

Poets of the Palm Beaches

Newsletter Vol. 26, No 4: October, November, December, 2011

**Our mission is to support and encourage the creation of original poetry
in Palm Beach County, Florida**

2011 Anthology

You may pick up your copy of the 2011 Anthology at the Anthology Party at our 3rd Sunday of December Reading, December 18, 2011. Every paid member will receive one free copy of the Anthology. If you cannot attend it will be mailed to you.

RULES FOR THE 2012 ADULT CONTEST

The rules for the contest are enclosed. Please print them out and help us by posting them or passing them out wherever you can. Please note that there are two pages, and if you copy them they should be double sided copies. Thank you for supporting the contest. We hope every member will participate and that we will attract new members through this contest.

2012 Dues

Please renew your dues for 2012, or join for the first time, by using the membership form in this newsletter (print it out if you're receiving this electronically) and mail it along with your check, or go to the website (www.poetsofthepalmbeaches.com) to use PayPal.

A reminder: you must be at least a part time resident of Palm Beach County, Florida, to be a member.

Boca Raton Museum of Art Artists Guild

The Guild is interested in poets who would like to read in a coffee house setting starting in November (probably one Thursday per month from 6 – 9 PM) at 512 E Atlantic Ave, Delray Beach. Please contact Teresa Frazier at 561-732-3118 or teresafraze@yahoo.com

8th Annual Palm Beach Poetry Festival January 16-21, 2012

<http://palmbeachpoetryfestival.org/>

We greatly appreciate any Donations, in memoriam or otherwise, made to benefit our Student Contest Fund.

Poets of the Palm Beaches



Our mission is to support and encourage the creation of original poetry in Palm Beach County, Florida

Events for October, November & December 2011 — Open to the Public

1700 S. Estrella Ct. #208, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 561-439-4044
 contact@poetsofthepalmbeaches.com www.poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

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OCTOBER 16 (featured reader is John Palozzi)

NOVEMBER 20 (featured reader is Beth SK Morris)

DECEMBER 18 (featured reader is Donna Westbrook)

Our 3rd Sunday Reading: Contest with cash prizes. Open to the public. Original work only.

Place: Palm Beach Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, 823 North A Street, Lake Worth. Just a little more than one block South of 10th Ave North. Time: 2:00 PM. (Doors open at 1:45 PM)

Suggested Donation: \$2 for members and their guests, \$3 for non-members. Free for high school students.

Special Second Contests:

October is Oriental Octet, November is Minute Poem, December is Terza Rima Sonnet

(see rules page 6)

Third Sunday Reading Rules:

(1) Original work only. (2) One poem per round. (3) No poem more than one 8 1/2 x 11 page, in normal 12 point font. (4) Prose Poems no more than 250 words in normal 12 point font. (5) No introductions please. State your name, the name of your poem, and the form of your poem. All present may enter the contest, which is judged by the featured reader. Submission of a poem automatically conveys permission to print it in this newsletter and on our website if it wins. All rights revert to the authors upon publication. After the first round will be the Special Contest. The same rules apply as just stated, except that it must be the designated FORM. All present may enter the contest who have a poem written in the form, even if they entered the first round contest. For the 2nd round, the same rules apply, or up to 3 poems, if none is over 5 lines. There is no contest for the 2nd round.

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October 11, November 8, December 13 *(Every second Tuesday)* Time: 6:30 PM.

Place: Jupiter Library — 705 Military Trail, Jupiter, FL33458 (561- 744-2301 x 124).

Workshop: Open to the public. No charge. The participants will generate new poems every month.

Bring paper and pen. Contact: Marjorie Wolfson 561-575-2376.

October 18, November 15, December 19 *(Every third Tuesday)* Time: 7:00 PM.

Place: Boynton Beach Barnes & Noble Bookstore — 333 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach.

Workshop: Open to the public. Original work only. No charge. Bring at least 10 copies of one

poem. Contact: John Palozzi 561-588 -9829.

