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## Website

[www.utahpoets.com](http://www.utahpoets.com)



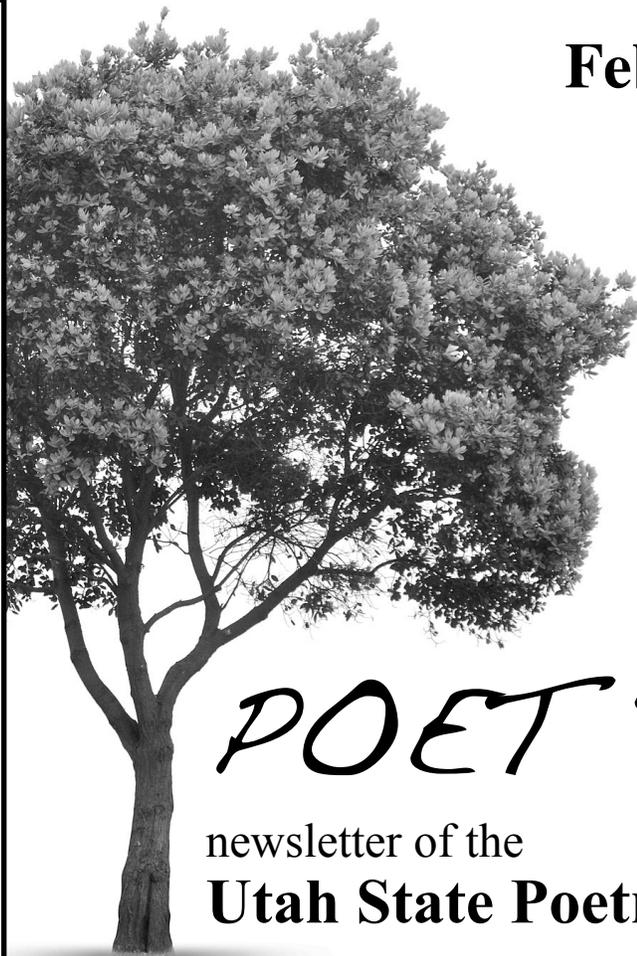
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**COUNCIL**



# February 2010



# POET TREE

newsletter of the  
**Utah State Poetry Society**

## Solstice

Quiet enough for evening to begin its apologies.  
A sullen cough of cicadas and backfiring cars.  
Then wind, with its slow fingers, plinking

the aspens. A bedroom light flicks on, another.  
In the compost heap, a sliced iris bulb  
bearing my signature listens for lost colors.

An unlit street lamp, children assembling for tag.  
They scuffle and bend. They carry whole  
streets on an extended finger. Behind them,

a tipped lemonade stand. To touch and be touched.  
Sometimes a dollar a glass, sometimes free.  
Behind them, a moon looking nothing like a face.

— Lance Larsen  
from book, *Erasmable Walls*



**President's  
Message  
from  
LaVerna  
Johnson**

**To My USPS Friends**

2010 is the year to celebrate Utah State Poetry Society's Diamond Jubilee, Sixty Years of Poetry in Utah! Utah poets are respected and admired by NFSPS poets across America, and for good reason. We have a record to be proud of. As I observe Chapters across our state, I am in awe of the talent and goodness of Utah Poets.

We look back to 1950, those early years and all the years in between, with gratitude to largely unsung poets who have reached beyond self, beyond selfishness, to build confidence and skills in Utah poets. Each one who has served in leadership or in a quiet position of service and dependability receives our appreciation.

We look forward with hope because of you, each member, reassured with the knowledge that each poet who contributes to the power of poetry in Utah serves a purpose greater than ourselves. We salute our Poetry Pioneers, of the past and of the future, humbled to be working among you.

As we reach out to young poets through Junior Creative and Poetry Out Loud, we serve to heal hearts, build intellect, enlighten, and to improve the good humor and hopeful attitude our youth so desperately need.

Yet I know poets in their 90's who still write with power! Amazing! As we reach out to you who have lifted us for so many years with verses, images, and friendships that give us heart to face difficult years ahead, how grateful we are for your fine examples.

Young or old, let's celebrate our Diamond Jubilee! Plan now to attend our Poetry Festival April 23 & 24, and please do not wait until the last minute to make your decision. We have some important plans that will need an accurate count--so that you will not be left out. We do not want you to miss out on some very special things this April! Please register early!

