

The Connecticut Poetry Society Newsletter

Connecticut Poetry Society
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March 2009

President's Message:

April is Poetry Month and CPS will hold its annual meeting and Poetry Celebration on Sunday, April 26 from 2-4pm at Butterworth Hall, 1265 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT.

Highlights of the Celebration:

- 1. Installation of President Elect Tony Fusco.**
- 2. A Poetry talk by Emerson Gilmore, president of our Manchester Chapter, about John Keats and Courage. Gilmore will discuss the kind of courage it takes to write poetry and what today's poets can learn from Keats. He will discuss current economic and world crises and melancholy as reflected in the work of Keats.**
- 3. An Open Mic featuring poems on the theme: Beginnings.**

Christine Beck, President

Have you misplaced your last issue of our Newsletter? You can find back issues of the CPS Newsletter on our website. If you are looking for a poetry critique chapter, check the September issue for a full list of contact information and meeting times and dates.

Dues are Due!

If you have not yet sent your dues for the April 2009-April 2010 year, (\$25 general, \$10 student) please do so as soon as possible. **Please send a check for \$25 to CPS Membership, PO Box 792, Manchester, CT 06045.**

NEW!! The Connecticut Poetry Award Contest.

We have combined the Brodine-Brodinsky and Winchell poetry contests into one larger contest, with awards of \$400, \$200 and \$100. Applications accepted **April 1-May 31, 2009**. Send up to 3 unpublished poems, any form, **80 line limit**. Include two copies of each poem: one with complete contact information in the upper right hand corner and one with NO contact information.

Include SASE for results only (no poems will be returned). Winning poems must be submitted by disc or email following notification.

Fee \$15 for up to 3 poems. Please make out check to Connecticut Poetry Society. Send submissions to: Connecticut Poetry Award Contest, CPS, PO Box 270554, West Hartford, CT 06127

Winning poems will be published in **Connecticut River Review**.

CRR Contest Winners

The Connecticut Poetry Society is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Connecticut River Review Poetry Contest. From a very strong field of submissions, Judge Brian Clements selected these poems:

1st prize: "I'll Know the Title Next Time I Hear the Train Whistle" by Mark Wagenaar of Charlottesville, Virginia

2nd prize: "Nome" by Jeanne Wagner of Kensington, California

3rd prize: “How to Teach a Child about Death” by Amanda Auchter of Houston, Texas

Honorable Mentions: “**Prequel to Genesis and the Missing Second Book: Coral Castle**” by L. Christain, “**A Shadow Denser than Night**” by Robert J. Enright, “**crow valley**” by Elizabeth Myhr, “**Subject Line: Rain is General**” by Susan Holahan, and “**Forgettery**” by Kathleen Serocki.

Mr. Clements stated that first prize poem “seduces with its depth of imagination, mythology of mind, and clarity of vision. The poem’s landscape... is lushly imaged, but also lushly aligned with the inscape, where distance and blossom and trains and a ringing bell all signal the simultaneous beauty and melancholy...”

His comments on the other winners: “Nome” succeeds, like John Ashbery’s “Instruction Manual,” by taking us in vivid detail to a place where the author or speaker is not and perhaps never has been...making quite present an absence, making us feel intimately the loss of a thing never held.”

“How to Teach a Child about Death” makes intimate and tender again a moment that verges on the cliché, the sentimental; but the poet’s alert attention to the body, whether living or dead, and to the things that grab the attention of the living--bitterscotch, braids, a corpse’s stitched lip--keeps this poem vital...”

Judge Brian Clements is Professor of Writing at Western Connecticut State University and coordinator of WestConn’s MFA in Professional Writing. He edits *Sentence: a journal of prose poetics* and *Sentence’s* parent press, Firewheel Editions. His most recent books are *Disappointed Psalms* (Meritage Press) and *And How to End It* (prose poems from Quale Press).

Spring Readings and Events

Check the CPS website for many member awards and readings coming up this spring. Here are a few (with apologies for any we may have overlooked):

Christine Beck will host the open mic at the Women Composer’s Festival chamber music and poetry event, **Thursday March 26**, at 7:30 at the Unitarian church, Hartford. For information, go to www.HeatherHouseProductions.com.

Bessy Reyna will read **Thursday, April 2**, 6:30 pm at Windsor Art Center, 40 Mechanic St., Windsor from *The Battlefield of Your Body*, her new bilingual collection.

Poets published in *Caduceus*, edited by Tony Fusco, will read **Saturday, April 4** at 2 pm at the Yale Book Store.

Mario Cavallo will host the 75th birthday of the Meriden Poetry society, **Sunday, April 5** at the Gallery 53, 53 Colony St., Meriden, noon-3pm. mcavallo1@cox.net.

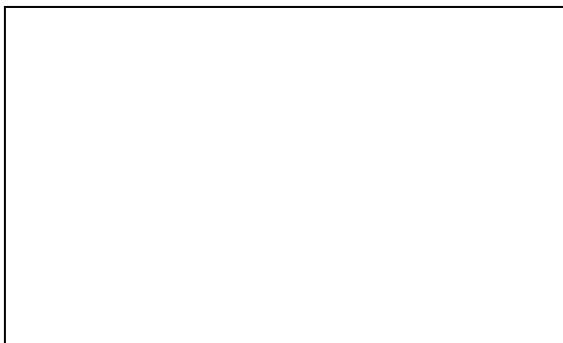
Christine Beck will read **Monday, April 20** at the Burlington Library.

Ginny Connors, Nancy Jarasek, Sherri Bedingfield, Bob Jacob, Pat Hale, Tere Foley, Christine Beck and Elaine Zimmerman will read from their new book, *Everybody Says Hello*, **Saturday, April 25 at 2 pm**, E. Windsor Library.

Tony Fusco will read from his new book, *Droplines*, **Saturday, May 9**, 1 pm at the Yale Book Store.

Pat Hale will read at the Riverwood Poetry Series at the Wood Memorial Library, South Windsor, **May 28**, 7 pm.

Julia Paul will read at the Silas Bronson Library, Waterbury, **June 17**.



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