



# Scribbles

Newsletter for the Big Bend Poets

March 2017 Tallahassee, Florida



*Spring time is upon us!*

## March Meeting:

**Tuesday, March 14, 2017**, 7- 9pm, Barnes & Noble, North Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL

- ◆ Announcements & News
- ◆ Sonnets will be 'work-shopped' at the meeting.
- ◆ **March Poetry Challenge:** Poetry inspired by **Music** or **'Sheroes'** (female heroes) in any of the various styles and forms BBP has worked with recently including Pantoums, quatrains, haiku, Poemedy, and sonnets.
- ◆ **Open Mike @ 8pm.** What you read is your choice. Seasonal poems are always a good choice! This is a good time to try out something new and experimental. Just remember you are in a public venue.

## Poets & Poems:

*~ We return to Ireland this month for our poetic inspiration. ~*

This month's selected poem was written by William Butler Yeats when he was still living in London where his parents moved while he was still a child. This was one of his earlier poems, but he clearly shows that he was embracing a return to the land of his birth and a more a more idyllic existence. He did soon return to Ireland where he helped revive the national literary culture of Ireland.

## The Lake Isle of Innisfree

by William Butler Yeats

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;  
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bees,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there,  
for peace comes dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning  
to where the cricket sings;  
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day,  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

~this poem was written in 1888 and first published in the British publication, the *National Observer* in 1890. It is in the public domain.

POET: William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) is one of Ireland's best known and loved poets of all time. Yeats was born in Sandmount, Republic of Ireland and though an anglo-protestant, he was a true son of Ireland and was involved with other Irish writers in many of the revolutionary activities of the day.

As a poet, Yeats abandoned the 'complex and flowery' language of poetry in favor of using common everyday words writing often on themes of love, war, and nature. In 1923 he won the Nobel Prize in Literature. He died in Menton, France in 1939.

Numerous volumes of his collected and selected poems have been published since his death. For more information visit: [www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/william-butler-yeats](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/william-butler-yeats)

*Numerous references and sources are listed at the end of Yeats' biography on the Poetry Foundation site.*



*An Irish village in Spring.*

## Editor's Corner

*Writing Poetry is never for the faint of heart! - PLS*

There is so much to do in March that you should include using that “pen and paper”, tablet, or computer to immortalize your feelings and experiences in poems. Have you ever thought you could be immortal? Technology has increased the possibilities for publication from a single poem to a short chapbook to an entire collection; whether in traditional print or in an online journal, the options are almost limitless. Even if you should choose not to publish for ‘public consumption’—for the time, effort, and love of the art of poetry, you should at the very least preserve your poetry in some form for future generations of your family. You should gather up all those bits of paper where you jotted a quick poem, add them to those you printed out on the computer to read at a meeting, and keep them in an organized manner. How you do this can be as original as you are. Also think of adding the back-story to each poem, especially if the poem is personal. Even though most poems we write are not true to life, whatever drove you to commit a certain poem to the written word, was personal, so writing down the inspirations for the poem will mean a lot to your family in the years ahead. Achieve your poetic immortality and begin preserving your poetry now.

*And keep writing poetry!*

*~Patricia Stevenson-Gingrich, editor*

## Bits & Pieces

- ◆ **Norma Sundberg** is still unable to drive at night, but keeps busy writing about poetry for various journals such as *Extra Innings with Marshall Cook* by the Univ. of Wisconsin—Madison. Norma has renewed her FSPA membership for 2017.
- ◆ **Bryan Pitchford**, in addition to all of his work duties and completing classwork, while working on his Master's thesis in Creative Writing, Bryan has reactivated a blog barely begun a number of years ago. In January, Bryan began his weekly blog where he covers a different topic each week on ‘real’ topics for poets and poetry lovers alike. Visit Bryan's blog at [www.bryanpitchford.com](http://www.bryanpitchford.com).
- ◆ **Ali Bilir** of Mersin, Turkey, and a BBP and FSPA member-at-large is visiting along with his wife Sadeet, their

daughter Defne in Tallahassee through April. Ali contributed this month's short poem in honor of his young grandson Can, who will celebrate a birthday on April 9th. Can lives in Texas with his parents. His father is Ali's son Kuzey. Ali had his poem, “Greetings from Home” published in the January 2017 issue of the on-line literary journal, *First Literary Review-East*, edited by Cindy Sostchen-Hochman and published in New York. He has had a book of short-stories translated into English and hopes for publication this year. Ali has also completed a novel that should be published in Turkey in 2017.

