

February 2013

The Utah State Poetry Society's
POET TREE



Vera Bakker asked me in an email how I felt seeing the end of my term as president approaching. My first reaction, *Has it gone by so quickly?* To tell the truth, I don't know how I feel or where the time has gone. As I look back on my two years as President of UTSPS, some lines from Emily Dickinson come to mind, "My Life had stood--a Loaded Gun--/In corners - till a Day/The Owner passed--identified--/ And carried me away." Those words have been with me all the time as I have served our society. There was a need, and I was available.

When I was asked to take over after Helen Beaman's passing, I really felt inadequate to the task and position, but endeavored to do my best. I cannot begin to thank all of you who have accepted assignments when positions needed to be filled, nor would I attempt to, since I would probably forget a valued friend. There is one who has saved my "bacon" on many occasions with her help and knowledge of the society. I couldn't have done it without her, and she knows who she is.

The trust that was placed in me has not been misguided. There is much still to do to bring us into this new century with a growing society. Our membership is aging and needs to be infused with the strength and drive of youth. That is one of our goals. We need to find more ways to fund our society with grants from outside Utah Arts and Museums. While we have been turned down by one corporation, we

need to keep reaching out. I have stepped into a new role as a teacher of poetry in a local elementary school (something I probably wouldn't have done previously). My efforts were rewarded when I was asked to return for follow-ups. This is exciting. All of us who can, need to make ourselves available to teach the children. They don't need heavy duty teaching, but they do need the fundamentals to get them excited to learn more.

My term of office will end on July 1, and I will relinquish my position to Kevin Clark. There will be many changes on the board, and Kevin will need the support and help that all of us can provide. Don't be afraid to step up and fill a position if you are asked. Our organization cannot run properly without good, dedicated people. In the forward to Pickett's Charge by George R. Stewart, he said the following, "Sometime in the years, if not daily, must not each of us hear the command to rise and go forward, and cross the field, and go up against the guns?" This is not a war we are in, nor do I mean to infer that, but each of us has to find the courage to move out of our comfort zones and help the cause of our society to make it prosper. Helen Keller is quoted, "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do something I can do." Let's all pitch in and make UTSPS the shining star of NSFPS.

President Eric Read

Utah State Poetry Society Officers

President.....	Eric Read
President-elect.....	T. Kevin Clark
Advisory President.....	LaVerna B. Johnson
Secretary.....	Geraldine C. Felt
Treasurer.....	Robert J. Bader
Historian.....	Martha P. Morrise
Photographer.....	Esther P. Jackson
Membership.....	Rosalyn Ostler
Chapters Coordinator.....	Julie Nelson
Contest Chair.....	Kolette Montague
Contest Clerk.....	Edith Baker
Judges Coordinator.....	Grace Read
College/University Manuscript.....	William Asplund
Laureate President.....	Clarence P. Socwell
Laureate Publication.....	Gail Schimmelpfennig
Laureate Contest Chair.....	Elaine Christensen
Laureate Sales.....	Frank DeCaria
Book Concert.....	Kolette Montague
Book Sales.....	Robert Davis
Utah Sings Editor.....	Merrijane Rice
Panorama Editor.....	Maurine Haltiner
Panorama Assistant.....	Paul Ford
Poet Tree Editor.....	Vera O. Bakker
Mailing Coordinators.....	Irv Kimber Patricia Kimber
Critique Bureau.....	Elaine Ipson
Hospitality.....	Mirra Mitchell
Junior Creative Chair.....	Juanita Watts
Poetry Exchange.....	Clarence P. Socwell
Publicity.....	
Website.....	Paul Ford
Workshops.....	Steven Craner

Administrative Advisors

Vera Bakker, LaVon Carroll, Helen Mar Cook, Geraldine Felt, Robert Frederickson, Elaine Ipson, LaVerna Johnson, Kolette Montague, Rosalyn Ostler, Joel Passey, N. Colwell Snell, Clarence P. Socwell

Chapter Presidents

Ben Lomond (Ogden).....	William Asplund
Cedar City.....	Peter Wilkins
Dixie (St. George).....	Alma Richie
Oquirrh (Tooele).....	Elaine Ipson
Rhyme & Reason (Bountiful).....	Kolette Montague
Valley Winds (Salt Lake).....	Paul Ford
Word Weavers (Utah Valley).....	Pat Johnson
Write On (Utah Valley).....	Cindy Bechtold

Website www.utahpoets.com

Our Webmaster, Paul Ford, requests that you email him at pmford3@yahoo.com if you have any updates or information that should be included on the UTSPS website. He doesn't mind receiving the material from more than one source. Your help will keep our website updated for those who visit us there.

