

# The Oklahoma Rose

Volume IX Issue II

PSO ~ ESTABLISHED IN 1934

May 2024

### PSO Officers 2024 - 2025

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## Spring and May Flowers have Arrived!



Happy National Poetry Month!

As I write this article it is April, which is National Poetry Month. I trust that you were able to write and share some poems throughout the month. It's exciting to see that by House Resolution with a motion made by Representative Tammy West, April 2024 was declared National Poetry Month for the State of Oklahoma. Also Oklahoma City Mayor Holt proclaimed April 2024 as National Poetry Month for the City of Oklahoma City. This could not have happened without the efforts of our Past President Patti Koch. Thank you, Patti!

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, we had a wonderful meeting for our Annual Spring Awards and luncheon. Barbara Shepherd did a fantastic job presenting awards. She did a great job as Contest Chair. Thank you, Barbara! Congratulations to LaVern Spencer McCarthy for being awarded PSO Poet Laureate. Congratulations are also in order for Runners-Up Trina Lee and Dena R. Gorrell. We sure do have some amazing poets in our organization.

April has held some special events like the solar eclipse. It was fun to see people gather and share in this event throughout

the country. Were any of you able to write a poem about the solar eclipse? Here's one that I wrote in honor of the eclipse but also in honor of National Haiku Day set for April 17<sup>th</sup>.

moonstruck shadows dance  
day birds silenced in wonder  
afternoon darkness  
(written by Rob Burgess, April 8 ,2024)

Poem In Your Pocket Day is April 18<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup> is Poetry And The Creative Mind Day.

Submissions for the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Anthology are coming in and Karen Kay is busy getting it put together. I trust each of you were able to get your submissions in by the deadline. This is so exciting!

Continue to watch future issues of The Oklahoma Rose for the development of the Anthology and other events related to it.

Don't forget to set aside July 20, 2024 for our PSO July Workshop.

Happy Writing!  
Rob Burgess, PSO President

## Did You Know...

that one of the first recorded poets of the Thirteen Colonies was Anne Bradstreet (1612 – 1672), who remains one of the early known women poets who wrote in English. The poems she published during her lifetime address religious and political themes. She also wrote tender evocations of home, family life and of her love for her husband, many of which remained unpublished until the 20th century.

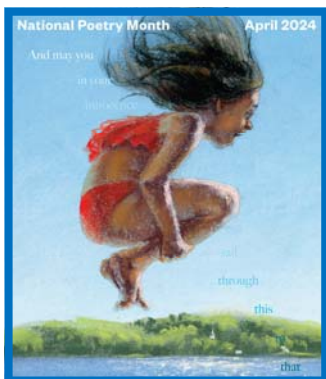
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# MARCH AND APRIL PSO CELEBRATIONS



April

National Poetry Month





## PSO Member News

PSO's most current member news is very exciting... PSO Poets have sent in their three poems, an Oklahoma poem and a bio for our PSO Anthology. And, we are looking forward to a Gala Event this fall to celebrate this PSO Anthology *Answering the Call* and our PSO's 90th Anniversary. Also, we will be entering the Anthology in the 2025 Oklahoma Book Awards.

Congratulations to LaVern Spencer McCarthy—PSO's 2024 Poet Laureate ~ and ... Trina Lee our (1st Runner-up) and Dena Gorrell (2nd Runner-up)

David Thornburgh is pleased to announce his first book has just been published — *The T-Bird Talks*

Patti Koch was honored to have one of her poems read by State Representative Tammy West (House Majority Leader) before the Oklahoma State House of Representatives proclaiming April as **National Poetry Month** for the State Of Oklahoma.

Congratulations to Karen Kay Knauss (Bailey). Her book *SAND, At the Mercy of Wind*, has been selected as **FINALIST** in the **Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry 2024**

## Poetry Readings

**The Depot** (in Norman) is starting up poetry again—DEPOT POETRY (this summer)!

Last Sunday Reading **Full Circle Bookstore**, 2:00 P.M. \*\*  
50 Penn Place, Oklahoma City

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.

**Red-Dirt Poetry** Open Mic—every Wednesday  
7:30 sign in show 8:00  
Ponyboy, 423 NW 23rd St — Oklahoma City, OK

3rd Sunday: *Poetry on Lost Street*, 2:00 pm in Durant OK.  
Contact Ron Wallace, [15yankeeehawk@gmail.com](mailto:15yankeeehawk@gmail.com)

1st Sunday: **Oklahoma Poetry House** 1515 N. Lincoln,  
2:00 pm. Terri Cummings, [tcummings.oph@gmail.com](mailto:tcummings.oph@gmail.com)

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Send member news to: [pattikoch0@gmail.com](mailto:pattikoch0@gmail.com)

## MAY's Poetry Form Zejel <https://poetscollective.org/poetryforms/zejel/> (Spanish)

The first stanza, known as the mudanza, has three lines, rhyming aaa. All the other stanzas – as many of them as you like – have 4 lines, rhyming bbba, the a rhyme harking back to the first stanza. So the overall rhyming scheme for the poem is aaa/bbba/ccca/ddda/... 8-syllable lines are usual

### Toothless Smile (Zejel)

The tortoise lived out on a heath  
with only sage to hide beneath  
his home he never could bequeath.  
While I am taxed for my household  
and pay and pay until I'm old,  
and shall until I'm dead and cold  
and I'm ensconced beneath a wreath.  
My brilliant smile was once okay,  
before my teeth all went away;  
my progeny will have to say,  
“He kept his house but lost his teeth.”

Bob Newman ~

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*Continued from page 1...* A distinctly American lyric voice of the colonial period was Phillis Wheatley, a slave whose book "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral," was published in 1773. She was one of the best-known poets of her day, at least in the colonies, and her poems were typical of New England culture at the time, meditating on religious and classical ideas.

The 18th century saw an increasing emphasis on America as fit subject matter for its poets. This trend is most evident in the works of Philip Freneau (1752–1832), who is notable for the unusually sympathetic attitude to Native Americans shown in his writings, which had been interpreted as being reflective of his skepticism toward American culture. However, as might be expected from what was essentially provincial writing, this late colonial-era poetry is generally somewhat old-fashioned in form and syntax, deploying the means and methods of Pope and Gray in the era of Blake and Burns. The work of Rebecca Hammond Lard (1772–1855), although quite old, still apply to life in today's world. She writes about nature, not only the nature of environment, but the nature of humans.

On the whole, the development of poetry in the American colonies mirrors the development of the colonies themselves. The early poetry is dominated by the need to preserve the integrity of the Puritan ideals that created the settlement in the first place. As the colonists grew in confidence, the poetry they wrote increasingly reflected their drive towards independence. This shift in subject matter was not reflected in the mode of writing which tended to be conservative, to say the least. This can be seen as a product of the physical remove at which American poets operated from the center of English-language poetic developments in London

...continued from March Issue and to be continued in July Oklahoma Rose  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_poetry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_poetry)

## PSO ~ The Year Ahead \*\*\* 2024

May 15th	<b>Deadline</b> 2024 July Workshop Contest
July 20th	PSO July Workshop
August 15th	<b>Deadline</b> 2024 National Poetry Day Contest
October 19th	PSO National Poetry Day and Annual Meeting
November 3rd	Daylight Savings Time ends—turn your clocks back
November 28th	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
December 15th	<b>Deadline</b> 2024 Annual Spring Poetry Contest for 2025
December 25th	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>
December 31st	PSO Annual Membership dues payable before the end of the calendar year ~



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

**NOTE:** [\(if you missed the April 25th deadline for anthology submissions, please contact Karen Kay ASAP\)](#)