

poetry society of virginia

Poetry Society of Virginia: Celebrating the Art of Verse in the Old Dominion

poetry society of virginia is more than just an organization; it's a vibrant community dedicated to nurturing the love and craft of poetry throughout the state. For poets, readers, and literary enthusiasts alike, this society offers a welcoming space where creativity flourishes, voices are heard, and the timeless tradition of poetry is celebrated. Whether you're a seasoned poet or someone just beginning to explore the world of verse, the Poetry Society of Virginia (PSV) provides numerous opportunities to engage deeply with poetry and connect with like-minded individuals.

History and Mission of the Poetry Society of Virginia

The Poetry Society of Virginia was founded with a strong commitment to fostering poetry as an essential cultural and artistic expression. Established in the early 20th century, PSV has grown steadily, becoming an influential organization that supports poets across Virginia and beyond. Its mission centers on promoting poetry, encouraging new writers, and preserving the art form's rich heritage within the region.

By organizing contests, workshops, readings, and publications, the Poetry Society of Virginia ensures poets have platforms to showcase their work. The society also emphasizes education and outreach, aiming to introduce poetry to younger generations and broaden the appreciation for this literary art.

Preserving Virginia's Literary Roots

Virginia has long been home to notable poets and literary figures, and the Poetry Society of Virginia plays a pivotal role in honoring this legacy. Through its initiatives, PSV highlights Virginia's unique cultural narratives and regional voices, ensuring that both historical and contemporary poetry continue to inspire and resonate.

Membership and Community Engagement

Joining the Poetry Society of Virginia opens the door to a network of passionate poets and poetry lovers. Membership is open to anyone interested in poetry, from beginners to professionals. The society's inclusive atmosphere encourages members to participate in a wide range of activities designed to sharpen their skills and broaden their horizons.

Benefits of Becoming a Member

Members enjoy access to exclusive poetry contests, workshops, and publications. The society's

quarterly newsletter keeps members informed about upcoming events, poetry tips, and featured poets. Networking opportunities abound, allowing members to collaborate, receive constructive feedback, and gain inspiration.

Local Chapters and Events

One of the unique aspects of the Poetry Society of Virginia is its network of local chapters spread across the state. These chapters hold regular meetings, readings, and social gatherings, making it easier for members to connect on a more personal level. Attending these events is a great way to immerse oneself in the local poetry scene and find support within the community.

Poetry Contests and Publications

A cornerstone of the Poetry Society of Virginia's activities is its commitment to encouraging poets through contests and publication opportunities. These contests range from statewide competitions to themed contests that invite poets to experiment with different styles and subjects.

Annual Poetry Competitions

The society hosts several annual contests with various categories and age groups, making it accessible for a diverse range of participants. Winners often receive cash prizes, publication in the society's journal, and opportunities to read their work at prominent events. These contests not only provide recognition but also motivate poets to refine their craft.

Publishing Opportunities

Publication is a key motivator for many poets, and the Poetry Society of Virginia offers multiple platforms for members to share their work. The society's flagship publication, often circulated among literary circles, features a curated selection of poems from contests and submissions. Being published by PSV is a mark of distinction that can elevate a poet's visibility and credibility.

Workshops and Educational Programs

Beyond contests and publications, the Poetry Society of Virginia places a strong emphasis on education. Workshops are tailored to help poets at every stage, from beginners learning the basics of rhyme and meter to advanced poets exploring free verse and experimental techniques.

Developing Your Voice and Style

Workshops often focus on helping poets discover and hone their unique voice. Experienced poets and instructors guide participants through exercises that encourage emotional honesty and technical skill. This nurturing environment fosters growth and confidence.

Community Outreach and Youth Programs

PSV is also actively involved in introducing poetry to schools and youth groups. By partnering with educators, the society conducts poetry readings, writing sessions, and contests specifically designed for young writers. These programs aim to spark creativity early and demonstrate poetry's relevance in contemporary life.

