

Hello All PST Members!

PST-West Tennessee had a lovely March meeting with Haiku Madness. Several members brought in haikus to share. Janet Qually and Lori Goetz shared what they love about the form, and then we had a read-around and critiqued. Everyone learned a lot! Remember: every haiku must have its seasonal reference (kigo), and then its juxtaposition or contrasting element. And Janet reminded us — haikus must be “in the present” and visible: no poetic forms, no abstract references. While they are a tiny form, they are QUITE CHALLENGING.

Lots of news/updates, so please read through below.

NFSPS

- Nationals are due on 3/15. Please make sure your poems are submitted by the due date. Remember you have two ways to submit: hardcopy (traditional format) or electronically (via Submittable.com). The formatting and requirements are a bit different for the two approaches, so follow the directions! Just getting started? Here’s the link to the NFSPS contests: https://www.nfsps.com/poetry_contests.htm
- The Blackberry Peach (spoken and heard) contest is also due 3/15. Please check the website for additional instructions. <https://www.nfsps.com/BBP3Guidelines.html>

NFSPS Annual Convention

If you are planning to attend the NFSPS annual convention this year, it will be held at the Holiday Inn Aladdin, Kansas City Missouri, 6/11-15. No details have been posted yet, but the link is here:

<https://www.nfsps.com/conv.html>

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’re getting down to the wire...please get those sponsorships in, folks. Sponsorship forms are attached. If you want to sponsor, please EMAIL ME ASAP. We are trying to finish the contest brochure so it can be distributed in April.

2019/2020 Student Contest

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped with and spread the word about our Student Contest! Winners will be announced in Memphis on 4/4; we will also post in our April news and on our website. West Tennessee members, please note **April’s meeting will be at Colonial Park United Methodist Church, and we need cookies and drinks for the kids!** Also, please be thinking ahead for next year — if you meet a teacher, spread the word about our contest so they can plan for next year!

2020 Patron Poems

It’s time to submit 2020 Patron Poems for inclusion in our annual anthology, *Tennessee Voices*. For \$15, patrons can submit up to 3 poems. Our selection committee will select one poem for inclusion in the anthology. Patrons will receive two additional copies of the anthology. **NEW SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020:**

- Each patron poem can be no longer than 40 lines
- Patron poems must be submitted as a Word or PDF file
- Each patron poem must have poet’s ID in the upper right corner
- Upper left corner, please indicate “Patron Poem Submission”

Email all patron poems to Lori Goetz no later than May 15, and she will forward them on to the patron poem selection committee.

NFSPS Critiquing Challenges

Russell Strauss drew names of those who participated in the critiquing challenges over the 2019/2020 year, and gave prizes to those who participated. Prizes were awarded to Harvey Stone and Lori Goetz.

March Member's Only Contest Winners

Sponsor: Lori Goetz; Subject: yellow; Free Verse; 20 lines max.

- 1st Place Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN "Taunt"
- 2nd Place Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX "Yellow Roses Tipped in Red"
- 3rd Place Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, "Shades of Yellow"
- 1HM Monty Payne, Bartlett, TN, "At My Father's Funeral"

Upcoming Member's Only Contests

- April — Sponsor: PST-NE; Subject: Any; Form: Any; 40 line max; \$25/\$15/\$10. Deadline is March 15 (postmarked date)
- May — Sponsor: Howard S. Carman, Jr.; Subject: Science (any field); Form: Rhymed; 40 line max; \$25/\$15/\$10. Deadline is April 15 (postmarked date)

Send entries to our Monthly Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671. Remember all future contests are shown on our webpage, <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/contests.html>.

2020/2021 PST Board Nominations

Both PST-NE and PST-West Tennessee Board Nominations have been completed. PST-NE will be voting in March. PST-West Tennessee ballots are attached to this email (return the ballot per the instructions, or bring to the April meeting). PST-Knoxville nominations will be announced in your meetings.

Chapter News — PST-NE

- In March, Catherine Pritchard Childress of East Tennessee State University presented on the chapbook, including sequencing poems, finding narrative arc, and bringing together the themes of a sequence. Two main comments included looking for how poems speak across a series, and identifying the 'glue' which binds the poems together. When the poems are all read together the whole book should be like one inclusive poem.
- PST-NE also announces an opportunity to partner with the Watauga Valley Art League in writing poems to an artwork; accepted poems will be published in a coffee table book with the art this fall. Finally, Rose Klix requested volunteers for three reading opportunities in April in honor of National Poetry Month, and volunteer sponsors/judges for the Appalachian Fair contests.

Chapter News — PST-Knoxville (currently transitioning locations; more information pending)

Chapter News — PST-West Tennessee

Upcoming West Tennessee Events

- PST Board Meeting was held on 3/7 — minutes are posted on our website, <https://www.poetrytennessee.org/news.html>
- 3/11 — Café Eclectic, 7 pm poetry reading
- 4/4 — Colonial Park United Methodist Church, 2-4 pm Student Awards (no meeting at the library!!!) Bring cookies and drinks for the kids!
- 4/8 — Café Eclectic, 7 pm poetry reading
- West Tennessee announced their May Program, 5/2, "Found Poetry". Please (a) bring in a poem that you've "found" and/or a source of poetry that inspires you, and (b) write a short poem based on the "found" poem to share with the group. We're hoping to learn about new books, websites, podcasts, etc. where we can learn about poetry resources!