

The Utah State Poetry Society's POET TREE

September '11

President's Message – Eric Read

Our society has suffered great losses these past months: Wanda Blaisdell, Patricia Grimm, and Helen Keith Beaman. We were looking forward to having Helen lead us as President for two years. Her sudden passing has hit everyone very hard. Now we have lost Theda Bassett as well. This is a time for reflection and rededication to the standards they have set for us. I know we can work together to honor their memories and legacy, bringing even more honor to the Utah State Poetry Society.

I'll give a brief bio of myself, for those of you who don't know much about your new president. I was born April 2, 1941, in Lincoln, Nebraska, to Harold and Mary Read. My birth order is first of eight. I'm five years older than my closest sibling, a sister. I was educated in Pocatello, Idaho, graduating from Pocatello High School in 1959.

The morning after my All-Night Party, I enlisted in the Army at Fort Douglas, Utah. I was trained at Fort Gordon, Georgia, as a radio teletype operator with skills in International Morse Code, voice radio communications, teletype, and crypto; and I even managed to fit in a switchboard operator course.

For the next 20 years, I roamed around the world, going first to Germany and France, then a tour in Italy. This was followed by two tours in Vietnam, where I earned the Combat Infantry Badge while serving with the 1st Infantry Division and then the 82nd Airborne Division.

My first marriage produced five sons and no daughters. My wife passed away in April 1998. I married Grace in March of 2000, and she brought 4 sons into our marriage.

While in the army, I earned college credits from Augusta College in Georgia and from the University of Maryland, European Division. I even managed to attend Idaho State University after I retired from the military.

When my military life was finished, I worked as a security guard for the DOE at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory for one year. The next 21 years I worked for the Pocatello Post Office, retiring in 2001 as the Supervisor of Delivery and Collection.



My earliest memory of writing poetry is while I was on my first tour in Vietnam. Honing my craft came after I moved to Brigham City and joined Ben Lomond Poets. Clarence Socwell, La Von Carroll, and others too numerous to mention have helped me grow. I feel very humbled by the opportunity to serve all of you and the Society as president. This is not an office that I sought, since I was very happy serving as the treasurer. However, I will do the best I can to continue the upward movement that we have enjoyed under LaVerna, Vera, Ned, Geraldine, and all of the others who preceded me.

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CHAPTER NEWS: WHAT'S UP WHERE YOU LIVE?

Dixie Chapter

D. Gary Christian

UTSPS will, once again, partner with Red Rock Writers and Zion National Park in presenting Poetry In the Park (PIP), Friday, March 30, 2012. Budd Powell Mahan will be the visiting poet.

PIP is held in conjunction with Red Rock's Creative Writing Seminar which will be held Thursday, March 29, through Saturday, March 31, 2012, at the Arts Complex in St. George. Faculty members will be Budd Powell Mahan, Douglas Alder, Merry Palmer. We are waiting confirmation on the fourth member who has expressed great interest in participating.

Several members of Dixie Chapter attended, enjoyed, and were enlightened at the NFSPS Convention in Michigan this year. Barbara Funke, Candy Fowler, LaVerna Johnson, and Marie Tollstrup were winners in this year's national poetry competition. All are winners at Dixie Chapter.

The Chapter has held two enjoyable and useful workshop meetings each month during the summer. Regular monthly meetings with lessons and critiques begin September 6 at 3 p.m. at the Washington County Library.

Dixie Chapter also co-sponsors Redrock's poetry readings at Barnes & Noble the second of each month, September through June at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Oquirrh Chapter

Marney Zambrano

Not much has happened with Oquirrh Chapter since we adjourned for the summer, unless you count various vacations and assorted personal pursuits not necessarily related to poetry. But a few of us were involved in judging the Tooele County Fair poetry contest.

