

Hello All!

PST begins its 2019/2020 year! As announced in last month's news-blast, we are changing formats to focus more on poetry and opportunities. If you are interested in Board Meeting minutes, see the website for poetrytennessee.org (for PST-West Tennessee) or pstne.weebly.com (for PST-NE).

PST Monthly Program — Keatsian Ode

Russell Strauss presented on the Keatsian Ode, which is typically written in praise of something. In his opinion, this is the easiest type of ode to write (there are many types of odes, many of which are very complex). While Keats himself often broke these rules, if you are entering an ode into a contest, it's best to follow the standard rules:

- 3 stanzas, with 10 lines in each stanza
- the rhyme scheme is ababcdecde; fgfghijhij, klklmnopno
- the ode must be in iambic pentameter
- beware corymbs, which throw off your meter — a strict judge will eliminate your poem

Russell likes this form, because while it is traditionally used for praise, it is very versatile. You can use the Keatsian Ode form for any formal verse; in a contest just define it as a "Keatsian Ode Form". For more information, see Florence's Blogspot for more details/examples (<http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/>).

63rd Annual Poetry Society of Tennessee Poetry Festival

All are invited to PST's Poetry Festival on October 19th at Southwest Tennessee Community College. Bring a student! Bring a friend! Get excited! This is going to be fun! A registration form is attached. **Please send your registration and registration fee to JoAn Howerton by September 20th.** We are trying to get a headcount and plan for both the informal get-together on Friday night and lunch the day of the Festival.

Our agenda includes:

- Workshop with Budd Powell Mahan
- Oral Poetry Contests (either traditional reading or performance [i.e., memorized])
- Announcement/Reading of Contest Winners

See our website (<https://www.poetrytennessee.org/annual-festival-and-contest.html>) for more details, and a bio on Budd Powell Mahan!

For more information, please contact JoAn Howerton (joan0620@att.net) or me (plmeagoetz@bellsouth.net). For regular mail members, JoAn's contact info is on the registration form.

PST-NE Contest for Johnson City Sesquicentennial

All poets (adult and high school students) are invited to participate in the Poetry Contest for the Johnson City Sesquicentennial, sponsored by PST-NE. Rules are attached to this email (enclosed for hardcopy members). Please contact Rose Klix (us@roseklix.com) with any questions.

Chapter News

- PST-NE had three programs this summer, including guest speakers Rieppe Moore ("Following the Metaphor"), Micah McCrotty ("Prose Poetry"), and Rebekah Voiles ("Surrealism"). PST-NE was very busy with the Appalachian Fair, including hosting an education table and judging contests. PST-NE meets on the fourth Saturday of every month; next meeting is 9/28.
- PST-Knoxville had several programs this summer, with topics on unique poetry forms, the earliest US female poet laureate, and on performing poetry. They are looking forward to starting again in September, when more members are in town. PST-Knoxville meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month; next meeting is 9/25.
- PST-West Tennessee was on hiatus for the summer, but we did continue our 1st Tuesday readings at Café Eclectic, where we are starting to see an uptick in attendance; we are also very busy coordinating for the 63rd Annual Festival. PST-West Tennessee meets on the first Saturday of every month; however, we will not be holding a meeting in October due to the 63rd annual festival on 10/19.

Upcoming Member-Only Contests

There is no October contest due to the Festival. Our next contest will be NOVEMBER. It is sponsored by PST-Knoxville. Subject, It's all relative — about a relative OR 2 or more related things. 25 lines; Form: Any. Please send entries to Monthly Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671 no later than October 20, 2019.

Upcoming Critiquing Opportunities

There will be no critiquing session in October due to the Festival. November's critiquing session is NFSPS #49, Miriam S. Strauss Award, Subject: A scary or spooky poem, Form: Any, 10-40 line limit.

Don't know what a critiquing session is? Former President Russell Strauss picks a handful of NFSPS contests for us to write poems for — deliberately picking different subjects/forms so we can "stretch our wings" a bit and practice. Bring 10 copies to the meeting (not in Memphis? see note below...). We'll read it aloud during the critiquing portion of our meeting and attendees will offer comments; we can then revise our poems for submittal to Nationals next March. Because these are NFSPS contests, please watch NFSPS contest requirements for line limits, form, etc. In March, Russell holds a drawing and offers money prizes for participants, based on the number of critiquing sessions you participated in.

Note: If you are out of town and want to participate, feel free to send 10 copies to me (Lori Goetz, 2153 Wood Creek Dr., Germantown, TN 38138) by the 1st of the month. I'll return comments after the West TN meeting.

Poetry Round-Robin Critiquing

Looking for additional critiquing on your poems? We are gauging interest for round-robin groups, where multiple poets comment on each other's poems. Critiquing is done via mail or email. These groups are not focused on specific contests; they are open to any type of poem with the intent of helping poets develop their skills. Please let me know if you are interested (Lori Goetz, plmegoetz@bellsouth.net, 901-652-4385, or 2153 Wood Creek Dr., Germantown, TN 38138).

September Member-Only Contest Winners

Sponsor, Gail Denham; Subject: First Line Contest. Any form; 30 lines max.

1st — Charles Firmage, Eagle Pass, TX; "A Time for Dreaming"

2nd — Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN; "First Star"

3rd — Florence Bruce, Memphis, TN; "Fifty-Fifty Deal"

1HM — Rose Klix, Johnson City, TN; "Miss Kitty's History Rewritten"

2HM — Emory Jones, Iuka, MS; "Against the Wall"

3HM — Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX; "What Road Is This?"

Questions?

As always, please contact me with any questions.

- Lori Goetz
901-652-4385

PS – Reminder: Our student poetry contest is open. Contest form attached!