



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

Vol. LV No. 1

www.nfspd.com

August 2018



Julie Cummings
33rd NFSPS
President

Dear NFSPS Poets:

Denver, Colorado! What a spectacular convention and the unpredictable Colorado weather beautifully cooperated! Reflecting back as I am writing to you, building a convention was certainly a whirlwind of activity. It takes so much planning, organizing, planning, creating, planning, and hard work, by so many people, to put on a wonderful convention. A president is only as good as the team assembled, and in my humble opinion, the Columbine Poets team made the NFSPS 2018 convention a truly memorable success. So many people contributed to the success and I fear trying to name them all will cause me to exclude someone, so all

of the parts of our team, everyone who contributed to the success of “Mountain High Poetry” – I thank you! We certainly delivered! I can thank our presenters from Colorado: River City Nomads, Art Compost and the Word Mechanics, Carolyn Campbell, SETH, David Rothman, Aaron Abeyta, Eleanor Swanson, Pattiann Rogers, Veronica Patterson, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Catherine O’Neill Thorn, Anita Jepson Gilbert, and Joseph Hutchison. Each and every one of you, with your unique contribution certainly made the convention what it was - a brilliant learning and writing convention.

Over 16 years ago, when I joined Columbine Poets, I never imagined I would have the opportunity to grow up in the shadow of so many outstanding Colorado poets. For this, I am eternally grateful. We meet weekly and share our love of poetry with each other. I believe I was introduced to Columbine Poets and NFSPS at a younger age than most; because of that, I am committed to carrying on the legacy of introducing young and old to the poets, poetry forms, and poetry we all love. I am also committed to the task of increasing membership, creating a stronger online presence, and evolving education about poetry. As an educator, I know firsthand that increased standardized testing has decreased poetry education in the schools. The deficit needs to be met, and I truly believe we are the organization that has the perfect opportunity to do just that.

As for the Executive and Appointive Board, we have started working on some necessary changes in policy and establishing very important committees. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a committee, please let me know. I am humbled to serve as the newly elected President of NFSPS and I am ready to lead. I am forever grateful to those presidents before me: especially Jim Barton, immediate Past President. We dearly miss you! Reflecting back, I am also grateful to Nancy Baass for offering a seat at the dinner table to me years ago in Duluth. Then there is Jeremy Downes for trusting me to be Judges Chair and starting me on this amazing journey of poetry. The endless experienced advice I have received from my NFSPS poetry family, Polly, Eleanor, Paul, Lucille, and Susan—how could I ever thank you enough?

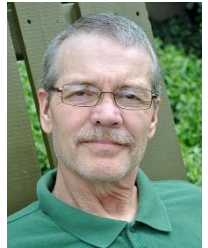
I am humbled, excited, honored, and very enthusiastic about the future of NFSPS and what the future holds for us individually and of course for the organization as a whole. We have much work to do and you can count on me to be focused, energetic, driven, and we shall have fun along the way. Never doubt, my service to you is always based on what is in the best interest of NFSPS.

NFSPS, Inc. is a nonprofit that depends on volunteers for the many positions on committees and appointments made by the President. At times, it becomes clear that certain appointments are not going to work out. Dr. Karen Betstadt was appointed as Chair of the 2019 Annual contest, but she determined that certain events would be an obstacle to her operating efficiently and effectively as chair. Her name appeared on the original brochures but has been removed. The address listed is a NFSPS, Inc. address and all submissions to that address will get to the new chair. NFSPS apologizes for any difficulties this creates for all involved. Dr. Betstadt has been a committed and active member of her state organization. We thank her for her willingness to serve and look forward to many more years of her sharing her talents and energy with the NFSPS. The events that transpired around the contest chair appointment in no way reflect on her worth to the organizations in question. *[continued on page 8]*