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October 12, November 9, December 14 *(Every Second Wednesday)* Time: 6:30 PM.

Place: Panera's Cafe — 771 Village Blvd., West Palm Beach.

Workshop: Open to the public. Original work only. No charge. Bring at least 12 copies of one

poem. Contact: Charles Scheitler 561-833-2981.

Monthly Contest Prize Winners for July 2011

The featured reader and judge for the July reading was *Cynthia Bowdoin*
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First Place:

First Thought
by Donna Westbrook

It is morning
and there you are again--
my first thought of any importance--
just after breakfast
and my reflection on the waves
I watch at the shore,
very high this morning.

I think of you
walking the beach
a few miles north,
bundled head to knee
with bare feet
playing dangerously near
the water's edge

my first thought of any importance,
how beautiful the reflection of sunlight
in your hazel eyes,
how beautiful your smile
delighted
waving arms at your first love
--I know it is not me--
the sea has you
has always had you
first...last
but I am content
to be second fiddle
very close
making as much music as I can
to delight you.
I am not the sound of the waves
but the echo.
Sometimes
I know the echo delights you as well.

Special Contest: Clerihew

Patricia Whiting
Clerihew

Bob Dole, a Kansas resident,
wanted to be president.
People thought him droll--
instead of I, he said Bob Dole.

Second Place:

Deepening Drought
by Judith DiBisceglia

Small pools of thinning water
minnows swim in circles
tighter each day
imprisoned in a shallow grave

Skull of a small animal
now brittle exposed to sun
deep cracks
in drying mud

Mouths gasping on the surface
of stagnant graying green water
Great blue heron
feeds on the dying

Further down the canal
scores of tadpoles huddling
among lifeless palm fronds
breathing watery mud

Fish lie on their sides
helpless in water receding
rising to surface
slowly suffocating

blood flesh encased
bubbling mud consumes
buzzing orange headed flies
break the silence

Scattered empty snail shells
clams and mussels sweating
the last moisture is within
wet earth turns to sugary sand

Mid-day light strikes
bluing broken abalone
in perfect reflection
interfacing survival's shadow

Fearlessly turtles tracking
out of dying canals
towards the bone of flight wing
the rain dancer

Scent of death, rattling dried leaves
thousands of lives leaving
movement out of mud
spiraling upward into the absolute

Honorable Mention:

A Summer Day
by Shirley Kent

Red-hot sun rises from the sea as
gulls squawk overhead. Torched
light brushes my face.

vultures fly
first morning light
no shadow

Along the river, mangrove roots
taste salt air while seedlings float
in pelican fields. Calm water
prevails.

cloudless sky
green tree frogs
offer up rain

Sails trimmed, boats glide but
docks empty. Lapping waters caress
wood pilings.

big oak
male cardinal sings
soft breeze

Father and son, fish lines flung far,
anxious. Plastic pail waits on
cement dock.

after noon
over open waters
thunderheads

Honorable Mention:

My Zen Garden
by Bob Alman

my zen garden
is planned as a place
for harmony flowering
in measureless space

my zen garden
could lead you to seeing
that all good and evil
reside in one being

my zen garden
envelops a spot
where every thing
either is or is not

Monthly Contest Prize Winners for August 2011

The featured reader and judge for the August reading was *Diana Loy*

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First Place:

Forever Yours
by Cyndee Bowdoin

I want to hold onto this moment forever
Gently cup it in my hands
Like a small, fragile bird
Feel the beat of it's tremulous heart
Fluttering against the skin of my palms
Whisper to it, tame it, make it mine

I want to hold onto this feeling forever
Wrap it around me like a blanket
Made of thick candy floss
Let it melt, seep down through my pores
Until it reaches my very bones
Covering them with rich sticky sweetness

I want to hold onto you forever
Passion's heat forging us together
Until we merge into one being, one soul
Breathe you in like cool mist
Left behind by a summer storm
Filling my lungs with your essence

