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Website
www.utahpoets.com



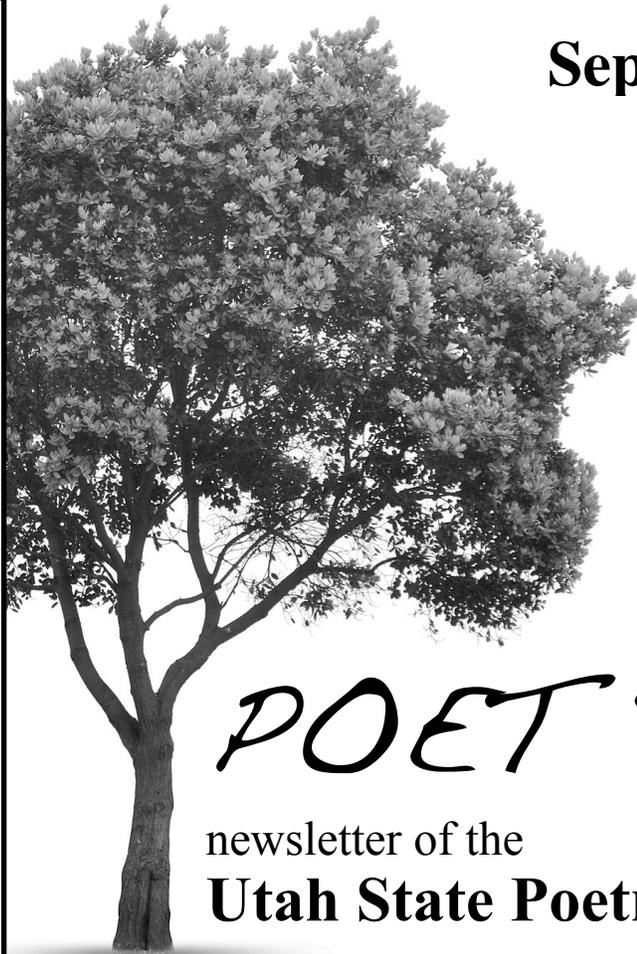
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September 2010



POET TREE

newsletter of the
Utah State Poetry Society

Gifts You May Not Want

Like the far field,
the visible and the unexpected –
a hidden buttercup reaching
for the sun,
a stone of curious shape,
the lark's serenade from a post,
a field mouse,
commonness of soil,
the simplicity of grass.

I'm the cat that lays its catch
on your doorsill, pleased
to give its best, its everything.

— Rosalyn Ostler
from book, *Walking the Earth Barefoot*



**From the
President's Corner**

**LaVerna
Johnson**

To My UTSPS Friends

Memphis, TN was a feast for those hungry for the magic of poetry. We cheered for you as your names were announced, and as winning poems were read. Competition was strong, with hundreds of entries in each category. All of us were winners, if only through having had the courage to participate. Your poems are wonderful, and so are you! Encore, the annual book of winning poems--where Utah poets shine--is available at www.nfmps.com.

Let's each plan--and start saving now--so that when friends in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies gather in Dearborn, Michigan, in June 16-20, 2011, YOU will be there to taste sweet words, adding your poetic spice to this delicious event.

I think of Memphis often, of new friends discovered, and remember those who are now long-time friends--like Lola Haskins. I remember that last day as she recited her powerful poems. Her amazing words and her beautiful eyes pierce right to the heart as she speaks of the power of poetry:

"I believe in poetry so much that I could stand on a street corner and preach it. I believe it truly is for everyone--nothing to do with school--and I don't just believe, I KNOW, that the right poem really can--literally-- change someone's life forever."

Flying home, as I was reading my copy of Encore and remembering Lola's words, I gathered up courage and spoke to the person sitting beside me. "Do you enjoy poetry?"

My first question introduced me to a man who "knows nothing of poetry. But, my wife writes poetry. She always has, but it is just kind of because--she says she has to. She doesn't belong to any group."

She sounded like one of us--but one of those who have not yet heard that our organization exists expressly for people who are have-to-write people--like

her. He was excited to receive contact information so she could find a local chapter and learn more.

