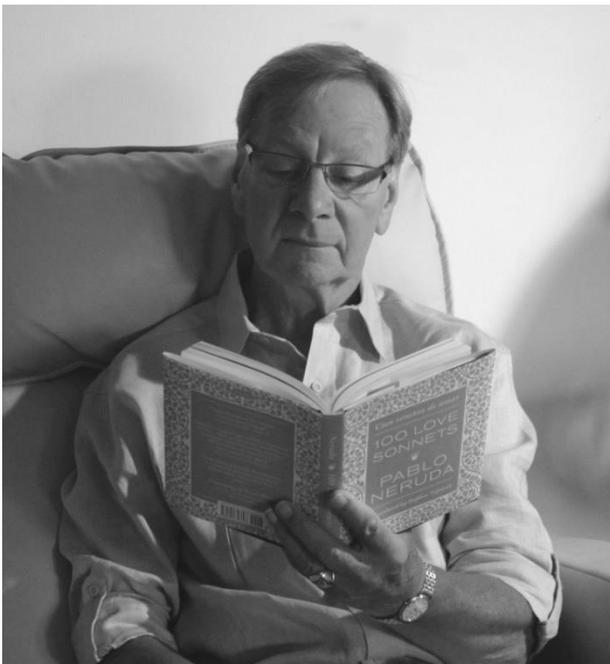
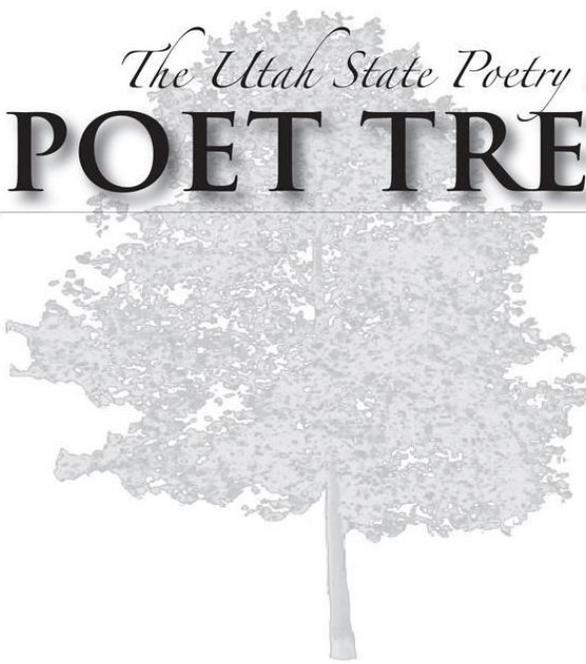


*The Utah State Poetry Society's*  
**POET TREE**

August – 2014



### President's Message

Members, fellow poets and friends:

My history with the society is long. I have been a member, though not continuously, since the

early eighties. I was invited by Lael Hill to join Inklings, a group that met monthly to share poetry. When her health permitted we met at Vesta Crawford's, the first book winner, and thereafter, until her death, at Alice Bailey's. Alice was the first professional contesting poet I knew. I remember her curt response to the question, Why do you win so often? "Because I enter."

Regardless of my many good memories, our Society needs to forge a new path. Though we all like comfort and resist change, we must face a few realities.

Our immediate focus needs to be on increasing our membership. We can create new friendships and enlarge our circles.

Though we are a non-profit society, we must cease operating at a deficit. Each year our April Festival is subsidized by a contribution from the Society's general fund. If this practice continues, the fund will be depleted and the Festival a fond memory.

Our attempt as officers and board members is to be as respectful and considerate of our members as we can possibly manage. I ask you, members, to meet us halfway as we make gradual shifts in our policies and procedures to better serve the health and longevity of UTSPS. Poets, keep your wicks trimmed and an eye cast toward the distant shore.

Orlan Owen, President

**Joyce Webb Kohler**  
**2014 UTSPS Poet of the Year**



One of nine children growing up on a farm nestled among sandstone cliffs in the Four Corners area of New Mexico, Joyce and her siblings were blessed with the freedom to roam and create their own fun, thus stimulating imagination and nourishing a love of the outdoors. Joyce's father was a great raconteur who told extemporaneous tales and read poetry to the children, fostering in them a love of language and literature.

