



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

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August 2024



Dear NFSPS Poets,

This year the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) at the annual Convention in Roswell, Georgia, on June 9, 2024 elected me to be President for a two-year term (2024-2026). NFSPS members from across the country were given the option to vote in person or in the comfort of their homes via the internet.

Joseph Cavanaugh
36th NFSPS
President

It is a special honor for me, and I hope you will welcome and work with me to extend and improve our performance as individuals and as a community of poets. I plan to work closely with all of you to continue to improve NFSPS programs and services and to introduce some new directions for NFSPS. I am extending an invitation to all NFSPS poets to join me in this effort.

I outlined a number of new directions for my two-year term, including increasing the size of our membership by working with State Societies to create new chapters to serve groups not currently included, providing them with the opportunity to become members of a State and National Poets Society. This is an important step, as we increase our efforts to build a poetry community open to all poets. We must take the next steps in our efforts to include Youth, Spoken and Written Word poets, LGBTQIA+, BIPOC groups and others not currently part of a larger family, providing resources and advocacy for all things poetry. I have appointed Jessica Temple, 2nd Vice President, as Youth Coordinator, to take the lead in this area. I have also appointed Kevin Campbell, 1st Vice Chancellor, to take the leadership role for the Blackberry Peach Programs.

There are a number of other initiatives I plan to work on, including a Poets for Peace Program, and growth in the number of State Societies (we currently have 33 Of 50 States). I have appointed Susann Moeller, 2nd Vice Chancellor, to work with Russell Strauss to establish and implement a plan to increase the number of State Societies.

I also plan to work closely with our new Finance Committee to improve and expand our financial resources. I have appointed 1st Vice President Steven Concert to head up this Committee as well as the Audit Committee to ensure that we have strong and informed financial management practices adopted and implemented.

I also plan to continue and expand programs to increase our participation in the international poetry community. My hope is that the Poets for Peace members will be an active advocacy and resource for world peace and provide financial resources to help the ever-growing number of orphans created by the war in Ukraine.

As a former Vice President of NFSPS, I know the talent and organization that exists within our organization, and want to include all of you who want to work with me at the national level to be a part of this exciting opportunity to make significant improvements in NFSPS policies and programs. I have already started discussions with a number

of State Presidents on ways to improve the NFSPS partnership with its member State Societies.

If you are interested in working together with me, please let me know your interests and availability. There are a number of Committee and Appointed Positions available on the NFSPS Board and a variety of meaningful ways to serve. We have a special need for a Contests Chair. We are also in need of a Co-Chair for the Stevens Manuscript Competition. Just drop me a note at president@nfspd.net to begin the discussion about how you can become a valuable part of this exciting endeavor. I am asking State Presidents to share this letter with your members via an email blast to be sure all of our members are aware of these opportunities to serve.

On June 10th, 2024, convention attendees were treated to a moving presentation entitled "Poetry Under Fire," by Nobel Prize in Literature NFSPS Nominee, Ihor Pavlyuk, Ukrainian People's Poet, via Zoom. The Poets for Peace Program will work on growing this poetic partnership and help raise funds for Ukrainian orphans. If you want to help by contributing financially to this important work, please send a check in any amount (\$5-\$500+) to Linda Harris, our Treasurer, clearly labeled for *Ukrainian orphans* at her address listed on page 2. All donations are tax deductible based upon our status as a 501c3 organization.

Our Keynote Speaker at the Convention, the wild and lively Tamika Harper, gave an inspiring workshop reminding us that, as poets, we are all part of a rich and varied community and family with many resources, and that, if you need something, just ask. As your new President, I am asking you to get involved in making NFSPS a valued and available resource for all poets everywhere.

Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to serve as your President for the next two years. I hope you will join us at the next NFSPS Convention, to be held in New Mexico, in July, 2025.

Peace, love, and poetry,

~ Joe Cavanaugh, 36th NFSPS President

NFSPS 2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 2025 NFSPS Annual Convention and BlackBerry Peach SLAM will be held in Albuquerque, NM. Details are being worked out in committee and will be announced as we know them.



**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, Inc.**

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder

Honorary Chancellor: TBA

EXECUTIVE BOARD ~ 2024-2026

Elected, NFSPS Convention, June 2024

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APPOINTIVE BOARD

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**NFSPS MEMBER STATE SOCIETIES
AND PRESIDENTS**

ALABAMA: Alabama State Poetry Society Jessica Temple, President ~ P.O. Box 2308, Huntsville, AL 35804 ~ alabamapoets@gmail.com
ARIZONA: Arizona State Poetry Society Katie Zale ~ President, 4477 W. Pyracantha Dr., Tuscon, AZ 85741 ~ katiezale.pres@azpoetry.net
ARKANSAS: Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas John McPherson, President ~ 111 Jawanda Ln., Searcy, AR 72143 ~ jmcperson@cablelynx.com
CALIFORNIA: California State Poetry Society Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, President ~ P.O. Box 4288, Sunland, CA 91041 ~ Maja.Trochimczyk@gmail.com
COLORADO: Columbine Poets of Colorado Julie Cummings, President ~ 9428 Fallen Rock Rd., Conifer, CO 80433 ~ president@columbinepoetscolorado.com
CONNECTICUT: Connecticut Poetry Society Patricia Mottola, President ~ 390 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT 06410 ~ patriciamottola@yahoo.com
FLORIDA: Florida State Poets Association Mary Marcelle, President ~ 107 Magnolia Dr, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 ~ marymarcelle@earthlink.net
GEORGIA: Georgia Poetry Society Barbara Barry-Nishanian, President president@georgiapoetrysociety.org
ILLINOIS: Illinois State Poetry Society Mary Beth Bretzlauf, President ~ 2800 Theresa Avenue, Waukegon, IL 60085 ~ mbretzlauf@comcast.net
INDIANA: Poetry Society of Indiana John Hinton, President ~ 958 John Street Frankfort, IN 46041 ~ hinton2005@att.net
IOWA: Iowa Poetry Association Dawn Sly Terpstra, President ~ 14410 S 72nd Ave. E Lynnville, IA 50153 ~ dterp@me.com
KANSAS: Sunflower Poetry Society of Kansas Melvin Palowski Moore, President 11916 Lakeside Drive, Apartment 1622, Overland Park, KS 66213 dragonpoet@charter.net
KENTUCKY: Kentucky State Poetry Society Danni Quintos, President ~ 500 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40508 ~ danni.quintos@kctcs.edu
MAINE: Maine Poets Society Jenny Doughty, President ~ 31 Rustic Ln., Portland, ME 04103 ~ jmdought@maine.rr.com
MASSACHUSETTS: Massachusetts State Poetry Society Jeanette C. Maes, President ~ 64 Harrison Ave., Lynn, MA 01905 ~ msps.jemaes@comcast.net
MICHIGAN: Poetry Society of Michigan David James, President ~ 1108 Fairway Dr., Linden, MI 48451 ~ dljamespoet@gmail.com
MINNESOTA: League of Minnesota Poets Amanda Bailey, President ~ P.O. Box 17344 Minneapolis, MN 55417 ~ leagueofminpoets@gmail.com
MISSISSIPPI: Mississippi Poetry Society Janice Canerdy, President ~ P.O. Box 613., Potts Camp, MS 38659 ~ jlcanerdy@yahoo.com
MISSOURI: Missouri State Poetry Society Nancy La Chance, President ~ 14940 Hwy 64, Lebanon, MO 65536 ~ lachancenancy@outlook.com
NEBRASKA: Nebraska Poetry Society Charlene Pierce, President ~ Omaha, NE charlene_pierce@icloud.com

NEVADA: Nevada Poetry Society Phyllis Peacock, President ~ 35 E. York Way, Sparks, NV 89431-2424 ~ nvpoetry@earthlink.net
NEW MEXICO: New Mexico State Poetry Society Bernadette Perez, President ~ 19645 Hwy. 314, Belen, NM 87002 ~ president@nmpoetry.com
NEW YORK: New York Poetry Forum James DeMartini, President ~ 7941 78th Ave., Glendale, NY 11385 ~ albertusanselmaando@yahoo.com
OHIO: Ohio Poetry Association Holly Brians Ragusa, President ~ 1414 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 ~ president@ohiopoetryassn.org
OKLAHOMA: Poetry Society of Oklahoma Patti Koch, President ~ 7045 Hidden Trail Lane Warr Acres, OK 73132 pattikoch0@gmail.com
OREGON: Oregon Poetry Association Bob Sterry, President ~ ~ thebobsterry@gmail.com
PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Poetry Society Pom Benson, President ~ 257 Ashton Hollow Catawissa, PA 17820 ~ pombenson@att.net
SOUTH DAKOTA: South Dakota State Poetry Society Marcella Remund, President ~ 235 E Lewis, Vermillion SD 57069 ~ surfaceworld@yahoo.com
TENNESSEE: Poetry Society of Tennessee Lisa Kamolnick, President ~ 259 Cain Drive Blountville TN 37617 poetrytennessee@gmail.com
TEXAS: Poetry Society of Texas Catherine L'Herisson, President ~ 518 Grinnell Dr., Garland, TX 75043 ~ catherinepoet@juno.com
UTAH: Utah State Poetry Society Michael Parker, President ~ 878 South 250 West, Orem, Utah, 84058 ~ note.to.mp@gmail.com
WYOMING: WyoPoets John Roedel, President ~ johnkroedel@gmail.com

STROPHES

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 9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO. 80433
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* Submission Deadlines

Strophes is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$4.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a **SASE with adequate postage for up to 12 pages** and \$1.00 per copy.

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(Presidential Advisors)**

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 Doris Stengel
 Nancy Baass
 Russell H. Strauss
 Jeremy M. Downes
 Eleanor Berry
 *Jim Barton
 Julie Cummings
 Paul Ford

* Deceased

2024 NFSPS CONTEST AWARD WINNERS**1. NFSPS Founders Award (to honor Mary B. Wall) Judge: Kevin Rabas # Entries 348**

1st Place: Lynn Farmer, Decatur, GA
 "Anyone Could Know"

2nd Place: Lynne Schmidt, Norway, ME
 "The Jeans"

3rd Place: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
 "To Be Homeless"

HM1: David Bond, Del Rio, TX
 HM2: Julia Meylor Simpson, Groton, CT
 HM3: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 HM4: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM5: Holly E. Antoun, Golden, CO
 HM6: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 HM7: Tony Fusco, West Haven, CT

2. The Margo Award

Judge: Sue Walker # Entries 189

1st Place: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

"Odysseus Takes the Scenic Route"

2nd Place: John W. Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR
 "The Path Back"

3rd Place: Irene Alderson, Minneapolis, MN
 "Migration"

HM1: Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL
 HM2: Cristie Cook, Sandy, UT
 HM3: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM4: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 HM5: Manuel L. English, Poulosbo, WA
 HM6: Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL
 HM7: Marcia Jones, Evergreen, CO

3. Social Critique Poetry Award

Judge: JoLea Johnson # Entries 154

1st Place: Joel Passey, Layton, UT

"Adding to the Abode of My Heart"

2nd Place: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
 "A Game of Scrabble: I Draw More Letters from the Bag"

3rd Place: Jade Rosina McCutcheon, Salem, OR
 "Our Place"

HM1: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM2: Mary Beth Magee, Poplarville, MS
 HM3: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM4: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
 HM5: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM6: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM7: Candace Kubinec, Greensbrug, PA

4. Donald Stodghill Memorial Award (Members Only) Judge: Joe Cavanaugh # Entries 179

1st Place: Mary Alice Higgs, Roxie, MS

"The World Is Too Much for Me Today"

2nd Place: Betty Ann Whitney, Wesley Chapel, FL
 "The Girl in the Photograph"

3rd Place: Valerie Szarek, Louisville, CO
 "Coyote Willows"

HM1: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
 HM2: Sylvia Collins, South Hamilton MA
 HM3: Sunny Bridge, Fort Collins, CO
 HM4: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 HM5: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 HM6: Jon Sebba, Murray, UT
 HM7: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT

5. Winners' Circle Award

Judge: Lennart Lundh # Entries 167

1st Place: Daniel J. Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL
 "Last Night"

2nd Place: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 "Night Rain"

3rd Place: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 "Where Children Play"

HM1: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM2: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 HM3: Catherine McGuire, Sweet Home, OR

HM4: Norman Thomas Marshall, Guilford, CT
 HM5: Robert V. Davis, West Haven, UT
 HM6: Julie Cummings, Conifer, CO
 HM7: Lynne Schmidt, Norway, ME

6. NFSPS Board Award

Judge: Julie Cummings # Entries 46

1st Place: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL
 "Traveling with Intent"

2nd Place: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 "London, England 1665"

3rd Place: Richard R. Cuyler, Middlebury, VT
 "More"

HM1: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
 HM2: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
 HM3: Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL
 HM4: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM5: Faith Canright, Portland, OR
 HM6: Gail White, Breaux Bridge, LA
 HM7: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX

7. Stone Gathering Award

Judge: Barbara Funke # Entries 169

1st Place: Joan Hofmann, Collinsville, CT

"Day After Removal of the Sling from a Broken Radial Head in the Elbow of my Right-Dominant Arm"

2nd Place: Judith Feenstra, Maple Lake, MN
 "Pa"

3rd Place: Tane Kim, Irvington, NY
 "Eating Watermelon"

HM1: Lynne McNamara, Longmont, CO
 HM2: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM3: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 HM4: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 HM5: Lisa Kamolnick, Blountville, TN
 HM6: Mary R. Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada
 HM7: Connie Green, Lenoir City, TN

8. Poetry Society of Texas Award (Members Only) Judge: Katie Sarah Zale # Entries 176

1st Place: Prosser Stirling, Washington, DC

"Cowboy Movie"

2nd Place: Pamelyn Casto, Granbury, TX
 "A Dry Cry Comes"

3rd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 "Ennuui"

HM1: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN
 HM2: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 HM3: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 HM4: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 HM5: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 HM6: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 HM7: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX

9. Jim Barton, Bard of the Pines Award

Judge: Alida Rol # Entries 125

1st Place: Katherine Nelson-Born, Pensacola, FL
 "The Surrender"

2nd Place: Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
 "What Was Left, What Was Lost"

3rd Place: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 "Passing through the Pines, 1831"

HM1: Sonya Manes, Tucson, AZ
 HM2: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
 HM3: Terry Miller, Richmond, TX
 HM4: Allison Thorpe, Lexington, KY
 HM5: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM6: Valerie Szarek, Louisville, CO
 HM7: Barry Lewis, Lee's Summit, MO

10. Lucille Morgan Wilson Memorial Award

Judge: M. Palowski Moore # Entries 160

1st Place: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL

"At the Bath"

2nd Place: K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA
 "Under the Garden"

3rd Place: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 "Kaleidoscope"

HM1: Sam Wright, Lakewood, OH
 HM2: Carolyn Campbell, Evergreen, CO
 HM3: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
 HM4: Rita Cassell, Lakewood, CO
 HM5: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 HM6: Jon Sebba, Murray, UT
 HM7: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO

11. Al Laster Memorial Award (Members Only)

Judge: Leith Jones # Entries 164

1st Place: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO

"After Rabindranath Tagore and the Dancing Woman"

2nd Place: Dawn Kawahara, Lihue, HI
 "Unveiling Two Paintings by Frida Kahlo as Her Epitaph"

3rd Place: David Bond, Del Rio, TX
 "Gladys Loss"

HM1: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM2: Prosser Stirling, Washington, DC
 HM3: Melissa Huff, Champagn, IL
 HM4: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM5: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 HM6: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 HM7: Julia Meylor Simpson, Groton, CT

12. The Countee Cullen Poetry Prize

Judge: Dan Liberthson # Entries 53

1st Place: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO
 "Tough Transition"

2nd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "At the Awards Ceremony"

3rd Place: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 "Voice from God's Garden"

HM1: Charles K. Firmage, Eloy, AZ
 HM2: Julia Keefer, Tucson, AZ
 HM3: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 HM4: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 HM5: D. E. Green, Northfield, MN
 HM6: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM7: Mary Beth Magee, Poplarville, MS

13. Arizona State Poetry Society Award

Judge: Alan Perry # Entries 154

1st Place: Prosser Stirling, Washington, DC
 "On the Night of Shooting Stars"

2nd Place: Jane Stuart, Flatwoods, KY
 "His Waxen Wings"

3rd Place: Julie Martin, Saint Paul, MN
 "Ungrasp"

HM1: Terri Klein, Albuquerque, NM
 HM2: Marcia Jones, Evergreen, CO
 HM3: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM4: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM5: Ellen Lee, Denver, CO
 HM6: Betty Ann Whitney, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM7: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT

14. Jim Barton Memorial Award (Members Only)

Judge: Connie Jordan Green # Entries 164

1st Place: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 "Bank of the River Oise"

2nd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "Icebergs"

3rd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Better Than New England's Fall"

HM1: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
 HM2: Chris Boldt, Temple, TX
 HM3: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 HM4: Markay Brown, St. George, UT
 HM5: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM6: Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL
 HM7: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

15. Alabama State Poetry Society Award

Judge: Dr. Diane M. Clark # Entries 77

1st Place: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

"Epiphany"

2nd Place: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM

“This Lighter Load”

3rd Place: Tilly Urban, Denver, CO
“All Alone”

HM1: Donna Geise, Owens Cross Roads, AL
HM2: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
HM3: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
HM4: Mary Beth Magee, Poplarville, MS
HM5: Rita Geil, Carson City, NV
HM6: Fred Briggs, Lake Mary, FL
HM7: Chris Boldt, Temple, TX

16. Land of Enchantment Award

Judge: Ida Kotyuk # **Entries** 132

1st Place: Susan Wurtzburg, Salt Lake City, UT
“Blue Skies Beckon”

2nd Place: Marilyn LT Klimcho, Reading, PA
“Greener Pastures”

3rd Place: Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN
“Niwaki”

HM1: Alexandra Shandrenko, New Market, MD
HM2: Cathy Hollister, Hermitage, TN
HM3: Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS
HM4: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX
HM5: Jerry V. Buchanan, Johnson City, TN
HM6: Michael Spears, Sandy, UT
HM7: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO

17. Poet's Work Award

Judge: Charmaine Pappas Donovan # **Entries** 125

1st Place: Allison Joseph, Carbondale, IL
“Still Every Woman”

2nd Place: Connie Green, Lenoir City, TN
“Song of the Empty Flowerpot”

3rd Place: Prosser Stirling, Washington, DC
“Ogygia”

HM1: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
HM2: Terry Miller, Richmond, TX
HM3: Carolyn Campbell, Evergreen, CO
HM4: Nancy Christopherson, Baker City, OR
HM5: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
HM6: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
HM7: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX

18. The Listening Poem Award

Judge: Lynda La Rocca # **Entries** 156

1st Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“Book Marked”

2nd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
“Listening to Water Pray”

3rd Place: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
“In the Walls”

HM1: Kristin Lenz, Royal Oak, MI
HM2: Laura Trigg, Chesterfield, MO
HM3: Janice Canerdy, Potts Camp, MS
HM4: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN
HM5: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
HM6: Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL
HM7: Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK

19. Mildred Cummings Memorial Award

Judge: Susan Stevens Chambers # **Entries** 110

1st Place: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
“Gold”

2nd Place: Allison Thorpe, Lexington, KY
“The Kitchen Table Discusses Family Meals”

3rd Place: Sunny Bridge, Fort Collins, CO
“Heartbreak Potatoes”

HM1: Sarah Russell, Denver, CO
HM2: E. King, Elgin, IL
HM3: Jonathan Bennett, Lakeland, TN
HM4: Cynthia Storrs, Nolensville, TN
HM5: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield, TX
HM6: Michael Owens, Cypress, TX
HM7: Terri Klein, Albuquerque, NM

20. Power of Women Award

Judge: Anamarie Wilkins # **Entries** 142

1st Place: Mary Beth Magee, Poplarville, MS

“STEAM Girl”

2nd Place: Travis Park, Noblesville, IN
“Unyielding Spirit”

3rd Place: Alexandra Shandrenko, New Market, MD
“I Am a Woman”

HM1: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
HM2: Faith Canright, Portland, OR
HM3: Linda R. Payne, Ramsey, MN
HM4: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL
HM5: Erica Mattson, Royal Oak, MI
HM6: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
HM7: Erika Seshadri, Lamy, NM

21. The Virginia Corrie-Cozart Memorial Award

Judge: Carol Clark Williams # **Entries** 143

1st Place: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
“Footsteps in the Snow”

2nd Place: Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Hts., MN
“geometry”

3rd Place: Laura Trigg, Chesterfield, MO
“Losing the 1860 Farmhouse”

HM1: Catherine McGuire, Sweet Home, OR
HM2: Joyce Allen, Ankeny, IA
HM3: Rita Cassell, Lakewood, CO
HM4: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
HM5: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN
HM6: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
HM7: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX

22. Mildred Vorpahl Baass Remembrance

Award (Members Only) Judge: Patricia Tiffany Morris # **Entries** 96

1st Place: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
“What Cats Dream Of”

2nd Place: Stephanie DuPont, Sugar Hill, GA
“A Scratched Symphony”

3rd Place: Travis Park, Noblesville, IN
“Enchanted Purr”

HM1: Daniel J. Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL
HM2: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
HM3: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
HM4: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
HM5: Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
HM6: Virginia Gilbert, Madison, AL
HM7: Jennifer Rood, Grants Pass, OR

23. League of Minnesota Poets Award

Judge: Jill Angel Langlois # **Entries** 168

1st Place: John R. Seksay, Augusta, ME
“Almost Touching”

2nd Place: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield, TX
“Thursday the Twelfth”

3rd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“My Brother Died This Morning”

HM1: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
HM2: Vicky Dovenspike, Salem, IA
HM3: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
HM4: Daniel Liberthson, Cottage Grove, OR
HM5: Mary Permann, Grimes, IA
HM6: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
HM7: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX

24. Jessica C. Saunders Memorial Award

Judge: Barbara Blanks # **Entries** 93

1st Place: Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL
“Redundant Doors”

2nd Place: Erica Reid, Fort Collins, CO
“Scarf”

3rd Place: Sam Wright, Lakewood, OH
“To A Mermaid”

HM1: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, UK
HM2: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
HM3: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
HM4: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
HM5: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
HM6: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
HM7: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM

25. Poetry Society of Indiana Award

Judge: Karen Kay Bailey # **Entries** 107

1st Place: Patricia Tiffany Morris, Bondurant, IA
“yesterday's storm”

2nd Place: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
“Glitter”

3rd Place: Jerry V. Buchanan, Johnson City, TN
“Fulgurate”

HM1: Delores Walker, Oklahoma City, OK
HM2: Prosser Stirling, Washington, DC
HM3: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
HM4: Sylvia Collins, South Hamilton, MA
HM5: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
HM6: Daniel Liberthson, Cottage Grove, OR
HM7: Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL

26. Nevada Poetry Society Award (Members Only) Judge:

Nancy Susanna Breen # **Entries** 66

1st Place: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
“Shall I Compare Thee to a Bale of Hay?”

2nd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“Avoiding a Chore on a Saturday Morning”

3rd Place: Carie Juettner, Richardson, TX
“Hystrics”

HM1: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
HM2: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
HM3: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
HM4: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
HM5: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
HM6: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
HM7: Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK

27. William Stafford Memorial Award

Judge: Nancy Flynn # **Entries** 171

1st Place: Heather Anderson, Albuquerque, NM
“Here, at the end of the world”

2nd Place: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM
“Pieces of Heaven”

3rd Place: K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA
“Under the Cover of Charm”

HM1: Pamelyn Casto, Granbury, TX
HM2: Pam Tucker, Powell Butte, OR
HM3: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
HM4: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
HM5: Sunny Bridge, Fort Collins, CO
HM6: Jim Brosnan, Assonet, ME
HM7: Marleine Yanish, Denver, CO

28. Columbine Poets of Colorado Award

(Members Only) Judge: Donna Salli # **Entries** 159

1st Place: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
“Looking in Frida's Mirror”

2nd Place: Lorrie Wolfe, Fort Collins, CO
“I Worry About It All”

3rd Place: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
“The Process by Which a Poetry Class Supplies Its Cells and Tissues with Oxygen”

HM1: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
HM2: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
HM3: Dawn Kawahara, Lihue, HI
HM4: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
HM5: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO
HM6: B Shawn Clark, Englewood, FL
HM7: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

29. Morton D. Prouty & Elsie S. Prouty

Memorial Award Judge: Julie Allyn Johnson # **Entries** 185

1st Place: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
“The Prairie Man”

2nd Place: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
“Overnight in Tikal”

3rd Place: Rita Geil, Carson City, NV
“Lyons Creek Trail”

HM1: Rajiv Kumra, San Jose, CA
HM2: Hugh Findlay, Durham, NC
HM3: Sherri Stepakoff, Needham, MA
HM4: Connie Green, Lenoir City, TN
HM5: Belle Schmidt, Longmont, CO

HM6: Allison Thorpe, Lexington, KY
 HM7: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL

30. Loretta Diane Walker Memorial Award
 (Members Only) **Judge:** Emily Strauss # **Entries**
 163

1st Place: Sunny Bridge, Fort Collins, CO
 "Fifty-Six Words on Breathing"
 2nd Place: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 "Power Outage"
 3rd Place: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO
 "One Evening"
 HM1: Kristin Middleton, Albuquerque, NM
 HM2: Julie Cummings, Conifer, CO
 HM3: Markay Brown, St. George, UT
 HM4: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM5: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 HM6: Charles K. Firmage, Eloy, AZ
 HM7: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, UK

31. Utah State Poetry Society Award

Judge: Jason Ervin # **Entries** 111

1st Place: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 "Her Body"
 2nd Place: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO
 "Transfiguration"
 3rd Place: Sunny Bridge, Fort Collins, CO
 "Learning to Swim While Drowning"
 HM1: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
 HM2: Jeff Ward, Trinity, TX
 HM3: Rita Geil, Carson City, NV
 HM4: Larry Witherspoon, Little Rock, AR
 HM5: Karen Betstadt, Denver, CO
 HM6: Derek Healy, Malvern, UK
 HM7: Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK

32. Illinois State Poetry Society Award

Judge: Lorrie Wolfe # **Entries** 105

1st Place: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 "0.0002%"
 2nd Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "East or West at the River's Shore"
 3rd Place: Elaine Palencia, Champaign, IL
 "A Creek in Illinois"
 HM1: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM2: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 HM3: Milton Bates, Marquette, MI
 HM4: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, UK
 HM5: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 HM6: Jon Sebba, Murray, UT
 HM7: Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS

33. The Robbie Award

Judge: Michael Comiskey # **Entries** 103

1st Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Death devours all lovely things"
 2nd Place: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO
 "Who Wanted to Remain"
 3rd Place: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 "Theoretical"
 HM1: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
 HM2: Rob Burgess, Oklahoma City, OK
 HM3: Lynne Schmidt, Norway, ME
 HM4: Faith Canright, Portland, OR
 HM5: Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
 HM6: Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN
 HM7: Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL

34. Iowa Poetry Association Award

Judge: Catherine Moran # **Entries** 119

1st Place: Marilyn LT Klimcho, Reading, PA
 "Flights of Imagination"
 2nd Place: Patricia Tiffany Morris, Bondurant, IA
 "The King's Words"
 3rd Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "Changing Leaves"
 HM1: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 HM2: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX
 HM3: Lynne McNamara, Longmont, CO
 HM4: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

HM5: Louise Cook, Sandy, UT
 HM6: Terrie Jacks, Ballwin, MO
 HM7: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR

35. Wallace Stevens Memorial Award (Members Only) **Judge:** Mark Andrew James Terry # **Entries**
 53

1st Place: Janice Canerdy, Potts Camp, MS
 "Ridiculous!"
 2nd Place: Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL
 "The Morning Wood"
 3rd Place: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 "No Hiding Place"
 HM1: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL
 HM2: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 HM3: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM4: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 HM5: Bestsy M. Hughes, Oakwood, OH
 HM6: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 HM7: Richard R. Cuyler, Middlebury, VT

36. Poetry Society of Oklahoma Award

Judge: Patricia Thrusart # **Entries** 60

1st Place: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 "After Eating at Rudy's on Lake Ontario"
 2nd Place: Jonathan Bennett, Lakeland, TN
 "By the Water"
 3rd Place: Crystie Cook, Sandy, UT
 "Down the Mustang Trail"
 HM1: Lisa Kamolnick, Blountville, TN
 HM2: Erica Reid, Fort Collins, CO
 HM3: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH
 HM4: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 HM5: Richard Ramsey, Des Moines, IA
 HM6: Jennifer Rood, Grants Pass, OR
 HM7: Mona Mehas, Noblesville, IN

37. Ohio Award

Judge: Susan Maxwell Campbell # **Entries** 174

1st Place: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN
 "October 12th: No Special Occasion"
 2nd Place: Renee Moenk-Corkery, Cedar Rapids, IA
 "Pocket Lint"
 3rd Place: Mary Ann Meade, Lansdowne, PA
 "At Memorial for Drown Children"
 HM1: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX
 HM2: Nancy Christopherson, Baker City, OR
 HM3: Pamelyn Casto, Granbury, TX
 HM4: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 HM5: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI
 HM6: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
 HM7: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

38. WyoPoets Award

Judge: Lori Goetz # **Entries** 85

1st Place: Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN
 "Tinta"
 2nd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "The Guernsey Ruts"
 3rd Place: Jennifer Rood, Grants Pass, OR
 "A Fine Monument"
 HM1: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM2: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM3: Beverly A. Joyce, Land O' Lakes, MN
 HM4: Rob Burgess, Oklahoma City, OK
 HM5: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 HM6: Patricia J. Koch, Warr Acres, OK
 HM7: Carolyn Campbell, Evergreen, CO

39. Florida State Poets Association, Inc. Award

Judge: Jessica Temple # **Entries** 62

1st Place: Jerry V. Buchanan, Johnson City, TN
 "Walking in Sand"
 2nd Place: Faith Canright, Portland, OR
 "Florida Odyssey"
 3rd Place: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
 "State of Sun and Solace"
 HM1: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

HM2: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM3: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM4: Edward Rosick, Dewitt, MI
 HM5: Erika Seshadri, Lamy, NM
 HM6: Gwen Gunn, Guilford, CT
 HM7: Beth Honeycutt, Denton, TX

40. Poetry Society of Michigan Award

Judge: Valerie Szarek # **Entries** 147

1st Place: Pam Tucker, Powell Butte, OR
 "Mending with Moths"
 2nd Place: Emily Ellison, Portland, OR
 "Paniculation"
 3rd Place: Joan Hofmann, Collinsville, CT
 "A Night of Pleasure"
 HM1: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
 HM2: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM3: Pamelyn Casto, Granbury, TX
 HM4: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM5: Sam Wright, Lakewood, OH
 HM6: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO
 HM7: Christine Irving, Denton, TX

41. Mississippi Poetry Society Award

Judge: Frank Iosue # **Entries** 90

1st Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "The Reunion"
 2nd Place: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
 "As Love Evolves"
 3rd Place: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL
 "Duet"
 HM1: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM2: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 HM3: Karen Morris, Pensacola, FL
 HM4: Jennifer Rood, Grants Pass, OR
 HM5: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 HM6: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM7: James Tweedie, Long Beach, WA

42. Poetry Society of Tennessee Award (Members Only) **Judge:** Christina M. Flaughner # **Entries** 94

1st Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "Culinary Art"
 2nd Place: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 "Some Cook!"
 3rd Place: Ruth Keally, Athens, GA
 "Rat-a-tat-tat"
 HM1: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM2: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 HM3: Delores Walker, Oklahoma City, OK
 HM4: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
 HM5: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM6: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM7: Michael Owens, Cypress, TX

43. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award

(Members Only) **Judge:** Sarah Wood # **Entries** 46

1st Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "The Unknown Made Known"
 2nd Place: Terry Miller, Richmond, TX
 "a second crossing"
 3rd Place: Michael Spears, Sandy, UT
 "The Drowning of St. Thomas"
 HM1: Stephanie DuPont, Sugar Hill, GA
 HM2: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 HM3: Mary R. Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada
 HM4: Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT
 HM5: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 HM6: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM7: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

44. Jesse Stuart Memorial Award

Judge: Mary Beth Bretzlauf # **Entries** 136

1st Place: Manuel L. English, Poulosbo, WA
 "A Time Ago"
 2nd Place: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 "Evening's Bookmark"
 3rd Place: Fred Briggs, Lake Mary, FL
 "The Path Well Taken"

HM1: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 HM2: Louise Brown, Arvada, CO
 HM3: Louise Cook, Sandy, UT
 HM4: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL
 HM5: Mary Permann, Grimes, IA
 HM6: Kait Quinn, Minneapolis, MN
 HM7: Catherine McGuire, Sweet Home, OR

45. Barbara Stevens Memorial Award

Judge: Pat Mottola # **Entries** 164
 1st Place: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 “Tanning with Sister Breeds Skin Cancer”
 2nd Place: Amy Irish, Lakewood, CO
 “Stay of Execution”
 3rd Place: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
 “The First Loss”
 HM1: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM2: Louise Brown, Arvada, CO
 HM3: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM4: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 HM5: Richard R. Cuyler, Middlebury, VT
 HM6: Rita Geil, Carson City, NV
 HM7: James D. Neiswender, Denton, TX

46. Missouri State Poetry Society Award

Judge: Alicia Clavell McCall # **Entries** 52
 1st Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 “Under the Gateway Arch”
 2nd Place: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 “Show Me Your Names”
 3rd Place: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 “The Show-me Shake-up”
 HM1: Harrison Morris, Hudson, NY
 HM2: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX
 HM3: Laura Rodley, Shelburne Falls, MA
 HM4: Barry Lewis, Lee’s Summit, MO
 HM5: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM6: Mary R. Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada
 HM7: Faith Canright, Portland, OR

47. Save Our Earth Award

Judge: Eleanor Berry # **Entries** 108
 1st Place: Susan Wurtzburg, Salt Lake City, UT
 “Crows of Hawai’i”
 2nd Place: Laura Rockhold, Long Lake, MN
 “The Burning”
 3rd Place: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 “Native Dancers”
 HM1: Julia Keefer, Tucson, AZ
 HM2: Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN
 HM3: Lisa Kamolnick, Blountville, TN
 HM4: Terri Klein, Albuquerque, NM
 HM5: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 HM6: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM7: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

48. Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award

Judge: Russell Strauss # **Entries** 142
 1st Place: Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN
 “Sleeping with the Ancestors”
 2nd Place: Mary R. Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada
 “The History of What Is Said”
 3rd Place: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 “The Grindylow”
 HM1: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
 HM2: Pam Tucker, Powell Butte, OR
 HM3: D. E. Green, Northfield, MN
 HM4: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
 HM5: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM6: Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS
 HM7: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

49. Maine Poets Society Award

Judge: Amy Levitin Graver # **Entries** 84
 1st Place: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL

“Advisory”
 2nd Place: Mary Ellen Orvis, Sun City Center, FL
 “Haiku, Common now: the whale”
 3rd Place: Gwen Gunn, Guilford, CT
 “The Fire This Time”
 HM1: Betsy M. Hughes, Oakwood, OH
 HM2: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 HM3: Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN
 HM4: Heather Anderson, Albuquerque, NM
 HM5: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 HM6: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX
 HM7: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

50. The Poets Northwest Award (Members Only)

Judge: Marleine Yanish # **Entries** 86
 1st Place: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 “Downtown Cathedral”
 2nd Place: Randy K. Schwartz, Ann Arbor, MI
 “The Bee Sting”
 3rd Place: Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL
 “A City Street, December, 8pm”
 HM1: Sarah Russell, Denver, CO
 HM2: Harvey Stone, Johnson City, TN
 HM3: Terry Miller, Richmond, TX
 HM4: Catherine McGuire, Sweet Home, OR
 HM5: Louise Brown, Arvada, CO
 HM6: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN
 HM7: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

51. Student Award: Grades 9 – 12

Judge: Ann Copeland # **Entries** 25
 1st Place: Clara Principe, Little Rock, AR
 “A Date: A Time: A Place:”
 2nd Place: Joe Boone, Searcy, AR
 “I See an Angel”
 3rd Place: Mariposa Farrand, Corvallis, OR
 “Circe; Watching Pigs”
 HM1: Samantha Olvey, Little Rock, AR
 HM2: Via Anderson, Asheville, NC
 HM3: Olivia Nony, Little Rock, AR
 HM4: Jason Grebenchenko, Arvada, CO
 HM5: Avery Greenburg, Los Angeles, CA
 HM6: Alanna Stein, Voorhees, NJ
 HM7: Claire Ding, Cherry Hill, NJ

52. Poetry in the Classroom Award: Grades 6 – 8

Judge: Shari Crane Fox # **Entries** 9
 1st Place: Katelyn DeMelfi, Cheyenne, WY
 “Broken in Cabinet”
 2nd Place: Renee Buda, State College, PA
 “I Have Lost”
 3rd Place: Kenna Christy, Aurora, CO, CO
 “Memories”
 HM1: Clara Hollerer, Santa Barbara, CA
 HM2: Davis North, Penn State, PA
 HM3: K.D. O’Dell, Cheyenne, WY
 HM4: Srihari Kumaresan, Urbandale, IA
 HM5: Maeve Elliott, Port Matilda, PA
 HM6: Ansel Niedermyer, State College, PA

53. Poetry in the Classroom Award: Grades 3 – 5

Judge: Shari Crane Fox # **Entries** 6
 1st Place: Colin Underwood, Burlington, IA
 “Lovable Cats”
 2nd Place: Isabella Gram, Burlington, IA
 “I Can’t Do My Homework Today”
 3rd Place: Milo Osbourne, Burlington, IA
 “I Can’t Do My Homework”
 HM1: Oliver Cooperman, Burlington, IA
 HM2: Tobey Hollenbeck, Burlington, IA
 HM3: Regina Critser, Burlington, IA

2024 Manningham Student Trust Poetry Contest

I am pleased to announce the results of the 2024 Manningham Student Trust Poetry Contests. We had 101 total entries from 22 states, plus Washington,

DC. I would like to thank our judges for this year’s contests, M. Palowski Moore from Kansas – Senior Division, grades 9-12, and John Hinton from Indiana – Junior Division, grades 6-8. They gave their time and expertise to read all these poems and make the difficult decisions of selecting the winners.

Congratulations to all the students who entered this year and to their teachers, who helped them learn how to express their feelings in such creative ways. Please keep writing and submit to the contest again this year for the 2025 contest. **The submission period will be September 15, 2024 through November 15, 2024 for the 2025 contest. Guidelines can be found on our website: www.nfsps.com. On the left side of the page, click on poetry contests, then click on Manningham Trust Student Poetry contest.** Winners will be notified in 2025.

Here are the students who were selected by our judges for the 2024 Contests:

Junior Division:

1st place: “Shadows”
 Noelle Swing, The Marylhurst School, Oregon City, Oregon
2nd place: “The Crow”
 Sydney Nguyen, Falcon Creek Middle School, Aurora, Colorado
3rd place: “Spirit of the Wind”
 Bailey Hostetler, The Marylhurst School, Oregon City, Oregon
4th place: “Flower Buds”
 Kaitlyn Engle, Baxter Community School, Baxter, Iowa
5th place: “Finity”
 Dane Olsen, St. Margaret’s Episcopal School, San Juan Capistrano, California
1st HM: “Honesty”
 Broward Kavanaugh, Bolles Middle School, Jacksonville, Florida
2nd HM: “Music”
 Luisa Sanz, Maret School, Washington, DC
3rd HM: “Progress”
 Dhaani Ailawadhi, The Bolles School, Jacksonville, Florida
4th HM: “The Heart of Humanity”
 Benjamin Nelson, Falcon Creek Middle School, Aurora, Colorado
5th HM: “Knife to the Wings”
 Piper Redman, Baxter Middle School, Baxter, Iowa

Senior Division:

1st place: “Bà nôi”
 Benjamin Ta, The Overlake School, Redmond, Washington
2nd place: “Goodbye”
 Hannah He, Livingston High School, Livingston, New Jersey
3rd place: “Lucky Fish”
 Allison Xu, Walter Johnson High School, Bethesda, Maryland
4th place: “Inter-Dimensional Telephone”
 Emelie Allen, Maret School, Washington, DC
5th place: “The Back Row”
 Devin Jennings, Middle Creek High School, Apex, North Carolina
1st HM: “a whispered tour”
 Leonardo Chung, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire
 This student’s home address is Illinois, but the school is in New Hampshire.
2nd HM: “I Wonder”
 Olivia Merila, Warrenton High School, Warrenton, Oregon

3rd HM: "Wasi (House)"

Katherine Pumayalli, Home School, Mountain Village, Colorado

4th HM: "Running at Night"

Kade Parker, A-C Central High School, Ashland, Illinois

5th HM: "Take a Deep Breath"

Samah Shummo, Alexandria City High School, Alexandria, Virginia

Congratulations again to all the students who received recognition in the 2024 Manningham Student Trust Poetry Contests and to all those who entered! ~ Polly Opsahl, Manningham Chair

BLACKBERRY PEACH SPOKEN WORD 2024 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

The winners of this year's BLACKBERRY PEACH SPOKEN AND WRITTEN WORD POETRY COMPETITION were chosen by this year's contest judge, Eboni Njoki of Washington, D.C. The winners were announced by the Contest Chair, Joe Cavanaugh. First place winner is Ed Mabrey of Los Angeles, California. Second place went to Jezmin Daniels of Hinesville, Georgia. Third place was awarded to Joshua Russell of Leander, Texas. They were followed by 6 Finalists, Fourth place winner, Betty Bleen of Westerville, Ohio, Fifth place winner, Christopher Clauss of Chesterfield, New Hampshire, Sixth place winner, Charlene Pierce of Omaha, Nebraska, Seventh place winner, Valerie Szarek of Louisville, Colorado, Eighth Place winner, Jeff Ward of Trinity, Texas and Ninth place winner, Carlos Gomez of Atlanta, Georgia. Poets were asked to pick their 4 best poems and submit them in Written and Spoken (audio) form to be eligible for the prizes.

Prizes included cash prizes for the top three, \$1,000 first prize, \$500 second prize, \$250 third prize. All of the 9 finalists were invited to appear at the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Annual Convention, being held this year in Roswell, Georgia from June 5-10, 2024. All nine will be included in a video to be produced and placed on YouTube, and have their poems published in a book, published by NFSPS and entitled Blackberry Peach Written and Spoken Word Poetry Prizes 2024. The book includes links to audio versions of the winning poems which will be available on SoundCloud at www.soundcloud.com/blackberrypeach 2024.

This year's nine winners were picked from entries representing 16 States, with Florida recording the most entries and Ohio and California tied for second place. This is the eighth year of the popular competition which was created to offer performance poets an opportunity to compete for a national title in a major competition.

The success of the Blackberry Peach Written and Spoken Word contest has been responsible for the growth of interest in performance poetry by NFSPS which for many years was primarily a literary organization. Two new programs have been added, starting in 2022, these include a National Poetry Slam Championship, and a Performance Poetry Youth Workshop, both of which are now being held as part of the NFSPS National Convention.

There are many people responsible for the success of the Blackberry Peach Performance Poetry Initiative. We thank them all, with special thanks to Shirley BLACKwell, Eleanor BERRY, and Fil PEACH for their help and support including the commitment to the resources to bring written and spoken word poetry together in these

annual competitions. Special thanks to Vivian and Kevin (Noir) Campbell for many of the original ideas and the creative energy to make these dreams come alive. A round of applause for the designer and creator of this year's book, Mark Terry. His fresh approach and artistic genius have made this year's book a collector's edition. Finally, to all of you who support these efforts to add justice, truth and love to our lives. We thank you and urge you to continue to work for what is right. Our cause is just.

Please consider entering next year's competition by following the guidelines outlined on the National Federation Of Poetry Societies (NFSPS) website. Entries will be accepted from January 1, -March 15, 2025. If you have any questions, comments or need additional information Please contact Joe Cavanaugh at president@nfspns.net ~ Joe Cavanaugh, 2024 Blackberry Peach Chair

2024 BLACKBERRY PEACH NATIONAL POETRY SLAM RESULTS



After two nights of preliminary rounds and an incredible final stage, the BlackBerry Peach National Poetry Slam crowned its national champion. Ed Mabrey of Los Angeles, CA won our first-place prize of \$2000. Jahman Hill of Birmingham, AL won second place and \$1000. Dove Dupree of Moore, SC garnered third place, winning \$500. And Michael Hatcher of Austin, TX earned fourth place, winning \$250.

Each poet in the competition competed in a preliminary bout on Wednesday night and another on Thursday night. Each prelim saw every poet perform two poems each night with the top twelve poets after two nights of competition advancing to the Final Stage on Saturday night. Final Stage was comprised of three rounds of poems, with 4 poets eliminated each succeeding round.

Taking place on Friday was our Youth Mini-Festival, where we witnessed two young writers be brave in getting on the mic to share their poems and stories in a room full of adults.

The Youth Mini-Festival featured workshops by top-notch writers. Dhayana Alejandrina of Atlanta, GA, Edward Mabrey of Los Angeles, CA, and Caleb "The Negro Artist" Rainey of Iowa City, IA, led sessions covering different aspects of writing creation, composition, and performing. NFSPS Member & BlackBerry Peach Co-Director Kelsey Bigelow also addressed the youth attending the festival. ~Kevin Campbell, Performance Poetry Advocate

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

ARIZONA POETRY SOCIETY: Is finding volunteers for your Board and Committee chairs a challenge for you? Are you hearing “No” all too often from long-standing members who are too busy, too tired, or who have served in the past and have “done their time?” There’s good news!

The Arizona State Poetry Society (ASPS) has recently had great success in recruiting volunteers to serve on their Board and in other Chair leadership roles. While there’s not just one way or approach to fill vacancies, ASPS offers an approach below that may benefit your recruiting efforts.

One ASPS Board member took it upon herself to reach out individually via email to all new members who had joined during the prior two years. Here is what the email said:

Dear (first name):

As a newer member of ASPS, you are very important to the future of our Society!

ASPS has doubled in membership over the last five years, as well as increased programming and event opportunities. Unfortunately, our growth has required Board members and other chairpersons to take on multiple positions of leadership, which may limit our ability to offer even more programs and opportunities to our members.

We recognize that in order to continue our growth and thrive with new programs and opportunities, we must engage more of our members in participating in a variety of ways, either as Board members or supporting Board members in their area of responsibility so that no one person is over-burdened. We also want more voices around the table as we vision for the future.

I’d be delighted to speak with you on the phone to get to know you and learn about your skills and passions to see if there might be a small (or large) role that you might play to keep our Society growing. Attached is a brief summary of the variety of roles in which the Society could use additional help.

I look forward to hearing from you to discern if there is just the right opportunity for you!

Thank you for your consideration!

The response received was overwhelming and also very encouraging. All Officer positions were filled, as well as most of the Committee Chairs and several more supporting roles to help with committees. Subsequent phone conversations were also rewarding because the recruiter and the member got to know each other and had a chance to engage in dreaming about the future of the Society.

So take heart, and maybe give this model a try to see if your Society is able to fill some of the areas in which you need support. ~ *Kris Perry, Treasurer*

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY is in the process of preparing for the coming year after co-hosting the national convention! It was with pleasure that we received our fellow state poetry societies and contest winners live and via Zoom. We were honored by the proclamation from the city of Roswell honoring June 5-10, 2024

Roswell Poetry Week. There was dancing tango along with readings of lyrics by poets in attendance, and reflections on how poetry can and has been used to “Set Voices Free.” Our board and guest reader Katherine Kincer, from the Georgia radio show, “Melodically Challenged,” presented a reading, and local podcasters Anthony and Jill Cordova shared poetry and tips that can be used in social activism. We beam with pride for the opportunity to set voices free. We wish our new NFSPS President Joe Cavanaugh well, and thank Past President Paul Ford for all his support!

We look forward to the release of our literary journal, *Reach of Song 2024*. Our open mics take place once a month via Zoom, hosted by GPS President Barbara Nishanian.~ *Lucinda Clark, Past President*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY: I came home from the NFSPS Convention in Roswell, Georgia with pages of notes, several poems in various stages of drafts – and, best of all, I made wonderful connections with many poets from across the country. In addition to workshops, keynote speakers from the Atlanta, Georgia area, and Ihor Pavlyuk from Kyiv, Ukraine (virtually), there was business – the election of the NFSPS officers. I hope to share more with you soon.

Congratulations to all ISPS members who are 2024 NFSPS winners: Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL; Barbara Funke, St. George, UT; Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL; Melissa Huff, Champaign, IL; Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL; Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS; Stephanie DuPont, Roswell, GA; Elizabeth King, Elgin, IL; Daniel Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL; Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL.

I want to keep you up to date on the progress of a new website. We have selected a design and are working on getting things up and running soon. One of the jarring realizations is that our webmaster, Alan Harris, has done so much single-handedly!~ *Mary Beth Bretzlauf, President*

THE SUNFLOWER POETRY SOCIETY OF KANSAS In the months since our last report, **The Sunflower Poetry Society of Kansas** has been very dedicated in our commitment to community outreach: nurturing, educating, and facilitating opportunities for poetic growth. At the heart of our mission to encourage poetic expression and foster a safe space for feedback are our monthly workshops. Our members look forward to sharing their poetry and are receptive to hearing advice/varied interpretations. We welcome and encourage poets of all skill levels. Our goals for this workshop are to share poetic expression, creativity, honing of the poetic vision/voice for the poet’s piece, facilitating confidence, and allowing the poet to become more comfortable with presentation (reading for an audience).

In the spirit of connecting with poetry enthusiasts beyond the Kansas borders, continuing education and honing our poetic skills, members of SPSK actively participated for several months in Professor’s Corner, a literary discussion group devoted to ecopoetry, involving poems about our relationship to nature and the environment. The format was sponsored by The Denton South Branch Library in Texas, and featured selections from *The Ecopoetry Anthology* (Trinity University Press, 2020), which consists of American poems from the mid-19th century to the present, from Wallace Stevens to William Stafford. The producer and discussion leader was Dr. Stephen Souris (Professor of English, Ret.).

In response to emails from other NFSPS state chapters about contests, members of SPSK have entered state chapter-sponsored competitions. We even had an award recipient in a contest sponsored by The Arizona State Poetry Society.

Members of SPSK discussed their ekphrastic inspirations and visual poetic art (featuring photography and poetry inspired by imagery), participating in exhibitions at InterUrban Arthouse in Overland Park, Kansas. These exhibitions included HER ART/THEIR ART 2024, ART HEALS 2024 and TANGLED ROOTS 2023. Members of SPSK also participated in Storytelling Night, presenting their stories/experiences through poetry. A member was featured in an article written by journalist and poet Michelle L. Hill of *The Call* newspaper, in which poetry, ekphrastic art and our society were discussed.

On October 4th, a member of SPSK was invited to participate as a presenting poet for The Gloucestershire Poetry Society's (England) celebration program of Black History month in England.

We are honored to share that SPSK member Christina Hauk has had poems selected to be published in several literary publications, including *Shot Glass Journal*, *Mocking Heart Review* and *Collateral Journal*. Additionally, we welcomed the release of SPSK member Ana Wilkins' new collection, *To See My Own World: a collection of poems*. Members read at "The William Stafford Memorial: Living A Poetic Life" event at the Watkins Museum in Lawrence, Kansas. SPSK members were participants and presenters during the 2023 Writers Conference at the Johnson County Library in November.

To maintain a relaxed sense of community and connection, SPSK has begun to host quarterly "getting to know you" gatherings. These are informal meetings we call The Poets' Roundtable, and which allow members to explore creative ways of sharing poetry and perspectives. Our first gathering was a reading of favorite poems or poems by favorite authors. Our second gathering was an introduction to haiku. Members gathered to learn about the history of haiku, techniques and examples. The Roundtable concluded with members' writing a few haiku together.

In February, SPSK launched the 2024 Voices of Tomorrow Competition to celebrate the diverse, poetic voices of Kansas high school students currently enrolled in a public Kansas High School and who identify as BIPOC. On May 27th, SPSK proudly awarded monetary prizes, recognizing six students and the educators who inspired their poetic pursuits with places 1st, 2nd, 3rd and three honorable mentions. Community outreach remains a priority, as well as fostering nurturing spaces for poets of all skill levels. With this mission of embracing, educating and promoting poetry, SPSK aspires to continue encouraging and inspiring new artists. All voices are important. They deserve to be shared, valued and experienced.
~M. Palowski Moore, President

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY: met on June 2, 2024 at the Beverly, MA library, and included a workshop taught by President Jeanette Maes on "Weather," how types of weather affects our lives and poetry. Many famous poetry titles included "Rain," "The Storm," "Snowbound," "Summer Shower," "Dark August," and more. Weather poems can depict sadness, cruelty, kindness, can be tranquil, peaceful, cheerful, etc. Each attendee used the inspiring topic to write poems and shared with the group. Our next meeting will be in August.

We welcome anyone interested in sponsoring one or more contests in the next year's MSPS National Poetry Day contest. Write to request a Sponsor Form from Jeanette Maes, 64 Harrison Ave., Lynn, MA 01905. The minimum award of \$30 is to be furnished by sponsor. ~ Beverly Barnes, *Strophes Reporter*

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY members range in age from mid-teens to 99! One of the youngest members hosts seminars for young ladies, events which promote character, leadership, accountability, mental health, and self-respect, and she includes MPS as a vendor. Her own poetry reflects her desire to help young ladies overcome struggles in their lives. Our most mature member still sponsors and judges categories in our Annual Spring Contest. Let these folks encourage us to stay involved in poetry!

North and Central Branches are still co-sponsoring open mic events in Southaven and Hernando at Coffee Central and at Pacesetter Gallery near Jackson, while South Branch is busy hosting fun events, book signings, and workshops for members and others interested. Several members are involved in writing books and painting as well as writing poetry. Western Branch members love poetry as well as prose. Don't we all? They hosted John Lloyd, nationally known mystery writer, in March.

All of MPS mourns the recent loss of our beloved Mark LaFrancis, who was West Branch's President.

Our Spring Fest 2024 was hosted by Central Branch on April 26-28. The theme was "Centered on Poetry." Our guest speaker, Mississippi's Poet Laureate, Catherine Pierce, was fabulous. Janice Canerdy received the Poet of the Year Award. Her POY chapbook is entitled *From Serious to Slapstick—Poems, Like Life*. It is available on Amazon. MPS's North branch is in the early stages of planning the April 2025 festival. ~ Dorothy Wiman, *Immediate Past Secretary*

PENNSYLVANIA POETRY SOCIETY (PPS) is currently planning for its 75th Anniversary Celebration! The celebration includes a Poetry Contest and Anthology (Submission due date was June 30, 2024). PPS will hold its Fall Conference in October, and announce the winners of the contest.

PPS Membership Renewal starts September 1 and runs through November 30, 2024. The annual competition will be accepting submissions within that time frame, which is earlier than it has been in past years. Don't wait and miss out! Please check the PPS web page in August for competition details, and remember, there are extra competition categories that are available to members only. Keep writing and have a great summer! ~ Pom Benson, *President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE members approved two-year Board terms prior to electing the Board. Committee positions are being filled. A new Continuity Committee will help manage our growing society.

In April, PST held its 67th Annual Poetry Festival virtually (we will explore a hybrid format for 2025). Danita Dodson won Best of Fest, given to the top festival contest poem, for "Bits and Pieces." PST announced student contest winners (judges were Scott Honeycutt, Jeff Price, and Micah McCrotty). Seth Grindstaff continues as Chair. PST is exploring a collegiate poetry contest and art contest.

PST virtual monthly membership meetings feature educational and generative writing programs, contest announcements, and poetry shares. Jake Lawson (Programs) and Russell Strauss (Contests) continue in their roles. Small groups focus monthly on critique, study or open mic.

PST's Regional Connections Committee added representatives, and is formally defining regions in order to balance effort and target under-served regions. Program work continues.

Inspired by Arizona State Poetry Society's online bookstore, PST has begun creating one. PST also promotes member authors via newsletter and social outlets. Our next edition of *Tennessee Voices Anthology* (Howard Carman, Chair) is on target for late summer release. Society information: www.poetrytennessee.org and blog (<https://poetrytennessee.com>). Follow PST on Facebook and Instagram: @poetrysocietyoftennessee. ~ *Lisa Kamolnick, President*

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS In April, National Poetry Month, Director Steve Sanders of Fort Worth announced the winner of the William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest, sponsored by the Fort Worth Poetry Society, in cooperation with the **Poetry Society of Texas**. Susan Maxwell Campbell of Mansfield won with her manuscript, *Just Looking*. The judge was Dr. Kathryn Artuso, a professor in the English Department of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. Susan will be reading from her published chapbook at a future date.

Our PST election of officers is held at the May meeting each year. The new slate of officers follows: President, Catherine L'Herisson; Recording Secretary, Barbara Blanks; Corresponding Secretary, Carol Thompson; Directors, Ann Howells, Lynn Roberts Grice, and Holly Jahangiri. We still need a Vice-President and Treasurer. New officers start their term on September 1st.

Denton Poets' Assembly and co-sponsor Denton Public Library, in collaboration with area visual artists, opened *Merging Visions 2024* on May 11, 2024, at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center in downtown Denton. The exhibit will run through August 3, 2024, with a reception and program on that date. Begun in 2008, this is the fourteenth year of this outstanding exhibit. Since 2011, a professional color catalog pairing the art and poem of each participant has been produced.

On June 15th, the Fort Worth Poetry Society sponsored its First Annual Quicksilver Poetry Festival, held at the Grapevine Public Library. President John Bartell and other chapter members participated in the event, which was free and open to the public. Workshops and readings by Dr. Jeffery Delotto, Diane Glancy, Amanda Russell, and Juan Perez were informative and entertaining. Steve Sanders presented a children's poetry reading and the Dallas Shakespeare Society actors performed several scenes. The open mic was also well attended.

In lieu of a summer conference, PST is planning a Summer Special, "Zoom Along with PST," one afternoon in late July, featuring a special speaker, readings, and an open mic. ~ *Catherine L'Herisson, President*

DIANE SEUSS NAMED JUDGE FOR THE 2024 STEVENS POETRY BOOK MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION

Born in Indiana and raised in rural Michigan, Diane Seuss is the author of half a dozen collections of poems, most recently, *Modern Poetry*, issued by Graywolf Books in March 2024. Her previous books of poetry are *frank: sonnets* (2021), winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; *Still Life with Two Dead Peacocks and a Girl* (2018); *Four-Legged Girl* (2015), finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; *Wolf Lake, White Gown Blown Open* (2010), winner of the 2009 Juniper Prize for Poetry; and *It Blows You Hollow* (1998). Seuss earned a BA from Kalamazoo College and an MSW from Western Michigan University. She was Writer in Residence at Kalamazoo College from 1988 to 2017 and was the MacLean Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of English at Colorado College. She was a 2021 Guggenheim fellow, and was elected to the Board of Chancellors of the Academy of American Poets in 2024.



STEVENS MANUSCRIPT GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Open to all poets writing in English, except for previous Stevens Competition winners. Friends, colleagues, and students of Diane Seuss are asked to postpone entering until a future year.
- Original work by a single author. May contain previously published poems, but should not be a compilation of entire previously published chapbooks.
- No author identification anywhere in manuscript; no information that could disclose your identity. Do not include a bio note, acknowledgments, or blurbs. (The winner will be required to provide an acknowledgments page before the manuscript is published.)
- No content that is hate-mongering or abusive of any social, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender group. No gratuitous use of obscene or profane language.
- Include title page, table of contents, and 48 to 80 pages of poetry, counting any section title pages but not counting front matter. Notes on poems, if any, should be included in the count.
- Single-space your manuscript. Use a readable-size, conventional font such as 12-point Times New Roman. No illustrations, color type, or fancy fonts. If you write in long lines or complex formats, be aware that the winning book will be published in a 6" x 9" format, which may not allow them to be preserved.
- Number the pages of the manuscript. Begin each poem on a new page. Poems may be two or more pages in length, but do not put more than one poem on a page.
- Simultaneous and multiple submissions permitted. Notify us immediately if your manuscript is accepted elsewhere.
- No revisions after submission. (The winner will work with the NFSPS book editor to correct any typographical errors and to make any mutually acceptable minor changes.)
- Do not contact the judge. Entries from any persons found to have contacted the judge will be ineligible for the award.

DEADLINE

The submissions window opens August 15, 2024, and closes at midnight PST October 15, 2024. The Submittable online system will be accessible only during this time. No early or late submissions will be considered. If you are unable to use Submittable, please email stevenschair@nfsp.net no later than October 8, 2024, to ask about alternative means of submission.

ENTRY CATEGORIES & FEES

The submission fee is \$20 for NFSPS members and \$25 for non-members. Members of a state poetry society affiliated with NFSPS are automatically members. However, not all “state poetry societies” are NFSPS affiliates, so if you belong to a state poetry society, please check whether or not it appears on the pull-down list of NFSPS-affiliated societies to determine whether to submit as a member or a non-member.

The submission fee is not refundable. There will be no refunds for manuscripts found to be ineligible or withdrawn because of acceptance elsewhere or for any other reason.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- Click on the “submit” button on the NFSPS website. Log in to your Submittable account or follow the prompts to set up a free account.
- Select the appropriate option, member or non-member.
- Upload your manuscript, including title page with title only (no identification), in a single file (doc, docx, or pdf) into the designated area. Note that if your manuscript is selected for publication, you will need to supply an editable doc or docx file. Make sure that your name is not part of the filename.
- Pay at Submittable.com with a credit card or PayPal.
- You will be notified that your manuscript has been received.

JUDGING

- All manuscripts will be reviewed for compliance with guidelines and overall quality by experienced, award-winning poets with book and chapbook publications.
- 50-100 manuscripts will be sent, without identification, to the judge. A different judge is used each year. Past judges include Maggie Anderson, David Baker, Tony Barnstone, Ellen Bass, Erin Belieu, Jeff Gundy, Lola Haskins, Edward Hirsch, Peter Meinke, and Carolyne Wright.
- The winner will be contacted, and all entrants will be notified of the competition results by January 31, 2025.
- The winning manuscript will be published by the NFSPS Press, and the book will be available for sale at the NFSPS annual convention and elsewhere by June 2025. The winner will be invited to read from the book at the convention and receive a travel stipend to attend. The reading will be recorded and posted on YouTube.

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies adheres to the CLMP Code of Ethics <https://www.clmp.org/clmp-contest-code-of-ethics/>.

You may address questions to the competition chair via email at stevenschair@nfsp.net.

MANNINGHAM STUDENT POETRY CONTEST

Ten prizes will be awarded in each division: First Place - \$75, Second Place - \$50, Third Place - \$40, Fourth Place - \$35, Fifth Place - \$30, and five Honorable Mentions - \$10 each.

All winning poems will be published in the Manningham Trust Student Poetry Award Anthology. Winners will receive complimentary copies. The schools of each winning student will receive a complimentary copy for the school library. **There is no entry fee.**

1. **There are two divisions: Grade 6-8 (Junior Division) and Grades 9-12 (Senior Division).** Competition is open to all qualified students. Poems may have been previously published and/or have won previous awards.
2. **The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6 – 12.** Public, private, and homeschooled are eligible for entry by individual submission. **Individual poets may only submit one poem.**
3. All entries must be entered through **Submittable**, and the proper application form must be completed, indicating poet’s contact information, school attended, & grade student is currently in. All students can open a Submittable account for no cost and there is no entry fee for the contest. Go to **www.nfsp.submittable.com** and check the appropriate grade level to submit.
4. **Each poem must be neatly typed or computer-generated and should appear on a single sheet.** In order to fit on the page, line width limit is 60 characters, including punctuation marks and spaces between words. Lines longer than 60 characters will be wrapped with a hanging indent by the editors. Any poem that exceeds the 60-character limit may be disqualified. Because our printed format will be a 6 x 9 book, some winning poems may end up printed on more than one page. The decision of the judge and/or editor is final. **There should be no large or unusual fonts or illustrations.** Times New Roman is the suggested font. **12-point font should be used.**
5. The poem submitted must not have ID information. There should be no indication of prior awards granted or publication information. Winners may be asked for that information to be provided at the time of publication.
6. **Each entrant must make a declaration of originality.** The statement will be included in the Submittable application “I certify that this poem is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any author’s poems in print or posted on the Internet. Signed: _____”
7. **Entries must be received on Submittable between September 15, 2024 and November 15th, 2024.**

Notice of winners will be sent to each winner’s member state society (President and/or Manningham Youth Chair). Awards (certificates, checks, anthologies) will also be mailed to the student. Each member state is responsible for celebrating their state’s winners. The top winning poems will be read at the Annual NFSPS Convention held in July 2025.

Literary Standards. While we honor the First Amendment right of free speech, be aware that the winning poems will be published and distributed to school-age children. The use of inappropriate language could disqualify an entry. The decision of the judge is final. Any questions can be directed to secretary@nfsp.net.

NFSPS DEADLINES AND DATES**Manningham Submission Period:**

September 15, 2024 - November 15, 2024

Stevens Manuscript Submission Period:

August 15, 2024- October 15, 2024

CUP Submission Period:

December 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

BlackBerry Peach (Spoken Word) Submission Period:

January 1, 2025 – March 15, 2025

Annual Contest Submission Period:

January 1, 2025 – March 15, 2025

State Membership Lists and Annual Dues Deadline:

January 15, 2025

Updates due by March 15, 2025

Strophes Reports or Articles:August Issue Deadline: June 25thOctober Issue Deadline: August 25thJanuary Issue Deadline: November 25thApril Issue Deadline: February 25th**BlackBerry Peach SLAM Entry Period:**

Stay tuned for further information!

Contest Sponsorship Forms and Payment:March 15th for the following year**State Annual Reports:**

One week prior to convention

Board and Committee Annual Reports:

One week prior to convention or when complete in special cases. (Treasurer, Contest Chair)

State President Meetings:

Watch for emails!

Learning Central Meetings:

Watch for emails!

QUARTERLY MEMBERS ONLY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

NFSPS announces a members-only contest, with an inaugural submission window of October 1st to 31st, 2024. The top three winners each quarter will be published in Strophes Online and in the print edition when there is room. Prizes for first, second, and third place will be a percentage of the combined entry fees (\$2 per poem, 1 poem per person), at 45%, 35% and 20%. All entries must be via Submittable. Guidelines will appear on nfsp.net, along with a free training session on Learning Central on how to use Submittable, for those not yet familiar. You can also obtain an informational handout by downloading it from nfsp.net.

This Quarter the Subject is Winter and the form is Any. Entry Fee: \$2

Email stropheseditor@nfsp.net with questions.

PLEASE BE WARY OF SCAMMERS

Whenever you get an email with my name as the sender, check to see if the message is actually sent from president@nfsp.net. If it isn't, I suggest you report the email as scam/phishing to your email provider. I will never ask you for money or gift cards in an email or text message.

~ Joe Cavanaugh, 36th NFSPS President

ENCORE PRIZE POEMS 2024

The 2024 anthology of prize-winning poems awarded at the “Voices Set Free” NFSPS convention is available on amazon.com. All royalties from

Encore sales support NFSPS.

~ Kathy Cotton, *Encore* Editor

NFSPS CONTEST BROCHURE

The NFSPS 2025 Contest Brochure will be mailed to state contacts and will also be available online. You may also request a copy by mailing a SASE with adequate postage for 4 pages to Julie Cummings, 9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433.

2025 NFSPS ANNUAL CONTESTS

The 2025 Annual Contests are posted on NFSPS.com and NFSPS.net so interested poets may begin working on entries. As of this publication there is no Contest Chair. Please watch for an announcement.