

The Poetry Society of Oklahoma - 1934- 2009

Affiliated with NFSPS, the National Federation of State Poetry Societies
Fall 2009 Newsletter - Edited by Vivian Stewart, President



En Vision



◆ National Poetry Day - 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration ◆

11:00 AM, Saturday October 10th - Twin Hills Golf & Country Club, 3401 N.E. 36th Street
Buffet Lunch - \$15.00 Per Plate

Send Reservations by October 3 or ASAP to Marsha Kay Oldham, PO Box 612, Garber, OK, 73738
(or email mkoldham@pldi.net that you will be there and guarantee payment at the door)

◆ *Diamond Jubilee Message from your President* ◆

I look back on the accomplishments the **Poetry Society of Oklahoma** has made since **Zoe Tilghman** first envisioned our band of bards in 1934—and I catch my breath. During the past 75 years, dedicated word-lovers have worked on stage and behind the scenes to put work boots on Zoe's dream. We stand on their shoulders to move up and on, as we did when March winds brought our **Annual Spring Awards Banquet**--a PSO event attended by NFSPS President, **Nancy Baass**, and her Texas-Poet Laureate Mother, **Mildred Vorphal Baass**. (*Could Zoe have dreamed her little band would become affiliated with a national organization—and that PSO members would bond with poets, not just from Oklahoma, but from around the country, and across the globe?*) And could she have envisioned our Statewide **Oklahoma Lore Youth Celebration** last April, when we showered awards on 72 student-poets and named four Oklahoma Youth Poets Laureate? I'll bet she would have been wide-eyed at the **Summer Workshop** when **Rob Burgess, Carl Sennhenn, Carol Hamilton, and Maxine Austin** shared ideas about how to write and present poetry, after **Dr. Kenneth Armstrong** led us into the "Transient-age."

Won't we have come a long way since the first humble PSO meeting at the Oklahoma City YWCA--to our next gathering which will be in the elegant dining room at **Twin Hills Golf and Country Club**? Our 75th Anniversary will be an event to remember. **Theresa Huston** is designing sparkling table décor. **Lydia Irene Walton** is making each of us a keepsake bookmark. You will have the opportunity to participate in the "**My Favorite Poem Read-Around**" emceed by **Dr. David Holder**; so come prepared to recite that poem you learned in high school—or a poem that shaped your life—or made you decide to become a poet. For the first time, we will present **PSO National Poetry Day Awards**. This inspiring ceremony will move quickly with the presentation of awards in six categories, concluding with a PSO First--the **First of First Award** for the best 1st Place poem.

We will hear a report by one of our most visionary members, **Dr. Kenneth Shelby Armstrong**, who is making his dream, "**Poetry is for Everyone**" -- a reality for PSO poets. **Mary Chase** will present **Diamond Jubilee Chapbooks** featuring poems by thirty-four PSO poets. We will elect, install and challenge the incoming board to envision even greater goals for PSO—and I will give each of you a unique token of my appreciation for the privilege of having served as your 75th Diamond Jubilee President. I'll see you—you—and YOU—and your guests-- at Twin Hills, October 10th. We will all be so proud of PSO! Hurry--make reservations now!

For love of poets and poetry—*Vivian Stewart*

◆ POETRY IS FOR EVERYONE

Dr.

Kenneth Armstrong is offering an opportunity for poets to be published in an eye-catching book which will be available in major bookstores throughout the country in December. To be included, email a Micro Soft Word attachment of your five best poems and a 250 word bio to mchase.22@cox.net. Then mail a check for \$15.00 (price of the first edition book). Make checks payable to **Mary Chase (not PSO)**. Send to **“Poetry is for Everyone” 213 S. W. 62nd, OKC, OK 73139**. In an effort to include more poets, Dr. Armstrong has increased the number to the first 40 poets who respond—but hurry! Oct 15th is the deadline. See attached flier or click the “Spotlights” on www.poetrysocietyofoklahoma.org for more information, including a look at the book’s striking orange and green cover. Proceeds will be awarded to PSO. Hear Armstrong’s report October 10.

◆ THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE MET

Saturday, September 19 at Johnnie’s Charcoal Oven, NW Oklahoma City. Thank You, **Theresa Huston**, Chairman; and committee members, **Clark Elliott, David Holder, Marie Johnson, and Betty Personette**. They nominated the following slate who will serve for a two year term if elected.

