



Mitakuye Oyasin

(We are all related)

The Kentucky State Poetry Society

www.kystatepoetrysociety.org



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 The New **KSPS** Newsletter Poetry Bag
 featuring
**Robin Whitehouse, Deirdre Artrip,
 Hazel Bell Nicholas, James W. Richardson,
 JoAnn Finley Black and Diana C. Derringer**



A Few Words From The President Carol Mauriello

I'd like you all to know that I am awed by the privilege of representing KSPS as your President for 2009. I am fairly new to KSPS and for those of you who

do not know me, here's a brief bio: I live in Olive Hill, KY and have recently retired from Morehead State University where I taught English for 13 years. I still do teach an occasional class since retiring in 2006. Although I've written and published fiction, poetry is a relatively new genre for me. I have taught poetry in my classes but it wasn't until I joined a local writers group that I learned about KSPS. Some were members of KSPS, and challenging ourselves with the categories of the KSPS and NFSPS contests became a way of segueing into writing poetry. From there it was a natural progression for me to attend an annual meeting and meet the wonderful people dedicated to sharing and promoting poetry across the state.

I do want to continue the legacy that A. Carol has left in beginning to make many important changes by updating our by-laws and instituting ways to become more efficient. We can keep all the good things we have and work on changing those things that prevent us from getting new members and keeping the old ones. One of my goals for KSPS is to concentrate on the publicity--getting the word out about who we are to venues where poets and writers of all ages gather. Another is to follow up on our past president's initiative and get our local libraries to join. We can also provide information to colleges across the state about our organization and the benefits of joining. How can members help? Whatever groups you belong to on line or otherwise can assist. Another way to help is to organize Poetry Readings and hold them in libraries, coffee shops, and art galleries. Tony Sexton is our publicist and if you contact him, he will send a notice to your local newspaper or media to advertise. Arm yourself with KSPS information and attend an Open Mic at a college or university setting. It may surprise you to know that many young adults are just waiting for someone to contact them about entering a contest.

One of my goals as President is to find links to college and university English departments and writing programs to advertise KSPS.

Continued on page 2

Mitakuye Oyasin

(Pronounced Me-tock Oh-wah-sin)

What does it mean?

Contrary to what many people think, Native Americans, though separated by languages and customs, did share a commonality of beliefs and values.

They believed all things are related which is the basis of our closeness to Mother Earth and Father Sky. Each is relative to everything. As poets, we each have our own style and voice, but in the end, we are all related by our writing.

Don't let the fear of striking out hold you back. (Babe Ruth)

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Jim & Linda Frisa 09-10
5804 Blue Spruce Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45224

Sponsors are needed for the KSPS Student Contest. Sponsors can be individuals or groups. Donations of \$25 to \$100 are appreciated. Students are our future poets and members.



contact;

Student Contest Chair
Carol Schwope
PO Box 156
South Shore, KY 41175

President's message continued from Page 1

I had the opportunity last semester to teach a creative writing class again, and my students all went home with NFSPS contest brochures, and they will hear from me via e-mail when our contest brochure is on line. I am sure now, with the availability of websites, e-mail, You Tube, Face Book, My Space, and countless other avenues of technical connections, we can spread the word a lot more efficiently about who are and what we do. This will not only increase membership but promote interest in poetry to a new adult generation.

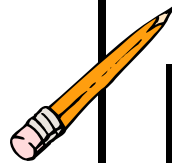
I hope 2009 will be the best year yet for our organization, full of possibilities. Please contact me with your creative ideas via e-mail or phone. I am open to any and all suggestions. *Carol Mauriello*

Poem definition from a workshop someone once held:

- * "... a rhythmical emotional purging in a few words."
- * "... is word art; it uses the sound of the words, the rhythm of the words and even the way the words look on the page; to capture a mood, idea or moment. It also tries to give another person a view from the author's perspective."
- * "...expression of feelings set to words."

Send me your definition of a poetry, I will use it.

Check out what is happening on:
<http://kystatepoetrysociety.org/>



Attention All Members
of
KSPS

Just a reminder... Don't forget to pay your dues. If you wait for a notice you might forget or lose your notice. Why not go ahead and pay now and have it behind you.

Mail your check (do not send cash), **made payable to the Kentucky State Poetry Society**, and the following information to:

Paul Matzek, KSPS Membership Chair
2460 N. Hwy 11 SE
Elizabeth, IN 47117

This just In!!