I want to hold onto this love forever
Become its prisoner, trapped by it
Like a prehistoric fly encased in amber
Cocooned in the warmth of your smile
Living each day without the knowledge
That some things aren't meant to be

Second Place:

Crossbreathing
by Judith DiBisceglia

Feral cats
illuminated by the street lights
constantly search the empty lot

I sit by the back door
watch them grow thinner
then disappear

Gypsy winds circle the lot
rippling each blade
of grass
slow enough to reveal
my every carried sorrow
overlap

slip away
like every lover i have known

The field remains
always harboring
the disappearing cats
searching for the need

crossbreathe,
within the wind
the grass and the wild cats

Honorable Mention:

The Lady Of My House
by Raymond Neubert

Looks me in my eyes
as we greet
Knows what I'm thinking
She folds my towels
puts my laundry away
in her patterns
like my wife did
Gives me looks
when I wad up my clean shirts, socks
and underwear
and toss them into my color baskets
She rushes to fold and rearrange them
When I'm in the other room
brings me my slippers
when I sit barefooted
as she vacuums
We embrace and kiss when she leaves
to return to her dying husband
She knows I live alone
I know she soon will also.
I must tell her
the love of my life
is another man

Honorable Mention:

Safety
by Blake Valin

Frightened, the hydra recoils,
blind, tentacles threatened,
pulls taut, shrinks, hides.

Attempt at invisibility -
Safety!

I, too, recoil from fear, from pain,
to the core of my being -
the smallest me of me

where maybe only God can see.

Special Contest: Dorsimbra

I Don't Like Formal Gardens
by Patricia Whiting

I don't like formal gardens laid with care
According to some geometric plan.
I love the willows with their unkempt hair
Unbarbered by the shaping tools of man.

Keep your cultivated zinnias
and geraniums.

Give me goldenrod
and Queen Anne's lace.

I'm drawn to Nature's rippling, tawny fields,
to wildflowers that grow along the road.

I'm drawn to chicory and dandelions.

I don't like formal gardens laid with care.

Monthly Contest Prize Winners for September 2011

The featured reader and judge for the September reading was *Marjorie Wolfson*
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First Place:

Sensitivity Training
by Donna Westbrook

Assignment--
Compare and contrast
the following:

the feeling of knowing
someone you love is dying
with the feeling of knowing
you are;

the similarity
between being abandoned
in a familiar place
and being exiled
to a foreign one;

the difference between standing still
on a railway platform
as the love you thought
you would only release with your last
breath
leaves the station
and moving with studied steps
to board the train alone;

Identify the textures
of each experience
and then describe
what it is we forget
when we cannot feel
another's pain.

Special Contest: Rubai
The Art of Gentleness
by Shirley Kent

The art of gentleness begins with light,
a glow of self forgiveness. To unite
our inner fears with deep humility
and kindness, we make peace so hearts shine bright.

Honorable Mention:

Unfamous Poets
by John Vincent Palozzi

The best of life comes way too late for some.
Rewards fall flat upon their grave. Their drum
beats loud to call the ghosts. Those living still
will find them in a place among the numb.

What once was warm releases to the chill.
Their color washes down under their hill
and all their love releases to the void
a promise that their voice can not fulfill.

Honorable Mention:

Kissing Julia J
by R. Baylor

"Kisses," Julia offers softly,
Our lips have just now drawn apart —
Mine it seems a little crossly,
As they've taken hers to heart —

“Stir lubricious chords in me,
As though by uncanny prescience
Know what soon my need will be
And so draw upon my essence.”

As she murmurs, hands are busy, ,
First at her clothes, then at mine,
And with a zest that leaves me dizzy,
Move on at speed — only to find,

Though, moistly, she runs true to form,
We'd best employ to see us through,
Since my response exceeds the norm,
An extra, well-placed kiss or two.

