

Since 1934
The Poetry Society of Oklahoma

EnVision

Affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

General Editor - Michaleen Pennington

Fall Newsletter, 2008

News Editor, Vivian R. Stewart

☞ Presidents' Message ☞

From Co Presidents, Mikki and Billy Pennington

(This time—It's Mikki's turn)

Aww shucks! And here I thought I could convince Billy to write this just one more time. But, that's okay. I want to thank some very important members for all of their hard work, dedication, encouragement, persistence, and constant "I can" outlook when it comes to the inner workings of PSO. You know who you are—because— you are always there with sound advice, a willingness to pitch in and help whether you are long distance or close at hand, and have lent constant support through your encouragement and positive input. We appreciate you!!

This year as many of you know, Billy and I thought long and hard and decided to pass on the reins of PSO Co Presidents. Not because we won't be, or don't want to be, involved anymore but because there is a project that needs to be worked on for the benefit of PSO and we both feel we can better devote ourselves to this project by stepping down, at least for now.

Also, I would like to let you know that preparations are full steam ahead with the 2009 Statewide Oklahoma Lore Youth Poetry Contest. The brochures are being printed at SNU again this year and will be mailed to about 2,200 schools statewide! Thank you SNU and Peggy Poteet and Jan Chafey, who were also instrumental in talking with the SNU printer and negotiating the costs of this endeavor.

There are still openings for 2009 Oklahoma Lore Youth Contest Co Sponsors for Grades 2, 4 and 7. If you would like to Co Sponsor one of these grades, let me know now! Co sponsors pay \$25, which goes towards the awards and some of the mailing and printing costs. First come, first choice of grade available that you would like to help sponsor!

Once again, thank you all for your patience during those early months and your encouragement and enthusiasm during the last two years. The experience we have had of being your Co Presidents' has been not only a learning one, but a joy as well!

For the Fellowship of Poets and Poetry,
Mikki Pennington, Co President

☞ PSO October Fiesta ☞

Business Meeting & Election & Installation-'09-'10 Officers

Saturday, October 25, 2008

11:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Nino's Mexican Restaurant

6509 N. W. Expressway, Oklahoma City

Nino's Phone 722-1808 Driving Directions on Back

National Poetry Day is October 15, but PSO will honor poets and poetry all month, especially at our Fall meeting October 25 at **Nino's**. Hungry? Order the best Mexican food or good American food from the menu and pay when you leave. Not hungry? Sip a beverage or pull up a chair and feast on fellowship and poetry. Reservations are not required, but call **Mikki or Billy Pennington, phone or email either** by October 20 so we can tell **Ninos** how many to plan for.

We'll have a Read Around, and suggest you bring a poem about **Colorful Autumn**, but any theme will be welcomed. Remember, bring (2) copies—one to read and one for the poetry judge. There'll be awards for best poems and for those who read most effectively.

Election of Officers: The Nominating Committee presents the following slate who have agreed to serve for two years if elected:

President: *Vivian R. Stewart*

Co President: *Rob Burgess*

1st VP: *J.D. Martin*; Co 1st VP: *Trina Lee*

2nd VP: *Theresa Huston*

Treasurer: *Marsha Kay Oldham*

Recording Secretary: *Carol Snow*

Co Recording Secretary: *Barbara Shepherd*

Corresponding Secretary: *Mikki Pennington*

Historian: *Betty Personette*


Parliamentarian: *Maxine Austin*

If you would like to serve on the PSO Board, or have other willing nominees in mind, PSO will welcome additional nominations from the floor.

PSO always welcomes your "two sense" worth!

"The sunrise kissed my Chrysalis—And I stood up-- and lived" -- Emily Dickinson

Looking Back: PSO's *Summer Splash Ride the Write Waves Workshop*, Saturday August 2, chaired by **Vivian Stewart** and **Wilma Goodman**, was held in Vivian and Lowell's home on Two Moons Pond in Piedmont. Special thanks to **Maxine Austin** for giving the Invocation and Benediction, and to **Dena Gorrell** for making an NFSPS Convention Report. Presenters were **Clark Elliot, Robert Ferrier Wilma Goodman, Carol Hamilton, Billy Pennington, Mikki Pennington** and **Maria Veres**. Most "Read Around Splash" poems were on the theme of water. 1st Place Poetry Award went to **Clark Elliott**; 2nd, to **Barbara Shepherd**, and 3rd to **Trina Lee**. Judge was **Robert Ferrier** who had spoken on "Writing and Judging out of the Box." 1st Place Presentation Award went to **Marsha Kay Oldham**; 2nd to **Maxine Austin**; and 3rd to **Nancy Gobel**. Presentation Judge was **Carol Hamilton** who had spoken on "How to Prepare for and Give Poetry Readings." First Place winners won books signed by world famous poet and teacher, **Lewis Turco**. The event ended with door prizes furnished by **Robert Burgess** and a poetry book donated by **Marie Johnson**.

