

STROPHES

M A G A Z I N E

*An Official Publication of the
National Federation of State Poetry
Societies*





*NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.
An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing
and appreciation of poetry in America.*

IN THIS ISSUE



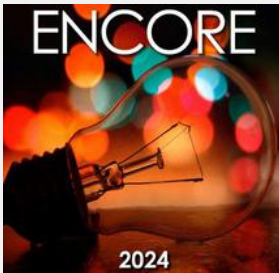
**PRESIDENTS
MESSAGE**

1.



STATE REPORTS

2.



WINNERS LIST

3.



**MANNINGHAM
WINNERS**

4.



**BLACKBERRY
PEACH SPOKEN
AND WRITTEN**

5.



**VOICES SET
FREE AND
BLACKBERRY
PEACH SLAM**

6.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear NFSPS Poets,

This year the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) at the annual Convention in Roswell, Georgia, on June 9, 2024 elected me to be President for a two year term (2024-2026). NFSPS members from across the country were given the option to vote in person or in the comfort of their homes via the internet.

It is a special honor for me, and I hope you will welcome and work with me to extend and improve our performance as individuals and as a community of poets. During this time I plan to work closely with all of you to continue to improve NFSPS programs and services and to introduce some new directions for NFSPS. I am extending an invitation to all NFSPS poets to join me in this effort.

I outlined a number of new directions for my two year term including increasing the size of our membership by working with State Societies to create new chapters to serve groups not currently included, providing them with the opportunity to become members of a State and National Poets Society. This is an important step as we increase our efforts to build a poetry community open to all poets. We must take the next steps in our efforts to include Youth, Spoken and Written Word poets, LGBTQIA+, BIPOC groups and others not currently part of a larger family providing resources and advocacy for all things poetry. I have appointed Jessica Temple, 2nd Vice President as Youth Coordinator to take the lead in this area. I have also appointed Kevin Campbell, 1st Vice Chancellor to take the leadership role for the Blackberry Peach Programs. There are a number of other initiatives I plan to work on including a Poets for Peace Program, and growth in the number of State Societies (we currently have 33 Of 50 States). I have appointed Susann Moeller, 2nd Vice Chancellor to work with Russel Strauss to establish and implement a plan to increase the number of State Societies.

I also plan to work closely with our new Finance Committee to improve and expand our financial resources. I have appointed 1st Vice President Steven Concert to head up this Committee as well as the Audit Committee to ensure that we have strong and informed financial management practices adopted and implemented.

I also plan to continue and expand programs to increase our participation in the international poetry community. My hope is that the Poets for Peace members will be an active advocacy and resource for world peace and provide financial resources to help the ever growing number of orphans created by the war in Ukraine.

As a former Vice President of NFSPS, I know the talent and organization that exists within our organization and want to include all of you who want to work with me at the National level to be a part of this exciting opportunity to make significant improvements in NFSPS policies and programs. I have already started discussions with a number of State Presidents on ways to improve the NFSPS partnership with its member State Societies.

If you are interested in working together with me, please let me know your interests and availability. There are a number of Committee and Appointed Positions available on the NFSPS Board and a variety of meaningful ways to serve. We have a special need for a Contests Chair. We are also in need of a Co-Chair for the Stevens Manuscript Competition. Just drop me a note at jcavanaugh1@gmail.com to begin the discussion about how you can become a valuable part of this exciting endeavor. I am asking State Presidents to share this letter with your members via an email blast to be sure all of our members are aware of these opportunities to serve.

On June 10th, 2024 convention goers were treated to a moving presentation entitled Poetry Under Fire by Noble Prize in Literature NFSPS Nominee, Ihor Pavuluk, Ukrainian Peoples Poet via Zoom. The Poets for Peace Program will work on growing this poetic partnership and help raise funds for Ukrainian orphans. If you want to help by contributing to this important work, please send a check in any amount (\$5-\$500+) to Linda Harris, our Treasurer clearly labeled for Ukrainian orphans at her address listed on page 2. All donations are tax deductible based upon our status as a 501c3 organization.

