

# Tennessee Voices Bulletin

## Newsletter of the Poetry Society of Tennessee

June, 2011

Memphis, TN

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the May meeting, I was installed as President, along with an outstanding group of officers and board members with whom I look forward to serving in the upcoming year. It will be hard to top the achievements of the last couple of years, which include the establishment of the East Tennessee chapter and the hosting, along with our friends from Arkansas and Mississippi, of the NFSPS convention here in Memphis, Tennessee.

JoAn Howerton has successfully met her stretch goal of increasing the number of contests in this year's fall festival, and she is now putting the finishing touches on the festival brochure. I encourage all of you to enter as many contests as you can and to attend the festival this fall.

I would like to thank Caroline Sposto for building our website. If you have not seen it,

**The PST Summer Poetry Reading is scheduled for Saturday, August 20, 2011 from 2-5 p.m. at the home of Bill and JoAn Howerton, 2563 Twin Woods Cove, Memphis, TN 38134. Food will be provided but BYOB.**

**Please RSVP at [joanna38019@yahoo.com](mailto:joanna38019@yahoo.com)**

### NEWS FROM THE NORTH EAST CHAPTER OF PST

PST-NE is planning on slowing down a bit for the summer months and getting our poetry ready for entries in the Mid-South Festival. Our

go to TPSTN.ORG and take a look. Keep in mind that a website is like a newsletter. If no one provides articles and information for a newsletter, it is just a blank sheet of paper. We need to continually provide information, articles, photos, etc. to Caroline in order to improve the website and to keep it current. This will become one of our most important ways to reach out to the community and to attract new members.

The most important way to reach out and attract new members is still word of mouth. Keep spreading the word about poetry and our organization. Invite people to attend meetings. Help improve the quality of our meetings by suggesting new ideas. And continue reading, writing, and sharing the joy of poetry.

Randy Stoker

President, The Poetry Society of Tennessee

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members voted to continue to share poetry readings throughout the summer months.

So far in 2011 we've printed two more anthologies: "Images of Love" and "Funny You Should Say That. . ." All three of our anthologies are for sale at \$7 each. The first one is entitled "Spiritual Reflections."

Todd Bailey professionally compiled our Website - and it didn't cost us for the site nor for his administrative services! He's a wonderful gem! In March we held our Awards Ceremony for the Poem in Your Pocket Contest and distributed business card size copies of the winning poems during National Poetry Month in April. In May, Janice Hornburg and PST-NE hosted an all

day workshop with Jane Hicks. Also in May, Todd Bailey and Marlene Simpson led fun classes in poetry at Sulphur Springs Elementary School. These were contacts made during our Poem in Your Pocket contest. Members are still gleaming awards in poetry contests. We currently are 17 members strong inclusive of poets aged 21 through 95. Have an awesome summer!

Rose Klix

### POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE OFFICERS 2011-2012:

President	Randy Stoker
Vice President	Joan Howerton
Secretary	Jeanine Mah
Treasurer	Leslie Blakeburn
Corresponding Secretary	Caroline Sposto
Board Members	Sarah Hull Gurley William Prince McLemore
Poet Laureate, 2011-2012	Jeanine Mah

### APRIL MONTHLY WINNERS

#### Sponsor: Sarah Hull Gurley

1<sup>st</sup> Jim Collier, Abington, VA  
2<sup>nd</sup> D. Beecher Smith, II, Memphis, TN  
1HM Ben Dugger, Elizabethton, TN  
2HM Sara Gipson, N. Little Rock, AR

### MAY MONTHLY WINNERS

#### Sponsor: Thomas McDaniel, Senyru

1<sup>st</sup> Beecher Smith, Memphis, TN  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Dugger, Elizabethton, TN  
and Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jeanine Mah, Memphis, TN  
and Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS

1HM Eilene Spears, Rogersville, TN  
2HM Rose Klix, Johnson City, TN  
3HM Pete Harris, Memphis, TN

### \*PST CONTESTS AND RULES OF ENTRY

**Monthly Contests:** PST offers a monthly poetry contest 8 times a year (none in June, July, August, and October). Paid members may enter one unpublished poem in each monthly contest. Criteria are set each month by the contest sponsor(s). Length is 30 lines unless otherwise specified. Prizes are \$15, \$10, and \$5 for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**General Submission Guidelines:** For monthly and Annual, send two copies of one poem to Pete Harris, PST Contest Chairman, 1645 Faxon, Memphis, TN 38112. Use a legible print style (font) and standard 8.5" x 11" white paper; do not send handwriting or script. Type the name, and contest number when applicable, in the upper left hand corner of both copies; place your name and address in the upper right hand corner of only one copy. Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month (e.g.: March contest entries should be postmarked no later than February 20<sup>th</sup>).

### Contests Coming Up

**Annual Contest:** This contest (any, any, 40 lines) is **DUE JUNE 20**. Since it is judged by an outsider, members may submit poems they have used earlier. (But never resubmit previous 1<sup>st</sup> place winners which are to published in the yearbook.) Prizes are larger in the Annual. (subject to amounts given by contributors who may also enter.)

**September Contest:** Sponsor: Jeanine Mah: any subject, any form, 40 line limit.

**November Contest:** Sponsor: Caroline Sposto: a humorous poem - any traditional, rhyming form 40 lines maximum.

**Do not forget to send your patron poems for the 2010-2011 Yearbook to Frances Cowden by July 1. Send one-three published or award winning poems, 30 line limit, and \$15 for entry. You will receive two extra copies of the yearbook if one is accepted. Your money will be returned if none accepted.** Email of poems and check in snail mail is preferred if possible.