Frank X. Walker

Affrilachian poet, has agreed to be our guest poet at the annual meeting in Oct. His bio is quite impressive, his website is:

frankxwalker.com.

Don't miss this one, Folks. Start making your plans now to attend the annual meeting in October. at Pine Mountain State Park.

USA + POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Barbara Fleming Phillips chapbook *Early Lessons* from Finishing Line Press is coming out in March and can be ordered online at www.finishinglinepress.com click on "New Releases and Forthcoming Titles."

Congrats to our Central Region Chair!

Von S. Bourland became editor of the Poetry Society of Texas Bulletin, July, 2008. It is mailed out to the PST members, but is also online at:

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/bulletin.html

Sherry Chandler received an Artist Enrichment grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women for the purpose of working with a mentor to create a collection of poems that highlight the roles women have played in Kentucky agrarian history and culture. I also have two sonnets in the fall 2008 edition of the online journal *Umbrella*. They can be read at:

<http://www.umbrellajournal.com/fall2008/poetry/SherryChandler.html>

Fantastic Sherry you make us proud!!

The Green River Writers chapter held their annual November poetry retreat and their January all-genre retreat at the Kavanaugh Center in Crestwood, Kentucky. Their summer retreat is scheduled for July 16-20, and they continue to hold poetry critiquing sessions on the first Saturday of each month. More information and a newsletter archive available at:

<http://www.greenriverwriters.org>

Be sure to visit the member kudos page to see what individual members are up to.

Cherie Clark was an honor scroll winner for my poem "Of Wine and Cider Time" which can be read online by going to www.amykitchnerfdn.org follow the links: Golden Words Anthology, Honor Scroll Winners, Table of Contents.

I'm having three poems appear in S. Dakota Poetry Soc. Pasque Petals this month. She is also having a poem published in Tallahassee Writers Assoc.'s PENUMBRA Chapbook.

Hurray For Cherie



Amy McDougal, a.k.a, Sabne Raznik's nephew has leukemia. He is in Lexington for now but needs a bone marrow transplant within a couple weeks. For that he'll have to go to Cincinnati, OH. Sabne will be away from home a lot during the next four to six months, but should be reachable via email.

<http://www.sabneraznik.com>

Our thoughts are with this family.

Kevin LeMaster is a member of **Phoenix Writers** and is also involved with a group at Shawnee State University headed by Neil Carpathios Phoenix Writers is still having their monthly meeting at Giovanis as well as their readings at Ye Old Lantern.

George Fillingham has been told by the working editor of the Sewanee Theological Review, his poem is to appear in the March issue of the Journal. The poem is titled *Spit and Crackle* subtitled *A Sutra for Dr. Sean Burke*.

We hope this is the break George has been looking for.

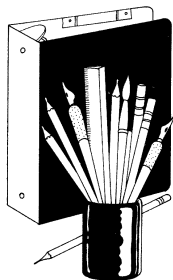
E. Gail Chandler's poetry chapbook is on sale with Finishing Line Press! The number of sales between now and April 10 will determine the size of the run. She will donate all proceeds to Vihiga Children's Home in western Kenya, a cause dear to her heart. Visit www.finishinglinepress.com and clicking on the "New Releases and Forthcoming Titles" link to buy. "Pack your bags and follow her down this Red Road, where you will meet the elements of your own humanity." -Mary O'Dell

Attention all officer of KSPS

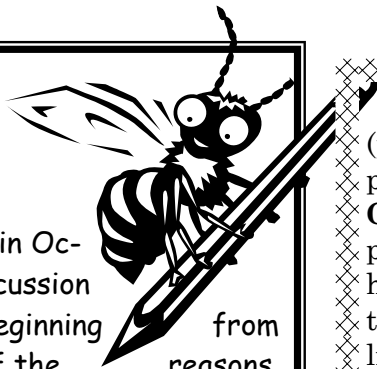
In an effort to help incoming officers in the future, we are trying to put together a booklet explaining what each office does.

As an officer would you please write a job description of your office. (as you understand it). Once we have these together we can revise each officer's duty description to fit into a uniform package. This is a very IMPORTANT task on yours and my part if we are to educate and groom future officers.

Send your descriptions to either Carol Mauriello or Tony Sexton. **THANKS!!!!**



Your opinion matters



At the annual meeting in October '08, there was a discussion about changing our year beginning from November to April. One of the reasons for this change is that April is Poetry Month and it seemed appropriate to have our Annual Meeting in that month.