Joyce's poems have won numerous awards in state and national contests and have been published in *The Ensign*, *Panorama*, *Encore*, and *Utah Sings Volume VIII*.

She has studied at both Brigham Young University and the University of Utah and continues to research and write about topics that interest her.

After twenty-three years with the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Brigham Young University, Joyce is enjoying retirement in Midway, Utah, where she lives with her husband and best friend, Dale. They are looking forward to celebrating their golden wedding anniversary next year with their daughter, son in-law, and two grandsons.

Busier than ever, Joyce gardens, weaves, makes paper and books, reads voraciously, cuts and polishes the stones she finds on their jaunts, and writes because she can't help it. Occasionally, she has the opportunity to teach English as a second language at BYU through conferences and workshops.

We look forward to reading the winning book publication for this year titled *like water, like bread*, certain to be a great addition to the UTSPS tribute to Utah's poet authors and to our individual collections of poetry.

The Book Concert will be held at 2:00 p.m., October 11<sup>th</sup>, in the Storyteller's Room at Orem Public Library on the corner of Center Street and State Street. Rob Sorensen and his violin students will be performing, accompanied by his wife, Kristen. Refreshments will be served.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

For the past several years, the Poetry Society has struggled to cover the cost of the April Festival. We understand that the downturn in the economy has had an impact on all of us, but if we want to continue to have a high quality conference, we have to make some changes in the way we do things. The changes we are proposing have been researched and carefully considered, and it is our hope that you will support the decision that has been made for the upcoming Festival in April 2015. Included in any gathering of this kind are hidden costs, not all of which are obvious to the membership of the Society, but which we must continue to meet if we are to move forward.

Unfortunately, we have been subsidizing the April Festival from the general fund, using 'capital' not just interest, and depleting our most basic resource. If we continue to do this,

the time will come when we will no longer be able to support the Festival.

Every conference center operates on the same basic premise. In order to provide meals (which is the way they make most of their money) they need an estimate of the number of people who will attend (based on past attendance) and they stipulate that everyone will be eating. The cost DOES NOT CHANGE regardless of who eats, which means that those who pay for meals are subsidizing those who don't. The remainder of the cost not covered by those faithful souls who register early and pay the full price, is paid for by the Society. There is no such thing as 'optional' payment of the basic registration (no meals), without consequences to the Society as a whole. Not only that, the major complaint at this year's Festival was about the food. Conferences are not restaurants, ergo, the meals are more expensive and not always high quality. In addition to that, there is a contract clause that excludes food being brought to the center from the outside, for which a hefty fine can be imposed. (Who talked me into this job anyway?)

We have made comparisons with other venues, i.e. conferences around the state and find that we can still offer a great deal, if we are willing to consolidate our registration to include at least more of the costs we incur annually.

The **Homestead in Midway, Utah**, has made every effort to accommodate us this coming year, and we are excited about the change in venue, with a promise of a good time and '*wonderful*' food! The Inn is five minutes from Heber City and within half an hour of Park City. (It took Kolette 45 minutes to drive there from Centerville (without breaking the speed limit.)

A \$100 registration fee will include both lunch and dinner and will at least *begin* to pay the expense for a quality guest speaker, the

conference center, and the electronics which are required to support our poetry readings. We hope you will respond by registering by mid-March and also reserving your rooms, which the Homestead has agreed to offer at the same price as the Doubletree in Salt Lake City. There are two queen-size beds in each of the rooms, if you want to share that expense. The Festival will be held April 24th and 25th. Plus, for a minimal fee you can take a dip in the crater!

Please come and enjoy the unique association we have with each other. We are looking for ways to increase our membership and ensure that the Society will thrive.

Dawnell Griffin

**Rhyme & Reason Chapter** continues with 2 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday afternoon meeting in Vera Bakker's lovely home. This allows Vera to attend meetings and the rest of us to take advantage of her gracious hospitality. On the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 comraderie of poet friends. We had a great time preparing our small part for the National Convention and especially enjoyed hearing chapter members names added to the long list of Utah wins. We look forward to our August Picnic, then resuming our regular meeting schedule in September. Got poems? You bet!