In the interim, more members have encountered schedule conflicts that will prevent the majority of us from attending our monthly chapter meetings if we continue to hold them on Wednesday evenings. Here we go again! We will definitely get together in September. But as of

How to Join a *Round Robin*

Looking for help and encouragement? A poetry snail-mail "round robin" might be just what you need. When you join, several other people will read your poems and make favorable comments and suggestions. In return, you read and critique poems for the other members. Join today by writing to:

Clarence Socwell
2737 N. 650 East
Ogden, UT 84414
poetcps@comcast.net

Include your name, address, telephone number, and email address (used for contact purposes only). When four to six people inquire, your names will be added to a group and you will receive the first round by regular mail.

press time, we have not settled on a different weekday for us to wax poetic out here in the "Tules."

For the latest updates as they develop, check out utahpoets.com or email chapter president Marney Zambrano at mezbooker@yahoo.com.

Valley Winds Chapter

Paul Ford

We continue to meet twice a month, newcomers and old hands sharing work to improve our poems. We lost a dear poet friend, Theda Bassett, in early July. Will miss her enthusiasm for expressing experience in all manner of poetic forms. Those of us new to poetry were blessed to learn from her.

The second Wednesday of August will be our summer potluck. For the last Wednesday of August, we look forward to learning from Lee Snell and hearing his award-winning poems from *Night Wind Home*. Fall will bring the return of valley poets from their travels and hopefully to share their new poems at our twice-a-month meetings.

Utah State Poetry Society Shines

LaVerna B. Johnson

2011 NFSPS Convention Report

Elaine Christensen, Kathryn Clement, Heather Duncan, Barbara Funke, LaVerna B. Johnson, and Anita Krotz were all NFSPS Convention attendees at Dearborn, Michigan's wonderful 2011 poetry convention. We relished cheering for so many fine Utah poets! Utah won the most awards this year, despite our closest state competitor Texas' greater number of entries.

We are especially proud of NFSPS prize-winning student poet Heather Holland Duncan, 2011 Edna Meudt Chapbook Award winner. She did a fantastic job of presenting her work, *The Art of Joy*.

Please be thinking of our 2012 National Poetry Convention in Indiana! Everyone is welcome to attend an event where we will make new friends from across America, as we learn from amazing poets and enjoy poetry together. You will never regret saving for this "reigning day" for Utah poets! For more information and a complete list of all 2011 winning poets, see www.nfmps.com.

Utah's winning poets include the following:

Edith L. Baker: 1HM, 1HM, 2HM, 2nd Place, 6HM, 2nd Place; Vera O. Bakker: 2HM, 3rd HM, 2nd Place, 7HM; Theda Bassett: 2HM, 1HM; Helen K. Beaman: 3rd Place, 2nd Place, 3HM, 1HM; Lynne Benson: 7HM; Elaine Christensen: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 2nd Place, 5HM, 2HM, 1HM, 3rd Place; Kathryn E. Clement: 3rd Place, 6HM; Beverly Cook: 2HM, 1st Place; Crystie Cook: 3HM; Robert V. Davis: 6HM; Geraldine Felt: 3HM; Candy Lish Fowler: 6HM; Barbara J. Funke: 2nd Place, 1st Place, 3rd Place, 1st Place, 3rd Place, 2HM; Karen K. Gibson: 3rd Place, 3HM, 6HM; Maurine Haltiner: 2nd Place, 1st Place, 4HM, 2nd Place, 6HM, 5HM, 2nd Place, 6HM, 2nd Place, 7HM, 2HM; Grace Diane Jessen: 3HM, 1HM, 6HM; LaVerna B. Johnson: 5HM, 6HM, 1HM, 2HM, 3HM, 1HM; Marilyn Johnson: 2HM, 2HM; Joyce Kohler: 3HM, 2HM, 4HM, 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3HM, 4HM, 2nd Place; Anita M. Krotz: 2HM, 1HM, 3HM; Kolette Montague: 3HM, 6HM, 1HM; Martha Morriss: 7HM, 7HM, 3rd Place, 5HM; Julie Nelson: 3rd Place, 3rd Place, 3HM; Geraldine R. Pratt: 7HM; Glenn Pruden: 4HM, 3HM, 4HM; Susan Randall: 2HM; Eric H. Read: 2nd Place, John Calvin Rezmerski: 1HM, 1HM, 5HM, 1st Place, 3rd Place, 1HM; Merrijane Rice: 3rd Place; N. Colwell Snell: 6HM; Clarence P. Socwell: 6HM, 5HM, 1HM, 1HM; Marie Tollstrup: 7HM; Juanita B. Watts: 6HM, 7HM, 1HM

