



# The Muse Messenger

The Newsletter of the Alabama State Poetry Society

January, 2017

Vol. 48, Nr. 01

## Musings from the Editors

We've been seeing multiple Facebook posts about 2016 and how glad people are to have it come to an end. How sad. Was there nothing in the past year to bring us joy? Was there no laughter or time together with loved ones? Did the sunshine not warm our faces, the birds not sing their songs? Was the beauty of nature not there for us to see and smell and experience? Was there not even one day we can remember fondly?

We get it. It was a tough year for everyone we know. Including us. And it culminated with our 49-year-old son having a heart attack three weeks ago and passing away after fighting for three days in ICU. That doesn't make it a banner year, does it? However, to write off the entire year would be foolish in the extreme.

To be sure, we lost our son in 2016. But it was also the last year his life made a difference in the lives of others. And it did. It was the last year I heard his contagious laughter, the last year I could tell him, "I love you to the moon and back," the last time I'll get a text message and be able to delight in his silliness. To throw away those things takes "throwing the baby out with the bathwater" to a new level.

So, our challenge to you for 2017, dear members, is to cherish each moment and to see the wonder in each day even if every day isn't wonderful. Write the poems your heart is begging you to write. Finish that book you started but have put aside. Reach out and touch someone's life and make a difference. Go to a conference, go to a play, go to a park and laugh with the delight of a child. And make 2017 your best year ever.

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## Writing Prompts

~ Mike Johnson (Poems are also by Mike)

*(We were so impressed with these suggestions, we decided to publish them along with Mike's two poems. Why don't you come up with a writing prompt or two, write a poem using those prompts and send them to us? Eds.)*

Have you ever come across a word (clean, non-political) that you don't like and would like to write out of the English language? Write a poem and include that word. Make it famous! (Or infamous)

Sour Cherry Strudel

Was living a good life  
Until I seen "its,"  
Now spend all my time  
Searching for wits!

With winter nights upon us, it makes me think of more comforting childhood times. How and what ordinary things or people in your life bring back comforting memories? Think about it and warm us with a poem. This is an example of a "comfort poem."

Homemade Sugar Cookies

The rhythm of tea  
Peppermint taste  
Steeps the heart  
Enduring paste.

Broken handhold  
Her favorite cup  
Missing Mom  
Sup by sup.

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## A Poetic Journey

~ Urainah Glidewell

A writer friend once told me, "If you're not going to share your writing, you might as well just think thoughts."

This was in the midst of gathering poetry to publish my first book, and that was the small nudge of

encouragement I needed to complete my task. I had shoeboxes full of scraps of paper, scribbled notes, and a few printed sheets of poems I had written twenty years ago. Publishing a book of poetry was always a dream, ever since I was a teenager. It was a challenging journey that and it took a Herculean effort and courage to finally expose my poetry to the world.

Your poetic journey may be at a different juncture. You may just be starting out writing poetry, like a new foal stumbling to walk on shaky, unfamiliar legs. You may have written poems for many years, but kept them tucked away in shoeboxes, afraid to share such personal words with others. You may be the prolific poet, who submits to every online journal and contest available, but reading them verbally to others is a daunting task to you.

I want to encourage you to share your poems, particularly in a positive environment, which will nurture and challenge you. You can search for poetry groups in your area. Your local public library is always a great start. You may go at first to listen and become familiar with others in the group until you grow comfortable enough to share your own poetry.

Reading poetry is always an adventure in language. It is subjective and challenging. Reading allows us to apply our interpretation and experiences to the words. But hearing poetry spoken aloud, particularly by the poet, presents these same words in an entirely new context. We can hear the inflection, the emotion, the heartache, the intent. We can hear *their* story in *their* words. And if those words strike something within us, show us a different way to look at a situation, or challenge us with metaphors and similes, we have the advantage of asking the poet their intention.

Another advantage of sharing with others is receiving their feedback. What did they like about the poem? Did you use strong verbs and imagery? Did you apply different tools of language to perfect a form? Did you use strong metaphors and similes? Or did you blaze a new trail of rhyme? A group that will help to encourage you with positive reinforcement can help to build your confidence as a writer. It can expose the strengths in your writing as well as weaknesses you may need to work on.