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.

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 Elaine Ipson
449 Country Club Drive
Stansbury Park, UT 84074

April Awards Festival

Our BIG poetry event is coming! We will be celebrating poetry with our special guests, Molly Peacock, Alex Caldiero and Dawnell Griffin. Then listen to and read your winning poems from our annual contest. April 19-20 is the date; the place, SLC Airport Hilton, where we have been before. Reserve your hotel room before March 21 to get the special price of \$75+tax. Send in the registration form to Kevin Clark before April 1 for the best fee. Nowhere else in the country can you get so much for so little.

Festival Schedule

Friday April 19

2:00 p.m. Workshop with **Alex Caldiero**
 3:15 p.m. Free Read-Around with
 outstanding Utah poets
 4:30 p.m. Board Meeting for Officers
 6:00 p.m. Dinner
 7:00 p.m. Reading by **Molly Peacock**
 8:00 p.m. Awards session,
 followed by Open Read-Around

Saturday April 20

7:45 a.m. President's Breakfast/
 Chapter Presidents' Meeting please be there
 9:00 a.m. Awards Session
 11:00 a.m. Molly Peacock presentation
 12:00 p.m. Lunch Buffet Reading by
Dawnell Griffin, Utah Poet of the Year, 2012
 1 p.m. Awards Session
 Poet of the Year 2013 Award
 5:00 p.m. Jr. Creative Awards
 Stay if you can and encourage Utah's young
 poets.

NFSPS Convention 2013 Albuquerque, New Mexico

This year's national convention will be held on June 13-17 in Hotel Albuquerque. The toll-free number is 1-800-505-7829, or email the hotel at hotelabq@hhandr.com and give them the following code: Block Code 13062013NA 2013 National Federation of State Poetry Societies. You can find convention details by going to www.nmpoetry.com.

Breaking News

UTSPS is going to host the 2014 NFSPS Convention Clarence Socwell has agreed to serve as General Convention Chairman, and he's done a *fantastic* job on the two conventions we hosted in recent years. Clarence will need plenty of helpers to make it the success we can be proud to share with poets from all over the U.S.

Will you volunteer to contribute to that success? There are, of course, "big" jobs but also many smaller responsibilities. Any way in which you are able to serve will help make the process smoother. And think of it, most of us will not have to put out for expensive airfare, etc.!

This is right in front of us, so Eric and Clarence need to put together a staff and a plan as promptly as possible. Wouldn't you love to be part of such a great experience? Please contact them as soon as you can.

Call for Submissions

Panorama needs your best poems for publication. Must be a member of UTSPS

Submit one copy of each poem with name of poet, city, and state, including awards and any other publication information. Poems may not have been previously published in a UTSPS-sponsored publication. Up to four submissions may be sent for consideration.

Poems must be flush left margin, though some deviation may be allowed. Each poem must be typed or computer-generated with no more than **38 lines**, including title, blank lines, poet's name, city, state, awards and publication information. Top three winners of \$shoot for the Loot category will be published, regardless of length.

Submission period is June 15 to July 31.

For complete details on submissions and where to submit, refer to www.utahpoets.com

Members interested in submitting photos or art to be considered for the cover should consult www.utahpoets.com

FESTIVAL PRESENTERS

Molly Peacock

Born in Buffalo, New York in 1947, Molly received a B.A. magna cum laude from Binghamton University, (SUNY) and an M.A. with honors from The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University. A transplanted New Yorker and a dual American-Canadian citizen, she now lives with her husband, Michael Groden, in Toronto.

Molly Peacock is the author of six books of poetry. Among her other works are a memoir called *Paradise, Piece By Piece* (1998) and *How To Read A Poem and Start A Poetry Circle* (1999).

Peacock also wrote and performed a one-woman staged monologue in poems, *The Shimmering Verge*, which she performed in theatres throughout North America. Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Best of the Best American Poetry*.

Former President of the Poetry Society of America, Peacock is one of the creators of Poetry in Motion on subways and buses throughout North America. Currently she is on the faculty of the Spalding University Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts program.

Alex Caldiero

Alex Caldiero (b. Alissandru Francesco Caldiero) is a poet, polyartist, sonosopher, and scholar of humanities and intermedia.

Born in the ancient town of Licodia Eubea, near Catania, Sicily, in 1949, Alex immigrated to the United States at age nine and was raised in Manhattan and Brooklyn, New York. He attended Queens College in Flushing, New York, and was apprenticed to the sculptor Michael Lekakis and the poet-bard Ignazio Buttitta.

