

The Connecticut Poetry Society



Newsletter

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President Elect: Emerson Gilmore
Secretary: Christine Beck
Treasurer: Michael Lepore
Contests: Ginny Connors
Membership: Julia Paul
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April 2011

Notice: Annual dues of \$25 per member were due in April. If you have not yet paid your dues, please send them to:

CPS Membership
P O Box 792
Manchester, CT 06045

CPS Holds Annual Meeting, April 3, 2011

Poetry Month got off to a good start with the annual meeting of CPS at Butterworth Hall in Hartford. President Tony Fusco gave a report on the Society, followed by short reports from each Chairperson. Emerson Gilmore, the Chair of the Manchester Chapter and former Treasurer, will assume the duties of the President for the coming year as President Elect. Michael Lepore of the Hartford Chapter volunteered to be Treasurer. Pat Mottola, who will become Ct River Review editor beginning with the 2012 edition, reported that the submission period will be shortened, but will still be three months.

Christine Beck will take over editing Long River Run, for Emerson Gilmore, the prior editor. She will make a recommendation to the board

For news of poetry events, you can find links to both The Ct. Poet News and the Connecticut Poetry Calendar on our CPS website. Please contact Terri Klein at ctpoetnews@yahoo.com and John Jeffrey at Connecticut@poetz.com to publish your event.

as to the submission period and publication date of the next issue.



Pictured left to right: Ginny Lowe Connors, Julia Paul, Christine Beck, Emerson Gilmore, Tony Fusco, and Pat Mottola.

CPS is still looking for a Public Relations Chair. This job requires sending news announcements out to a list of media. Much of the job can be done by email. If interested, please contact CPS at connpoetry@comcast.net.

CPS New Haven Chapter to Co-Sponsor Donald Hall Day in September.

Poet Donald Hall, a former Poet Laureate of the U.S., was born and raised in Hamden, CT. In honor of his birthday, the Hamden Public Library will hold a celebration on Friday, September 16 at Thornton Wilder Hall, the auditorium at the library.

Mr. Hall plans to attend. Plans are underway and CPS has been asked to participate. Stay tuned.

The Voices: Intuition Among Poets and Madmen (an excerpt)

by [Ginny Lowe Connors](#)

Many people address the notion of a writer's *voice*. Less attention is paid to the willingness of writers, particularly poets, to listen to *the voices*: those auditory hallucinations or messages from the psyche, that so many people experience, but few acknowledge.

. . . When I am writing poetry, if things are going well, I eventually open myself to an inner voice, and the words come from sources I can't identify. I'll look at a couple of lines in the emerging poem and think, *Where did that come from?* Or on rereading a draft, I'll notice a line, a phrase, or an image I never consciously aimed toward and wonder, *How did that get there?* When I'm lucky, these words that spoke to me when I was in the light trance of writing resound within the poem in a way that enlarges it, but does not disrupt it. Sometimes they are the bits that a writing workshop will pounce on first, wanting to edit them out. But I often leave these mysterious phrases in the poem, as they somehow feel right. When a writer experiences that, it's one kind of listening, and the words that came from some inner world are one kind of voice. Still, the voice is clearly an internal one.

But there are other occasions, usually when things are quiet, late at night or during a peaceful moment, that I hear another kind of voice; one that has a distinctly auditory quality, and it comes out of nowhere, lingers in my mind, and then fades away. It only happens once in a while, and it's always surprising. It never seems to be internal; it seems to arise from outside of me. The first time I remember it from childhood was when I was very young and quite feverish.

Someone called my name very distinctly, although no one was in the

room. I didn't recognize the voice but very clearly heard it.

Mysterious voices have called out to me numerous times since then. Sometimes it's someone calling my name. . . .I believe we are all on a kind of continuum of experience and schizophrenics are at an extreme end of it, but their experience is not completely alien to the rest of us, bizarre as their actions may seem at times. A number of people I've asked have had experiences similar to mine. But are writers closer to the extreme end of the continuum than other people? Many have argued that there is a very fine line dividing poets from madmen. "The lunatic, the lover and the poet / Are of imagination all compact," Shakespeare wrote in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

[note: This article appears in full in the online journal Switchback. To read the full article, go to www.swback.com/issues/013/voices.htm l]

Contest News

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies will hold its annual meeting in June, during which the results of its 50 annual contests will be announced. Good luck to all CPS members who entered!

Al Savard Contest Results

The Connecticut Poetry Society is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Al Savard Memorial Poetry Competition. Judge Maria Mazziotti Gillan selected these poems:

1st prize: "[Looking for a Place to Lie Down](#)" by **Elaine Zimmerman** of Hamden (Elaine has donated her prize money to a homeless shelter in Rhode Island)

2nd prize: "[Grandma](#)" by Tom Nicotera of Bloomfield

3rd prize: "[Second Cutting](#)" by Lucile Blanchard of Middletown

Honorable Mentions go to Patrick Gallagher of Bethel for "Diamond Avenue," JoAnne Bauer of Hartford for "Ab/solution," Marilyn Johnston of Bloomfield for "Greater Hartford," Catherine Hoyser of Hartford for "Morocco Women's Cooperative," and Hannah Watkins of Chester for "The Wig."

DeCaro Contest Results

We are also pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Lynn DeCaro Poetry Contest for high school students.

1st prize: "Daedalus and Icarus: Demise of the Dreamers" by Susanna Jivotovski of Miss Porter's School in Farmington

2nd prize: "Before Daybreak" by Elena Rose Unschuld of Westover School in Middlebury

3rd prize: "Reach" by Jillian Verzino of Waterbury

Honorable Mentions: "Ballad of the Cloverdale Street Kid" by Ali Denton, "Beachcomber" by Mary Margaret Meehan and "Frog" by Bethany Simmonds

Currently we are accepting submissions for the Connecticut Poetry Prize. See the web site for more information.

Programming – What Would YOU like in the coming year?

As the CPS Board plans programming ideas for the coming year, we would like feedback from you, our members. What types of

programs would you most appreciate, when and where?

We believe that most of our CPS Chapters are meeting the needs of members for support and critique of their poetry from fellow members. If you are not attending chapter meetings, why not? Tell us if there is a need in an area we don't serve.

In the past few years, we have offered members workshops on specific types of poetry writing, such as poetry based on art. We also offered a workshop on what publishers look for. What type of workshop would you like?

Would you attend lectures on well-known poets? The Hartford Public Library ran a monthly series a few years ago that was popular. Funding disappeared; however, you can find the lectures on their website: <http://hplct.org>. /Click on "ONLINE RESOURCES" and then select "Featured Media."

Would you like to attend a lecture on a type of poetic form, such as Odes? On the Romantic Poets? Would you like to learn about the lives of such poets as Edna St. Vincent Millay, Walt Whitman or Emily Dickinson? Email us at connpoetry@comcast.net and mark your subject: Programming.