

The Utah State Poetry Society's POET TREE

February '12

President's Message – Eric Read

Dear UTSPS Friends:

I have been reading a book by Harold Bloom titled *Till I End My Song* that is a collection of last poems by many great poets. I quote from the book, "We turn to last poems at whatever age because we both desire and fear finalities. We want to know and not know the extent of our temporal spans, and we hope to learn from the poets not how to die but how to stand against uncertainty."

We have felt the loss of many valuable friends and poets recently. This has given me pause to reflect on life in general. We all need a particular kind of nourishment for the spirit in sad and trying times. This counsel always helps me:

If of thy mortal goods thou are bereft
And from the slender store two loaves of bread alone
to thee are left,
Sell one, and with the dole
Buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.
— Saadi, "Garden of Roses"

However, I don't propose that my entire message be gloomy. In fact, since I've heard Norman Vincent Peale, I've lost my run-down feeling. Let us carry on!

Poetry in the Park and The Red Rock Writers Seminar will be held March 29 to 31. Former NFSPS President Bud Powell Mahan will be our poet headliner. This promises to be a great experience for all in attendance. Look for more information [on page 5](#).

Whether or not you entered our annual contest, I hope you're planning to come to the April Awards Festival. We will have Ted Kooser, former United States Poet Laureate, as our main presenter. I would love to see all of you in attendance. For more information, [see pages 4 and 5](#), and the registration form included with this newsletter. You can also visit our website at www.utahpoets.com for registration information.



My best wishes to all of you in this exciting New Year, and may we all be winners in life. Always remember this favorite saying of mine: "It's not the stroke of the pendulum as it goes to and fro, but the essence which drives it that makes us go."

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CHAPTER NEWS: WHAT'S UP WHERE YOU LIVE?

BEN LOMOND POET PENS CHILDREN'S BOOK

Joel Passey from Ben Lomond Chapter has published a picture book for children titled *Treweena*. It's a fanciful story about a cat named Treweena who has a special affection for tomatoes. It's a fun read. To buy a copy, go to Xlibris website at <http://bookstore.xlibris.com>.

Dixie Chapter

Lin Floyd

We are off and running with a myriad of activities for the new year. Our group is growing under the new leadership of co-presidents Lin Floyd and Barbara Funke, with LaVerna Johnson as Lesson Coordinator, Gary Christian as Secretary, and Marilyn Richardson as Scheduler. Thank you to Robynn Jones for her service as president. We've had as many as 14 poets come to our twice-monthly meetings in the Washington County library, during which we have a lesson and individual poetry critiques.

We participate monthly in the Second Thursday poetry readings sponsored jointly with Redrock Writers at the local Barnes and Noble bookstore. Pine View High School's English students join us and read their poems at this activity.

We will be judging the English Quest in February for Snow Canyon High School's English classes.

Four of our members (Marilyn Ball, Lin Floyd, Barbara Funke, and LaVerna Johnson) will teach a poetry workshop

titled "Writing from the Heart" on February 4. This event is sponsored by Heritage Writer's Guild.

On February 1, Lin Floyd (director of Poetry In Action) will participate in an original poetry program titled "Voices of Women." UTSPS poets Marilyn Ball, LaVerna Johnson, and Leah Zollinger will read their poems.

Preparing for Poetry in the Park and the Redrock Writers annual conference in March is also keeping us busy.

Oquirrh Chapter

Marney Zambrano

It's official: By unanimous decision, Oquirrh Chapter has a "new" president as well as a "new" home! Elaine Ipson is replacing Marney Zambrano—effective immediately. Until further notice, our chapter meetings will be conducted on the **last Thursday** of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Ipson residence (449 Country Club Drive, Stansbury Park, UT). Not only is Elaine the founder of our chapter, but she's also been president before, and we used to meet at her house all the time. We look forward to gathering there again. Our February 23, 2012, meeting will feature guest poet Rose Ostler, who will present selections from *Walking the Earth Barefoot*, her 2010 UTSPS Book of the Year. All Tooele County poets are welcome to join us that evening. Please call 435-882-5183 or email sa.su.eap@q.com for current information about future Oquirrh Chapter activities.