How do you feel about such a change? With your input the by-laws committee will have some idea about the will or the Society. Please email me (contentedme@hotmail.com) or drop me a line at 700 Sparrow Lane, Waxing Moon Farm, Harrodsburg, KY, 40330 or just call me at 859-734-7867 or 859-247-0522.

Broadstone Books latest poetry title (published in 2008) is *Heart Matters* by poet/publisher/book designer **Jonathan Greene**, containing some of his most overtly political work to date, along with more of his spare and poignant observations on the human condition. More recently they published *A Meeting of Angels: The Correspondence of Thomas Merton* with Edward Deming & Faith Andrews, which while not poetry will be of interest to most of us who are enthusiasts for Merton or the Shakers (the Andrews were scholars of Shaker life). Both are available from **Amazon** or directly from **Broadstone-Books.com**, where you can also keep up with all of our other news. As you know Broadstone sponsors one of our annual poetry contest categories The Furrbawl Prize judged by Steven Cope. They also provide other prizes in our po-

Opportunities to shine

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. 50th Annual Poetry Contest for 2009 is now open. Check you brochure for details or go to www.NFSPS.com. There are 50 categories to choose from with prizes running from \$25.00 to \$150.00. This is probably one of the best opportunities for KSPS members to shine. If you do not have a brochure and cannot access the internet, drop me a note and I will get a brochure to you ASAP.

Here are some websites to check out: This site is dedicated to the men and women of flight 1549 or any natural disaster <http://hudson-miracle.org/>

"Why are we in Iraq?" is the topic of this website www.whyaireweiniraq.com/submit.htm Check it out and submit your opinion.

The Website Kaixin (Happy Heart in Chinese) is holding three competitions: writing, poetry and photographic. www.kaixin.com.au

www.scribblersretreatwritersconference.com

And as always check out The Carnegie Center for many opportunities. www.CarnegieLiteracy.org CarnegieCenterBlog.blogspot.com

WritingRaw.com is a FREE literary sharing website

Do you write short stories as well as poetry? If so check out this web site. They have many opportunities for publication.

<http://www.glimmertrain.com/>

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in a moment of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

If you are considering self-publishing here is some information you may want to check out. Our writers group used Wasteland last year with wonderful results.

Timothy Renfrow
Publisher
WASTELAND PRESS
P.O. Box 925
Shelbyville, KY 40066
502-437-0860

Visit us on the web at:
www.wastelandpress.net



T O N Y S i d e b a r

So here we are again, starting a new year with KSPS. I want to (and I am sure all our members do) wish all of the incoming officers the greatest of success. Of course their success depends on us. We have to get involved and active if we expect our society to improve. But, with this slate of officers, I have to think we will see the efforts of our immediate past officer continue and new ideas and goals begin to develop. There are many opportunities for all our members to get involved, so if you would like to get on the train as it leaves the station, contact our new President Carol Mauriello.

We do want to thank all of the outgoing officers for their fantastic service this year and in all the years past. We would not be where we are without you.

THANK YOU VERY

At Your Service

Is your writer's group looking for something different in one of your meetings? Are you trying to get a writer's group started? I would like to make you an offer. If you answered yes to any of the above questions, I would love to come to your community and visit with you or help you get a writer's group started. It does not matter if you are near me or in one of the far corners of Kentucky, I would be delighted to come for a visit, All I would ask is that you help me out with my expenses of my trip.

I can do a one day program or even a weekend event if you like. Interested???? Give me a call and we will work it out.

859-734-7867

or

859-247-0522



Here is a helpful hint I received from our friend and KSPS member, Al Riggs:

There is nothing earthshaking about what I'm going to say.

However, I feel this has merit.

Through the years we all write pieces that have no immediate application or seeming relevance and we put these aside to face an uncertain future.

I am currently prospecting a few old, unused works to update and determine value. The last two weeks I've reworked stuff that was put away for a long time, but with tweaking and new thinking, rounds out into material that can endure.

I must admit that new ideas were sidetracked for the Holidays and I am now easing back to a writing routine. The retracing of previous work has turned out to be rewarding; it saves pieces representing past ideas and serves to focus thought processes for the development of current work. We have new ideas, it's just that deciding their merit is hit and miss - very subjective.

Others might benefit from reviewing material originally produced and viewed from a new perspective. In a way, like greeting an old friend after passage of time.

An additional admission is that I discard more old stuff than I keep after reviewing it.

