

# A COMMON WEALTH OF POETRY

Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Virginia

MAY 2015

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Poets and Readers of Poetry,

May is finally upon us with some warm weather. We also wrap up our event schedule before taking the summer off. There will be a summer newsletter, but it depends on when we have enough material available to publish. Send in articles and news items.

Both of our contests finished in April. Winners are listed on the Web site. Thanks to our members who gave so much to make those events happen. The Virginia Poetry Out Loud state-wide competition ended this month also. Ahkei Togun, a junior from Tallwood High School in Virginia Beach was named Virginia's 2015 Poetry Out Loud Champion. He will represent Virginia in the National Finals in Washington, D.C. One of our student contest winners was also a finalist in the POL completion. Encourage students and their teachers to participate next year.

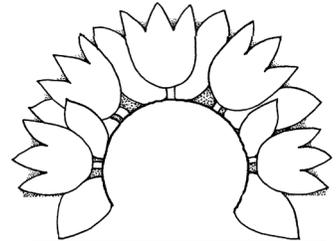
We have some members who are working on improving the material we have on the Web site for students and teachers. If you would like to join in that effort, I will put you in touch with Molly O'Dell and Florence Martin.

And while I'm listing volunteer activities, it's not too soon to join the 2016 K-12 Youth Contest Committee or the 2016 Contest Committees. Let me know, and I'll pass your name on. Those teams would love to hear suggestions if you are willing to provide the support for those suggestions.

Our Annual Poetry Festival takes place in May in Williamsburg. This will be another wonderful event this year. Please go to the Web site for information or register using the attached flyers. Thanks to folks in Williamsburg who put this event on every year, especially Ed Lull and Mary DeLara. If you have ideas for this event next year, let me know. It may be time to transition the event to another part of the state.

Lastly, our annual election for officers will take place at the Festival. The slate is listed in this newsletter again. Please come to the Festival. Please vote, please learn more about the craft, and please enjoy poetry again and again.

Thanks,  
Guy



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

POETRY	2
SLATE OF OFFICERS	2
ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR	3
CONTRIBUTORS	3
CONTACT INFO	4



## Poetry

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### Love Lights the Torch

By Clay Harrison

The shameful acts of evil men  
 weave a web of lies  
 To justify the pain they cause  
 and give them alibis.  
 Hate cannot destroy what love creates  
 for love can bear all things.  
 When evil brings us to our knees  
 we rise on angel wings.

There is darkness all around us,  
 a darkness more than night,  
 For those who create evil  
 are afraid of the light.  
 Love's an inexhaustible flame  
 that burns both day and night  
 It lights the torch that brave men bear  
 when they are called to fight.

Love bears the weight of countless tears  
 from wars that never cease  
 For only in the grave one finds  
 a true and lasting peace.  
 Pain experienced and withstood  
 adds strength to us each day  
 As our brave troops in uniform  
 defend the U.S.A!

### Dimes

By Joan Mazza

The pleasure of these small thin coins'  
 surprises, long after their value

has diminished. I can't make a call,  
 can't buy a paper or a cup of coffee

with one. Brother, can you spare a dime?  
 It won't take me far, but I still collect them,

a dozen in my palm to feel the tactile  
 delight in how they shift and cling—

silver caterpillar, shiny worm, living metal,  
 hold memories of hands they've touched.

I stack them up, play Midas like a child,  
 when dimes could buy what I'd want to keep.

### Tidal Basin Stars

By Jacqueline Jules

Blooming first in bigger numbers,  
 the Yoshino get all the attention.  
 We hold spring festivals and parades.  
 People visit in throngs.  
 Then, two weeks later,  
 when the Kwanzan boast  
 fifty petalled blooms,  
 there's no TV coverage.  
 Apparently, a delicate five,  
 easily blown away  
 are more impressive  
 than sturdy pink clusters,  
 unbending in the breeze.  
 At the Tidal Basin and in life,  
 the cameras seem to love  
 what's first and most fragile  
 far more than those  
 who bloom the longest.

—published in *Imitation Fruit*, Issue 12, September 2013, [http://www.imitationfruit.com/Issue\\_12/tidal/tidal.html](http://www.imitationfruit.com/Issue_12/tidal/tidal.html)

### PSV Slate of Officers, 2015–2016

In accordance with the PSV Bylaws, the Nominating Committee submitted the following list of members, recommended to serve in the offices indicated. The Executive Committee has approved them to comprise the Slate to be presented to the membership for election at the Annual PSV Meeting in May. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting.

