



Poems Patterns of Life

President's Message To Members and Friends of PSO:

A quilt is such a splendid metaphor for a poetry society that we have chosen "Quilts-- Poems: Patterns of Life," as the theme for the **PSO Annual Awards Banquet**, which will begin at **11:00 AM, Saturday March 14** at our new location, **Twin Hills Golf and Country Club, 3401 N. E. 36th**, just east of I-35 on N.E. 36th in a hilly, wooded section of Oklahoma City.

It inspires us to realize that every PSO member is as vital to our organization as every patch is to its quilt, and that each poem, plays a part in weaving the fabric of our thoughts. PSO is not like "a glass of water that remains level when one removes his or her finger" because we are more like a quilt that needs every patch and design to be balanced and complete. Should one of us fail to jot lines nagging to be written, get too busy to enter a contest, put off submitting a batch of poems to an editor—or miss a PSO meeting—we leave a hole in our quilt-- and we are missed!

That is just one reason we will each want to make every effort to add our "patch to our quilt" at the Annual Awards Banquet, our first celebration to be held at the beautiful Twin Hills Golf and Country Club. As you turn north off 36th Street, pass through the Twin Hills entrance gates, and drive through the beautiful scenery to the clubhouse, you just may come up with imagery for a poem! You can enter the Club House either through the front doors, or take the outside elevator to our meeting room and avoid the stairs. I believe you'll catch your breath when you see the quaint table decorations designed by PSO's 2nd Vice President, **Theresa Huston**, who has also arranged for a drawing for a small keepsake quilt. * At your plate, you will find a special table favor, fashioned by our Texas poet-artist, **Lydia Irene Walton**. (Those who attended the NFSPS National Convention PSO hosted in '07 will recall her lovely hand-painted stones—and this time, she has come up with bookmarks featuring quilt poems submitted by Envision readers.) Everyone who attends will go home with one of these keepsakes.

What fun you will have feasting on poetry in a lovely atmosphere; listening to **Barbara Richard** at the keyboard; and, if you entered the contest, possibly winning awards and beautiful certificates designed by Contest Chair, **Marsha Kay Oldham**, who has been working on our event for over a year. The PSO Board has been energized with JOY, thinking of unprecedented ways to honor and encourage Oklahoma poets with a meeting that will be a highlight of 2009, and a memory to savor long after.

Our esteemed guests will include **Nancy Baass**, NFSPS President, and her mother, **Mildred Vorpahl Baass**, a former Poet Laureate of Texas. After we listen to a poem by Mildred, Nancy will share ways NFSPS benefits members of state societies. Then we will feast on good food and award-winning poetry; and share excitement as an Oklahoma poet receives the coveted PSO Poet Laureate Award. Before we leave, we will pick up the latest *Strophes* and our new PSO Yearbooks, designed and produced by **JD** and **Sara Martin**. These are more than "just yearbooks"—they are keepsakes. Those who entered the contest will pick up contest packets--and be pleased to see that many of our judges have made comments, even on poems that did not place.

The cost for lunch will be \$15.00 per person. This includes tax and gratuity, a splendid buffet, lovely meeting room, and plenty of free parking. Poets, mark your calendars; invite your friends, and come let PSO "spoil you."

By March 4, send Reservation Checks to PSO TREASURER

Marsha Kay Oldham, PO Box 612, Garber, Oklahoma, 73738

(If you prefer, email or phone your reservations; guarantee payment, and pay at the door.)

Either way, we'll see YOU there—for Love of Poets and Poetry ~ Vivian Stewart

PS: *More about Theresa Huston's Quilt Drawing: Someone who attends the Awards Banquet will go home with a small lavender quilt, fashioned by local quilters who make comforters for hospitalized and traumatized children. They have donated the quilt to PSO; and we want to thank them by donating pieces of fabric suitable for young children's quilts--so bring pastel or colorful cotton scraps (and cones of serger thread) if you have some to spare. Our donations will help them continue their worthwhile project.

