

The Oklahoma Rose

Volume VIII Issue III

PSO ~ ESTABLISHED IN 1934

May 2023

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2022 - 2023

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Spring Has Arrived—Wind and All!



I want to start off our PSO May Newsletter with a gigantic “**THANK YOU**” to Judith for stepping up as our interim President during my healing time. Eight months is a long time to come in and do duties that are brand new and unknown. I told her “rather like baptism by fire!” Our new PSO Secretary, Shayna Mahan was very supportive as was Jim Fletcher, interim VP. But, that is not surprising as that is what **PSO** is about - everyone working together and promoting poetry!

PSO is happy to welcome Jay Snider, Oklahoma State Poet Laureate for 2023-2024 as a new member of **PSO**! Check out page two of this issue. He writes in the cowboy poetry genre. He was previously named Lariat Laureate by CowboyPoetry.com in 2001 and Cowboy Poet of the Year by the Academy of Western Artists in 2008. Jay resides in Cyril, Oklahoma and works as a rancher.

We welcome Barbara Sheperd as our new **PSO** Contest Chair as we say goodbye, au revoir, and adios for the many years of a job well done for **PSO** by Mikki Pennington! **THANK YOU!**

You may have also noticed on page two

of our PSO Newsletter that April was **National Poetry Month**. Once again the OKC City Council presented a Proclamation proclaiming April as **National Poetry Month** in Oklahoma City (for the twelfth year in a row!). And, our Oklahoma State Legislators had a Resolution stating that April is **National Poetry Month** for the State of Oklahoma (again, for the twelfth year in a row!). Thank you, Tammy West, State Representative.

If you have not entered the contests for the **PSO** July Workshop - it’s not too late but the deadline is near! An email will be forthcoming as to the exact time, date and place of this year’s **PSO** July workshop.

Please remember to check our **PSO** website... <http://www.angelfire.com/poetry/ps/> and our **PSO** Facebook page for information.

WELCOME to all our new members ~ Until next time ~ Keep writing those poems! And...

“Come and Grow at PSO!

Patti Koch, PSO President

Inside this issue:

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Letter from the President

1

Did You Know...

1

National Poetry Month

2

Proclamation/Citation

2

Member News

3

May’s Poetry Form

3

Pg 1 (Did You Know)

continued

4

The Year ahead 2023

4



Did You Know...

that the Oklahoma Rose is the logo for Poetry Society of Oklahoma? Thus our PSO newsletter “The Oklahoma Rose.” There is quite a history behind this beautiful flower and our own PSO.

In 2003 Dottie Wissenberger contacted Co-President Vivian Stewart asking for PSO to help the Oklahoma City Garden Club achieve getting the Oklahoma Rose as the State Flower of

continued.....page 4

CELEBRATING NATIONAL POETRY MONTH



Rep. Tammy West Recognizes April as National Poetry Month

OKLAHOMA CITY – Each year she's been in office, House Majority Leader Tammy West, R-Oklahoma City, has recognized April as National Poetry Month in the state of Oklahoma through passage of a House Resolution. West said the request came from House District 84 constituent Patti Koch.

"It's an honor to carry this request for my friend and constituent," West said. "Poetry is a soother for the soul. It inspires, unites and enriches our lives, and brings moments of joy and contemplation in an often rushed and busy world," West said.

House Resolution 1005 was adopted by unanimous consent in the House of Representatives on Monday, April 3.

In addition to presenting the resolution on the House floor, West read part of the poem "Heroes of Old," written by Oklahoma State Poet Laureate for 2023-24, Jay Snider of Cyril. Snider was recognized on the House floor before HR 1005 was adopted.

The Academy of American Poets established April as National Poetry Month in 1996. The intent is to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets, to introduce Americans to the pleasures and benefits of reading poetry, to bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways, and make poetry an important part of our children's education.

The resolution notes that National Poetry Month is now the largest literary celebration in the world. It posits that poetry is an essential part of arts and humanities and affects every aspect of life in America today, including education, the economy and community pride and development. It further notes that poetry has produced some of the nation's leading creative artists and has inspired other artists in fields such as music, theater, film, dance and the visual arts.

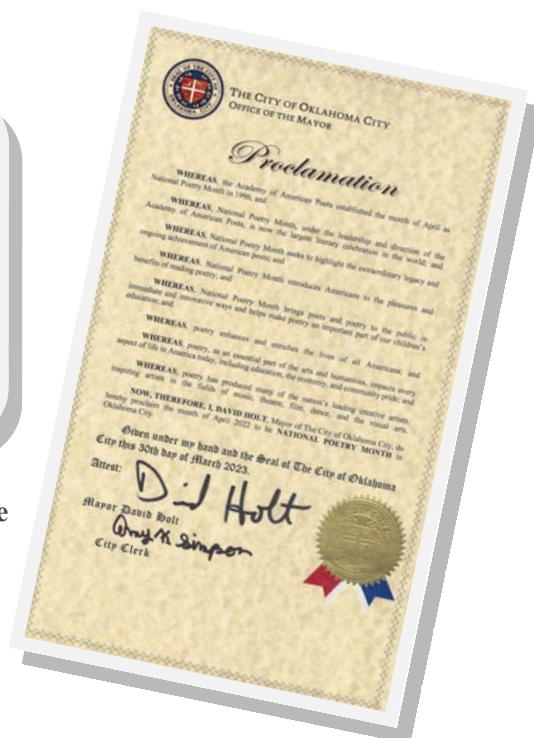
Finally, the resolution encourages public officials, educators, librarians and all people of Oklahoma to observe this month, to celebrate the cultural riches our state has to offer, and to recognize the important role of poetry in creating this great nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs.