It does take a bit of courage to share your poetry, especially if it is personal and emotional. But if you can find a group of like-minded people who love poetry just as much as you do, it makes the transition easier. It takes practice and familiarity to build the confidence for more public reading, such as open mics and performance poetry. Having continuous positive reinforcement from a more intimate reading group can help build your skills, your projection, inflection, and confidence.

We are all at a different point on our poetic journey. Just be sure you continue to walk along the road, no matter how much your legs are shaking.

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## The Daily Workshop

~ Rita Moritz

*This column will propose “workshops” you can do all by your lonesome, in the privacy of your own home. Most will take no more than an hour and all can be done daily, weekly or whenever you can...remember that a little self-discipline goes a long way!*

Last month's workshop focused on smells and the memories they can trigger. One of the smells that brought instant images to mind was when my girls were all gathered by my vanity in the bathroom. One of them took my White Shoulders perfume and sprayed it on one of the others, then “told on her,” saying she had used “my” cologne. What a sweet and silly bunch of memories from when the kids were young, and Mom's “White Shoulders” was off limits.

I also noticed while the kids were all here that all of them grabbed a throw blanket from the back of the couch, and I saw all of them enjoying the comforting feel of that blanket. Whether it was the warmth, the texture of the blankets (one was a favorite of all of them), or something else, it brought back memories.

Have you heard of “fidget blankets?” They are blankets that have all kinds of different things attached to them...zippers, Velcro, buttons, things that “crackle” when you touch them. They're very useful for Alzheimer patients and for autistic children. For some reason, they find them calming. So your workshop for this month is to focus on the sense of touch. Is it a lover's touch, the feel of your cat's fur, the crisp clean feel of sheets that were on the clothesline? Think about and then be aware of all the

things you get, keep, learn through your sense of touch. Then write about it.

Try writing about that sense of touch in a form. Then try writing about it in free or blank verse or some other form (or non-form) Here's where I remind you how I love "stream of consciousness" writing because it gets you and me out of the way and allows our Muse to write beautiful and/or insightful things. Give it a try.

If you write something based on this month's workshop, consider sending it to us. If there's room in the February *Muse Messenger*, we'd love to include it.

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### Writing Prompts - The Fifty Most Quoted Lines of Poetry

Well, folks, this is the top ten. I'm curious about how many of them you knew and whether any of them were completely new to you. The number one most quoted line of poetry is somehow appropriate for the new year. Choose one or more of these most commonly quoted lines of poetry to create your own poem. If it's overused and trite, which most of them are, make it fresh and new.

10. "Tis better to have loved and lost/Than never to have loved at all"

2,400,000 Tennyson

9. "Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair"

3,080,000 Shelley

8. "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield"

3,140,000 Tennyson

7. "Tread softly because you tread on my dreams"

4,860,000 W.B. Yeats

6. "Not with a bang but a whimper"

5,280,000 T.S. Eliot

5. "And miles to go before I sleep"

5,350,000 Robert Frost

4. "I wandered lonely as a cloud"

8,000,000 Wordsworth

3. "The child is father of the man"

9,420,000 Wordsworth

2. "I am the master of my fate"

14,700,000 William Ernest Henley

1. "To err is human; to forgive, divine"

14,800,000 Alexander Pope

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### A "Thank You" from a Member.

Dear Rita and Harry,

I am pleased to report that I placed in 3 of 7 categories in the Georgia Poetry Society's fall contest (which I read about in the *Muse Messenger*). I won 2nd place for my sonnet "Spring Has Not Yet Come" in the Byron Herbert Reece International Award category. He was a Georgia poet who wrote about the "heritage and life of the north Georgia mountains."

I also won 3rd place for a sonnet called "An Audience of Willows" in the Edgar Bowers Award category. Bowers was a Georgia poet whose "poems expressed themes of loss—of the past, of friends, of family, of humanity." Poetry in this category had to be a recognized poetic form.

Lastly, I won 2nd place for "Calligraphy" in the Mnemosyne Award (Mnemosyne was the Greek goddess of Memory).

Thank you very much for informing us of all the contests and opportunities.

Karen McAferty Morris  
Pensacola, FL

*(There's a reason we do the hard work of organizing poetry contest, checking deadlines, and letting members know about it. This is the perfect example of why we do it. If you don't enter, you can't win. Eds.)*

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### Call for *Muse Messenger* Submissions

What Can I Submit to the *Muse Messenger*?

