

Hello all!

Welcome back to a new year (2018/2019) for the Poetry Society of Tennessee!

Monthly Program

We started off with a wonderful program by Russell Strauss. He spoke on two different topics, which will help all of us: A major problem which we all encounter when rhyming (and he observed when judging recently): forced rhyming.

There are four main mistakes which we all should be aware of:

1. Slant rhyme — Do not use non-rhyming words. For example, “slant” does not rhyme with “plants” — plurals end with “SSS” or “ZZZ” sounds. Do not force the rhyme
2. Grammar problems — do not change grammar. For example, “list” is not the past tense of “listen”.
3. Do not use reversals. Use normal English word order. The line “The tears from my eyes from the onions came” is unnatural, and shouldn’t be used in a poem. In fact, the words “from my eyes” isn’t needed — all tears come from the eyes.
4. Words that are used to rhyme, but have nothing to do with the subject matter of the poem. Don’t throw things in just to make the rhyme – be true to your poem!

He then discussed prose poems, which are a specific poetic form. While written as a paragraph, they retain all the characteristics of a poem: concise, to the point, incorporating poetic devices (metaphor, simile, internal rhyme, alliteration, etc.). Russell then presented a specific variant of the prose poem, the haibun, which incorporates a prose poem with a haiku (this can be a modern haiku, not necessarily about nature; please follow haiku form, though). Examples of prose poems and haibun are attached. More about haibun on Florence Bruce’s poetry blog at <http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/haibun.html>.

Chapter News

No news from our various chapters, as they are just starting up their years, too.

Business News

Please see the attached minutes for details; however, several key notes:

- Attached is a new membership form. We are asking everyone to complete the membership form each year to update our rolls (including address, email, etc.). We still need this form completed if you have paid the 2018/2019 dues. This will be due every year, given we have had an uptick in changes in contact information.
- If you are interested in learning more about the Blackberry Peach format for NFSPS, please contact Lori Goetz (plmegoetz@bellsouth.net). We are trying to get a headcount to figure out whether we will hold a special workshop on how to do recordings and seminars on this format. For more info on the Blackberry Peach, please see here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxnY2QgNhzg&feature=youtu.be>

Festival

Finally, Festival! Don’t forget Festival is coming up shortly... Some very important information below:

- Registration is due to JoAn Howerton by 9/10. Form is attached!
- If you would like to bring refreshments to Leslie’s house on Friday night, please contact her ASAP – she has a very specific list of needs and a sign-up sheet. Her phone number is 901-833-1793.
- We will be doing a poetry reading on Friday night (one poem apiece), so please bring a poem to share.
- On Saturday morning, prior to starting the workshop, we also will be doing a read-around...please bring poems to share!
- Look forward to seeing everyone there!

Winners — September 2018 Contest

Sponsor/Judge — Florence Bruce

Type — Rondeau

1st — Janet Qually, Angelic Jubilation

2nd — Barbara Blanks, The Seeds of Love

3rd — Lynn Mirvis, How Good It Is

Next Monthly Member-Only Contest

Our next contest (November 2018) is sponsored by Lori Goetz. Any subject, but must contain at least 5 different colors; get out that thesaurus and be descriptive (don't just use red, blue, green, etc.), form is any. To see all upcoming member-only contests, please follow this link: <http://www.tnpoetry.org/blogs/post/2018-2019-Monthly-Contests/>

A few items on member-only contests:

1. All poems must be received no later than the 20th of the prior month. So, for a November contest, they must be received by October 20th.
2. Please follow "standard" submittal format — one IDed copy, one non-IDed (judged) copy. Make sure both copies have the poem contest as well as your poem's title identified. This is the same as NFSPS and most state rules.
3. Send all poems to: Pete Harris, 1645 Faxon, Memphis, TN 38112.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is Festival (see flyer for times and locations) on 10/5-6. After that, next meeting will be 11/3 at White Station Public Library, beginning at 2 pm. Remember Russell holds his critiquing session 30 minutes prior to each meeting. November's topic: NFSPS Contest #29, Politics (Past or Present), Form: Any, 40 lines.

