

**POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS**  
**National Poetry Day Celebration**  
**Little Rock, AR**  
**October 19, 2019**

**WINNERS' LIST**

**Prepared by Marie Allison, Contest Chair, 2019**

**OVERALL RESULTS: A total of 818 poems were entered in 29 contests, the least number being 8; the most, 50. Sixty-one poets participated: Arkansas 35; Alabama 3; Illinois 2; Indiana 3; Louisiana 1; Minnesota 1; Missouri 2; Oklahoma 5; Tennessee 3; Texas 3; Virginia 1; Canada 2. Forty-three poets were PRA members.**

---

**29. River Poets of Batesville -- Chair: River Poets of Batesville -- Judge: River Poets of Batesville -- 23 entries**

3 HM	"Hope Is"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
2 HM	"Exposed"	Jonathan Bennett, Lakeland, TN
1 HM	"The Aisle 3 Cashier"	Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX
3rd	"Hopefully, There'll be Dogwoods"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
2nd	"Hope Gives Life"	Geneva McDaniel, Melbourne, AR
1st	"In the Spirit of the Past"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR

**28. Betty Heidelberger Memorial Award -- Chair: Anna Noack -- Judge: Diane Stefan of Mountain Home, AR -- 49 entries**

3 HM	"That Song"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
2 HM	"Coffee Gets the Blame"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
1 HM	"Barbara, Marian and the Elder"	Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX
3rd	"Ink and paper"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
2nd	"Light"	Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR
1st	"Weighed and Found Wanting"	Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN

Judge's comments: A lot of good poems - I enjoyed the variety of subjects and forms.

**27. Florence Gibbs Memorial Award -- Chair: Anna Noack -- Judge: Faye Boyette Wise of Benton, AR -- 50 entries**

3 HM	"Magic of Night"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
2 HM	"Heirloom"	Marla Bennett, Batesville, AR
1 HM	"Called Upon"	Kitty Sangster, Fort Smith, AR
3rd	"Evening Song"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
2nd	"Daddy's Faith"	Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
1st	"The Birds All Hushed"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL

**26. Peggy Sue Memorial Award -- Chair: The Vining Family -- Judge: The Vining Family of Little Rock, AR -- 36 entries**

3 HM	"beautiful rainbows"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK
2 HM	"forests and fields"	Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
1 HM	"frog on lily pad"	LaVern McCarthy, Blair, OK
3rd	"Sunbeams lazar snow"	Geneva McDaniel, Melbourne, AR
2nd	"bees in the garden"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
1st	"The departing sun"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

**25. In Honor of Odgen Nash -- Chair: Nancy LaChance -- Judge: Nancy LaChance of Lebanon, MO -- 43 entries**

3 HM	"A Boy's Bath on the Bounding Main"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
2 HM	"Lapses in Synapsis"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
1 HM	"Adams Complaint"	Faye Boyette Wise, Benton, AR
3rd	"A Tribute to Odgen Nash - Nashurally"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
2nd	"The only funny poet"	Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL
1st	"Splat in the Grass"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR

Judge's comments: My criteria for judging these poems were: (1) humorous, (2) rhyming, (3) silly, or made-up words. "Splat in the Grass" used personification of grass to announce its tragic fate in a humorous way. "The Only Funny Poet" caught me in the last line with its humor. "A Tribute to Odgen Nash - Nashurally" used made-up words for rhyming. "Adams Complaint" had rhyming couplets throughout and a great end line.

**24. Dean Henning Memorial -- Chair: Saline County Branch -- Judge: Harding Stedler of North Little Rock, AR -- 20 entries**

3 HM	"Take the Four Wheel Drive"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
2 HM	"Upcoming Trip"	Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL
1 HM	"Guilt Trip"	Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK
3rd	"Gypsy"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
2nd	"Heading West"	Fred Ablondi, Conway, AR
1st	"From Here to There, From Now to Then"	Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

**23. That's Life Award -- Chair: Laura Bridges -- Judge: Laura Bridges of North Little Rock, AR --19 entries**

3 HM	"I Would Love to Live Out My Years"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL
2 HM	"11,000 Flags"	Tanya Whitney, Sorrento, LA
1 HM	"Helping Hands"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
3rd	"Imitation is the best form"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
2nd	"Why I plant flowers on a stranger's grave"	LaDeana Mullinix, Farmington, AR
1st	"Every Little Bit Helps"	Terry Miller, Richmond, TX