Caldiero has traveled through Sicily, Sardinia, Turkey, and Greece collecting proverbs, tales, and folk instruments. He is co-founder of Arba Sicula, the society for the preservation of the Sicilian language and traditions, and is the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Utah Performing Arts Tour, and the Best Poetry Award from the Association for Mormon Letters.

Caldiero has lived in Utah since 1980 with his wife and children, and is Poet/Artist in Residence at Utah Valley University. Caldiero's work has been reviewed by *Village Voice* and *The New York Times* and he is included in *A Dictionary of the Avant-Gardes*.

SPRING BREAK

UTAH POETS – plan now for an awe-inspiring weekend in southern Utah, away from snow and smog. On Friday, March 22, POETRY in THE PARK, now in its fourth year, will feature Utah’s new Poet Laureate, Lance Larsen, to help you find and develop your poetic voice in beautiful Zion National Park. Make plans to explore the park’s majestic red rock cliffs and impressive natural beauty. Stay nearby in St. George, Utah (45 minutes away) with its new regional airport.

Participants are limited to 30 poets for this workshop, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., that includes an easy nature walk along the Virgin River guided by Naturalist Michael Plyler. You’ll love this time at the historic Zion Nature Center, away from life’s pressures, to fill your well, write poetry, and picnic with new friends. Cost-\$60 (\$48 for UTSPS or ZNPF members) includes free entrance to the park, snacks provided, please bring your own sack lunch. Presented in partnership with Zion Canyon Field Institute and Zion National Park Foundation; partially funded by the Utah State Poetry Society, Utah Division of Arts and Museums, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

See www.poetry-in-the-park.com for more information.

In conjunction with POETRY in THE PARK, make March 22-23, a complete writers’ weekend by attending the annual REDROCK WRITERS’ SEMINAR in the historic St. George Opera House. Featured faculty will include Lance Larsen, Utah’s Poet Laureate, Maurine Haltiner, former Utah Poet of the Year, and Janice Brooks, journalist and free-lance writer. Contest awards for the national Chaparral Poetry Forum will be presented during the seminar. See www.redrockwriters.org for further information.

POET TREE deadline 2013

Board members and chapter presidents, please note the following due date for your submissions to Poet Tree.

August issue

July 27, 2013

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

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. Remember, money can't buy happiness, but it can buy marshmallows, and that's just about the same thing.

Kolette Montague, Finance Committee Chair

CHAPTER NEWS

Rhyme & Reason Chapter

Bountiful

by Kolette Montague

The Rhyme & Reason Chapter is enjoying success with two meetings a month, AND we’re finding that one meeting in the evening and one in the afternoon seems to be an added bonus. More members are able to make it to at least one meeting a month. This year our 2nd Wednesday afternoon meeting will be in Vera Bakker’s lovely home. Our 4th Wednesday evening meeting will be at the Bountiful Library. We miss our Art Center and look forward to having the construction finished in a couple of years. Our contact committee reminds members about each meeting where we continue to improve our poetic skills and enjoy the camaraderie of poet friends. Our Christmas Party hosted by Vera Bakker and her son Vincent Malan, was a fun-filled success where we enjoyed good friends, good food, good poems and some *interesting* white elephants. We continue to adjust to changes as we progress as a chapter. We look forward to another year of productive poetry writing, sharing, and learning. Got poems? You bet!!



This project is supported by the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, with funding from the State of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts.



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS**

Winter/Spring Calendar 2013

Mar. 9 Workshop – Bountiful Library* 10:30 a.m.
 15 NFSPS contest deadline
 22 Poetry in the Park
 23 Redrock Writers’ Seminar

Apr. 19-20 April Awards Festival – SLC Airport Hilton**
 with Molly Peacock and Alex Caldiero.

June 13-17 NFSPS Convention in Albuquerque

June 15-July 31 submission period for Panorama

*Bountiful Library 725 S Main, Bountiful. Take Bountiful 5th S. exit, go east to Main St., turn right. The library is just north of BDAC our former meeting place. Meeting rooms are downstairs.

**SLC Airport Hilton
 Take I-215 west past the airport to an off-ramp saying Hotels. Turn left at the first intersection and proceed to the Hilton.

What the Stone Says
by Eric Read

In time long forgotten, before you
 rose up to walk on two
 instead of four, I was.
 Formed and shaped through millennia
 by cauldrons of fire, wind, water
 and ice, I have journeyed to find you,
 and you alone. My family found use
 in your hands as tools of life
 and death, but I am not of those.
 In me is something greater.
 Listen as you hold me in your hand
 and know that we are one.

