



Fact Sheet Revised 09.28.08

The Science Fiction Poetry Association was founded in 1978 by Suzette Haden Elgin to bring together poets and readers interested in speculative poetry.

Star*Line

*Star*Line* is the official newsletter and network instrument of the SFPA, established in 1978. It is a 20-24 page bimonthly forum for SF/F/H/speculative poets and poetry enthusiasts and features market news, interviews, articles, reviews, member news and letters, association business, and poetry — by members and nonmembers. Issues of *Star*Line* are shipped to standard industry publications, such as *Locus*, *SF Chronicle*, etc.

*Star*Line* is published six times a year. Generally, issues are mailed during the second month of the issue (i.e. the Jan/Feb issue is usually mailed in February). Since *Star*Line* is produced by dedicated volunteers, we are occasionally subject to slight delays, depending upon personal schedules.

The issue with which your membership expires is printed on your mailing label using the numbering system for *Star*Line* issues in the format xx.y, where “xx” signifies the SFPA year counting from 1 in 1978 to 30 in 2007. For example, 31 would signify 2008. The “y” signifies the issue within a given year, where 1 represents January/February, 2 represents March/April, 3 is for May/June, 4 for July/August, 5 stands for September/October, and 6 for November/December.

Poetry submissions to *Star*Line* are accepted during two reading periods: January/February/March and July/August/September. Submit no more than five poems per submission package. No simultaneous submissions. Check the SFPA website for upcoming themes and any updates to submission guidelines.

The SFPA pays on publication for First North American Serial Rights. First Electronic Rights is purchased for Editor's Choice poems selected to appear on SFPA's official website. Subsidiary rights revert to the author on publication. Payment for poetry is as follows:

Poems 10 lines or fewer, \$3 each; poems 11 to 50 lines, \$5 each; poems more than 50 lines, 10 cents per line rounded to the next dollar (e.g., a 51-line poem would pay \$6; a 91-line poem, \$10).

*Star*Line* also accepts articles, reviews, market reports, press releases and updates, and short interviews on subjects related to SF/F/H/speculative poetry. Reprints from guest columns in the Horror Writers' Association (HWA) newsletter also welcome. Non-fiction should be 200 to 2,500 words; payment is one cent per word rounded to the next dollar.

*Star*Line* also accepts submissions of art as a black-and-white jpeg file, scanned at 300 dpi or higher.

Cover art and filler art welcome. Reprints considered. Payment is \$5 for cover art, \$2 for spot illustrations.

Editorial Address:

Marge Simon, Editor
1412 NE 35th St.
Ocala, FL 34479
USA
SFPASL@aol.com

You can e-mail Marge with your submissions, or send your submissions to her via snail mail.

The Rhysling Awards and Anthology

Each year, the SFPA bestows the Rhysling Awards for the poems considered by membership vote to be the best speculative poems published in the previous year. The winning poems regularly appear in the Nebula Anthology. Winners are announced at ReaderCon, a literary science fiction convention over the July 4th weekend in Boston, Mass.

SFPA publishes the yearly *Rhysling Anthology*, which comprises works nominated by our members for the Rhysling Awards for Best Poems of the Year. Each member is allowed to nominate one work for "Best Long Poem" (50+ lines) and one for "Best Short Poem" (1-49 lines). All SFPA members receive a copy of the anthology, which brings together the nominated poems in one volume for more convenient consideration.

SFPA also sells copies of *The Rhysling Anthology* to the general public on our website at <http://www.sfpoetry.com>. SFPA members can purchase additional copies and/or copies of previous issues at a discount.

Alchemy of Stars, a book featuring the winning poems from 1978 to 2004, an introduction by Jane Yolen and afterword by Suzette Haden Elgin, is available for purchase on the SFPA website.

If that's not enough history, the online Rhysling Archive contains information about all the Rhysling Anthologies since 1978, including cover images, tables of contents, and editorial information.

Drew Morse is the Rhysling Chair. He can be contacted at:

Drew Morse
17601 Fries Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107
drew_morse@hotmail.com

The Rhysling Award/Anthology timetable is as follows:

January-February: Members send nominations to the Rhysling Chair

March-April: The Rhysling Chair verifies nomination eligibility, contacts nominees and acquires reprint permissions

May: The *Rhysling Anthology* is published and mailed to SFPA members

June: Voting

July: Announcement of winners at ReaderCon

Spring of following year: Winning poems are sent to Nebula Anthology Editor

Summer of following year: Nebula Anthology contracts signed if Nebula Anthology Editor decides to include them

February of next year: Rhysling winners published in Nebula Anthology, if included

Grand Master Award

A SFPA Grand Master designation may be conferred by the SFPA President with consensus of the membership to an individual living at the time of selection whose body of work shall reflect the highest artistic goals of the SFPA, who shall have been actively publishing within the target genres of Science Fiction and Fantasy for a period of no fewer than 20 years, and whose poetry has been noted to be exceptional in merit, scope, vision and innovation.

To date, the SFPA has conferred three Grand Master Awards, to Bruce Boston (1999), Robert Frazier (2005) and Ray Bradbury (2008).

A call for Grand Master nominations will be published in *Star*Line* in the same issue as the annual announcement of Rhysling winners. Any member in good standing may propose a Grand Master candidate via letter or e-mail to the SFPA President. Grand Master nominations will be collected for two months, and the deadline for receiving nominations will be clearly stated in *Star*Line*.