Heather Duncan Utah Student Winner at Nationals

Heather Holland Duncan, a Utah student and member of UTSPS, received the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' 2011 Edna Meudt Memorial Award. Heather received a cash award, publication of her chapbook, *The Art of Joy*, transportation expense aid, and honors at the National Poetry Convention in Dearborn Michigan this June. She did a fantastic job of presenting her poetry, wowing the audience!

Please see www.nfmps.com for rules and guidelines for the 2012 competition for students who write poetry. Your Utah contact person for this national competition is Utah State Poetry Society's College/University Chair:

William O. Asplund
2262 East 1200 North
Layton, UT 84040

801-544-4714 or wasplund@comcast.net

We hope to see you, your student, your institution represented on poetry's national stage in coming years.

Poetry On Canvas Competition *Information & Rules*

Because of the success of the American Fork Arts Council's literary competition in 2011, we are again asking for statewide submissions to the second annual contest.

This year, "Utah Voices" will be limited to poetry entries, of which 40 will be chosen to be printed as a book. Ten of those 40 will go on to the "Poetry On Canvas" event.

Local artists will again volunteer to interpret each of the 10 selected poems in fine art.

The painting and poem combinations will be framed and displayed at the American Fork Arts Council building during the month of April. In addition, M. Ryan Taylor from the Arts Council might again interpret and set some of the poetry to music.

All poets, artists, and musicians will be honored at a public gala the evening before the spring seminar. In addition, the winners will be invited to read that evening. (The date has yet to be determined.)

The American Fork Arts Council offers this opportunity as a venue for those involved in the arts.

RULES

- Entry Fee: \$7. This price includes the chapbook and postage costs to mail the book directly to you. Please send a check made out to:

Timpanogos Arts Foundation
c/o Lori England
31 Church Street
American Fork, UT 84003

- Submissions are limited to five poems per author.
- Poem length: 32 lines or less
- Send each entry separately, via email only, to utahartsvoices@gmail.com.
- Subject line of email **must** include author name and title of submission.

- Place the entry in the body of the email. No attachments, please.
- Deadline: October 1, 2011
- Previously published work is acceptable if the author retains rights.
- By entering the contest, author certifies their submission or submissions are their original work and they own the rights of publication. The American Fork Arts Council Press does not keep any publication rights or ownership once the selected works are published.

NOTES

- If any of the above guidelines are not met, the submission(s) will be disqualified.
- If the author is using a pen name, it must be included in each communication related to the "Poetry On Canvas" event.

Caleb Warnock, Director Literary Programs
M. Ryan Taylor, Composer
Cindy Bechtold, Poetry Director

HOSPITALITY NEWS Marney Zambrano

Our erstwhile Hospitality Co-Chair, Anita Krotz, did a marvelous job both behind the scenes and in more visible roles, such as manning the tables and greeting people at our activities. We appreciate her cheerful attitude and tireless service. Welcome to Louise Cook, who volunteered to take Anita's place. If you don't know Louise yet, be sure to introduce yourself to her next time we meet; she's a charming young lady.

Please contact her or Co-Chair Marney Zambrano if you'd like to be on the committee and help with hospitality duties at upcoming events.

2012 REDROCK WRITERS CHAPARRAL POETRY FORUM

Following are the guidelines for this year's Redrock Writers poetry contest. For more information, please visit www.redrockwriters.org.

CHOLLA DIVISION

- First Prize \$200, Second Prize \$100, Third Prize \$50
- Any subject, any form, 42 lines or less

CHAQUETA DIVISION

- First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize \$25
- Southwest Theme: Nature, people, history, etc. — any form, 42 lines or less

CHIMERA DIVISION

- First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize \$25
- Imaginative or absurd/humorous, 42 lines or less

CHAPAREJOS DIVISION

- First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize \$25
- Rhymed and metered poem, any subject, 42 lines or less

STUDENT DIVISION

- \$200 in prizes, no fee. Washington County students only.

