

Mitakuye Oyasin

July 2011

Kentucky State Poetry Society

www.kystatepoetrysociety.org

Mitakuye Oyasin
/me-tock oh-wah-sin/

"We are all related."



Rollin' on the River!

Grab your parasol! Tie on your bonnet! Bring your gambling cards and your walking cane! Join us aboard the *Poetic Belle* on the weekend of October 14 - 16, 2011, for a Steamboatin' Annual Meeting and Poetry Festival to be held at General Butler State Resort Park.

General Butler SRP is located at Carrollton, Kentucky, near the confluence of the Kentucky and Ohio Rivers. Its wooded grounds promise to be a beautiful setting for our weekend together. And what better location to take an imaginary cruise on a steam-driven paddle wheeler that caters to poets!

Currently, we have reserved 11 lodge rooms of various sizes at \$89.95/night and 5 one-bedroom cottages at \$124.95/night. Additional lodge rooms may become available on and after September 14. However, any of the above rooms unclaimed by KSPS members will also be released on that date to other groups or the general public. To reserve a room or cabin, contact General Butler at 502-732-4384 ☐ Toll Free: 1-866-462-8853.

The location of General Butler SRP, just two miles off Interstate 71 at Carrollton, KY, makes the park accessible from Louisville, Lexington and Northern Kentucky as well as regions north, south, east and west of those metropolitan areas. If the cost of staying overnight is too great for your budget, plan on making a day of it on Saturday, October 15.

Steven Cope has agreed to lead our morning and afternoon workshops on Saturday and to read from his own published poetry at the Annual Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening. (See article, page 2.) Poets whose poems are winners in the

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Photo by Rebecca S. Lindsay



(*Rollin' On the River* – from page 1.)

2011 Adult Contest and who are present at the Awards Ceremony will be invited to read their winning entries.

On Saturday morning, the Executive Board will meet followed by the Annual Meeting of KSPS at which we will vote on officers and make plans for the coming year. This will be your opportunity to help steer the course of KSPS in 2012.

Other traditional activities for the weekend are the president's poetry challenge and round robin reading. We will not, however, have a formal banquet this year, mainly because General Butler does not cater meals to the meeting room that we will be using. Instead, we will eat in the private dining room at the lodge and will have the personal choice of ordering from the menu or eating from the buffet.

It is important that we make the Annual Meeting and Weekend pay for itself. Before I became President of KSPS, I lived under the notion that the society ran on

verse (poet's mentality!). After becoming President, I was quickly confronted with the amount of money that it takes to keep KSPS going – printing costs, postage, paper, etc. For the annual meeting this means room rental, refreshments, publicity, decorations, favors, and most years a banquet.

So, I hope that you will be supportive of KSPS with the following fee schedule for the Annual Weekend. Registration fees for members and nonmembers who attend the weekend events will be \$15.00. Participation in the workshops will be an additional \$15.00 (includes both workshops). I promise to do my best to keep expenses for the weekend under control.

That said, I look forward to spending the weekend in October with all of you fine poets and friends steamboatin' at General Butler aboard the *Poetic Belle*.
Becky Lindsay, President

Steven Cope to Lead Annual Weekend Workshops



Steven R. Cope will be the leader for our Annual Poetry Weekend workshops to be held Saturday, October 15, at General Butler State Resort Park.

Mr. Cope has taught literature and writing at Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, and the University of Kentucky. His poems have appeared in over 200 literary journals and magazines, have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and been published in *Best Poems of the Year*. His published collections

include *Clover's Log*, *In Killdeer's Field*, and *The Furrbawl Poems*.

KSPS members know Mr. Cope as the "Furrbawl Poet" because he judges the Furrbawl category, sponsored by Broadstone Media, in our annual Adult Poetry Contest. He has set the following topics for the workshops:

Saturday Morning: **Writing Poetry Like No One**, which will focus on developing a unique, distinctive and courageous voice or *blend* of voices, through altering personae and perspectives. Presentation will include analysis of writing samples and call for from-the-hip re-writes & readings by participants.

Saturday Afternoon: **How To Write A Furrbawl Prize-Losing Poem**. This, in general, will include a discussion of what elements work *against* writing a good poem, or what tendencies to avoid. Those of us who have written a few Furrbawl prize-losing poems will be glad to learn how we can better our skills and improve our chances.

So, along with your fan, cane and dancing shoes, pack in your notebook and a sharpened pencil with a good eraser and join Steven Cope for two great workshops.



