

Happy New Year, PST Members.

We have many challenges and activities coming up in the next couple of months, so this email will be long. I am going to send it as a PDF attachment, but since the links won't open in a PDF, I'll send those again separately at the bottom of the email. I'm hoping that you will print a copy to keep on hand as a reminder.

PST West had our monthly meeting last Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and besides our regular great learning session of reading and editing "Russell's Challenge" poetry and the announcement of the January "Members Only Contest" winners, we had a great training by Lori on common errors made in submitting poems to Tennessee contests, national contests, and other state contests – any contest, actually. I will also attach the PDF of the training on errors in this email to possibly help your poetry entries win or place in a higher category rather than be thrown out.

Upcoming Contests you need to be aware of:

**\*\* This was mentioned in the email for last month, but the deadline is fast approaching. February is the month when PST West, as part of its February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, — Everyone's favorite meeting – provides Annual Panel Critiquing!!! For our new members/non-members/all members, a panel of our most senior poets provides feedback on submitted poems (no restrictions on forms, subjects, etc.). These are UNFINISHED, UNPUBLISHED poems, not award-winners. All poems will be critiqued anonymously. 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. Everyone is welcome.**

The February Members Only Contest deadline is also approaching on January 15<sup>th</sup> (postmarked deadline). Sponsor: Russell Strauss, Subject: "Get a Job" — on the subject of jobs, work or retirement from work, Form: Any, Lines: 10-30 lines. Please consult [www.poetrytennessee.org](http://www.poetrytennessee.org) under contests if you have any questions on formatting. Mail your entries to Contest Chair, Ann Carolyn Cates, 7471 Greenbrook Pkwy, Southaven, MS 38671.

Russell's Challenge (NFSPS contest critiquing challenge) for February is NFSPS#15 Poet's Work Award. Subject: Life as Other. Form: Persona Poem. If you are not sure of the form, check [www.poetrytennessee.org](http://www.poetrytennessee.org) under "Resources" under "Florence Bruce's Blog Spot." (Personification)  
Please email any poem you would like to submit to Lori Goetz; [poetrytennessee@gmail.com](mailto:poetrytennessee@gmail.com) no later than 5:00 pm (CST) the Wednesday prior to our West PST meeting (the first Saturday of each month)

If you are planning to attend the meeting, please email Lori at [poetrytennessee@gmail.com](mailto:poetrytennessee@gmail.com) , so she knows to email you copies of the poems to be critiqued.

Another contest challenge for Tennessee Residents only is related to the following picture. Submit an original and unpublished poem related to Janet Qually's Artwork below. Form: any, Subject: any, Limit: 32 lines. No simultaneous submissions, deadline: must be received by March 1, 2021, only entries typed in a size 12 font will qualify. \$25.00 to winner and publication in *Tennessee Voices*.



Don't forget to pass on information about Student Contests to teachers, parents, people who work with young people. The Elementary Division Poems and Eye Poems are due February 15<sup>th</sup>. Information is on [www.poetrytennessee.org](http://www.poetrytennessee.org) under "Student Contests."

The National Federation of Poetry Societies [www.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.com) has its deadline for all National contests as March 15, 2021, so it's a good idea to be working on your submissions for those. Also listed on its website are all the state contests, some of which are coming up soon, such as Mississippi, so be sure to check them out.

### Poetry Readings for all members:

#### Scheduled Poetry Readings THURSDAYS

- January 21
- February 18
- March 18
- April 15
- May 13

7:00 – 8:30 pm Central Standard Time

Join with Google Meet [meet.google.com/mcq-oovg-bdj](https://meet.google.com/mcq-oovg-bdj)

**\*\*The same password has been set for all of the readings**

**The Winners of the December Members Only Contest are as follows:**

Florence Bruce was the sponsor and the form was blank verse.

1st place Lisa Kamolnick, Blountville, TN "Good Breeding"

2nd place Monty Payne, Bartlett, TN " An Intercession for Eve"

3rd place Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, Ms " Temporary Freedom"

Only one honorable mention was awarded.

Rose Klix Johnson City, TN. "Rainbow Envy"

**The Winners of the January Members only are:**

Carol Roberts sponsored and judged the Ghazal contest. (12 entries)

1st place Barbara Blanks Garland, Texas "Hearing Loss"

2nd place Lela Buis Knoxville, TN "Starman Drives"

3rd place Von Bourland Happy, Texas "White Sands National Monument"

Honorable Mentions:

1 HM Russell Strauss Memphis, TN "On that horse in the fifth at Arlington"

2HM Ann Carolyn Cates Southaven, MS " The Passage of Time"

3 HM William Hill Southaven, MS "2020"

Congratulations, Poets!!!!

\*\*There is a new edition of Strophes on the NFSPS website [www.nfsp.com](http://www.nfsp.com)

As you see, in this new year, we have a lot of opportunities available to us.

Good Luck!!

Elizabeth Shelley, Corresponding Secretary PST West