

Hello All, and Happy February!

NFSPS President Julie Cummins visited with PST-West Tennessee on February 1, and shared a bit about what is going on both at Nationals as well as her home society, the Columbine Poets (Colorado). We enjoyed a nice, low-key visit!

Janet Qually – Presentation on Animals in Poetry

She shared several examples, and reminded us that often animals or animal imagery are surrogates for our own emotions. This imagery conveys universal concepts (for example, a coyote howling could symbolize loneliness; a dove could symbolize peace, grief, or mourning). Make sure an image with multiple symbolism is clear from the poem's context (a coyote can be lonely, but a coyote can also represent a trickster in southwestern culture). Also (Julie pointed out) even animals have regional pronunciation (coyote can be two or three syllables, depending on where you are!).

Student Contest

Reminder that student contests (elementary grades) and eye poems are due on 2/15. This is the final contest deadline. See our website for details:

<https://www.poetrytennessee.org/student-contests.html>.

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, plmegoetz@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.

February Member's Only Contest Winners

Sponsor, Russell Strauss; Keep Your Sunny Side Up (a humorous poem or a poem about humor).

- 1st place, Lori Goetz, Germantown, TN — "Beautiful Bacon"
- 2nd place, Jonathan Bennett, Lakeland, TN — "Uncracked"
- 3rd place, Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX — "Ravin' Mad"
- HM, Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR — "Scattered"

March Member's Only Contest

Sponsor, Lori Goetz; Subject: yellow; Free Verse; 20 lines max; \$15/\$10/\$5. Deadline is February 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.

April Member's Only Contest

Sponsor: PST-NE; Subject: Any; Form: Any; 40 line max; \$25/\$15/\$10. Deadline is March 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.

March NFSPS Challenge/Critiquing Session

NFSPS Contest#3, NFSPS Board Award, Subject: Any, Form: "In Memoriam" Stanzas. For those who don't know what this style is, in memoriam stanzas quatrain in iambic tetrameter, with an abba rhyming pattern. Look for more information to be posted on Florence Bruce's Blogpot: <http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/>. This critiquing will be a part of PST-West Tennessee's March agenda. Remember if you would like to participate remotely, please send Lori Goetz 10 copies and she will return comments to you.

Chapter News:

- Northeast —
 - In December the PST-Northeast group had a holiday party at Grandview Christian Church with games and poetry reading
 - In January, they met at Grandview Christian Church and celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year learning about new year traditions (the heritage of member Alice Zhang) and sharing 8th and 11th century poems, and started planning 2020 events.
 - See the <http://pstne.weebly.com/> for their events schedule.
- Knoxville — no news; see the [Knoxville Facebook page](#) for more information.
- Memphis — Two items:
 - Our open mic reading schedule Café Eclectic (on McLean) is 7-8 pm the following days: February 12; March 11; April 8; and May 13.
 - The March meeting (March 7, at the White Station Public Library) will be HAIKU MADNESS — bring about 30 haikus and \$1, \$2, or \$3 for our "betting pool", and join our haiku tournament.

As always, contact Lori with questions.

- Lori

Treasurer's Report:

Bank balance \$2051; three new members joined PST-West Tennessee in January.

Rosters for the three chapters were submitted to Nationals in late December.