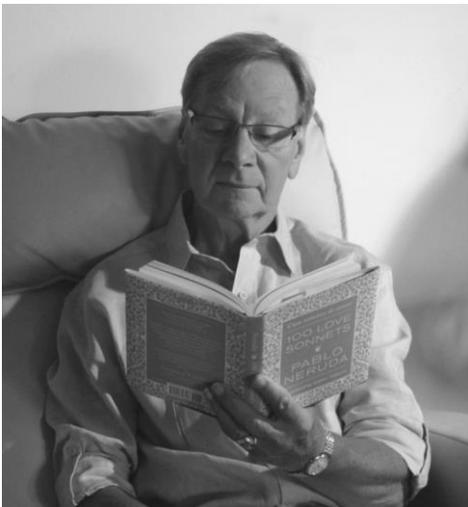


*The Utah State Poetry Society's*  
**POET TREE** *February - 2015*

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Fellow Writers:

This is my second opportunity to address the membership by letter in the Poet Tree. This time my message has a radically different content. Some of you know that I have enrolled in a low-residency MFA program in writing at the University of Southern Maine. The first residency was held in January in Freeport,

Maine and at the nearby Stone House on Wolf's Neck Peninsula. The ten-day residency was both exhilarating and exhausting. We were kept busy with workshops, lectures, seminars, graduate student presentations, and readings for a full twelve hours a day. (And I used to think that our April festival was tiring.) The ongoing time commitment necessary for performance and completion in this program means that I will not have adequate time to provide UTSPS with the leadership it deserves. I am, therefore, stepping down.

I owe a great debt of thanks to my predecessors and helpers, without whom I would have stumbled more clumsily. At the beginning of my presidency, I had ambitious goals, too many because change takes time and adjusting long-held mindsets. The Society needs to move into the electronic era of computer rather than hard copy submissions to contests. Files can be transmitted instantly by email attachment saving time and expensive postage. This is only a single example. In addition, as a Society, we need to partner so

that we do not bear the brunt of the legwork and expense (please read Junior Creative, which desperately needs a new name). But those tasks are future issues. I have created committees to assist the president and lighten the workload (thanks, Eric) so that the president's time can be spent expanding the society's role and creating new connections.

These tasks I leave to Dawnell Griffin our President-Elect, who has graciously agreed to step into the void I leave. With Dawnell at the helm I look forward eagerly to a newly designed and completely re-imagined April Festival, thanks to her efforts.

See you at April's end, Orlan

**UTSPS FESTIVAL'S GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**PATTIANN ROGERS**



In 1940, Pattiann Rogers was born in Joplin, Missouri. She graduated from the University of Missouri in 1961. She received her MA from the University of Houston in 1981.

Pattiann has published numerous books of poetry, including *Holy Heathen Rhapsody* (Penguin, 2013); *Wayfare* (Penguin, 2008); *Generations* (Penguin, 2004); *Song of the World Becoming: New and Collected Poems, 1981-2001* (Milkweed Editions, 2001),

*Firekeeper: New and Selected Poems* (Milkweed Editions, 1994); which was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize; and *Eating Bread and Honey* (Milkweed Editions, 1997).

Pattiann has been the recipient of two NEA grants, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Lannan Poetry Fellowship. Her poems have won several prizes, including the Tietjens Prize and the Hokin Prize from *Poetry*, the Roethke Prize from *Poetry Northwest*, the Strousse Award twice from *Prairie Schooner*, three book awards from the Texas Institute of Letters, and four Pushcart Prizes.

She has been a visiting writer at the University of Texas, the University of Montana, and the University of Arkansas, and a member of the faculty of Vermont College and the low-residency MFA program in creative writing at Pacific University. The mother of two grown sons, Rogers lives with her husband, a retired geophysicist, in Colorado.

The UTSPS is eager, plus honored to welcome Pattiann Rogers to our annual festival.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Kimberly Johnson**, who will give the Friday afternoon workshop, lives in Salt Lake City and teaches courses in creative writing and in Renaissance literature at BYU. She is a poet, translator, and literary critic. Her collections of poetry include *Leviathan with a Hook*, *A Metaphorical God*, and the forthcoming *Uncommon Prayer*. Her poetry, translations, and scholarly essays have appeared widely in publications including *The New Yorker*, *Slate*, *The Iowa Review*, *Milton Quarterly*, and *Modern Philology*. Kimberly has received numerous grants and fellowships, among them from the Utah Arts

Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

### **TIME TO REGISTER!**

Included with this issue you will find the registration/information form for this year's festival April 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. For the past several years, the Poetry Society has struggled to cover the cost of the April Festival. 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.

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.

The Homestead in Midway, Utah has made every effort to accommodate the Society this year. 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.)