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### Rhyme & Reason, by Kolette Montague

The Rhyme & Reason Chapter continues to meet on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month at the Bountiful Davis Art Center. Our calling committee reminds members about each meeting where we continue to improve our poetic skills and enjoy the camaraderie of poet friends. Our Christmas Party at Vera Bakker's home was a fun-filled year-end celebration.

Our Poetry Wall at the Bountiful Davis Art Center is a wonderful way to share our poetry with the public for their appreciation, and possibly to inspire new poets. Under the management of Maxine Shreve, during the past 10 years we have had over 300 poems displayed on the Wall.

We are happy the Society holds the annual State Workshops at the Bountiful Davis Art Center. We consider it our home, and appreciate meeting at such a creatively charged venue.

### Word Weavers, by Julie Nelson

We have been pleased to continue attracting new poets to our chapter. We love the variety of writing styles and learn from each other. There are 15-18 who attend monthly, with many more on our roster.

Word Weavers has much to boast about from its members' activities this past year. Gayanne Ramsden wrote an adaptation of "Beowulf" many years ago and was pleased to see it finally produced! Both Cindy Bechtold and Sharon Anderson won the 2009 Deseret Cultural Arts Recognition Award for their poems titled "Sanctified Flight" and "One Gloomy Day," respectively: two of Sharon's poems, "Prophet, Priest, and King" and "Choosing the Better Part" were on the finalist list. You might have also seen Sharon's poem in the December issue of the New Era, called "Quiet as Starlight." Rynell Lewis had a poem published in the autumn '09 issue of "Segullah." We are **SO PROUD** of Stacy Julin, who won the 2009 Tiger's Eye Chapbook Contest." You can check out the announcement for this *huge honor* at <http://www.tigerseyejournal.com>. Finally, the 3 sisters, Helen Beaman, Mary Boyack, and Karen Gibson presented readings from "Bread, Milk & Music" in October for a women's literary club. Helen was a guest presenter at the October St. George book fair reading from her book, "Edges Disappear."

## Valley Winds, by Paul Ford

As always with the holidays, we have had a reduced chapter meeting schedule to accommodate Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our pre-Christmas dinner was held in early December at a local eatery (Golden Corral on Ft Union Blvd): good food shared with poet friends and their spouses/partners. January will find us back to meeting twice a month, starting with Theda Bassett sharing tips from her considerable contesting experience. Our meeting schedule is the 2nd and last Wednesdays of the month at the Holladay Library. We start at 6:30 pm and end by 8:45 pm. Email me if you have questions. Paul Ford, Chapter President: pmford3@yahoo.com.

## Dixie, by Gary Christian

We sit beneath the Poet Tree and do the things that poets do, read, and write, and read again, nothing new. Besides that, there is much to do, the Festival of Books was one. Helen Beaman read her poems—a lot of fun. We had our Christmas bash in December with lots of fun and food to stash; it's something that we remember. There were First Night readings, too. We do that every year; it keeps us sober on that night with poetry for all to hear. Let's see, what else can I report? New members now: Bill Witsberger, Marilyn Ball, Lin Floyd and Leah Zollinger. That isn't all, Nad and Markay Brown, our snow birds, and Alma Richie from the north to "stay forever" are his words. Oh, I forgot, there is one more, Marleen Bussma, poetess, entertains us with her tales—a cowboy poet, you can guess. We'll keep on chuggin' way down here to keep poetry on the map. So far we're going pretty good, and with that, this report's a wrap.

Poetry is the revelation of a feeling that the poet believes to be interior and personal which the reader recognizes as his own.

— Salvatore Quasimodo

## POET TREE deadline for Sept. 2010 issue

**All** materials and information for the September, 2010 issue of *Poet Tree* need to be completed, prepared, and emailed to Shawn Dallas Stradley, Poet Tree Editor, by **July 31, 2010**. Thank you.