On my next flight, I asked the lady next to me the same question. She said, "I like to read poetry, but my business partner is writing a book. I know he would really enjoy this poem." I handed the book across the aisle, and we spent the rest of the trip discussing poetry, his book, and his interest in belonging to a group that might help him--just a beginner--to become a better poet. He was grateful when I offered a connection for some editing help, and someone to welcome him into a local chapter in his state.

Amazing. People all around me--interested in poetry--and I had never even considered asking if people "enjoy poetry." How do we help everyone realize that UTSPS chapters and other NFSPS member chapters, are vital, exciting groups of people interested in learning about poetry, in sharing poetry--and that EVERYONE is welcome to join us?

Perhaps the responsibility for sharing this news belongs to each of us, not only to a professional publicity person. Perhaps we need to join Lola Haskins, and dare to preach it from the corner! When anyone includes poetry in their publication or program, perhaps we need to let them know it is appreciated.

Dixie Chapter's D. Gary Christian recently wrote a thank-you note to a magazine that publishes a poem in each issue. He spoke up for poetry. You can read his words on page 6 of the August 2010 Reader's Digest.



POETRY OUT LOUD

Encourage your local high school to register NOW for Poetry Out Loud by contacting Guy Lebeda, from the UAC, at glebeda@utah.gov. Free materials are at poetryoutloud.org. Names of each school's winners must be submitted to the state contest by February 2011. This experience is educational, fun, and rewarding at all levels. Generous prizes invest in the future of both students and poetry.



POET TREE deadline for February 2011

All materials and information for the February, 2011 issue of *Poet Tree* need to be completed, prepared, and emailed to Shawn Dallas Stradley, Poet Tree Editor, by **January 10, 2011**. Thank you.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Rhyme & Reason, by Kolette Montague

The Rhyme & Reason Chapter decided to meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday this year. We will reevaluate at the end of the year. So far, it seems once a month just isn't enough for our group. Our calling committee reminds members about each meeting at the Bountiful Davis Art Center. Love to have you visit us!

Looking forward to our summer picnic in August where we share good food, good fun, good friendship and good poetry. Love to have you join us!

During the past 10 years we have had over 300 poems displayed on the Poetry Wall at the Bountiful Davis Art Center. Maxine Shreve oversees and organizes this unique venture. Love to share our poetry!

We are happy the Society holds the annual State Workshops at the Bountiful Davis Art Center. Love our home!

Although we are not the fastest growing chapter, we continue to be active and productive. Our life experiences are varied, and always add depth to our poetic views. We're glad to have Edith Baker back with us after an LDS mission in Africa. Her poems gleaned from that are insightful and help us gain a world view. We are proud of our various accomplishments. We value our affiliation with the poets of Utah and the other state organizations. Got poems? You bet!!

Word Weavers, by Julie Nelson

So far in the year 2010, we have some BUSY poets in Word Weavers! Many members received multiple high awards at the UTSPS and NFSPS festivals. Markay Brown received 3rd place and Lee Snell was awarded 2nd place in the Pearle M. Olsen book award. Stacy Julin's "A Pebble Thrown in Water" was published by "Tiger's Eye Press" in June. She and Helen Beaman and Markay Brown each had a poem featured in the August issue of "The Provo Orem Word." We were able to place a full page ad in that journal that featured Word Weavers. Julie Nelson had 3 poems chosen in the "Segullah" poetry contest, one that will be published in their anniversary issue.

In April, our group was BUSY celebrating national poetry month. We presented our annual poetry reading at the Provo City Library, where we read from famous poets' works as well as each member reading one of their own. We repeated the same at Barnes and Noble with the theme of "Liquid Life."

We've had some new members join and extend our welcome to anyone who is interested in learning more about Word Weavers. We meet monthly, on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. For more information, see our website at www.wordweavers.org.

Valley Winds, by Paul Ford

We held our summer potluck at Gay Blanchard's home. Over twenty of us enjoyed food and friends in Gay's beautiful backyard.

Our twice-a-month meetings have been well-attended this summer with average attendance of 10. Gail Shimmelpfennig and Helen Beaman each presented poetry lessons during a June and a July chapter session.