The \$100 registration fee this year will include both lunch and dinner. 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. Plus, for a minimal fee, you can take a dip in the crater! We look forward to meeting and enjoying the unique association we have with each other.

### **CHAPTER'S CLIFF NOTES**

*[Editor's Note: There were too few submissions from UTSPS Chapters for the February Poet Tree. I emailed the chapter presidents three times but again, few responses. I would ask you please verify your chapter information and ensure emails are going to the appropriate people so all of UTSPS can share in the rewards poetry is bringing to your chapter. If I did not receive a response from your chapter, I left pertinent information but removed outdated content.]*

**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 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 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 rust and start filling Tooele County and the world with poetry.

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

**Redrock Writers:** This is the 19th year that we have sponsored the Chaparral Poetry Forum.

The contest is now closed. Contest poems from adults and students have gone to the judges and results will be announced Friday, March 20, 2015, at 8 pm in the Social Hall of the Pioneer Arts Complex in St. George. The following day, Saturday, March 21, please join us for our Creative Writing Seminar featuring Lola Haskins, Shane Williams, Warren Stucki, and Sondra Fraleigh as faculty. Registration is discounted for members of UTSPS.

For more details and the registration form, see our website: [redrockwriters.org](http://redrockwriters.org)

Three of our members were winners in the Utah Original Writing Competition sponsored by the Utah Division of Arts and Museums and announced in November. Shane Williams won Honorable Mention in the Youth Book category,

Candy Fowler took 2nd place in the 10-poem category and Markay Brown won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Book of Poems category.

**Dixie Poets Chapter:** Alma Richie leads 21 active members, all keeping poetically 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 chapter in town called Redrock Writers, who meet on the second Thursday, with poetry readings at Barnes and Noble bookstore.

## **GHERKIN: GOOD PICKLE OR SILLY NAME?**

Gherkins, from the species *Cucumis sativus*, are members of the cucumber family pickled as a tasty treat and sandwich accompaniment. It is also a fun and silly name to say aloud (try it). Not silly enough for you? A sillier food name makes you giggle. Okay, we will let poetry decide.

Submit your favorite silly food name (one only) to dee at [deethirteen@gmail.com](mailto:deethirteen@gmail.com). The silliest names amongst them will be chosen them UTSPS poets can, if they desire, write a poem incorporating each of the chosen words. The silliest will appear in the August Poet Tree. Silliest is actually a pretty silly word too; unfortunately, it is not a food. Have fun finding your spirit silly food!

## **CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES**

### **ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY ANNUAL JOHN AND MIRIAM MORRIS MEMORIAL CHAPBOOK COMPETITION**

***Deadline: 5/31/2015***

Winner receives \$100 and 25 copies of his/her winning chapbook. Poems may be previously published if poet retains all rights.

A. Submit 20-24 total pages of poetry, no more than one poem per page, however a single poem may continue for more than one page.

B. Submit two title pages, one with author information, and one without. No need for a theme, index, intro, or acknowledgements unless you just want to include these. A table of contents can be helpful.

C. Author information should appear on only one copy of the title page and nowhere else on the manuscript.

D. Previous chapbook winners can be purchased through New Dawn Unlimited, Inc. at 1830 Marvel Road, Brierfield, AL 35035 for \$5 each. A complete list is available at [NewDawnUnlimited.com](http://NewDawnUnlimited.com) under the "chapbooks" button. You may also note our NDU chapbook competition (Deadline 12/31/2015) and other contests from time to time.

E. ASPS sponsors Fall and Spring contests as well as the Morris Chapbook competition. Info is available through their Muse Messenger newsletter or online at [Alabamapoets.org](http://Alabamapoets.org)

F. Send entry with \$15 reading fee (made out to New Dawn Unlimited, Inc. and postmarked by May 31, 2015) to:

New Dawn Unlimited, Inc.  
Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition  
1830 Marvel Road  
Brierfield, AL 35035

### **THE IMPACT OF POETRY**

As society marches towards incorporation of social networking into their daily lives, many people question the true impact of poetry in today's society.

I would love to share an article I recently read online demonstrating how poetry still has the power to elicit major impact in the world around us.

*"I am like a tulip in the desert. I die before I open, and the waves of desert breeze blow my petals away."*  
~Meena Muska

The article, titled *Why Afghan Women Risk Death to Write Poetry*, is one of the few wonderful, yet somber, stories about Afghan women coming out of Afghanistan. In a society where women are considered second to third-class citizens, this article highlights how Afghan women have used poetry to express the repression women endure and the risk women writers take. Much of the poetry they write directly challenges Afghan societal norms, norms that have been in existence for centuries.

To read this article, Google: *Why Afghan Women Risk Death to Write Poetry*. The article, from 2012, is on the *NY Times* website and should be the first result Google lists.