## ROUND ROBIN

Looking for help and encouragement? A poetry snail-mail round robin might be the niche for you. When you join, you have several other people read your poems and make favorable comments and suggestions. You also read and critique poems of the other members. Join today by writing to:

Clarence Socwell (poetcps@comcast.net)  
2737 N. 650 East, Ogden, UT 84414

Include your name, address, phone number, and email address (used only for contact or questions). When four to six participants inquire, their names will be added to a group, and you will receive the first round by regular mail. —Clarence P. Socwell

## PANORAMA deadline for 2010 issue

**All** poems and information for the 2010 issue of *Panorama* need to be submitted between **June 15 and July 31, 2010**. (see pg. 3 of 2009 issue for details). Mail submissions to the editor, Beth Ng, 5217 S. Heath Ave, Kearns, UT 84118-6848. (No emails please.)

## Friday and Saturday, April 23-24, 2010 April Awards Festival and Conference - a brief schedule -

Friday, April 23

4 p.m. Board meeting for officers

6 p.m. Dinner

7 p.m. Presenter, Lance Larsen

8 p.m. Awards session, followed by Open Reading

Saturday, April 24

7:45 a.m. Breakfast

(Chapter presidents' meeting after breakfast)

9 a.m. Awards session

11 a.m. Workshop: Lance Larsen

12 p.m. Lunch and Reading with  
Gail Schimmelpfennig

1 p.m. Awards session

Recognize Poet of the Year 2010

5:30 p.m. Junior Creative Awards



**April Awards  
Festival and  
Conference**

**featuring  
Lance Larsen**

**Friday and Saturday, April 23-24, 2010**

Get excited! Our annual April Award Festival is just around the corner. I hope you have your submissions for the contest well under way, and are already deciding what clothes you want to wear. I investigated the possibility of changing our venue, but found the other options so much more expensive, that we felt quite happy coming back to the Salt Lake City Airport Hilton. They have served us so well in the past and even came down on the price of the rooms, just \$62.00, and you can share—Wow! When I first started coming to the Festival in about 1993—yes, time does fly!—it was so exciting. It seemed that everyone stayed at the hotel, even those who lived close, and the hotel was not nearly as lovely as our Airport Hilton. There was such a marvelous feeling of camaraderie; I would like to see it that way again. So scrimp and save and arrange for baby sitters and transportation, and make any other arrangements necessary so that you can come. Please, please come and let's make this our most wonderful Festival ever—after all it is our Sixtieth Diamond Jubilee Festival. If you have missed a few years, now is the time to make a comeback. So, fill out your registration, make your reservation, pack your bags in wild anticipation, and let's meet at our wonderful destination: Utah State Poetry Society April Award Festival 2010 at the Salt Lake City Airport Hilton. See you there!

—Helen Keith Beaman, USPS President Elect

Poetry is thoughts that breathe,  
and words that burn.

— Thomas Gray

**Winter Takeout**

In the pass, fishtailing around corners, in the whiteout of maybe and two-way traffic, I said yes

to everything. Yes to snow heavy as Ecclesiastes. Yes to vertigo and the wheels locking up

if it came to that. Yes to the physics of forehead kissing glass and the hush of more snow

and whatever follows clarity—being found clean or found out. At the truck stop all I could manage

was hunger. So I ordered a catcher's mitt of a cinnamon roll slathered in icing, and waited,

hunched at the counter, beside swinging kitchen doors. That's when she sidestepped past, her hands

on my waist her only *excuse me*. A waitress in stripes and the heavy blue of December mascara.

But releasing carefully, like a skater. Silly to call that incident holy. Her hands didn't linger.

Her minced steps and the pout of her body were only fatigue. But so what? I needed to be touched.

I could call her Casualene and say she looked like her name only sadder. That all night I had felt

my ransomed body sliding along ice and barbed wire, and felt it here needled by a scratchy jukebox.

I could say I licked my fingers all the way to Idaho. All true. How I ached to guarantee her a charmed life.

How chivalric and beside the point I was.

How dark the highway, how much darker the snow.

—Lance Larsen

Lance Larsen has published three poetry collections: *Backyard Alchemy* (U of Tampa 2009), *In All Their Animal Brilliance* (U of Tampa 2005), and *Erasable Walls* (New Issues 1998). Individual poems have appeared in *Paris Review*, *Orion*, *Grand Street*, *New York Review of Books*, *Southern Review*, *Slate*,

*Poetry Daily, Verse Daily, The Pushcart Prize 2005, Best American Poetry 2009, and elsewhere.*

He's received awards or fellowships from Sewanee, Ragdale, The Utah Arts Council, The Cultural Arts Council of Houston, and the National Endowment for the Arts. As an essayist he has won the Writers at Work nonfiction fellowship prize, and his work has received notable essay status in *Best American Essays* in 2005 and 2009. He teaches at B.Y.U. where he serves as poetry editor of *Literature and Belief* and associate chair. In spring 2010 he will direct a London study abroad program focusing on theater. He is married to painter and mixed-media artist Jacqui Larsen.

