

STANZA

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MAINE POETS SOCIETY

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 1

March 2022

NEWS OF OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next general meeting will be **May 14, 10:00 to 12:00 on Zoom**. See update on Page 4 about our plans to buy equipment and offer hybrid meetings.

May Members-Only Contest

Times New Roman or Arial font preferred.

(REMINDER: Submission to a contest constitutes permission to publish.)

Deadline, April 14, 2022

CONTEST DETAILS

Contest Poem — Subject: “Time and Place.” 30-line limit.

What does time and place mean to you? It can be a specific event in time and space or a span of years. Immerse us in a second or a lifetime. The judge offers these sample poems as springboards for our creative thinking.

<p>Letter to a Moon Child by Michael S. Harper</p> <p>Moon child: March is coming, In mixed anger, To an eventual end. The trees have cracked Under the weight of ice, Blotting power lines, And we have been without light, Days, nights, together. Elms are first to bloom, Slowly, in fear of constant Virus, that, heedless, Will kill them off in ten years; This year they bloom. The spindly trees, Taking shape, resist The inlet, hornet, And salt-night air. In this ribald quiet, Revisited without shame, There is evidence, Ornate, and our hunger.</p>	<p>Threat by Denise Levertov</p> <p>You can live for years next door to a big pine tree, honored to have so venerable a neighbor, even when it sheds needles all over your flowers or wakes you, dropping big cones onto your deck at still of night. Only when, before dawn one year at the vernal equinox, the wind rises and rises, raising images of cockleshell boats tossed among huge advancing walls of waves, do you become aware that always, under respect, under your faith in the pine tree’s beauty, there lies the fear it will crash someday down on your house, on you in your bed, on the fragility of the safe dailiness you have almost grown used to.</p>	<p>Encounter by Czeslaw Milosz</p> <p>We were riding through frozen fields in a wagon at dawn. A red wing rose in the darkness.</p> <p>And suddenly a hare ran across the road. One of us pointed to it with his hand.</p> <p>That was long ago. Today neither of them is alive, Not the hare, nor the man who made the gesture.</p> <p>O my love, where are they, where are they going The flash of a hand, streak of movement, rustle of pebbles. I ask not out of sorrow, but in wonder.</p>
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ABOUT THE JUDGE

Mike Bove is the author of two books of poems: *Big Little City* (2018) and *House Museum* (2021). His work has appeared in journals in the US, UK, and Canada, and he was the winner of the 2021 Maine Postmark Poetry Contest. He holds degrees from the University of New Hampshire and is an Associate Professor of English at Southern Maine Community College. Mike lives with his family in Portland, Maine where he was born and raised.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Only current MPS members are eligible and only one entry per person is permitted. Note that Times New Roman or Arial font is preferred.

If submitting by USPS: Mail to: Gus Peterson, 12 Middle Street, Randolph 04346
2 copies of your poem (ONE with your name; one without) in a letter-size (#10) envelope marked "CONTEST." **Must be postmarked on or before April 14 to be considered.** Please be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Email entries must be sent as an attachment on or before April 14 to mainepoetsociety@gmail.com. In the upper right-hand corner, include your name, address, telephone number and email address. **Please send the poem in a .doc, .docx or .rtf format. Do not send it as a .pdf.** We suggest **Member Contest Entry Spring 2022** or something similar in the subject line.

Open Mic on Zoom March 19 – 10 a.m. to noon – a reminder

This is a *really* open mic, in that it is open to non-members as well as members. It will be advertised on our Facebook page, since that is followed by many people interested in poetry in Maine, who are not actual members. It will be hosted by Jenny Doughty.

Open mics have in the past been a way of drawing in new members. If you would like to attend either to read or just to listen, and if you know people who might like to do either, please email mainepoetsociety@gmail.com with "Open Mic" in the subject line, and you will receive a Zoom link the day before the event.

On the day, if you would like to read, please put your name in the chat window with "would like to read" when you arrive in the Zoom room. It's OK to be there just to listen though!

OPPORTUNITY GRANTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Funds for an Opportunity Grant to MPS members are available! The rules stipulate that a person needs to have a valid membership as of January 10th of the current year. Now that the pandemic is waning, there may be courses that would be beneficial to a member or members. Courses already are occurring on ZOOM (or other virtual means) that may serve the interests of our membership! The grant application is available upon request by mail or can be sent as a PDF by computer email. Written requests for the form and completed Opportunity Grant Applications can be sent to John Seksay, Treasurer, at 72 Green Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Or go to the Maine Poets Society website, click on the Membership tab, and then on "Download a Membership Opportunity Grant Application."

