



# MAGNOLIA MUSE

The Mississippi Poetry Society Newsletter

## POETIC ENTRANCE

*No better way is there to say hello than with lines of poetry destined to grow into musings  
written that quietly show we've reasons to love and poetically grow!*

**John Michael Shelton**

An introduction by way of apology for my lateness and lack of computer knowledge might be in order here because the last Magnolia Muse was published in early 2016. I would like to encourage our current and future members in several areas: state participation, national participation, recruiting, contesting, and of course, keep writing poetry!

2017 Poet of the Year, Elaine McDermott, will be receiving poetry packet submissions from the three nominees for the 2018 Poet of the Year. The competition deadline for our nominees is September 30<sup>th</sup>, at which time an independent judge will review the submissions. The 2018 Poet of the Year will be announced by Elaine in October 2017 with the winner being honored and reading from his or her new chapbook at our 2018 Spring Festival in early April. Be sure to check our website home page for reservation information and updates on Spring Festival.

December 1, 2017 is the deadline for this year's student competition. Grades 6-8 comprise the junior division and senior division includes grades 9-12. Each state may submit up to ten poems in each division to be considered for awards from the NFSPS Manningham Trust Student Contest. I encourage each of our members to make copies of our MPS 2018 Student Contest to share with your local schools. [The link to copy the student contest appears on our website contest page.](#) All MPS student entries should be sent to me at Michael Shelton, 354 D, East Lee Blvd., Starkville, Mississippi 39759.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Poindexter Hall at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, our webmaster, Ken Davies, will be premiering his *Nocturne* for solo trombone, and Judy has invited Dr. Jennifer Haislip, oboe/English horn professor from Mississippi State, who will perform Ken's *Dark River* for English horn. The concert is free and open to the public, so come out in support of Ken and Judy!

Congratulations to Janice Canerdy, the new North Branch president of MPS. We are still in search of a state secretary to replace the irreplaceable Dorothy Wiman, who has been our secretary the last few years. Please let me know if you are interested in filling this vital office.

It is time once again for our five-year anthology, which will be titled [Celebrating Mississippi](#). Please send two or more poems, not to exceed a total of two pages, by paper copy and a \$10.00 fee for publication. Poems may be previously published. Deadline for the poems to be received is October 31, 2017. They should be sent to Judy Davies, 1418 Louis Alexis Trail, Gautier, MS 39553. Checks should be made payable to MPS.

Recently, I received a request from a Notre Dame College art professor. It was a request for permission to include a poem written by our own Sandra Bounds in an art project by Professor Rachel Morris at said institution. Congratulations, Sandra!