Rhyme & Reason Chapter

Kolette Montague

There's a major change in the air for our chapter. The Bountiful Davis Art Center is undergoing a renovation. The blueprint is already on the drawing board to make the building more ecologically friendly and compatible for its various uses. Those attending state workshops will have a wonderful surprise in the future as you see what the renovation does for us.

We are enjoying success with two meetings a month. And we're finding that one meeting in the evening and one in the afternoon seems to be an added bonus. More members are able to make it to at least one meeting a month. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each 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, hosted by Dona Hill, was a fun-filled success where we enjoyed good friends, good food, good

How to Join a *Round Robin*

Looking for help and encouragement? A poetry snail-mail "round robin" might be just what you need. When you join, several other people will read your poems and make favorable comments and suggestions. In return, you read and critique poems for the other members. Join today by writing to:

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

Include your name, address, telephone number, and email address (used for contact purposes only). When four to six people inquire, your names will be added to a group and you will receive the first round by regular mail.

poems and some interesting white elephants.

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 11 years we have had almost 400 poems displayed on the Wall. We hope to continue this after the building renovation, too.

We look forward to another year of productive poetry writing, sharing, and learning. Got poems? You bet!

Valley Winds Chapter

Paul Ford

Our twice-a-month meetings this fall and first half of winter have averaged 10 participants. At our last August session, Lee Snell presented poems from his winning book, *Night Wind Home*.

We held our winter holidays dinner at the Golden Corral on Fort Union Boulevard in Midvale. Fifteen of the faithful enjoyed food and friends, along with poetry. We ended our feast with an on-the-spot poem composed in couplets by attendees, using for inspiration the Christmas carol, *Up On the Roof Top*.

Congratulations to Ned Snell for his win in the Utah Arts & Museums Annual Writing Competition. In the poetry category, he won second place for his collection, *Withdrawal*. There were 320 entries in seven categories.

Our meetings are on the second and last Wednesdays of the month at the Holladay Library from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m.

Word Weavers Chapter

Pat Johnson

We are fast running out of balloons and confetti, so many of our members have reached celebrity status. The following gifted and ambitious members have raised the bar—and our pride:

- Julie Nelson was asked to contribute to the *Provo Orem Word* magazine* for their October Hispanic Heritage month issue. Three of her poems were featured in English and translated into Spanish. She also read these at a cultural heritage night with other authors/poets at the Provo Towne Center.
- Stacy Julin and Susan Randall were among winners for their poetry to be illustrated in the “Poetry on Canvas” event sponsored by American Fork Arts Council. Gayanne Ramsden’s poem will also be published in the book.
- Sharon Anderson, whose poems frequently appear in *Ensign*, read on Temple Square during January.
- Heather Duncan received The Edna Meudt Memorial Award, NFSPS University Level Poetry Competition

2011. Heather traveled to the convention to read from her publication, *Mastering the Art of Joy*. She has published another collection, *Strings and Synapses*. She does all this while she studies Integrated Studies with emphasis on Anthropology and English Literature, plus a minor in creative writing—plus being wife and mother of five.

- Published in this year’s *Panorama* are Word Weavers Karen Keith Gibson and Susan Randall.
- Mary Keith Boyack has realized a life-long dream to write and publish her story of Joseph of Egypt. Now 80, Mary (grandmother and great-grandmother of 50) is on signing tours for *The Coat and the Crown*, available online and at Deseret Book.
- And grandly last, Utah’s 2011 Poet of the Year is our own Lee Snell. He has done readings around the state and at the October Book Concert sharing his heart in *Night Wind Home*. His book is available through UTSPS.

See what we mean? Our minds overfloweth.

*An artful online magazine in its third year: www.provooremword.org.

Dixie Poet Wins Prize



Lin Floyd, co-president of UTSPS’s Dixie chapter, won second prize and \$750 in the Utah Arts and Museums 2010 Original Writing competition for first books in the juvenile book category.

Lin’s book, *Nature Notes for Kids*, is a compilation of original poetry written to introduce children to the world of nature. It

features 75 poems with color illustrations of many creatures that live on our planet earth. Sections include: Insects, Bugs and More; Outdoors in Nature; Farm Animals; A Visit to the Zoo; Sea Creatures, and Looney Birds. There is even a section for children to add their own creative poetry and illustrations that can be emailed to the author for publication on her blog lettersfromlin.blogspot.com.

