

A COMMON WEALTH OF POETRY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

MAY 2014



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

After serving as President of this venerable organization that has meant so much to so many, I want to provide some updates. A great many exciting initiatives are underway. The Executive Committee is meeting more often and we want to invite others, who are able, to serve in one of the many capacities that are available. As I've said before there are two levels to the Poetry Society—at one level we are a small business and at the other level we encourage poetry. The Executive Committee's focus is on the business side of the organization and what it takes to deliver our mission. It takes love, commitment, and money, not necessarily in that order, but I'd like to think so.

The new contest committees, both Student and Adult, have successfully concluded their first year of putting the events together. They have begun to think about next year's events. If you wish to take part in those events, contact the committee chairs whose names appear on the masthead of the newsletter or contact me.

Another big change underway is the redesign and rebuilding of the website. We have grown to the point where we need additional input for taking it to the next level. We also need your monetary support to keep that going.

The Ellen Anderson reading took place in late March at George Mason University. Most of the attendees were students from George Mason University. The Executive Committee wants to revisit how to best use those funds in the future so that we more directly serve our members. Your input and ideas are welcome. Let me hear from you.

If you live out-of-state, we still invite you to contact us with your willingness and ideas for programs to assist with our mission to encourage the writing and appreciation of poetry. Check out the opportunity boxes on page 2. See you at the Festival in Williamsburg on May 17.

Guy Terrell

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2014-2015 SLATE ANNOUNCED

The Nominating Committee proposes the following names to fill the PSV positions eligible for election to a one-year term. This slate will be presented for a vote at the annual PSV Poetry Festival to be held in Williamsburg on May 16-17. The nominees are as follows: President, **Guy Terrell**; Treasurer, **Melinda Nolen**; VP, Eastern Region, **Christy Lumm**; VP, Northern Region, **Open**; VP, Central Region, **Derek Kannemeyer**; VP, Western Region, **Tom Morris**; VP, Southeastern Region, **Jack Callan**.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PSV SERVICE

<p>I can help pay for the website redesign. Make check payable (no matter how small) to PSV. Your Name: _____ Amount: _____ Send to: Melinda Nolen, Treasurer 1323 Buford Rd. N. Chesterfield, VA 23235</p>	<p>I would like to form the Communications and Public Relations Committee whose purpose will be to maintain email addresses, send out notices, and create more public awareness of PSV. Your Name: _____ Contact: Guy Terrell 11161 Guilford Rd N. Chesterfield, VA 23235</p>
<p>I would like to serve on the Membership Committee as Chair or to assist otherwise. Contact: Guy Terrell 11161 Guilford Rd N. Chesterfield, VA 23235</p>	<p>I would like to form a committee to take a group of poets to New York City to tour the World Trade Center and engage in a poetry writing activity at the museum there. (We have a NYC member there who will help.) Contact: Guy Terrell 11161 Guilford Rd N. Chesterfield, VA 23235</p>
<p>I would like to serve on the Finance Committee that oversees PSV investments, budget, and other matters: Contact: Guy Terrell 11161 Guilford Rd N. Chesterfield, VA 23235</p>	<p>I would like to help organize some regional events in parts of western Virginia that is currently underserved. Contact: Guy Terrell 11161 Guilford Rd N. Chesterfield, VA 23235</p>
<p>I have ideas of my own and would like to discuss other opportunities. Contact: Guy Terrell 11161 Guilford Rd N. Chesterfield, VA 23235</p>	<p>I would like to serve on the Executive Committee to shape the future of PSV. Contact: Guy Terrell 11161 Guilford Rd N. Chesterfield, VA 23235</p>
<p>You may also contact anyone who is listed on the back of the newsletter to learn more or to discuss any ideas you have.</p>	<p>You may also reach the PSV President at: ggterr@infionline.net guyterrell@comcast.net (804)-291-8620</p>

You and I

by Jacqueline Jules

We started off, you and I
with tissues pressed against my eyes
and you, stirring coffee, pretending surprise.
That's how we started, you and I.
In this room where the patients come and go
speaking of lives eclipsed, shadowed.

Do you remember? (Say you do.)
Our first hour conversation
my long list of agitations
and your knowing, nodding smile.

In this room which is carpeted, paneled, and square,
this room where I have come and gone and shared
the details of a cold November night,
the harsh glow of a bathroom light,
and bright red blood, a startling sight . . .

But we have done this all already,
done the childhood, mother, father, siblings,
defined the large and small defeats,
traveled all those narrow, winding streets
which crisscross and finally meet
in the same small place of no retreat.

It wasn't you who saw me as a snail,
a slimy worm without a tail. It wasn't you.

So it's time now. Yes, it's time
to test your doctor's license
as we force these sessions to a crisis,
when, with a surgeon's sharp incision,
you will remove all self-derision
and present me with the lovely vision
of the person I have always longed to be.

Or does that job still belong to me?

"You and I" appears in Jacqueline's chapbook, *Field Trip to the Museum* published by Finishing Line Press. Visit <http://fieldtriptomuseum.blogspot.com/> to learn more.

Membership Rate Increases Proposed

On April 26 at a meeting of the Executive Committee a motion to raise dues passed. We need a vote by members as well approving this change. A motion coming from a committee does not require a second so the motion is as follows: Move that the Poetry Society of Virginia raise dues effective January 1, 2015. The changes will be as follows.

Category	From	To
Basic 1-year	\$30	\$35
Basic 2-year	\$50	\$60
Basic 3-year	\$65	\$80
Lifetime	\$300	\$450

We will eliminate the "contributing" designation. We will vote on this at the annual meeting. (Technically, we are supposed to provide 30 days' notice, but due to the urgency we ask your indulgence on this important matter.

Discussion: We have not raised dues in about 10 years, but don't recall the specific date. Our costs over a number of areas have risen modestly. This notification provides members ample time to extend their current membership.

Honors & Publication News

Joan Mazza's poems, "Five Months Together," "What is Your Definition of Happiness?" and "November Twilight" have been accepted at Kaleidoscope for issues #71 and #72.

Melissa Watkins Starr's poem, "Southern Girls," has been accepted for publication in the next issue of *The Apeiron Review*, *A Philadelphia Literary Magazine*.

Kelly Cherry, a former Poet Laureate of Virginia, announces that her new book of interlinked stories, *A Kind of Dream*, is now available at Amazon.com.

T H E P O E T R Y S O C I E T Y O F V I R G I N I A

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