PSO "We Got Mail!"  *Thank you for joining in prayers for our tiny twins.—Barbara Richard.... "Thank you for having the workshop in your home. Everyone shared and seemed close --Trina Lee.... "Thank you for the invitation to speak and judge at the PSO event in your home. I enjoyed the day immensely...."--Robert Ferrier.... "Thank you, PSO, for always thinking of me." --Hazel Bell Nicholas"Thank you for having the workshop in your home."--Clark and Louise Elliott*

Did you leave your Lawn Chair at the Workshop? To claim, call 405-373-0713 or email vivirustewart@aol.com

New PSO Members: Welcome **Karla Sue Meeker**, Oklahoma City, and **W. P. Wallace Madill**. Don't keep PSO a secret--membership is open all who like to read and write poetry.

Thank YOU!

--**Sandy Soli** for preparing the "Low-or-No-Cost Poetry Contest Opportunities" list for the Summer Workshop. Some deadlines are still pending. If you want a copy, send SASE for "Sandy's Handout" to **Vivian Stewart**, 2516 Morgan Rd. NE, Piedmont, OK 73078.

--**Marie Johnson**, (Chair) **J. D. Martin**, and **Mary Chase** for serving on the Auditing Committee and will make a report at the October meeting.

--**Betty Personette**, (Chair) **Rob Burgess**, **Marsha Kay Oldham**, **Carol Wood** (appointed) and **Barbara Richard** (appointed) served on the Nominating Committee and prepared our slate of 2009 nominees.

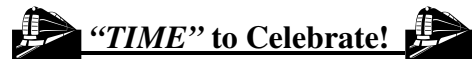
Count-Down-Contest Deadline-Around the Corner

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! by *Contest Chair, Marsha Kay*

Contest time is near again,
deadline postmark November's end.
Hurry now, the first is in,
a member, true, from IN(diana),
received in June and nothing since,
everyone should enter in!
Lots of different categories,
all kinds of sonnets, funny stories,
tales of memories, and blues stories,
floral descriptions, morning glories,
limericks, villanelles, Bible stories,
bottles from the sea, and historical stories.
Write about sisterly, or grandmother's love,
live for today, from the porch of,
laud a composer you're especially fond of.
Write about peace, like the white dove,
honor fathers, or tell of the ice cream you love.
Memories in poems seem to go hand in glove.
Yes, time is dwindling, time is brief,
you need to get with it, you'll find relief.
It's already September, I'm saying, "Good grief!
Where are the entries? That's my big beef."
So doctor, lawyer, Indian chief,
send me your entries, I'm no thief!
Five dollars, SASE, and inventory
are all I need to write this year's story.
So thanks in advance, I look forward to
receiving your entry so I won't be blue.

PSO Annual Contest Deadline November 30!
Bring packets to PSO or mail to **Marsha Kay Oldham**
PSO Contest Chair, P O Box 612, Garber, OK 73738

AND Mark your Calendars: The Annual PSO Awards Banquet will be Sat, March 14, 2009 at **Twin Hills Golf and Country Club**, 3401 N. E. 36, OKC. The cost, \$15.00 a plate, will include tax, gratuity and all amenities. Enter lots of poems so you'll have chances to read, and receive awards—and—if from Oklahoma—you may go home as the 2009 PSO Poet Laureate!



Flo and Wilbur Mason attended Flo's El Reno High School Class Reunion, July 1, and she won the grand prize—a handsome clock made from wood from a retired Rock Island Train. We bet she'll write a poem about it!

Oct. 15 National Poetry Day Happenings
Don Blanding Poets, Enid, presented an annual National Poetry Day radio reading. **Windmill Poets**, sponsored a National Poetry Day Contest--Theme: "The Power of Words." Awards Meeting, October 21.

"Poems speak to us when nothing else will." -- Robert Fox

Sun Beams & Oklahoma Roses to

--**Hazel Bell Nicholas** whose health concerns have not stopped her from writing "write" where she's planted.
--**Barbara Rasmussen** whose can no longer attend meetings, but who loves and supports PSO behind the scenes and was recognized at NFSPS Convention with a *Guiding Star Award*.

--**Carl Sennhenn** who underwent surgery—glad they can't keep a great poet down!