Student Contest a Go For 2012

Many of you have asked whether and when the Student Contest will be held again. We are very happy to announce that the Student Contest will be back in 2012!

Carol Mauriello, past president of KSPS, and Brandie Trent, KSPS member and language and literature teacher at Fleming County High School, have agreed to be co-chairs of the event. They are enthusiastic and eager to get started with planning the contest.

Wind Publications has graciously offered once again to sponsor the Student Contest. We greatly appreciate their interest and support in this venture.

Planning for the contest will begin this summer and continue into the fall. Entries will be accepted late in 2011 and early in 2012 with a deadline for receiving entries falling around March 1. Winners will be announced on the KSPS website in April, and written notices will be sent to the teachers of students with winning entries. Poems of the first place winners will be published in the 2012 Prize Poem issue of *Pegasus*.

KSPS is committed to encouraging young poets in the state of Kentucky. Many poets realize their talent during their school years while completing classroom assignments, participating in contests, or writing for the school literary journal. By holding the Student Contest, we provide opportunities for students to discover and develop their poetic aptitude.

The efforts of the contest co-chairs can be greatly enhanced by assistance from KSPS members. You can help by delivering or mailing brochures to schools and libraries and by sharing information about the contest with young poets that you know. Please join us in making the Student Contest a great success in 2012.

Workshop Held to Benefit KSPS

On June 30, Sheri Wright conducted a workshop at the Eclipse Bank in Louisville on Writing a Persona Poem. The \$20 fees went to benefit the Kentucky State Poetry Society. It was a win, win situation for all. In attendance were several established KSPS writers and some new blood, two young adults in particular, who showed great promise. If you were somewhat vague as to the exact definition of Persona poetry, as was I, it didn't take long for Sheri to hook you. It's a matter of setting oneself aside and entering the essence of a person, place, or thing. The possibilities are endless. It's an opportunity to speak for a deceased ancestor whom you never knew, or give voice to something that has no voice. The more research you do, of course, the more authentic your voice will be. To give us practical experience, Sheri went around the room gathering up items—a Styrofoam cup, a coffee stirrer, a packet of sweetener, a container of French Vanilla coffee flavoring, a spoon, a napkin—for us to give voice to. Without exception, the results were surprising and entertaining. On the way home, I was inspired to write about—of all things—a cigarette package wrapper!

Elaine Akin

Read Elaine's persona poem on page 6.

Thanks to Sheri Wright for sharing her skills and talent and for her contribution to KSPS!

Poetry Festival Honors Paul Salyers

On June 4, the Carter County Poetry Society held a daylong festival at Carter Caves State Resort Park to honor Paul Salyers. Paul, who passed away in March 2010, was a member of the Carter County Poetry Society, a past president of KSPS, and Poet Laureate of Kentucky in 1984.

Members of Paul's family were present and participated in the celebration. During the morning program, his son, Neal Salyers, related the story of Paul's long and productive life. His grandson, Jared Salyers, read from his grandfather's works and selections from his own poetry. Members of the Carter County Poetry Society also shared selections from Paul's wealth of poems. To close out the morning program, established and emerging Kentucky poets shared poems from their own writing. Among those reading were Harry Brown, Charlie Hughes, Julie Hensley, George Eklund, and Becky Lindsay.

George Eklund, Morehead State University professor and Kentucky poet, delivered the keynote address. Referring to Salyers' poem, "Beyond Dark Valleys," from the collection,

Lines from a Kentucky Hill, he said, "Poets notice the connections between things that other people don't get. Paul Salyers was a poet who could make those connections."

Following Eklund's address, a panel of publishers shared their wisdom on submitting poetry. Serving on the panel were Charlie Hughes, Wind Publications and Kentucky Literary Newsletter; Larry Moore, Broadstone Media LLC; James Gifford, The Jesse Stuart Foundation; Journey McAndrews, The Single Hound; and our own Miriam Woolfolk, Editor of KSPS's poetry journal, *Pegasus*.

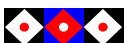
In mid-afternoon, Ruth Hogston, member of Carter County Poetry Society, conducted a workshop entitled, *Plow Up Poems*, in which she challenged the participants to use their five senses and their emotions to explore a memory of a particular location.

The festival concluded with a picnic supper and an evening of open mic reading at the park amphitheater. It was encouraging to see so many younger poets step up to the microphone and share their poetry.

