

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS
NATIONAL POETRY DAY CELEBRATION
OCTOBER 21 2017
LITTLE ROCK AR

WINNERS LIST

Prepared by Liz Faulkner, contest chair, 2017

OVERALL RESULTS: A total of 945 poems were entered in 30 contests, the least number being 13; the most 49. Sixty-seven poets participated: Arkansas=44; AL=3; GA=1; IL=1; LA=1; MN=1; MS=3; OK=4; OR=1; TN=3; TX=2; Ontario, Canada=3.

30. The Beech Award - Sponsor & Judge: Beecher Smith, Memphis TN – 25 entries. Judge's Comments: *There were so many good poems that choosing the winners was extremely difficult but most enjoyable.*

3HM – “The Beach Boys Buffet Rule” – Charlie Southerland – Viola

2HM – “Block against a beech” – Mark Hudson – Evanston, IL

1HM – “Little Eyes” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

3rd – “The Arkansas Yeti” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis, TN

2nd – “Lonely Moments” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1st – “Leaving Before You Wake” – Jim Barton – Huttig

29. Celia Marks Memorial Award – Sponsor and Judge: Patricia A. Oplinger – 22 entries.

Judge's comments: *The many poetic formats, the strong images, the moods created, the weight and specificity of words – all were a joy to experience.*

3HM – “Heavy Sound of Silence” – Gail Denham – Sunriver OR

2HM – “Turning to Gold” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield, AL

1HM – “A Senior Poet” – Sara Gipson – Scott

3rd – “Never Too Old to Fly” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

2nd – “Past Sixty-Four” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

1st – “Still trying to grow” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

28. Baker Nichols – Sponsor & Judge: Freeda Baker Nichols – 13 entries.

3HM – “Old School, New School” – Kathy Helmer – Jacksonville

2HM – “Front Yard Snowman” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1HM – “Nature Walk” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

3rd – “The Challenge” – Pat Laster – Benton

2nd – “Ocean Wish” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

1st – “Always in Love” – Helene Stallcup – Rogers

27. Betty Heidelberger – Sponsor: Anna Noack – Judge: Unlisted - 45 entries.

3HM – “Celestial Snacks” – Elizabeth Dail – Norfolk

2HM – “My mountain” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

1HM - "The Thinnest of Strings" – Jim Barton – Huttig
3rd – "The Letter "X" Complains to the Poet" – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN
2nd – "While She Slept" – Nick Sweet – Shepherd TX
1st – "While Children Play" – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

26. Florence Gibbs Memorial – Sponsor: Anna Noack – Judge: Stacy Pendergrast – Little Rock – 48 entries. Judge's comments: *Overall, I was impressed by the range of structures and subjects in this contest for "any form."*

3HM – "Living My Dream" – Kathy Helmer – Jacksonville
2HM – "Lobby Snapshot" – Dargan M. Ware – Birmingham AL
1HM – "Blue Fisher in the Shallows" – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK
3rd – "Synesthesia" – Laura Trigg – Little Rock
2nd – "Gloves or bare hands?" – Pat Laster – Benton
1st – "Farmer" – Dennis Patton – Alexander

25. Gin Creek Poets Award – Sponsor & Judges: Gin Creek Poets – 19 entries. Judges' comments: *Several entrants did not understand the Luc Bat form.*

3HM – "Aborted Attempt" – Pat Laster – Benton
2HM – "Beneath the Harvest Moon" – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK
1HM – "One More Cast" – Dennis Patton – Alexander
3rd – "When First I Saw Your Face" – Jim Barton – Huttig
2nd – "Up A Tree In Fall" – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado
1st – "Visiting the Judean Desert" – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

24. River Poets of Batesville Award – Sponsor: River Poets of Batesville – Judge: Kitty Smith – 31 entries. Judge's comments: *They were all very good and I enjoyed the reading.*

3HM – "Mitchie" – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN
2HM – "Is it too Late?" – Kathy Helmer – Jacksonville
1HM – "Margaret McCallahan" – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX
3rd – "Jonah Gray" – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL
2nd – "Bubba Johnson 1942 – 1981" – LaVern Spencer McCarthy – Blair OK
1st – "Epitaph" – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey – Little Rock

23. Two Rivers Poetry of Ft. Smith Award – Sponsor: Two Rivers Poetry of Fort Smith – Judge: Mary Sangster – 49 entries. Judge's comments: *Any one of the placing poems could have taken 1st place. Missing from the list but not from consideration is the improbable coalition of a great blue heron, a tiny red spider and a buzzard.*

3HM – "The Lady Doesn't Linger" – Faye Boyette Wise – Benton
2HM – "Details of a parallel universe" – Cathy Moran – Little Rock
1HM – "Wilderness, Canyonlands" – Lori Anne Goetz – Germantown TN
3rd – "Antarctic Paradise" – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX
2nd – "Sunset on March Eighteenth" – Courtney Thrash – Rogers
1st – "When the Sky Sings" – Wendy Visser – Ontario Canada

22. Crowson Award – Sponsor & Judge: Don Crowson – 33 entries. Judge’s comments: *The top six really made me laugh.*

3HM – “My Brakes Don’t work” – Patricia Butkovich – Gautier MS

2HM – “Genie’s Blue Machine” – John W. Crawford – Arkadelphia

1HM – “Whichever Way the Wind Blows” – Elizabeth Dail – Norfolk

3rd – “AP News: In Lichten Vourde, Netherlands” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

2nd – “Fantasy” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey – Little Rock

1st – “Senile or Not?” – Judy Davies – Gautier MS

21. Saline County Branch Award – Sponsor & Judges: Saline County Branch – 40 entries.

3HM – “Laureates” – Renee Ramsey – Floral AR

2HM – “The Red Chair” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

1HM – “BeeDee’s” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

3rd – “Cut” – Charlie Southerland – Viola

2nd – “Isla Negra, Beach house of Pablo Neruda” – Kathy Helmer- Jacksonville

1st – “A face in the crowd” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

20. That’s Life Award – Sponsor & Judge: Laura Loughridge – 24 entries. Judge’s comments: *Some wrote very personal aspects of their life while others put a humorous spin on life’s challenges and victories. It was very enjoyable to read the entries.*

3HM – “Order In The Court” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS

2HM – “Love is the Final Result” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1HM – “Expect Trouble” – Gail Denham – Sunriver OR

3rd – “Breaking Through” – Marla Bennett – Batesville

2nd – “Harry Clears It All Up For Me” – Charlie Southerland – Viola

1st – “Balancing it all out” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

19. Winklebleck’s Choice Award in memory of Mary Winklebleck – Sponsor & Judge: Barbara Blanks – Garland TX – 44 entries. Judge’s Comments: *The first place winner used metaphors and similes to take me on a restrained emotional journey. Second place came close.*

1HM – “She Can’t Sleep, But in a good Way” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

3rd – “A One Time Show” – Rita Goodgame – Little Rock

2nd – “You Committed Suicide” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

1st – “Livelihood of Lilies” – Wendy Visser – Ontario Canada

18. Marie Barton and Teresa Dixon Memorial – Sponsor & Judge: Jim Barton – 40 entries.

3HM – “The Japanese Maple” – Lori Anne Goetz – Germantown TN

2HM – “Sacred Forest” – Rita Goodgame – Little Rock

1HM – “Our Mulberry Tree” – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

3rd – “This year I watch the trees” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

2nd – “Atlantic Pistachio” – Becky Alexander – Ontario Canada

1st – Let Me Visit the Maples! – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

17. SAPOP Award – Sponsor & Judges: South Arkansas Poets of the Pines – 24 entries.

Comments: *We judged these as a group and the top three poems were very close.*

3HM – “The Performance” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

2HM – “I Hate Gardening” – John A. McPherson – Searcy

1HM – “Neighborhood Garden Discovery” – Russell H. Strauss

3rd – “Hope” – Lori Anne Goetz – Germantown TN

2nd – “Accidental Elegance” – Patricia A. Oplinger – Cherokee Village

1st – “Planting A Garden” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

16. Poets Northwest – Sponsor & Judges: Poets Northwest – 18 entries.

Comments: *So sorry: 9 of the 18 entries did not comply with blank verse.*

3HM – “Mission Recovery” – Bethel Kymes – Hot Springs

2HM – “Turning Point” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

1HM- “An Inherited Task” – Sara Gipson – Scott

3rd – “Enabler” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

2nd – “Temptation” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

1st – “The Ring” – Patricia Butkovick – Gautier MS

15. All the Way Home – Sponsor & Judge: Helene Stallcup – 41 entries.

Judge’s Comments: *Picking seven poems out of forty-one entries was a tremendous task, and choosing one, two three, four, five and six, almost impossible. We really have some good poets!*

3HM – “My World” – Jim Barton – Huttig

2HM – “On that dark and stormy night” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

1HM – “Carried Away On The Wind” – Geneva King Emerson – Smithville

3rd – “Welcome Home” – Judy Davies – Gautier MS

2nd – “Death of a Poet” – Diane Attwell Palfrey – Ontario Canada

1st – “Senses of Home” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

14. David Goodgame Memorial – Sponsor & Judge: Rita Goodgame – 19 entries

3HM – “My wife is making me get rid of my stuff” Yard Sale” – Barbara Blanks - Garland TX

2HM – “Yard Sale” – Gail Denham – Sunriver OR

1HM – “The Last Saturday of the Month” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

3rd - “Letting go of things” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

2nd – “A Poet’s Garage Sale” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

1st – “The Old Book Buyer” – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

13. Dr. Seuss Memorial Award – Sponsor & Donor: Donna Smith – 31 entries.

Judge’s Comments: *All entries were wonderfully creative stories with playful and visual language. It was difficult to select the top 6. Dr. Seuss would be proud.*

3HM – “Making The Bed In Bedville” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS

2HM – “Mary Had A Little Cat” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1HM – “Trees” – Jim Barton – Huttig

3rd – “Dinner Time Rhyme” – Nancy Cook – St. Paul MN

2nd – “Dog Play On Party Day” – Bethel Kymes – Hot Springs

1st – “Pancakes for Penguins” – Kathy Helmer – Jacksonville

12. L. C. and Pat Bridges Award – Sponsors: L. C. and Pat Bridges – Judges: L. C. and Pat Bridges and Laura Loughridge – 34 entries. Judges’ Comments: *This contest is in its fourth year and it just keeps growing in entries. It is definitely a family affair between me and my parents. Thank you to the entrants who make this contest so fun to judge.*

3HM – “Jesus Fills Me Up” – Dargan M. Ware – Birmingham AL

2HM – “Joy in the Morning” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

1HM – “God’s Messengers” – Patricia Butkovich – Gautier MS

3rd – “A Golden Gift” – Rachel C. Kulp – Gentry

2nd – “Eyes” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

1st – “Sin Stumbled on God, Slipped in Blood” – Charlie Southerland – Viola

11. River Market Poets Award – Sponsor: River Market Poets – Judge: Deborah Fass – San Carlos CA – Judge’s Comments: *I was impressed and delighted by the river poems in this category. Judging from out of state, I could imagine the beauty of the rivers and understand the place they hold in the hearts of their residents. It was a joy to be immersed in these poems.*

3HM – “Riversong” – Jim Barton – Huttig

2HM – “Joining Forces” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

1HM – “My River” – Rita Goodgame – Little Rock

3rd – “Great Blue Heron” – Karen Kay Bailey - Blanchard OK

2nd – “The Buffalo in July” – Nancy Clark – Little Rock

1st – “Ghost River” – Lori Anne Goetz – Germantown TN

10. Sharp Award – Sponsor & Judge: Cathy Moran – 42 entries.

3HM – “Slurping” – Patricia A. Oplinger – Cherokee Village

2HM – “The City Is a Canvas” – Elizabeth Dail – Norfolk

1HM – “Screw, Bolt, And Nut: A Love Poem” – Greg Zeck – Fayetteville

3rd – “Welcome Change” – Faye Boyette Wise – Benton

2nd – “In Praise of the Pomegranate” – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

1st – “Lonely Dog’s Moon” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

9. Opal Jane and Harry O’Neal Humor Award – Sponsor: Ben H. O’Neal III – Judge: Carroll Crolley – 27 entries.

3HM – “WGMT on the Radio Knob” – Jim Barton – Huttig

2HM – “Driving a Hard Bargain” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1HM – “Driving the Dog Around, the Night Before She Is Spayed” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

3rd – “Driving Me Crazy” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS

2nd – “The End of an Era” – Pat Laster – Benton

1st – “An Outing” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

8. Opal Jane and Harry O’Neal Memorial Award – Sponsor: Ben H. O’Neal III – Judge: Alice Ann Munson – 35 entries.

2HM – “Baba Yaga” – Charlie Southerland – Viola

1HM – “I could marry the sky.” – Courtney Thrash – Rogers
3rd – “Songs of Solomon” – Diane Attwell Palfrey – Ontario Canada
2nd – “Sanguine” – Nancy Cook – St. Paul MN
1st – “The Joy of Rain” – Russell H. Strauss - Memphis TN

7. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Award – Sponsor & Judge: Pat Laster – 43 entries. Judge’s Comments: *Many of the poems sounded like prose divided into lines with no poetic devices used. Line endings need strong words. Single spacing is preferred.*

3HM – “Perfect Spring” – Vivian Barcroft – Johnson
2HM – “Peace At Day’s End” – Geneva King Emerson – Smithville
1HM - “Ruminations on Unlicensed Electric work in the Attic” – Greg Zeck – Fayetteville
3rd – “Stars Must Be Lonely” – Dargan Ware – Birmingham AL
2nd – “A look to far away” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock
1st – “Hold Back This Night” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

6. I was thinking of you – Sponsor & Judge: Dennis Patton – 49 entries. Judge’s Comments: *It wasn’t easy to narrow the selections down to six.*

3HM – “Family Farm” – Jim Barton – Huttig
2HM – “My Gardener” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX
3HM – “Forever Teens In My Memories” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL
3rd – “Finding the right place” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock
2nd – “Royal Purple” – Becky Alexander – Ontario Canada
1st – “Thoughts of You” – Judy Davies – Gautier MS

5. Happiness is a Poem – Sponsor & Judges: Baxter County Poets’ Association – 30 entries. Judges’ Comments: *The Baxter County Poets’ Association would like to make this overall comment: “We are at a loss for words.”*

3HM – “The Day I Dyed” – LaVern Spencer McCarthy – Blair OK
2HM – “Requiem for an Obsolete Computer” – Judy Davies – Gautier MS
1HM – “Bad Hair Day” – Delores Hinde – Hot Springs
3rd - “Mama’s Snuff” – Freeda Baker Nichols – Clinton
2nd – “The Vixen Meets Her Match” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS
1st – “Baby and the Bad Boys” – Faye Boyette Wise – Benton

4. Pauline Brown Memorial – Sponsor: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs – Judge: Delores Hinde – 30 entries. Judge’s Comments: *Thank you, members of PRA, for 30 entries. I appreciate the participation and enjoyed reading them all!*

3HM – “October, *Bon Voyage* “ – Pat Laster – Benton
2HM – “Beware” – Faye Boyette Wise – Benton
1HM – “Forced Verse” – Jim Barton – Huttig
3rd – “Poolside Escape” – Kimberly M. Vernon – Pangburn
2nd – “Never Too Late” – Vivian Barcroft – Johnson
1st – “A Christmas Remembered” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

3. Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs – Sponsor: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs – Judge: Jodi Tooke – Hot Springs – 22 entries. Judge’s Comments: *The wide range of subjects and varied styles made these poems a joy to read. Thank you to all the poets who sculpted passion and ideals into sonnets!*

3HM – “The English teacher pauses” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

2HM – “The Persuasive Shepherd” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

1HM – “A Blond” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey – Little Rock

3rd – “A Kindergarten Tyrant” – Sara Gipson – Scott

2nd – “For Drake (My Boston Terrier): In Memoriam” – D. Beecher Smith, II - Memphis TN

1st – “Winter Love” – Vivian Barcroft – Johnson

2. Verna Lee Hinegardner Memorial – Sponsor & Judge: John W. Crawford – 20 entries. Judge’s Comments: *Writers must remember the exact metrical pattern in a poem of form, here 844, 844, 844. Also they should remember smoothness in reading the rhythm of the metrical line.*

3HM – “Empty Dreams” – Geneva King Emerson – Smithville

2HM – “A Certain Choice” – Vivian Barcroft - Johnson

1HM – “The Pages Turn” – Jim Barton – Huttig

3rd – “The Twelve-Year-Old” – Pat Laster – Benton

2nd – “Retirement Age” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS

1st – “Sewing the Fabric of Life” – Karen Kay Bailey - Blanchard OK

1. Sybil Nash Abrams Award – Sponsor: Sybil Nash Abrams Trust – Judge: Eleanor Berry - Oregon – 13 entries. Judge’s Comments: *The challenge in this category is considerable – finding a way to incorporate material from research into a poem that has its own impulse and ordering principles, its own center of consciousness, and sustaining the poem and maintaining its interest over an appreciable length.*

Having never been to Arkansas, I learned a good deal from all the entries. Those I’ve selected for recognition have interest beyond their informational content – an individual perspective on that content, an overall structure and direction, a rhythmic form (whether metrical or non-metrical), and attention to linguistic detail.

3HM – “Overlooking The Valley Below” – Harding Stedler – Maumelle

2HM – “Helena – Home of Delta Blues” – Laura Loughridge - North Little Rock

1HM – “Destination: Petit Jean” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey – Little Rock

3rd – “The Town Where My Roots Have Always Been: Norfolk, Arkansas” – Elizabeth Dail – Norfolk

2nd – “Heading for Retreat” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

1st – “Separate: The Taborian Hall and Its Dreamland Ballroom” – Laura Trigg – Little Rock