

# News 'N' Notes

February 2024

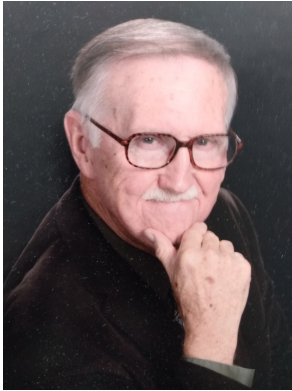
## Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

Founded February 5, 1931

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

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### President's Address

PRA Members,

John Ashbery wrote a poem entitled "The One Thing That Can Save America." The one "thing," however, is not clearly revealed, so I decided to provide my own answer.

I mean no disrespect to other writers, but only poets can save America. Politicians can't do it. All they do is raise taxes, fight among themselves, and look out for their own interests.

Preachers can't do it, their aim is to save souls. Generals can't do it, waging war is their forte. Most other writers are simply out for fame or fortune. Scientists can't do it either, their goal is to save the whole world or find new ones. The media might have done it but it leaned toward the dark side once called "Yellow Journalism." Tunnel visionaries all.

Only poets have ambidextrous vision; able to see the world as it is and how it should be at the same time. Case in point. Abraham Lincoln was a poet disguised as a politician. In one fell swoop, at a place called Gettysburg he set the ship of state aright, realigning America to its proper course as a union and as some have said "a shining city on a hill."

It is no secret that the "shining city" has lost some of its luster since President Reagan spoke those words. Where are the equivalents of the poets that gave us "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," "Concord Hymn," "The Star Spangled Banner," and the prose poems of *Common Sense* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*? Those and other works, and the greatest Poem of all, *The Holy Bible*, united us as a people and gave us a common core of decency and respect. One may rest assured that if and when a champion arises among us, whether disguised as a politician, soldier, or something else, he or she will be in his or her heart of hearts, and above all else—a poet.

John McPherson

President, PRA

## *Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration* *April 20, 2024*

This year's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration will be held on April 20 at the Parkview Methodist Church. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. A pizza lunch will be available for purchase at registration. **Laura Bridges** will serve as Spring Celebration Chair and our featured speaker will be Sandy Longhorn.



*Sandy Longhorn, speaker*

With a 30-year history of writing, publishing, and teaching, Sandy Longhorn is the author of three books of poetry: *The Alchemy of My Mortal Form*, *The Girlhood Book of Prairie*, and *Blood Almanac*. Longhorn also teaches in the Arkansas Writer's MFA program at the University of Central Arkansas. Her current project involves writing place-based poetry in all of Arkansas' 52 state parks. For this project, Longhorn is traveling to each park and then translating those experiences into 52 poems. Place-based poetry is the contemporary version of traditional pastoral poetry. During her talk, Longhorn will share poems by other place-based poets and offer writing prompts and guidance for audience members interested in writing their own poems based in places that are meaningful to them. For those wishing to have their poems critiqued by Longhorn, send **one** poem to John McPherson by February 19. Critique poems will be limited to **ten**.  
[mcpherson8391@gmail.com](mailto:mcpherson8391@gmail.com)

## *Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat #31*

Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat #31 will be held on March 25-27 2024 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Check-in will be Monday, March 25, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The first session will begin at 7:00 p.m. The director is **Nancy LaChance** with poetry leaders **Suzanne Rhodes** and John Han. Email [lachancenancy@outlook.com](mailto:lachancenancy@outlook.com) for the registration form.

The retreat features poetry contests, critique workshops, awards banquet, poetry lectures, open mics, book sales, freebie table, and breaks so you can explore beautiful Eureka Springs. There's even time built in for visiting with interesting poets from all over. Deadline for contest poems and critique workshop poems is February 26, 2024. Poets of all levels are welcome.

To receive this favored rate with Best Western Inn Of the Ozarks (479) 253-9768 \* 1-800-552-3785 Rooms \$75 - 1 king or 2 queens, 2 people, {each extra person \$5} mention Lucidity. The deadline for receiving this rate is February 26, 2024. Registration Fee: \$80.00 (also includes Wednesday night banquet and continental breakfast Tuesday and Wednesday morning).