**Oquirrh Chapter's** May meeting featured our guest poet and friend Jon Sebba. In addition to carefully crafted excerpts shared from his 2013 UTSPS Book of the Year, Jon's spellbinding presentation included poems-in-process and astute observations about life in general and the

art of poetry in particular. He blends his unique informal commentary with humor. He enthusiastically participated in our critique session and quickly demonstrated his propensity for offering “spot-on” constructive criticisms that helped each of us reconsider our work in light of a fellow wordsmith’s insightful analysis. We really appreciated the time Jon spent with us. Oquirrh Chapter is now adjourned for the summer and we will resume our monthly chapter meetings in September.

**Ben Lomond Chapter** has a new president, Donovan Obray. He joins us in extending appreciation to Bill Asplund for his work in the organization.

Clarence Socwell, one of the past presidents of the NFSPS, pulled off another successful National Convention in Salt Lake City. He not only has great organizational skills, but should be applauded for his willingness to contribute so much of his time and talent, not only to accommodate poets from all over the country, but to make our Utah Poets look so good! Thanks, Clarence.

**Redrock Writers** of St. George are sponsoring the 2015 **Chaparral Poetry Forum**, with Barbara Funke as contest chair. Entries must be postmarked October 10, 2014, through January 10, 2015. Please refer to last page of this newsletter for contest guidelines.

**Dixie Poets Chapter**, has 21 active members, led by President Alma Richie. We keep busy down in Dixie-St. George. We meet year-round on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at the St. George Library for a lesson and critiques. There is also another new chapter in town called Redrock Writers, who meet on the second Thursday, with poetry readings at Barnes and Noble bookstore. Some of our members participated as judges for the local high school’s English Quest and Poetry Out Loud competition.

This past year saw our poets submitting poems and bringing home awards from UTSPS’ April Festival as well as NFSPS in Albuquerque, League of Utah Writers competition, Z-Arts contest and Redrock Writers Chaparral contest. We also had poets published in UTSPS *Panorama* as well as in Dixie State University’s *Southern Quill*. Our poets enjoy participating in Mesquite, Nevada’s Fine Arts Gallery Show by submitting poems that artists then choose as inspiration to make a piece of art. This year’s Sponsor’s Choice award went to Dixie Poets’ Marilyn Ball with Honorable Mentions to Lin Floyd.

For the St. George Book Festival last October, Dixie Poets VP Lin Floyd held the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual YOUTH POETRY CONTEST with over 200 students from Washington County School District participating. The contest theme was “Peace”, and prizes were awarded: books from Heritage Writers Guild and cash donated by Dixie Poets. Jon Sebba, UTSPS Poet of the Year made a presentation on his award-winning book to the children and adults at the Book Festival.

March was UTSPS’ 5<sup>th</sup> annual POETRY IN THE PARK started by Dixie Poets’ LaVerna Johnson and chaired now by Lin Floyd assisted by poets from both UTSPS chapters in St. George. John Rezmerski from Minnesota was our visiting poet leader. Poetry in the Park 2014, now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of being held each spring in Zion Canyon Park was a great success, with 26 poets attending and featuring John Rezmerski.

Our Dixie Poets president Alma Richie published a book entitled *Hear the Whisper of the Ancient Ones*, available for \$10. Proceeds go the Piute tribe to help in the preservation of tribal land in Anasazi Valley in Ivins, Utah. Lin Floyd published a self-help book entitled *Discover Your Voice After Divorce*, which includes a collection of her poems. Marlene

Bussma, our resident cowboy poet, continues to win awards.

### Poet Tree

The Poet Tree grows straight and tall in Dixie.  
We have poems and pomegranates here.  
Alma Richie is the Pres. He's stalwart.  
So are two dozen poets without peer.

In March we dangled poetry in Zion,  
hanging there from every tree and cloud.  
In April we read at the tabernacle  
and at Mesquite, the Virgin Valley crowd.

In June we had our usual summer party.  
We like it 'cause we get to eat and read,  
watch Alma when he's at his finest  
with magic. He's a wizard, yes indeed!

There were tons of other things we did,  
Opera House, Blue Raven, Barnes & Noble,  
dazzling with words and with our footwork  
around the country, active, keeping mobile.