Sky Watch*by Marilyn Ball*

St. George

Looking back, I see life shaped
 by this beloved land of my father's choice.
 Soil drank available rains, crops prospered,
 cattle ran free range on the prairie. The calves
 fattened... earth administered nature.
 Dad always took a turn outside at night, noted
 the stars. Was the moon clear or did it have a ring
 around it: signals that a storm was coming...
 perhaps a Chinook had our area as its target, he said.

If it were a summer evening, he would take time
 to point out some of the brightest stars.
 I learned to spot Orion, the North Star, the Big
 Dipper, Venus. Then we'd pause-- watch one
 great light fall, fading into the dark of our ranch land.

We took time in middle August to lie across
 the grass, watch the night sky, predict which
 direction next stars might slide across our vision.
 I felt it pull cobwebs of the Milky Way across
 our hair, plant our dreams with diamonds.

The Reader of Script*by Steven Leitch*

I saw him weep as he looked up from the page.
 To think my script should cause those tears.
 What word or phrase triggered the flow,
 that I might use them again,
 and get the same results in another poem?

Was it a haunting adjective or just a simple simile?
 Did my choice of words touch a heart long
 untouched?
 Where in my work was the breaking point?
 What strengths does my pen possess
 to cause such emotion to be expressed?

I asked him when his eyes were clear,
 what was on the page that made him sad.
 Again the tears began to flow,
 "There's nothing written in what I read,
 It's only that this poem's so bad."



UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY APRIL AWARDS FESTIVAL
 April 19-20, 2013, HILTON SALT LAKE CITY AIRPORT
 Featuring Molly Peacock and Alex Caldiero

Name _____ phone/email _____

Address _____

All meal prices include tax and tip

Registration Fee: **NOTE REGISTRATION FEES AND POSTMARK DATES BELOW***** _____ \$ _____

Meals:

Friday April 19 **Roasted Gremolata Chicken** ___ @ **\$26.00**

OR Bacon Wrapped Meatloaf _____ @ **\$26.00** \$ _____

Vegetarian or Vegan Dinners Friday dinner _____ @ 23.00 \$ _____

Saturday April 20 **Eye Opener Breakfast** _____ @ **\$13.00** \$ _____

Saturday April 20 **Big City Sandwich Lunch Buffet** _____ @ **\$23.00** \$ _____

Make Checks Payable to UTSPS _____ Total: \$ _____

I WILL _____ WILL NOT _____ be staying at the Hilton Salt Lake City Airport Hotel.
 I will call and make my own reservation on or before *March 21*. (See below)

My roommates are: _____

Mail THIS section and check made out to UTSPS to
 Kevin Clark, 1750 E 4800 S #34, Holladay, UT 84117

***New Registration Fees: (\$25.00 if postmarked before April 1, \$30.00 if postmarked after April 1, \$35.00 at the door
Pre-register by April 1 for *lowest registration and meal prices.

Make room reservations by March 21

_____ cut here _____

KEEP THIS SECTION FOR YOUR RECORDS

April 19-20 UTSPS Awards Festival will be held at:

Hilton Salt Lake City Airport, 5151 Wiley Post Way, (WEST of Airport)

Please make hotel reservations by **March 21** for special UTSPS rate of **\$75.00 plus tax**

Be sure to mention UTSPS. Phone **801-539-1515** or **1-800-999-3736**

MY RECORD OF REGISTRATION FEES PAID (Meal prices include tax and tip)

Registration: (\$25.00 if postmarked before April 1, \$30.00 if postmarked after April 1, \$35.00 at the door _____

Friday, April 19, 2:00 PM Workshop with Alex Caldiero
 3:15 PM Free Read-Around with outstanding Utah Poets
 4:30 PM Board Meeting for Officers
 6:00 PM **Roasted Gremolata Chicken** _____ **\$26.00** _____

or
Bacon Wrapped Meatloaf _____ **\$26.00** _____

7:00 PM Reading by **Molly Peacock**
 8:00 PM Awards session, followed by Open Read-Around
 Saturday, April 20 7:45 AM President's Breakfast/Chapter Presidents' Meeting during/after **\$13.00** _____
 breakfast...Chapter Presidents PLEASE be there

9:00 AM Awards Session
 11:00 AM Molly Peacock presentation
 12:00 PM **Big City Sandwich Lunch Buffet** **\$23.00** _____
 Reading by **Dawnell Griffin**, Utah Poet of the Year, 2012
 1:00 PM Awards Session

TOTAL PAID _____ \$ _____