No more than five nor fewer than two candidates may be selected to appear on the ballot. A “No Award” option will be included on the ballot along with the names of the Grand Master candidates. If “No Award” wins the plurality vote, then no award will be given in that particular year.

Concurrent with nominations for Rhysling poems, names of Grand Master nominees, with bibliographies, will be published annually in the *Rhysling Anthology* for voting consideration.

The President may, after reviewing names proposed by individuals from the membership, and with proof that a plurality of those SFPA members voting on the Grand Master ballot support that nominee, confer upon an individual poet deemed so worthy the title of Grand Master of Fantastic Poetry. The Grand Master title will be conferred with the consent of the Board, the current Rhysling Chair, the editor of *Star*Line*, and members of the Web Committee, who with the President, have the authority to break a tie vote in the balloting. Said officers and volunteers may, at their discretion, offer an electronic voting alternative to the membership for the Grand Master balloting, but a paper ballot will be available to any SFPA member who needs or desires one.

The individual honored with the Grand Master title need not be a member of the Science Fiction Poetry Association, nor of any other writer’s organization, professional affiliation or other body; neither shall such membership impede the selection of any individual for this title.

A Grand Master shall be named no more often than annually. The title of Grand Master need not be conferred in any given year. The President may not self-confer the title of Grand Master, nor reserve this title for such time as the President leaves or has left office.

Dwarf Stars Anthology

In 2006, the SFPA initiated the Dwarf Stars Award to recognize high quality “short short” poetry of 10 lines or fewer. *Dwarf Stars* is an edited anthology, which means that a person is not required to be a member to submit/recommend poems for the anthology. There is no limit on the number of poems that a person may submit/recommend.

To be eligible, a poem must be 10 lines or fewer and must be first published in the previous calendar year. The editor(s) will select approximately 30 of the best works submitted to be included in the short form poetry showcase anthology, *Dwarf Stars*.

Dwarf Stars will be mailed to SFPA members in the fall. Members will vote for up to three poems

published in *Dwarf Stars*, and the winning poem will be given the *Dwarf Stars Award*. Contributors will receive a courtesy copy of the anthology.

The winning poem will be submitted to the Nebula Anthology editor along with the Rhysling Award winners. More information can be found at the SFPA website.

Membership Directory

The SFPA produces an annual membership directory, which is mailed to members with the May/June issue of *Star*Line*. David Vandervort is the Directory Chair and will need to receive a form from each member authorizing which pieces of information he/she would like included in the directory, including biography, publication credits, etc. Once a member has filled out such a form, it will be used for subsequent directory updates until the member updates the information.

Contact David at:

David Vandervort
5221 Mason Road
Walworth, NY 14568
irvingthemagnificent@yahoo.com

Online Resources

The SFPA maintains a website at <http://www.sfpoetry.com> where information about the organization, its publications and its activities can be found. Some highlights include a paying market listing, a listing of upcoming speculative poetry events and readings, the complete listing of Rhysling winners and Rhysling anthology contents, speculative poetry news, Dwarf Stars information, and special online events such as our annual online poetry contest and Halloween Poetry Reading.

The SFPA also maintains an e-mail discussion list through Yahoo! Groups at <http://www.yahogroups.com/group/SFPANet>.

Annual Web Contest

In 2006, SFPA held our first annual online poetry contest, with a theme of “mirrors.” In 2007, the online contest featured speculative sonnets. The theme of the 2008 contest was “energy” in any form. Contest winners receive a number of prizes, and the top three winners see their works published on the SFPA website.

For information, check out our website at:
<http://www.sfpoetry.com/poetrycontest.html>

Halloween Web Reading

Beginning in 2006, the SFPA has hosted an online Halloween Poetry Reading at <http://www.sfpoetry.com/halloween.html>. Members record their own *.mp3 and *.wav files, reading a favorite spooky or Halloween-themed poem, to Elizabeth Bennefeld at sfpoetry@quietspaces.net for possible inclusion in that year’s page. This is an informal annual event; Liz begins collecting files in early October and will upload them when she has several selections.

Advertising

SFPA members may receive half-price advertising on the SFPA website.

Banner advertising space is available on the bottom of every main page on the site, just above the

navigation links. Preferred size is 450 x 60 pixels, but there is room to negotiate. Preferred formats are .jpg or .gif. The non-member price for banner advertising is \$20/month; first-come, first served.

Sidebar advertising exists on any page with a sidebar, currently the main page, the bibliography page, and the membership page. Sidebar ads are square or rectangular, 200 pixels maximum per side, .jpg or .gif format. The non-member sidebar advertising is \$15/month, first-come, first served. At our discretion we may choose to run a second sidebar ad in a month. There may be an additional fee if you are requesting the second ad.

The SFPA Website Director may refuse any ad for content or design reasons.

Send your inquiries regarding advertising to the SFPA Webmaster at sfpaweb@sfpoetry.com. Please specify the month(s) in which you are interested or indicate "first available."

Please note that all advertising is to be prepaid.

SFPA Member Events

Local speculative poetry events are listed on the SFPA website at <http://www.sfpoetry.com/poetryevents.html>. Members can also list other poetry events they are involved with, with the hope that at least some speculative poetry will be included.

Please send information regarding local speculative poetry events to the SFPA Webmaster at sfpaweb@sfpoetry.com. Our poetry events page is only as good as the information we receive from members.

Members wishing to organize local speculative poetry events and poetry panels/readings/workshops at local conventions may download flyers and brochures from the SFPA website:

<http://www.sfpoetry.com/promos.html>.

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