



June 4, 2018

Hello MPS Poets and Poetry Lovers!



June is the month for love and weddings, isn't it! "June, moon, spoon" have dotted the landscape of poetry for, well, at least a few centuries. You may recall that for many years June was THE month for weddings. My own parents were married way back in 1929 on June 29th. ...and speaking of 'love', I hope you are sharing your love of poetry throughout this month with all those around you. I keep musing over the advice that Dr. Sue Brannon Walker gave us at our inspiring Spring Fest on the coast in April. (Thank you, South Branch!) Dr. Walker urged us to memorize samplings of our poetry, so that at any time, we are ready to share some of our poems with those around us. Although I'm drawn to the idea, memorizing has always been a challenge for me. Do you have any tips for making the process easier? Personally, I would like to take up that challenge of committing to memory several of my poems. For the love of poetry, I hereby vow to memorize one of my poems during this month of June, and I will make an opportunity to share that poem. Would you like to accept Dr. Walker's challenge, too?



Again, speaking of love, I had the opportunity to shout the praises of the

Mississippi Poetry Society in my report to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, which recently met for the yearly conference in the 'mile high' city of Denver. The slate of activities and speakers was simply 'awesome'. Even though, regrettably, I could not be in attendance this year, my report on the Mississippi Poetry Society is standing with other state reports. Indeed, it is a privilege to sing the praises of our group of poets and poetry lovers! Thank you to many of you who responded to my request to send information about what you are doing as branches and as individuals in your poetry adventures. Be sure to read my report in our online site at misspoetry.net. I truly 'loved' sharing every detail you will read there. Next year's NFSPS Convention will be held in beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 23rd through the 26th! Wouldn't it be fun to take a Mississippi delegation! Who wants to go? What a great trip that will be! Here is the link: <http://nmpoetry.com/convention-nfsp-2019.shtml>



During our MPS Spring Fest, our 2018 POY, Michael Shelton, delighted us all with readings of his poems from his well-loved book *The Dragon in the Tree*

House (What a great title!). Now it is time for our branches to choose 2019's nominees. I am requesting that our branch presidents oversee those selections and send their nominee's poetry submissions to Michael Shelton, chairperson, by September 21st. He will then deliver the entries to the judge of the competition. I know there will be stellar poetry submitted, and it will be a challenging job for any judge! Best of luck to each entrant!



Next, may I add a note of encouragement to our members. If you are like me, and like so many others, your summer is already proving to be full of activities and responsibilities. Despite that reality, I encourage all of our members to support our local branches with your presence when possible. I think you will agree that it is definitely worth the extra bit of planning and energy that it takes. When we are with our fellow poets, each one absent from the table is definitely missed! ...so let's give each other some 'love' by joining in regularly, or as often as is possible. Come and bring a friend! **Each One, Reach One!** 🏠 ...and for those of you who are physically unable to attend, you are especially missed. Please, know you are with us in spirit, and we are working on the possibility of an ongoing, secure, on-line MPS fellowship. North Branch may share more with us, too, about their 'Round Robin' method of dealing with the challenges of travel and distance in their wide area.



I'd like to add a reminder, too, before closing. This summer may be the perfect time to encourage younger writers by gifting them with an MPS student membership available for \$15.00! I have twin grandsons who will be celebrating birthdays this month. Among their presents will be two student memberships along with a poem adventure with 'Mimi'. I'll delight in teaching them to capture what they enjoy most about summer in lines of their own poetry. I'll encourage them to write what they see, hear, smell, taste, and touch during swimming, playing ball, or spending time with pets, etc. Passing the love of poetry on to a younger generation is a privilege and joy, indeed!

So now, in closing, ...yes, "June, moon, spoon, soon..." We'll see you all soon! Until then, let's write a love poem, or maybe pen lines to trace the lunar shadows, or to salute the coming summer sun! ...then, ...who wants to memorize it? Thank you, one and all, for the delight you give to us and to so many others through your lines and rhymes! Happy June, everybody!! Write on!!



Poetically yours,
Linda Owen