The PSO Statewide Oklahoma Lore Poetry Celebration will be April 18 at 1: 00 PM in Herrick Auditorium at Southern Nazarene University, 6729 N. W. Expressway. Sign up and come early to help usher, serve and greet. You'll feel young at heart as you celebrate with our young poets and their dedicated parents and teachers. Note: We still need more stuffed animals for the drawing, and are also donating blank books for the winners. In addition, we need cookies for the Cowboy Treat Table; so sign up to be a "Cookie Angel," and bring a couple of dozen cookies---kids love 'em all! Read on....



YIPEE! We're Goin' Western!

Oklahoma Lore Youth Angels, Sponsors and Judges will wear special nametags and bandanas; and PSO members will be seated together to support Oklahoma's young poets. Wear boots and denim if you wish. But whatever you wear—don't miss being there to support Oklahoma's poets, grades 1 – 12, as they gather from across the state to read their winning poems. This is PSO's most rewarding event—and being around our state's young writers makes us feel so proud!

While you are marking your calendars, change the date of **"In the Good Ole' Summer Time" PSO-All-Day- Summer- Workshop from July 11th to July 18th** since the Woody Guthrie Festival is the 11th. Watch for the next newsletter for details.

Deadlines for Upcoming Contests:

February 28, Convention Madness Poetry Contest: Winner must attend NFSPS national Convention since prize money covers most costs. See *Strophes-on-Line* for details. Send entries to Susan Chambers, 57310 166 Lane, Good Thunder, MN, 56037.

March 15: NFSPS Contrest: See *Strophes on Line* for categories and rules. Send entries to Christine Beck, Box 270554, W. Hartford, CT., 06127.

April 30 –PSO Summer Workshop Contest: (*For PSO Members Only*) Send entries to Betty Personette, 4109 S. E. 43rd, Del City, OK, 73115.

June 30, PSO National Poetry Day Contest: (*For PSO Members Only*) See PSO Yearbook and Web Site for details. Send entries to Betty Personette, 4109 S. E. 43rd, Del City, OK, 73115.

November 30, PSO 2010 Annual Contest: Send entries to Marsha Kay Ollidham, PO Box 612, Garber, OK, 73738



PSO Salutes Wilbur W. Mason who was born March 1, 1921; and died peacefully in his home February 3, 2009. He was a dedicated Christian; devoted husband and father; war hero; and poet who selflessly served his creator, family, and country. He served PSO as Treasurer and Co-President. Our love and prayers are with Flo and her family; and we are moved by Wilbur's last poem, which he composed for a PSO Anthology.

A Soldier Returns Home

The soldier sat upright,
intensely looking ahead.
There it was—El Reno, Oklahoma--
so peaceful in the distance.

Returning from war's harsh experience,
this soldier was finally discharged.
Medals on his chest reflected
many unspeakable actions, now past.

His dad, waiting at the bus station
since early morning, met each bus,
eager to see a son who had endured
the ravages of a far away war.

When the bus pulled into the station,
the dad scanned each embarking person.
Finally, his son stepped out, the last passenger.
Dad and Son clutched each other in silence.

Cars honked and people waved on their way home.
A "Welcome" banner draped the porch.
Birds chirped in the background as
Mom rushed to hug her battle-weary son.

This soldier was officially home.

-- Wilbur W. Mason

Dr. Jim Barnes is New Poet Laureate of Oklahoma—He grew up in Summerfield, Oklahoma, served as a professor for over 30 years, and is editor for Truman State University Press. He was preceded by **N. Scott Momaday**. We also congratulate four PSO members who were nominees: **Dena Gorrell, Barbara Shepherd, Sandra Soli, and Vivian Stewart**. The Poetry Society of Oklahoma congratulates Dr. Barnes and extends our best wishes as he promotes poetry throughout the state.

Welcome, to the PSO Family—

--**Marti McClure**, OKC, attended the October, 2008 meeting with her mentor, **Sandra Soli**, and has become a new member, and is, therefore, a treasured piece in our 'quilt.'

--**Jack Reed, III**, Tecumseh, OK, has also joined our family of poets.

--**Ron Burt** from Athens, Texas, has joined PSO and become our fourth Texas member.

--We also welcome **Carol Dee Meeks**, Senior Poet Laureate of New Mexico, who has made the move to Oklahoma and joined PSO.

