



December 2020



The Desert Voice

A quarterly publication of Arizona State Poetry Society

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The Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS) organized in 1965, supports regional branches in Arizona, publishes the *Sandcutters* anthology annually, and offers additional poetry opportunities for its members.

<https://azpoetry.webs.com/>

Membership

Annual membership dues: \$25

Membership includes the quarterly newsletter, *The Desert Voice*, the annual anthology, *Sandcutters*, monthly and annual contests, membership in the NFSPS, and their annual publication, *Strophes*. Branch dues vary from \$5-10 and are in addition to ASPS dues.

Mail dues to:

ASPS Treasurer Bill Brown
1550 N. Stapley #129
Mesa AZ 85203

Branches

East Valley Poets (EVP) in Tempe
Scottsdale Mustang Poets (SMP)
Tucson Poetry Society (TPS)
West Valley Poets (WVP)

Exciting Member News for 2021!

The ASPS Board of Directors recently approved the following membership enhancements beginning in 2021:

1. The “monthly” contests will become five “**member-only**” contests per year in the odd-numbered months of January, March, May, July and September. This will give members more time to prepare poems for each contest and reduce the number of judges needed annually. All major contest rules and categories will remain the same.
2. Prize awards for each member-only contest will increase to \$10.00 per winning poem (from the current \$5.00). This will better recognize winning poems and hopefully encourage more members to submit to the contests.
3. Each ASPS member will now be offered the opportunity to have one poem included in the annual *Sandcutters*. This will give all members who have not had a winning poem in a contest in a given year the opportunity to have a poem appear in that year’s *Sandcutters*. This will enhance *Sandcutters* to be a true member-oriented annual anthology.

Watch the ASPS website for more details about these new membership benefits.

ASPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE January 22-23, 2021

The ASPS Board is planning to hold the Annual Conference January 22-23, 2021. The Conference will be conducted via Zoom, but will include all of the major activities that are normally held in person. We expect to offer poetry readings, interactive workshops, guest speakers, open mic, an author’s “market place” for poetry books, and of course, announcement of the Annual Contest winners. Watch your personal email for the Zoom invite, and check the website for further updates. We hope you will join us!

CHRISTY'S CORNER

This past year has been particularly challenging for all of us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud of everyone for finding creative ways to remain engaged in poetry, especially our ASPS Branches for continuing to meet monthly via Zoom, and for those who entered our special COVID-19 Contest. Thank you!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Following 14 years of faithfully and skillfully serving as ASPS' Monthly Contest Chair, we offer special thanks and appreciation to Rhonda Brown as she moves into a new position with ASPS. Her love of poetry and her willingness to serve for so many years is an inspiration to us all. Rhonda has now accepted the new volunteer opportunity to serve as our **Hospitality Chair**, someone who will welcome new members, write short bios for our quarterly newsletter, and help find new and creative ways in which to engage with our members. We are excited about this new role for Rhonda; her warm and caring personality is perfect for this position!

I hope to see you ALL at our upcoming Annual Conference via Zoom the weekend of January 22-23, 2021, please join us! And don't forget to send in your 2021 Membership Renewal by **January 15!**

SANDCUTTERS Member-Only Contests

Entries to the Sandcutters' Member-Only Contest are due by the 5th of every-other-month (January-March-May-July-September).

The topic for January Category III is **Loose Thread**

Send electronic submissions (preferable) to:
azpoetryorg@gmail.com

Send hard copy submissions to the ASPS address:
1145 E. Kaler Drive
Phoenix AZ 85020

The Desert Voice is published quarterly (March, June, September, December) by the Arizona State Poetry Society for its members. Please send articles, suggestions, comments or questions to the Newsletter Editor, **Kris Perry** at

krisperry5019@gmail.com

Board of Directors

2020 Board

President

Christy White
c.christy.w.16@gmail.com
480-677-0000

Vice President

Walter Ralston
freeformverse@gmail.com
623-584-3952

Treasurer

Bill Brown
wandrbrown@gmail.com
480-962-9235

Secretary

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krisperry5019@gmail.com
612-418-5410

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480-962-9235

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NFSPS Strophes Reporter

c.christy.w.16@gmail.com

Web Assistant

Alan Perry
alanperry@comcast.net

ASPS 2021 Dues

It is time to send in your 2021 annual dues for ASPS and for the Branch in which you participate/identify. ASPS dues are \$25/year and Branch dues vary for each branch. Youth membership, a new category for ages 13-18, is \$5/year.

You can submit ASPS payment of dues by:

- Visiting our website at <https://azpoetry.webs.com>; or
- Send a check directly to our Treasurer, Bill Brown.
- For Branch dues, please remit those separately to your Branch host.

If new members renew between August-December, the membership is valid through December of the following year.