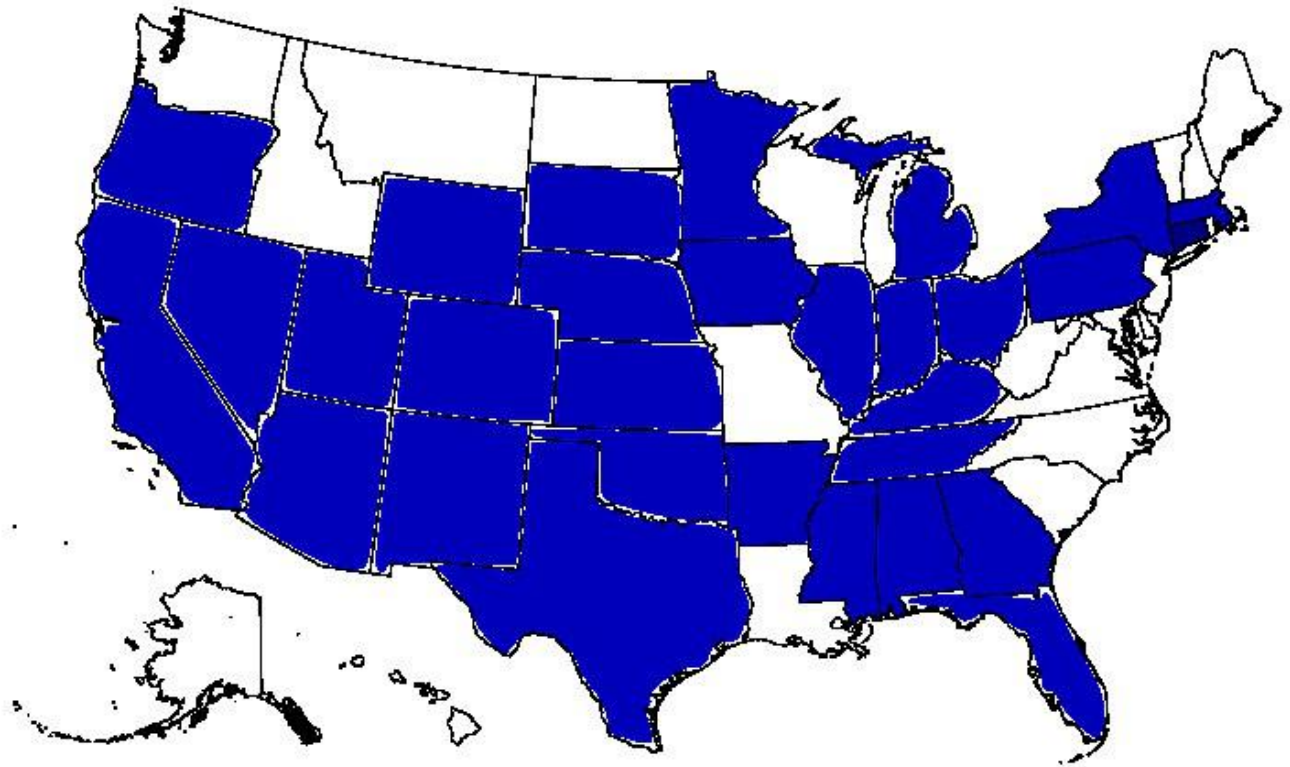
Our Keynote Speaker at the Convention, the wild and lively Tamika Harper, gave an inspiring workshop reminding us that as poets, we are all part of a rich and varied community and family with many resources and if you need something just ask. As your new President, I am asking you to get involved in making NFSPS a valued and available resource for all poets, everywhere.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to serve as your President for the next two years. We hope you will join us at the next NFSPS Convention to be held in New Mexico in July, 2025.

Peace, love, and poetry,

~ Joe Cavanaugh, 36th NFSPS President





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So, have faith in the enchantment of the season and let it fill you with warmth, hope, and happiness. Let it remind you of the beauty and goodness in the world and inspire you to spread kindness and love wherever you go. Embrace the magic of the season and let it fill your heart with joy.

STATE REPORTS

ALLUDING TO A CITY FROM ANTIQUITY.

Traveling is an incredible way to explore new places, experience different cultures, and make unforgettable memories. Whether you're going on a solo adventure or embarking on a trip with friends or family, the act of traveling can help broaden your perspectives and teach you valuable lessons about the world and yourself.

One of the best things about travel is the opportunity to try new things. From sampling local cuisine to participating in unique activities, there's always something to discover in each destination you visit. Traveling can also help you step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself in ways that you might not have thought possible.

Of course, travel also has its practical benefits. It can be a great way to take a break from the stresses of everyday life and recharge your batteries. Whether you're relaxing on a beach or exploring a bustling city, travel can provide a much-needed escape from the routine of daily life.

Ultimately, there's no right or wrong way to travel. The key is to find what works best for you and embrace the journey with an open mind and heart. So whether you're planning a trip to a far-off destination or exploring your own backyard, embrace the adventure and enjoy all that travel has to offer.

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Travel is an enriching experience that broadens our horizons, provides new perspectives, and allows us to connect with people and cultures from all around the world. Whether we travel for leisure, work, or education, it is an opportunity to step outside of our comfort zones and explore new places, foods, and customs.

Travel can also be a form of self-discovery, as we learn more about ourselves through the challenges and adventures we encounter on our journeys. It can teach us patience, adaptability, and resilience, as well as foster a sense of curiosity and open-mindedness.



ancient city



ancient city

However, travel also comes with responsibilities. It is important to respect the local customs and traditions of the places we visit, as well as minimize our impact on the environment and local communities. We can do this by being mindful of our actions, supporting local businesses, and traveling sustainably.