You cannot achieve a new goal by applying the same level of thinking that got you where you are today. (Albert Einstein)

A Note About Strophes

You will find the January edition of Strophes included with this newsletter. On the first page you will find the Convention Madness Poetry Contest. The deadline **WAS** January 31st.

Unfortunately I did not receive our package of Strophes until January 27th. I am sorry I could not get this to you sooner but even if I had been ready to go to print I could not have gotten it to you in time. I am very disappointed in this situation but there is not much I can do about it.

Again I am sorry you all missed this opportunity.
Tony



The topic for the next newsletter is "When I Was Young".

Send a couple of poems and we will use those we feel best fit the topic. There is no charge but you must be a MEMBER of KSPS in order to be included. I have included one of my poems below in honor of Jonathan Green who has a new book of poetry out (see page 4). Send your poetry to

Tony Sexton
700 Sparrow Lane
Waxing Moon Farm
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

**On Visiting Jonathan
(Onan's Bend)**

My old truck
bounced and banged
across creek and spring
and I thought myself lost
but, alas
at the end of the road
just as he said
there was peace
and understanding
and friendship.

Tony Sexton

**SAINTLY WORLD
By Robin Whitehouse**

When I am old, I know
the world may lose its glow,
And I might fault its young,
play soldiers yet unsung,
But I'll never cease to gasp
at scenes so pure and chaste,
as when I open up the screen
to read the news I haven't seen
but find instead in dawn's sparse light
a yawning land of frozen white.
I'll view in awe each way I look
at sights from winter's picture book.

When I am aged, I'm sure
the world may lose allure,
and I will sit and moan
the way the race has gone.
I guess I'll shrink in height
and hardly sleep at night,
while high cholesterol
will swiftly take its toll.
But I won't file complaint,
old world when you're a saint
all draped in drifts of ermine
and pure as Sunday's sermon.

**Toil in the Soil
By Deirdre Artrip**

Stir the soil and add manure
Maybe this year my roses will grow for sure.
Old Mrs. Howell, "Green Thumb" supreme
Mulching geraniums, snapdragons, pansies, gar-
dens from *The Southern Living Magazine*

I fell off the trellis and tripped over the bird bath
putting out garden gnomes on my tiny stone path.
Keeping up with the "Jones" is not as easy as it
seems
to look like the visions in *Better Homes and Gar-
dens Magazines*.

Such a fun time has been planting the daffodils
after turning the soil for hours and trembling from
the old rotor till.

Who masters the garden as the queen Martha
Steward do
working her magic in the apron and gloved hand
like you.

More from the Poetry Bag

My River Runs Red

by Hazel Bell Nicholas

My river wears a gentle mask,
its color soft and red,
but that is when all nature dotes;
she dozes in her bed.

But then alas, all heaven bawls
and dumps more than a pail,
folks scamper from her angry swells,
then from her lashing tail.

That sleeping viper, full awake,
consumes all in her path,
she fells the strong and stable trees,
destruction in her wrath.

Red River is my friend, my foe,
allegiance have I sworn,
it was near her deceptive face
this Okie gal was born.

I've seen my father net for fish,
those "cats" now jump so free,
but that was oh so long ago,
before old age caught me.

But recalls lap within my mind,
I think of her as mild,
Red River has been home-sweet home
since I was just a child.



Stately Willow

by James W. Richardson

I saw a stately willow
Standing on the shore
Dripping tears into the water
Sorely weeping evermore
Molting drops of grief into
The water below
Like a rain from Heaven
Very gentle very slow
As if the sorrow came from
The deepest roots below

Moody River

By JoAnn Finley Black

I come to this river today.
A safe place to hide away.
I need some balm for my heart to mend.
I come to this river, she is my friend.

Today this river is quiet and still.
She understands the pain that I feel.
She whispers sweet peace as she ebbs along.
Her music is smooth like the words of a song.

Sometimes this river is boiling with anger.
She says don't touch me, I'm full of danger.
She's in a treacherous mood some days.
She says stand back or be on your way.

Sometimes this river is flowing on her way.
She don't have time to tarry and play.
She's full of ambition and surging along.
Her swiftness is playing a fast, peppy song.

This river is full of beauty and wonder.
That's why I'm drawn here, to listen and ponder
We'll remain friends, this river and me.

Immeasurable

by Diana C. Derringer

A whole can be greater
than the sum of its parts
applies in our lives
to the blending of hearts.

Each day is a blessing.
Hope blossoms anew.
Any challenge can be conquered
when I face it with you

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