

All –

PST just finished its 63rd Annual Poetry Festival, which was a great success. We thank Budd Powell Mahan for a great program; we thank all of our oral poetry contestants for participating in our FIRST oral poetry contest; we thank all of our traditional poetry contest participants, winners, and presenters from this afternoon’s award’s program; and we thank everyone who volunteered time, talents, and treasure to make this day possible. We had 22 in attendance, including:

JoAn Howerton	Budd Powell Mahan	Luke Richards *	Charlotte Ritter *
Russell Strauss	Howard Carman, Jr.	Tess Richards *	(Charlotte’s husband also attended for ½ the day)
Janet Qually	Kellie Clelland	Sydney McKissack *	
Lori Goetz	Pete Harris	Sean McKissack	Angel-Marie Ritter *
Bill Hill	Rita Moritz	Karen Anderson *	Terrence Haynes *
Frances Cowden	Harry Moritz	Kathryn Miller *	

*New Member/Potential Member

Budd Mahan’s Presentation

I jotted down just a few key thoughts from Budd’s presentation, which was great:

- strive for authenticity; write from your experience
- make connections across experiences
- jot ideas down in stream-of-consciousness prose; go back and find the poetic elements
- “Prose may contain poetry, but poetry should never be prose.”
- convert free verse poetry to forms; it will help you focus on the core meaning behind your words
- make sure the poem’s title is good; you are naming your “baby”
- don’t use clichés!!!
- don’t be afraid to research your topic
- make sure the poem’s grammar is correct!!!

A few thoughts on how Budd judges a poem:

1. Is the poem about something substantive (not forgettable, not about minutia)
2. Does the poem use fresh language? Is it cliché-free?
3. Does it address the human experience/human condition?
4. Does it drive to an ending, with a powerful last line?
5. If a form poem, does it stay true to form? (Remember many judges are purists...if you vary or improvise on a form, do not call it that form.)

Oral Poetry Contest

We had 14 poets who participated in our oral poetry contest: Frances, Bill, Luke, Rita, Kellie, Lori, Harry, Charlotte, Karen, Sydney, Pete, Russell, Terrence, and Angel-Marie! A wonderful variety of poetry, in a wide range of styles. Everyone enjoyed listening, and it was tough judging!

Congratulations to our oral poetry winners:

- 1st Place — Sydney McKissack
- 2nd Place — Luke Richards
- 3rd Place — Pete Harris

Attendees voted for their picks; thanks to Janet Qually and to Howard Carman, Jr. who facilitated judging.

63rd Annual Contest Results

Contest results were announced in the afternoon. Congratulations to all winners; a winner's list has been posted on our website (and is attached). See the website, <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/annual-festival-and-contest.html> Winner's packets have been mailed. Once again, thank you to everyone who sponsored and/or judged a contest for us.

Importantly, many, many thanks to everyone who entered. A few fun facts:

Total number of poets who entered the contest — 53 (of these, 26 were members, 27 were non-members). We had 25% more poets enter this year, vs. 2018. The total number of poems entered was 712. We had 324 more poems this year, vs. 2018 (45% increase).

Entries came from: TN, AR, AL, MS, TX, OK, VA, UT, OH, IL, LA, MO, MN, FL, NY, OR, KY, and Ontario, Canada. Number of entries for each contest:

Contest	# Entries						
1	55	8	31	15	19	22	15
2	62	9	20	16	15	23	19
3	25	10	19	17	20	24	23
4	34	11	20	18	29	25	26
5	40	12	31	19	25	26	19
6	26	13	34	20	22		
7	35	14	37	21	11		

News and Announcements

- Last week, JoAn Howerton and Janet Qually were on WMC-TV's Bluff City Life, discussing Mayor Strickland's Poetry Day Proclamation, and reading poetry. Catch the video here: <https://www.wmcactionnews5.com/video/2019/10/14/bluff-city-life-oct-part-4/>
- As noted in the news flash earlier this month, PST-NE have worked with Johnson City to have a Poetry Day Proclamation, and are also sponsoring a poetry contest for Johnson City's Sesquicentennial. Please click here for additional information about the contest; the deadline for submittals is 10/31. <http://pstne.weebly.com/new-contest.html>
- On November 17, JoAn Howerton will host poet, author, and singer/songwriter Nathan Brown for a poetry reading at her home from 3-5. You can find out more about Nathan here <https://www.brownlines.com/>. Please RSVP back to JoAn ASAP, so we can have a headcount for this special PST event!!!
- Based on feedback and discussion during Festival, we have added some links to grammar sites on the PST website, under the references tab. We have several great references here, including Florence Bruce's Blogspot, which discusses poetry forms. Check out the new links if your grammar is rusty, or if you need some additional clarity on those common usage problems (lie/lay, bring/take, fewer/less, etc.). <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/resources.html>
- Don't forget to keep promoting our student contest. We have high school/middle school deadlines approaching (early December). Elementary and eye poem deadlines are 2/15. Additional student info can be found on our website, under the contest page: <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/contests.html>
- Russell's critiquing challenge schedule: next up, November — #49, Miriam S. Strauss Award, Subject: A scary or spooky poem, Form: Any, 10-40 line limit. Remember, if you are out of town and want me to document the meeting's critiquing comments, please send me ten copies. <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/russells-challenges.html>

- Monthly Member-Only Contests
 - November Contest deadline is Sunday 10/20....if you are submitting, contact Ann Carolyn Cates ASAP (AnnCCates@aol.com). Sponsor, PST-Knoxville; Subject, It's all relative — about a relative OR 2 or more related things. 25 lines; Form: Any.
 - December Contest deadline is Wednesday 11/20. Sponsor, JoAn Howerton; Subject: Memories of Christmas, Shakespearean sonnet.
 - Submit all monthly contest entries to Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671.
 - Submission instructions are on the website, <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/contests.html>

PST-West Tennessee Meeting Reminders

West Tennessee Members, our upcoming schedule:

- Our next meeting is 11/2, from 2-4, at the White Station Public Library
- Open Mic at Café Eclectic, 11/13, 7 pm.
- Special event 11/17 at JoAn Howerton's house — Nathan Brown reading (see above)
- December — Holiday Meeting: we will NOT meet on 12/7. We are planning to meet on the following Saturday, 12/14, from 2-4. Location TBD. More information to follow.
- Open Mic at Café Eclectic, 12/11, 7 pm.

As always, email with questions!

- Lori