

The CPS website is <http://ctpoetry.net/>.  
While you're online, *Friend us on Facebook.*

**CPS Honorary Board**

Rennie McQuilkin, Connecticut Poet Laureate,  
2015-2020

Dick Allen, Connecticut Poet Laureate, 2010-  
2015

Marilyn Nelson, Connecticut Poet Laureate,  
2001-2006

Vivian Shipley, Connecticut State University  
Distinguished Professor at SCSU

**CPS Officers**

President: Tony Fusco

Vice President: Pat Mottola

Secretary: Christine Beck

Treasurer: Michael Lepore

Contests: Joan Hofmann

Webmaster: Tony Fusco

Membership: Tony Fusco

CRR Editors Pat Mottola & Ginny Connors

Newsletter: Ginny Connors

Board Meeting Coordinator: Julia Paul

Officers at Large: Julia Paul, Evelyn Atreya,  
Victor Altshul



**Don't Miss the Poetry Blast!**

The annual spring Poetry Blast will take place on April 29th from 1-4 pm at MCC on Main, 903 Main Street in Manchester. As usual, there will be an open mic, refreshments, book sales, and other featured events. More specifics coming soon, but mark the date on your calendar now!

**Read Strophes Online**

The newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies is available online. CPS members are automatically members of the NFSPS. If you go to <http://www.nfsps.com/>, you can find links to the newsletter and to other information from this group.

## CPS Chapters & Presidents

### Danbury

Doris Henderson  
203-790-8073  
[dmh2000@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmh2000@sbcglobal.net)

The Danbury chapter meets at Danbury Library, 170 Main Street, on the second Saturday of each month, from 2:00 - 4:00 PM (12 - 2 PM in June, July and August). Bring 6 to 8 copies of a poem for the workshop, or just come to listen and respond. To receive an e-mail reminder each month, contact Doris.

### Fairfield

Frank Chambers  
203-247-5957

The Fairfield group meets on the second Sunday of each month, 1 pm, at the Westport Barnes & Noble. There is an open mic and people are encouraged to bring a poem they have written or one by a poet they admire.

### Greater Hartford

Julia Paul  
[Julia.Paul@cox.net](mailto:Julia.Paul@cox.net)

The Greater Hartford chapter meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, Sept. through June from 1-3pm at 2205 Main St., Glastonbury. Bring 10 or so copies of a poem to share if you want feedback on your work.

### Manchester

Debbie Howard  
[wwpoetryclub@gmail.com](mailto:wwpoetryclub@gmail.com)

The Manchester chapter meets from 1-3 pm on the second Saturday of each month from September through June at The Arbors, 403 West Center Street in Manchester. Expect serious critique of poems in a respectful, comfortable atmosphere.

### Middletown

Pamela Guinan  
860-563-5761  
[Pamela.cps@hotmail.com](mailto:Pamela.cps@hotmail.com)

The Middletown chapter meets at the Russell Library, 123 Broad Street at 6 pm on the last

Wednesday of each month. Bring copies of a poem for reading and critique.

### New Haven

Sarah Rizzuto  
[sbrizzuto@gmail.com](mailto:sbrizzuto@gmail.com)

The New Haven chapter meets the third Saturday of the month at the Friends Room at Miller Memorial Library, 2901 Dixwell Ave., Hamden, 10:15 am-12:15 pm.

### Southbury

Marion McGauhy  
860-354-2157  
[Mcgauhy@aol.com](mailto:Mcgauhy@aol.com)

The Southbury Chapter meets on the fourth Sunday of the month at 2 pm. Meetings are held at the Southbury Public Library, 100 Poverty Road. New members are welcome.

### Willimantic

Kathleen McElroy  
[kgmcelroy@hotmail.com](mailto:kgmcelroy@hotmail.com)

This new chapter meets on the fourth Monday of each month at Eastern CT State University library from 7-9 PM.

### Wilton

Ray Rauth  
[Rayrauth@optonline.net](mailto:Rayrauth@optonline.net)

This group meets every third Saturday from 2 to 4 pm in the Wilton Library. Members bring in copies of poem to distribute to all of the attendees. The poems should be no more than 40 lines.

