we are exploring for a new location. Our traditional meeting place has undergone physical changes to its layout and is no longer ideal for our needs. We are working to find a location that is easily accessible to more members. Last year's turnout was wonderfully larger than usual and we hope to continue this trend.

CPS is running well in all areas, while we can always do better and will strive to do so. One goal is to increase our membership in some spots in Connecticut where our demographics show few members. There are many fine poets and poetry-lovers everywhere in the state, and we would like to see them represented in our organization, the only state-wide poetry organization in Connecticut open to anyone who has an interest in joining.

One tried and true method is for you to invite someone to a chapter meeting, workshop, or event where they can discover the joys and satisfaction of associating with like-minded folks. We also want to hold events and readings, to look for persons willing to establish new chapters in new locations, and to expand the chapters that do exist. We will be contacting chapter leaders to update their information and communication with us.

We also are planning some Poets on Poetry (POP) programs to new areas – hopefully libraries. Thank you to Christine Beck for founding and running the POP series, featuring educational and informative speakers on major poets. We present these programs in partnership with the Hartford Public Library.

Our membership is currently around 180 people and has been at this level for the last couple of years; this is the most this group (founded in the mid-1970's) has ever had.

Thanks to the efforts of previous treasurer and current Poet Laureate of Glastonbury Michael Lepore, and to generous sponsors of our contests and donations from our members, we are in good financial shape and do not have to wonder if we will have enough operating funds from day to day.

CPS has an executive board consisting of volunteers. Thanks to all of them, especially our newest and very energetic treasurer Mark Sheridan, and vice-president Victor Altshul. CPS runs several poetry contests, including one for students in Connecticut, which is free. Thank you Joan Hofmann, contest chairperson. We also sponsor a contest with our national parent organization, the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS).

In addition, we publish the excellent national journal, *Connecticut River Review*, which members have recently received in the mail or at the CPS Picnic. If your copy has not yet arrived, please contact us at connpoetry@comcast.net.

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy fall season. Be prolific in your writing, reading and enjoyment of quality poetry.

—Co-Presidents Tony Fusco and Pat Mottola

Should Your Poem Be on the CPS

Website?

The CPS online Poetry Page features two poems by members each month. Send one poem for consideration, no longer than 60 lines, using the online submission form here:

<http://ctpoetry.net/members-only-poetry-submission-form.html>

Poet in the Spotlight

Cheryl Hale has been in love with the written word her entire life, and with poetry since her early teens. She wrote some poetry over the years, but it wasn't until she was in her sixties that she began to believe that what she had to say might be worth saving and sharing. Encouragement from Andy Weil and her late husband, Bob Balay, helped her transition to believing in the worth of her writing.



Cheryl Hale

In her youth, Hale was influenced by the lyrics of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen, and the thrilling work of Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Allan Ginsburg and e.e. cummings. Now her poetry bookshelves overflow with volumes by Dick Allen, W.B. Yeats, and many other poets who fall (alphabetically) in between.

At the moment her night table holds Edna St. Vincent Millay's *Collected Lyrics*, Tracy K. Smith's *Wade in the Water*, the *Collected Poems* of Robert Hayden, and *Poetry of Presence*, an anthology edited by Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby R. Wilson. But her taste in poetry, as in music,

covers a broad spectrum. She loves James Wright's lucidity and ability to startle, the music in

Langston Hughes' work, Robert Frost's voice of Everyman, William Carlos Williams' ability to paint vivid pictures with an economy of words, Gwendolyn Brooks' ability to break her heart, Emily Dickinson's or Jane Kenyon's level gaze at fate, and Dorothy Parker's wry humor.

Nature is a frequent source of inspiration for Hale. She also writes to give voice to or work through difficult emotions. She has written and self-published a small volume of haiku. Her work has also appeared in some local publications and on-line journals.

As well as writing poetry, Hale paints, photographs nature (and her grandchildren), travels, visits museum, and oh yes, she works too, in an assisted living facility, doing a variety of tasks, including helping to facilitate art and poetry workshops. She enjoys helping seniors discover talents that they might not have known they possessed.

A fan of CPS, Hale has belonged to the organization for several years, and enjoys the company of the fine poets she has met through programs and get-togethers sponsored by the Connecticut Poetry Society. She says, "I applaud all who would promote the arts."