Overall, travel is a valuable and rewarding experience that can broaden our perspectives, challenge us, and help us grow as individuals.

Many ancient cities were centers of culture, politics, and commerce, and their influence can still be felt today. Whether you are writing a research paper, a historical novel, or simply reflecting on the past, it is essential to approach ancient cities with respect and humility.

WINNERS LIST

—
*STOP DREAMING AND START
DOING.*



Modern art is a broad term used to describe the styles and techniques of art produced from the late 19th century to the present day. It encompasses a wide range of artistic movements, from impressionism and post-impressionism to cubism, surrealism, abstract expressionism, and pop art. Modern art is characterized by its departure from traditional styles and techniques and its embrace of new forms of expression, such as the use of non-representational forms, unconventional materials, and innovative techniques. Modern art has had a profound impact on the art world and continues to inspire artists and art enthusiasts around the globe.

MODERN ART *INTERIOR DESIGN*



Modern art has become a popular inspiration for interior design. With its bold colors, abstract shapes, and unique textures, modern art can add a touch of creativity and sophistication to any space. Whether it's a large statement piece or a collection of smaller artworks, incorporating modern art into your interior design can be a great way to express your personal style and make your home feel more vibrant and dynamic.

One of the great things about modern art is its versatility. It can be incorporated into any interior design style, from minimalist and industrial to bohemian and eclectic. Modern art can be used to add a pop of color to a neutral space, create a focal point in a room, or tie together different design elements.

When selecting modern art pieces for your home, it's important to consider the overall aesthetic of the space. If your space has a neutral color palette, you may want to choose an artwork with bold colors to create contrast. On the other hand, if your space is already colorful, you may want to choose a more subdued artwork that complements the existing colors.

Overall, incorporating modern art into your interior design can be a fun and creative way to elevate your home decor. With so many different styles and mediums to choose from, there is sure to be a modern art piece that perfectly complements your personal style and design aesthetic.

Modern art interior design is all about creating a sleek, sophisticated space that reflects your personal style and aesthetic.



MANNINGHAM WINNERS

*BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE
PLANTED.*

Nature is a beautiful and awe-inspiring force that surrounds us every day. From the towering trees that provide us with oxygen to the delicate flowers that bloom in the spring, nature is full of wonder and diversity. It is a reminder that we are not alone in this world and that we are all connected in some way. Spending time in nature can be incredibly therapeutic and can help us to feel more grounded

and at peace. Whether it's going for a walk in the park, hiking in the mountains, or simply sitting outside and enjoying the sunshine, there are so many ways to connect with nature and appreciate its beauty. It's important that we do what we can to protect and preserve our natural world so that future generations can continue to enjoy its wonders.

BLACKBERRY PEACH SPOKEN AND WRITTEN



Hiking in the mountains can be an exhilarating experience that offers stunning views, fresh air, and a chance to connect with nature. However, it's important to be prepared for the physical demands of the terrain and to take safety precautions.

Before embarking on a mountain hike, it's important to research the trail and its difficulty level. Make sure to bring appropriate gear such as sturdy hiking boots, a backpack with essentials like water, snacks, and a first aid kit. Dress in layers to accommodate changing temperatures and always check the weather forecast before heading out.

During the hike, stay on designated trails to avoid damaging the environment and to stay safe. Take breaks often to rest and drink water to stay hydrated. Be mindful of the surroundings and keep an eye out for wildlife, especially if you're hiking in bear country.



BLACKBERRY PEACH NATIONAL SLAM POETRY COMPETITION

Fashion is a popular style or trend in clothing, accessories, footwear, makeup, or even hairstyles. It reflects the societal, cultural, and individual preferences of people around the world. The fashion industry is one of the most dynamic and constantly evolving industries in the world. It is driven by creative designers, stylists, and fashion houses that are always pushing the boundaries and experimenting with new styles and trends.

However, the fashion industry is not without its challenges. It is often criticized for its impact on the environment, as well as for its perpetuation of unrealistic beauty standards. Despite these challenges, fashion continues to be a major cultural and economic force, with millions of people around the world engaging with it in some form or another.

Fashion is not just about looking good, it is also about feeling confident and expressing oneself. It is a form of self-expression that allows individuals to showcase their personality, creativity, and individuality. Fashion can be a powerful tool for social and cultural expression, as well as a means of identity formation.

In conclusion, fashion is more than just a trend or a style. It is a form of self-expression, cultural expression, and a reflection of societal preferences. Whether you're a fashion enthusiast or not, fashion plays a significant role in our daily lives, and it will continue to do so for many years to come.

June 5 - June 10, 2024

DoubleTree Hilton, Roswell, Georgia



**VOICES
SET
FREE**



**2024 NFSPS, Inc. Conference
& BlackBerryPeach National Poetry Slam**

SOLITUDE

