



President's Message

It is an honor to serve as President of the Connecticut Poetry Society and I thank the membership for this opportunity and for all your good luck and well wishes. First let me recognize and thank **Christine Beck** for the work she has done revitalizing and growing CPS. Christine and her team, **Ginny Connors**, Contest Chair, **Julia Paul**, Membership Chair, **Emerson Gilmore** Vice President and Treasurer, **Lorna Cyr**, Publicity, **Lisa Siedlarz**, CT River Review Editor, the **Chapter Presidents** and many others all have contributed their time and talent and it is appreciated. Fortunately, we will continue to have Christine on board as Secretary and the above named in their same roles for the coming year. The last three years have shown a professionalism, openness and passion for poetry that has launched us into an optimistic future. I aim to maintain the successes we have achieved over the last 35 years, the journals, contests, workshops, camaraderie and promotion of the love of writing and the appreciation of poetry. There is also so much more we can achieve.



I hope to visit all the chapters by attending their meetings in the not too distant future, as well as meeting with as many 'non-chapter' members as I can at upcoming events. We will have a picnic in July, a wine and cheese party in the fall and a year end holiday meeting, all of which will include poetry readings and open microphones. Lisa has been hard at work with the CT River Review and it is shaping up nicely for a July or August release. We have extended the submission deadline for the "members only" Long River Run to September, with Emerson once again at the helm.

I have been involved with CPS off and on for a long time in many capacities beginning with Norman Kraft's presidency. Having been there, I can identify with the sometimes off and on involvement of many of our long time and former members. We are all so busy; we all have to prioritize how to utilize our time. We all know that service of any kind to a com-

munity is a sacrifice of some other part of our lives and interests. It can also have great benefits as well. I invite new members to participate, I implore long time and previous members to come back and help out. I hope we can find the leaders, the movers and shakers this group needs for the future. Specifically, we are looking for a Newsletter Editor; right now the job falls to the president to do. I currently maintain our website, which keeps me busy. We need someone to help with Publicity, Lorna has done so much, but is only one person. We need an outreach and contact person, fundraising and/or grants person, and people for jobs we haven't imagined or figured out yet that need doing.

Save the Date!
Saturday July 18th
Annual CPS Picnic.
See back page

Most importantly, if you know of someone who is not a member of CPS and has an interest in poetry, please encourage them to join. As Christine pointed out in last month's newsletter, our \$25 dues are a good value and just about a break even proposition for our treasury. Members receive two books a year, local and national newsletters and so much more. Let us know what you think needs doing and what we can do better. All the information you need is on our website: <http://ct-poetry-society.org/> or in the back of the last CRR and Long River Run. Contact us at: connpoetry@comcast.net or write to: CPS, PO Box 270554, West Hartford, CT 06127.

Looking forward to seeing you soon, Tony Fusco

Summer of Poetry

What a line up of poetry the Hillstead Museum Sunken Garden Festival has for this summer! Poets Robert Hass and Brenda Hillman, on June 10th, Baron Wormser, on June 24th, Marilyn Nelson and Cave Canem Poets, July 22nd, and C.K. Williams, August 5th, to name a few. Come out and enjoy, meet fellow poetry lovers and support this series. Their website: http://www.hillstead.org/activities/poetry_performseries.html

Dues are Due!

If you have not yet sent your dues for this 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.**

CT Poetry Contest Deadline

May 31 Contest Chairperson Ginny Connors has secured **Jack B. Bedell** as the judge for our 2009 CT Poetry Award. Jack B. Bedell is the Woman's Hospital Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Southeastern Louisiana University where he also serves as editor of *Louisiana Literature* and director of Louisiana Literature Press. His most recent books are *Come Rain, Come Shine* (Texas Review Press) and *French Connections: A Gathering of Franco-American Poets* (LaLit Press).

Long River Run Submissions

Long River Run, the members only publication of the Connecticut Poetry Society will be accepting submissions until **September 30** for an estimated December publication date. Please submit one poem, maximum of 40 lines, typed, single-spaced. Include your name in upper left corner, and under that please put your town (and state if you are not a Connecticut resident). Previously published okay, provide credits. Simultaneous submission okay, please notify if accepted elsewhere. Send to Emerson Gilmore at: emgil3@yahoo.com and hard copies to our PO box.

The Connecticut Poetry Society
P O Box 270554
West Hartford, CT 06127

Poetry Picnic

A CT Poetry Society Event for members and their guests.

Saturday July 18
1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Vivian Shipley and Ed Harris have again allowed us to meet at their *Beach House* at **28 Morgan Point, New Haven, CT**

Bring your poems about Summer or Picnics, or the great outdoors. Time available for reading will depend on number who sign up.

Please bring something to eat and share with other guests as well as any special beverage you may enjoy. **We will provide cold cuts and bread, paper goods, snacks, ice and soft drinks, and a poetry loving audience.**

Please R.S.V.P.

by July 10th to

Tony Fusco at

connpoetry@comcast.net

or phone him at 203-785-3438