Poets are soldiers that liberate words from the steadfast possession of definition.

— Eli Khamarov, *The Shadow Zone*

### Wind Chimes

tinkle,  
clatter,  
gong  
in the breeze--  
her collection,  
a cacophony  
of children  
speaking in tongues.

Silver spoons  
haggle together,  
jangle, bangle.

Wooden parrots clunk  
red and yellow  
mellow.

Swinging on twined grass,  
bottle-blue sea glass  
plinks and clinks.

She rests in the cool of her patio,  
lists toward the conversations of her world  
until the moon stills the drafts,  
and darkness smothers  
like the grave.

— by Markay Brown

### Kukui Nut

Outside the hospital window, the kukui trees  
shred in the tradewinds.

The woman does not see them. She is sunk  
in the burn of childbirth fever,  
tubes spring from her belly,  
from a red puckered scar  
big as a salad plate.

The two-year-old is at home  
with the Japanese maid, occasionally  
spoken to by the father.

But the baby in the metal box, forgotten  
in the corner of the hospital nursery,  
lies alone day after day, for weeks, months,  
long enough to flatten  
one side of her head, then the other.

The baby is learning well,  
her small anguish is growing, will never be consoled.  
Her sorrow, impenetrable as a kukui nut  
will remain wrinkled in her belly  
like a stillborn baby.

She will always be confused by its sibilant voice  
and never pluck it out.

She will never feel loved enough or,  
she thinks,  
good for anything.

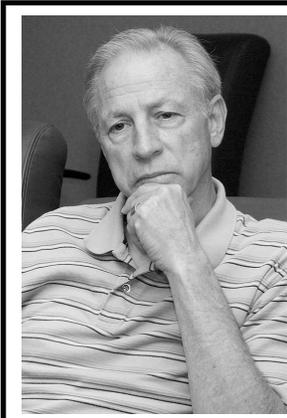
— Nancy Hanks Baird

### Writing Competition Awards to USPS Members

Two members of USPS were honored in the 51st Annual Utah Original Writing Competition, sponsored by the Utah Arts Council. According to Guy Lebeda, Literary Director for the UAC, there were 100 entries in the poetry division. A chapbook of 10 poems was required for submission. First, Second and honorable mention were awarded. Nancy Hanks Baird won Second Place and Markay Brown received Honorable Mention at an awards program at the Salt Lake Library in October, 2009. We look forward to First Place winner, Susan Sample, joining us one day.

Poetry is a packsack of invisible keepsakes.

— Carl Sandburg



**Poetry in the Park  
with  
N. Colwell Snell  
March 12, 2010**

This is new! Poetry in the Park (PIP), a one-day poetry reading/writing workshop, hosted by Zion Canyon Field Institute in cooperation with the USPS, will be held at the Nature Center in Zion National Park, Friday, March 12, 2010. Workshop presenter is acclaimed author, poet, and editor N. Colwell Snell.

Prepaid participants will meet March 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Zion Nature Center in Zion National Park for readings, workshops, and writing challenges. (A car pool from St. George will be organized for those who wish to participate.) We suggest bringing binoculars and a camera, as the morning will include a walk in the park with a Field Institute naturalist. Bring your own sack lunch. Workshop and writing time resume from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Nature Center, with a reading of participant's work beginning at 3:00. A group book project will be offered as an option for nominal cost of publication.