The festival and celebration was definitely a success. Those in attendance truly appreciated the hard work that Lorie Zientara and the member of Carter County Poetry



Members of Paul Salyers' family enjoy a hot dog and baked beans picnic and open mic reading in the amphitheater at Carter Caves State Resort Park.



Member News and Notes

Karen L. Newman's fourth poetry collection, *ChemICKal Reactions*, was released by Naked Snake Press in December 2010. It contains one hundred poems and is available as a print copy at <http://astore.amazon.com/nakedsnakepre-20/detail/0615428479> and as an ebook at <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/32280> Online reviews of the book can be found at <http://greengenrepoetry.blogspot.com/2010/12/book-review.html> , <http://haolereads.blogspot.com/2010/12/chemickal-reactions-by-karen-l-newman.html> , <http://showintale.blogspot.com/2011/02/chemickal-reactions.html> , and <http://www.macabre-republic.com/2011/03/book-review-chemickal-reactions.html> Karen, an active member of the Horror Writers Association, has been named Chair of the 2011 Bram Stoker Award jury for Superior Achievement in a Poetry Collection.

• **Becky Alexander** was a featured reader at The Cambridge (Ontario, Canada) Arts Festival, June 4, and David Fraser, publisher of *Ascent Aspirations* magazine, Nanoose Bay, B.C., Canada, was the special guest poet. (Becky notes that *Ascent Aspirations* is a fine publication, with one contest anthology published each year. International submissions are most welcome, and the anthologies are gorgeous. Check website for details ascentaspirations@shaw.ca) Becky has a poem on Margaret Edna McQuesten published in a hardcover history book *Thomas L. and Ruby McQuesten* (an historic family of Hamilton) by Dr. Mary Anderson, professor at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, April 2011. Becky's poem *Sideshow*, won first place in the Elora Writers' Festival Contest 2011, and can be found on the Elora Writers' Festival website.

Dorothy Sutton continues to enjoy success with her latest book of poems, *Backing Into*

Mountains. (Copies can be ordered from her c/o Eng. dept., EKU, Richmond, KY 40475; online from Wind publications; or purchased from Joseph-Beth Bookstore in Lexington. Dorothy had two poems published in the April/May 2011 issue of *Free Inquiry*.

Elaine Palenci has two poems published in the latest issue of *Appalachian Journal*.

Linda Swift (Reeder) has a volume of prose poems available in print and ebook from Willow Moon Publishing. *HUMANLY SPEAKING, Conversations With God*, presents a different perspective on some of the flawed characters and puzzling events in the Bible. Read an excerpt at this link: <http://willowmoonpublishing.com/> Order from the publisher or Amazon.

Linda's Civil War saga will be released as an ebook in July and print in August. For more information about this and other current books by the author, visit www.lindaswift.net.

Robert Kimsey has a contract with FutureCycle Press to publish his new book of poems, *Air Swimmer*. It will come out in print and as an e-book on or before February 2012.

Sabne Raznik is posting short videos of "mini-readings" on Youtube for those who may be interested in seeing what her work sounds like. Some of the videos also give information about the poems being read. At <http://www.youtube.com/user/sabneraznik>

Sheri Wright will be participating as an author at Fandom Fest, July 22-24th : <http://www.fandomfest.com/literary-guests/> She is reading at The Bard's Town July 31st: <http://www.thebardstown.com/>, and will teach a persona poem workshop on August 20th at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning



More News and Notes

Glenna Glee recently attended the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Convention held in Dearborn, Michigan. This made her 33rd consecutive NFSPS convention, a remarkable record, and even more remarkable when you consider that Glenna is a nonagenarian who navigates by walker. She has entered the national contests every one of those years, and this year she won an honorable mention.

About the National convention, Glenna said, "There was quite a bit of music at the meetings, good presentations, and the food was enough for a harvest hand at every meal." Special local sightseeing trips to the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village were planned for convention participants, and Glenna took in both of them, renting an automated scooter at both locations to travel from exhibit to exhibit. She enjoyed all of the vehicles at the Ford Museum including the Model T, the Wienermobile and various presidential limos. The Robert Frost home at Greenfield Village held special meaning to her and all poets.

Glenna commented on the lack of KSPS members at the convention. Next year the national meeting will be held at Star Plaza Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana, June 14-18, 2012, and she expects to see some of us there!

Christine Strevinsky's chapbook, *...from the memoirs of a girl child partisan*, is now out from Finishing Line Press and available online from either Finishing Line (go to their new releases page) or from Amazon. com.