Our goal as the Editors of the *Muse Messenger* is to make it a "real" member newsletter. That means we want the content to be focused on, of interest to, and even written by you...the members of ASPS. Here are some of the features that would welcome your submissions:

- **Member News.** If you've won a contest, had something accepted for publication, hosted a party or done anything else you want other members to know about, let us know. We love hearing about your success and letting others know about it.

● **What's Happening.** Do you have an event planned? A workshop? A conference? If it has value, share it so other members will know about it.

● **Tips & Tools of the Trade.** What writing prompts work for you? What are some common errors to avoid? Put together three or four tips and send them to us. If we can use them, we'll credit you.

● **Articles.** We're always looking for well-written articles about poetry and writing. Articles should be between 300-600 words and should also be crisp, clean copy. Write it, edit it carefully and send it to us.

● **Monthly Challenges.** If you send your challenge to us, we will include it in a future issue and credit you.

● **Fillers.** Fillers should be 100 to 200 words. They can be interesting, informative, or just fun.

All your submissions should be attached as a Word document and sent by email to:

[editor@musemessenger.org](mailto:editor@musemessenger.org). Put the feature you are submitting to in the Subject line (i.e. Article, Tips and Tools, etc.). If you wish, you may also send your submissions for any section of the *Muse Messenger* using snail mail to:

**Muse Messenger, P.O. 1651, Pell City, AL 35125.**

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## Member News for December

**Angela Broyles** has announced that Bluewater Publications will be sponsoring a writing contest in celebration of the Alabama Bicentennial. Watch for details in the February issue of the *Muse Messenger* for this contest, which will launch in March.

**Claire Field** has recently had her poetry accepted by three print publications: *Peeking Cat*, *Contemporary Poetry* (Volume 3), Slipstream Press, *Freshwater*, and *Oasis Journal*.

**Judith C. Moon** reports her book, *Angel Bells*, is now available on Amazon, Kindle, e-bay, and Nook.

**Mysti Milwee's** poem, "Gatlinburg Strong," was published in *The Mountain Press* (Sevierville, TN) in the December 11, 2016 Issue. In addition, one of her quotes was selected for Visual Artist Tom Findlay's Inspirational Angel Art Prints. You can see Tom's work at [thomasandrewart.com](http://thomasandrewart.com).

**Judith C. Moon** reports her book, *Angel Bells*, is now available on Amazon, Kindle, e-bay, and Nook.

**Harry Moritz** announces that the Mid-Winter Writers Conference is scheduled for February 25th and will include our own Sue Walker as one of the presenters. The flyer is attached and you can watch for updates on the Mid-Winter Writers Conference Facebook page.

**Rita Moritz** reports her book, *So You Love a Prodigal: What You Can't Do, What You Can Do, Why You Can't Quit*, is now available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle and also on Nook and on her own webpage. To see endorsements by David Bennett (*HomeLife Magazine*), Jennifer Rash (*Alabama Baptist*), Yvette Maher (Focus on the Family), go to [ritamoritz.com/takealook](http://ritamoritz.com/takealook).

**Jimmy Robinson** reports that The Huntsville Literary Association's monthly poetry workshop will meet on January 24 from 7 to 9 PM. The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Contact Jimmy Robinson for venue and information. [jmr815@comcast.net](mailto:jmr815@comcast.net)

**Glenda Slater** has a reading/signing event for her book, *Folling Around With Shakespeare*, at Page and Palette in Fairhope on January 15 at 2:00. On February 18, she will also be doing a program for the Baldwin Writers at the Daphne Library, 10:00 to noon.

**Sue Walker's** poem, "A matter of Repetition," was published in the Blakeley Blog—[blakeleypark.com/blog.asp](http://blakeleypark.com/blog.asp)—in December 2016.

**Jeanette Willert** reports Charles Frazier's *Anthology of Appalachian Writing* has accepted three of her poems. They will appear in the Spring 2016 issue. This is a major accomplishment for Jeanette, because Charles Frazier is the author of *Cold Mountain*.

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## *Muse Messenger* Monthly Challenge.