GUIDELINES

Each poem must:

- Be original, *unpublished*, 42 lines or less
- Have line lengths to fit chapbook pages, "typed" neatly on white 8½ x 11-inch paper, no art work
- Be in good taste
- Not have won more than \$10 in a Utah contest

Send two copies of each poem with division listed in top left corner, no personal identification on first copy.

Second copy only: In top right corner, list name, address, email, and telephone number (sticker okay).

Entries must be postmarked July 1, 2011, through November 2, 2011.

Poems will not be returned. For a list of winners, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submission indicates permission for top three poems to be published in the Chaparral Poetry Forum chapbook (Barbara Funke, Editor) and/or online at www.redrockwriters.org.

All winning poems will be read at the 16th Annual Redrock Writers Seminar.

Entry fees: \$3 per poem. Make check payable to Redrock Writers Guild. Mail entries to D. Gary Christian, 2110 N. Blake Drive, Santa Clara, UT 84765.

Our First Redrock Writers Seminar, held February 1, 1997, featured (1) Utah's first Poet Laureate, David Lee, (2) Utah's second Poet Laureate, Kenneth Brewer, (3) Utah's current Poet Laureate, Kathryn Coles, and celebrated author Lyman Hafen. Succeeding years continued this standard of presenting four outstanding authors to teach and share talent.

Enjoy our 16th Annual Redrock Writers Seminar March 29-31, 2012.

For registration information, please contact D. Gary Christian at vikings@bajabb.com.

Redrock Writers Guild serves as a non-profit for the benefit of the public. This project is supported in part by the Utah Division of Arts & Museums, with funding from the state of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts.

LaVerna B. Johnson,
Contest Chair
poetaken@gmail.com

Panorama News

We want to thank those many UTSPS poets who submitted poems to be considered for inclusion in the 2011 *Panorama*. Also, thanks to those who submitted photographs for cover consideration. If you didn't submit a poem this year, start planning now for 2012.

On November 1, we will make available an electronic version (pdf) of the 2011 *Panorama* front cover and table of contents. The latter will list the poets with the page numbers of their included poems. We will add a link to this pdf on the Publications section of utahpoets.com.

We plan to print before the end of November and have the *Panorama* mailed by early December to each UTSPS member. If you would like extra copies, perhaps to give as gifts, the Publications section at utahpoets.com will have a link for you to find out how to order more. Note that there is a reduced shipping rate per book when extra copies are mailed with a member's copy in the early December mass mailing.

Maurine Haltiner, Panorama Editor
Paul Ford, Panorama Technical Assistant

Poetry In the Park: A UTSPS & Zion National Park Partnership

The Third Annual Poetry In the Park's 2012 will be held March 30, 2012. Presenter Budd Powell Mahan is an inspiring poet, author, teacher, and a powerful voice for poetry. He won the Eakin Manuscript Competition in November 2005 with his book, *Falling to Earth*. He won the Stevens Manuscript Competition of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies in 2006 with his book, *Harvest*, and the 2010 Morris Memorial Chapbook Contest of the Alabama State Poetry Society with this book, *Witness*. Budd Powell Mahan served as the 26th president of NFSPS and as 16th and 19th president of the Poetry Society of Texas.

Poets have traveled from Canada, New York, Minnesota, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah to experience this full day of

poetry readings, workshops, writing, and nature experiences in one of the most beautiful spots in the world. Poets brown-bag their own lunches and enjoy a naturalist-led walk in the park during lunch. This is a day to remember. Don't miss it!

For registration information, contact Michael Plyler at 1-800-635-3959 or plyler.zcfi@yahoo.com. Or contact LaVerna B. Johnson at poetaken@gmail.com. Registration is \$60 for this 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. event. UTSPS members registering early receive a 20% discount, paying only \$48.