**22. Poets of the Pines -- Chair: SAPOP -- Judge: SAPOP of El Dorado, AR -- 15 entries**

3 HM	"I Love My Home"	Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
2 HM	"Breakfast"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
1 HM	"Courage"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
3rd	"Despair"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
2nd	"A Cat Nap"	Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
1st	"Morning Glories and Poetry"	Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

**21. Ft. Smith's Two Rivers Poetry Society-- Chair: Kitty Sangster and Mary Sangster -- Judges: Kitty Sangster and Mary Sangster of Ft. Smith, AR -- 41 entries**

3 HM	"Earth Sings Many Songs"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
2 HM	"From the Mountain Top"	Terrie Jacks, Ballwin, MO
1 HM	"Summer Storm"	Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL
3rd	"Everyday Wonders"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
2nd	"Daughter of the Wind"	Janice Hoffman, Williamsburg, VA
1st	"Goose Pond Slough"	Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR

Judges' comments: As a last step to writing, look through your work and edit out every unnecessary word. I mean not just a quick read over, but edit with a zealot's heart. It will make your poetry sing.

**20. All About Animals Poetry Award-- Chair: Barbara Robinette -- Judge: Barbara Robinette of Viola, AR -- 35 entries**

3 HM	"Morning Proclamation"	Terrie Jacks, Ballwin, MO
2 HM	"Angel"	Dr. Emory Jones, Iuka, MS
1 HM	"Panda's Sandman"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
3rd	"Ursa"	Marla Bennett, Batesville, AR
2nd	"Meal Deferred"	Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
1st	"My oldest dog"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR

**19. And Then It Happened -- Chair: Dennis Patton -- Judge: Dennis Patton of Alexander, AR -- 43 entries**

3 HM	"Perspective"	Gary Breezeel, Searcy, AR
2 HM	"A Little Kindness, Please"	Donna Smith, Greenbrier, AR
1 HM	"Redamancy, If ..."	Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX
3rd	"Fast Asleep"	Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
2nd	"Battle of the Lyrics"	Faye Boyette Wise, Benton, AR
1st	"At the Bingo Hall"	LaVern McCarthy, Blair, OK

**18. David Goodgame Memorial Award -- Chair: Rita Goodgame -- Judge: Rita Goodgame of Little Rock, AR -- 30 entries**

3 HM	"Fishing Smells"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
2 HM	"Mimi's Closet"	Laura Trigg, Little Rock, AR
1 HM	"Watermelon"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
3rd	"At the Shore of Nagasaki"	Diane Palfrey, Ontario, Canada
2nd	"Eau De County Fair"	Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN
1st	"All the fragrances"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR

**17. Dr. Seuss Memorial Award -- Chair: Donna Smith -- Judge: Donna Smith of Greenbrier, AR -- 31 entries**

3 HM	"A Riddle"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL
2 HM	"Po, a Tree"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
1 HM	"Treasures"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK
3rd	"Wishing"	Christine Henderson, Searcy, AR
2nd	"Beastly Diets"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
1st	"Mouse Capades"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

Thanks to all who entered this contest. It was a pleasure to read your work. Entries were delightful, imaginative, and visual. The winners were especially playful.

**16. L.C. and Pat Bridges Award -- Chair: Laura Bridges-- Judges: L.C., Pat, and Laura Bridges of North Little Rock, AR -- 34 entries**

3 HM	"Calvary's Hill"	Tanya Whitney, Sorrento, LA
2 HM	"Gifts"	Donna Smith, Greenbrier, AR
1 HM	"His Majesty"	Nancy LaChance, Lebanon, MO
3rd	"Bridges of Life"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK
2nd	"True Freedom"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
1st	"On the Occasion of My Church Burning to the Ground"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR

Judges' comments: This was the best batch of poems we've had so far, but the first place poem had it hands down. Thank you all. We enjoyed it.