1. E-mail (1) unpublished contest poem with your name on it.
2. E-mail (3) critique poems (your name on each poem, top left).
3. Email (1) Critic's Choice poem with name on it.

Please label each type of poem you are sending to [lachancenancy@outlook.com](mailto:lachancenancy@outlook.com) That is FIVE (5) poems in all. Send registration form and all other monies to her Lebanon address. Deadline: February 26, 2024. **Nancy LaChance** 14940 Hwy 64 Lebanon, MO 65536, phone: 417-531-0719

## *Congratulations and Newsworthy*

**Toni Huffman**, pen name: Antonia Love and President of Ozark Mountain Poets branch shares these publications and news: “Simplicity/Cutting Edge” in the Spring 2023 issue of *eMerge Magazine* (Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow); “Amelia Earhart’s Fortune-Telling Machine” in *SLANT- A Journal of Poetry* Fall 2023; “Two Men and a Truck” in the Winter 2024 issue of *e-Merge Magazine* which also won first place in the Woody Barlow Poetry Prize 2023 and garnered a Pushcart Nomination. She says, “I have frequently attended the “PoetLuck” at the Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow in Eureka Springs where I have been reading poetry during open mic. I have enjoyed meeting and hearing other local poets and writers. The members of Ozark Mountain Poets are helpful and supportive in critiquing poems and offering advice! I have attended and enjoyed local poetry readings with members because they have shared knowledge of the events. Now, I am trying to focus on choosing a selection of poems for a chapbook.”

**Teresa Klepac** received second honorable mention in the poet’s choice category in the Missouri State Poetry Society; received third honorable mention in PRA’s 2023 Poetry Day contests Florence Gibbs Memorial Award and another poem received second honorable mention in the Miriam S. Straus Memorial Award; she will serve as judge for a state poetry society at the end of January. This past year, she joined the Columbia Chapter of the Missouri Writers Guild.

**John Crawford** received first place, second place, and two third place prizes in Massachusetts Poetry Society Annual Contest; third place in National Dancing Poetry Contest; first place in Tishomingo (Ms) Arts Alliance; first place, Haiku Ozark Writers League; was Wally Towel Haiku Contest winner in December issue of *Ouachita Life*;

“January’s Call” was published in the Mississippi Poetry Society’s fall newsletter; read poetry at Wednesday Night Poetry (WNP) twice in October and once in November. WNP began on Feb. 1, 1989, and will celebrate 35 years of consecutive Wednesday meetings on January 31, 2024. **John Crawford** is the only charter member still attending.

**Betty Jo Middleton** published a second chapbook: *Second Fifties: Poems*. It is available on Amazon, as is her first one, *Senior Moments: Poems*. Her poem “Solitaire” was published in *Sandcutters* 2024, the Arizona State Poetry Society’s anthology.

**Rachel Kulp** reports that “Siloam Springs Writers has changed officers. Our new president is Daniel Mason, treasurer is Gail Davis, and hostess is **Jane Weathers**. We are still looking for a new secretary. **Rachel Kulp** our past secretary, has served for 17 consecutive years and needed a break.”

**William G. Hill** led a poetry workshop at the Mid-South Christian Writers Conference in Collierville, TN in March. Also in March, he did a poetry reading and book signing at the Clarksdale Women’s Club in Clarksdale, MS. In April he gave a short presentation at the Mississippi Poetry Festival in Ocean Springs, MS. In June he represented the Mississippi Poetry Society in The Blackberry Peach Poetry Slam at the NFSPS convention in Des Moines, IA. In August he spoke at the Word Weavers group in Henderson, TN. Another August event he led was poetry workshop at the Ruth B. French Library in Byhalia, MS. In September he spoke at the Collierville Christian Writers in Collierville, TN. Also in September, he was part of 100,000 Poets for Change, a nationwide event with local poetry readings going on at the same time, in Byhalia, MS. In October he helped restart the old monthly writer’s group originally called the Byhalia Christian Writers--the

mother group that started the Mid-South Christian Writers Conference--under the new name of the Mid-South Christian Writers Monthly Roundtable. He has led Open Mic Poetry Night at the two Coffee Central locations in DeSoto County, MS. This is a twice monthly event sponsored by Coffee Central, the Mississippi Poetry Society, the Byhalia Area Arts Council, the Desoto Arts Council and the Poetry Society of Tennessee. In addition, he has received several awards and honorable mentions from Mississippi, Tennessee, Utah, and NFSPS contests.

