

61st Mid-South Poetry Festival

*Sponsored by The Poetry Society of Tennessee
Saturday, October 7, 2017*

*Holiday Inn, University of Memphis
3700 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111
(901) 678-8200*

Workshop Leader:

Poet, writer, editor, publisher, scholar, professor, activist Ron Whitehead is the recipient of numerous state, national, and international awards and prizes including The All Kentucky Poetry Prize, The Yeats Club of Oxford's Prize for Poetry, and many others. In 2006 Dr. John Rocco (NYC) nominated Ron for The Nobel Prize in Literature. Ron's work is in the tradition of the Beat Generation but is also deeply influenced by rock and roll, the legacy of the European avant-garde, and his own native Kentucky. He is at the same time a regional and universal writer: Kentucky is his home but the world is his subject.

Ron taught college/university for over 20 years at the University of Louisville, Spalding University, St. Catharine College, Jefferson Community College, and Bellarmine University, and has presented and lectured all over the world. Not only has Ron edited, published, and recorded over 2000 titles (including works by the Dalai Lama, Jimmy Carter, Seamus Heaney, Jack Kerouac, and others), he has authored over 30 books and has published in journals as diverse as Northwestern University's Triquarterly to Japan's Blue Beat Jacket. Ron has presented over 6,000 readings of his own creative work around the world. He reads his work solo and with musicians from around the world, in all genres of music. Ron has been a featured poet at International Poetry Festivals in Nicaragua, Brazil, The Netherlands, and many other countries.

For more information, see Ron's official website, www.tappingmyownphone.com.

Return to:

*JoAn L. Howerton, Festival Director
2563 Twin Woods Cove
Memphis TN 38135*

TO:

***Here is your 2017
Mid-South
Poetry Festival Brochure!***

2017 Mid-South Poetry Festival
Registration, Entry, and Rules
Website address: www.tnpoetry.org
Contact us: info@tnpoetry.org

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Breakdown of Charges:

_____ # of unlimited entries in Contest #1 @ \$2 each = _____	Lunches @ \$20/person = _____
_____ # of unlimited entries in Contest #2 @ \$2 each = _____	Registration Fees @ \$10 each = _____
_____ # of entries in Contests #3-30 @ \$1 each = _____	Total enclosed = _____

- **Deadline: Postmarked by Friday, August 18 2017.** Early birds may hand-deliver contest entries to the PST summer social event.
- **Registration fee must be paid prior to the festival.** Send check for registration, entries, and lunch (if attending) made payable to PST to: JoAn Howerton, Festival Director, 2563 Twin Woods Cove, Memphis, TN 38134.
- NO E-MAIL ENTRIES.
- Mid-South Poetry Festivals participants are entitled to free parking and continental breakfast at the hotel. A winners' list will be provided to all participants. Guests are welcome, but must pay the \$10 registration fee and lunch fee as quoted.
- We must know one week prior to the event how many are attending and how many dining.
- **Questions:** JoAn Howerton, Festival Director, (901) 361-0077; E-mail: joan0620@att.net

CONTEST RULES

Our rules of submission are the same as those of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Help with specific poetry formats is available on the PST forms blog: www.poemssamples.blogspot.com.

1. Your contest entries must be original and unpublished poems (except those entered in contest #2), and must be submitted by **deadline postmarked by Friday, August 18, 2017.**
2. Unless otherwise specified, a poem may be on any subject, in any form. Pay attention to line limits specified as rules regarding length are strictly applied.
3. Enter only one poem per contest except in contests #1 and #2. Any number of poems may be entered in these two contests so long as proper fees are paid. Do not enter the same poem in more than one contest.
4. Type poems on standard, 8 ½" x 11" white paper; no handwritten poems will be accepted. Use a readable font style and print size, please. Staple two-page poems on upper left.
5. Submit two copies of every poem. One copy must show poet's identification in upper right corner (show ID on both pages of two-page poems), the second copy must show no ID. Show title and number of contest on both copies, in the upper left.
6. Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order (1-30) with originals on top; no paperclips.
7. All participants must pay a \$10.00 registration fee. Entries in Contest #1 and #2 are \$2.00 each. Entries in all others are \$1.00 each. Contest #1 is open only to members of the Poetry Society of Tennessee.
8. First place winners (except #2, which allows published poems) will be published in the PST yearbook, *Tennessee Voices*, which sells for \$5 (members) and \$10 (non-members). It becomes available in October 2017.
9. Honorable mentions are given as merited by the number of entries in each individual contest and the quality of the material submitted.

POETRY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT FESTIVAL PARTY- Friday, October 6, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy Festival hospitality at the home of Sarah Hull Gurley, 279 N. Avalon, Memphis, TN 38112. (See directions below.) At this potluck feast, the winners of Festival contest #2 will be announced and winning poems read aloud. Please remember to bring your favorite potluck dish. Beverages will be provided by the hostess.

Directions to Festival Party: Take Poplar Avenue and drive west toward downtown Memphis. Turn right on N. Avalon (shopping center and carwash on your left), and proceed to house number 279 on the left (west) side. If you reach Overton Park Ave., you've gone too far. Mapquest provides good directions.

Winners will be announced and door prizes given throughout the day on October 7th!

Saturday, October 7

9:00 a.m.	Registration, read around (a prize will be given), and continental breakfast
10.00 a.m.	Workshop by Ron Whitehead
12:00 noon	Buffet luncheon
1:00 p.m.	Awards and readings
2:00 p.m.	Break
2:15 p.m.	Awards and readings continue
4:00 p.m.	Final door prizes

Special Thanks!

- **JoAn Howerton**, Festival Director, who solicited the contests and distributed the brochure.
- **Sarah Hull Gurley**, gracious hostess for our festival party, and treasurer who wrote all the checks.
- **Lori Goetz**, who created the Festival brochure.
- **Everyone else** who helped make this festival possible, we are grateful!

PST Officers — Memphis

Leslie Blakeburn, President
 JoAn Howerton, VP & Membership Chair
 Florence Bruce, Corresponding Secretary
 Lori Goetz, Recording Secretary
 Sarah Hull Gurley, Treasurer
 Russell H. Strauss, Director
 Frances Cowden, Director
 Randy Stoker, Parliamentarian

PST Officers — NE

Gretchen McCroskey, President
 Todd Bailey, VP
 Janice Hornburg, Treasurer
 Evelyn Bales, Secretary

MID-SOUTH FESTIVAL CONTESTS

Best of the Fest

\$250 is contributed by Marilyn Denington in memory of Michael R. (Mick) Denington. The first place winners in all Festival contests (except contest #2, which allows published poems) will be collected and sent to a special outside judge who will decide which one of the winning poems in this year's Festival deserves this special award. Decision of the judge will be final.

1. Benefactor's Award

Form: Any

Prizes: \$40/\$30/\$20/\$15/\$10

Subject: Any

Line limits: 40 max

Special Instructions: This contest is open only to Poetry Society of Tennessee members in good standing. Prizes are awarded from anonymous donations. Any number of poems may be entered; \$2 per entry.

2. Poet's Field Day Award

Form: Any

Prizes: Prizes depend on the number of entries at \$2.00 per entry

Subject: Any

Line limits: 40 max

Special Instructions: Poems entered may be previously published or unpublished. Any number of poems may be entered. Collected fees become "the pot", of which 1st place winner gets 40%, 2nd place 20%, and 3rd place 10%. The remaining 30% will go to pay Festival costs. Winners of Contest #2 will be announced at the Festival party, Friday night, September 30.

MID-SOUTH FESTIVAL CONTESTS

<p>3. The James & Mary Virginia Wright Memorial Award Form: Any recognized form (no free verse) Subject: The Greatest Generation Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Douglas and Catherine Taylor Prizes: \$50/\$40/\$30 + HM as merited Line limits: 50 max</p>
<p>4. The Science of Poetry Form: Any Subject: Any scientific discipline: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Geology, Engineering, Climate Science, Astronomy, Medicine... Special Instructions: Craft a poem incorporating some of the technical terminology of science, but lift it to the realm of poetry. See pstne.weebly.com for examples and instructions.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Janice Hornburg Prizes: \$50/\$25/\$15 Line limits: 50 max</p>
<p>5. The Poetry Society of Tennessee-Northeast Award Form: Any Subject: Any Special Instructions: Please specify form name on entry.</p>	<p>Sponsored By: Poetry Society of Tennessee, NE Chapter Prizes: \$50/\$25/\$15 Line limits: 50 max</p>
<p>6. The Sarah Catherine Anderson Memorial Award Form: Any Subject: The Great War Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Sarah Hull Gurley Prizes: \$50/\$30/\$20 Line limits: 20-30</p>
<p>7. Fill in the Blanks Award Form: Any Except Free Verse Subject: Any, Humorous or Serious Special Instructions: Please specify form name on entry.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Barbara Blanks Prizes: \$35/\$20/\$10 Line limits: 3-45</p>
<p>8. Villanelle Contest Form: Villanelle Subject: Any Special Instructions: See http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/villanelle.html for more info.</p>	<p>Sponsored By: Leslie Blakeburn Prizes: \$30/\$20/\$15 Line limits: 19</p>
<p>9. The Ancient Mariner Award Form: Ballad Stanza Subject: Any Special Instructions: See http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/ballad-and-ballad-stanza.html for more info.</p>	<p>Sponsored By: Dr. Diane M. Clark Prizes: \$30/\$20/\$10 + 3 HM, if appropriate Line limits: 16-32</p>
<p>10. The Acrostic Challenge Award Form: Acrostic Subject: Any Special Instructions: Avoid making a list of individual items; use punctuation within the lines of the acrostic.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Janet Qually Prize: \$20 Line limits: 7-12</p>
<p>11. Cates Creative Award Special Instructions: Design an original new form. Name it. Produce one as an example, then tell us the specifics on how to write one (for example, line count, syllable count, rhymed or free verse, etc.).</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Ann Carolyn Cates Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5</p>
<p>12. Dotty Katz Memorial Award Form: Any Subject: There's no place like home Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Linnie Mirvis Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5 + 2 HM Line limits: 40 max</p>