Current members will be dropped from the membership rolls if renewals are not received **by January 15, 2021**, which coincides with the date that NFSPS renewals are due. Memberships not renewed by January 15 will not be eligible to enter ASPS Member-Only Contests, and will no longer receive quarterly newsletters or other pertinent ASPS emails and notices.

See page 8 for the 2021 Membership Form, if paying by US Mail.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Member-Only Contest Chairperson

ASPS is seeking a volunteer to serve as the Member-Only Contest Chairperson, who will work closely with our secretary, Kris Perry, to seek judges for the five contests each year and coordinate receiving poem entries and working with the judges. This position is estimated to take approximately five hours every-other-month.

The volunteer will ideally possess administrative capabilities working easily with Word documents, use of the internet, access to a printer with a scanner, and attention to detail. If interested in learning more, please contact Christy White as soon as possible. Kris Perry will be serving on an interim basis until a permanent volunteer can be identified.

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact president, Christy White, at azpoetryorg@gmail.com.

Calls for Submissions

This ongoing column highlights a few journals/literary magazines that are seeking poetry submissions. Be sure to check the website of the named journal to make sure your poetry submissions meet their requirements, aesthetic and limitations before submitting.

Better Than Starbucks

www.betterthanstarbucks.org

Online and print; published quarterly; accepts previously-published poems, up to four poems; no fee.

Harbor Review

www.harbor-review.com

Online; published twice yearly; up to three poems, no fee.

Star 82 Review

star82review.com

Online and print; published quarterly; up to five poems; no fee.

Strophes

The October 2020 issue of Strophes has been posted to nfps.com.

From the home page, click the Strophes Online tab to bring up the Strophes Main Page, then click the Current Issue button.

If you do not want to be included in future notices that the web edition of Strophes is available, just let Paul Ford, Strophes Editor, know and he will take you off the email list.

pmford3@gmail.com

Monthly Contest Winners

August 2020

Category I: Traditional Form

Mariana Warner: "Digression"

Category II: Free Verse

Dianne Brown:

"A Stay-at-Home Project"

Gail Denham: "Aha Moments"

Charles Firmage:

"How Great Thou Art"

Mariana Warner: "And Yet"

Category III: Hope

Gail Denham: "Exit Vein"

Charles Firmage:

"Vietnam War Memorial"

Kitty Kaczmarek: "Suitcase"

Jane Stuart:

"Moving Through the Magic Circle"

September 2020

Category I: Traditional Form

Mark Hudson:

"A Primitive Operation"

Category II: Free Verse

Paula Ashley: "The Call"

Category III: Stranger

Kitty Kaczmarek: "Stranger"

Walter Ralston:

"First Storey Not Ground"

Caryl Saarinen:

"No Man is a Stranger"

Jane Stuart:

"The Year We've Not Forgotten"

Stuart Watkins:

"Sgt. Ranger of the Yukon"

Christy White:

"The World's Harsh Need"

Eva Willis: "The Mirror"

MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each quarter we highlight writing accomplishments of ASPS members. If you have a poem that has been accepted by a journal/literary magazine, a recently-received award for poetry (other than ASPS monthly contests), publication of a chapbook or collection of poetry, or some other writing recognition, send it to newsletter editor, Kris Perry, at krisper-ry5019@gmail.com for consideration for this column. This quarter we highlight the following ASPS poets:

Lori Bonati

- Lori's poem "Marooned", was published in *Poetry and Covid* last October. Check it out at <https://poetryandcovid.com/2020/10/14/marooned/>
- Lori's poem "Castaway" was published online in *Global Poemic*: <https://globalpoemic.wordpress.com>

Hank Dallago

Hank was the featured author last September in *BreatheYourOM-Balance: Yoga and Relationship*, volume 3 published by Thorncraft Publishing and is scheduled for publication next March/April 2021 at: https://www.facebook.com/ThorncraftPublishing/?ref=page_internal.

Janet Rives

Check out this link for Janet's recent chapbook publication: *Into the Sea of Green: Poems from the Prairie*. www.janetmrives.com

Alan Perry

- Alan's poem "COVID Wing – Day 97" was published online in *Global Poemic*: <https://globalpoemic.wordpress.com>
- A favorable book review of Alan's chapbook *Clerk of the Dead* was published in *Harbor Review* in October.
- *Right Hand Pointing* published Alan's poem "Altar Calls" in their November issue. <https://www.issues.righthandpointing.net/141>
- Two poems--"Aurora" and "The Sum of Her Numbers"--were published in *Open: Journal of Arts & Letters*-- <https://ojarlart.com/tag/aurora/>

Gene Twaronite

- Gene's poem "By Different Boats" appeared in an issue of the literary journal *Better Than Starbucks*. You can view it at: <https://www.betterthanstarbucks.org/free-verse>.
- In October Gene's poem, "Loved to Madness," was published in the online journal *Roanoke Review* at: <http://www.roanokereview.org/poetry2020/gene-twaronite>.
- Gene also had a review of his book *My Life as a Sperm: Essays from the Absurd Side* in the *Arizona Daily Star* last October by Helene Woodhams

Craft Talk

This ongoing column provides tips and information about the craft of writing poetry. In this series, we are sharing the **Top 10 Tips for Poetry Submissions** from Alan Perry - Senior Poetry Editor, *Typehouse Literary Magazine*.