**15. Karen Hayes Memorial Award -- Chair: River Market Poets -- Judge: Jodi Tooke of Hot Springs, AR -- 22 entries**

3 HM	"An Inferno"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK
2 HM	"Hot August"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
1 HM	"Brew for Two"	Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
3rd	"On Fire"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
2nd	"Fever-Hot Memories"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
1st	"Southern Discomfort"	Laura Trigg, Little Rock, AR

Judge's comments: After reading these poems, clearly some like it hot and some do NOT!

**14. Opal Jane and Harry O'Neal Humor Award -- Chair: Ben H. O'Neal III -- Judge: Bethel Kymes of Hot Springs, AR -- 21 entries**

3 HM	"The Protesters"	Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
2 HM	"Bobbing for Socks"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
1 HM	"Crazy Woman From Arkansas"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
3rd	"A Poet's Feet"	Pat Laster, Benton, AR
2nd	"Flip-Flops"	Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN
1st	"Could I Sell My Pig on Amazon?"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

Judge's comments: The poems were delightful to read. I enjoyed the humor and appreciated all of the poets for their talented skills.

**13. Opal Jane and Harry O'Neal Memorial Award -- Chair: Ben H. O'Neal III -- Judge: Delores Hinde of Hot Springs, AR -- 30 entries**

3 HM	"May's Cafe"	Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX
2 HM	"Nostalgia"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK
1 HM	"Were Those the Days?"	Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
3rd	"Swing Dancin' on Sawdust"	Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
2nd	"Ear Worm"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
1st	"Recalling the Trolley"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

**12. Sharp Award -- Chair: Cathy Moran -- Judge: Cathy Moran of Little Rock, AR -- 49 entries**

3 HM	"Afternoon of Shadow"	Terry Miller, Richmond, TX
2 HM	"Airborne"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
1 HM	"S.O.S."	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
3rd	"Musing - Mid-Winter"	Pat Laster, Benton, AR
2nd	"Awakening"	Melissa Frye, Elkins, AR
1st	"Drifting Currents"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada

**11. Happy Traveling Award -- Chair: Sandra Soli -- Judge: Sandra Soli of Edmond, OK -- 14 entries**

3 HM	"One Half of Arkansas"	Skeeter Michaels, Alexander, AR
2 HM	"Norfolk Cafe"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
1 HM	"A Poetry City"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
3rd	"Against the dome"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
2nd	"Helena - Home of Delta Blues"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
1st	"Mountain View"	Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

Judge's comments: Congratulations to everyone who entered my contest, not only those who received awards. It takes courage to send the work of your heart out to perfect strangers and it was such a happiness for me to read these poems. As a reminder, use an em dash instead of two hyphens when sending poems to national contests like NFSPS. Some judges will count off if you use the hyphens instead of em dash.

**10. AR Poet Laureate Award in memory of Peggy Caudle Vining -- Chair: The Vining Family -- Judge: The Vining Family of Little Rock, AR -- 43 entries**

3 HM	"Fishing in the Fog"	Christine Henderson, Searcy, AR
2 HM	"Forgive this Trespass"	Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
1 HM	"Baking Bread and Making Memories"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL
3rd	"The Barefoot Kings"	Terry Miller, Richmond, TX
2nd	"I Walked With You Today"	Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
1st	"Making Memories"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK

**9. Mimic for Fun -- Chair: Delores Hinde -- Judge: Delores Hinde of Hot Springs, AR -- 18 entries**

3 HM	"Response to the Passionate Shepherd"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL
2 HM	"Thanks Robert Frost"	Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
1 HM	"A Secret Swim on a Summer Day"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
3rd	"The Maven"	Gary Breezeel, Searcy, AR
2nd	"No Frost in Summer Air"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
1st	"The Grape Trampler's Lament"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

Judge's comments: I was very surprised to receive so many entries; and it was very difficult to judge, because so many could have been the winner.

**8. Don Crowson Memorial Award -- Chair: Pat Laster -- Judge: Pat Laster of Benton, AR -- 11 entries**

3 HM	"Coyote Cody"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
2 HM	"There's Evil in This World"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL
1 HM	"His Name Was Pepper"	Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
3rd	"My Bear"	John Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR
2nd	"Touching memories of my dog"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
1st	"The Joy of Baxter"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

Judge's comments: Craft was the final arbiter.

