



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.nfspd.com)

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is pleased to announce the winners of its 2020 statewide Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Poetry Contest. Winners are normally invited to read their work at PRA's annual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration in Little Rock during April. But the event was cancelled this year due to the corona virus pandemic. The statewide contest is sponsored annually by Mr. Roger Carter of Hot Springs in memorial to his wife Jeanie. Winners are listed below.

1st Place (\$500) – Addy Mahaffey from UofA Fayetteville (hometown Fayetteville, AR) for her poem, "Not Your Fault, Son, No Orange." Addy is a senior majoring in English. Her writing has been published in *Crab Fat Magazine*, *Glass Mountain*, and *Watershed Review*. She is currently working on her honors thesis, which is a collection of poems and stories about girlhood and the influence of Southern spaces. After graduating this fall, she plans to pursue an MFA in Creative Writing. Her parents are Louis and Terri Mahaffey of Fayetteville, AR.

2nd Place (\$300) – Anna Beth Lane from UofA Fayetteville (hometown Lubbock, TX) for her poem, "Permanent." Anna is a senior in the Fulbright Honors College, majoring in English Creative Writing and minoring in Cultural Anthropology. She is interested in cross-cultural dynamics, having interned with nonprofits and lived with host families in Rwanda, Israel, Palestine and Philadelphia. She enjoys poetry and nonfiction essays, one of which was published on Manrepeller.com. Following graduation, she had committed to an internship with The Aspen Institute's editorial department, but it was cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic. She plans to attend a graduate program in either her major or minor field of study. Her parents are Catherine and Jim Lane of Lubbock, Texas.

3rd Place (\$200) – Hannah Faulkner from Harding University (hometown Lexington, KY) for her poem, "Haunted House." Hannah is a sophomore at Harding. She is from Lexington Kentucky and lives with her parents Dennis and Sarah Faulkner. She has been writing since she was about 6 years old and decided to take writing seriously at the age of ten. After graduation, she hopes to enter into the world of advertising as a copy-writer, though her real dream is to one day publish a book. She wrote her poem, Haunted House, to explore the detriment of leaving your anxieties and emotions unspoken.

Honorable Mention - Samuel Byrd from UofA for Medical Sciences at Little Rock (hometown Malvern, AR) for his poem, "Fair Share of Coffee." Samuel is a first year medical student at UAMS, a graduate of Hendrix College in Conway, and graduate of Cutter Morning Star High School. His mother, a high school English teacher, instilled a love for poetry in him early. He has a passion for medicine and will be performing research on population health this summer. Poetry is his "expressive outlet and a call to home." His parents are Danny and Lisa Byrd of Malvern.

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 Frieda Patton (patton.frieda@gmail.com) or PRA's Collegiate Contest Chair Donna Smith (tndsmith@live.com).