Why Poetry Matters in Virginia's Cultural Landscape

Poetry, often described as the music of language, plays a vital role in reflecting and shaping cultural identity. In Virginia, a state rich in history and diversity, poetry captures the complexities and beauty of its communities. The Poetry Society of Virginia acts as a steward of this cultural expression, ensuring that poetry continues to thrive and adapt.

Connecting Past and Present Through Verse

By honoring traditional forms and welcoming innovative approaches, the society bridges the gap between past literary giants and emerging voices. This connection enriches Virginia's cultural heritage and invites ongoing dialogue about social, political, and personal themes.

Enhancing Community and Personal Well-Being

Engaging with poetry has been shown to enhance empathy, improve communication skills, and provide emotional solace. The Poetry Society of Virginia's efforts to make poetry accessible and enjoyable contribute positively to the mental and emotional health of its members and audiences.

Getting Involved with the Poetry Society of Virginia

If you're inspired to dive into the rich world of poetry in Virginia, the Poetry Society of Virginia offers numerous pathways to participation. Attending a local chapter meeting, entering a contest, or simply subscribing to their publications can be excellent starting points.

Tips for New Members

- Start by attending a reading or workshop to get a feel for the community.
- Submit your poems to contests or calls for publication to gain experience.
- Engage with other members online or in person to exchange feedback.
- Take advantage of educational resources offered by the society to improve your craft.

Joining the Poetry Society of Virginia is not just about writing poetry; it's about becoming part of a supportive network that celebrates creativity and fosters literary growth. Whether your goal is to publish, perform, or simply appreciate poetry, PSV provides the tools and connections to help you along your journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Poetry Society of Virginia?

The Poetry Society of Virginia is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the appreciation and writing of poetry throughout the state of Virginia.

When was the Poetry Society of Virginia founded?

The Poetry Society of Virginia was founded in 1923, making it one of the oldest poetry organizations in the United States.

How can I become a member of the Poetry Society of Virginia?

You can become a member by signing up through the Poetry Society of Virginia's official website and paying the annual membership fee.

What types of events does the Poetry Society of Virginia host?

The society hosts poetry readings, workshops, contests, and annual conferences to engage poets and poetry lovers across Virginia.

Does the Poetry Society of Virginia offer poetry contests?

Yes, the Poetry Society of Virginia organizes several contests throughout the year for different age groups and skill levels.

Where can I find publications by the Poetry Society of Virginia?

The society publishes an annual poetry journal called 'The Raven,' which features works by members and contest winners.

Is the Poetry Society of Virginia involved in educational outreach?

Yes, the society promotes poetry education through school programs, scholarships, and partnerships with educators.

How can I attend Poetry Society of Virginia events?

Events are typically announced on the Poetry Society of Virginia's website and social media pages, where you can register or get details on attending.

Additional Resources

Poetry Society of Virginia: Cultivating Literary Excellence in the Old Dominion

poetry society of virginia stands as a pivotal institution dedicated to the promotion and appreciation of poetry within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Established to nurture both emerging and seasoned poets, this society has played a crucial role in fostering a vibrant poetic community through workshops, contests, and readings. Its enduring presence reflects the deep cultural significance poetry holds in Virginia's artistic landscape.

Historical Background and Mission

The Poetry Society of Virginia (PSV) traces its origins to the early 20th century, founded by a group of literary enthusiasts committed to elevating poetry's profile in the region. Over the decades, the society has expanded its reach, adapting to changing literary trends while maintaining a steadfast commitment to encouraging poetic expression. The society's mission emphasizes outreach, education, and recognition of poetic talent across all age groups and experience levels.

By positioning itself as a hub for poetic dialogue and development, the Poetry Society of Virginia has contributed significantly to the cultural fabric of the state. Its members include a diverse blend of professional poets, educators, and hobbyists, reflecting the inclusive nature of the organization.

