

# *The Magnolia Muse*



Newsletter of the Mississippi Poetry Society, Inc.

July 2021 Edition

Greetings Members and Friends:

This letter brings great news. The 2021 Journals are back from the printer and in the mail to members, winners and sponsors of the annual contest. The committee put much time and effort into it and I think you will be pleased with the results.

This is the link to the journal's page on Amazon that can be used to order extra copies. They are listed at \$4. This link will also be listed on our website: misspoetry.net .

[https://www.amazon.com/Mississippi-Poetry-Journal-2021-Contest/dp/B096TTV53W/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?dchild=1&keywords=Books+Mississippi+Poetry+Journal+2021&qid=1625197801&sr=8-3](https://www.amazon.com/Mississippi-Poetry-Journal-2021-Contest/dp/B096TTV53W/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=Books+Mississippi+Poetry+Journal+2021&qid=1625197801&sr=8-3)

At this time I'd like to offer a warm welcome to our new webmaster, Vishu Thara of Ocean Springs; and send a grateful thank you to retiring webmaster, Ken Davies, for his years of service. We wish you a long and happy retirement, Ken.

The national convention was held on Zoom this year. I attended the state president's meeting. The main points included a discussion of the difficulty in finding judges and how to attract new members. Dwindling numbers and aging membership also seems to be a universal concern. Most of the states represented reported using Zoom for meetings during the pandemic and were pleased with its success. Several said they will continue using zoom even after in-person meetings resume. The presidents also shared things they did during April bring poetry to the public.

### ~~Local Branch Reports~~

North Branch will meet at the Mississippi State University Library in Starkville July 31. Steve Robinson will be doing a reading from his new book, *Blooms of Oleander* (available through Barnes and Noble and Amazon). It has been in the Mississippi top ten every week since its release in early June. Congratulations, Steve. Bill Hill will be sharing information about the Southaven Arts Council, the Mid-South Christian Writers Conference, and the Tennessee Poetry Society.

Congratulations to Dr. Emory Jones on a long list of publishing credits over the last three months and to Janice Cannerdy for winning honors in the national contest.

Dr. Emory Jones: Roundtable of Arkansas Members-Only Contest, first place; and April 21, 2<sup>nd</sup> HM, Dr. Lily Peter Spring Award  
March *The Weekly Avocet*, four haiku; and summer issue, one poem  
Spring *Calliope*, one poem  
Winter Missouri State Poetry Society Contest, second place, rhymed or blank verse  
May *Three Line Poetry*, two haiku; and June, one haiku.  
May *Haiku Universe*, one haiku  
May *Haiku Journal*, one haiku; and Issue 67, one poem  
January Monthly Contest of the California State Poetry Society, 1<sup>st</sup> place  
May *The Light Ekphrastic*, two poems  
May Arizona State Poetry Society, won two members-only contests  
April *Halcyon Days*, "Haiku Sequence"; and Summer, three poems  
Pennsylvania Poetry Society Contest, a 2<sup>nd</sup> place; that poem and another, published  
Utah State Poetry Society's Annual Contest, a 3<sup>rd</sup> HM  
Crazy Days of Summer Contest of the White County Creative Writers, 1<sup>st</sup> place

Janice Canerdy: one second place, one third place, and one HM in the 2021 NFSPS Contest

Central Branch has scheduled their July meeting on the 17th, Bill Gressett has challenged each attendee to pull together two of their poems and, in some way, meld the two into one. Sounds intriguing!

Daniel Pickett had a book published recently. It's called "A Separate Self: a collection of poetry."

A Fall Fest in enchanting Natchez is in the first stages of planning. Circle the weekend of September 18 on your calendars.

South Branch had a delightful Luau meeting in June at Brenda Finnegan's home on the beach and will not meet again until September. They will stay in touch by creating more of the cooperative poetry.

Congratulations to Judy Davies. She is the featured poet of the month on the United Poets Laurette International website. Check out the following link: ([www.upli-wcp.org](http://www.upli-wcp.org))

Happy Writing,  
Patty Butkovich  
MPS President

"Poetry comes from the highest happiness or the deepest sorrow." —A.P.J. Abdul Kalam