## **Connecticut Poetry Award Accepting Submissions Soon**

Made possible through the support of the Adolf and Virginia Dehn Foundation, the Connecticut Poetry Award will accept submissions from April 1- May 31.

Prizes of \$400 (1<sup>st</sup> prize), \$100, and \$50 are offered. Winning poems will be published in *Connecticut River Review* and posted on the CPS website. Electronic submissions only! Use <https://connecticutriverreview.submittable.com> and submit up to three poems, on ONE document, no more than one poem per page. Do not put contact information on the poems; that will be requested separately via Submittable. Previously unpublished poems only. Simultaneous submissions okay if we are notified immediately upon acceptance elsewhere.

## **Courtney Davis wins Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize.**

Naomi Shihab Nye selected Courtney Davis' poetry manuscript as the winner of the Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize. Her book (title still to be determined) will be published by Michigan State University Press in the spring of 2018. This is an outstanding accomplishment!

## **Silk City Anthology**

The Wit and Wisdom Poetry Club, the Manchester Chapter of CPS, is completing a poetry collection called *Silk City Anthology* to be published this spring by Flying Horse Press. The group is also getting poems ready to distribute for Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 27th.



Want to find out more about Poem in Your Pocket Day? The Academy of American Poets sponsors this special day. Find out more at [www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/poem-your-pocket-day](http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/poem-your-pocket-day)

## **Suzanne Plein Publishes 2nd Poetry Book**

*Balancing Act: Loss and Renewal*, Suzanne Plein's new poetry book, explores aging, including themes of grief, loss, hope and renewal. The book costs \$14, plus \$2 if shipped. Checks should be made to Suzanne Plein and mailed to 230B Heritage Village, Southbury, CT 06488.

## **Polly Brody's Work Continues to Be Popular**

An Anthology of Heritage Village Writers will include two poems by Polly Brody, as well as a chapter from her memoir, *Lore*. In addition, she is writing an ekphrastic poem for the Chester County Chapter of Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen. A gallery in Lancaster, PA, will display the work of invited poets in May.

## **Should Your Poem Be on the CPS**

### **Website?**

The CPS online Poetry Page

<http://ctpoetry.net/members-poems.html>

features two poems a month by members of CPS. Send one poem for consideration, no longer than 60 lines, using the online submission form located at:

<http://ctpoetry.net/members-only-poetry-submission-form.html>

## Sylvia Forges-Ryan's New Book Gets Raves

*What Light There Is*, by Sylvia Forges-Ryan, consists of haiku, senryu, and tanka poems, accompanied by haiga paintings and other artwork by Romanian artist Ion Codrescu. Susumu Takiguchi, editor of *The World Haiku Review*, has called it "one of the best books of haiku ever produced in English, a treasure." This book has been selected for inclusion into the American Literature Collection in the Beinecke Rare Book Library at Yale University. *What Light There Is* can be purchased online from Red Moon Press, at Breakwater Books and Mix in Guilford, at Dava in Hamden, or by contacting the author (sforgesryan@gmail.com).

## Poetry and Artwork by Eryk Wenziaak

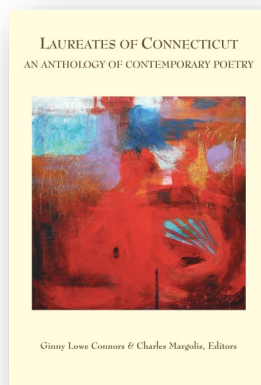
Eryk Wenziaak's new book, *i need space*, will be released April 28th, with a book launch and signing in Brooklyn, followed by a reception with visual work from the book. Here is a link to find out more: <http://www.deadlychaps.com/2017/03/eryk-wenziaak-i-need-space.html>

His visual poetry and concrete text-based work is now represented and sold by the Brooklyn-based gallery, Smith and Jones. See

