



Magnolia Muse

Newsletter of the Mississippi Poetry Society

June 2013

www.misspoetry.net

President's Message

In April I accepted the gavel, formally assuming the responsibility to be your President for the next two years. Since the last time I served in that capacity, most of us have accepted the use of computers for the convenience of email and an online presence. Some still hold onto paper and pen or electric typewriters, and that's okay as well. The good thing about being a poet is that it's okay to "march to the beat of a different drummer."

Some days I love my computer and the access it gives me to information and quick messages from friends. At other times I complain that technology is turning us into "machine people with machine hearts," an idea expressed in an old Chinese fable. In fact, as a few of you have discovered, sometimes I decide not to turn my computer on—not even to check email or Facebook messages. On those days, I'm not wasting time. I'm using time for face-to-face interaction with humans, often little ones (grandchildren). Some poets find their inspiration in nature. My ideas are more likely to come from observing people—in the flesh—although I do have a couple of poems about people on Facebook.

With that understanding, I give you my email address: jskelly04@gmail.com. You can also find me on Facebook listed as Jeanne Smith Kelly. Just don't be offended if it takes me a day or two to get back to you. For my part, I'll try to remember that real live people are sending me emails and treat them accordingly. However, please don't send me cute messages or political rantings that were forwarded to you. I just don't have time to look at that type of mail,

Jeanne S. Kelly
MPS President

**There's no money in poetry, but then there's
no poetry in money, either.~Robert Graves**

Spring Festival Highlights

Thanks to South Branch President Mary Osterman and her MPS South Branch crew for producing a wonderful Spring Festival in April at Gulf Hills Resort in Ocean Springs.

Highlights included a pre-festival party at the lovely home of Elva Avera in Pascagoula. The Saturday program began with a critique session led by Ann Carolyn Cates, Doris Jones, and Mick Denington. Reports from Branch Presidents indicated that all three of the MPS regional branches—North, Central, and South are meeting regularly.

After the morning session, we had time to enjoy some of the features of beautiful Ocean Springs as we found unique places for lunch on our own.

During the afternoon we had a business session during which Judy Davies presented recommendations from the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Included in the list of proposals were terms of office for officers and duties of each state officer. Judy also explained the laws that affect MPS in a business sense and recommended policies for our business affairs and distribution of funds.

New Officers were elected by the group, and outgoing President Brenda Finnegan swore in the new officers: President—Jeanne Kelly, Vice-President and Acting Treasurer—Judy Davies, and Secretary—Wynne Huddleston.

The dinner program featured Gulf Coast poet Lenny Emanuel, who presented a program based on his books of poetry.

Throughout the festival, contest winners were announced by Competition Coordinator Dierdre Payne. Patty Butkovich, 2013 MPS Poet of the Year, read from her book *A Long-stemmed Rose*. (An order form for it is included in this newsletter.)

Jeanne Kelly has made the following appointments for the upcoming year: Contest Coordinator—Dierdre Payne, Scrapbook Keeper—DeSha Montgomery, and Historian—Emory D. Jones.

HELP!

MPS needs a Treasurer. Although many poets do not have math brains, some do. Judy Davies is a fine example of a good poet who also excels in business-related skills. However, Judy, who is our new Vice-President and also serves as journal typist and editor, cannot do everything. If you or a willing spouse would be willing to serve in this important position, please let me or Judy know.

Our past treasurers have often been Poets by Marriage. We would waive membership dues for the person who agrees to fill this position. Judy has a records system that will help the next person keep books in order, and records are saved on a flash drive. Reply to me jskelly04@gmail.com or Judy at judydavies@cableone.net. We will be forever grateful to the person who agrees to help us keep our records!

*Save this date:
October 12, 2013*

Mississippi Poetry Society

Fall Mini-festival

**Belhaven University
Jackson, Mississippi**

***Branch Presidents**, please send me your group's nominees for Poet of the Year 2014 by July 15, 2013. I'll mail applications directly to them. You may nominate two poets. Each should have been a member of MPS for at least three years and have a record of service to MPS as well as having been published in MPS journals and/or other publications.

Jeanne

***A Long-Stemmed Rose**
chapbook of Patricia Butkovich
MPS Poet of the Year 2013*

~About the Author~

Patty and her husband, Dave, moved from Illinois to Mississippi thirty-six years ago when they motored their sailboat down the Mississippi River to the Gulf Coast where they enjoyed racing and pleasure sailing for many years. Butkovich began recording life experiences and the beauty of the area with poetry and photography after retiring from teaching. She is a member of the Mississippi Poetry Society, Gulf Coast Writers and Writer's Unlimited. Her poetry has been published in many journals and anthologies.

Copies of the book may be purchased for \$12 plus \$3 for mailing expenses (Total \$15). Make checks payable to Patricia Butkovich, and send them to Patricia Butkovich, 8319 Pine Cone Dr. Gautier, MS 39553. Include the following information:

Your Name _____

Your Mailing Address _____

City, State Zip Code _____

Copies of the book will also be available for sale at the Fall Mini-festival on October 12, 2013.