Second Place:

After the Storm
by Stephanie Goldstein

A late March snow
Weighs down the pines
Bowing limbs in an archway
Along this toss and turn road

Past frosted sheets on rooftops
Speckled with jewels of light
We drive, quiet as angels
Along this hushed up road

We drive past covered meadows,
Past the fork in the road
To our place in the feathered fir trees
Tucked deep off the yawning road

And so their joy and hope has been destroyed
by what they always strived but to avoid.
And now their poems are scattered on the waves
and of their gills they find themselves devoid.

But think not that in vain they went to graves
or suffered all their lives as thoughtless slaves
for even if their best came way too late
the poems they wrote are floating on the waves.

Honorable Mention:

Reveille
by Riva Dunaief

Morning, cold, and we didn't want
to leave soft quilts, sheets
warmed by cocoon bodies.
Your steps made the floor tremble

and your voice pulled us
out of bed, shivering.
Unwilling feet touched
icy linoleum, but

we obeyed your call to start
the day, sit at our enamel table
set with white ceramic bowls
and unmatched silver spoons.

Under the double boiler,
we heard gas hiss, a match
rasp, the flame pop,
and cereal begin.

We warmed our hands
over thick gray oatmeal,
steam clouds soothed cheeks
still creased with sleep.

Morning, and we remember
you and warm oatmeal,
and how your strong steps
made the floor tremble.

How to Write Poems for the Special Contests

October: Oriental Octet

The Oriental Octet is an unrhymed nature poem of 8 lines with the following syllable counts: 5, 7, 5, 7, 7, 5, 7, 5

Example:

On the Mountain

Cicadas humming,
a sunset breeze is blowing,
white chrysanthemums
nod stiffly along the walk.

From the crimson pagoda
a white dove flying
ascending with chanted prayers
into mauve twilight.

December: Terza Rima Sonnet

A Terza Rima Sonnet consists of 4 stanzas of 3 lines each ending with a couplet, written in iambic pentameter (ta DUM, ta DUM, ta DUM, ta DUM, ta DUM) with the rhythm scheme of : aba,bcb. cdc, ded, ee.

Example:

After the Rape

Like Mt. Pele, my lava filled brine seas,
exploding with a hiss and hellish roar,
proliferating like a dread disease.

It started deep within my fiery core,
spewed out a glowing stream of flaming rage
to rumble like a thunder bolt from Thor.

Too long confined within a wrathful cage,
the final gasket cracked, the mountain blew,
obliterating all scenes on the stage.

Now smoke has cleared, the new-washed sky is blue.
Lush greenery, bequest of healing rain,
is like a gift from some great Manitou.

Though time has cooled the magma, dulled the pain,
obsidian and blackened ash remain.

November: Minute Poem

The Minute Poem is rhyming verse form consisting of 12 lines of 60 syllables written in strict iambic meter. The poem is formatted into

3 stanzas of

8,4,4,4; 8,4,4,4; 8,4,4,4 syllables.

The rhyme scheme is as follows:

aabb, ccdd, eeff

Example:

I Need Someone

By Linda Newman

I need someone to hold me tight
Through dark of night,
Who won't go 'way
At break of day.

Someone whose love will mend the seams
Of broken dreams,
And give me back
The trust I lack.

For love, it holds the magic key
To set me free,
To heal my soul
And make me whole.

A poem can have an impact,
but you can't expect an
audience to understand all the
nuances.

Douglas Dunn

A poem is true if it hangs
together. Information points to
something else. A poem points
to nothing but itself.

E. M. Forster

A poet can survive everything
but a misprint.

Oscar Wilde

Poets of the Palm Beaches

1700 S. Estrella Ct. #208, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

561-439-4044

contact@poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

www.poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

Our mission is to support and encourage the creation of original poetry in Palm Beach County, Florida

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Poets who maintain at least a part-time residence in Palm Beach County are eligible to become members. The membership dues are \$20 from January 1st through December 31st of every year, and include: 1) Receipt of the bimonthly newsletter. 2) Reduced admission fee to all functions and contests. 3) Publication of one original poem in the annual members' anthology. 4) Receipt of one free copy of the annual anthology. 5) The right to be a featured reader at one monthly reading within a 12-month period. First time members joining after July 1st may elect to pay a pro-rata share of \$10 for the remainder of the year.