<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address problems have complicated treasurer transfer from Sarah • Leslie recommends obtaining a post office box • Using a post office box will allow us to get a Pay Pal account • It will then not be tied to a single person - President and Treasurer • One on Aaron Drive, one on Park – convenient to White Station Library • Leslie will go and sign that up, and then will create a PayPal account • Will will then put the PayPal button on the website • Minutes approved • Minutes from May 2018 approved 	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Balance:</td> <td>\$2,871.60 as of 7/31/18</td> </tr> </table>	Balance:	\$2,871.60 as of 7/31/18
Balance:	\$2,871.60 as of 7/31/18		
<p>Corresponding Secretary's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent a get well card to Sharon Fox • Lori still needs to send a thank you note to Memphis Public Library for all of their donations 			
<p>Business to be Accomplished in the Next Month/Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell will take up the programming for 2018-2019 • Suggest reading poems • Lori will ask how many people are interested in attending a Blackberry Peach workshop to learn how to do recordings and submittals • Lori announce that Friday night we will have a poetry reading (one poem apiece), as well as opening read-around from • JoAn discussed Festival preparations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Russell recommended putting out some signage for Festival ○ JoAn is going to post flyers for students ○ Will is going to spread news to Ole Miss students — they just need to fill out form ○ Janet will also post at U of M ○ Russell will give flyer to Rhodes next week ○ Leslie needs volunteers to bring food for Friday evening ○ Order boxed lunches; everyone bring cookies/brownies and breakfast stuff — JoAn, Janet, and Bill will discuss further 			
<p>Winners — September 2018 Contest Sponsor/Judge — Florence Bruce Rondeau 1st — Janet Qually, Angelic Jubilation 2nd — Barbara Blanks, The Seeds of Love 3rd — Lynnir Mirvis, How Good It Is</p>			

The Prose-Poem Project



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RUSSELL EDSON

Russell Edson (1935 -) Identified as "the leading practitioner of the prose poem since ... Ponge" in "Notes on the Authors" in *Models of the Universe: An Anthology of the Prose Poem*, wherein one can find these two examples, which otherwise speak for themselves.

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The Canoeing

We went upstairs in a canoe. I kept catching my paddle in the banisters.

We met several salmon passing us, flipping step by step; no doubt to find the remembered bedroom. And they were like the slippered feet of someone falling down the stairs, played backward as in a movie.

And then we were passing over the downstairs closet under the stairs, and could feel the weight of dark overcoats and galoshes in a cave of umbrellas and fedoras; water dripping there, deep in the earth, like an endless meditation . . .

. . . Finally the quiet waters of the upstairs hall. We dip our paddles with gentle care not to injure the quiet dark, and seem to glide for days by family bedrooms under a stillness of trees . . .

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The Fall

There was a man who found two leaves and came indoors holding them out saying to his parents that he was a tree.

To which they said then go into the yard and do not grow in the living-room as your roots may ruin the carpet.

He said I was fooling I am not a tree and he dropped his leaves.

But his parents said look it is fall.

Sean Thomas Dougherty (/node/45020)

In the Light of One Lamp

I crawled into bed and closed my eyes and not long after heard the small hooves of the horses, the tiny ones that gallop in our dreams, or are they the dreams of our children, galloping through the black ruins. Everything we do is against the crippling light. To hear them cry at night is to know they are alive. When they are scared they come galloping down the long hall calling your name. Tonight, it is our oldest daughter, the red mare with her fiery mane, she snuggles in between us and falls back to sleep in your arms, to that secret place inside her, she barely moves, crossing over the river, through a grove of alders, through the black ruins, she is the one who once whispered, *the grass it knows everything.*

Copyright © 2017 by Sean Thomas Dougherty. Originally published in Poem-a-Day on December 18, 2017, by the Academy of American Poets.

Sean Thomas Dougherty

Sean Thomas Dougherty's most recent book is *The Second O of Sorrow* (BOA Editions, 2018). He lives in Erie, Pennsylvania.



by this poet

[browse all 2 poems \(/poetsorg/poems/45020\)](https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poems/45020)



Haibun by Contemporary Writers

| [Return to Index of Writers](#) |

Three Towns

Joanne Morcom

Etzikom, Alberta

When the school closed in the 1980s, the 40 or so townspeople turned it into two museums, one inside and the other outside. The museums keep the town on the map, but most people would rather see the school and playground full of children. But they're long gone, never to return, like the hopes and dreams of the town itself.

windmill museum ...
a yellow dog trots
beside tourists

Hoping, Alberta

A weathered sign on the highway points to a place called Hoping, but it's not there anymore. A few buildings, trees and shrubs are all that's left of a town that disappeared many years ago. The trees look dark and tall against the flat horizon, and a little lonely too.

prairie dusk ...
the old shed
leans into it

Manyberries, Alberta

Is it a ghost town or not? Officially it is, but it's still home to a handful of people who stubbornly refuse to move away. And the hotel bar does good business on Friday and Saturday nights, especially when there's a full moon.

hunter's moon ...
a truck backfires
on the dirt road

from *Raw NerVZ Haiku*, Volume IX:3, Fall 2004.

