



# PRESS RELEASE

April 13, 2019

## 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.nfspd.com](http://www.nfspd.com))

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) announced the winners of its 2019 statewide Jeannie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Poetry Contest on April 13<sup>th</sup> at its annual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration in Little Rock, Arkansas. Collegiate winners read their poems at the event and received their prize checks from the contest sponsor, Mr. Roger Carter of Hot Springs.

Gabriel Bass of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas won the first prize of \$500 for his poem, "The Dove Hunt." Gabriel is a senior at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, where he is majoring in English with a Creative Writing focus. His publications include poems appearing in *Argot* and *Into the Void Magazine*, among others. He is interested in the study of history, language, and culture. The contest judges called his poem "universal . . . readable on several levels . . . (with) great imagery . . ." He plans to begin work on a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing this Fall. Gabriel's mother, Tracy, lives in Conway, AR.

Olivia Burnett of Lynchburg, Virginia won the second prize of \$300 for her poem, "The Orchard." She is a sophomore at Harding University in Searcy where she is majoring in English. She is a writer and prefers subjects ranging from awkward childhood experiences to the ins and outs of small-town romance (or lack thereof). Her work has placed in the *Piedmont Area Reading Council Young Writers Contest*, the *Anne Spencer Poetry Contest*, and the *Holocaust Education Foundation Holocaust Awareness Contest*. The judges said her poem was, "Very visual . . . and it's a universal topic - home." Olivia's parents are Ed & Michelle Burnett who live in Lynchburg, VA.

Emma Barnes of Alexander, Arkansas won the third prize of \$200 for her poem, "Mommy is Here." Emma is a nursing student at Baptist Health College in Little Rock. She will graduate this June as a Registered Nurse (RN), and begin work at Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. She credits her Mom, who also is a nurse at Baptist, as a "really big inspiration." Emma has a passion for maternal-newborn nursing. The judges commented that her poem was, "very visual and full of feeling." Emma enjoys spending time with family, doing anything crafty, and being outside. Her mother Diane lives in Bryant, Arkansas.

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). PRA and NFSPS sponsor educational poetry conferences and contests throughout the year for all ages. For more information see the website listed above and like us on Facebook. Or contact PRA President Dennis Patton ([patton\\_dr@hotmail.com](mailto:patton_dr@hotmail.com)) or PRA's JDC Collegiate Contest Chair Donna Smith ([tndsmith@live.com](mailto:tndsmith@live.com)).