

# A Common Wealth of Poetry

The Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia

[www.PoetrySocietyOfVirginia.org](http://www.PoetrySocietyOfVirginia.org)

September 2011

Send info to: [shannp@gmail.com](mailto:shannp@gmail.com)

“Earthquake and Hurricane Edition!”

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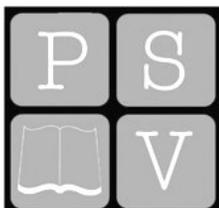
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*Deadline for next Newsletter is*

**September 19th**

*Send poems about “Fall” for consideration in the October issue- 30 line limit*



## **From our President**

Heartiest Greetings, Poets and Poetry Lovers,

Our first Executive Committee meeting was cordial and productive, and I am excited about the prospects for this year. After some time, we have welcomed back Helen Eano, as parliamentarian, Claudia Gary, as secretary, and Shann Palmer, as newsletter editor.

New to the Committee are Mary Haines, Eastern regional vice-president, Joan Mazza, nominating committee chair, Tom Morris, Western regional vice-president, and Charles Wilson, membership chair. So nice to have everyone; I know good things are in store for the PSV this year.

We were pleased to hear good news about the success of Jack Callan's open reading series at the Chrysler Museum. Good work, Jack! We are looking forward eagerly to the Southeastern regional meeting in September. All officers, especially regional vice-presidents, are encouraged to attend this and future regional meetings.

Gifts to the Edgar Allan Poe and Anne Spencer memorials, and sponsorship of the Virginia Highlands Festival Creative Writing Day were renewed. We are beginning the search for the next Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth, who will be chosen next year, and work continues on Volume II of the “Four Virginia Poets Laureate” teaching guide.

We extend sincerest sympathy to Joanne Kennedy, on the passing of her daughter, Mary. You will be in our thoughts and prayers, Joanne. Also, prayers go out to Helen Eano, as she recuperates from her recent illness.

It's been an eventful period since May, and it appears that our Society is on track for a good year. Many thanks to all who have contributed, and affectionate regards to all members.

My Very Best,  
Judith K. Bragg

## Obituary

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Early this summer, the Poetry Society of Virginia lost one of its long-term members. The Richmond Times-Dispatch noted the passing of **Madge Weaver Haga**, of Farmville, Virginia, at age 105. She had been a loyal member of the Poetry Society of Virginia since 1942

*From member Jane Simon:*

I was saddened to read in the New York Times, Thursday, August 25 (p. B17 ) about the death of **Samuel Menashe** who wrote 'jewel-like, gnomic short verse'. I met him late in his life about four years ago, at a poetry reading in New York City at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Unrecognized much of his life, with difficulty getting published, he was finally awarded the first Neglected Masters Award in 2004 by the Poetry Foundation which published his book of new and selected poems.

Here is a poem included in his obituary:

The niche narrows  
Hones one thin  
Until his bones  
Disclose him

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## Member News & Publications

**Michal Mahgerefteh** has four poems published at Mediterranean Poetry  
<http://bit.ly/q9AJiH>

**Michelle O'Hearn** (aka MiCKi) was a speaker for the Riverside Young Writers Aug 13 on "Songwriting" Fredericksburg, VA. (RYW is an extension of the Riverside Writers Club). She is also a winner of the CAT Bus Lines Spring 2011 poetry contest for her poem "Losing a Neighbor". Winning poems will be published as posters on the Charlottesville Area Transit Buses for several months and sent to the UVA Special Collections library for archives.

**Trilla Ramage's** poem, "before rainbows" has been published in Sacred Journey's Summer 2011 issue published by Fellowship in Prayer out of Princeton, NJ.

**Joan Mazza's** poem "To a Mathematician Lover" is published in Intersections.  
<http://bit.ly/nYTot8>

Advisory Board Member **Ron Smith** gave three readings this summer. Norge Library, then to a conference of the Sport Literature Association at University of Maine, where he read new poems (including one in next ANGLICAN THEOLOGICAL REVIEW). In July at the International Ezra Pound Conference at the University of London (in London, England), he read new poems about Modernist art and culture, including poems about the controversial Ezra Pound.

On Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Norge Library, members of the Williamsburg Poetry Guild read: **Flora Adams, Elizabeth Urquhart, Philomene Hood, and Joanne Kennedy.**



**Mike Maggio** has books coming soon: The Keepers from March Street Press and Haunted Garden, from Pudding House Publications.

**Shann Palmer** has poems in the magazine Phat'itude and a chapbook coming in October from the Dead Mule School of Southern Literature.

## Meetings, Readings, and Events

**The Southeast Region** Workshop will be Saturday, September 17th. from 12 noon to 4 p.m., at the Russell Memorial Library on Taylor Road in Chesapeake. Our host will be **Pete Freas**. The Workshop will be an Ekphrastic Poetry Event. Three local artists will be bringing paintings for the poets to write their impressions of. There will be dancers and musicians. PSV members and the general public are invited to this free event. Bring journals or writing materials and food to share for a potluck luncheon.