Tip #3: Polish

This step will tell a poetry editor whether you have truly completed your poem. It is the final phase for all of the revisions that you will do on a given poem, and include the finishing touches that you will apply to any poem before submission. It's important to state that "No poet is an island"--it is virtually impossible to perform this step without feedback and input from another poet or poetry group in whom you trust and believe. If you only want to write poetry for yourself, you need not invest as much time in this step as you would if you want to submit your poems for the outside world to appreciate.

Tip #4: Cover Letter

Many, if not most, submissions require some sort of cover letter, either in the body of the submission or in the Submittable format structure. The key to a good cover letter is to personalize it, if possible--try to make a reasonable (but not forced) connection to the journal and/or its editor. An example would be if you have read the journal and like its content and aesthetic, then say so. Also, be sure to state whether any of the poems you are submitting are "simultaneous submissions"--being submitted to other journals at the same time. Many journals allow simultaneous submissions, but want to know it in advance. This also requires you to notify all other receiving journals when a simultaneous submission poem has been accepted by one of them. Keep your cover letter brief -- ideally only five or six sentences: opening line, connection, name the poems, whether any are simultaneous, thanks for your consideration.

**Next Quarter: Bio and
Don't Explain Your Poem Submissions**

A Member Poem

This ongoing column features a winning poem from an ASPS member who recently won an ASPS Monthly Contest.

Suitcase by Kitty Kaczmarek

Battered blue suitcase
mouth agape
perched on ottoman
for three weeks,
dresses folded
train ticket tucked inside
coat pocket.
Jimmy's telegram was brief,
Don't come STOP
I don't want you to see me like this STOP
Each word an ebony shard
slicing the paper.
Telephone is the enemy,
squatting on side table
arms crossed.
Ring.
Don't ring.
News.
No news.
Searching the postman's face
as he asks, "Have you lost your smile?"
He hands me all the wrong mail.
Fingering frayed edge of suitcase
full of fear
full of hope.



BRANCH NEWS

Due to the COVID-19 social distancing policy, the four active Branches of ASPS are finding new and creative ways to meet and stay in touch, including Zoom meetings. This will likely remain in place for the foreseeable future, so check the website or the next newsletter to see if Branches resume their usual meeting times and places. When Branches do resume meetings in their previous locations, consider wearing face masks until we know COVID-19 has truly passed. Remain safe, healthy and joyful, everyone!

EAST VALLEY POETS (EVP)

<https://eastvalleypoets.webs.com/>

Host, Jim Platt
evpoets@yahoo.com
602-826-2803

Dues: Suggested Donation of \$5/year

The East Valley Poets branch meets the third Saturday of the month from 9:30am—noon for a short program and poetry readings. During COVID-19, they have met via Zoom and will continue to do so, with hopes of resuming their in-person meetings at the Pyle Center when safe to do so. Contact Jim Platt to participate in Zoom and/or to learn about when in-person meetings will resume.

SCOTTSDALE MUSTANG POETS (SMP)

Host, Christy White
C.christy.w.16@gmail.com
480-677-0000

Dues: Suggested Donation of \$5/year

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mustangs meet via Zoom, since we do not know when the Library will re-open. SMP branch meets the second Monday of each month from 6:00-8:00pm for reading poetry with gentle critiquing. If you wish to participate in the Zoom meeting, contact Christy at the email address above to receive an invitation.

WEST VALLEY POETS—(WVP)

President, Walter Ralston
freeformverse@gmail.com
623-584-3952

Dues: \$5/year

WVP branch meets the first Saturday of the month beginning at 9:00am for open reading member presentations, round robins and other surprises. Contact President Walter Ralston for specific information on how the Branch hopes to remain in contact during the COVID-19 pandemic.

POETRY READINGS

Please check to make sure the following listings have not changed. Most times are Arizona/Mountain time; differences will be noted.