President - Rob Burgess

1st Vice President - Dr. David Holder

2nd Vice President - Theresa Huston

Treasurer - Marsha Kay Oldham

Recording Secretary - Marie Turner

Corresponding Secretary - Mikki Pennington

Historian - Betty Personette

Parliamentarian – Maxine Austin

Also, nominations will also be invited from the floor—so even if you were not on the committee, you may nominate someone before **Maxine Austin**, Parliamentarian, presides over PSO’s 75th Diamond Jubilee Election and Installation of officers.

◆ **November 30 is the Deadline for the PSO Annual 2010 Spring Contest.** PSO members, enter any or all of the 21 interesting categories for a \$5.00 entry fee. Send to **Marsha Kay Oldham, PO Box 612, Garber, OK, 73738**. Awards will be presented at the Annual Spring Banquet Saturday March 13, 2010 at Twin Hills.

◆ **It’s that time again!** Renew PSO Membership at the October gathering or by January 20, 2010, to be included in 2010 Yearbooks. Dues: \$20.00 a year. We also appreciate those who make contributions above the cost of dues and contest sponsorship fees. Do so, and become a

Red Bud Donor: Contribute \$25 - \$49

Indian Blanket Donor: \$50 - \$75

Rose Rock Donor: \$74 - \$99

Oklahoma Rose Donor: \$100 - \$149

PSO Angel: \$150 or more

◆ **And—why not Sponsor a Category for Upcoming PSO Poetry Contests:** There is no finer way to encourage poets and honor loved ones. We need

approximately 33 sponsors for three contests:

Annual Spring Contest – Approx 21 categories

Summer Workshop Contest – 1 rhymed, 1 unrhymed

Nat’l Poetry Day Contest - Approx 6 – 10 categories

Note: To keep the next March Awards Banquet from being too long, categories will be limited to about 21.

The Summer Workshop will offer only 2 categories:

Rhymed and Unrhymed. The Fall Contest will offer

from 6 -10 categories. *Need ideas?* Talk to a Board member or study past contests in yearbooks. Title your

category, select theme, line length, and form. It is suggested that you choose either a form or a theme to

encourage poets—but you can specify “Poets Choice” for theme and/or form. Provide prizes or prize money.

Specify contest (Spring, Workshop or Fall) or ask PSO to place your category where it will be most effective.

Sponsors may judge their categories and present their awards if they wish. *We LOVE Sponsors! Thank you!*

◆ **2010 Oklahoma Lore Statewide Youth Poetry & Art Contest Sponsorships** are still available. Let

Mikki Pennington know if you would like to sponsor a grade for \$50 or be a co-sponsor for \$25.

Grade 1 – Oklahoma Furbearer - Raccoon

Grade 2 – Oklahoma Amphibian –Bullfrog

Grade 3 – Oklahoma Reptile - Collard Lizard

Grade 4 – Oklahoma Butterfly - Black Swallowtail

Grade 5 – Oklahoma Bird -Scissortail Flycatcher

Grade 6 – Oklahoma State Flower – Oklahoma Rose

Grade 7 - Oklahoma Animal- Buffalo

Grade 8 – Oklahoma State Flag

Grade 9 - Oklahoma Tree – Redbud

Grade 10 – Oklahoma Heritage/History “The Red Earth”

Grade 11 – Oklahoma Musical Instrument – Fiddle

Grade 12 - Famous Oklahoman – Will Rogers, etal

◆ **EnVision Short Poem Award:** Congratulations, **Hazel Bell Nicholas!** She did it again! Her poem, “October Kiss” won the *Envision Short Poem Award!* And isn’t it picturesque!

October’s Kiss
I nestle in October’s arms
and sip her autumn wine.
I am her kin, a vagabond,
a wild blue Columbine.

◆ **Thank you, Auditing Committee!** Past treasurers **Marie Johnson** and **Barbara Shepherd** served on the committee chaired by **Billy Pennington** who will report at the October meeting.

◆ **All about Us!** **Carol Meeks** has moved to Estrancia Tulsa, 7757 S. Mingo Rd., #216, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133. We look forward to meeting and greeting her at the October meeting! We congratulate her on many recent honors, including Senior Poet Laureate of New Mexico. She has recently been published *Poets Forum Magazine*, along with Von **Borland**, **Marsha Kay Oldham**, **Lydia Irene Walton** and **Vivian Stewart**.