Nine of us will be starting a poetry class to be conducted by Elaine Christensen. We will start Sept 1 and end with the seventh lesson in early Dec. Anticipate both learning and fun while working with such an esteemed poet.

Our meeting schedule is the second and last Wednesdays of the month at the Holladay Library. We start at 6:30 pm and end by 8:45 pm. Paul Ford, Chapter President: pmford3@yahoo.com

Oquirrh, by Marney Hilton Zambrano

Guess what? Oquirrh Chapter of UTSPS will soon have a new venue for our monthly meetings, thanks to the generosity of Jack and Cari Gavin, who own and operate Jackrabbit Press in Tooele. They have agreed to allow us to meet in their building, located at 272 N. Broadway Avenue, on the SECOND THURSDAY EVENING of each month, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, starting Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010. Of course we wish to express our appreciation to them for their support of poetry and poets as well as other creative endeavors in the community, such as a successful poetry reading group that meets at Jackrabbit on the second Tuesday of every month, also at 7:00 PM. However, we certainly would be remiss if we did not acknowledge our dear friend and chapter founder, Elaine Ipson, for her unique contributions to Oquirrh Chapter, especially for sharing her home with us on so many occasions over the past several years. We will miss our gatherings in Stansbury Park very much, but as they say, all good things must come to an end.

Our May meeting at Elaine's house was well-attended (we even had a guest who brought a guest), and then, as usual, we went our separate ways for the

summer. As we resume our regular meetings next month and embark on this exciting adventure, we hope that this move will generate enthusiastic participation by all concerned in the process. The public is invited, and our meetings always include a brief lesson or guest poet presentation and a "critique session" where we share and discuss each other's poems. Please watch for more details as time goes by, and you can also call Oquirrh Chapter President Marney Zambrano at 435-843-1215, email her at mezbooker@yahoo.com, phone Jackrabbit Press at 435-840-0679, or contact them at cari@jackrabbitpress.net. Visiting the utahpoets.com website will also give people more information about Utah State Poetry Society's activities and programs.

Dixie, by D. Gary Christian

Writers from the Dixie Chapter of the Utah Poets Society submitted poetry to the annual Spring Salon contest at the Mesquite Fine Art Gallery. Artists from Utah, Nevada, and Arizona selected a poem from those submitted to use as a stimulus for creating an art piece in different media including: printmaking, mixed medium, water and oil painting.

UTSPS participants from St. George included Leah Zollinger with two poems: Smoke and Stranger on a Spanish Steed; Lin Floyd with four poems in the show: Monarch, Remembering, Balloons, and Summer Storm; and Gary Christian with Grand Canyon. Local artist and member poet, Bill Witsberger, created an oil painting using Tollstrup's poem as his stimulus. Other poets and artists from nearby states also participated.

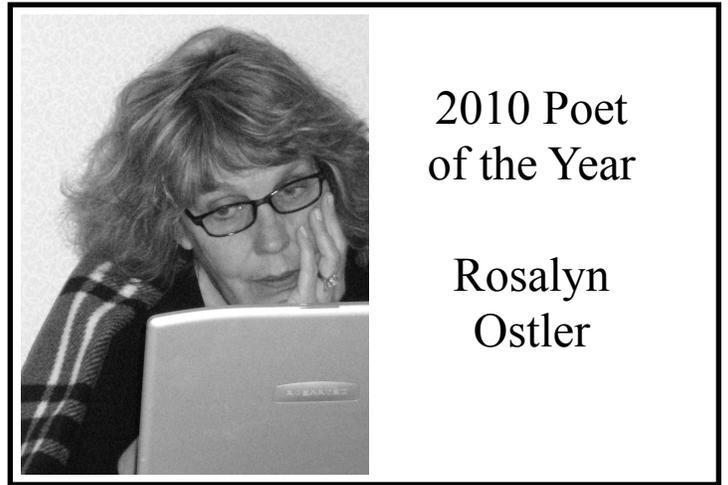
Leah Zollinger received a Best of Show and a \$100 cash prize for her poem Smoke, as did artist Jan Hansen who created the water painting that garnered the award Best Art By Poetry in the show. Marie Tollstrup and Bill Witsberger won a third place prize for their collaboration, and Gary Christian and artist Janet Trobough won an Honorable Mention.