Please fill out the form below, detach, and mail to: **POETS OF THE PALM BEACHES**

1700 S. Estrella Ct. #208, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

Make checks payable to: **Poets of the Palm Beaches.**

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Your newsletter will be e-mailed to you at:

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

SUMMER ADDRESS: _____

Please indicate which months are to be sent to the summer address: (only for US mail) _____

Please check: Renewal New Member starting in the month of: _____, 2011

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES:

PATRON \$100 BENEFACTOR \$75 SPONSOR \$50 FRIEND \$30 BASIC \$20

I would like to make an additional tax deductible contribution to The Poets of: _____

Please earmark this donation for "Student Contest" _____ or for "General Operation" _____

YOU MAY REMIT PAYMENT BY CHECK OR PayPal (ONLINE)

All donations will be appreciated and acknowledged



1700 S. Estrella Ct. #208
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Support The Poets

Renew your membership for 2012

Join for the first time

Attend the monthly readings and workshops

Tell other poets about us

Help publicize our events

Help us find a newsletter editor

Help us with publicity

Volunteer

But most of all – keep writing!

PPB Board of Directors

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Diana Loy (561) 965-4421

Treasurer

Cynthia Bowdoin (561) 596-4783

Secretary, VP

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VP – Poets' Phone

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VP – Meetings/Workshop Coordinator

Cora Lee Palma-Hayden (561) 732-9455

VP – Poets' Website

Ron Rosoff (561) 459-1505

VP – Consultant

John Palozzi (561) 588-9829

General Contact Information

Email: contact@poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

Phone: (561) 439-4044

Web: www.poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

Poets of the Palm Beaches

2012 Adult Poetry Contest Rules

Our mission is to support and encourage the creation of original poetry in Palm Beach County, Florida

PO Box 1434 Lake Worth FL 33460

contact@poetsofthepalmbeaches.com

2012 ADULT POETRY CONTEST ELIGIBILITY:

This contest is open to Poets of the Palm Beaches members only. You may join The Poets by submitting your membership dues along with your contest entry; however, you must maintain at least a part time residence in Palm Beach County to be eligible.

DEADLINE:

Postmark: 01/01/12. Please Note: If by the deadline, there are not enough entries to support the contest, it will be cancelled and all entry fees returned.

CATEGORIES:

(1) **Free Verse:** No more than one poem per page in normal 12 point font. 40 line limit.

(2) **Long Form.** There are three forms to choose from:

a **Shakespearean Sonnet**, a **Villanelle**, or a **Sestina**.

(see back for rules). No more than one poem per page in normal 12 point font.

(3) **Short Form.** There are three forms to choose from: a **Haiku**, a **Cinquain**, or a **Tanka**.

(see back for rules). No more than one page per poem in normal 12 point font.

PRIZES: First: \$75. Second: \$50. Third: \$25. Honorable Mentions.

ENTRY FEE: \$2 per poem, published or unpublished. Poems without fee will not be accepted or returned. Please submit all entries at the same time with one check for the total amount.

RULES: These rules apply to all categories. Entries must be typed, computer-generated or Xeroxed on one side of 8 1/2 X 11 paper, single or double-spaced. No artwork or fancy fonts. Send 2 copies of each poem. Only ONE poem per page. Each poem must have a TITLE. Show category (and name of form) on both copies, upper left. ON ONE COPY ONLY, upper right, show name, address, telephone number and e-mail. No identification on the second copy. Keep copies of your poems. None will be returned. There is a maximum of 10 poems per poet. Any poems which have previously won cash awards in our contest may not be submitted.