Lin featured her six grandchildren on the front cover. Written to be a humorous yet educational introduction to the world of nature that surrounds our children, you can buy Lin’s book for \$15 on Lin’s blog. Contact lin@sunrivertoday.com.

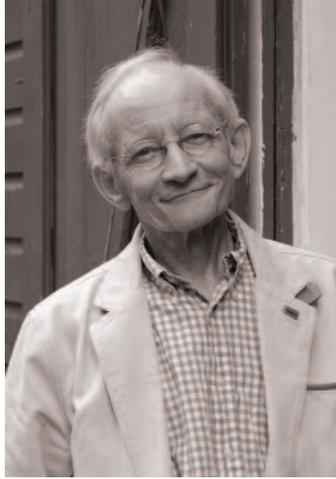
April 2012 Awards Festival Featured Speakers

TED KOOSER

Two-time United States Poet Laureate Ted Kooser is our keynote speaker for the Poetry Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 20, at 7 p.m.

A professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kooser is the author of eleven full-length collections of poetry, including *Weather Central* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1994) and *Delights and Shadows*, which won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize. His writing is known for its clarity, precision, and accessibility and his poems are included in textbooks and anthologies used in both secondary schools and college classrooms across the country. In addition to poetry, he has written in a variety of forms including plays, fiction, personal essays, literary criticism, and children's books.

Over the years, Kooser's works have appeared in many



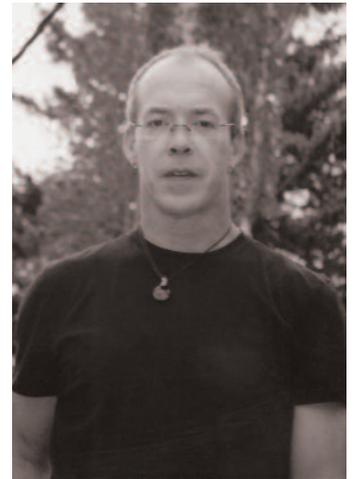
periodicals including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Nation*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Antioch Review*. He has received two NEA fellowships in poetry, the Pushcart Prize, the Stanley Kunitz Prize, The James Boatwright Prize, and a Merit Award from the Nebraska Arts Council.

Born in Ames, Iowa, in 1939, Kooser earned a BS at Iowa State University in 1962 and an MA at the University of Nebraska in 1968. He is a former vice-president of the Lincoln Benefit Life, where he worked as an insurance representative for many years. He lives near the town of Garland, Nebraska, with his wife, Kathleen Rutledge, and dogs, Alice and Howard. He also has a son, Jeff, and a granddaughter, Margaret.

ROB CARNEY

Rob Carney is our guest poet for the workshop on Friday, April 20 at 2 p.m.

Carney is the author of three books of poems: *Story Problems* (Somondoco Press 2011), *Weather Report* (Somondoco, 2006), and *Boasts, Toasts, and Ghosts* (Pinyon Press, 2003) He has also authored two chapbooks: *New Fables, Old Songs* (Dream Horse Press, 2003) and *This Is One Sexy Planet* (Frank Cat Press, 2005).



Carney is a two-time recipient of the Utah Book Award for Poetry, winner of the Pinyon Press National Poetry Book Award, and has been interviewed on NPR's "The Poet and the Poem from the Library of Congress."

Carney's work has appeared in *Harpur Palate*, *Mid-American Review*, *Quarterly West*, *Sugar House Review*, and dozens of other journals, as well as *Flash Fiction Forward* (W.W. Norton, 2006).

Carney is a Professor of English at Utah Valley University and lives in Salt Lake City.

TATTOO

What once was meant to be a statement—
a dripping dagger held in the fist
of a shuddering heart—is now just a bruise
on a bony old shoulder, the spot
where vanity once punched him hard
and the ache lingered on. He looks like
someone you had to reckon with,
strong as a stallion, fast and ornery,
but on this chilly morning, as he walks
between the tables at a yard sale
with the sleeves of his tight black T-shirt
rolled up to show us who he was,
he is only another old man, picking up
broken tools and putting them back,
his heart gone soft and blue with stories.