**Janice Canerdy**, from Potts Camp, Mississippi, at-large member, was chosen as the Mississippi Poetry Society 2024 Poet of the Year. Her poems were recently published in/by *Chained Muse*, *Spirit Fire Review*, *Your Daily Poem*, and *Halcyon Days*; she won second place in the Massachusetts State Poetry Society's November contest.

**Paulette Bane** had a translation published in *Four Way Review*. The poem is called "Radish Flower" by South Korean poet, Jang Seoknam, and she co-translated it with Claire Su-Yeon Park, a native speaker. Here is the link to the translation: <https://fourwayreview.com/radish-flower-by-jang-seoknam-trans-paulette-guerin-and-claire-su-yeon-park/>.

Additionally, one of her poems, "Waiting for the Rain," which appeared in *Skipjack Review*, was nominated for a Pushcart. You can read the poem on page 60 of the journal here: [file:///C:/Users/pbane/Downloads/skipjack-review-1\\_pdf.pdf](file:///C:/Users/pbane/Downloads/skipjack-review-1_pdf.pdf).

**Gail Denham** has a poem forthcoming in Quill & Parchment, February (the love month); monthly poems in Poetic Voices (Pennsylvania); three poems in Swallow's Nest (Cascade Christian Assn); January Quill & Parchment published "Sentinels" (Ekphrastic); Highland Park placed her

poem "The First Noel" (acrostic) on their Facebook page. She received a second and a third prize in Florida contests; a second place in an Oklahoma contest; third place in an Arizona contest with "Copper Mines"; second place in PRA with "Creation" (Golden Shovel poem); and third place in Poets & Patrons with "We Three"; second place in an ISPS contest with "No Curtains." **Pat Laster** credits the new year AND winter for inspiring creativity. She's written close to 50 poems to date. She has nine pieces out in the marketplace, a year's worth of Selected Haiku manuscript in progress, and an editor is working on her memoir.

## November Monthly Contest Winners

Judge: **John Crawford**

First Place: **Cathy Moran** "Making cookies with Mom"

Second Place: **Ann Carolyn Cates** "After the Broken Home"

Third Place: **Alyssa Darby** "The Elixir Mixer"

First Honorable Mention: **Jerri Hardesty** "Tell Me Again"

Second Honorable Mention: **Janice Canerdy** "Sears Wish Book, page 123"

Third Honorable Mention: **John McPherson** "Kites"

## December Monthly Contest Winners

Judge: **Karen Moulton**

First Place: **Sara Gipson** "Christmas Wish Magic"

Second Place: **Rita Aiken Moritz** "I Could Have Danced with Water Nymphs"

Third Place: **Jerri Hardesty** "A Night to Remember"

First Honorable Mention: **Ann Carolyn Cates** "Enchanted by Holidays"

Second Honorable Mention: **Donna Smith** "Magic"

Third Honorable Mention: **Larry Witherspoon** "Enchantment"



## January Monthly Contest Winners

Judge: **Lydia Cheatham**

First Place: **John McPherson** “What Do You Do When The Words Aren’t There”

Second Place: **Patricia Laster** “The Iggy Iris Adventure”

Third Place: **Alyssa Darby** “Emotional Euphony”

First Honorable Mention: **Marilyn Joyner** “The Porch”

Second Honorable Mention: **Cathy Moran** “On The Junkyard Stage”

Third Honorable Mention: **Dennis Patton** “A Depth of Winter”

## Welcome New Members

**Audrey Foster** of Bryant, Arkansas

**Stephanie DuPont** of Sugar Hill, Georgia

**Gary Perry** of Alma, Arkansas

## Transition

**Catherine Theresa Parker**, age 86, of Alexander, Arkansas, passed away on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Catherine was born in Wilkes Barre and was a member and Sunshine officer of the Saline County branch.