--**Marianne McNeil Logan**. Soon after her Mother's funeral services, her brother-in-law, **Lamont Hill** died from a heart attack after surgery and complications from an accident on a horse.

--**Dottie Weissenberger** over the death of her beloved sister **Penny** who passed away in mid-July after a long illness.

--**Marsha Kay Oldham** and family regarding the death of her Mother-in-law **Lucile**. Saying goodbye is never easy. May it help to know PSO friends care.

--PSO prayers and love to **Betty Personette** whose beloved son David passed away suddenly September 5th.

--**Dena & John Gorrell** lost Dena's aunt, Esther Groenewold, September 15. PSO prayers to you both.

Dr Terry Freeman Praises Oklahoma Lore

In a recent letter to **Governor Henry, Terry Freeman**, Retired Army Colonel; Chair of the English Department, Lawton High School; and frequent Outstanding PSO Teacher of the Year, said this about our Youth Contest:

"With topics aimed at Oklahoma's emblems, symbols and traditions, this contest not only encourages our youth to write creatively; but it also immerses them in the pride of being a Sooner. My own students have benefited tremendously from this opportunity...."

We appreciate Dr. Freeman for supporting our endeavors, and we cannot say enough about our dedicated members who work in behalf of the Youth Contest--especially webmaster, **Billy Pennington** for his creativity in designing "Oklahoma Lore Contest, Info" on www.poetrysocietyofoklahoma.org. Contact **Mikki Pennington** to support this project in any way, whether it be to sponsor or co-sponsor one of our 12 categories, help with mailing, or make a contribution. And don't forget to bring new stuffed animals—large and small--to our meetings for the kids' drawing next spring. It takes a year to collect enough for our big crowd of little people!

 **Tattle Tales** 

by Tess and Snoops—catching folks promoting poetry!

Kenneth Armstrong doesn't sit down—except to write! The editor of the *Hugo Daily New* has now Kenneth's stories into a chapbook titled *Best Stories*, \$5.95. Also, two of his poems will appear in the upcoming *Oklahoma Red Dirt Book Festival Anthology*. Congratulations!

Billy Pennington has been appointed Webmaster for the NFSPS Web Site! Way to go!

Maxine Austin, hostess of Enid's *Don Blanding Poetry Group*, met with the editor of the Enid Newspaper, and now they're running a weekly column, *Poetry Place*. Poems by **Jim Arnold** and **Marsha Kay Oldham** have been published.

Vivian Stewart is writing *Windmill Poets' Poetry Corner* for the *Piedmont-Surrey Gazette* which published poems by **Jim Arnold**, **Clark Elliott**, the late **Violet Amy Davis** and others. *Why not talk to the editor of your hometown newspaper about adding a poetry column? Oklahoma readers deserve and want good poetry!*

We noticed poems by **Clark Elliott**, **Mark Evans** and **Howard Stein** in the Spring *Harp Strings Poetry Journal*. Way to go!

Finishing Line Press has accepted *Theme and Variations*, **Howard Stein's** Chapbook, hot off the press in October. And in June they published **Carol Hamilton's** Chapbook, *Shots On*, which they have nominated for the *Oklahoma Book Award*. Both books are available through the publishing house and/or authors.

Madelyn Eastlund, editor of *Harp Strings Poetry Journal* and *Poets Forum Magazine* has given the latter publication a new format, but don't worry, PFM will be even better—if that could be possible! Those of us who subscribe say it's every serious poet's "must have."

Wilma Goodman picked up a paper at the El Reno Bank, and there was a poem by **Robert Ferrier**, proving he practices what he preaches: *"Get those poems out to the people."*

Vera Long, Secretary of Stillwater Writers, was guest speaker at the Poetry Writing Group in Perkins, and five of her poems will be published in the group's anthology. Yeah, Vera!

Marianne McNeil Logan received awards for the Lubbe and Laugh Lines Awards, Poetry Society of Texas Contests. We hear she wowed 'em August 5 at the Starlite Theater, Sam Houston Park, Amarillo; and at the National Cowboy Symposium, Lubbock, Sept. 4th-7th. She also gave a program at Will Rogers School, Ceta Canyon; and participated in the Fall Roundup for SWCPA at Ft. Amarillo, Oct 4. That gal keeps putting Texas on the Oklahoma map and proving "Girls certainly can write and perform cowboy poetry," as well as every other kind of excellent poetry!

Don't procrastinate! Send poetry-related news to *Tattle Tales*, c/o Vivian Stewart, vivirustew@aol.com, or mail to 2516 Morgan Rd. NE, Piedmont, OK, 73078. Tess will type it up, and Snoops might even add a typo or two for readers who like to find 'em.