Each month, the editors choose challenges to include in the *Muse Messenger*. The challenges this month were taken from the National Federation of State Poetry Society's yearly contest. The \* indicates the category is open for members only. If you are a member of ASPS, you are also a member of NFSPS. The deadline for entries is March 15. Between now and then, all the

monthly challenges will be the categories taken from the NFSPS contest. The three for this month are as follows:

#### 4. THE NFSPS BOARD AWARD

Sponsored by NFSPS board members.

Subject: An inanimate object

Form: Any. 28-line limit.

#### 5. THE MARGO AWARD

In memory of Margo LaGattuta, who encouraged poetry in everyone she met.

Subject: Animals.

Form: Any. 50-line limit.

#### 13. LAND OF ENCHANTMENT AWARD

Sponsored by the New Mexico State Poetry Society

Subject: A Poem Related to "Borders" real or imagined.

Form: Any 40-line limit.

We would love to hear some suggestions from you. What prompts do you use? Send them to us, and we'll be glad to share them with the rest of ASPS. If you've written a poem based on one of the monthly challenges, send that to us as well. If there's room in the Muse Messenger the following month, we'll publish it. Send prompts and/or poems to us at: [editor@musemessenger.org](mailto:editor@musemessenger.org), and we will include them in a future issue of *Muse Messenger* and credit you.

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### What's Happening?

**January 3: Gifts of a Wordsmith**, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Barry Marks at: [barry@leaselawyer.com](mailto:barry@leaselawyer.com) for more information.

**January 5: Please Note Change in Time and Location! Writers Anonymous** will meet on January 5 at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more information, go to: [writersanonymous.us](http://writersanonymous.us).

**January 13: Bamaslam Montevallo Poetry Slam** is on Friday, January 13. Sign up at 8:00 p.m., and the slam begins at 9:00 p.m. at Eclipse Coffee and Books, 1032 Main Street in Montevallo. Email Jerri Hardesty at [WytRabbit1@aol.com](mailto:WytRabbit1@aol.com) for more information.

**January 21: Gifts of a Wordsmith**, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the third Saturday of each month from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Barry Marks at: [barry@leaselawyer.com](mailto:barry@leaselawyer.com) for more information.

**January 24: The Huntsville Literary Association's** poetry workshop meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month except December at rotating venues. For location of this month's meeting or for other information, contact Jimmy Robinson at 256-520-0811 or [jmr815@comcast.net](mailto:jmr815@comcast.net)

**February 2: Please Note Change in Time and Location! Writers Anonymous** will meet on February 2 at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. For more information, go to: [writersanonymous.us](http://writersanonymous.us)

**February 7: Gifts of a Wordsmith**, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Barry Marks at: [barry@leaselawyer.com](mailto:barry@leaselawyer.com) for more information.

**February 11: Pensters Writing Group**, University of South Alabama, 111 St. James St. Room 11, Fairhope will have their regular meeting on February 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Special guest Mick Odom will be speaking on "Copyright Basics for Busy Writers." For more information, go to: [pensterswritinggroup.com/events](http://pensterswritinggroup.com/events)

**February 17: Bamaslam Montevallo Poetry Slam** is on Friday, February 17. Sign up at 8:00 p.m., and the slam begins at 9:00 p.m. at Eclipse Coffee and Books, 1032 Main Street in Montevallo. Email Jerri Hardesty at [WytRabbit1@aol.com](mailto:WytRabbit1@aol.com) for more information.

**February 18: Gifts of a Wordsmith**, a poetry workshop for adults, meets on the third Saturday of each month from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. at the downtown Birmingham Public Library. Email Barry Marks at: [barry@leaselawyer.com](mailto:barry@leaselawyer.com) for more information.

**February 24: Writers Anonymous and the Pell City Library** will be hosting a "Meet & Greet" at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24. Come meet the authors and presenters for the 2017 Mid-

Winter Writers Conference. There is no charge for this event, and it is open to the public.

**February 25:** The 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference will be held at the new Pell City Library, 1000 Bruce Etheredge Parkway. Check the website at: [wwwconference.com](http://wwwconference.com) or our FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/MidWinterWritersConference/> for updates.

If you have an event you would like us to add to "What's Happening," please send us the details at: [editor@musemessenger.com](mailto:editor@musemessenger.com).

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## Highlights on State Poetry Societies:

In order for a State Poetry Society to be featured, it must have a web presence and allow both out-of-state membership and non-member entries in their contests. Keep in mind that contest deadlines may change. Some may accept outside submissions to their journals.

<i>State:</i>	<i>Dues</i>	<i>Contest Deadlines.</i>
<b>Massachusetts:</b>	\$20	8/1
Inet:	<a href="http://mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com/">http://mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com/</a>	
<b>Michigan:</b>	\$20	8/1
Inet:	<a href="https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.wordpress.com">https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.wordpress.com</a>	
FB:	<a href="http://on.fb.me/1YUGXFR">http://on.fb.me/1YUGXFR</a>	
<b>Minnesota:</b>	\$20	7/31
Inet:	<a href="http://www.mnpoets.org/">http://www.mnpoets.org/</a>	
FB:	<a href="http://on.fb.me/1iRt4Hz">http://on.fb.me/1iRt4Hz</a>	

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## Contests, Contests, Contests!

(January/February Contests with Deadlines)

1/1—MA Poetry Soc Of Thee I Sing Contest  
<http://mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com/>

1/1—NFSPS Annual Contest (Submissions Open 1/1)  
[http://www.nfsps.com/poetry\\_contests.htm](http://www.nfsps.com/poetry_contests.htm)

1/2—Gemini Magazine Poetry contest  
<http://bit.ly/1YUI0aU>

1/8—North Carolina:  
<http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org/adultcontests>

1/15—Pennsylvania Poetry Society Annual Contest  
<http://www.nfsps.com/pa/>

1/15—Poetry Soc of TX Monthly Contest  
(Rec'd by Date)  
<http://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/>

1/15—Don't Talk to Me About Love Poetry Contest  
<http://donttalktomeaboutlove.org/contest>

1/15—MA Poetry Soc Of Thee I Sing Contest  
<http://mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com>

1/15—Rattle Literary Journal: Poets with Mental Illness  
<http://www.rattle.com/submissions/calls>

1/15—The Writers' League of Texas 2017 Manuscript Contest  
<http://www.writersleague.org/109/Manuscript-Contest>

1/19—Poetry Society of Virginia  
<http://bit.ly/1ku4X23>

1/20—Poetry Soc of TN (Mem Only) Submit by 1/20 for Feb  
<http://poetrysocietytn.org/>

1/20—North Carolina Poetry Society Annual Contest  
<http://www.ncpoetrysociety.org/adultcontests>

1/31—California: Topic by month and submitted during each month.  
<http://bit.ly/1LEi3zR>

1/31—Grayson Press Poetry Chapbook Contest  
<http://www.graysonbooks.com/contest.html>

1/31—Snapshot Press Haiku Calendar Competition  
<http://bit.ly/1Sghi5i>

1/31—Austin International Poetry Festival Anthology submissions  
<http://www.aipf.org/aipf/default.asp>

1/31—Dream Quest One Poetry & Writing Contest  
<http://www.dreamquestone.com/rules.html>

2/1—Tennessee Mountain Writers Contest for Adult Writers  
[http://tmwi.org/conference\\_contest](http://tmwi.org/conference_contest)

2/1—The First Line Literary Journal Quarterly Contest

<http://www.thefirstline.com/submission.htm>

2/1—Utah State Poetry Society (Must be Rec'd by 2/7) <http://bit.ly/1mw9nqs>

2/3—The Emily Stauffer Poetry Prize  
<https://apogee.submittable.com/submit/48745/the-emily-stauffer-poetry-prize>

2/13—Missouri State Poetry Society Winter Contest <http://bit.ly/1mspZHZ>

2/15—Poetry Society of South Carolina (Electronic Submissions Only)  
<http://bit.ly/1OvzjM6>

2/15—Poetry Society of TX Chapbook Contest  
<http://bit.ly/1n00kyx>

2/20—Poetry Society of TN (Members Only)  
Submit by Feb 20th for March  
<http://bit.ly/1M6wZrf>

2/21—B'ham Public Library Haiku Contest Opens  
<http://bit.ly/1PMH7ac>

2/25—Saturday Evening Post Limerick Laughs Contest. <http://bit.ly/1p3VXfh>

2/28—California: Topic by month and submitted during each month <http://bit.ly/1LEi3zR>

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## Publishers and Journals That Are Accepting Submissions

The following publishers and journals are now open for submissions. Be sure to read and follow the submission guidelines provided on each website. Only your very best work should be submitted.

*The Birmingham Arts Journal:*  
<http://birminghamartsjournal.com>

*Chicken Soup for the Soul:*  
[chickensoup.cosm/](http://chickensoup.cosm/)

*Cicada (Cricket Magazine)*  
[cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/17820](http://cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/17820)

*Decasp: Bite Size Chunks of Humor*  
<http://www.decasp.com/submissions.html>

*Desert Breeze Publishing*  
[desertbreezepublishing.com/submissions](http://desertbreezepublishing.com/submissions)

*Haiku Journal:*  
<http://bit.ly/22JMYpt>

*Heirloom Gardener*  
<http://bit.ly/2dQEIQ0>

*Kudzu House Quarterly:*  
<http://kudzuhouse.org>

*Mayfly*  
<http://bit.ly/1Zs4e0w>

Negative Capability Press:  
<http://negativecapabilitypress.org>

*Penny Magazine:*  
<http://youfoundpenny.com>

*Purpose Magazine:*  
(Submissions must meet the monthly themes.)  
[faithandliferesources.org/periodicals/purpose](http://faithandliferesources.org/periodicals/purpose)

Providence  
<https://providencemag.com/guidelines>

*Reader's Digest* 100-word True Story:  
[rd.com/100-word-stories-submissions](http://rd.com/100-word-stories-submissions)

*Woman's World Mag*  
<http://www.womansworld.com/p/contact>

The Poetry Foundation:  
<http://poetryfoundation.org>

Sterling Publishing  
[sterlingpublishing.com/author-guidelines.html](http://sterlingpublishing.com/author-guidelines.html)

Sunpenny Publishing  
[sunpenny.com/#!submissions](http://sunpenny.com/#!submissions)

## Submissions with Deadlines:

1/15 Rattle Literary Journal: Poets with Mental Illness  
[rattle.com/submissions/calls](http://rattle.com/submissions/calls)

1/15 Reunion: The Dallas Review  
[utdallas.edu/ah/reunion/submissions](http://utdallas.edu/ah/reunion/submissions)

1/27 Rhetoric Askew Quarterly Literary Journal  
<https://rhetoricaskew.wordpress.com/2016/12/02/rathe-quarterly/comment-page-1/#comment-35>

1/31 Chicken Soup for the Soul: Stories about Cats  
[chickensoup.com](http://chickensoup.com)

1/31 Chicken Soup for the Soul: Dreams,  
Premonitions, and the Unexplainable  
[chickensoup.com/](http://chickensoup.com/)

1/31 Chicken Soup for the Soul: Stories about Dogs  
[chickensoup.com/](http://chickensoup.com/)

1/31 Noctua Review: Southern Connecticut State  
University's graduate literary journal  
[noctuareview.wixsite.com/website/submit](http://noctuareview.wixsite.com/website/submit)

1/31 San Pedro River Review Literary Journal  
[bluehorsepress.com](http://bluehorsepress.com)

1/31 Silver Birch Press: Me at 17  
<https://silverbirchpress.wordpress.com/2016/12/18/c-all-for-submissions-me-at-17-poetry-and-prose-series>

1/31 Wordrunner Echapbooks: Breaking Barriers  
[echapbook.com/submissions.html](http://echapbook.com/submissions.html)

Be sure to check the website for submission  
guidelines before submitting to any of these.

If you know of publishers or journals that are  
accepting submissions, please let us know so they  
can be included in the next *Muse Messenger*.

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# The End.