◆ **Carol Meeks** was named Amy Kitchener’s Angel Without Wings’ Oklahoma Senior Poet Laureate

◆ **Dena Gorrell** has received the following awards: Missouri – 2 HM’s; Indiana Fall Rendezvous- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4 HM’s; Poets Roundtable of Arkansas – 3rd; Writers Unlimited- 1st; Carlisle Poets – HM; Indiana Members- 1st; HM; Lucidity Retreat - \$25.00 HM. !!!WOW, DENA!!!

◆ **Hazel Bell Nicholas** placed in recent state contests; is faithful to write to PSO friends and remains active in PSO in spite of health concerns. Love you, Hazel Bell!

◆ **Clark and Louise Elliott** are home at last. Since June, they have been in Atlanta helping their son, Mark, and family through Mark’s traumatic siege and diagnosis. Thankfully, Mark is doing well. Clark and Louise, we continue to pray for Mark and his family; and are so glad you are back “home “with your PSO family!

◆ New Englander, Marie **Gilligan Mahan** writes, “*Across the miles, I send smiles, poetic thoughts--and ought to be—writing poetry.*” Thanks, Marie!

◆ The following PSO members have recently been

published *Harp Strings Poetry Journal*: **Howard Stein**, **Madelyn Eastlund** and **Joyce Shriver**.

◆ **Madelyn Eastlund** received HM’s in Ohio, NFSPS; and *Scribes Scroll* from Amy Kitchener’s “*Angels without Wings Foundation.*” Her poem, “Take Away the Rocking Chair” will be featured the *Golden Words Anthology*. **Way to go, Lyn!**

◆ **Correction: Marti McClure** received an HM for “The Beginning of War.”

◆ **Jimmie Martin** is largely responsible for the establishment of the *American Cultural Center and Museum* at the Crossroads of 135 and 140.

◆ **Mary Chase** who edits the Oklahoma Lore Youth Anthology as well as PSO Chapbooks is working closely with **Kenneth Armstrong** to put together the extra special book, *Poetry is for Everyone*. Mary has also volunteered to edit *Envision* if it will help the incoming President. *Thank you Mary!*

◆ **Trina Lee** who created the *2010 PSO Diamond Jubilee Yearbook* has volunteered to compile next year’s PSO Yearbook if that will help the incoming First Vice President. This is a big job! *Thank you, Trina!*

◆ **Your next Envision** will be compiled by your incoming President -- or if s/he takes her up on her offer to be Editor, it will be compiled by **Mary Chase**.

◆ **Send your news**—and send it twice. Your editor can’t print it if you don’t send it. And please double check since not all emails go through.

◆ Since this is my last newsletter, I want to thank all who have written notes or emails, phoned to express appreciation, and/or shared your news. I especially thank **Mikki Pennington** who named and edited *EnVision* edited so skillfully until her full time job grew and ate into PSO service time.

◆ **I offer Apologies for any omissions** – and usually “stick in a few typos” for dedicated word-lovers who enjoy honing their editing skills by searching for them.

◆ **Reminder!** Be on the lookout for animals—new stuffed animals needing homes. Kids at Oklahoma Lore Celebrations count on winning a stage full of them; and we kind of like being one of the only Poetry Societies whose members come to meetings with poems in hand and stuffed animals under our arms.

EXTRA! EXTRA! This is your “PSO 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee” Newsletter.

Read all about....

◆ **The PSO National Poetry Day Celebration, 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee, and Election of Officers,** 11:00 A.M. Saturday, October 10, at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club, Lunch is \$15.00. Reservations are due ASAP or by October 3.

◆ Prepare to read a long-time favorite poem in honor of upcoming **National Poetry Day** for the **Read-Around**

◆ Bring or mail Membership Forms with dues so you can be in the 2010 Yearbook!

◆ How about sponsoring a PSO Contest? Read all about your options.

◆ Bring stuffed animals for next year’s Oklahoma Lore drawing

◆ *Diamond Jubilee Chapbooks* will be ready!

Please insert map to Twin Hills

Map to Twin Hills Golf & Country Club, 3401 N.E. 36th, Oklahoma City – Just East of I-35 on N. E. 36th St. Site of **PSO’s 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary, National Poetry Day Celebration and Election of Officers.** For more info, call 405-427-3431.



En Vision, The Poetry Society of Oklahoma Newsletter

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To: