

Magnolia Muse

The Mississippi Poetry Society Newsletter

August 2016

Spring Festival, 2016: Our Spring Festival was a great success! We would like to thank Central Branch MPS for the good time we all had. The accommodations were nice and the poetry was good. Congratulations go to South Branch member, Dorothy Rogers of Lucedale, who won the MPS first place award at the festival for her poem, "Beneath the Abaya" about Saudi Arabian women. Our distinguished Poet of the Year, Dr. Emory D. Jones, of Iuka, read favorite poems from his new chapbook, *Reflections: A Book of Poems*. These books are available from Dr. Jones as stated under "The Poet of the Year" tab on the Home page of our website. Our banquet speaker and North Branch member, and Mississippi's official Goodwill Ambassador, Patricia Neely-Dorsey, entertained us with delightful poetry from her books: *Reflections of a Mississippi Magnolia* and *My Magnolia Memories and Musings*.

Spring Festival, 2017: Our next festival will be Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23, 2017, in Southaven. We will have a pre-festival gathering on the evening of April 21. More information will follow in the next newsletter and in Strophes. **NOTE:** Sponsorships are needed for the upcoming Spring Contest. Please contact Ann Carolyn Cates at annccates@aol.com or Emory Jones at pianot@bellsouth.net for more information. All sponsorship forms are to be submitted by October 15, 2016.

MPS Business: At our Spring Festival business meeting, we voted to continue to participate in the NFSPS contest and to keep the sonnet as the poem we would sponsor. We voted to continue with the prize amount of \$75.00 (\$35, \$25, \$15). We voted to hire Mr. Ken Davies as our webmaster. All information must be approved for use on the website by Branch presidents.

MPS Officers: New officers to serve for the next two years are President Michael Shelton, Vice-President Linda Watson Owen, Secretary Dorothy Wiman, Treasurer Patty Butkovich, and Historian and Scrapbook Keeper Dr. Emory D. Jones.

NFSPS Convention: Please refer to February's newsletter for information about obtaining fellowships to the national convention. Congratulations to our poet friend and Arkansas neighbor, James Barton, who was elected NFSPS president at the 2016 Convention in Minnesota! Jim has appointed our own Dr. Emory D. Jones as his National Contest Chair.

Awards: Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented at the Spring Festival to Central Branch member Jeanne Kelly and presented at a South Branch meeting to member Sheila Grieco, who was unable to attend the festival. Congratulations to both!

Past President: I would like to thank our past president Judy Davies for a job well done for MPS. She took the helm in April 2014. She and her husband, Ken, are a very busy creative team, with Judy writing poems and Ken composing music. Judy and Ken have both received numerous awards and are internationally recognized for their poetry and music.

Happy Indian Summer!
Michael Shelton, MPS President