MID-SOUTH FESTIVAL CONTESTS

<p>13. Contemporary Tanka Challenge Form: English Language Contemporary Tanka Subject: Any Special Instructions: Do not follow the early form of the 5/7/5/7/7 tanka; no punctuation unless needed for clarification; no capitalization unless a proper noun. See examples at skylarktanka.weebly.com.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Janet Qually Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5 Line limits: 5 max</p>
<p>14. The Sheron Strauss Memorial Award Form: Villanelle Subject: Any Special Instructions: See http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/villanelle.html for more info.</p>	<p>Sponsored By: Sarah Hull Gurley Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 + 2 HM Line limits: 19</p>
<p>15. Grands Form: Any Subject: Grands — poems about grandmothers, grandfathers, or grandchildren. Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Dr. Emory Jones Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 + HM as merited Line limits: 40 max</p>
<p>16. Humor in a Serious World Form: Limerick Subject: Any Special Instructions: See http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/limerick.html for more info.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: J. Pompford Harris Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5 Line limit: 5</p>
<p>17. Joan T. Strauss Memorial Award Form: Any Subject: What I learned in school (humorous or serious) Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Russell Strauss Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5 Line limits: 10-30</p>
<p>18. The Michael Denington Memorial Award Form: Free Verse Subject: Mountains Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Sarah Hull Gurley Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 + 2 HM Line limits: 25 max</p>
<p>19. J.D. Douglass Memorial Award Form: Etheree Subject: Life in the country Special Instructions: Have fun, make up scenarios, go to years past. Use country dialect if you like. Imagination should reign. See the blog spot for more information: http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/etheree.html.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Gail Denham Prizes: \$20/\$10/\$10 + 3 HM Line limits: 10 max</p>
<p>20. In Memory of Jo Elliott Form: Petrarchan Sonnet Subject: Any Special Instructions: See http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/sonnet.html for more info.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: J. Pompford Harris Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 Line limits: 14</p>
<p>21. Bobbie Drobeck Memorial Award Form: Free verse or one of these standard rhymed forms: sonnet, villanelle, pantoum Subject: My deepest secret is now revealed (humorous or serious) Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Russell Strauss Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5 Line limits: 10-40</p>
<p>22. The Jeanine Mah Honorary Award Form: Poet's Choice Subject: Remorse Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Jeanine Mah Prizes: \$25/\$20/\$15/10 Line limits: 40 max</p>

MID-SOUTH FESTIVAL CONTESTS

<p>23. The Ruth and Melvin Brown 75th Anniversary Memorial Award (Married June 22, 1942) Form: Free verse Subject: For Better, For Worse, Together, Forever (can be about true love, loving each other through the good and the bad and the journey together as a family) Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored By: JoAn Howerton and siblings, whose parents would have been married 75 years this year Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 Line limits: 40 max</p>
<p>24. Ruth Boyd Memorial Award Form: Dorsimbra Subject: Any Special Instructions: See http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2014/08/dorsimbra.html for more info.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Elizabeth Pell Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5 Line limits: 12</p>
<p>25. Cumberland Prize Form: Any Subject: Any Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Elizabeth Howard Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 Line limits: 40 max</p>
<p>26. Time to Say Goodbye Form: Any Subject: Retirement Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored By: Lee Cotton Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 + 3HM Line limits: 32 max</p>
<p>27. Flights of Fancy Form: Butterfly Cinquain Subject: Any Special Instructions: See http://poemsamples.blogspot.com/2015/05/cinquain.html for more info.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Lori Goetz Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 Line limits: 9</p>
<p>28. Sonnet Contest Form: Sonnet Subject: Science Special Instructions: Judge may determine additional honorable mentions, as merited.</p>	<p>Sponsored By: Mark Hudson Prizes: \$15/\$10/\$5 Line limits: 14</p>
<p>29. IMAGO Contest Form: IMAGO Subject: Any in good taste Special Instructions: 8 unrhymed lines, following the alternating syllable count 7/5/7/5/7/5/7/5, following the style of Madelyn Eastlund, Pennsylvania Poetry Society.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Charles Firmage Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10 + 3HM Line limits: 8</p>
<p>30. In These Troubled Times Form: Any Subject: At the hospital Special Instructions: None.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Lori Goetz Prizes: \$25/\$15/\$10. Line limits: 20 max</p>