This event coincides with the 14th annual Red Rock Writers Seminar, March 12 and 13 in St. George, UT. PIP participants are invited to attend the Red Rock Writers Seminar "Evening with the Authors" program Friday, 7:00 p.m. at the St. George Cultural Arts Social Hall which is free and open to the public. Participants are also invited to register for Saturday's Redrock Writers 14th Annual Writing Seminar, held the following day, March 13 in St. George. A separate (\$50) registration is required. Standard registration for Poetry In the Park (PIP) is \$50 but, as a benefit of USPS membership, we will pay just \$25. Make checks payable to USPS. Print a registration form at [www.utahpoets.com](http://www.utahpoets.com), or email [poetaken@gmail.com](mailto:poetaken@gmail.com) for a brochure. The public may register via Zion Canyon Field Institute at [www.zionpark.org/product\\_66.html](http://www.zionpark.org/product_66.html) for a \$50 fee. Everyone is invited to attend. See [www.redrockwriters.org](http://www.redrockwriters.org) for Redrock info. and take advantage of both programs.

## Workshops

### February 13th, Presented by Rob Carney



Rob Carney is the author of two books — *Weather Report* (Somondoco Press, 2006) and *Boasts, Toasts, and Ghosts* (Pinyon Press, 2003), winner of the Pinyon Press National Poetry Book Award—and two chapbooks, *New Fables, Old Songs* (Dream Horse Press, 2003) and *This Is One Sexy Planet* (Frank Cat Press, 2005). His work

has appeared in *Mid-American Review*, *Quarterly West*, and dozens of other journals, as well as *Flash Fiction Forward*, a W.W. Norton collection of the 80 best flash fiction pieces published between 1996 and 2006. He is a two-time winner of the Utah Book Award for Poetry, as well as a former Utah Arts Council Individual Artist Grant Recipient for Poetry. He is a Professor of English and Literature at Utah Valley University and lives in Salt Lake City.

### March 6th, Presented by Marianne Klekacz



"Take Down the Scaffolding," Marianne will help workshop participants explore ways to create new material and then extract the art from what they've generated. The workshop is designed for writers at all levels of their craft. Participants will explore the evolution of original writing from the first rough draft through finished copy. The

workshop will include practice of these techniques. Marianne says she is an "accidental poet" who came to the craft entirely by chance. She lives and writes off the grid in the Big Elk valley west of Mary's Peak at Salado, Oregon. She earned a B.A. in English and Writing from Marylhurst University and an M.F.A. in Writing from Pacific University. Her first chapbook, *Life Science*, won the Edna Meudt Memorial Award in 2003. Her first full-length collection, *When Words Fail*, was published by Dancing Moon Press in June, 2009.

### A Running List of Things I Need to Thank:

the God of Gravity  
for moving some to be acrobats;

the God of Summer Vegetables  
made manifest in corn;

the God of Collision—  
creator of football and molecules—

and all the underdog Gods  
of All the Overlooked . . .

I need to thank plenty.  
I need to thank sharks,

for you were my first fascination.  
And everyone, starting with my parents,

who taught me to read.  
And all our talismans

so patiently pretending.  
And wind

for fitting a piece of itself in my hand.

— Rob Carney

### Utah Poet Wins Senior Laureate Award

Theda Bassett, 76, Salt Lake City, Utah has won the 2009 Utah Senior Poet Laureate Award for her poem "Winters Remembered" in the 17th annual national Senior Poets Laureate poetry Competition for American poets age 50 and older sponsored by Amy Kitchener's Angels Without Wings Foundation of Monterey, CA ([www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org)). Theda is a professional Field Enumerator for the National Association Department of Agriculture Statistics. She has a Golden Circle family: three sons, one daughter, sixteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Poetry is just the evidence of life. If your  
life is burning well, poetry is just the ash.  
— Leonard Cohen

### Haiku Now!

Enter the first ever **Haiku Now!** International Haiku Contest 2010, sponsored by The Haiku Foundation. The closing date is March 31st and the winners will be announced at the end of April, National Poetry Month. This contest is free and open to all poets of any age and experience. Three categories, prizes of \$100.00 for first place and \$25.00 for honorable mentions. Visit <http://www.thehaikufoundation.org/contest/haiku-now-contest-2010/#submit> for entry forms and information.