## NFSPS Convention

The NFSPS Convention will be held June 5-10 in Roswell, GA. For more information, visit the [nfsp.com](http://nfsp.com) website.

## January PRA Board Meeting

The board met on January 20 at Searcy with some members calling in. Many decisions were made regarding poetry contests, chairs, and events. **Laura Bridges** will serve as Spring Celebration chair; **Dennis Patton** will serve as Poetry Day chair with **Christine Henderson** serving as Poetry Day Contest chair. **John McPherson** was able to secure our Spring Celebration speaker after the meeting. The board decided to offer pizza for lunch. **Dennis Patton** will sort out the details of how much and which pizza.

**Karen Moulton** will take responsibility for the ordering on the day.

Here are the criteria for the following:

O’Neal Memorial Award -- sponsored by Ben O’Neal -- subject-any, form-any, line-32.

O’Neal Humor Award -- sponsored by Ben O’Neal: subject-Honey Do, form-any, line-24.

Sybil Nash Abrams Award -- sponsored by Sybil Nash Abrams Account

Subject: Arkansas Historical Events

In other business, **Marilyn Joyner** will serve as chair of the Sybil Nash Abrams Award committee. A new membership chair is being sought. **Donna Smith** will serve as judge for the 2024 **Pat Laster** Collegiate Poetry Contest. A motion was passed to present Mr. Greg Lathrop with a plaque of recognition for his efforts in assisting PRA promote poetry in Arkansas at Spring Celebration. Mr. Lathrop manages the Sybil Nash Abrams account.

## Member Poetry Share

### Three Poems by Gail Denham

Heron

...cinquain  
foot raised,  
heron statue  
watches for vibrant fish  
hiding in autumn’s dying reeds,  
drooping

(untitled)

children’s laughter rings  
snowman, clad with hat and scarf  
smiles with black coal teeth

Makes Me No Never Mind

I wear white now, no longer  
concerned it isn’t my good  
color. Every day of this  
growing older process stakes  
my claim that merely being

still alive has bragging rights.

Rising at night, I cling to door  
jams, feeling my way to the throne,  
happy my legs work. Daily, I make  
double trips in and out of rooms,  
looking for my keys, a grocery list,  
losing my phone till someone calls.

Often I forget what I came into  
a room for – so I retrace my steps  
– and likely still forget. I’m a careful  
driver, but I take wrong turnings,  
putting me late to appointments.  
That is if I can remember what place  
to which I am going.

Yup, I wear white now. I’m told  
it helps when my hubby looks for me  
in the store, when he asks if I  
remember today is our anniversary.  
I don’t tell him we were married  
in March. Dinner out in July suits me  
fine. I’ll wear a white top  
and white pants, if I can find them.

...publ. *Sandcutters* (Ariz.) 2018

## *Suzanne Underwood Rhodes*

### *Poet Laureate of Arkansas*



TRUST THAT  
WORDS WILL  
COME

I escaped the zero  
degree in Arkansas  
(Arctikansas) on  
January 15 and traded  
it for seventy degrees

in Clearwater, Florida, where I’m here for a  
solitary writing retreat to create new poems  
for my next full collection. Dear friends  
from NWA gifted me with their beautiful  
condo for two weeks. What an  
overwhelming blessing! Their home looks  
out on Tampa Bay, which early explorers

named Holy Spirit Bay—a lovely bit of  
trivia that seems appropriate for a poet in  
need of inspiration!

Actually, I’d worried that when I left my  
normal routine and environment, I wouldn’t  
be able to write. Too much time in serenity!  
Fortunately, I’ve managed to be productive  
and have a few new poems so far—not all  
good, but as William Stafford says in his  
famous and encouraging essay “A Way of  
Writing,” “I must be willing to fail.” The  
main thing, he says, is to be receptive and  
ready. In this brand new year, my hope for  
myself and for you is to commit to having a  
regular writing practice. Palm trees not  
necessary. Just a certain trust that words will  
come if we attend.