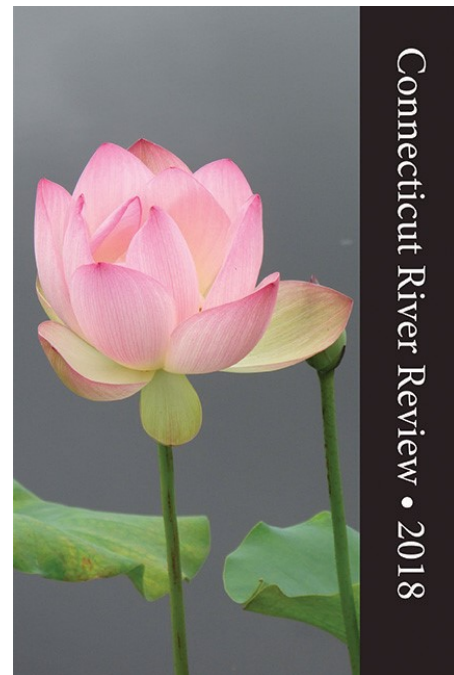
CPS Members Among Winners of Poetry Contests Run by NFSPS

Every year our national organization, NFSPS (National Federation of State Poetry Societies) runs a group of poetry contests open to people from across the country. This year several of our members earned honors. James Mele won first place in the Donald Stodghill Memorial Award and Joshua Conklin won the San Antonio Poets Association Award. Pat Hale was a second prize winner for the Arizona State Poetry Society Award. Elaine Zimmerman and Joshua Conklin were each awarded honorable mention in three different awards, Tony Fusco was given honorable mention in two awards, and James Mele took an honorable mention in one award. Congratulations to these fine poets! They make CPS look good. Look for more information about this group of contests in January, when they will once again be open to submissions.

CRR Poetry Contest Accepting Submissions Now

The CRR Poetry Contest is accepting submissions through the end of September. Prizes of \$400, \$100, and \$50 are offered, and winning poems are published in the *Connecticut River Review*. Submit up to three poems on one document, with an 80-line limit/poem. No contact information on the poems. Electronic Submissions only. Here is the link to submit:

www.connecticutriverreview.submittable.com



Hot Off the Press: *Connecticut River Review*

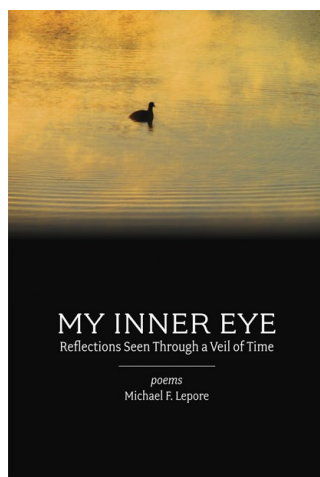
Members have received their copies of this year's *Connecticut River Review*. Poets from around the country, and some from other countries, are represented in this year's edition, but Connecticut residents are certainly among the contributors. More than 400 people from the United States and abroad submitted work to be considered. The submission period for next year's journal opens in February. If you would like to order additional copies, you can do so through the CPS website, through amazon.com, or you can write a check made out to CPS and mail it to CRR, Attn: G. Connors, PO Box 270549, W. Hartford, CT 06127. The poetry journal costs \$12. Shipping is \$3, or \$5 for two or three copies, or \$10 for over three copies. If you are associated with a school or university, consider asking them to purchase one for their library.

Poetry Books by CPS Members

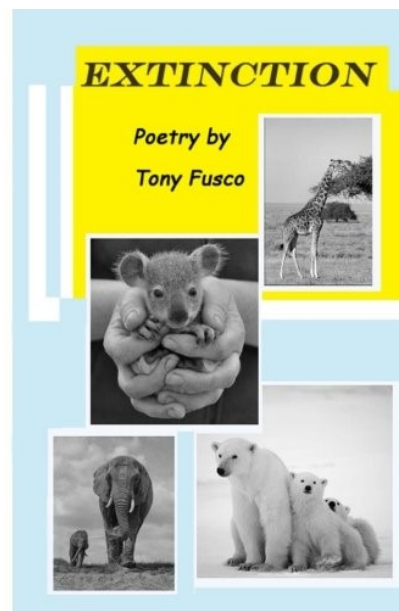
Our members continue to write successfully and publish widely. Here is news on some new and forthcoming publications.