<http://www.smithandjonesart.com/eryk-wenziaak/>

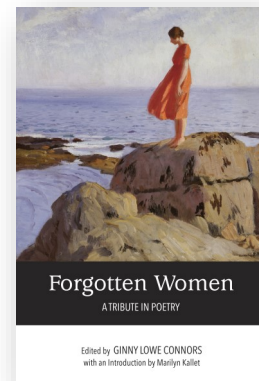
You can visit Eryk's own website at

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



## Two New Poetry Anthologies to Read and Give During National Poetry Month

Ginny Lowe Connors has been busy editing two poetry anthologies, and both have come into print within the past few months. *Forgotten Women: A Tribute in Poetry* celebrates the lives and work of women who have been undervalued or unappreciated. Several CPS members, along with nationally acclaimed poets such as Ted Kooser and Rita Dove, are included in the volume. Christine Palm, a poet and women's rights public policy advocate says of the book "The subjects are painters, entomologists, and lighthouse keepers; deeply domestic and fervently alone; lesbian and straight; happy and tormented. The anthologized poets allow their subjects to speak from the grave...and one of Vivian Shipley's 'Radium Girls' might speak for them all: try as we might to condemn, ignore or scrub her clean, '...you will still inhale my history.'"



*Laureates of Connecticut: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry* was co-edited by Charles Margolis and Ginny Lowe Connors. It presents the work, lives, and thoughts of state and local poets laureate in Connecticut, answering the questions of who our laureates are, what they do, and what kind of poetry they write. Both books are available through amazon.com or Grayson Books ([www.graysonbooks.com](http://www.graysonbooks.com)).

## POP! Poets on Poetry Events

If you want to learn more about some wonderful poets, attend sessions of the POP series, held at the Hartford Public Library at 500 Main Street in Hartford. They occur on the last Saturday of each month, excluding December, and run from 10:15 am until noon.

On March 25: Find out more about the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop in a program led by John Stanizzi.

## Riverwood Poetry Series

The popular Riverwood Poetry Series now meets at the Universalist Church of West Hartford, 433 Fern Street in West Hartford. The programs take place from 7-9 pm. Each reading includes an open mic., although workshops do not. On April 6th, from 7-9 pm, please enjoy Mahogany Browne, the author of several books and poetry collections, publisher of Penmanship books, the Nuyorican Poets Café Poetry Program Director, and more. She has released five LPs, including the live album *Sheroshima*.

## Letter from Italy, 1944

A much-acclaimed oratorio based on Nancy Fitz-Hugh Meneely's book *Letter from Italy, 1944* will be staged in Mortensen Hall of the Bushnell Theater in Hartford. It will be performed by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and two renowned choral groups: the Hartford Chorale and the Greater Middletown Chorale. For tickets, visit <https://bushnell.org/events/letter-italy-1944>. Leading up to that gala, showings of the PBS documentary concerning the oratorio will occur, along with

conversations and performances of the book. A lecture series open to the public, "Transforming the Silence" is to be offered by President's College, University of Hartford. Register at <http://library.hartford.edu/presidentscollege/>.

All lectures in will be in

KF Room, Mortensen Library

University of Hartford, on Thursdays, 2-

3:30 PM. Events include a documentary

screening and conversation with the director &

filmmaker Karyl Evans, a poetry reading from

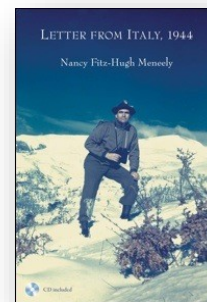
the book along with slide projections and music,

and a lecture "Looking at PTSD," by Dr. Jason

DeViva, Clinical Psychologist with VA Connecticut

Healthcare's PTSD and Anxiety Disorders

Program.



## Then They Came Home

A program of poetry and music for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day is scheduled for March 25th, 2-4 pm at the Welles Turner Memorial Library, 2407 Main Street in Glastonbury. Michael Lepore, author of *Forgotten Heroes* and *Vietnam Voices*, is the featured reader. Special guest Allan Garry, poet laureate of the Veterans Art Foundation, will also share some poetry. Music is to be provided by the 3 Magneatos. Delicious refreshments will be available. Don't miss this program, produced by Glastonbury poet laureate Alexandrina Sergio.

## **Pat Hale and Ginny Connors at**

### **Mishi-Maya-Gat**

Mishi-Maya-Gat is a long-running poetry and music series sponsored by Manchester Community College and hosted by Stephen Campiglio. It takes place at MCC on Main, 903 Main Street, Manchester. On March 23rd Pat Hale and Ginny Lowe Connors will be the featured poets. Frank Wallace, an accomplished classical guitarist, will provide music. The poetry begins at 6:30 pm and the music starts at 8.

