

Hello Again, PST.

I'm wishing a happy and healthy holiday season for all of you. I do have some updates and reminders for you to keep up with PST events as the month becomes busier. There is also a plethora of new information that I hope you will print and keep handy.

First of all, we have two items coming up on the 15th. Your January Members Only Contest poem is due to be postmarked on or before that date. The contest information is as follows:

Sponsor: Carol Roberts, Subject: Any, Form: Ghazal, Lines: 10-24

Please consult (<http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/ghazal.html>) for a description.

Mail to our Contest Chair: Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671.

Further details on format etc. can be found at [www.poetrytennessee.org](http://www.poetrytennessee.org) under "Contests."

It is a good idea to consult Florence's Blog for every contest form unless It is "free verse." It's easy to get it wrong, i.e. "blank verse" form is not the same as "free verse" form. You might want to save this site information:

<http://www.poetrytennessee.org> click under "Resources", click under "Florence Bruce's Blogspot"

\*The judging for the December Contest sponsored by Florence Bruce is not yet complete and will be announced in January at the PST West meeting. Checks and Certificates will be sent at that time.

Also on December 15th, Tues. evening. 7:00 - 8:30 Central Time is our Google Meet PST Poetry Reading. Join with Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/jsx-rzpk-tbs>. Bring one or two poems to read to the group.

Russell's Critiquing Challenge for January will be: NFSPS #22 Nevada State Poetry Society Award Subject: 2020, a year to forget? Form: any. 40 line limit. And will be part of our PST West January Meeting. (Below)

Our first (January) meeting will include a review of common errors made in contest submittals. If you are a frequent contest entrant, or you have just started entering contests, please plan on attending — these errors can get your poems disqualified or "demoted" from 1st/2nd/3rd place to an HM.

We will have our Annual Panel Critiquing session on February 6. Please see the schedule below for details, but we do need submissions for the panel to review. These are UNFINISHED, UNPUBLISHED poems, not award-winners. All poems will be critiqued anonymously. This is a fantastic session — a great learning experience.

As you meet/correspond with friends and family over the holidays, please spread the word that student contests (Elementary and Eye Poem) are still open, with deadlines on February 15.

PST will be sponsoring a contest in our 2021 Festival Contest Brochure in Memory of John Pell; John, the brother of long-time member Elizabeth Pell, passed away last month as a result of injuries in a fire that destroyed their home. If you would like to contribute to sponsoring the contest, or you would like more information about

donation opportunities in memory of John, please contact Elizabeth Shelley ([dogmama19@gmail.com](mailto:dogmama19@gmail.com)).

Our Spring 2021 West Tennessee Schedule is as follows; note that MANY of these meetings may be of interest to all PST members. The GoogleMeet link for ALL PST-West Tennessee meetings is <https://meet.google.com/jsx-rzpk-tbs> – it does not change. Please join us if you can!

January 2 — In preparation for NFSPS submittals in March, we will review general contest rules and common mistakes in submittals. We will also have Russell's NFSPS critiquing challenge for January, and the winners of the January contest. West Tennessee Board — please plan for a brief meeting afterwards.

February 6 — Everyone's favorite meeting – Annual Panel Critiquing!!! For our new members/non-members, a panel of our most senior poets provides feedback on submitted poems (no restrictions on forms, subjects, etc.). If you would like a poem to be considered, please email your poem for consideration to Lori Goetz ([poetrytennessee@gmail.com](mailto:poetrytennessee@gmail.com)) no later than 1/9/2021. We will also have Russell's NFSPS critiquing challenge for February, and the winners of the February contest

March 6 — Presentation on Tennessee Voices and Patron Poems — learn more about PST's anthology and patron opportunities! We will also announce the winners of the March contest.

April 3 — Announcement of Student Contest Winners (a link will be provided to all teachers with participating students). We will also announce the winners of the April contest. West Tennessee Board — please plan for a brief meeting afterwards.

May 1 — Guest Speaker; we will also announce the winners of the May contest.

Holiday Blessings!  
Elizabeth Shelley,  
Corresponding Secretary  
PST West