Only Poetry Keeps Me Awake

The alarm clock, red-eyed and weary of its nightly vigil, blinks five. I am a bear in March, a possum who must play alive. The poetry muse has come to prick me with her tiny needles. At first, I thought they were fleas, but they were biting my mind, not my skin.

The night-weary owl
hides wide eyes with downy wings.
Her shift is ending.

My muse says I should write a haibun. Something Japanese? Sticky fluids clog the lens of my eye. Sans reading glasses, I study my poetry form book with a magnifier. Why can't my muse keep bankers' hours?

Bass ring their school bell
in depths of a dawn-torched lake.
Early worms catch fish.

My mug holds a mud hole of coffee. After giving instructions, my muse is hiding. I open the closet door, but she rarely hobnobs with clothes. She is not in the laundry room either or the kitchen. Bravely, I dash forth to the computer to challenge this strange form on my own.

One lone mockingbird
is deceiving a robin
with amorous song.

My pillow lures me softly back. Where are you, Greek maiden who wants me to imitate Japanese? I suppose I could finish this in the morning. Haibuns are hybrid like a mule or a mating of a lion and a tiger. Perhaps I can encounter this mongrel at a decent hour. Would noon do, Miss Muse?

Deep in my woodwork,
the mouse that ate my breakfast
has curled into sleep.

Form: haibun

The Poetry Society of Tennessee
62nd Annual Poetry Festival
October 5-6, 2018

Southwest Tennessee Community College
Fulton Auditorium, Macon Cove Campus
5983 Macon Cove, Memphis, Tennessee, 38134

Workshop Leader — Jerri Hardesty

Jerri Hardesty is the founder, CEO, and Editor-in-Chief of the nonprofit, New Dawn Unlimited, Inc. (founded 1997), dedicated to poetry publishing, production, performance, promotion, preservation, and education. She and her husband, Kirk, also organize Alabama poetry events (open mics, contests, workshops, youth events, and slams) as well as sponsor and participate in poetry slams at the regional, national, and international level. They have organized and hosted the BamaSlam Montevallo Poetry Slam for almost 20 years. Jerri recently served as President of the Alabama State Poetry Society, and has previously held other positions within that organization. She was also their "Poet of the Year" in 2009. Jerri has almost 400 poems published so far, and has won more than 1300 awards and titles in both written and spoken word/performance poetry. She enjoys different genres, from sonnets to slam, from haiku to epics, from sestinas to free verse. She has published two chapbooks of poetry, and currently has two more chapbooks accepted for future publication. See her website NewDawnUnlimited.com for more information!