### MEMBERSHIP

Please notify the Membership Chair immediately with **dues, changes of address, email address, and telephone number**. Send dues and address changes to:  
Rosalyn Ostler, 7685 Dell Road  
Salt Lake City, UT 84121-5221  
[rosieo1@juno.com](mailto:rosieo1@juno.com), 801.943.4211



### CRITIQUE BUREAU

USPS members may submit 12 poems a year for FREE critiques from seasoned Utah poets (\$5 for nonmembers, checks to USPS). Guidelines:

- Send 1 to 4 poems per batch, maximum 5 pages, one poem per page, typed on standard 8.5x11 white paper. Send only one copy of each. Place name and address on upper right corner of each poem. Staple poems together only when a poem is two pages.
- A book manuscript may be submitted with a \$15 reader's fee (checks to USPS) and two manila envelopes large enough to forward and return the manuscript. Put adequate postage on both envelopes. One envelope should contain your name and address as receiver; leave the other blank for forwarding to a critic. Allow a month for return.
- Remember, each critic has a different approach to a poem. If you would like another viewpoint, you may return the poem or poems for another review.
- Address submission to: USPS Critique Bureau  
c/o Dr. Lavon B. Carroll  
1742 25th S., Ogden UT 84401  
or  
c/o Elaine Ipson  
449 Country Club Dr., Stansbury Park, UT 84074

## CALENDAR - SPRING 2010

- February 1, USPS Contest postmark deadline
- February 13, Saturday, 10am-12pm, **Workshop\***  
Speaker: Rob Carney
- March 6, Saturday, 10am-12pm, **Workshop\***  
Speaker: Marianne Klekacz
- March 11-13, Redrock Writing Seminar†
- March 12, Poetry in the Park, Zion National Park
- April 23-24, Friday and Saturday  
USPS Awards Festival, SLC Airport Hilton Hotel
- April 29, Thurs, National Poem In Your Pocket Day
- June 10-13, NFSPS Convention, Memphis, TN
- June 15th - July 31, 2010  
Panorama submissions being accepted
- July 31, POET TREE deadline - September Issue



\***USPS Workshops:** at Bountiful-Davis Art Center, 745 South Main, Bountiful, 10am-12pm. Take Bountiful 500 South exit and proceed east to Main St. Turn south on Main to the Art Center. A fun tradition: lunch afterward with other USPS members.



†**Redrock Writers Seminar:** Enjoy the 14th Annual Redrock Writing Seminar in St. George, Utah. March 12-13, 2010. “Redrock Writers feature outstanding authors and poets, and have kept registration at \$50.” For information, registration, please contact D. Gary Christian: [viking@bajabb.com](mailto:viking@bajabb.com).  
[www.redrockwriters.org](http://www.redrockwriters.org)

Poetry is the journal of the sea animal living on land, wanting to fly in the air. Poetry is a search for syllables to shoot at the barriers of the unknown and the unknowable. Poetry is a phantom script telling how rainbows are made and why they go away.

— Carl Sandburg, Poetry Considered

## OFFICERS OF THE UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY

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- President Elect..... Helen K. Beaman
- Advisory President..... Vera Bakker
- Secretary..... Grace Read
- Treasurer..... Eric H. Read
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- Laureates President..... Sue Ranglack
- Junior Creative Chair..... Lee C. Snell
- Workshop Chair..... Elaine Christensen
- Chapters Coordinator..... Alma Richie
- Mailing Coordinators..... Irv & Patricia Kimber
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- PANORAMA Editor..... Beth Ng
- PANORAMA Editorial Assistant..... Paul Ford
- Website Editor..... Paul Ford
- Gen. Contest Co-Chairs..... Nad & Markay Brown
- Contest Clerk..... Barbara Funke
- Judge Coordinator..... Robert Frederickson
- Laureate Book Chair..... T. Kevin Clark
- University Ms. Contest Chair..... O. William Asplund
- Hospitality Chairs.. Anita Krotz & Marney Zambrano
- Publicity Directors..... Gail Schimmelpfennig & Crystie Cook
- Historian/Librarian ..... Martha P. Morrise
- Poetry Exchange ..... Clarence P. Socwell
- Book Sales Chair..... Robert Davis
- Laureate Book Sales Chair ..... Frank DeCaria
- Critique Bureau ..... Dr. LaVon B. Carroll & Elaine Ipson
- Photographer..... Esther Phelps Jackson
- Poetry Week ..... Theda Bassett

### ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISORS

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### CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

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- Dixie (St. George)..... Candy Fowler
- Oquirrh (Tooele)..... Marney Zambrano
- Rhyme and Reason (Bountiful)..... Kolette Montague
- Valley Winds (SLC)..... Paul Ford
- Word Weavers (Utah Valley) ..... Julie Nelson