### **SOCIETY MEMBERS SHINE!**

In the Dec 20, 2014, issue of *15 Bytes, Utah's Art Magazine Since 2001*, an article by David G. Pace, he writes: "15 Bytes features St. George-based poet Markay Brown. Here she provides four poems, part of her work titled *Eve's Child* which won 1st place in the 2014 Utah Original Writing Competition in the category of poetry collection judged by Richard Howard who referred to the winning entry as "a great work, a new poet's triumph. But there is a tonality other than triumph." Along with others who placed in the competition, Markay was presented with a cash award last November. Utah's Poet Laureate, Lance Larsen, founded the Utah Original Writing Competition in 1958.

Google *15 Bytes* to check out the article about Markay, read her poems there, or sign up for the free online literary blog.

## **POETRY IN THE PARK 2015**

Spend your March 20<sup>th</sup> with the poetry workshop **Beginnings and Endings**, with Lola Haskins from 9 AM – 4PM. 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.

## **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](http://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.**

### **Spring Calendar 2015**

March 15 – NFSPS Contest deadline  
March 20 -- Poetry in the Park  
March 21 – Redrock Writing Seminar  
April 24-25 – April Poetry Festival in Midway, Utah

transfusion is received very soon, this annual tradition will not survive. Although there is much support in the way of generous sponsors (who unfailingly support us) and poems submitted, the Contest can not continue without volunteers willing to donate time, sweat and sometimes tears to administer the process. Unless a volunteer steps up to be the Contest Clerk by Sept 1, 2015, we have no other option than to cancel the 2016 UTSPS Contest.

Every one of the opportunities provided to poets by the Society requires the volunteer efforts of willing poets to make them happen. Because of the vast lack of volunteerism now plaguing the Society it becomes necessary to cut back on programs. Yes, we all hate to see them go. But without someone to infuse the system with his or her energy, time and love, we have no recourse. *Another one bites the dust.*

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.

## 2015 Governing Board & Officers

Dawnell Griffin ..... President  
William (Bill) Asplund.....President-Elect  
Eric Read\*.....Advisory President  
Geraldine Felt\*..... Secretary  
Bob Bader .....Treasurer  
Rosalyn Ostler\*..... Membership Chair  
Steve Leitch .....Mailing Coordinator  
Paul Ford.....Webmaster  
.....Chapters Coordinator  
Steven Craner.....Workshop Chair  
dee Rhyg ..... PoetTree Editor  
Rosalyn Ostler.....Panorama Editor  
.....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  
Katti McClurg.....Contest Clerk (acting)  
Louis & Christie.....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  
William Asplund  
.....College/Univ. Mss Contest Chair  
Merrijane Rice.....Utah Sings Editor

\*Administrative Advisors (past presidents) also  
Vera Bakker, Kevin Clark, Robert  
Frederickson, LaVerna Johnson, Orlan Owen,  
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.

## **LOSS OF A VOICE**

Our sweet poet friend, Helen Mar Cook, died January 10, 2015, following surgery for a broken hip. She was born November 10, 1916, and spent the past several years living in Texas with her daughter. Helen was an active member for many years serving on the UTSPS board in various capacities. She was Poet of the Year in 1975 for her book *Shape of Flight*. Her gentle and gracious service to poets and the poetry process is an example for all of us.

Please feel free to donate to the 2016 contest memorial category in her honor. You may send a check made out to UTSPS to Kolette Montague, 864 Bonita Way, Centerville UT.

## **FINAL TOMFOOLERY!!!**

It has been a pleasure editing my first issue of Poet Tree. As with many new endeavors, there are learning curves one must navigate to produce a quality product. I would like to thank Dawnell Griffin and Kolette Montague for their assistance keeping me on my feet. I eagerly wait to begin working on the August issue!

In closing I would like share a poetry form I discovered last year: The Korean Sijo! Hopefully this is something new your chapters can play with.

The form has three lines averaging 14-16 syllables, for a total of 44-46: theme (3, 4,4,4); elaboration (3,4,4,4); counter-theme (3,5) and completion (4,3). The Sijo may be narrative or thematic and introduces a situation in line 1, development in line 2, and twist and conclusion in line 3. The first half of the final line employs a “twist”: a surprise of meaning, sound, or other device. Sijos are often more lyrical and personal than other East Asian poetic forms, and the final line can take a profound turn. The end of sijo is seldom epigrammatic or witty.

The spring breeze melted snow on the hills then quickly disappeared.

I wish I could borrow it briefly to blow over my hair

And melt away the aging frost forming now about my ears.

~U Tak (1262–1342)

See you in April!

Love, Luck, and Lollipops,  
~dee – Poet Tree Editor



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