Poetry Prompts and other interesting things: <https://readingandwritingthroughlife.com>

Redrock Writers of Utah are sponsoring the 2021 Chaparral Poetry Forum Contest opens September 1st, deadline December 1, 2020, for submissions to 4 separate categories. 1st, 2nd & 3rd winning poems receive money prizes and will be read at the 25th annual Creative Writing Seminar on March 6, 2021, and will be published in the 2020 chapbook and online. For more info, visit https://www.redrockwriters.org/adult_chaparral_poetry_contest_rules

Iowa City Poetry: visit their website iowacitypoetry.com for online events and connect with the *Iowa Review* which is accepting submissions, deadline December 1st.

The New Yorker Magazine has a podcast with their own poetry editor, Paul Muldoon. Featured are conversations with poets about their work, and poetry readings. <https://www.newyorker.com/podcast/poetry>

National Federation of State Poetry Societies' website is a great place to learn about other state poetry societies, contests, and conferences. Here's the link to learn more: www.nfspd.com Read rules and guidelines carefully, some contests are members only!

Autumn Voices out of the UK has competitions and accepts poetry and other writing from older writers. To read more about this interesting opportunity and to read some of the pieces of older, talented writers, visit their website: <https://autumnvoices.co.uk/>

Continued on page 7

POETRY READINGS

Continued from page 6

Publishing and Other Forms of Insanity is a blog with a lot of information about calls for submission, contests, conferences and recipes! Great sense of humor that entertains as well as informs. Of special note is this post: <https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com>

Poetry Foundation provides a place to listen to poetry read by the poet or an admirer. You can also hear interviews and conversations about poetry. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/podcasts>

Weekends: Poets and Muses is a weekly podcast that chats with poets about their inspirations. Find out more about it at: <https://poetsandmuses.com/>. Sign up for the weekly Poets-and-Muses newsletter at: https://mailchi.mp/17795d5229aa/poetsandmuses_weekly_newsletter. Soundcloud: Poets and Muses (<https://soundcloud.com/poetsandmuses>) Instagram: poetsandmuses (<https://www.instagram.com/poetsandmuses/>) Twitter: ImogenArate (<https://twitter.com/imogenarate>)

Submishmash Weekly a newsletter with humor, contests for writers of all genres, art opportunities and interesting reads. A *weekly human-curated newsletter bringing news and opportunities in publishing and other creative industries to artists, filmmakers, and writers*. To sign up, go to: <https://submittable.us14.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=29faa4e2bc171e46123a4867e&id=3cc7ac8d8a>

Central Phoenix Writer's Workshop, a writer's critique group, for more info go to <http://www.meetup.com/CentralPhoenixWritingWorkshop/>

Check our website for additional Poetry Reading Opportunities at: <http://azpoetry.webs.com>

TUCSON POETRY SOCIETY (TPS)

Due to COVID-19, the Tucson branch has been using Zoom to stay in touch with poetry and each other. In addition, members share their poems for critique by email. We will return to the public library for our monthly meetings when allowed.

President, Elaine Powers
iginspired@gmail.com
 520-204-2991

When we are able to resume in-person meeting, the TPS branch meets the second Saturday of the month beginning at 10:00am to read and constructively critique each other's work, allowing diverse voices to be heard and appreciated. We laugh, we shout, we sing, and most importantly, we listen. All are welcome at:

Valdez Main Library
 101 N. Stone Avenue
 Tucson AZ 85701

Dues: \$5/year.



Desert Tracks: Poems from the Sonoran Desert offers readers an anthology of diverse poems written by 23 poets of the Tucson Poetry Society. Copies are available for sale by contacting President Elaine Powers.

TPS is planning to publish a chapbook of member poems in 2021. Watch for more details early next year!



ASPS Membership Benefits

Your membership in the Arizona State Poetry Society includes these benefits:

- You may be published in our annual poetry anthology, *Sandcutters*
- Opportunity to enter *Sandcutters* Member-Only and Annual Contests
- Membership in the NFSPS (National Federation of State Poetry Societies)
- NFSPS annual publication *Strophes*
- *The Desert Voice*, our quarterly newsletter
- Participation in our conferences
- Opportunities to meet and share poems with other poets
- Opportunity to sell books at meetings, events, and online

Arizona State Poetry Society

2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Dues: Adults - \$25; Students (Ages 13-18) - \$5; Branch Dues - \$5 (SMP, TPS, WVP)

Submit dues no later than **January 15**. Renewals received between August-December of this year are valid through December of the following year.

IF PAYING BY CHECK, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Indicate Branch Affiliation: ☐ At Large Member (AL) ☐ East Valley Poets (EVP)

☐ Scottsdale Mustang Poets (SMP) ☐ Tucson Poetry Society (TPS) ☐ West Valley Poets (WVP)

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities in ASPS

Make checks payable to ASPS and mail to: Bill Brown, 1550 N. Stapley #129, Mesa AZ 85203

Or

Pay online via PayPal or credit card at: <https://azpoetry.webs.com/>