



Magnolia Muse

Newsletter of the Mississippi Poetry Society

November 2015

www.misspoetry.net

Notes from the President

Spring Contest: As many of you may already know, the Spring Contest is up on our website and available. We thank our category sponsors and hope they have challenged your writing. We are excited to read your newest and best poetry. The deadline for our contest coordinator, Sheila Grieco, to receive your entries is March 15, 2016. Please note, this is NOT a postmark date. Entries must be received by March 15th.

Spring Festival Change of Venue: The 2016 Spring Festival will be hosted by our Central Branch. Originally, plans were made to hold our two-day event at Lake Tiak-O-Khata. However, due to increased costs at that location, the venue has been changed to **Cabot Lodge-North in Ridgeland, MS**. We know MPS members will appreciate their concern for expenses, comfort, and convenience, as well as their desire that as many are able to attend this festival as possible. Please notify members and friends of the change. The dates are April 23-24 and rooms are available for \$104.00 per night, which includes breakfast as well as “happy hour” drinks and popcorn. Reservations can be made by calling 601-957-0757 or 800-342-2268 and mentioning that you are with the Mississippi Poetry Society group. Registration fee has not yet been set, but should be available by the time of the next Magnolia Muse in February.

Mick Denington: I am sad to report that our good friend, Mick Denington, passed away on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. Mick was an excellent poet, a long-time member of North Branch, and an active participant in MPS. He willingly served on committees, provided his expertise on panels, and was a tireless promoter of poetry. Mick was recently awarded the MPS Lifetime Achievement Award. Several of his poems can be read under the “Spotlight” section of our website. Please keep his widow, Marilyn, and their very close friends, Ann Carolyn and Terrell Cates, in your prayers.

Nomination Committee Named: As of Spring Festival 2016, I will have completed my two years as your president and it will be time for the gavel to pass to my successor. The following members have agreed to serve on the nominating committee and present a slate of officers for consideration: **Brenda Finnegan, DeSha Montgomery and Emory Jones**. I hope you will give serious thought to taking a leadership role in MPS and, if you are interested, please contact one of our committee members.

Business Meeting: As is customary at our business meeting during Spring Festival, we will be discussing any issues that need to come before the membership. Up for discussion will be our participation in the NFSPS Contest, the amount of prize money and a subject or form for our entries. Another subject to discuss will be our website. In this age of technology, a website is a must for us to remain functional. My husband, Ken, has graciously provided website maintenance services gratis for the last few years for MPS at my request. Following his posting of the winners list from our 2016 Spring Festival, the MPS website maintenance will need to pass to someone else to continue, or he will continue if requested; but will charge for his services. Please let me know by email at judydavies@cablone.net before February 1st if you have something you would like discussed during

our business meeting.

Ruth Richmond Honored: North Branch member and frequent contest sponsor, Ruth Richmond, was recently honored as the North Branch Poet of the Year. North Branch plans to assist Ruth in publishing a small book of her poetry. See some pictures of her celebration in our “Spotlight” section.

The results are in! Mississippi Poetry Society Awards Committee announces the 2016 Poet of the Year, Dr. Emory D. Jones of Iuka, Mississippi. Please click on our “About” page to read all the details!

Reminder: If you have not yet paid your dues for 2015-16, please contact your branch treasurer or, if you are an at-large member, our state treasurer, with your payment of \$25.00 to keep your membership current.

Bringing closure to 2015: Cooler weather, falling leaves and approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays signal the final months of 2015. I hope each of you enjoys respite from the summer heat, the busyness of the holidays, and the warmth of family and friends during this precious season. Regardless of how you celebrate, may your time of worship, reflection, cheer and companionship fill your hearts with joy and peace.

Judy Davies
President

Poetry is plucking at the heartstrings, and making music with them.

Dennis Gabor