To check out our official website, go to [www.tpstn.org](http://www.tpstn.org).

### **Literary Awards and Publications of PST-NE Members Jan through May 2011**

Two Anthologies published by PST-NE in 2011:

***Images of Love*** with 46 poems from 13 PST-NE poets (C. T. Bailey, James D. Collier, Martha Culp, Benjamin A. Dugger, Janice Hornburg, John Jenkins, Saundra Kelly, Rose Klix, Ehtan McCasland, Gretchen McCroskey, Marlene Simpson, Eileen Spears, and John Summers)

***Funny You Should Say That*** . . . with 39 poems from 14 PST-NE poets (C. T. Bailey, James D. Collier, Martha Culp, Benjamin A. Dugger, Sharon Fox, Janice Hornburg, John C. Jenkins, Saundra Kelley, Rose Klix, Ethan McCasland, Gretchen McCroskey, Marlene Simpson, John Summers) and a guest PST poet (Florence Bruce).

**Todd Bailey** - NE State Community College 1<sup>st</sup> place poetry \$50 for “Papaw Picks on Saturday Night,” 2<sup>nd</sup> place short story for “Bound Together,” Non-fiction Honorable Mention for “Magical,” and publication of all these in “Echoes and Images” with poems “Chrome,” Tattoo,” and “Garden Hat.”

Featured poet in A! Magazine in March with his poem “Garden Hat” (The School Poetry Workshop at Sulphur Springs Todd handled as a solo yesterday (May 17), because Marlene had a family emergency. He said it was a blast and the 45 second grade students were attentive and didn’t want to leave after the final bell!)

**Jim Collier** – 1<sup>st</sup> Place PST April for “Strange”

**Ben Dugger** – Four HM awards from Poetry Society of Pennsylvania

Poem in Your Pocket – 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$15 “Apart from the Main”

May PST contest Senryu tied for second place

published poem “On Broken Ground” in the Feb. 2011 “Common Ground” newspaper.

2HM from Poetry Society of Virginia for “Roll On”

1<sup>st</sup> HM from PST April for “Winding Down”

**Saundra Kelley** – actor in Jonesborough community stories play “I Am Home” from April through May

**Ethan McCasland** - NE State Community College published poem “Rocks and Hard Places” and “How to Write a Poem”

Poem in Your Pocket 1<sup>st</sup> place \$30 in college category for “Functionality Fighters”

**Rose Klix** – NE State Community College 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$50 for short story “Giant Thinking”, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$25 for poetry “Free Dance”, Honorable Mention for nonfiction “Colder and Colder” all published in Echoes and Images with two more poems “Baggage” and “Hooked on Books”, “Prom Tryouts” was semi-finalist in a one-act play contest and stage read in April. White Buffalo Poets Laureate awarded the Peace Pipe Prize and \$15 for “Daughter of Selu” to be published on their website in their fall anthology, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$20 in PSV for “Huge Hugs” 1H in PST Jan “Clouds are Cool”, 2H in PST May Senryu for “Deadline-driven Jack”, HM from SDSPS for “King of the Moment”, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$10 for JC Library for “Golden Ekphrastic”

**Gretchen McCroskey** – Poem in Your Pocket 1<sup>st</sup> place \$45, for “Against the Night,” 3<sup>rd</sup> Place PST March for “Freedom”

**Marlene Simpson** – published a poem in “Common Ground” newspaper.

**Eileen Spears** \$150 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Award and publication in fall 2011 Old Farmer's Almanac for "My Best Original Money-Saving Habit" Essay Contest, 1H in PST May Senryu

**Also of note** other PST members **Charles Firmage** won 1<sup>st</sup> HM for “Amish Mist” and **Jeanine Mah** won 2<sup>nd</sup> Merit for “Words” in our Poem in Your Pocket contest.

Massachusetts State Poetry Society awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place to **Charles Firmage** for “Can’t Even Cook Corn Bread” and Sara Gipson 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize for “Ode to a Chair.”

## OTHER MEMBER NEWS

**Anita Capps** of Hendersonville, TN, is returning to PST. Anita has been taking care of sick people for the last few years, and so had to drop out for a few years. After meeting those responsibilities, she is now free to rejoin.

**Charles K. Firmage** has just published a chapbook called *There Are Places* (Feather Books, Shrewbury in the UK, 2011). The cover picture illustrates one of the poems in the collection—about thirty in all. Charles is working now on a new collection, each poem inspired by a B&W snapshot taken in Harlem. Charles is a song writer.

### **Our Condolences to:**

#### **The families of**

**Nellie Ruth Jones**  
**09-27-1924—04-29-2011**

A former President and Poet Laureate, Nellie was an award-winning and supporting member of PST. Her daughter, Jane, told us that poetry was a comfort to her mother especially in her later years when she could not be as active in PST.

**Orville Hancock**  
**03-12-1925—05-13-2011**

A veteran former PST member and leader, well-known in the Mid-South, Orville passed away in Texas.

**Louise Gearin**, former PST member and a Poet Laureate, lost her husband Gordon Gearin. Louise will be comforted to get caring notes from old friends. They have been living in assisted living in Jackson, TN, where their children live and work. The address is:

**Mrs. Louise Gearin and Family**  
**c/o Regency Retirement Village**  
**420 Cheyenne - #117**  
**Jackson, TN 38305**

From:  
 News Letter Editor  
 Frances Brinkley Cowden  
 8432 Wood Shadows LN  
 Memphis, TN 38018

FIRST CLASS MAIL

