



The Oklahoma Rose

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PSO ~ ESTABLISHED 1934

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• **Southeast: Ron Wallace**
• **Northeast: Sharon Martin**
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Spencer McCarthy

Happy Birthday, PSO!

Our founder, Zoe Tilghman, would be so proud of us. Here we are 89 years old and the Poetry Society of Oklahoma is alive and ... well ... following our mission, unfolding new ideas, grateful for all our members and pleased to welcome new ones.

Our membership has grown considerably from the 31 poets who gathered that February day in 1934. Zoe was elected the first president of the new PSO. I am proud—and rather daunted—to carry the same title.

March is our Spring meeting month. Time (and the weatherman) will tell whether March will echo the proverb, “In like a lion, out like a lamb.” I am predicting a day of sun and fun on March 18, when we meet at Belle Isle Library, Meeting Room B, at 11:00 am.

Our Pre-Covid meeting place, Twin Hills Country Club, is still undergoing major renovations. Last October’s meeting was also at Belle Isle Library in a large, bright, and very pleasant room.

Several members have said that the March meetings in the past were far too long; one even quit PSO in protest. The fact is, the March meeting covers a lot of territory—business, contest announcements, poetry reading, visiting, eating.

I don’t want to lose a single one of you, so we’ll definitely adjourn at 3:00 pm, despite the full schedule.

We’ll have a spread of sandwiches (and cookies—mustn’t forget cookies!) rather than the full meal of the past.

Put it on your calendar: **Saturday, March 18, 11:00 am at the Belle Isle Library, 5501 N Villa Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.**

I hope to see many of you and introduce some new members and officers—and don’t forget to bring copies of your books for the display table.

PSO has many talented poets who have won contests and awards. Why, then, are we not better represented in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) annual contest? Last year, entries from Oklahoma did extremely well—in the vast field of 6,045 entries, PSO entrants won 4 place awards and 8 Honorable Mentions.

Let’s make a big showing this year! Go to https://www.nfsp.com/poetry_contests.htm and find the “right” contests for you and your poems among the 50 categories. Deadline is March 15. Be aware of the Ides of March!

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Find newsletters, information, contest rules, results, and more at our website: <http://www.angelfire.com/poetry/ps/>

Happy Birthday ~~~ *Continued from Page 1*

We write what we feel, we feel what we write. Sometimes I have to lay down my pen, stop trying to convert feelings into word-images, and “count my blessings,” as the hymn enjoins. In friendship, in nature, there is such beauty.



In the 2023 Yearbook I write about change. The older I get, the less I like change; yet I appreciate the fact that some changes are good. Most of us have been writing poetry since childhood and have seen changes in style, in content, in timing. Few of us in PSO are rappers, or slam poets, yet these second cousins of a Shakespearean sonnet have served to make poetry more popular. Rhyme and meter are no longer re-

I recently learned of a new, unconventional, punctuation mark—the interrobang. As a combination of a question mark and an exclamation mark, it follows an excited question, such as, “What in the world is that?!”

Just for fun, I used an interrobang in a poem I entered in a contest. The judge will probably think it is a typo.

Another change is the development of ChatGBT—software that can accomplish complicated writing tasks. More about this below and on page 3.

February is Black History month. We should continue to carry the thought expressed by Tulsa attorney, Hannibal Johnson: *[Black history is American history](#).... If we want a better America — and surely, we do — then we must face facts; we must face fears; and we must face forward.*

The past months and even years have not been easy for many of us. I was struck to the core by a line from Kristin Chenoweth’s book *I’m No Philosopher, But I Got Thoughts*:

We tend to think closure is about making peace with people from our pasts, but in practice, it’s about making peace with ourselves.

How Will ChatGPT Affect Your Life?

SONNET TO PSO

*Oh, Poetry Society of Oklahoma, where verse
Is cherished, nurtured, and given due respect,
A place where rhymes and meter are immersed
In passion and love for language that's complex.*

*From sonnets to free verse, they recite,
Each line a testament to their skill,
Their passion for language ignites,
And their love for poetry is fulfilled.*

*With open hearts, they share their words and thoughts,
Expressing the joys and pains of human life,
In sonnets, haikus, and poems fraught
With meaning and beauty that eases strife.*

So let us praise the Poetry Society,

Should poets be worried that AI programs like ChatGPT can write poems?

No, poets should not be worried about ChatGPT's ability to write poems. While ChatGPT can generate poetry, it lacks the unique perspective, creativity, emotions, and personal experiences that make human poets special. Poetry is a form of self-expression that comes from deep within the soul and reflects the individual experiences and emotions of the poet. Machines like ChatGPT can generate poems based on patterns and rules, but they lack the emotional depth and human touch that make poetry truly special. Poetry will always remain an art form that requires human creativity, imagination, and expression.

ChatGPT continued from page 2

How can we expect human writing to change in the near future?

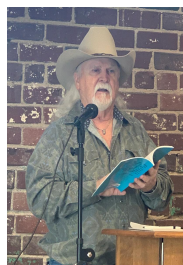
In the near future, it's likely that the use of AI technology will continue to increase in various forms of writing and content creation, leading to some changes in human writing. Here are a few ways this may happen:

- *Augmentation: AI tools may be used to help writers with tasks such as research, organization, and editing, allowing them to focus on the creative aspects of writing.*
- *Automation: Some forms of writing, such as news articles or product descriptions, may become fully automated, leading to a reduction in demand for human writers in those areas.*
- *Hybrid approaches: Some writers may use AI tools to generate parts of their writing, which they then edit and expand upon. This could lead to a new type of hybrid writing that blends human creativity with AI assistance.*

Ultimately, it's difficult to predict exactly how human writing will change in the future, but it's likely that the use of AI technology will play a role in shaping the future of writing.