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, 801.943.4211



Book Concert: October 16, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Book signing begins at 6:30 p.m.
SLC Main Library Auditorium

Rosalyn Whitaker Ostler, born in Arizona, the first of six, spent a wonderful tomboy childhood in a tiny Missouri town, and has become a confirmed Utahn since age thirteen. She met her husband Robert during neighborhood grass fights and games of Kick-the-Can and free-for-all basketball in Nephi, Utah. She graduated from high school there, and much later, studied briefly at the University of Utah, with a goal of an English degree. For 52 years, Rose and Bob have lived in Cottonwood Heights in Salt Lake Valley. They have seven wonderful kids and a much-loved bunch of grands and greats.

Rosalyn had long desired to follow her father and her sister, Patricia, in writing poetry, before her first 'real' poem worked its way up to the light, in her late forties. She found Craft House writing classes, then the Utah State Poetry Society, and fell headlong into the passion of poetry. Her writing has won local and national awards; publications include *Panorama*, *Encore*, *ByLine*, *Extended Wings*, *Grandmother Earth*, *Pennsylvania Prize Poems*, *Rough Draft*, *Utah Sings*, *Anthology of New England Writers*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, and others. With N. Colwell Snell and Sue Ranglack, she co-authored *By the Throat*, the second-place winner in Writers' Digest's contest for self-published poetry books. She helped to produce *Nine One One, Poems for September II*.

Her experience includes giving workshops, contest judging, teaching poetry writing, and also personal

history. Rosalyn has written a collection of family biographies. She has been a featured reader at City Art, also a presenter at Redrock Writers Seminar and at Heritage Writers Guild.

She is a past president of the Utah State Poetry Society and continues to serve as an officer. Rosalyn is active in church service, loving to teach teens and children. She treasures her many years as a Boy Scout leader. She loves people, parties, reading, music, blue skies, writing, gardening, bougainvillea, Los Barriles, dancing, orange juice, and Disneyland.

The judge and reviewers wrote the following statements about Rose's poetry.

James Cushing, Ph.D., the 2010 Contest Judge: This year's first-place winning manuscript, *Walking the Earth Barefoot*, offers compelling evidence of a mind and spirit attuned to the moment-by-moment drama of our dealings with the natural environment. The drama is now gentle, now harsh; at once full of memory and expectation, the poems contemplate the mystery unfolding at the edge of awareness:

*The things I don't know
stare at me again...
With the dawn, weeping birches
like old men, white-bearded
in the milky air,
wait for answers.*

(“Christmas Fog”)

The tone is respectful, muted, devoted to what it sees and gleans.

John Rezmerski, Poet Laureate, League of MN Poets: Rosalyn Ostler's poetry amazes me. *Walking the Earth Barefoot* is deep without being solemn, witty but not jokey, knowledgeable without condescension or pedantry. We seldom see nature poetry so equally about human nature as about flora and fauna. She interweaves nature imagery—geological formations, vegetation, weather, insects—with music, dancing, language as a phenomenon, the necessity of poetry. Ostler's prosody is as subtle as her inter-weaving of themes and images is complex. Half the poems contain bird images, but the book can't be mistaken for a collection of poems about birds. The same is true of mountains, rocks, dances, stars, rhythms, and water. There are people, but with a few exceptions, they are not *characters*. Inside themselves, observing the world, her people find down-

to-earth lessons in learning and loving. *Walking the Earth Barefoot* is about receiving messages from the natural world: “just pretend/that wonder isn't lost. And love will mend.” But there is no easy optimism here. She tells us, “I'll remember that I am committed to some choices/not necessarily beneficial to me, because/ I believe in their necessity.” So will you.

David Lee, first Utah State Poet Laureate: When my grandmother or my Aunt Beth Hurst said, “Look what the cat drug in”, we knew we had received the friendliest, most loving welcome we would ever be given. With that greeting, the reader is introduced to Rose Ostler and *Walking the Earth Barefoot*, the friendliest, most welcoming book of poems I've read in months, if not years. Kick off your shoes and wander through the splendid imagery and reminiscence of a poet who's sure to become your intimate friend by the book's close.