I’m pleased and excited to announce that my  
chapbook *The Perfume of Pain* (renamed  
from *Milk of the Moon*) will be released in  
July or August by Alabaster Leaves, an  
imprint of Kelsay Books. If you have a  
manuscript ready and in need of a home, I  
recommend this fine publishing house.  
A recent highlight in my poet laureate role  
was getting to do poetry with young students  
at Joshua Academy in Van Buren. One  
group was with K-2, then I met with two  
other groups of mixed grades up to the sixth.  
This innovative school started in September,  
and outdoor education in the acres of woods  
the school owns is woven into the  
curriculum. We played the “Silly Simile”  
game, wrote poems exploring the mystery of  
an animal they had chosen, and had fun  
creating metaphors and similes. It was a  
joyful experience to see “Children’s faces  
looking up / holding wonder like a cup”  
(Sarah Teasdale). May we as poets and  
people never lose our sense of wonder.  
March is the month for the Lucidity Ozark  
Poetry Retreat! If you’ve never been to this  
gathering of spirited poets in Eureka  
Springs, I urge you to consider registering.  
It’s such a rich and rewarding experience.  
Write to the director, **Nancy La Chance**, at

[lachancenancy@outlook.com](mailto:lachancenancy@outlook.com). The dates are March 25-27. John Han from Missouri Baptist University and I were invited back from last year to be the featured speakers and critique workshop leaders. There are contests too, so get all the details from Nancy.

When I'm driving on long trips throughout Arkansas, I often entertain myself by coming up with limericks about the funny names of towns I encounter. I'll close with this:

There's an Arkansas town, Alabam,  
whose founder forgot where he am.  
When he yelled, "Roll Tide!"  
his chest bursting with pride,  
Alabam stuck like flies on a ham.

Yours in the fellowship of words,  
Suzanne

## PRA

### Member

### Profile

### Sherri

### Croom

I started writing poetry

right out of elementary school. I was one of those kids who kept their feelings buried deep inside. The only way I could find release was to write my feelings and thoughts down on paper. I kept these writings secret until one day my mom found them. She became my biggest fan and encouraged me to keep writing. I write under my maiden name, the pen name of S.R. Crawley in honor of my mother. Other than my mom, eventually I started to share my poetry with close friends and other members of my family. I published my first poetry book, *Kisses from the Mind to the*



*Soul* in 2018. Edgar Allan Poe was, and still is my favorite poet. I also enjoy reading Emily Dickinson. I read from a vast range of many different styles of writers.

I must write when inspiration moves me. I tried writing every day in diaries and journals, but I found that when I felt pressured into writing every day, my writing would be mediocre. Needless to say, I gave them up.

Thanks to Writers Ink of Northeast Arkansas. Their critiquing makes revision easier for me. Their members have given me the support needed to hone in on my craft. To date, I have published *One Shoe* (suspense/thriller) *Kisses from the Mind to the Soul* (mentioned above), and *Saturday Morning Yard Sale*. (children's book). My soon-to-be-published book, *One Way Ticket to Florida* (creative nonfiction) should be in print within the next two months. Following is my blurb for this book: "The cruel fate of Alzheimer's snatched Irene away from Arnvel, not only in mind but also in body. The state claimed she needed professional care and locked her up in a sterile facility. Arnvel refused to accept this separation and vowed to rescue his beloved. He knew there was only one way to break through the barriers: by gunpoint."

Below you will find one of my poems published in *Kisses from the Mind to the Soul*.