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## The Alabama State Poetry Society — Our 2017 Officers:

President:	Jodi Adamson 361 Rives Mill Loop Deatsville, AL 36022	<a href="mailto:adamsjo75@hotmail.com"><u>adamsjo75@hotmail.com</u></a>
First Vice President:	Alina Stefanescu 42 Cherokee Hills Tuscaloosa, AL 35404	205-556-6067 <a href="mailto:rainscented@gmail.com"><u>rainscented@gmail.com</u></a>
Second Vice President & Contests:	Jeanette Willert 8 Seddon Pt Pell City, AL 35128	205-807-0778 <a href="mailto:willerth@canisius.edu"><u>willerth@canisius.edu</u></a>
Recording Secretary & Corresponding Secretary:	Kimberly Wright 203 Camellia Dr. Prattville, AL 36067	334-669-6263 <a href="mailto:wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com"><u>wrightkimberlylou@gmail.com</u></a>
Treasurer:	Myra Ward Barra 21 Seddon Pt Pell City, AL 35128	205-223-5106 <a href="mailto:Myrawardbarra@gmail.com"><u>Myrawardbarra@gmail.com</u></a>
Historian:	Cleveland Brown 2535 County Rd 93 Evergreen, AL 36401	251-300-0141 <a href="mailto:ccbrown45@gmail.com"><u>ccbrown45@gmail.com</u></a>
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Immediate Past President:	Jerri Hardesty 1830 Marvel Rd Brierfield, AL 35035	205-665-7904 <a href="mailto:WytRabbit1@aol.com"><u>WytRabbit1@aol.com</u></a>
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# 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference

## Writing CONTESTS

**Writers Anonymous** and the **Pell City Public Library** are proud to announce that the 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 on the library's new campus located at 1000 Bruce Etheredge Pkwy in Pell City, AL. Among the highlights of this year's Conference will be two writing contests. There will be a Poetry Contest and a Flash/Short Fiction Contest. There will be only one winner for each contest and the winning prize will be \$100.00.

### General Entry Requirements:

- ONLY paper entries are allowed. No entries will be returned.
- All submittals must use Times Roman 12 font and not contain any graphics.
- Any entry that contains vulgar or offensive language, employs profanities, or is not the original, individual work of the entrant, will be rejected.
- To allow time for judging, all entries **must be received** on or before **February 17, 2017**.
- The winners will be announced during the Conference.
- Winners must be present to win.
- Entries and their judging fees (Payable to: "**Writers Anonymous**") must be mailed together to: **J. Willert - WA CONTEST**  
**8 Seddon Point,**  
**Pell City AL 35128**

### Poetry Contest Specifics:

- Each Conference attendee may enter only one (1) poem for the Poetry Contest. There will be a single entry/judging fee of \$2.00.
- Poem must be original and not previously published.
- Poem must not exceed 40 lines (500 word limit on prose poems) and may be on any subject.
- Submit 2 copies—one with your name and contact information, one without.
- If a specific form is used, identify the form on your submittal.

### Fiction Contest Specifics:

- Flash fiction or a short, short story of no more than six (6) double spaced and stapled pages on any subject.
- Submit 2 copies—one with your name and contact information, one without.
- There will be a single entry/judging fee of \$5.00.

# 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Writers Anonymous** and the **Pell City Public Library** are proud to announce that the 2017 Mid-Winter Writers Conference will be held on **Saturday, February 25, 2017**. Among the highlights of this year's Conference will be two writing contests, a poetry contest and a fiction contest. There will be only one winner (\$100) for each contest. Watch for eMail and MWWConference social media sites for information updates.

- There will be a free "*Meet and Greet*" at the Pell City Library at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 24th.
- The Conference will be held on the campus of the new **Pell City Public Library, located at: 1000 Bruce Etheredge Pkwy in Pell City, AL 35125**
- Registration Fes:  
EARLY registration is just \$65 per person (BEFORE February 17, 2017).  
LATE registration will be \$75 per person (BEFORE February 17, 2017).  
Student registration will be \$25 per person.
- Check-in and Registration start at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and coffee and Danish will be provided for early arrivals.
- The agenda is robust, and our presenters have a proven track record in their areas of expertise.
- Presenters include publishers, editors, published authors and poets, professors and other technical experts.
- Whether your genre is poetry, fiction, non-fiction, devotional / inspirational, or blogging, there will be something for you.
- If you write now or ever wanted to write, you will find value in this conference.
- For more information we urge you to visit the Conference online at:

**Facebook = MidWinterWritersConference**

**Website = MWWConference.com**

**2017 Alabama State Poetry Society Spring Contest**  
**Deadline: March 27, 2017**  
**Rules and Details**

**RULES:**

ENTRY FEES:

\$1 per poem for members.  
\$3 per poem for non-members.