FALL 2011 — SPRING 2012 CALENDAR

Oct. 1, DEADLINE, Springfield Writers' Guild 2011 Poetry/Prose Contest

Oct. 1, DEADLINE, Poetry On Canvas Contest

Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m., Annual Book Concert, Salt Lake Library, 210 E. 400 S., Salt Lake. Featuring Lee C. Snell and his book *Night Wind Home*.

Nov. 2, DEADLINE, Redrock Writers Chaparral Poetry Forum Contest

Nov. 12, 10a.m.-12 p.m., Workshop, BDAC*

Jan. 14, 10a.m.-12 p.m., Workshop, BDAC*

Feb. 1, DEADLINE, *Poet Tree* submissions

Feb. 11, 10a.m.-12 p.m., Workshop, BDAC*

Mar. 10, 10a.m.-12 p.m., Workshop, BDAC*

Mar. 29-31, Redrock Writers Seminar, St. George, UT. Contact D. Gary Christian.

Mar. 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Poetry In the Park, Zion National Park. Featuring Budd Powell Mahan.

Apr. 20-21, UTSPS April Awards Festival. Featuring recent U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser.

* Bountiful/Davis Art Center, 745 So. Main, Bountiful. Take Bountiful 500 S. exit and drive east. Turn right onto Main; the Art Center is on the left. Lunch afterward with other UTSPS members.

UTSPS 2011 Poet of the Year: L.C. Snell

The Utah State Poetry Society has named L.C. Snell 2011 Poet of the Year. He also received the Pearl M. Olsen Book Award for his book *Night Wind Home*, which will be published in October.

The Society will hold a book concert in his honor on October 8, 2011, at 7 p.m. in the Salt Lake City Library auditorium. A book signing will take place before the concert at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Snell was born and raised in Cowley, Wyoming, located near the Big Horn Mountains. His experiences in sports, music, drama, and other “farming community” activities provide a rich seedbed for some of his poems.

He graduated from Brigham Young University in English with a minor in music before embarking on a 35-year teaching career. He has been the director of the Junior Creative Poetry contest two different years, as well as Secretary of the Utah State Poetry Society once.

Mr. Snell’s poetry has won prizes both locally and nationally and has been printed in several publications. He lives in Highland, Utah, with his wife, Nancy.

THE BILLINGS FAIR

When I asked Dad if I could go to the fair,
all he did was grin and ask if I’d watered the garden.
I hurried out and set the dam.
The water rushed through the ditch
to the head of the rows.
You could water ten rows at once,
so I figured I could do thirty in time.
By three-thirty, each set of rows
had an hour of water.

“Bob gets to go,” I said.
“Bob’s dad is rich. Besides,
you two would have the
smokestack torn off the sugar factory
before dark, the way you are.”

“Dad...”
He grinned a bit again, handed me five dollars.
“Don’t stay too late, and leave the girls alone.”

I wish I had known then the depth of his love,
the pathos behind the grin, knowing
he couldn’t provide as he wished,
but the joy he had in giving what he could.

L.C. Snell

SENDING POEMS TO THE CRITIQUE BUREAU

UTSPS members may submit 12 poems a year for **free** critiques from seasoned Utah poets (\$5 for nonmembers — make checks out to UTSPS). To take advantage of this service, please follow these guidelines:

- Send up to four poems per batch (max. five pages)
 - Send only one copy of each poem
 - Send one poem per page, typed on standard 8.5x11-inch white paper
 - Don’t staple pages unless a poem is two pages
 - Place your name and address in the upper right corner of each page
 - Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope
- You may submit a book manuscript for a \$15 fee (make checks out to UTSPS). Include two manila envelopes large enough to hold your manuscript and put adequate postage on both. Leave one envelope blank so your manuscript can be forwarded to a critic; self-address the other so it can be returned to you. Allow a month for return.

Each critic has a different approach. If you would like another viewpoint, you may send your poems to a different reviewer. Send submissions to:

UTSPS Critique Bureau
c/o Dr. Lavon B. Carroll
1742 25th South
Ogden, UT 84401

UTSPS Critique Bureau
c/o Elaine Ipson
449 Country Club Drive
Stansbury Park, UT 84074

Web Site

www.utahpoets.com



Incorporated 1963

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**NATIONAL
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