-END-



Jay Snider of Cyril as 2023-2024 Oklahoma State Poet Laureate

Keeping Poetry alive everyday!



PSO Member News

Our **Congratulations** go out to this year's 2023 **Poetry Society of Oklahoma's** Poet Laureate, Delores L. Walker (again). Way to go!

PSO is proud to announce that Sandy Soli has been named Honorary Member (forever)!

Karen Kay Knauss a finalist in the Oklahoma Book Awards. Congratulations *****(see below)***

CONGRATULATIONS to Jay Snider, Oklahoma State Poet Laureate 2023-2024

Publications of Members

Anna [Keeseey] Faundez: **In Hopes of an End**

Karen Kay Knauss: **Cream Lines: Words Risen to Poetry****

Lisbeth L. McCarty: **Aha! and Ha-Ha: Melpomene and Thalia**

Eddie D. Wilcoxon: **Animal ABC's: A Coloring Book of Whimsey**

Dale Cottingham: **Midwest Hymns**

Poetry Readings

Spoke w/Kassie at **The Depot** (in Norman). They are trying to get their poetry programs at the Depot up and running! They are looking for a volunteer for the poetry program. ***If you are interested contact them.***

www.facebook.com/normandepot (405) 307-9320

Last Sunday Reading (Feature & Open Mic)

Full Circle Bookstore, 2:00 P.M.

50 Penn Place, Oklahoma City

May's Guest Speaker—Nathan Brown

2nd Sunday at **Tidewater Winery** (Drumright), 2:00 P.M., coordinated by Sharon Martin

Word Pulp (Queen of Sheba Restaurant) - First & Third Thursday Monthly, 7:30 P.M.

Coffy's Café Open Mic - Every Friday, 8:00 P.M.

Third Thursdays: **Shawnee Poetry Night** 7:00 P.M.

oklahomapoetryevents@gmail.com for additional events (Open Mic for poetry)

Send member news to: pattikoch0@gmail.com

May's Poetry Form ~ *Epigraph* <https://www.https://poets.org/glossary/epigraph>

An epigraph is a quotation set at the beginning of a literary work or one of its divisions to suggest its theme.

One Vote

After reading a letter from his mother, Harry T. Burn cast the deciding vote to ratify the 19th amendment of the U.S. Constitution

My parents are from countries
where mangoes grow wild and bold
and eagles cry the sky in arcs and dips.
America loved this bird too and made

it clutch olives and arrows. Some think
if an eaglet falls, the mother will swoop
down to catch it. It won't. The eagle must fly
on its own accord by first testing the air-slide

over each pinfeather. Even in a letter of wind,
a mother holds so much power. After the pipping
of the egg, after the branching—an eagle is on
its own. Must make the choice on its own

no matter what its been taught. Some forget
that pound for pound, eagle feathers are stronger
than an airplane wing. And even one letter, one
vote can make the difference for every bright thing.

Continued from page 1... Oklahoma. Vivian presented this request to the executive board and PSO membership and it was approved.

The 2004 Oklahoma Lore sixth grade contest subject was changed to The Oklahoma Rose. First Prize winner Lauren Snyder read her poem *The Oklahoma Rose* to the Oklahoma State Senate. On February 23, 2004 the Senate voted 44-0 to pass the bill that named the Oklahoma Rose as the State Flower of Oklahoma.

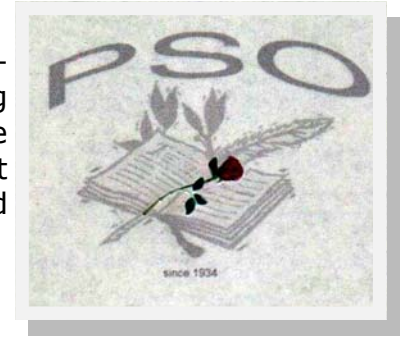
Soon after former PSO Treasurer Mary M. Chase was asked by co-Presidents Vivian Stewart and Billy Pennington to draw a logo for the Poetry Society of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Rose on the PSO logo symbolizes the cooperation between the Oklahoma City Garden Club and PSO to bring Dottie M. Wissenberger's four decade dream into reality.

The Oklahoma State Flower has a long and rich history. To most people, it is just a pretty flower, but to the indigenous tribes that lived in the area before European settlers arrived, it was a sign from God. The tribes would often use these flowers to make medicine. They felt that this plant had great healing powers and was able to use it for many different purposes like treating pain and fever as well as using it as an antiseptic.

The Oklahoma rose is a beautiful flower that symbolizes strength, courage, and resilience. This flower is often given to people who are going through a tough time, as a way to show them that they have the strength to get through it. The Oklahoma rose is a beautiful flower that has many different meanings. It can represent love, appreciation, and even sympathy. What better logo for our Poetry Society of Oklahoma!

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PSO ~ The Year Ahead *** 2023

May	15th	Deadline for Contests for July Workshop*
July	TBA	July Workshop and Contests (Deadline May 15th)*
August	15th	Deadline for Contests for Annual Meeting & National Poetry Day **
October	TBA	PSO Annual Meeting & National Poetry Day (Deadline August 15th)**
November	5th	Daylight Savings Time ends—turn back your clocks
November	23rd	HAPPY THANKSGIVING
December	15th	Deadline for Annual Spring Contest (celebrate next March 2024)
December	25th	MERRY CHRISTMAS
December	31st	PSO Annual Membership dues are payable before the end of the calendar year ~



Poetry Society of Oklahoma Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/poetry/psol>
<https://www.facebook.com/Poetry-Society-of-Oklahoma/psol>