Just like the sonnet, the answers to these questions, everything in italics, were composed by ChatGPT. Poets are not alone dealing with AI (Artificial Intelligence). Art competitions have banned the use of AI-produced art. Our contest guidelines may want to include a similar stipulation. The problem, however, is that it can be almost impossible to tell if AI was employed. ChatGPT passed graduate-level exams at the University of Minnesota and at Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with a B to C+ grade. Several scientific papers have already listed ChatGPT as co-author.

PSO Shines at Open Mic in Durant



Poetry rode high in the saddle at **Lost Street Brewery** on February 5th.

Ron Wallace's poetry group and out-of-towners made the meeting ring with their excellent



readings.

PSO was well-represent-ed with poems by Ron and the Oklahoma City group: Judith Rycroft, Jody Karr, Paul Juhasz, Jim Fletcher, and Audrey Streetman; and Cul-



An Irish Poetry Challenge for National Poetry Month

The *Cro Cumaisc Etir Casbairdni Ocus Lethrannaigeacht* is an Irish poetic form. The long name means something like, "A mixed heart of casbairdni and paranoia." We've no idea what "casbairdni" means, but here are the rules:

- Quatrain (or four-line) stanzas
- Seven syllables in lines one and three;
- five syllables in lines two and four
- Lines one and three end with a three-syllable word
- Lines two and four end with a one-syllable word
- Rhyme scheme in each stanza: abab

Here's an example:

St. Patrick

With pot of gold unfounded
to celebrate St. Pat
we find ourselves surrounded—
here, green Irish hat

and there, shamrock unfolding
and pints of green beer,
reveling crowds beholding
with a tipsy cheer.

Such holiday tumescence
is a modern taint.





Happenings

Ekphrastic Writing Workshop with Ken Hada
Saturday, March 4 at McAlester Public Library. Sponsored by McAlester Poetry Club. Begins at 10 am.

**2023 BlackBerryPeach Prizes for Poetry:
Spoken & Heard. Deadline: 15 March 2023**

This competition blends *stage and page* poetry; equal weight will be given to performance and poetics. Details at <https://www.nfsps.com/BBP3Guidelines.html>. More infor-

An Oklahoma Tradition

In conjunction with the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in Okemah, Oklahoma, July 12-16, poets are invited to submit up to three poems that reflect, either directly or indirectly, on the theme, *A workin' man's hand is the hardest card in*

Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, April 6
East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma

🌀 Intention to Amend PSO Constitution 🌀

At the March 18 meeting, members will vote on proposed changes to our constitution and by-laws. **Please be present. Details follow shortly via email.**

Looking Ahead

- March 6: Purim (ends at sundown March 7)
- March 12: Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 15: Ides of March and
NFSPS contest deadline
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- March 18: **PSO Meeting**
- March 20: Spring Equinox
- March 21: World Poetry Day
- March 22: Ramadan (starts during the evening, ends at sundown on Thursday, April 20)
- APRIL: **National Poetry Month**
- April 2: Palm Sunday
- April 5: Passover
- April 7: Good Friday
- April 9: Easter
- April 17: National Haiku Poetry day
- April 22: Oklahoma Day



Congratulations to our PSO member in Iuka MS, Dr. Emory D. Jones, for publishing 35 poems and winning numerous contests and competitions last year. The *Oklahoma Rose Newsletter* grants him the **PSO Profi-**

Sunday Poetry at the Depot was once an event that drew poets and poetry lovers to this unique venue in Norman, Oklahoma. The historical setting and colorful display of artwork created a relaxed ambience further enhanced by the readings, despite the occasional interruption as a train sped by.

The Depot has fully reopened, yet Second Sunday Poetry has not resumed.

Danielle Tipton, Programs Manager, said she would love for poetry to return, and the Depot would be available without charge. However, someone—or a committee—must step forward to spearhead the program, formerly hosted by Carl Sennhenn.

Is someone out there in PSO land or beyond willing to take on this chal-

Monthly Poetry Readings

With featured reader and open mic



2nd Sunday, 2:00 pm:

Tidewater Winery Poetry, 54560 Hwy 16, Drumright.
Contact: Sharon Martin on FB.

2nd Thursday

McAlester Poetry Club, book club/open mic at McAlester Public Library. Contact Cullen Whisenhunt on FB.

3rd Thursday, 7:00 pm:

The Lunch Box Poetry Reading, 217 E Main St, Shawnee. Contact: naspurline@aol.com

3rd Saturday, 6:30 pm:

Coffee House Poetry, 816 W Gore Blvd, Lawton.
Contact: jgmorris8116@sbcglobal.net

3rd Sunday, 2:00 pm:

Poetry on Lost Street, 109 W Lost Street, Durant.
Contact: Ron Wallace on Facebook.

Last Sunday, 2:00 pm:

Full Circle Poetry Reading, 50 Penn Place, 1900 NW