

Happy New Year to all PST Members!

Panel Critiquing Session

Many thanks to everyone who sent in poems for the Panel Critiquing Session: we had five volunteers who sent in 12 poems, all of which were critiqued at West Tennessee's January 4th meeting. Russell Strauss, Janet Qually, William Hill, and Ann Carolyn Cates were our panelists. If you were a volunteer, you will receive your poems, with feedback from the panel, under separate cover. It was a wonderful meeting, as always, with lots of discussion and commentary.

NFSPS News

- The National Convention will be held in Kansas City this year, June 11-14. Registration will be open soon.
- The NFSPS contest deadline is drawing near: all contests must be postmarked by 3/15 or you may submit electronically using [Submittable.com](http://www.nfsps.com).
- The January 2020 edition of Strophes is available online at <http://www.nfsps.com/Strophes2020-Jan.pdf>.

Sponsorships Needed — 64th Annual PST Festival and Contest

It's that time again...we need sponsorships for our annual contests, to be held in conjunction with our 64th annual festival. The due date for all sponsorship submissions is March 15th; please submit all sponsorships to Lori Goetz, plmegetz@bellsouth.net. We had a lot of very positive feedback from out-of-town and non-PST poets last year, complimenting all of our sponsors on the broad variety of contests (subjects and forms). Let's give them a lot of wonderful options again this year! Sponsorship form is attached.

PST Student Contest

High school and middle school poems have been judged and returned to Frances Cowden, but there is still time to submit elementary grade poems, due 2/15. All grades may still submit eye poems, due 2/15. Please spread the word!

PST-West Tennessee Reminders

- Poetry Reading/Open Mic — Café Eclectic, Wednesday, 1/8, 7 pm
- February meeting — White Station Public Library, 2/1, 2-4 pm (Agenda: guest speaker, NFSPS president Julie Cummings; animals in poetry, Janet Qually)
- Poetry Reading/Open Mic — Café Eclectic, Wednesday, 2/12, 7 pm
- March meeting — White Station Public Library, 3/7, 2-4 pm (Agenda: Haiku Madness — bring about 30 haikus and \$1, \$2, or \$3 for our "betting pool", and join our haiku tournament)

January Monthly Members-Only Contest Results

Pantoum, any subject. Sponsored and Judged by Florence Bruce.

- 1st place Lori Goetz, Germantown, TN "The Renters"
- 2nd place Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN "The Night Watchman"
- 3rd place Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX "Aerial Attraction"
- Honorable Mention: Mark Hudson, Evanston, Illinois "Praying for a Pantoum"

February Monthly Members-Only Contest

Sponsor, Russell Strauss; Keep Your Sunny Side Up (a humorous poem or a poem about humor). Deadline is January 15 (postmarked date) 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.

February NFSPS Challenge/Critique

NFSPS Contest #7, Stone Gathering Award, Subject: The Natural World, Form: Prose, 40 line limit. Critiquing will be a part of PST-West Tennessee's February agenda. Remember if you would like to participate remotely, please send Lori Goetz 10 copies and she will return comments to you; because the February meeting is on 2/1, please get your poem to her no later than 1/28-29...

Board Meeting Minutes

PST-West Tennessee board meeting minutes for January 2020 are posted on our website, poetrytennessee.org.