Opportunity Grants can be up to \$100 (some of which could be used for gas/travel expenses for any in-person poetry seminar/workshop experience). Anyone receiving an Opportunity Grant is asked to write a short piece for *Stanza* afterwards to tell other members about their experience. Individual members can only have one grant in any three-year period. A total of \$500 a year is available for grants – first come, first served. Go here to print out an application: <http://www.mainepoetsociety.com/PDFs/2020-Opportunity-Grants-explanation-and-application.pdf>.

THE MAINE POETS SOCIETY PRIZE POEM CONTESTS 2022

The Maine Poets Society is proud to present our fifth annual \$100 prize poem contest. This year we are again also offering a \$50 prize to Maine poets whose poetry has not been previously published. Publication in a newsletter or an online workshop does not count for this purpose.

The contests are open to all Maine residents, including seasonal, except for Maine Poets Society board members. **If your entry will be postmarked out of state, please enclose a letter verifying your address when resident in Maine.** Entries must be postmarked between January 15th and the deadline of March 30th, 2022.

There is a \$5 entry fee for the \$100 prize poem contest, and a \$2.50 entry fee for the \$50 contest for previously unpublished poets. You may enter up to 4 poems, but you must cover each poem with an entry fee. You may not enter a poem that has been previously published.

Topic and form are left open, but there is a 50-line limit. Entries exceeding this will be disqualified.

Our distinguished judge for the \$100 prize poem contest in 2022 will be Julia Bouwsma, Maine Poet Laureate, and author of two poetry collections, recipient of the 2018 Maine Literary Award and the 2016-17 Poets Out Loud prize. She is a former Managing Editor for Alice James Books and serves as Library Director for Webster Library in Kingfield, Maine. Board members of the Maine Poets Society will judge the contest for previously unpublished poets.

Our prizes will be presented at the 2022 Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance awards evening. The shortlists will be announced beforehand by email and on the MPS Facebook page.

Please send two copies of your poem, one of them identified with your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number and which contest you are entering, and one with no additional information, to MPS President Jenny Doughty, at 31 Rustic Lane, Portland, ME 04103. Mark your envelope CONTEST.

Enclose a check payable to Maine Poets Society, with 'Contest entry' on the memo line. Entries will not be returned, so please retain a copy.

National Federation of State Poetry Societies Contests Deadline: March 15

Just a reminder that membership in the Maine Poetry Society includes membership in NFSPS. The 2022 contests are now open with a March 15 deadline (50 of them, including one which we sponsor, but do not judge). The brochure is available at their website. [2022 NFSPS Contest Brochure.pdf](#) The deadline is just days away, so if you're thinking of entering any of the contests, best to download the brochure and get your material ready for the mail.

A Word from Our Membership Chair

A hearty thank-you to all our members who have renewed by the March 1st deadline! We know that such details can sometimes escape attention. The Bylaws specify that we include the previous year members in our mailings and events until the May meeting, when the membership list is updated to reflect the current year only. At that point MPS mailings and e-blasts are sent to the updated list only. Membership can be restored at any point in the year with payment of dues.

~ John Seksay, Treasurer/Membership Chair

Hoping for Our First Hybrid Meeting in the Fall

Good (impending) Spring fellow poets! I hope that the past few months have been productive and safe for you all. As the daylight has lengthened and warmed us this past month so has the news of the receding pandemic. While there are no guarantees, and while the spring general meeting will be on Zoom as we have met the past couple of years, we are excited at the chance this fall to meet in person again. However, as we discussed amongst ourselves on the board over the last year, as we have heard from you, we are excited to emerge in a way we feel will better serve you, the membership: the hybrid model. In short, we will enable active Zoom participation for those members who cannot attend in-person meetings going forward. This will be accomplished through an “Owl,” which is a combination microphone and 360 degree camera. By using it with a flat screen monitor, we will be able to see participants attending remotely, they will be able to see us, and we will be able to engage with them in real time. We feel this offers the best of both worlds for all members. We have the funds to not only undertake this new step but to continue everything else we’ve been doing thus far with workshops and our readings in the round. Barring any pandemic setbacks, we hope to start this at our fall general meeting. If you have questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the board. We are always grateful for any input and direction. Be safe, good writing, and see you at our Spring meeting!

~ Gus Peterson, Vice President

Publication & Member News

Poems

Marshall Witten’s poem “The Secret Word” will be included in the Poetry Box's 2022 Anthology *The Poeming Pigeon* this fall.

Three poems by Cynthia Lozier were published in *2020 An Anthology of Poetry* by Black Dog & One-Eyed Press, Nova Scotia Canada

Bill Frayer’s poem “Tyranny of Maps” will be published in the Fall 2022 *Poeming Pigeon*.

Bill Frayer’s poem, “Duet in Counterpoint,” was published in the December 2021 issue of “My Woven Poetry.”

Robert Paul Allen's poem “Trying to Impress Dad” will be published in the *Bear River Review* in May and his poem “Together Time” is being published in Volume 8 of the *Frost Meadow Review*.