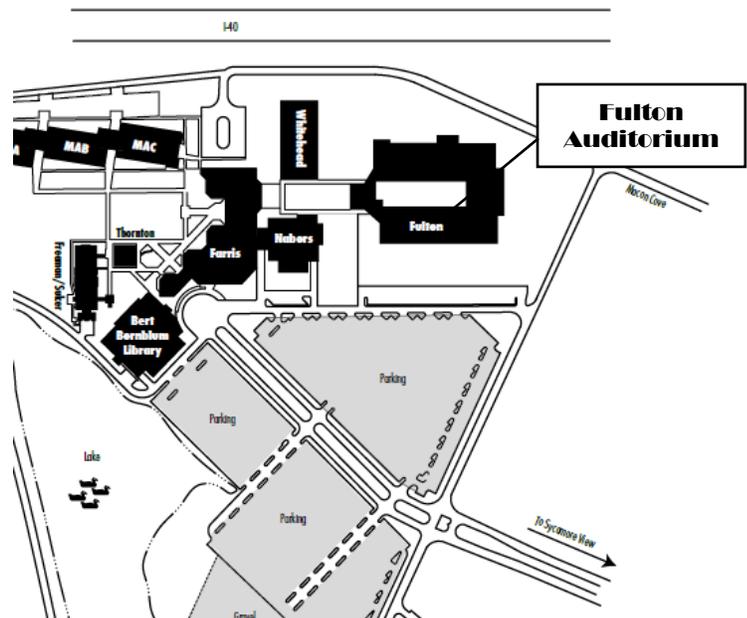
Schedule of Events

Friday Evening, October 5 — Meet-and Greet

Join us for a meet-and-greet with potluck pork barbeque, 6 pm, at the home of Leslie Blakeburn (1608 Tutwiler, Memphis, TN 38107). Please RSVP to Leslie at 901-833-1793 or leslieblakeburn@yahoo.com no later than September 28. Bring a side or a dessert!

Saturday, October 6 — Southwest Community College

- 9:00 a.m. Registration, meet-and-greet, read around, and continental breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Workshop by Jerri Hardesty
- 12:00 noon Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Awards and readings
- 2:00 p.m. Break
- 2:15 p.m. Awards and readings continue
- 4:00 p.m. Final door prizes



Membership Information

Not a member? Join us! We sponsor monthly contests which are only open to members. Join us, and don't miss out on the fun! Please go to the membership link on our website,

<http://www.tnpoetry.org/membership-information.html>

or for additional membership information, contact us at info@tnpoetry.org.

Special Thanks!

- JoAn Howerton, Festival Director.
- Lori Goetz, Contest Coordinator.
- Bill Hill and Janet Qually, Luncheon and Refreshment Coordinators.
- Everyone else who helped make this festival possible, we are grateful!

Poetry Society of Tennessee Officers

West Tennessee Chapter

JoAn Howerton, President
Russell H. Strauss, VP & Membership Chair
Lori Goetz, Recording/Corresponding Secretary
Leslie Blakeburn, Treasurer
William Hill, Director
Frances Cowden, Director
Randy Stoker, Parliamentarian
William King, Webmaster

Northeast Chapter

Rose Klix, President
Gretchen McCroskey, VP
Janice Hornberg, Treasurer & Membership Chair
Evelyn Bales, Secretary
J. Michael Ramey, Webmaster

Knoxville Chapter

Sharon Mishler Fox, President
Ann Long, VP
Kay Fields, Secretary/Treasurer

Registration and Fees

Please mail to: JoAn Howerton, 2563 Twin Woods Cove Memphis, TN 38134

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Number Attending Friday: _____ Number Attending Saturday: _____

Circle As Appropriate:	student (lunch only = \$7; registration free)	member (registration + lunch = \$15)	non-member (registration + lunch = \$20)
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Total Fees Enclosed: _____

Registration and fees are due no later than September 10, 2018

Make all checks payable to Poetry Society of Tennessee

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE

2017-2018 PST Membership Application: Website: <http://www.tnpoetry.org/>

The Poetry Society of Tennessee is a regional organization; however out-of-state members are also welcome to join. Some of our longstanding members are located throughout the country but still participate with The Poetry Society of Tennessee activities.

We are an inclusive, supportive, "learn by doing" club. Some of our members are accomplished poets, some are beginners, and a few are non-writers who simply love poetry. No matter where you fit in the spectrum, PST has something to offer. Drop in and see for yourself at one of our monthly meetings or seasonal public readings. We meet the 1st Saturday of each month September thru May for monthly meetings except for October which is our Festival.

Annual dues for our regular membership are \$25.00. _____(please check)

Annual dues for students are \$10.00. _____(please check)

Membership Options: If you wish to renew for multiple years, please note how many years you would like to renew and the amount of your check: _____(years)\$ _____(amount)

Memberships are yearly from May 2nd through April 30th and dues can be prorated.

Make check payable to: **Poetry Society of Tennessee (PST) and mail to: JoAn Howerton, Membership Chairman, 2563 Twin Woods Cove, Memphis, TN 38134**

Dues include entries into our monthly contests, subscription to *Strophes*, the National Federation Quarterly newsletter, and a copy of *Tennessee Voices*, our yearly poetry anthology. Please complete the form below to join:

NAME: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone No: _____ Alternate Phone No. _____

E-mail: _____ Check if no e-mail: _____

Comments: Please tell us something about yourself, including any publications, awards, interests, etc. or let us know if there are any questions you might have at joan0620@att.net.