Core Activities and Programs

Poetry Contests and Awards

One of the hallmark features of the Poetry Society of Virginia is its annual poetry contests, which attract submissions from across the state and occasionally beyond. These competitions provide poets with a platform to gain recognition and hone their craft. Winners often receive publication opportunities, monetary prizes, or invitations to read at society-sponsored events.

The society's awards program also includes categories tailored to different age groups and poetic forms, such as sonnets, free verse, and haiku. This diversity encourages experimentation and broadens the appeal of the contests to a wide audience.

Workshops and Educational Outreach

Educational initiatives form a cornerstone of PSV's efforts to cultivate new talent. Regular workshops led by seasoned poets offer participants hands-on guidance in refining their writing skills. These sessions often emphasize various poetic techniques, thematic exploration, and constructive critique.

Moreover, the Poetry Society of Virginia actively engages with schools and community organizations to promote poetry education. Through outreach programs, PSV seeks to inspire younger generations and integrate poetry into broader educational curricula. This approach helps sustain interest in poetry and ensures the growth of a literate and appreciative audience.

Publications and Anthologies

To showcase the work of its members, the Poetry Society of Virginia publishes annual anthologies featuring selected poems from contest winners and society members. These collections serve both as a record of contemporary poetic voices in Virginia and as a resource for readers and writers alike.

Additionally, PSV's newsletters and online platforms provide regular updates, literary essays, and opportunities for community engagement. The society's embrace of digital media has broadened its accessibility, allowing poets to connect and collaborate beyond geographical constraints.

Membership and Community Engagement

Joining the Poetry Society of Virginia offers poets more than just access to contests and workshops; it opens the door to a supportive literary community. Membership benefits include subscription to society publications, invitations to exclusive readings, and networking opportunities with fellow poets.

The society's inclusive atmosphere encourages participation regardless of one's experience level, fostering a sense of belonging. For many members, the society functions as a vital resource for feedback, inspiration, and motivation.

Comparative Perspective: Poetry Societies in the Region

When compared with similar organizations, such as the Poetry Society of Maryland or the North Carolina Poetry Society, PSV distinguishes itself through its emphasis on statewide outreach and educational programming. While many poetry societies focus heavily on contests, PSV balances competitive events with robust community-building and instructional efforts.

This holistic approach arguably enhances the society's impact, positioning it not only as a forum for poetic excellence but also as a catalyst for literacy and cultural enrichment throughout Virginia.

Challenges and Opportunities

Like many literary organizations, the Poetry Society of Virginia faces challenges related to evolving readership habits and funding constraints. The rise of digital media and changing patterns of literary consumption require the society to innovate in how it engages audiences and supports poets.

However, these challenges also present opportunities. The increased accessibility afforded by online platforms enables PSV to reach a broader demographic, including younger poets and those in remote areas. Expanding virtual workshops and digital publications could enhance participation and visibility.

Furthermore, collaborations with libraries, universities, and cultural institutions have the potential to amplify PSV's programming and impact. Strategic partnerships can also attract sponsorships and grants, ensuring financial sustainability.

Pros and Cons of Membership

- **Pros:** Access to contests and awards, opportunities for publication, participation in workshops, networking with poets, educational resources, and community support.
- **Cons:** Membership fees may be a barrier for some; geographic limitations could affect in-person event attendance; some members may desire more digital content or contemporary engagement strategies.

Impact on Virginia's Literary Culture

The Poetry Society of Virginia's influence extends beyond its immediate membership. By nurturing poetic talent and promoting literary arts, PSV contributes to the cultural vitality of the state. Its activities help preserve the tradition of poetry while encouraging innovation and diversity in poetic voices.

Through public readings and community events, the society also raises awareness about poetry's relevance in contemporary society. This engagement fosters a wider appreciation for the art form and inspires new generations to explore poetic expression.

In sum, the Poetry Society of Virginia remains a cornerstone institution that champions poetry as a dynamic and essential component of Virginia's cultural identity. Its ongoing dedication to fostering literary excellence ensures that poetry continues to thrive in the Old Dominion.

Poetry Society Of Virginia

poetry society of virginia: *Collected Poems from the Poetry Society of Virginia* Poetry Society of Virginia, 2021-12-18 Congratulations to all the winners of the 2021 PSV Annual Poetry Contest! We are thrilled to present our yearly book of winners, including upper school students. So, why publish a book of winning entries? Publishing not only validates poets, it gives others a sense of what wins. Having said that, we rarely use the same judges for the same categories. The standard is simple: whether the poem is strong, not whether it is to the judge's taste. The book is also entertaining, elucidating and useful as a work of its own. What sort of work shines? How to choose a theme? The Poe category is wide open. Others, such as the Bess Gresham Memorial, have a theme. Notes for future contests: if your poem did not place in any of the categories, you may resubmit it in a different category the following year. We try our best to mix-and-match the judges. We are asking winners of any single contest to skip a year before submitting to that specific category again, to give others a chance to shine. In *Virtual*, in this *Lonely Space*, the 2021 1st place winner, Erin Newton Wells writes, A flowering branch touches jeweled water. Tell me how it looks, you prompt, and say you never see it as I do until I say it, the branch painted on silk and its wet colors run. We carry on for weeks, months, too long. ... we carry on with what we can, patching together the world we used to know. In a similar vein of nature, color and connectedness, high-schooler Lacy Powell writes, Her skin nurtures and is nurtured-of greens, blues, and yellows. And every life has roots that run deep. Every event leads back to her... Both poets use specifics, both touch on the universal. Their rhythms and line breaks differ. Yet both deliver a profound message of their own in just a few lines. Good poetry does that--creates and carries a message that crosses boundaries in a few, well-placed words. I hope that this volume will delight, awaken, and inspire you. Terry Cox-Joseph, President, 2021 Poetry Society of Virginia

poetry society of virginia: Poetry Virginia Review The Poetry Society of Virginia, 2017-03-16 This maiden issue of the Poetry Virginia Review showcases the first place poems from the Poetry Society of Virginia's 2016 annual contests, and adds a poem each by 22 of the 26 poets who served as judges. Most of the writers append brief commentaries on their poems, and many of the judges add comments on the judging process. Also featured, for comparison's sake, are a trio of first place poems from the 1956 edition of the contest, as well as a few other archival pieces, such as a pair of poems from writers in whose honor the contests were established, and a 1932 letter to one of them from Alice B. Toklas.

poetry society of virginia: Poetry 2025 - Collected Winning Poems The Poetry Society of Virginia, 2025-04-25 The Poetry Society of Virginia is a dedicated nonprofit organization advancing poetry across our great state and beyond. It is the oldest nonprofit in the Commonwealth of Virginia, founded in May, 2023. We are building a vibrant and inclusive poetic community, where poetry thrives as a bridge between individuals, communities, institutions, and cultures. Our mission is to cultivate the writing and enjoyment of poetry through a wide range of literary programs, events, and resources from regions across Virginia. Each year, The Poetry Society of Virginia sponsors a series of contests which span a variety of categories. This is the anthology, featuring 52 first and 2nd Prize poems from 26 categories. Visit <https://www.poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/> for opportunities for the 2026 contests. We welcome your submissions!

poetry society of virginia: Poetry Virginia 2024 The Poetry Society Of Virginia, 2024-09-17 The Poetry Society of Virginia is the state's oldest poetry nonprofit. The organization was founded in May 1923 in Williamsburg. We encourage excellence in writing, reading, study, and the appreciation of poetry through annual poetry contests, an annual anthology, book awards, statewide readings and programs, and literary festivals. This is the annual anthology for 2024, featuring 54 first and second place poems from 27 adult contest categories. (We also offer an annual student contest, this year with 16 categories, open to students from lower school to 12th grade, but those winning poems do not appear here.) While for some adult categories only society members are eligible to enter, anyone

who wishes to join the society, nationally or internationally, may do so, and most categories are open to all, regardless of membership status, upon payment of an entrance fee. Submissions close each year on Edgar Allan Poe's birthday, January 19. Entries are submitted via [submittable.com](https://www.poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/); each category is judged blind by a different judge. Up to four prizes may be awarded per category; the top two in each category are offered publication. Visit <https://www.poetrysocietyofvirginia.org/> in the late fall to see the requirements and opportunities for our 2025 contests. Derek Kannemeyer, Editor

poetry society of virginia: Poetry Virginia The Poetry Society of Virginia, 2020-12 This volume publishes the winning poems of Poetry Society of Virginia's Annual Contest ending Jan.2020. Founded in May of 1923, a small group of poets, desirous of fostering and stimulating an interest in poetry in the Commonwealth, met in the Chapel of the Wren Building at the College of William and Mary. There they drew up a constitution and bylaws for the organization and named it The Poetry Society of Virginia. Since then, the Society has - through publications, readings by members and visiting poets, poetry events around the state, contests, workshops, in-school programs, poetry festivals, and other activities - helped to advance the cause and appreciation of poetry throughout Virginia. The organization is instrumental in assisting the Governor of Virginia with the selection of Poet Laureate.

poetry society of virginia: The Poetry Society of Virginia Poetry Society of Virginia, 1949

poetry society of virginia: Collected Winning Poems from the Poetry Society of Virginia The Poetry Society of Virginia, 2023-05-11 Each year the Poetry Society of Virginia sponsors contests in 25 categories, covering traditional forms of poetry, free verse, and effective 2023, spoken-word/verse video performance. Some of the categories with structured verse include: sonnets, limericks, and ekphrastic poems. Many of the categories include themes, such as: friendship, farm life, women, fatherhood, technology, nature, historical events, lyrical, and narrative poems. Some categories are open to poems in any style, with any theme. The book is not only a delight to read, but provides examples of outstanding poems that poets may use as inspiration to write their own prize-winning poems in future contests. This book is a compendium of the first and second-place prize-winning poems from the 2023 Poetry Society of Virginia. This book is especially significant because this is the Centennial year for the Poetry Society of Virginia. If only we could travel back for a long Sunday afternoon in 1923 and meet our founders--how thrilled they would be by how far we've come. How they would love to read these poems!

poetry society of virginia: The Centennial Anthology of The Poetry Society of Virginia , 2023-05-07 From the Editor's Desk Building a book like this takes a significant amount of time, effort, and patience, but what a joy it has been. I was privileged to have Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda and Sofia Starnes, both former Poets Laureate of Virginia, as teammates through the more difficult phases of the endeavor: collecting, reviewing, selecting, editing, and assembling the manuscript. Also, I relied on the backing and support of PSV President, Terry Cox-Joseph, who wrote the Preface, an important ingredient of the book. The expertise and guidance of our publisher, Jeanne Johansen, of High Tide Publications, would take us successfully across the finish line. The Centennial Anthology contains several sections. Part One consists of the poetry of 110 contemporary poets, while Part Two features poems by 36 poets from six previous PSV anthologies. The four appendices provide (A) information regarding previous PSV Presidents, (B) the contributions of the various Poets Laureate of Virginia, (C) brief biographies of the participating poets, and (D) acknowledgments of prior publication of the poems. The Table of Contents lists the poets alphabetically. I hope that all who pick up this book will drink deeply of the beauty, talent, and creativity that our poets have placed at your disposal. We are proud to have it represent a poetic standard for the next one hundred years of The Poetry Society of Virginia. Edward W. Lull Editor

poetry society of virginia: Collected Winning Poems from The Poetry Society of Virginia - 2022 The Poetry Society Of Virginia, 2022-11-15 Collected Winning Poems from The Poetry Society of Virginia 2022

poetry society of virginia: Virginia Poetry 2025 , 2025-03-20 Winning Poetry from the 2025 contest

poetry society of virginia: *Anthology of Poems by Member Poets, Poetry Society of Virginia, Founded May, 1923 , 1985*

poetry society of virginia: *Echoes of the West Virginia Poetry Society* West Virginia Poetry Society, 1971

poetry society of virginia: Blended Voices Kathleen Decker, Sofia Starnes, 2023-10-22 The anthology *Blended Voices: Blending the Voices of Virginia* began as a Poetry Society of Virginia (PSV) workshop I designed during the PSV Centennial year (2023). The Centennial theme was to celebrate the diverse voices of Virginia poets. I conceived of the idea of highlighting historic Virginia poets from diverse backgrounds, with the aim of blending their voices with those of diverse contemporary Virginia poets. The second goal was to educate participants about historic Virginia poets as they prepared to blend their voices with those of the historic poets. We had a small, enthusiastic group of participants for the workshop I ran in Richmond, Virginia, on May 6th, 2023, during the PSV Centennial Festival. The format of the workshop was slightly different from that of this book. In the workshop, participants picked poetry lines at random from four color-coded bins, one for each historic Virginia poet. The lines had been excised from two different poems by each historic Virginia poet: Edgar Allan Poe, Ruby Altizer Roberts, Anne Spencer, and Karenne Wood. Together, these authors represent several of Virginia's demographics: Caucasian male (Poe), Caucasian female (Roberts), African-American female (Spencer), and Native-American (Monacan) female (Wood). The workshop participants then created their own poems, using the four lines they had randomly chosen from the work of these historic poets. I presented a second workshop via Zoom to another set of participants. For the book, I decided to extend the challenge to all Poetry Society of Virginia members. Since the contributors would be working remotely, they were presented the same two poems from each of the four historic poets-a total of eight-and invited to choose one line from one poem by each poet. From these lines, or woven around these lines, they each created a novel poem, thus adding their voices to those of the historic poets. As the reader will find, the result is a joyful selection of widely different poetic contents and styles. Most of the historic poems are reprinted in the beginning of the book, so the reader can understand the original intent and experience the historic poets' voices before they are blended with voices from contemporary Virginia poets. Sofia M. Starnes, Virginia Poet Laureate, Emerita, has been kind enough to add her editing expertise and keen poetic eye to the process of compiling the anthology. We hope you enjoy the resulting collection, and that the blending of voices it represents will foster a further blending of Virginia's diverse peoples and cultures. Kathleen P. Decker - Past Vice President, Eastern Region, Poetry Society of Virginia

poetry society of virginia: *The Golden Anniversary Anthology of Poems by Member Poets, Poetry Society of Virginia, Founded May 1923* Bess B. Gresham, William F. S. Gresham, 1974

poetry society of virginia: 1993 Anthology of the Poetry Society of Virginia Poetry Society of Virginia, 1993

poetry society of virginia: *Social Recorder of Virginia ... , 1928*

poetry society of virginia: *Views of Virginia* Kathleen P. Decker, 2024 *Views of Virginia* was conceived as a reverse ekphrastic project to prompt Virginia poets to express their views using visual imagery, colorful descriptions, and evocative images. Any subject was open for poetry and art as long as it had to do with celebrating Virginia. Inside you will find poems paired with drawings, paintings, photos, and quilts. Members of the Poetry Society of Virginia submitted poems for this anthology and we invited gifted high school students from the Appomattox Regional Governor's School to participate as well. Twenty-one students participated and generated novel and excellent poems. Artists were recruited from local art groups in southern Virginia and two gifted youths also submitted art. The result is a fabulous amalgam of beauty and ugliness, despair and hope, defacement and creation, love and philosophy, history and identity, angst and transcendence. It illustrates the burden and shame of slavery, the beauty and bounty inherited from the natives whose land the Europeans took and the legacy we have been given, the flora and fauna of the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge Mountains, the beauty of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean, the

struggles of inner city evolution (and sometimes, devolution), the coming-of-age of politics and Civil War events, up to the defacement and removal of said war hero statues. It also includes poems that honor ancestors who fought on both sides of the Civil War and familial connection to the land that Virginian's love.

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