It's been a while since I've called a book of poems a comfortable and relaxing good read. Well, I'm saying it now.

“It's the writer's job to stage confrontations so the characters will say surprising and revealing things.”

— Kurt Vonnegut

PANORAMA (deadline for 2011 issue)

All poems for the 2011 issue of *Panorama* need to be submitted between June 15 and July 31, 2011. See UTSPS website for submission details: www.utahpoets.com. A future *Poet Tree* will also include details for submitting poems. Any questions, e-mail Maurine Haltiner: MHaltiner@aol.com

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Paul Ford and I thank all the members who sent in their submissions for the Panorama. We had a great, prompt response-- many fine poems that will appear in this year's publication. We also have a lovely cover to complement the writing. Members will be notified before printing in time to order extra copies as Christmas gifts for family and friends. Watch for UTSPS Panorama in November. Write on.

—Maurine Haltiner, PANORAMA Editor

CHAPBOOK WINNER

A Pebble Thrown in Water by Stacy Julin was the winner of the 2009 Tiger's Eye Chapbook Contest and published in June 2010. Copies are available from Stacy and can also be purchased from the publisher for the same price, tigerseyejournal.com and click on "Chapbooks" for information.

I'm Still Your Child

—Stacy Julin

The only peace I found
in your absence,
tiny bursts of memory.
Familiar gestures
which make me forever
your reflection.



WINTER WORKSHOPS

We look forward to exciting workshops for our winter schedule. The first session will be held Saturday, November 13th, 2010, Bountiful Art Center; the speaker is Lara Candland, a university teacher of poetry, food, and fiction writing. Saturday, January 8th, 2011, will feature Brenda Burr, a specialist in literature and creative writing, she teaches part-time at BYU and full-time in the Nebo School District. Don't miss this special event scheduled in the beautiful Springville Museum of Art from 10 am to noon (exit 260 in Springville, just south of Provo, then straight east to the museum). Chris Yeats will teach at the Springville Museum on Saturday, February 12, 2011. Chris has a MA in creative writing, works as a technical writer and teaches at the University in the evening. Our final workshop will be held back in the Bountiful Art Center on March 12, 2011, from 10 am to noon. We are awaiting word from the presenter at this time. Mark your calendars now for a season of learning together.

—Markay Brown, Workshop Coordinator



NFSPS 2011 CONVENTION

"Great Lakes ... Great Poetry" is the theme for the 2011 Convention of the NFSPS, hosted by: THE POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN, June 16 – 19,

2011. Keynote speaker will be Marie Howe. Other presenters will be Margo LaGattuta, Mary Jo Firth-Gillette, David James, Robert Fanning, Terry Wooten, plus others. Dearborn Inn, a Marriott Hotel, 20301 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn, Michigan 48124. Telephone: 313.271.2700. Guest Fax: 313.271.7464 Website: dearborninnmarriott.com



UTSPS April Awards Festival and 2011 Contest

The 2011 UTSPS Poetry Society Contest is beginning to come together. The Festival will be held on the 22 and 23 of April, 2011, at the Airport Hilton. This year we look forward to the wonderful Linda Pastan, and in 2012 to Pulitzer Prize poet Ted Kooser, 13th U.S. Poet Laureate. Rules for submission of individual poetry in our contest should be printed and sent out by October 1st. Special thanks to all sponsors for last year. I have contacted each by letter requesting a response with stipulations and a check with an attached instruction sheet showing how much money they want set up for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes. Thanks in advance for getting your checks back to me as quickly as possible. That determines how soon I can get the rules sent out. To any and all persons who would like to sponsor a new category, please contact me, Leah Zollinger, 4232 S. Kiva Hill Dr. St. George, Utah 84790, or bzollinger@sunrivertoday.com. I am very enthusiastic about serving as the General Contest Chair and looking forward to meeting and working with and for you.