**The Northern Region** is delighted to announce the Ellen Anderson Prize winner for 2012 is **Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda**. Details about date, time and place will be forthcoming. We are also starting a new activity: the **Potomac Poets Series**. Five local poets will read on October 29, 2011 at the Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22307, from 10am to 1pm. Guests will include **Peter Lattu, Eric Johnson, and Stuart Nottingham**. Free.

AN EVENING WITH VIRGINIA POETS  
Wednesday, October 12 | 6:00 - 7:30 pm  
The Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, **Richmond**. The event is free, no registration required. Free parking under the Library. Feature reader: **Kelly Cherry**, Poet Laureate of Virginia, joined by Virginia poets **Michael Chitwood, Kathleen Graber** and **Lesley Wheeler** (finalists for the Library of Virginia Literary Awards 2011 Poetry Award) for readings and discussion. Reception follows. *Funding provided by the Carole M. Weinstein Virginia Author's Fund*. Call 804.692.3900 visitvirginialiteraryfestival.org  
**Poetry at The Crossing** Open Mic Event: September 15 at 7:00 PM. The Coffeehouse in **Williamsburg** Crossing Shopping Center. To ensure a place on the list of readers, sign up by emailing [mjshalom@widomaker.com](mailto:mjshalom@widomaker.com) or call 757-220-2654. If you come early, you can also sign up at the door.

Poetry/Writing Group forming at Grace Episcopal Church, **Goochland** alternate Wednesdays 2pm and 7:30pm. For details 804-335-9403 or contact **Shann Palmer**.

Thursday September 22 at 6pm join Richmond poets at the wine bar C'est Le Vin. The monthly Poetry Tasting draws a wide array of poets from all experience & publication levels. These "mini-features" are given each 5 minutes to present to an eager audience a "taste" of what they do as poets. The evening is a great time for readers and listeners alike (not least due to the enticing wine list and mouth-watering menu of C'est Le Vin itself!)

*Send in your publications, your events, interesting poetry news!*

## Book review

A Piece of Heaven  
Farin Mirvahabi Powell

PSV Member Farin Powell has published this substantial book of seventy poems designed to inspire and uplift the human spirit, filled with scenes from her life and activities.

In the poem "For Seven-year Olds" she begins

I read my poem to the wind,  
it blew away in anger,  
leaving dust in my eyes.

These are concrete images any reader can understand. She continues later in the poem:

I read my poems to seven-year olds,  
they cheered and applauded.

Who among us wouldn't be joyful??

This is a very accessible book, filled with affection for daily life and activities.

## POEMS

**Marguerite Thoburn Watkins**

A Summer Study in Yellow –

the broad yellow squash blooms,  
row of sunflowers, goldenrod in my pasture  
and the goldfinch and his wife  
sitting on a sturdy sunflower stalk  
barely swaying it, as they  
crack and crunch black oil seeds  
from the feeder.

A new young goldfinch,  
copying his parents, lands there next,  
acting as much like a grownup as he can,  
until Dad returns.  
Then he's again all yellow fluff and twitter,  
hoping his dad will crack a seed open for him  
and put it in his mouth.

First-fledged babies -- bluebirds, titmice,  
woodpeckers, even for a day, young crows,  
their feathers like so much uncombed hair --  
have the same anxious just-out-of-the-nest twitter.  
How can a parent help but worry –

like me, running behind my youngest, college-bound,  
with cookies, the socks he's forgotten  
and a yellow poncho,  
a study in independence and dependence,  
in taking up and letting go.

**Stu Nottingham**

Summer's End

Torrid was the Summer.  
Torrid was our love.

I thought there was fuel  
to feed our love,  
through the years.

In late August  
she telephoned and said  
“Our love cannot continue  
unless you embrace my God.”

I said “Goodbye”  
and opened  
to the challenge of Autumn.

from her new poetry book, "Anticipation"

## Poetry in the Schools

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As we begin the new PSV year, we are hopeful that many poets will be connecting with students in classrooms throughout Virginia. When schools or organizations contact us, we suggest poets in the areas near the school districts or location of the organizations. We know that many of you are presenting on a regular basis, and we are very interested in collecting some statistics about our connections during the coming year. If you present or conduct a workshop, would you please send the following information to me either by email or regular mail? When you have the opportunity to connect with others, please remember to mention our website information and our January contest. Thanks so much.

Beth Huddleston

Name of PSV Member \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Presentation \_\_\_\_\_

Group to Whom You Presented \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Individuals to Whom You Presented \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Presentation or Workshop

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**Watch for the Annual Contest Brochure  
coming in the next issue!! Send news and success stories!!**

**For information on where to publish poems, try these resources:**

In print: Poets & Writers Magazine and Poet's Market 2011 by Robert Lee Brewer

Online: **Creative Writing Opportunities List:**

to sign up go to [Crwropps-B-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Crwropps-B-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**Duotrope Digest-** a free writers resource <http://duotrope.com>

**New Pages-** reviews literary magazines and lists deadlines <http://www.newpages.com>

**To submit poems to the newsletter** email the editor. October: poems about Fall/30 line limit

## Executive Committee Officers 2010-2011

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Shonda Buchanan  
Carolyn Foronda  
Nancy Powell  
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First Class Mail