Persona Poem

Hey, you Dingbat!
I'm the cigarette wrapper you passed up
on your way home from the Workshop.
There, on the ground between the lilies.
I know I looked muddy, torn and flattened,
but don't blame me. That Marlboro man
who tossed me down will probably pay
dearly for his thoughtlessness. But you
aspire to higher standards, so couldn't
you have bent to pick me up? I hope
someone comes along before the next rain
and disposes of me properly.

Elaine Parker Akin

Renew Your Membership Today

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your KSPS membership for the year. Your support of KSPS is greatly appreciated.

If you've let the June 30th deadline slip past, you need to act quickly to make sure that you continue to receive *Pegasus*, the newsletter, and all the benefits of being a member of KSPS.

To renew your membership, send your check for the appropriate category to Membership Chair, Paul Matzek, 2460 North Highway 11, SE, Elizabeth, IN 47117. Be sure to provide Paul with your membership category, mailing address, phone number and email address if you have one.

Adult	\$25
Senior (60 and older)	\$20
Patron	\$25
Benefactor	\$50
Sponsor	\$75
Library	\$10

Welcome New Members!

More new members on Page 7

Jamie Ward Lexington, KY	Von Bourland Happy, TX	Richard Stuecker Louisville, KY	Brenda Thomas Berea, KY	Holly Gladsden Milford, OH	Carrie Welsh Walton, KY
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KSPS on Facebook

The following announcement has recently appeared on KSPS's Facebook site:

"This group is scheduled to be archived.
Over the next few months, Facebook will be archiving all groups created using the old groups format. When this group is archived, its wall posts, photos and discussion threads will move to the new groups format, but group members will need to be re-added."

Facebook is not specific about when this change will take place, but the announcement appears to say that when it does happen, we will have to rebuild our group.

Facebook is a great way to keep in touch with what's happening in KSPS and to share information about poetry events. Please log onto the KSPS Facebook site frequently to catch up on society news and to add your name as the group reforms.

Welcome New Members!

From page 6

Krystol Stinston Tracey Burchett
Belton, KY West Liberty, KY

Michelle Benningfield
Lexington, KY

Opportunities

8th Annual Palm Beach Poetry Festival (January 16-21, 2012)

<http://www.palmbeachpoetryfestival.org/>

Carlow University || Patricia Dobler Poetry Award (Sept. 1) A prize, valued at \$2,500, to attend Carlow University's low-residency MFA program in Pittsburgh from January 3 to January 13, 2012 to a woman poet over 40 who has not published a book in any genre.
http://www.pw.org/writing_contests/patricia_dobler_poetry_award

A Room of Her Own Foundation || To the Lighthouse Prize (deadline Aug. 31)
A prize of \$1,000 and publication by Red Hen Press is given annually for a poetry collection by a woman writer.
http://www.pw.org/writing_contests/to_the_lighthouse_prize

Jeromy Cannon hosts a poetry and music program on Cincinnati's community radio station, WVQC 95.7fm. He is looking to host local and semi-local poets and would love to meet with any poets interested in sharing themselves or their work. He covers Post Modern poetry, Beat Poetry, a little slam poetry and everything in between. His show airs Tuesday 8-9 pm and is rebroadcast the following Monday from 10-11pm. Contact Jeromy at bytesandpiecesradio@gmail.com.

Penhouse Retreat Center

PenHouse Retreat Center is the perfect place in central Kentucky to get away into the country and focus on your writing. We offer affordable, clean, comfortable, private rooms, three meals a day--mostly garden fresh--wi-fi, access to Elkhorn Creek and canoeing, 15 acres to walk and more. Stay for 5 days and pay for four. Very affordable. Run for writers by writers. Contact Normandi Ellis www.ellisis@aol.com, or call 502-352-7503 or 859-779-1131 for more information and reservations. Now booking for August, September and October.

Monday Morning Writers Group

If you live in the Northern Kentucky/ Cincinnati area and are looking for a good writing group, check out the Monday Morning Writers Group. Members of the group work in a number of genre including poetry, short story, novel, nonfiction. The group meets every Monday morning from 9:30 A.M. to Noon at Joseph Beth Booksellers located in Rookwood Pavilion. Members offer each other encouragement and valuable critique.

Become a MUMWUG!

Kentucky State Poetry Society
Becky Lindsay, President
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.kystatepoetrysociety.org

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President-Elect

Position currently vacant.

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