ENTRIES WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF ALL RULES ARE NOT FOLLOWED PRECISELY

JUDGING: Judges unaffiliated with The Poets of the Palm Beaches will select the winners. Results will be announced and prizes awarded on Sunday, January 15, 2012 at our regularly scheduled Third Sunday Reading at the Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, 823 North A Street, Lake Worth, starting at 2PM.

CONTACT: Send entries, requests for rules and/or winners' list (with SASE) to:

PO Box 1434, Lake Worth FL 33460.

MAKE ALL CHECKS TO: POETS OF THE PALM BEACHES

(2) Long Forms:

Rules for writing a Shakespearean Sonnet:

The form consists of fourteen lines structured as three quatrains and a couplet. The third quatrain generally introduces an unexpected sharp thematic or imagistic "turn" – the volta; or, the volta comes in the couplet, and usually summarizes the theme of the poem or introduces a fresh new look at the theme. The meter is iambic pentameter. The rhyme scheme is end-rhymed a-b-a-b, c-d-c-d, e-f-e-f, g-g.

Rules for writing a Villanelle:

It shall be of 19 lines - 5 stanzas of 3 lines, the 6th and final stanza to be 4 lines. Each line shall be of ten syllables. The rhyme scheme shall be ABA for the first 5 stanzas - with ABAA for the 6th. Certain lines are to be repeated, word for word: Line 1 shall recur in lines 6, 12 and 18. Line 3 shall recur in lines 9, 15 and 19.

Rules for writing a Sestina:

In a traditional Sestina the lines are grouped into six sestets (6lines per stanza) and a concluding tercet (3 lines). Thus a Sestina has 39 lines. Lines may be of any length, usually consistent in a single poem, but traditionally in hexameter (Six metric feet. Each foot is two syllables. Ex: return / ing to / conven / tional / iam / bic bliss). The six words that end each of the lines of the first stanza are repeated in a different order at the end of each of the subsequent five stanzas. The particular pattern is given below. The repeated words are unrhymed. The first line of each sestet, after the first, ends with the same word as the one that ended the last line of the sestet before it. In the closing tercet, each of the six words are used, with one in the middle of each line and one at the end. The pattern of word-repetition is as follows, where the words that end the lines of the first sestet are represented by the numbers

"1 2 3 4 5 6":

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 - End words of lines in first sestet.
- 6 1 5 2 4 3 - End words of lines in second sestet.
- 3 6 4 1 2 5 - End words of lines in third sestet.
- 5 3 2 6 1 4 - End words of lines in fourth sestet.
- 4 5 1 3 6 2 - End words of lines in fifth sestet.
- 2 4 6 5 3 1 - End words of lines in sixth sestet.
- (6 2) (1 4) (5 3) - Middle and end words of lines in tercet.

(3) Short Forms:

Rules for writing a Haiku:

Haiku is best written in the present tense, and contains a seasonal word that implies the season rather than stating it outright. While some excellent three-line 5-7-5 haiku are being written today, it's not uncommon to read one, two, four and even five line haiku, all of which have fewer than the traditional seventeen syllable count. Brevity is essential, so the tighter you write, the better. The modern rule is NO MORE than 5, NO MORE than 7, NO MORE than 5. When writing haiku, set aside the usual poetic devices such as metaphor, alliteration, rhyme, etc.

Rules for writing a Cinquain:

5 lines. 1st line = 2 syllables, 2nd line = 4 syllables, 3rd line = 6 syllables,
4th line = 8 syllables, 5th line = 2 syllables.

Rules for writing a Tanka:

The Tanka is very similar to haiku but Tanka has more syllables and it uses simile, metaphor and personification. Tanks are written about nature, seasons, love, sadness and other strong emotions. A Tanka evokes a single moment with vivid precision and emotional veracity. There are five lines in a Tanka .

- Line 1 – no more than 5 syllables
- Line 2 – no more than 7 syllables
- Line 3 – no more than 5 syllable
- Line 4 – no more than 7 syllables
- Line 5 – no more than 7 syllables