

**POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS  
NATIONAL POETRY DAY CELEBRATION  
LITTLE ROCK, AR  
OCTOBER 31, 2020**

**WINNERS' LIST  
Submitted by Marie Allison, Contest Chair**

**OVERALL RESULTS: A total of 687 poems were entered in 26 contests, the least number being 10; the most, 46. Fifty poets participated: AR=23; AL=1; IL=2; IN=1; LA=1; MO=1; MS=3; NE=1; OK=4; PA=1; TN=4; TX=4; UT=1; WY=1; Ontario, Canada=2**

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**1. Sybil Nash Abrams Award -- Chair: Donna Smith -- Judge: Professor Jeremy Downes of Northfield, MN -- 11 entries**

This is a difficult contest, where the poet has to balance the weight and scope of history and geography with the demands of contemporary poetry--the precise image, the telling detail, the tension of language and music--and come up with something very local that still resonates for all readers. I admire the poets willing to work at this!

1st	"Not Far From Here"	Charles Southerland, Viola, AR
2nd	"My Roots in Arkansas"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
3rd	"Of Rivers and Towns and Railroads"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
1 HM	"The Argenta of North Little Rock"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
2 HM	"Small Towns in Arkansas"	Kitty Sangster, Ft. Smith, AR
3 HM	"Perry Was a Railroad Town"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR

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**2. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Award -- Chair: Larry Witherspoon -- Judge: Alison Martinez of Hot Springs, AR -- 18 entries**

1st	"Where the Jordan Meets the Sea of Galilee"	Charles Southerland, Viola, AR
2nd	"Healing Revealed Through Pottery"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
3rd	"Ceremony Pot"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
1 HM	"The Birth of Pottery"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
2 HM	"Second Sight"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada
3 HM	"Daily Artwork"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR

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**3. "3 Little Lines" -- Chair: Fay Guinn -- Judge: Fay Guinn of Jonesboro, AR -- 25 entries**

1st	"The Zoom meeting ends"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
2nd	"five ladies at tea"	Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
3rd	"unmended heartbreak"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
1 HM	"Still silent snuggle"	Lydia Cheatham, Benton, AR
2 HM	"need to feed the birds"	Patricia Laster, Benton, AR
3 HM	"a shoulder's chip can"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR

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**4. Illustrated Poetry Award -- Chair: Pat Laster -- Judge: Pat Laster of Benton, AR -- 12 entries**

1st	"Empty Shells"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
2nd	"Up A Tree In Fall"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
3rd	"What should I be today?"	Laticia Harris, Searcy, AR
1 HM	"Acorns"	Faye Adams, Cherokee Village, AR
2 HM	"Morphing"	Terrie Jacks, Ballwin, MO
3 HM	"They Were Brave"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR

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**5. Rhymed Inspirational -- Chair: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs -- Judge: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs, AR -- 20 entries**

1st	"To Search With Faith"	Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
2nd	"Aimless Passion"	Faye Adams, Cherokee Village, AR
3rd	"A Presence in the Plum Tree"	Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
1 HM	"Maysa Gabriel - Last Song"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
2 HM	"The Limerick Is Short"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
3 HM	"Childhood's Season"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada

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**6. Barbara Dail Memorial Award -- Chair: Debra and Elizabeth Dail -- Judge: Debra and Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR-- 29 entries**

There were some fantastic poems, which made it difficult to judge!

1st	"Grounds for Perfection"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
2nd	"One More Day"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
3rd	"My Perfect Poem"	LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
1 HM	"Somewhere A Prayer"	Kitty Sangster, Ft. Smith, AR
2 HM	"Vacated"	Terrie Jacks, Ballwin, MO
3 HM	"Leaving no trace"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR

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**7. Rhymed Poetry Award -- Chair: Barbara Longstreth Mulkey -- Judge: Barbara Longstreth Mulkey, Little Rock, AR-- 22 entries**

1st	"My Unfinished Sonnet"	LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
2nd	"The Farmer's Battle"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
3rd	"Rejected"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
1 HM	"In The Backyard With My Granddaughter"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
2 HM	"Fireflies and Memories"	Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
3 HM	"Letting go of the pieces"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR

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**8. Opal Jane and Harry O'Neal Memorial Award -- Chair: Ben H. O'Neal III -- Judge: Delores Hinde of Hot Springs, AR -- 25 entries**

1st	"Watching Simone Biles"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
2nd	"Football's Incongruity"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
3rd	"Substitute"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
1 HM	"The Diehard Fans"	Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
2 HM	"More Than One Hall"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
3 HM	"Shaky Legs"	Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

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

1st	"Devilish Angel"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK
2nd	"Pacific Coast Catastrophe"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
3rd	"The Runner"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
1 HM	"Empty"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
2 HM	"Last Birthday"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
3 HM	"Mistaken Identity"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

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**10. Sharp Award -- Chair: Cathy Moran -- Judge: Cathy Moran of Little Rock, AR -- 42 entries**

1st	"An Island Love"	John Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR
2nd	"Anecdote After Kooser's Jar of Buttons"	Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
3rd	"Once There Was a Poet"	Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
1 HM	"Barriers"	Diane Palfrey, Ontario, Canada
2 HM	"A Lonely Soul"	Tanya Whitney, Sorrento, LA
3 HM	"Hope in the Pages"	Christian Shute, Cheyenne, WY

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**11. River Market Poets -- Chair: River Market Poets -- Judge: Jodi Tooke of Hot Springs, AR -- 15 entries**

Wonderful poems. Those that told a story quickly grabbed my attention and several authors used descriptive words very well to convey feeling and sensory stimulus. I also appreciated the varied perspectives.

1st	"A Strawberry Wednesday Morning"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
2nd	"My Saturday pleasure"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
3rd	"Summer Farmers' Market"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
1 HM	"Prognostication"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
2 HM	"Farmers' Market"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
3 HM	"Fresh Is Best"	Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX

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

1st	"The Coat"	Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
2nd	"When Lambs Return"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
3rd	"Peter-In That Instant"	Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
1 HM	"He Descended Into Hell"	Janice Freytag, Souderton, PA
2 HM	"Warrior Angel"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
3 HM	"You Are Not Alone"	Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK

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**13. Dr. Seuss Memorial Award -- Chair: Donna Smith -- Judge: Donna Smith of Greenbrier, AR -- 30 entries**

So many delightful poems! Thanks to all who made judging this contest such fun.

1st	"I Do Not Want Ice Cream Today"	Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
2nd	"Freddy The Rooster"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
3rd	"Mary Lou's Song"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
1 HM	"Treasures"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK
2 HM	"Vazzervoo at the Zoo"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
3 HM	"My Bed"	Terrie Jacks, Ballwin, MO

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**14. "It's in the Genes" Award -- Chair: Rita Goodgame -- Judge: Rita Goodgame of Little Rock, AR -- 22 entries**

1st	"Falling From the Family Tree"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
2nd	"Migraineurs"	Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
3rd	"We chewed our way forward"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
1 HM	"Even the Cat"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
2 HM	"Henry the Eighth and the Fortuneteller"	Charles Southerland, Viola, AR
3 HM	"Mountain Ancestors"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

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**15. Humor Award -- Chair: Dennis Patton -- Judge: Dennis Patton of Alexander, AR -- 37 entries**

Winners, one and all, but must select six.

1st	"Feat Feat"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
2nd	"The Aisle 3 Cashier"	Nick Sweet, Shepherd, TX
3rd	"Selective Memories"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
1 HM	"The Preacher"	J.B. Hoffsommer, Van Buren, AR
2 HM	"Wanted: Good Woman"	Brenda Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS
3 HM	"Ode to a Codling Moth"	Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

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**16. Baker Nichols Award -- Chair: Freeda Baker Nichols -- Judge: Freeda Baker Nichols of Clinton, AR -- 27 entries**

1st	"America: The Imperfect Dream"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
2nd	"Defining ourselves"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
3rd	"From Where I Sit, Still the Beautiful"	Charles Southerland, Viola, AR
1 HM	"America, My Home"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
2 HM	"Red, White and Blue"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
3 HM	"National Treasures"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

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**17. Let's Humor Dennis Award -- Chair: Barbara Blanks -- Judge: Barbara Blanks of Garland, TX -- 30 entries**

1st	"In Hindsight"	LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
2nd	"I'm Not Ready"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
3rd	"Ruckus with Canes"	Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
1 HM	"Because I was going to say ... "	Fred Ablondi, Conway, AR
2 HM	"A Hair-Raising Tale"	Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK
3 HM	"Cappuccino Fiasco"	Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS

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**18. Two Rivers' Poets of Fort Smith -- Chair: Mary and Kitty Sangster -- Judge: Mary and Kitty Sangster of Ft. Smith, AR -- 39 entries**

I love nature and I love poetry. With your poems, you shared both. It was an honor and a joy to indulge myself in the beautiful scenery and places each poem boasted. Every poem was winning in my eyes, I simply did not have enough contest placements for them all. I hope to see new entries again next year. Poetry feeds the soul.

1st	"The Oxbow"	Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
2nd	"November Rains"	Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
3rd	"Sundown Serenade"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada
1 HM	"Velvet Lullabies"	Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
2 HM	"The Mountain View"	Terrie Jacks, Ballwin, MO
3 HM	"Spring of Covid-19"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR

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**19. Poets of the Pines Award -- Chair: SAPOP -- Judge: SAPOP of El Dorado, AR -- 20 entries**

1st	"Blow This Soul Right Through the Roof of the Night"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
2nd	"Happiness"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
3rd	"Hit"	Catherine Parker, Alexander, AR
1 HM	"Boiled in Sioux City"	Charles Southerland, Viola, AR
2 HM	"After the Battle, She Cries"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
3 HM	"Seeing"	Jonathan Bennett, Lakeland, TN

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**20. That's Life Award -- Chair: Laura Bridges -- Judge: Laura Bridges of North Little Rock, AR -- 12 entries**

1st	"On the Right Side of the Tracks"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada
2nd	"Toni Morrison"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
3rd	"The Conductor"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
1 HM	"A Stand-up Kind of Guy"	Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS
2 HM	"Que Sera Sera"	Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX

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**21. Mike Pafundi Memorial Award -- Chair: Saline County Branch -- Judge: Jean Grim of Hot Springs, AR -  
- 25 entries**

1st	"A Higher Call"	John McPherson, Searcy, AR
2nd	"Just A Smile"	Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
3rd	"A White Christmas"	Brenda Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS
1 HM	"She Smiles"	Christian Shute, Cheyenne, WY
2 HM	"How to Write a Poem"	Donna Nelson, Kensett, AR
3 HM	"I Heard a Rhyme"	Janice Freytag, Souderton, PA

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**22. Florence Gibbs Memorial Award -- Chair: Anna Noack -- Judge: Laura Trigg of Little Rock, AR -- 45  
entries**

1st	"The Stance of My Body"	Janice Freytag, Souderton, PA
2nd	"Legacy"	Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
3rd	"Connections"	Patricia Laster, Benton, AR
1 HM	"Still Life for a Black and White Photograph"	Nancy Simmonds, Ft. Wayne, IN
2 HM	"A Chair in the Corner"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
3 HM	"Heirloom List"	Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS

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**23. Betty Heidelberger Memorial Award -- Chair: Anna Noack -- Judge: Kathy Helmer of Jacksonville, AR -  
- 46 entries**

It was my honor and pleasure to judge the Betty Heidelberger contest. The poems I judged were such fun. I tried to look through Betty's eyes, listen for voice, visual images, word choice and making connections. It was very difficult to narrow down to six of the best.

1st	"Honey Dance"	Nancy Simmonds, Ft. Wayne, IN
2nd	"Assembly Required"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
3rd	"Summer Rain"	Faye Adams, Cherokee Village, AR
1 HM	"Where I'm From"	Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR
2 HM	"Coping"	Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK
3 HM	"Trading Places"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR

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**24. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award -- Chair: Russell H. Strauss -- Judge: Russell H. Strauss of  
Memphis, TN -- 29 entries**

Many poets forgot that a narrative poem has to tell a story.

1st	"Beulah Bedford's Wedding Day"	Faye Adams, Cherokee Village, AR
2nd	"Chance Meeting"	Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
3rd	"Jumping the Fire"	LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
1 HM	"The Ballad of Lopsided Bob"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
2 HM	"An Irish Romance"	Kitty Sangster, Ft. Smith, AR
3 HM	"Spur of the Moment"	Wendy Visser, Ontario, Canada

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**25. Frank Moran Memorial Award -- Chair: Catherine Parker -- Judge: Elizabeth Faulkner of Little Rock, AR -- 22 entries**

I enjoyed reading these poems. I think it was a challenge for the poets to express their memories poetically. I looked for the most poetic narratives.

1st	"Camping with Twin Brothers"	Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
2nd	"Winged Sorrows"	Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
3rd	"Growing up in the middle"	Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
1 HM	"Pay Back"	Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
2 HM	"Oh Brother Where Art Thou"	Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
3 HM	"Big Brother"	Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL

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**26. Sonnet Award -- Chair: Sandra Soli -- Judge: Sandra Soli of Edmond, OK -- 29 entries**

Thanks to all poets who entered the sonnet contest. It was a pleasure to read your poems. Tip: If you write a Shakespearean sonnet, the word ends with e-a-n, not i-a-n. The best way to get comfortable with the form is to read sonnets aloud--as many as possible, including your own.

1st	"Clothes Woes"	Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
2nd	"Mother's Flower Bed"	Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
3rd	"Thank Heavens for Good Beer"	John Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR
1 HM	"Spring's Drunken Spree"	Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
2 HM	"Fragments"	Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL
3 HM	"A Spoon River Sonnet"	Patricia Laster, Benton, AR

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