- The same poem may not be entered into more than one category.
- Poems cannot have won a monetary award in a previous ASPS contest.
- No limit on number of entries, but only one award per contest.  
(Send SASE for winners' list--#10 envelope only)
- Line limit is 40 lines unless otherwise specified.
- Submit 2 copies of each poem on 8 1/2 x 11 paper using plain type and fonts only:  
On each copy, put category name and number *in upper left hand corner*.  
On one copy only, put your name, address, e-mail, phone number and  
"member" or "non-member" *in upper right hand corner*.  
Address labels are acceptable.
- Mail entries and fees to  
Jeanette Willert, 8 Seddon Point, Pell City AL 35128

*See our website at [Alabama Poets.org](http://AlabamaPoets.org) for additional copies of this brochure and other information.*

DEADLINE: **POSTMARKED BY MARCH 27, 2017**  
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**THE CONTESTS:**

**1. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY CONTEST**

(Sponsored by ASPS) Open to PAID MEMBERS ONLY.  
Any form, no line limit. \$75, \$50, \$25, \$10 and 3 Honorable Mentions in order of merit.

**2. THE DAVID KATO PRIZE**

In honor of murdered Ugandan gay activist David Kato (1964-2011).  
Subject: Human rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.  
Any form, no line limit. \$50, \$30, \$20 and Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.

### 3. EXTENDED METAPHOR AWARD

Write a poem about poetry, writing, or any other artistic endeavor as an extended metaphor with something that isn't readily apparent.

Example "Poems are a romantic relationship."

At the beginning, you are enamored with it. Later, you see flaws

and try to change it. Then when you are done, you are left with bittersweet memories.

Any form. Line limit 16. Sponsored by Jodi Adamson. \$25, \$15, \$10.

### 4. NEW DAWN UNLIMITED AWARD

Topic: Tell Me Something Beautiful

Any form, 50 line limit. Sponsored by Jerri and Kirk Hardesty

\$25, \$15, \$10. Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.

### 5. Topic: SOWING SEEDS

Related to gardening, landscaping, etc. or sowing seeds of kindness.

Any form, 40 line limit. Sponsored by Margaret Rush

\$25, \$15, \$10. One Honorable Mention.

### 6. POET'S CHOICE

ASPS members only.

You choose topic and form. Line limit: 60 lines.

Sponsored by Jeanette Willert. \$40, \$20, \$10. Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.

### 7. IT'S UP TO YOU

Sponsored by Faye Hall

Any subject, any form. 40 line limit. \$25, \$15, \$10. Up to 3 Honorable Mentions.

### 8. Topic: MOUNTAINS (real, metaphorical or otherwise)

Length and form up to the poet.

Sponsored by Dargan Ware. \$50, \$25, \$10. One honorable Mention.

### 9. Topic: A FRAGRANCE OR FLOWER OF RURAL ALABAMA

Any form, 8-10 lines. *Must be present to win.*

Sponsored by Myra Ward Barra. \$25, \$15, \$10. Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.

### 10. Topic: POETRY or WRITING POETRY

ASPS members only. Any form. No more than 45 lines.

Sponsored by Writers Anonymous (Pell City). \$50, \$25, \$15, \$10 and up to 2 honorable mentions

### 11. Topic: FALLING IN LOVE or STAYING IN LOVE

ASPS members only.

Choose a form that uses meter and/or a set rhyme scheme.

*(Identify the form you have chosen to use on your submitted poem.)*

Length: No more than 40 lines.

Sponsored by Precious Prodigal (Harry and Rita Moritz).

\$50, \$25, \$15, \$10. Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.

### 12. Topic: WRITE A POEM ABOUT YOUR DEATH

Extra points for funny! Any form. 30 line limit.

*Must be present to win.*

Sponsored by Debra Self. \$15, \$10, Honorable Mentions at Judge's discretion.

**13. Topic: WINTER**

Any form, 30 lines or less.

Sponsored by Joanne Cage. \$25, \$15. Two Honorable Mentions.

**14. FILL IN THE BLANKS AWARD**

Any form, any subject.

\$25, \$15, HMs as merited, Sponsored by Barb Blanks

**15. A PERSONAL HERO**

Think along the lines of "The Truly Great" by Stephen Spender.

Any format and length.

Sponsored by Jerri Beck. \$15, \$10, \$5. Up to three Honorable Mentions.