—Leah Zollinger, UTSPS General Contest Chair



PEARLE M. OLSEN BOOK AWARD

Attention Poets!! It is time to start preparing your manuscripts for the Pearle M. Olsen Book award. The rules will be arriving soon, but you can begin collecting your poems and putting them into a collection. Last year we only had 12 or 13 entries. We should have more. It is a great experience to go through this process. You learn so much about yourself and your body of work. Please contact me with any questions you might have, except I can't reveal who the judge will be! Get busy! It is time--you can do it!!

I will be cheering for every one of you!

—Elaine Christensen, Book chair

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

Perhaps no person can be a poet, or can even enjoy poetry, without a certain unsoundness of mind.

—Thomas Babington Macaulay

CRITIQUE BUREAU

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

PUBLICATION

Marilyn Bushman-Carlton, UTSPS Poet of the Year and book winner from 1999, had her book of poems *Her Side of It* published in July by Signature Books. Copies of her book, ISBN#: 978-1-56085-208-7, are available online from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Signature Books, or directly from Marilyn.

Wife of Many Years

"She sees him briefly, as a stranger might..."
-Michael Cunningham, *The Hours*

You didn't anticipate
this occasion:

sitting in the audience,
he, set apart as in a clearing;
you, admiring his patient diagrams
and quaint jokes;

you, wanting everyone there
to understand who
claims his rib.

You've stopped hurrying for a change, behold
his pleasing architecture,
hidden rooms you often squander,
see him through tourist eyes.

No, you see him
in lambent afternoon light,

his outline colored in,
the half glasses on his nose
neutralized.

But why are you surprised?
Didn't his first valentine
tumbling from your crepe-papered box

make all the others seem small and dry
as cornflakes?

The instruction we find in books is like fire.
We fetch it from our neighbors, kindle it at
home, communicate it to others, and it becomes
the property of all.

—Voltaire

CALENDAR - FALL 2010

Oct., Second Week, National Poetry Week.

Oct. 15, Postmark DEADLINE for Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition.

Oct. 16, Sat., 7pm, SLC Main Library, **Book Concert**, *Walking the Earth Barefoot*, Rosalyn Ostler, book signing begins at 6:30pm.

Nov. 13, Sat., 10am-12pm, **Workshop***, with Lara Candland, BDAC.

Dec. 1, Wed., DEADLINE for Chaparral Poetry Forum entries, www.redrockwriters.com.

Jan. 5, Postmark DEADLINE, dues, membership, eligibility for 2011 contests.

Jan. 8, Sat., 10am-12pm, **Workshop†** with Brenda Burr, NEW LOCATION, Springville Museum of Art.

Jan. 10, *Poet Tree*, February 2011, DEADLINE

Feb. 1, Postmark DEADLINE UTSPS annual contest.

Feb. 12, Sat., 10am-12pm, **Workshop†** with Chris Yeats, Springville Museum of Art.

Feb. 15, Tues., Postmark DEADLINE for Junior Creative entries. (Send to Lee C. Snell).

Mar. 12, Sat., 10am-12pm, **Workshop***, BDAC.

Mar. 15, Tues., Postmark DEADLINE, NFSPS contest, entries received Jan. 1, 2011-Mar. 15, 2011.

March 25, Fri., 10:00am, Poetry In the Park with Diane Glancy, Education Center, Zion National Park.

Mar. 25-26, Fri-Sat, Redrock's 15th Annual Writers Seminar, St. George City Fine Arts Center.

Apr. 22-23, Fri.-Sat., 61st Annual UTSPS April Awards Festival with Linda Pastan, SLC Airport Hilton.

June 16-19, NFSPS 2011 Convention, Dearborn, MI.

*Bountiful-Davis Art Center, 745 So. Main, Bountiful, 10am-12pm. Take Bountiful 500 South exit and proceed east to Main St. Turn south on Main to the Art Center. Lunch afterward with other UTSPS members.

†Springville Museum of Art, exit 260 in Springville, south of Provo, straight east to museum. Lunch afterward with other UTSPS members.

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Dixie (St. George).....	Candy Fowler
Oquirrh (Tooele).....	Marney Zambrano
Rhyme and Reason (Bountiful).....	Kolette Montague
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