Please read! Even if you skip the rest of the newsletter, please read this message!

Included in this newsletter is a copy of the PSO Constitution. Please review this prior to the October meeting as we will be discussing the suggested changes that will affect the PSO Constitution and vote on them. You may refer to your 2008 Yearbook for the original wording of the Constitution. Suggested changes are noted in bold type.

These changes are very important to the future of PSO for a couple of reason. One, it will bring us forward. As you know the original Constitution was drawn up in around 1985 when PSO was first incorporated. Not only have the times changed but also, new modes of communication are now available.

Secondly, Billy, Barbara Shepherd and I hope, over the next year, to work closely on changing PSO's Federal Income Tax classification in order to be able to apply for and receive grants. Grants would benefit PSO by helping defer the costs of the Statewide Oklahoma Lore Youth Poetry Contest.

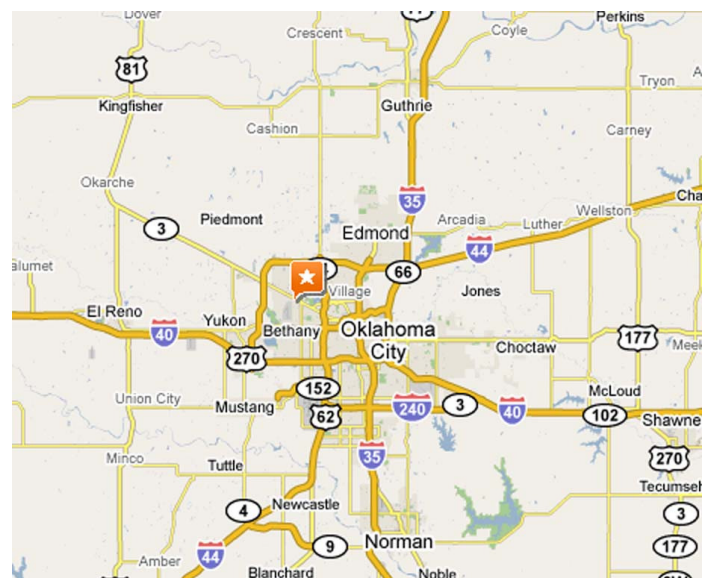
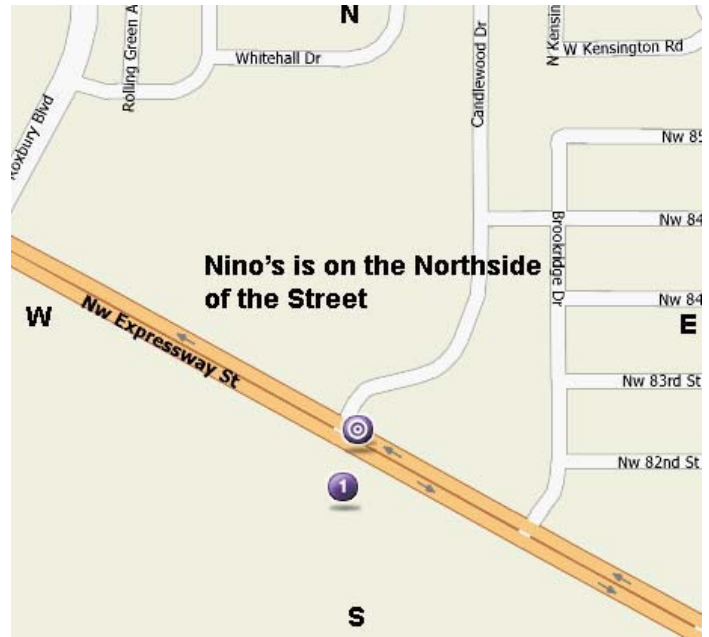
We hope that you will read through and review the suggested changes for our PSO Constitution, and join us October 25 at Nino's Mexican Restaurant to discuss and vote on them.

For the Fellowship of Poets and Poetry,
 Mikki Pennington, Co President
Wyndrdr@aol.com

Directions to Nino's Mexican Restaurant
 6509 N. W. Expressway, Oklahoma City—

Below are two pictures showing the location of Nino's.

Nino's is located between Brookridge Drive and Candlewood Dr on NW Expressway.



REMINDERS:

*Don't miss the October 25, 2008 meeting. We will be voting on some very important issues in order to update our current Constitution and By Laws.

*Contest entries are due no later than November 30. Current dues must be paid in order for your entries to be considered.

*Don't forget to bring poems about *Colorful Autumn* for the read around if time allows!

*Dues & Contest Sponsorships for 2009 are due no later than January 20, 2009 in order to be included in the 2009 Yearbook.