



Magnolia Muse

Newsletter of the Mississippi Poetry Society

August 2013

Notes from the President

1. **MPS Fall Contest:** By now I hope you have worked up some new poems and edited some others for the Fall Contest. Remember, the deadline for the contest chairman's receipt of entries is September 16; therefore, you might want to make September 10 your mailing date to allow for mail-service holdups.
2. **NFSPS 2013 Contest Winners:** Congratulations to Central Branch's Tommy Little, who won a 3rd place and several Honorable Mentions. We are also proud of MPS members from Texas who won recognition—Barbara Blanks received a 2nd place, a 3rd place and some Honorable Mentions and Von Bourland, a host of Honorable Mentions.
3. **Mini-festival Plans**

We have a wonderful Fall Mini-festival planned at Belhaven University. On Saturday, October 12, plan to be upstairs in the McCravey-Triplett Student Center's Theatre by 8:45 for registration. The registration fee is \$15 for members, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. For guests, the fee will be \$8.

Our guest speaker will be Paula Lambert, whose picture and biography are on the next page. As you will see, she has impressive credentials.

During the afternoon session we will announce winners in the Fall Contest as well as our new Poet of the Year and Lifetime Achievement awards. We hope to dismiss by 3:00 p.m.
4. **Festival Eve (Friday night)**

For early arrivals, Central Branch will host a poetry reading in the meeting room at Julep Restaurant at the corner of I-55 and Northside Drive in Jackson beginning at 7:00 p.m. on October 11. Central Branch will provide appetizers and soft drinks for attendees. Those who wish to do so may order meals and drinks from the restaurant's menu at their own expense. If you plan to attend the Friday-night reading, please let me know (email: jskelly04@gmail.com; telephone: (601) 856-3635).
5. **Hotel Information**

If you need accommodations for Friday night, some rooms are reserved at the **Cabot Lodge Millsaps** on State Street. To get the rate of \$89, call the desk at (601) 948-8650. Be sure to make your reservation before September 28, when the rooms will be released.
6. **Other Business**

It's time to pay dues. The cost is still \$25 for Mississippi members (\$15 goes to the state's treasury; \$10 to the local branch). Dues for At-large members' (out of state) are \$15. Pay your branch treasurer or send a check or money order payable to Mississippi Poetry Society to Judy Davies, 1418 Louis Alexis Trail, Gautier, MS 39553.

MPS web page reminder: If you have a website of your own that relates to poetry or writing and you would like to have a link to it from the MPS web page, send the link to Judy Davies judydavies@cableone.net. MPS website address is www.misspoetry.net.

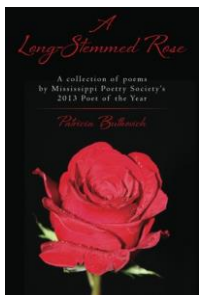
Jeanne S. Kelly
MPS President

Paula J. Lambert
featured speaker
Mississippi Poetry Society's
Fall Mini-Festival,
October 12, 2013

Lambert, author of *The Sudden Seduction of Gravity* (Full/Crescent Press, 2012) and *The Guilt That Gathers* (Pudding House Press, 2009), was born and raised in north central Massachusetts. She earned her B.A. and M.A. in English from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and her M.F.A. from Bowling Green State University. She received an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship in 2004 and was a resident fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in 2005. She has published poetry, fiction, and essays in numerous journals, including *Hawaii Review*, *Wisconsin Review*, *Other Voices*, *Zone 3*, *Cleveland Magazine*, *SLAB*, *Lake Effect*, and *The Awakenings Review*. She currently resides in Dublin, Ohio, with her husband and their children, and is an active member of the Ohio Poetry Association.



Paula has a Mississippi Connection: She taught English Composition and Creative Writing at Holmes Community College's Goodman Campus from 1996-2001. At our Fall Mini-festival, she will speak on Writing as a Healing Process and read selections from her books. She will have some of her books to sell and sign while she is here.



MPS 2013 Poet of the Year, Patricia Butkovich, will also have copies of her book, *A Long-stemmed Rose* for sale at \$12 each at the Mini-festival. (The books weren't ready for distribution at the Spring Festival.)

*The mind that finds its way to wild places is the poet's;
but the mind that never finds its way back is the lunatic's.*
- G. K. Chesterton