<b>President</b>	<b>Robert Arthur</b>
<b>Vice President, North Region</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Vice President, Central Region</b>	<b>Derek Kannemeyer</b>
<b>Vice President, East Region</b>	<b>Bill Glose</b>
<b>Vice President, Southeast Region</b>	<b>Donna Wynn</b>
<b>Vice President, West Region</b>	<b>Tom Morris</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Melinda Nolen</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Poetry Virginia Annual Poetry Festival May 15–16, 2015

Now is the time to set aside the dates for the 2015 Poetry Festival in Williamsburg, May 15–16.

We are privileged to welcome nationally known Dorianne Laux ([www.doriannelaux.net](http://www.doriannelaux.net)) and Joseph Millar ([www.josephmillar.org](http://www.josephmillar.org)) as featured poets; check out their Web sites. The two-day program will also include presentations by Luisa Igloria, Henry Hart, Derek Kannemeyer, and Bill Glose. The festival will include the popular Friday evening banquet at Ford's Colony Club with an open-mic.

All Agendas and Registration forms can be downloaded from the Web site.

The weekend is a busy one in Williamsburg; out-of-towners are encouraged to make early reservations.

PSV has set aside a block of rooms at *LaQuinta Inn*, Williamsburg, for \$75 plus tax.

To ensure you have a place to stay, contact:

LaQuinta Inn  
814 Capitol Landing Rd.  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(800) 531-5900  
(757) 229-0200

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**Andrew Jarvis's** prize-winning poetry collection, *The Strait*, was recently published by Homebound Publications. *The Strait* is available at local bookstores throughout Virginia and from online retailers. Please purchase your next book of poetry at your local bookstore; they need your love and support. Andrew was selected to share his poetry at the 2015 Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference at Middlebury College in Vermont; he is proud to represent the natural environment of our beautiful state.

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**Jacqueline Jules** has had poems recently published in *Two Cities Review*, *Empty Sink Publishing*, *Spank the Carp*, *Carcinogenic Poetry*, *The Cape Rock*, and *99 Pine Street*. To see the poems that have been posted online, please visit the poetry page of her Web site at [www.jacquelinejules.com](http://www.jacquelinejules.com) or like her Facebook Page: POETRY by Jacqueline Jules.

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Friends,

We have a short newsletter this month. Too short. As the seasons change, think about some new articles or announcements for our upcoming newsletters. Perhaps submit reflections upon our Poetry Virginia Festival and other events you have attended. Why did you go? What did you expect? Did you enjoy your experience? How could it be improved? I am always intrigued by the tangible objects in our world—the things we touch. What things intrigue you? Write an article about your experiences observing the world around you. Has anything changed? How did this change impact your writing? Did you stop writing? All things to explore.

Best,  
Andrew

## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Clay Harrison** has written poems for those who work to better the world, like Mother Theresa. He has written about people who make news, like astronauts, military generals, and even presidents. And he has written about events that touch us as a nation, like Sept. 11, 2001, and the shootings at Virginia Tech and Sandy Hook Elementary School. Clay's poetry has appeared in various devotional guides and anthologies, including the Christmas and Easter editions of *Ideals*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Women's World*, and Salesian Missions books. He even supplies verse for his wife who designs greeting cards. Most recently, his work was included in June Cotner's collection *Gratitude Prayers: Prayers, Poems and Prose for Everyday Thankfulness*, released in February by Andrews McMeel Publishing.

**Jacqueline Jules** is a former librarian. Like most librarians, she enjoys reading books in a variety of genres covering all kinds of topics. Her writing for children and adults is just as eclectic—encompassing humor, fantasy, personal narrative, realism, and history. She is the author of the poetry chapbooks, *Field Trip to the Museum*, published by Finishing Line Press and *Stronger Than Cleopatra*, published by ELJ Publications. Her poetry has appeared in over 100 publications including *The Potomac Review*, *Soundings Review*, *Gargoyle*, *Main Street Rag*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Innisfree Poetry Journal*, and *Red Booth Review*. She is also the author of 30 books for young readers including *Zapato Power* and *Never Say a Mean Word Again*. You can visit her online at [www.jacquelinejules.com](http://www.jacquelinejules.com)

**Joan Mazza** started writing as a young teen and has never stopped. It has been a way for her to sort out her thoughts and feelings, to examine her strong emotions in reaction to new information and events. She wrote self-help psychology books, fiction, and essays before she started writing poetry at 50. It's her daily practice and best method of self-soothing. [www.JoanMazza.com](http://www.JoanMazza.com)

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## PSV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS & ADVISORY BOARD 2014-2015

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Webmaster		

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