



PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2017

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

(<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>)

Encouraging poets and poetry in Arkansas since 1931

Affiliated with National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (www.nfsps.com)

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) announced the winners of its 2017 statewide Jeannie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Poetry Contest on April 22nd at its annual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration in Benton, Arkansas. Each collegiate winner read their poem at the event and received a prize check from the contest sponsor, Mr. Roger Carter.

Ellie Black of Clarksville, Arkansas won the first prize of \$500 for her poem, "reading the virgin suicides out loud" based on the book *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides and its 1999 film adaptation. Ellie is a junior at Hendrix College in Conway, where she studies English/Creative Writing and serves as the editor-in-chief of the *Aonian* literary magazine. Last summer, she studied poetry while attending the "Writers in New York" program at New York University. Her work has been published in *Moledro Magazine*. She is the daughter of Wade and Angel Black of Clarksville, Arkansas.

Dennison Schultz of Cabot, Arkansas won the second prize of \$300 for his poem, "PULSE," a reaction to the Pulse nightclub shooting last year. Dennison is a senior at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, with a major in Creative Writing and a minor in Gender Studies. He serves as Media Editor for "*the fiddler*," one of the campus literary magazines, where three pieces of his work have been published. He is a Starbucks supervisor, a Starbucks Barista Champion, and he currently serves as Interpretation Intern at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville. This fall he will join the Master of Fine Arts program in Poetry at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. His parents are Drew and Emily Schultz of Cabot, Arkansas.

Anushah Jiwani of Little Rock, Arkansas won the third prize of \$200 for her poem, "Halwa." Anushah is a senior at Hendrix College in Conway double-majoring in English-Creative Writing and International Relations. She was an editorial intern for the Readers' Map of Arkansas project and for the *Oxford American* magazine, and last summer she served as a communications intern for PEN America in New York. Much of Anushah's writing centers on the duality of her Pakistani-American identity. Her parents are Abdul and Nilofer Jiwani, who moved from Little Rock to Albuquerque, New Mexico last year.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas is the oldest, non-profit poetry organization in the state, established in 1931 to encourage the art of poetry. Members are from all around the state, including past and present Arkansas Poet Laureates. Poets are encouraged to contact any PRA Branch President and visit a meeting. PRA is affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS), and PRA's Jim Barton of Huttig, Arkansas is the current NFSPS President. PRA and NFSPS sponsor educational poetry conferences and contests throughout the year for all ages. For more information see the websites listed above and like us on Facebook. Or contact PRA President Dennis Patton (patton_dr@hotmail.com) or PRA's JDC Collegiate Contest Chair Donna Smith (tndsmith@live.com).