- ◆ **Patricia Stevenson Gingrich** has been receiving some ‘five-star’ reviews on her book, *South of 30° North*. Her book is available through the usual outlets. And get ready for her next poetry collection, *A Matter of Perspective* is due out this April.

**ATTENTION! ALL BBP MEMBERS!** Please remember to send your personal & poetry news, announcements, photos, or changes in email addresses and other contact information to Patricia at [patriciasg.bbp@gmail.com](mailto:patriciasg.bbp@gmail.com) by the **25th of each month** for publication in the next issue of Scribbles!

## Shorts—by BBP Members

**Just Smile** by Ali F. Bilir

*For my grandson, Can*

Just smile,  
and let the stars in the sky glint  
in your eyes.

Just smile,  
and let wild flowers bloom  
from your mother's face.

Just smile,  
and let your father whisper his heart  
into your ears.

Just smile,  
and let your aunt sing you  
her lullaby.

Just smile,  
and let grandma and grandpa find a place  
to hold  
their loving warmth.

Just smile,  
and let good news come  
from your country.

©2017, Ali F. Bilir, translation by Jonathan Ross.

## FSPA & You

**2017 FSPA Annual Spring Fling: Make your plans NOW!** The 2017 Spring Fling will be held the weekend of April 21-22 at the Clarion Hotel on East Fowler Avenue in Tampa (near Univ. of So. Fla). The event is being hosted by New River Poets of Wesley Chapel and Sunshine Poets of Crystal River. Details and registration information for the annual spring event is in the January/February edition of OPAP and will also be on the FSPA website. [A great line-up of presenters and programs!](#)

**2017 FSPA Poetry Contests:** If you are considering entering a poetry contest this year, make it the FSPA annual contests. There are 26 different categories to enter in 2017. Cash prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. First place winners are also published in the annual FSPA anthology published in October. This contest is Open to both members and non-members. The categories, prizes, and any special directions as well as all rules for submitting your poem/s are posted on the FSPA website.

**2017 FSPA Anthology** information coming in April's OPAP. Everything you need to know about submissions and pre-ordering the annual Anthology.

[www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org](http://www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org)

## National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS)

**2017 National Poetry Contest. There is still time!** Submission period runs through **March 15, 2017**. 50 categories and over \$6,000 total cash prizes. \$1,000 top prize in one category and \$500 in two other categories, plus publication of winners. Categories and Entry Rules are listed on the website [nfsp.com](http://nfsp.com)

**New Contest!!** The BlackBerryPeach Spoken Word Poetry Prize Contest is **new for 2017**. Same deadline as the written contests: **March 15**. Winners receive Cash Prizes and an invitation to perform at the National Convention in Ft. Worth, Texas in June. Visit the NFSPS website for details and entry information. **NFSPS 2017 Convention:** The 2017 National Convention will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, June 29-July 2. Full information will be in upcoming issues of *Strophes* and on the NFSPS website. See the BBP website also!

Check for all NFSPS activities and events at:

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

**national  
poetry month**

**Coming April 2017:  
how will you celebrate?**

## Book of the Month

*Selected by the Poetry Foundation*

*play dead*, by francine j. harris, 2016, Alice James Books. Harris, a native of Detroit, Michigan is a 2015 NEA Creative Writing Fellow and currently teaches writing at Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan.

"...this book undoes me... francine j. harris brilliantly ransacks the poet's toolkit, assembling art from buckets of disaster and shreds of hope..." ~ Evie Shockley

## Big Bend Poets website!

**New updates each month!**

*April 2017*

**BBP Meeting: April 11, 2017**

*Is there something you want to learn about Poetry?*

*Attend the March meeting*

*And help plan future meetings and events!*

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