### **Charter Oak Readings**

Pegi Deitz Shea and Jeff Mock are the featured poets at the Charter Oak Cultural Center, 21 Charter Oak Avenue in Hartford on April 9th at 3 pm. Pegi Deitz Shea is a two-time winner of the Connecticut Book Award, and the author of more than 400 published articles, essays, and poems. Jeff Mock is a widely-published poet and the author of *Ruthless*, published by Three Candles Press. He teaches in the MFA program at Southern Connecticut State University. This program begins with an open mic.

### **Celebrate Spring with Poetry and Trail Talk**

On March 21st at 7 pm, join David Leff, New England Trail poet-in-residence at the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, for an evening of spoken word and trail conversation celebrating the start of spring. Ginny Lowe Connors and Tom Nicotera will share some nature poems and there will be an open mic for others who want to express themselves. Register at <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/CFPA-events/spring-poetry-and-trail-talk>. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association is at 16 Meriden Road (Rt. 66) in Rockfall (Middlefield), Connecticut.

## **MassPoetry Festival Coming Up Soon!**

If you've never attended the Massachusetts Poetry Festival, this might be the year to change that. It takes place in Salem, Massachusetts from May 5th-May 7th. The festival offers almost 100 poetry readings and workshops. The popular poetry festival is remarkably inexpensive, and the small city of Salem has a lot to offer. Several panelists at this year's festival are CPS members. For more information, go to

<http://www.masspoetry.org/2017-massachusetts-poetry-festival/>.

### **Aphorisms: A Conference on Short Writings**

A conference and workshop on aphorisms will be held on April 1st from 10 am-4:30 pm at the Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street in Hartford. James Geary, author of New York Times bestseller *The World in a Phrase: A Brief History of the Aphorism* is the keynote speaker and workshop leader. Selected aphorisms will be presented by Alfred Corn, Sharon Dolin, and George Murray. RSVP and/or get more information from Jim Finnegan [jfor-james@aol.com](mailto:jfor-james@aol.com) (860-508-2810).

### **Celebrate Women's History Month**

A poetry read-in to celebrate Women's History Month will take place on March 19th from 2-4 pm at Two Wrasslin' Cats Coffee House, 374 Town Street, East Haddam. Bring a poem to read or choose one provided by "the management." Information at <http://www.togetherwerisect.com> or call Mark at the coffee house at 860-891-8446.

## Renew Your Membership in CPS

If you haven't already, it's time to renew your membership in the Connecticut Poetry Society. You can go online and use PayPal or a credit card at <http://ctpoetry.net/membership.html> or send your renewal in the mail. If you mail it, please include your first and last name, address, and email. Checks should be made out to CPS. The cost is \$30 (students pay \$15). Send your renewal to CPS Membership Chair, 311 Shingle Hill Road, West Haven, CT 06516.

## Poetry Out Loud Winners Chosen

CPS member Christine Beck was one of six judges for Poetry Out Loud, a state competition held in Manchester in Cheney Hall on March 4th. From over 40 high schools around the state, students who had won their school competitions came together for the finals. The competition consisted of recitations of two memorized poems, one of which had to be fewer than 20 lines and one of which had to be from prior to the 19th century. The winner, Gabriella Kunzika, was a student from the Hartford Magnet School and the runner up, Tanner Brosse, was from Vernon High School. Organizer Scott Wands deserves kudos also for putting the program together. CPS members John Stanizzi and Kate Rushin served as mentors and were on hand to congratulate the winners.

## Watertown Library Association Hosts Three Connecticut Poets

On April 27th from 6:30-7:30 pm, poets Donna Marie Merritt, Joan Kantor, and Ginny Lowe Connors will share some of their poetry

at the Watertown Library, 470 Main Street in Watertown. Donna Merritt is the author of six poetry books and will read from her new book *No Winter Maintenance: Pass at Your Own Risk*, along with selections from other work. Joan Kantor will read from her recent book *The Magic of Moments*, as well as from other works, and Ginny Connors will read from her newest book *Toward the Hanging Tree: Poems of Salem Village*. Contact Dona Rintelman to RSVP or to get more information: 860-945-5360.



Tsner Brosse, and Gabriella Kunsiks with Scott Wands