

Poetry association launches spring contest

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Oregon State Poetry Association's annual spring poetry contest, offering prizes of \$700 in six categories and publication of top winners in a chapbook anthology, is accepting entries. Postmark deadline is March 27, 2000.

Categories are: 1) "Poet's Choice," any form, any subject; 2) "Looking Back," any form, subject related to the theme; "Free Verse," any free verse from, any subject; 4) "Traditional Verse," any rhymed and metered from, any subject; 5) "Narrative Verse," any form any subject, must tell a story; and 6) "New poets," any form, any subject. Poems may not exceed 40 lines. Persons entering as "New Poets" must attach a statement declaring they have never won a cash prize for poetry.

There is a limit of one poem per category, with no duplication. Each must be original and unpublished, and none may have won a cash prize in a prior contest. Poems must be typed or computer-generated, single-spaced, on standard white paper. Two copies of each poem must be submitted, one with category and poet's name addresses and phone number in the upper right corner, and the other with just the category.

OSPA's twice-yearly contests are free to members. Non-members pay a fee of \$3 per poem. Poets may join OSPA and enjoy such other benefits as membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, and receipt of quarterly OSPA and NFSPS newsletters containing information on contests, workshops and reading, plus news of other members. Annual dues are \$18 regular; \$12, 65 or over; \$5, students 18 or under.

Entries and appropriate fees should be sent to: Spring Contest, P.O. Box 602, West Linn, OR 97068. Inquiries, accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope, should be directed to the same address.

Prizes and certificates will be awarded at OSPA's spring poetry gathering Saturday, April 29 in Portland. Winners unable to attend will receive checks and certificates by mail.

OSPA President David Hedges said poetry is enjoying a burst of vitality in Oregon.

"We've grown from 100 to 400 members in three years," he said, adding OSPA is attracting more and more young people, thanks to such outreach efforts as the Family Poetry Workshop Project and a statewide poetry contest for student from kindergarten through high school.

The Oregon Student Poetry Contest has a deadline of February 1, 2000. Guidelines can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Student Contest, PO Box 602, West Linn, Oregon 97068, or by phoning 503-655-1274.

Founded in 1956, OSPA is Oregon's oldest statewide literary organization. Its mission is "to bring together, and nurture, the widest possible community of Oregon poets; to help Oregon poets, young and old, develop their talents and skills; stimulate, at the grassroots level, a statewide appreciation of poetry; and to raise public awareness of Oregon poets, past and present."

Museum celebrates Monet to Moore

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On Sunday, January 16, 2000, the Portland Art Museum will present the first Museum Family Sunday of 2000, in conjunction with the Museum's hugely popular current exhibition *Monet to Moore: The Millennium Gift of Sara Lee Corporation*. Sponsored by Fred Meyer, this special family event offers children and adults the opportunity to join together to create a variety of hands-on arts activities inspired by

the exhibition.

Presented in the Museum's Grand Ballroom in the North Wing, 1211 SW Park Avenue in downtown Portland, the Museum Family Sunday activities will be held from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Exhibition for the exhibition *Monet to Moore* is included in Museum Family Sunday ticket prices. On view through January 23, *Monet to Moore* features over 50 major works of art by the French Impressionists and other popular artists of the modern period.

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