Zelda Zieselman has published a book containing 64 poems, which is called *Love, Laughter and Lunacy*. Available through amazon.com.

Jack Powers' debut poetry collection, *Everybody's Vaguely Familiar*, is due out in November from Golden Antelope Press. It will be available through amazon.com. The poems explore fatherhood, the death of a parent, and the ways we can get the most out of the time we have.



Michael Lepore, recently appointed poet laureate of Glastonbury, also has a new collection of poetry, due out in October. It's called *My Inner Eye: Reflections Seen Through a Veil of Time* and will be available through the publisher, Grayson Books, or through amazon.com. This book is a departure for Lepore, whose previous poetry collections deal with the Vietnam War and its effects on veterans and others affected by the war. The newest book, in contrast, is more personal in nature and reflects on many aspects of a life well-lived.



CPS Co-President Tony Fusco has a new collection of poetry out called *Extinction*. Maria Mazziotti Gillan says of his book, "The 'Apocalypse' is coming and it rhymes! Meet 'The Last Dancing Witch,' 'The Seven Deadly Sins,' 'The Day of the Dead,' 'That Kind of Woman,' and 'A Man Like Him,' among other poems that are serious, witty, clever political and social satire, and observations by this award-winning Connecticut writer." This book is available through amazon.com.

Several CPS members are included in a new anthology: *Unlocking the World: An Anthology of Found Poetry*, edited by Jonas Zdanys. The book was featured in a reading at the Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford on September 9th, and additional events are planned. Contributors to the anthology include Vivian Shipley, David Leff, Laura Altshul, Pamela Guinan, James Finnegan, Sherri Bedingfield, and others.

Poetry at the Noah Webster House

The Noah Webster House and Historical Society in West Hartford is a place to celebrate words. On Sunday, October 7th, from 2-5 pm, three poets will present their work there, in a program hosted by Maria Sassi. The poets include our co-president, Tony Fusco, as well as Dennis Barone and David Cappella. An open mic and light refreshments are included. The location is 227 South Main Street in West Hartford.

Riverwood Poetry Series at Real Art Ways

The popular Riverwood Poetry Series has moved to Real Art Ways in Hartford, 56 Arbor Street. Refreshments are available there, including beer and wine. The fun begins at 7 pm. The following poets will be featured in upcoming events.

September 11: Leslie McGrath

October 9: Jose B. Gonzalez

November 13: Claire Schwartz

POPs: Poets on Poetry

In collaboration with the Hartford Public Library, CPS runs a monthly feature in which local poets discuss well-known poets. Christine Beck coordinates this program. The meetings are held from 10 am to noon in classroom 139 at the library on 500 Main Street. Fall programs are as follows:

September 29: John Stanizzi will present on Gerard Manley Hopkins

October 27: Mark Sheridan will discuss Rumi

November 17: Kathleen McIntosh will host a program on Federico Garcia Lorca

Connecticut River Review Celebration

There will be a book launch for *Connecticut River Review* on September 16 at 3 pm at the RJ Julia Booksellers in Middletown, which is also the Wesleyan University bookstore on 413 Main Street. Several contributors will share their work. We'd love to see a group of CPS members in the audience! It's a wonderful bookstore.

Poetry Institute Reading

On the third Thursday of each month, the Poetry Institute in New Haven celebrates an eclectic mix of poetic voices. On September 20th, Ginny Connors will be there, reading from her book *Toward the Hanging Tree*. Doors open at 6:30 and things get rolling at 7 pm. Arrive early to sign up for the open mic. 847 Chapel Street, New Haven. This is right next door to the tattoo parlor, so you can get a tattoo and hear some poetry all in the same evening!

Books on Pratt!

Pratt Street in Hartford will close to traffic on September 28th so that people can attend a large book fair. There will be bands, poetry recitations, authors signing books, and lots of fun. Barnes & Noble and the Hartford Business District are sponsoring this free event.

Billy Collins In West Hartford Oct. 4th

On Thursday, October 4th, at 7 pm, Billy Collins will be in the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium, 50 South Main Street for a reading, Q & A, and book-signing.