Gary Christensen

**Poetry in the Park 2015** will be held March 20 with a poetry workshop from 9 am-4pm--**Beginnings and Endings**, with Lola Haskins. She is an award-winning poet, author of thirteen books of poetry and MFA instructor writing coach. The fee to attend is \$60 (includes free one day park entrance), \$49 for members of UTSPS or ZCFL. To register, contact Michal Phylar 800-635-3959. [www.poetry-in-the-park.com](http://www.poetry-in-the-park.com), or UTSPS-PIP Chair Lin Floyd 435-628-8522. Housing and carpools available in nearby St. George.

**Word Weavers** were represented well at the Saturday luncheon of the National Convention. The decorations and emcee rocked the joint, and many of our members won awards and

read their work. Sharon Anderson deserves all credit; Julie Nelson helped. The workshops provided rich poetry and inspiration. We will continue our meetings at Mary Boyack's home the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. We are hoping for renewed and rejuvenated participation from our many rock-star poets, as well as a couple of new members, Ralph Day and Frankie Attakai.

**UTSPS** held the April Festival in Salt Lake City, giving members of our society a chance to get together and renew friendships. It is always exciting to find out who won awards, and we congratulate all those who wrote and submitted this year. We are also excited about the Book Award that went to Joyce Kohler and look forward to her Book Concert. Whether or not you received an award, your efforts are recognized, and we want to encourage you to keep writing.

Time and effort go into preparing for the April Festival each year, and we appreciate all those who volunteer their time and talents to make it successful.

UTSPS hosted the **National Federation of Poetry Societies** (NFSPS) Convention June 25-29, 2014, in Salt Lake City at the Doubletree Hotel. The "Utah Rendezvous of Poets for All Seasons," started on Thursday and continued through Sunday. Jeremy M. Downes retired as president this year, and Eleanor Berry has filled the position. In addition, our own Paul Ford was voted onto the board. Presenters this year were Lance Larsen, Rob Carney, Diane Glancy, Joel Long, Clarence P. Socwell and Elaine Christensen. Those of us who were able to attend the Festival enjoyed a rich variety of presentations we will long remember. We encourage those who were not able to come to Salt Lake City to plan on next year's conference in Florida. Check both the national and state websites for further information.

Each Utah chapter was asked to provide a table decoration, and we are grateful for their combined efforts. Thank you, also, to Clarence Socwell, Kolette Montague, Marney Zambrano and Louise Cook for their hard work in making the convention a success. It is always exciting to host the NFSPS in our own home state.

Many of our Utah poets won multiple awards at the National Convention. We congratulate you and celebrate your accomplishments. Next year the convention will be in Florida, and we encourage you to write and submit. For those of you who plan to attend, it is always nice to be represented at the National Convention.

### **Partnering with Smith's Store**

GREAT NEWS! We are now 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 so 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 our great programs and functions throughout the state. Rewards card in hand, visit [www.smithscommunityrewards.com](http://www.smithscommunityrewards.com) and follow the few easy steps. Go to the website >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.**

### **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.

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.

### **Winter/ Spring Calendar 2014/2015**

October 10, 2014-January 10, 2015,  
Chaparral Poetry Contest deadline

**October 11-** Joyce Webb Kohler Book  
Concert at the Orem Public Library

November 8, 2014 - Workshop

February 1– UTSPS Contest deadline

March 15 – NFSPS Contest deadline

March 20, 2015- Poetry in the Park

April 24-25 – April Poetry Festival in  
Midway, Utah

**Utah State Poetry Society Inc.**  
**2014 Governing Board & Officers**  
(Updated July 2014)

Orlan Owen..... President  
Dawnell Griffin.....President-Elect  
Eric Read.....Advisory President  
Geraldine Felt\*..... Secretary  
Bob Bader .....Treasurer  
Rosalyn Ostler\*..... Membership Chair  
Steve Leitch .....Mailing Coordinator  
Paul Ford.....Webmaster  
Julie Nelson.....Chapters Coordinator  
Steven Craner.....Workshop Chair  
.....Poet Tree Editor  
.....Panorama Editor  
Mirra Mitchell.....Publicity Chair  
Robert Davis.....Book Sales Chair  
Marney Zambrano and Louise Cook  
.....Hospitality Chairs  
.....Historian/Librarian  
.....Junior Creative Director  
.....Junior Creative Clerk  
Kolette Montague  
.....Contest Chair/Finance Committee Chair  
Edith Baker.....Contest Clerk  
.....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 Johns  
Critique Bureau/ Laureates Book Venue Chair  
D Gary Christian..... Legal Consultant  
O William Asplund  
.....College/Univ. Mss Contest Chair  
Merrijane Rice.....Utah Sings Editor