**7. Rhymed Inspirational -- Chair: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs -- Judge: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs, AR -- 24 entries**

3 HM	"Escaping the Cage"	Geneva McDaniel, Melbourne, AR
2 HM	"Belle of the Ball"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
1 HM	"I'll Know as I am Known"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL
3rd	"Of Faith and Seeds"	Freda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
2nd	"When Dogwoods Blossom"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
1st	"Be Still and Know"	Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock, AR

**6. Baker Nichols Award -- Chair: Freeda Baker Nichols -- Judge: Freeda Baker Nichols of Clinton, AR -- 19 entries**

3 HM	"Sometimes You Win"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada
2 HM	"On Silent Feet"	LaVern McCarthy, Blair, OK
1 HM	"Nature's Home Builders"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
3rd	"Revival"	Pat Laster, Benton, AR
2nd	"Night Plight"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
1st	"I'll Sit Here by Your Side and Read to You"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL

**5. Crawford Sonnet Award -- Chair: John Crawford -- Judge: John Crawford of Hot Springs, AR -- 8 entries**

3 HM	"Behind the Green of Spring"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
2 HM	"Cats Welcome"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
1 HM	"Hide and Seek Memory"	Delores Hinde, Hot Springs, AR
3rd	"Dog Person"	Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
2nd	"My Oldest Dog"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
1st	"We're Joining Pet Sitters Anonymous"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

**4. Fill in the Blankety-Blanks Award -- Chair: Barbara Blanks -- Judge: Barbara Blanks of Garland, TX -- 31 entries**

3 HM	"Fourth of July Birthday"	Faye Boyette Wise, Benton, AR
2 HM	"Eighteen-Ninety-Nine"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada
1 HM	"Boxcars"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
3rd	"Praise for Southern Country Days"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
2nd	"Packing Up My Mother's Things"	Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR
1st	"Who's That Knocking on My Door"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL

Judge's comments: All of the entries needed some work--even the winners. Proofread! Typos, missing words, extra words could make an otherwise winning poem a loser, depending on the judge. Be consistent with punctuation. Some poems used it here and there; so when it wasn't used, it confused the poem.

**3. "3 Little Lines" -- Chair: Fay Guinn -- Judge: Fay Guinn of Jonesboro, AR -- 26 entries**

3 HM	"winter skeletons"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
2 HM	"blade cutting wild growth"	Geneva McDaniel, Melbourne, AR
1 HM	"Cutting summer daisies"	Kate Lacy, Fayetteville, AR
3rd	"graveside gathering"	Gary Breezeel, Searcy, AR
2nd	"winter birches lift their arms"	Deborah Livesay, Rogers, AR
1st	"red and gold sashay"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

Judge's comments: Although there were no "perfect" entries and all broke at least one rule of haiku, many entries showed a good knowledge of the form. There were repetitions of subjects, especially graves and trees. But every season was mentioned in the winning entries. It sure takes a long time to judge "3 little lines."

**2. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Award -- Chair: Larry Witherspoon -- Judge: Alison Martinez of Hot Springs, AR -- 22 entries**

3 HM	"Come Play in the Dirt"	Kitty Smith, Batesville, AR
2 HM	"Shards of Clay"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
1 HM	"Handle with Care"	Christine Henderson, Searcy, AR
3rd	"Pots of Clay"	Rita Aiken Moritz, Pell City, AL
2nd	"No Sacrifice too Great"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada
1st	"Gifts for Dolores"	Laura Trigg, Little Rock, AR

**1. Sybil Nash Abrams Award -- Chair: Dennis Patton -- Judge: Kathy Cotton of Anna, Illinois -- 11 entries**

3 HM	"Floyd Hurt Fulkerson, Jr."	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
2 HM	"A Forgotten Arkansas Hero"	John Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR
1 HM	"Mister Yancey"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
3rd	"Cleburne"	Sketer Michaels, Alexander, AR
2nd	"Arlie F. Bridges WWII Burma - An American Hero"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
1st	"A hero's trek for freedom"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR