



PRESS RELEASE

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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.nfspss.com)

As sponsor of the 2018 Arkansas State Fair Poetry Contests, Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is pleased to announce the Best-of-Show Poetry winners. (See list of all poetry winners on PRA's website.)

Adult Division Winner (ages 19+) is Donna Hensley Nelson of Kensett for her poem "Whimsical Dreams." As Adult Best-of-Show winner she received a \$25 award and free 1-year membership from PRA, in addition to State Fair prizes and ribbons. Donna is a retired Math Teacher, a lifelong resident of White County and a graduate of Arkansas State University. She taught in public and private schools in White and Lonoke Counties. She and her husband Dennis have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Donna currently teaches a strength training class for seniors, volunteers at a local hospital, and enjoys her lifelong hobby of writing poetry and prose.

Senior Youth Division Winner (ages 14-18) is Grace Milner of Hot Springs for her poem "To Buffalo River." As Senior Youth Best-of-Show winner she received a \$25 award and certificate from PRA, in addition to State Fair prizes and ribbons. Grace is a 16 year old 11th grade student who is home-schooled. She loves to write poetry, play the piano, read and go hiking. She also works part-time as a Page at the Garland County Library. Her parents are Martin and Erika Milner. Her Dad Martin is the Physical Therapy Clinic Manager at Baptist Health of Hot Spring County.

Junior Youth Division Winner (ages 9-13) is Kiersten Priddy of Nashville for her poem "A Shepherd Girl." As Junior Youth Best-of-Show winner, she received a \$15 award and certificate from PRA, in addition to State Fair prizes and ribbons. Kiersten is a 6th grade student at Stillmeadow School in Nashville. She is 11 years old and enjoys raising and showing her flock of Southdown sheep, which inspired her state poetry entry. Her interests also include showing cattle, judging livestock, crocheting, and making new friends. Kiersten's favorite poet is Hillaire Belloc. Her parents are Neil and Lauren Priddy. And she has four younger siblings, Gatlin, Wade, Blair, and Cora Mae, who help manage her sheep and other livestock. The Priddy family enjoys livestock shows, rodeos, church, and being with friends and family.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is the oldest, non-profit poetry organization in the state, established in 1931 to encourage the art of poetry and poets in Arkansas. Members are from all around the state, including past and present Arkansas Poets Laureate. Poets are encouraged to contact any branch President with questions or visit a meeting. PRA is an affiliate of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Both organizations sponsor educational poetry conferences and contests throughout the year for all ages. See more information at <http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>.