— from *Delights & Shadows*

AWARDS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday, April 20

2:00 p.m. Workshop with Rob Carney
3:15 p.m. Open Poetry Reading
4:30 p.m. Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker Ted Kooser
8:00 p.m. Awards session

Categories 37, 17, 38, 36, 16, 15, 14, 35

Five minute break

Categories 13, 34, 33, 32, 31, 30

Five minute break

Categories 29, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24

Immediately following Open Poetry Reading

Saturday, April 21

7:45 a.m. President's Breakfast (open to all)
Immediately following Chapter Presidents' Meeting
9:00 a.m. Awards Session

Categories 23, 22, 21, XX, 12, 11, 20, 10

11:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker Ted Kooser
12:00 p.m. Lunch

Reading by Lee C. Snell, Poet of the Year

1:00 p.m. Awards Session

Categories 39, 19, 18, 9, 8, 7, 6

Five minute break

Categories 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

Alice Morrey Bailey Sweepstakes

Book of the Year Publication Award

REDROCK WRITERS SEMINAR

The 16th Annual Redrock Writers Guild Creative Writing Seminar will be held from March 30 to 31, with early-bird events beginning on Thursday, March 29.

Most events will take place in the St. George Opera House at 47 East 200 North, St. George, Utah.

This year, attendees will hear from writers Merry Palmer, Budd Powell Mahan, Douglas Alder, and Judy Johns.

If you register early, you pay \$60 and receive a Chaparral Winners Chapbook. Registration at the door is \$65.

For more information about the event schedule and how to pre-register, please visit www.redrockwriters.org.

POETRY IN THE PARK

Zion Canyon Field Institute and the Utah State Poetry Society present the third annual "Poetry in the Park" on Friday, March 30, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Zion National Park Nature Center. Pack a brown bag lunch and come for a feast of poetry, friendship, and nature's beauty. Registration includes a free Zion Park pass for the day.

Budd Powell Mahan—an inspiring poet, author, teacher, and a powerful voice for poetry—will be our presenter. Budd's book, *Witness*, won the 2010 Morris Memorial Chapbook Contest. He also won the prestigious Eakin Manuscript Competition with his 2005 book, *Falling to Earth*, and the 2006 NFSPS Stevens Manuscript Competition with his book, *Harvest*.

To register, call ZCFI director Michael Plyler at 435-772-3264 or 1-800-635-3959. Or register online at <http://www.zionpark.org>.

POET TREE Publication Schedule for 2012-2013

Board members and chapter presidents, please note the following dates on your long-term planning calendars:

August articles due July 27, 2012

Mailing scheduled August 10, 2012

February articles due . . January 25, 2013

Mailing scheduled . . . February 10, 2013

For more information, email Merrijane Rice at merrijane@writing.com.

SPRING — FALL 2012 CALENDAR

Mar. 10, 10a.m.-12 p.m., Workshop, BDAC*

Mar. 29-31, Redrock Writers Seminar, St. George, UT. Contact D. Gary Christian.

Mar. 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Poetry In the Park, Zion National Park. Featuring Budd Powell Mahan.

Apr. 20-21, UTSPS April Awards Festival. Featuring recent U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser.

Apr. 26, National Poem in Your Pocket Day

Jun. 13-18, NFSPS National Convention, Merrillville, Indiana

Jun. 15, *Panorama* submission period begins

Jul. 27, *Poet Tree* articles due

Jul. 31, *Panorama* submission period ends

* Bountiful/Davis Art Center, 745 So. Main, Bountiful. Take Bountiful 500 S. exit and drive east. Turn right onto Main; the Art Center is on the left. Lunch afterward with other UTSPS members.

The Gordian Knot of Plagiarism May Never Be Slain* *Kolette Montague*

Being the Contest Chair is *not* sitting in the catbird seat. In fact it's more like being between a rock and a hard place. Mrs. Malaprop has nothing over on poets. They can misinterpret anything printed. And do. So I continue to clarify (though lobsters prefer butter). And I wonder what rabbit hole I've fallen down as I try to reach a decision about plagiarism (where there seem to be as many opinions as poets on poetry). And definitions run as wild as March hares! So if the chicken ever does arrive here, why would he ever try crossing the road without a seeing-eye dog?

Just as I think I have this particular Medusa all tightly permed and curled comfortably, someone opens another can of worms. I find myself wishing upon a distant star for the one sure cure, the answer of all answers, the epitome of epitomes. But that evidently is as rare as hen's teeth.