Dream with Me

Lay with me under the midnight sky  
Let's make wishes on the shooting stars as they go by  
Let's talk and laugh as if there is no tomorrow  
Let's kiss away today's sorrow  
Let's say goodnight to the moon above  
Holding each other tight in arms of love  
The sandman will come and close our eyes  
Come dream with me until the next sunrise

## Student and Collegiate Contests

Help **Lisa Lindsey**, student contest chair and **Karen Moulton**, collegiate chair get the word out about these contests for middle, high, and college-age poets. You can find the updated information on the PRA website:

<https://poetsroundtableofarkansas.files.wordpress.com/2023/10/spring-2024-student-contests.pdf>

<https://poetsroundtableofarkansas.files.wordpress.com/2023/10/pracc2024entryform.pdf>

## Looking for a Good Read?

**Member Paulette Bane recommends...**

Phillip Howerton's *Gods of Four Mile Creek: Poems, Essays, and*

*Photographs* (Golden Antelope Press).

Here's the website of a bookstore selling it: <https://www.wildrumpusbooks.com/book/9781952232831>. It can also be found on Amazon. I read it and really really enjoyed it.

*Gods of Four Mile Creek* explores the inescapable ambivalence we hold toward the places of our upbringing. In 68 exquisitely detailed poems, 19 photographs, and two essays, Phillip Howerton considers aspects of the world into which he was born--specifically the rivers, farms, fish, birds, and stubborn humans of the rural Ozarks. As his explorations of "Folks, Living and Dead," "Amusements," and "Displacements" demonstrate, these elements may be gods of our own creation, gods which we simultaneously reject and embrace.

Howerton's poems bring careful attention to individuals who ponder, avoid, celebrate, and recognize themselves in the elements of their natural world. By acknowledging their kinship with blackjack oaks, homeless groundhogs, or discarded milk cans, readers come to discover much about who they *were* and who they might *become*. In "Farm Team," for example, a lone boy plays

baseball with trees and barn doors as imagined teammates. When "the barn foundation/ hits another grounder" the "impossible catch" is "witnessed by a crowd/ of Holsteins." And readers see the imagination and resilience which farm life once required and still requires.



Nancy with her granddaughters

**Feature**

**Interview:**

**Nancy**

**LaChance**

I joined Lebanon Poets in 2002 after attending a "Nightingale Reading." I had written some but got "serious" when I had a group to share with and get critiquing. I like Ogden Nash because of his off-beat humor and made-up words; Shel Silverstein because of the topics he chose for children; and Robert Louis Stevenson and Christina Rossetti for their poetic devices.

I am an eclectic writer, all over the place. I challenge myself to try different forms, especially for entering contests. I write about nature and people mostly. My mother slowly died with dementia and it was very cathartic to write poems about our situation. I have numerous notebooks filled with notes, drafts of poems, drawings. I DO NOT write notes in my phone. I write when the Muse hits me: I might write numerous poems in a few days and then not write for weeks. Then I edit, edit, edit.

I hear about a subject and do research to write a poem. I read a poem from another poet, and write a similar poem on the topic. I can be inspired by an everyday occurrence. Entering contests inspires me.



I have put on poetry workshops in some local libraries and won contests for some of my poems written especially for the contest. In terms of revision, when I edit, I may cut words to be more succinct. Other times I will rewrite my poem in a different form. Lucidity Retreat began in 1992 in Eureka Springs, AR by Ted Badger. He had a format that we still use today. When his health failed, Birma Castle carried on. I began attending in 2008 and only missed two or three years due to family illness. Birma passed the torch to me in 2021, but we did not meet due to Covid. The conference includes critiquing our work in a small group setting, listening to lectures, and reading our poems in general session. Friends are reunited each year for three days and new friends arrive each year. We have two contests that participants can enter. I am currently the MSPS (Missouri State Poetry Society) president and Lebanon Poets Society president. I have had the privilege of attending the national poets convention (NFSPS) the past two years. My husband is retired from the Air Force. We have three grown sons with families of their own. We lived in two foreign countries and three different duty stations. I teach a Bible study for adult ladies and missions class for kids. I just became the Activities Director for our local senior center.

The following poem was accepted by Literary Accents and published in their premier issue in 2019.