Sunbeams & Oklahoma Roses:

--**Dr. Howard Stein**, OKC, underwent surgery which was followed by complications last November. (We think this showed far too much dedication to his profession—teaching doctors the art of bedside manners.)

--**Marianne McNeil Logan**, Amarillo, has been under the weather with health concerns.

--**Wilma Goodman**, El Reno, has also been under the weather, and has been undergoing health tests.

--**Maxine Austin** took a tumble hurrying down her stairs, suffered a hairline fracture, and has been temporarily "wintering" at the Greenbriar Nursing Center for physical therapy.

--**Jim Arnold** is recovering from knee surgery.

--**Kenneth Armstrong** is recovering from a heart-attack.

--**Betty Personette** has had bronchitis.

-- **Hazel Bell Nicholas** has been undergoing treatments for asthma and a hurt shoulder.

-- On the bright side, **Marsha Kay Oldham** has a new granddaughter! Congratulations Marsha Kay!



Summer-time Challenge: Write a "Lemonade" poem for the next Envision. Make it rhyme in 8 lines or less. "Make it tart—Make it Sweet—Give it a heart—Give it a beat!" Send to Vivian Stewart, vivirstew@aol.com or mail to 8920 Sheringham Dr., OKC 73132 by May 5.



Tattle Tales--by Tess 'n Snoops

--Back on the prowl, catching folks in the act of writing and promoting poetry

Ed Roberts amazes us with his outreach via poetry. Did you hear he was interviewed by Judy Pizaaz, host of Student Operated Poetry? Ask him how poetry can change the world, one person at a time.... *Hey, hey, hey! And Hearty Congratulations!*

Carol Dee Meeks placed First, Formal Category, Missouri State Poetry Society—and just keeps winning more awards than we have space to list. *Carol says this is her lucky year!*

Marti McClure won BIG TIME by placing first in an art contest!

Carol and Howard Snow are in a whirl making radio and TV appearances to publicize their new book **The Gray Warriors**, an amazing story based on Howard's survival in Peru. We have asked Carol to bring copies to the March meeting.

Hazel Bell Nicholas continues to bless residents of Lake Country Nursing Home in Marietta with her visits and poetry readings. Their smiles and hugs mean more to her than her frequent poetry awards, even a First Place in West Virginia. Way to go Hazel! ... Webmaster **Billy Pennington** is proud to announce that the PSO Newsletter **EnVision** is now on our web site. Check it out, and tell your friends to click www.poetrysocietyofoklahoma.org.

Did Tess and Snoops fail to report your poetry-related adventures and success stories? Don't keep good news under your hats! Email to Vivian Stewart, vivirstew@aol.com or or mail to "Tess and Snoops" C/O Vivian Stewart., 8920 Sheringham Dr., OKC, OK 73132. They will include as much news as space permits. Deadline for news: June 1

--We hope to see you at the Annual Awards Banquet March 14, and at the Oklahoma Lore Youth Poetry Celebration April 18—and while we're at it, we want to wish you a healthy, happy "Heart's Day!"

--Don't miss the Poetry Society of Oklahoma's **Annual Awards Banquet, Saturday March 14 at 11:00 A.M. at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club**. Cost: \$15.00 per plate. Make reservations with **PSO Treasurer, Marsha Kay Oldham, PO Box 612, Garber, OK 73738 by March 4**. Remember to Bring quilt-fabrics and serger spoons for local quilters; and stuffed animals for the Oklahoma Lore Youth Poetry Celebration.

--Mark your calendars for the **Oklahoma Lore Statewide Youth Awards Celebration, 1:00 P.M. April 18 in Herrick Auditorium at Southern Nazarene University, 6729 39th Expressway, Bethany, Oklahoma--** on Rt. 66. Please sign up to bring cookies and help host!



Maps to Twin Hills Golf and Country Club

3401 N.E. 36th St., just east of I-35 on N.E. 36th Street. Balloons marked "A" mark the spot! For more directions, call Twin Hills: 405-427-3431.

"HEY! Write a poem, take time to play—and watch out for Cupid on Valentine's Day!"



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Affiliated with N F S P S, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION of STATE POETRY SOCIETIES

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