

All –

A few notes after PST-West Tennessee's November meeting.

Many Thanks!!!

William Hill and his wife Anna, through their company Anna's Pet Sitting, made a donation of \$500 to the Poetry Society of Tennessee. We would like to thank Bill and Anna for their generosity!

Nathan Brown

JoAn Howerton is hosting Nathan Brown on Sunday, November 17, from 3-5 pm at her house (2563 Twin Woods Cove, Memphis, TN 38134). Nathan is a poet, singer, and songwriter, and has performed at the Eureka Springs Lucidity Conference, NFSPS, and other poetry festivals. Though I have not heard him, everyone who has had that opportunity gives him rave reviews! Everyone is invited to attend! Bring a friend! Please RSVP to JoAn (joan0620@att.net) ASAP, so she can get a headcount.

Student Poetry Contest

Reminder that the Student Poetry Contest is OPEN and we are inviting all students who are residents of Tennessee to participate. Not a resident? Students can join as student members. Middle- and upper-school deadlines are fast approaching, so please spread the word – teachers, tutors, guidance counselors, students, home school groups, 4-H, scouts... The link for the student poetry contest is on our contest page, here: [Poetry Society of Tennessee Contests](#).

Date Change

Monthly Members-Only Contest due date change. Effective beginning with the January monthly contest, all entries must be **received by** the 15th of the month. So for example, the January contest will be due on December 15th; the February contest will be due on January 15th.

- We are changing the date, because we need to ensure our coordinator has sufficient time to mail poems to the judge, the judge has time to review and judge the contest, and then Ann Carolyn can coordinate certificates, checks, etc.
- We are clarifying for everyone that this is a **received by** date. Poems received after the 15th will not be considered for the contest.

Joy Harjo

PST-West Tennessee discussed our US Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo. For anyone not familiar with her work, poems.org, the Poetry Foundation, and other sources have several of her poems online. Her most recent book, *An American Sunrise*, was just published and may be available in your local library. As Russell Strauss noted, "her poetry is very accessible, not academic" — there are common themes and images everyone can relate to. Please give some of her work a read!

Chapter News

PST-NE

- PST-NE began their meetings at Grandview Christian Church (new location!) with a program by Dr. Jesse Graves from ETSU on preparing poems for submission and marketing suggestions.
- PST-NE is organizing a second critiquing group in the Kingsport area for evening opportunities. Contact Rose Klix (us@roseklix.com) for times and dates.

PST-Knoxville — no update this month

PST-West Tennessee

- Reminder that open mic readings are the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Café Eclectic on McLean; our next reading is 11/13 from 7-8. Please bring your original poetry, and a friend. We're seeing some interested poets attending....let's grow the chapter, folks!
- The West Tennessee Holiday Party is on 12/14 at Pyro's on Ridgeway (flyer attached). We will NOT have a meeting the first Saturday, due to the St. Jude Marathon. Please RSVP to Lori (plmegoetz@bellsouth.net) so we have a headcount of who is attending.

November Member's Only Contest Winners

Sponsor: PST-Knoxville, "It's All Relative", about a relative OR 2 or more related things

- 1st Place Lori Goetz, Germantown, TN, A Reason to Study Engineering
- 2nd Place, Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX, Grandma's Smile
- 3rd Place, Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR, There's No Better
- 1HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, Images
- 2HM Charles K. Firmage, Eagle Pass, TX, The Meaning of Life
- 3HM Sara Gipson, Scott, AR, Patriot Salute

December Member's Only Contest

Sponsor, JoAn Howerton; Subject: Memories of Christmas, Shakespearean sonnet

Please send entries to Monthly Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671 no later than November 20, 2019 (received-by date).

January Member's Only Contest

Sponsor, Florence Bruce; Subject, any; Pantoum; 36 lines max

Please send entries to Monthly Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671 no later than December 15, 2019 (received-by date). NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!

Upcoming Critiquing Sessions

December's critiquing session is NFSPS Contest #4, The Margo Award, Subject: Wolves, Form: Any, 50 line limit. Remember, if you're out of town, you can send 10 copies of your poem to Lori Goetz, 2153 Wood Creek Dr., Germantown, TN 38138, and I'll send you a PDF of critiquing comments from the group.