

Happy Holidays from PST. I know everyone's busy, but wanted to send a few reminders, and also plant a few seeds for 2020:

2020 Critiquing Panel at PST-West Tennessee's January 2020 meeting.

If you are planning to submit a poem, please email your non-IDed copy to Lori (plmeagoetz@bellsouth.net) by 12/18. The panel will select 5-6 poem to be critiqued during the regular meeting at the White Station Public Library from 2-4. This is a very popular meeting with members — please plan to attend.

Monthly, Member's Only Contests

Per recent changes, these must be postmarked by the 15th of the month.

- January's contest: Sponsor, Florence Bruce; Subject, any; Pantoum; 36 lines max. **Note 12/16 is the last day for the January contest's postmark, folks, because the 15th was a Sunday!!!**
- February's contest: Sponsor, Russell Strauss; Keep Your Sunny Side Up (a humorous poem or a poem about humor).
- March's contest: Sponsor, Lori Goetz; Subject: yellow; Free Verse; 20 lines max.

Please send entries to Monthly Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671. (DO NOT SEND ENTRIES TO LORI!!) Remember all future contests are shown on our webpage, poetrytennessee.org.

Student Poetry Contest

Elementary and eye poem contests are due on 2/15. 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 webpage, poetrytennessee.org.

NFSPS Challenges/Critiquing Sessions

In January, Lori Goetz will be guest host, and we will be focusing on NFSPS #10, an ekphrastic poem. Note that there is a second contest this year with an ekphrastic poem (#41), so we can hit two birds with one stone. Russell was kind enough to share information from a recent continuing ed class: "ekphrastic poems are very popular right now; be sure to select a work of art which is likely to be familiar to the judge. A personal photo or unknown artwork is not going to resonate with him/her." Remember you can find all kinds of references for poetry forms on Florence Bruce's blogspot, <http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/>.

Upcoming challenges/critiquing sessions are posted on the webpage, poetrytennessee.org. We continue through March. Want to participate but are out of town? Send 10 hardcopies to Lori Goetz, 2153 Wood Creek Drive, Germantown, TN 38138. I'll PDF comments back to you.

December 2019 Monthly Contest Winners

Sponsor, JoAn Howerton; Subject: Memories of Christmas, Shakespearean sonnet;
Judged by JoAn Howerton and Crystal Robbins Czerwinski

- 1st Place Florence Bruce, Memphis, TN. "December Grief"
- 2nd Place Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN. "Santa's Second Workshop"
- 3rd Place Monty Payne, Bartlett, TN. "Paper Plate Christmas Angel"
- 1HM, Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS. "Making Christmas Memories"
- 2HM Sara Gipson, Scott, AR. "Christmas Conformity"

Upcoming Programs for West Tennessee Members

January — Panel Critique

February — Julie Cummins, NFSPS President; Janet Qually, animals as subjects

March — Haiku Madness! Bring about 30 haikus for a “tournament”!

April — Student awards

May — to-be-determined

Plus, at each program: read around, announcement of members’ only awards for that month.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday and a fantastic new year!

- Lori