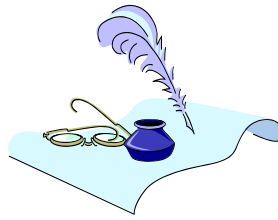
From the Wheelbarrow Poetry Group— Kristin Frangoulis selected Sharon Bray’s poem “Tidal River Farm” to display in the Belfast Free Library window for a couple of weeks in February.

Jeanne Julian's poem "Watershed Trail" is included in the anthology *My Cityline* from Wingless Dreamer. Her poem "Spilled Beer" is published on line in *Red Fez*, issue 154. Her sonnet “Without / With 2020 / 2021” was awarded First Place in the Joanna Catherine Scott contest and her poem “Villanelle: To Sleep” received Honorable Mention in the Katherine Kennedy McIntyre Light Verse contest, both sponsored by the North Carolina Poetry Society for 2022.

Nancy Orr's haiku, "beach glass" was published in the March 2022 issue of *The Heron's Nest*, and "wing prints" will be published in *Modern Haiku* this summer.

David Sloan’s poem “A Marriage” won first place in Oprelle Publications recent “Coming Home” contest. The poem first appeared in his collection *The Irresistible In-Between* (Deerbrook Editions, 2013). Here's the link: coming-home-poetry-contest-2021-winners,

David Sloan’s poem “Flames” earned honorable mention honors in *Third Wednesday’s* annual poetry contest. It can be found on *Third Wednesday’s* site using this link: <https://thirdwednesdaymagazine.org/2022/03/02/flames-david-sloan/>



President's Ink March 2022

Punxsutawney Phil promised us another six weeks of winter back at the beginning of February, and the weather (apart from one glorious day) has proved him right. I don't know about all of you, but I am more ready for spring than I can remember being since... about this time last year.

I need flowers and sunshine, and at least enough warmth to loosen my coat and say "Warming up a bit, isn't it?" However, while many of us are still hunkered in before gardening season starts, take advantage of the indoor time to polish up a "Time and Place" poem for our members-only contest, and another on whatever topic pleases you for our Prize Poem contest. Remember that one of the contests has a \$50 prize specifically for poets who have never had anything published except in a newsletter like this one. If you've ever had a poem published in a journal or a book, the \$100 contest for previously published poets is the one to look at.

And while you're doing that, consider sending your poems out to journals. There is a Facebook page called "Calls for Submission", which has some excellent options. Many of them can be entered via email. Many are entered via an online portal called Submittable, which is free to use. It also keeps a record of what you have submitted and any acceptances, of which you get notified by email. Even if you are a novice at submitting, it is not scary. I own up at this point to being less than frequent at submitting. We all know in advance that we'll mostly get rejections, so it's not fear of rejection for me so much as not always being sure where to send stuff, allied to sheer laziness. I'd rather spend the time writing. But there is such a good feeling when something you write strikes a chord with somebody else, that it's worth taking the time.

If you have poems on a particular theme, or in a particular style, it's worth checking to see if there is a journal that specializes in that kind of poetry. For example, Naugatuck River Review specializes in narrative poetry. I had a group of Fibonacci poems (if you're unfamiliar with that form, check out <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/68971/1-1-2-3-5-8-fun>) published by a journal called Fib Review, which specializes in them.

You can also sign up to various blogs that send you tips and advice on submitting. I get emails from Trish Hopkinson and Erika Dreifus, which are always useful. If there is a press you like, sign up for emails from them too. I get emails from Tupelo Press and Littoral Press. If there is a journal you like, sign up for emails from them which indicate the kind of thing they are looking for. I get one from Mslexia, which is a UK-based journal, because one of the advantages of doing things online is that you're not constrained to national boundaries. I save these emails in an email folder called "Writing Resources".

And finally, take advantage of one of the benefits of being a member of the Maine Poets Society, which is membership of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Their magazine *Strophes*, to which you will find a link in this issue of *Stanza*, offers contests that are open to us as MPS members, and I have had success in entering one of those.

Spring is coming, but poetry is for all seasons!

Jenny Doughty

"It's exciting to see things coming up again, plants that you've had twenty or thirty years. It's like seeing an old friend." — Tasha Tudor

"Can words describe the fragrance of the very breath of spring?" ~ Neltje Blanchan

STANZA, Maine Poets Society
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FIRST CLASS

Stanza is the tri-annual
newsletter of the
Maine Poets Society
promoting good poetry
since 1936

FMI or to join, write
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Board Members

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Webmaster, Lisa Montagna LMontagna@apitechnology.com

MPS website (MainePoetsSociety.com)

MPS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1747588905507733/>. When you indicate an interest in joining the group, Jenny (as Administrator) will be able to confirm your request. You can also search within Facebook for Maine Poets Society. Choose the option that says “public group.”