Let me cut through all the red tape, right to the chase and just say, *common sense and integrity should prevail when writing*. (And you can quote me on that). If it sounds too good to be your own original idea, you are probably correct. If you didn't rear up out of bed in the middle of the night and slap your own forehead, that clever punch line is probably not yours. So don't use it to end a light verse (unless you do indeed give an * and footnote disclaiming ownership). How universal or common does a phrase have to be to be public domain? I don't know. How frequently do we need to footnote our allusions? Again, I don't know. How will any judge react to asterisks and footnotes? I don't know. At which part of reading my poem aloud do I give the asterisk and footnote? I don't know. In fact, you and I are both wondering how I found myself as the Contest Chair. Evidently, one need not be an expert to be a volunteer. And opinions are as free as answers. So you've now had my two cents worth of each. Which, considering everything, is quite a valuable percentage since you can see I don't know anything.

I could continue with a discussion on parody, but that is definitely a horse of a different color. So I will not cross that bridge until I've cleaned up the spilt milk. In the meantime, happy writing trails to you, and (to steal a phrase from our dear Rose [though I'm certain she heard it somewhere else]), metaphors be with you!

**This is not an original article, since I doubt I've ever had an original thought in my entire life.*

BEST DEAL IN TOWN

The financial crunch remains a reality. Nonprofit organizations have been hit especially hard, since personal money must be used for essentials. The UTSPS Finance Committee was established to help the Society in continuing stability and growth without draining our members' pockets.

Here are two financial items of interest. First, since the funds from the Pearle M. Olsen family were depleted, the committee looked for new funding. The Society received a generous donation from the Johnson family. Beginning 2013, the annual book publication category will be the Johnson Family Book Publication Award. This generous donation assures continued publication of the Book of the Year for the next few years.

Second, for several years now the April Awards Festival has operated in the red. The Society has covered the difference. But as funds decrease, this becomes a bigger burden on the budget. In the April 2011 board meeting, the board voted that the basic fee for the Awards Festival will be \$35 at the door, \$30 if postmarked after April 1, and \$25 if postmarked before April 1. This is still the best deal in town. The fee for many conventions begins at around \$100.

If you hear of a possible grant, benefactor, donor, or co-sponsor, please notify a member of the finance committee, our Society president, or president-elect. We are happy to pursue any lead that may help the Society remain financially solvent and productive.

PANORAMA SUBMISSIONS FOR 2012

The next *Panorama* submission period is June 15 to July 31, 2012. Between those two dates, paid members may submit up to four poems for consideration, based on the following guidelines:

- Each poem must be no longer than 38 lines total. This includes the title, spaces between stanzas, epigraphs, and your name and publication/award information (if applicable).
- Below each poem list your name, city, and state (street address not necessary), awards, and publication information.
- Poem should have all lines begin on the left margin.
- Email each poem separately as a pdf attachment to MHaltiner@aol.com. Or mail printed submissions to Maurine Haltiner, 1142 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84102.
- Emails must be received by July 31, 2012; regular mail postmarked by July 31, 2012. This includes submissions of poetry as well as artwork or photography for cover consideration.

SENDING POEMS TO THE CRITIQUE BUREAU

UTSPS members may submit 12 poems a year for *free* critiques from seasoned Utah poets (\$5 for nonmembers — make checks out to UTSPS). To take advantage of this service, please follow these guidelines:

- Send up to four poems per batch (max. five pages)
- Send only one copy of each poem
- Send one poem per page, typed on standard 8.5x11-inch white paper
- Don't staple pages unless a poem is two pages
- Place your name and address in the upper right corner of each page
- Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope
- You may submit a book manuscript for a \$15 fee (make checks out to UTSPS). Include two manila envelopes large enough to hold your manuscript and put adequate postage on both. Leave one envelope blank so your manuscript can be forwarded to a critic; self-address the other so it can be returned to you. Allow a month for return.

Each critic has a different approach. If you would like another viewpoint, you may send your poems to a different reviewer. Send submissions to:

UTSPS Critique Bureau
c/o Dr. Lavon B. Carroll
1885 Skyline Drive
South Ogden, UT 84403

UTSPS Critique Bureau
c/o Elaine Ipson
449 Country Club Drive
Stansbury Park, UT 84074

Website: www.utahpoets.com
Poet Tree Editor, Merrijane Rice
merrijane@writing.com



Incorporated 1963

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**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS**

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