### Another Party

ballons pop  
 tiny papers explode  
 Meanwhile  
 snow swirls like confetti  
 another invite  
 to a winter party

## 2024 Poetry Day Contest

### Sponsorship Form

**Sponsorship Requirements:** A minimum of \$30.00 is required to sponsor a contest, and the first place winnings must be no less than \$25.00. PRA encourages higher level awards, similar to other states, to promote contest participation. (See Contest Rules.) If you have questions contact PRA President **John McPherson** at:

[mcperson8391@gmail.com](mailto:mcperson8391@gmail.com)

This form can be found on the PRA website.

**Form:** Complete this form and return it with your payment by the deadline to assure that your contest is listed in the Poetry Day Contest Brochure posted in March on PRA's website.

**Deadline:** The sponsorship form and payment are due **February 28, 2024.**

**Address:** Send this form with your check (payable to PRA) to: Frieda Patton, PRA Treasurer 2512 Springhill Circle, Alexander, AR 72002

**Name of award:**

**Subject:**

**Form:**

**Line limit:**

**Other requirements may be noted here or on reverse: (If a different website is not listed, poetry form should be found at [shadowpoetry.com](http://shadowpoetry.com))**

**Awards:**

**Eligibility:**

**Judging:**

**First place \$ \_\_\_\_ First HM \$ \_\_\_\_**

**Second place \$ \_\_\_\_ Second HM \$ \_\_\_\_**

**Third place \$ \_\_\_\_ Third HM \$ \_\_\_\_**

**Open to PRA Members only ( )**

**I will be responsible for judging this contest ( ) Please get a judge for me ( )**

**Open to all poets ( ) Donor's name:**

**Address: City: Zip Code:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

## CONTEST RULES

1. Mail all entries and fees in one envelope postmarked no earlier than July 1, 2024, and no later than August 15, 2024, to Christine Henderson, PO. Box 9122, Searcy, AR 72145.
2. Non-members may enter all contests for which they are eligible for \$15; members may enter for \$10. Make check or money order payable to "PRA." (PRA only accepts US currency, checks, or money orders.)
3. Submit one typed Times New Roman or similar font (12) original, and one copy for each contest entered with no illustrations or embellishments on entries. Type number and name of award in upper left corner of both copies. On duplicate only, place name and address in upper right corner (labels accepted).
4. Titles and blank lines are not counted in line limits.
5. Submit a separate typed page listing name, address, phone number and/or email address, and total number of contests entered.
6. All poems must be original, unpublished work of the poet, and not under consideration for publication. PRA defines publication as having an ISBN or ISSN.
7. Submit only one poem in each contest. No poem may be entered in more than one contest.
8. No entries will be returned. All manuscripts will be destroyed.
9. Contest chairs are not necessarily judges.
10. Three honorable mentions will be awarded without prizes unless otherwise specified.
11. Entries not following rules will be disqualified.
12. If a different website is not listed for the contest, the poetry form should be found at Shadow.

## *From the Editor*

One of our members asked me about sharing winning poems in the newsletter. I'm curious about them, too, but do understand that publishing a poem, even in a newsletter like ours, renders it ineligible for most contests. This issue **Gail Denham** has shared some of her poetry with us. If you have some poems you don't mind sharing, please email them to me or send me the link where we can read them.

Thanks to Paulette, Sherri, and Nancy for taking some extra time to make a book recommendation and answer my questions. Also thanks to those who sent in their news. I hope you read those items—our members have lots to be proud of.

Did you notice in Strophes that NFSPS is looking for board members and chairs? <https://www.nfsps.com/Strophes2024-Jan.pdf>

Is that something that appeals to you? If so, please let Paul Ford (pmford3@gmail.com) know. Your PRA Board is always looking for leaders, too. Want to chair an event? Sponsor a contest? Be sure to send **John McPherson** an email telling him how you'd like to help keep poetry alive in Arkansas. Be ready for our May issue by keeping two lists: your accomplishments and recommended reading.

I hope to see you on April 20 at the Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration in Benton. I always come away from these events with new insights provided by the featured speakers and inspiration gained from being in a roomful of poets. Sandy Longhorn from UCA promises to be another terrific speaker. Let's make this the most well-attended Spring Celebration yet.

Sincerely,  
**Karen Moulton**  
Editor