\*Administrative Advisors (past presidents) also  
Vera Bakker, Helen Mar Cook, Robert  
Frederickson, LaVerna Johnson, Joel Passey,  
N. Colwell Snell

**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  
435-272-4105    alma.m.richie@gmail.com

Oquirrh ( Tooele)                              Marney Zambrano  
435-843-1215    mezbooker@yahoo.com

RedRock Writers                              Markay Brown  
435-275-2263    nadbmarb@gmail.com

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.

**Website [www.utahpoets.com](http://www.utahpoets.com)**

Consult the website for guideline details and  
submission deadlines to be considered for  
publication in Panorama. You may submit up  
to four poems for each volume.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP  
FILL POSITIONS ON THE BOARD.  
PLEASE CONTACT ORLAN OWEN.**



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**



## **Chaparral Poetry Forum 2015 Contest Rules**

Sponsored by Redrock Writers, St. George, UT  
Utah Contest Chair: Barbara Funke  
bfunke2@gmail.com. Entries must be  
postmarked October 10, 2014, through January  
10, 2015.

**CHOLLA Division:** any subject, any form, 42  
lines or fewer. First Prize \$200, Second Prize  
\$100, Third Prize \$50.

**CHAQUETA Division:** Southwest theme—  
nature, people, history, any form, 42 lines or  
fewer. First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50,  
Third Prize \$25.

**CHAPAREJOS Division:** Rhymed and metered  
poem, any subject, 42 lines or fewer. First Prize  
\$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize \$25.

**CHIMERA Division:** Imaginative or  
absurd/humorous, any form, 42 lines or fewer.  
First Prize \$100, Second Prize \$50, Third Prize  
\$25.

**STUDENT Division:** Washington County, UT  
No fee, \$200 in prizes.

**GUIDELINES:** Each poem must

1. Be original, UNPUBLISHED, 42 lines  
or fewer
2. Have line lengths to fit chapbook pages  
(4 inches across or shorter)
3. Be machine-printed neatly on white 8 ½  
x 11 paper without art.
4. Be in 12-point font in standard face as  
Times Roman.
5. Be in GOOD TASTE.
6. Have won no more than \$10 in any  
contest.

SEND 2 unfolded copies of each poem  
Division title at top left:

First Copy: plain, no ID

Second Copy: ID top right corner  
(name, address, phone, email)

INCLUDE entry fees: \$3 per poem  
Checks (no cash) payable to Redrock Writers

Mail unfolded poems and check in one 9x12  
inch (or larger) envelope to:

Barbara Funke  
Chaparral Poetry Forum  
474 W. Rolling Hills Dr.  
St. George, Utah 84770-6111

Submission indicates permission for top 3  
poems to be published in the 2015 *Chaparral  
Poetry Forum* chapbook (editor, Barbara  
Funke) and online at [www .redrockwriters.org](http://www.redrockwriters.org).

No poems will be returned. For a list of  
winners, include your SASE. All winning  
poems will be read aloud at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Redrock Writers Seminar.

Featured speaker in 2015 will be Lola B.  
Haskins, whose work has appeared in *The  
Atlantic*, *London Review of Books*, *Georgia  
Review*, and elsewhere. Among her awards are  
the Iowa Poetry Prize, two Florida book prizes,  
two NEAs, and the Emily Dickenson Award  
from PSA. Her most recent book (of thirteen) is  
*The Grace to Leave* (Anhinga, 2012).

Enjoy our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Redrock Writers Seminar  
activities March 20 & 21, 2015. For seminar  
registration contact Barbara Funke at [fbunke2  
@gmail.com](mailto:fbunke2@gmail.com) OR see Redrockwriters above.  
Also for more information on the Poetry in the  
Park, held Friday of the same weekend in Zion  
National Park, hosted by Zion Canyon Field  
Institute at the historic Nature Center, go to  
[www. poetry-in-the-park.com](http://www.poetry-in-the-park.com).

Also supported by the City of St. George and  
the Utah State Poetry Society.