MEMORIAL FOR JIM BARTON

By Julie Cummings

When we hear of one of our own who has passed away, especially someone who contributed so much to the vision that is NFSPS, our hearts ache, even as we remember the laughter we shared. Jim Barton, author of four collections of poetry, won the Morris Memorial Chapbook Award, the Sybil Nash Abrams Award twice, and the Award of Merit from Poets’ Roundtable of Arkansas, passed away July 5th, 2018. He is the immediate past president of NFSPS. To quote Eleanor Berry, past NFSPS President, “Jim’s enthusiastic, optimistic vision of NFSPS as a federation of societies of all the states remains to inspire us—along with our memories of his deep, warm voice and laugh. His heartfelt, beautifully crafted poems on the pages of past issues of *Encore* and in his books, are all still with us.” As we remember Jim, let’s remember his words to us from his first message to NFSPS: “let us try our best to take poetry to the next level, the next stage, the next evolution. Let us continue our solid traditions while opening our arms, our hearts, our minds to new ways of looking at poetry. Let us work as one to bring light to a world grown dark. Let us be the poets we were meant to be. “Live. Love. Laugh. Write (and read) poetry. “James (Jim) Barton ~ 32nd NFSPS President”



STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION WINNER

Amy Schmitz of San Diego, California, is the winner of the 2017 Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition sponsored by NFSPS. Her manuscript, *Border Crossing*, begins in Africa, where she served in the Peace Corp, crossing cultural as well as national borders. “I started to look at borders metaphorically” Schmitz says, “as well borders we have in relationships, spiritual borders, social borders, borders related to gender, the huge border between life and death—and all it takes to cross those borders.”

Erin Belieu, Director of the Creative Writing Program at Florida State University, as the contest judge said the poems are “vivid and expectation-bending.” “These poems,” Belieu adds, “expose the ways in which both people and conflict are shaped by the places that they exist in.” She concludes by saying, “Schmitz’s poems sing out with . . . potential in order to create an entirely new landscape that, as readers, we can’t help but take great pleasure in inhabiting.” *[continued on page 8]*

4HM Nancy Susanna Breen, Loveland, OH
 5HM Nancy LaChance, Lebanon, MO
 6HM Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 7HM Michael Bourgo, Boalsburg, PA

***16. MILDRED VORPAHL BAASS
 REMEMBRANCE AWARD (*Members Only)**
 \$60 \$40 \$20 (99 entries)

Judge: Lori Goetz, Germantown, TN

1st Lisa E. Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR, "Laying to Rest on the Farm"

2nd Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL, "Feline Fluency"

3rd Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, "The Hemingway Museum Cats"

1HM Jamie Morewood Anderson, Cedar Crest, NM

2HM Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI

3HM Kate Walker, Spring Mills, PA

4HM Mary A. Couch, Noblesville, IN

5HM Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR

6HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

7HM Clarence P. Socwell, Ogden, UT

17. LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS AWARD
 \$60 \$40 \$20 (171 entries)

Judge: Beverly Seaton, Memphis, TN

1st B.J. Alligood, Port Orange, FL, "The Voyage"

2nd Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT, "But for the Grace of God"

3rd Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL, "Last Look"

1HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

2HM Kim Vernon, Pangburn, AR

3HM Lorrie Wolfe, Windsor, CO

4HM Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI

5HM Mary A. Couch, Noblesville, IN

6HM Louise Cook, Sandy, UT

7HM Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS

**18. JESSICA C. SAUNDERS MEMORIAL
 AWARD \$60 \$40 \$20 (99 entries)**

Judge: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

1st LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK, "Artistic Aggravation"

2nd Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT, "Watchers"

3rd Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA, "Don't Undersell the Small and Quiet"

1HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

2HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

3HM Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS

4HM Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX

5HM Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

6HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

7HM Anthony Fusco, West Haven, CT

19. POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA AWARD
 \$50 \$30 \$20 (109 entries)

Judge: Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, "Summer 13"

2nd Clarence P. Socwell, Ogden, UT, "Beach Notes"

3rd Lisa E. Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR, "Late Summer Dionysia"

1HM Nancy Susanna Breen, Loveland, OH

2HM Pam Tucker, Washington, UT

3HM Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

4HM Christine H. Irving, Denton, TX

5HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

6HM Micki Blenkush, Saint Cloud, MN

7HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

20. NEVADA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
 \$50 \$30 \$20 (194 entries)

Judge: Stephanie Zebosky, Wilmore, KY

1st Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR, "Would Anyone Notice?"

2nd Jeani M. Picklesimer, Ashland, KY, "Something Small and Me"

3rd Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR, "Apricot River"

1HM Alexandra Moss Zannis, Fort Wayne, IN

2HM Michael Owens, Cypress, TX

3HM Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX

4HM James F. Ahearn, Rochester, MN

5HM Michael Bourgo, Boalsburg, PA
 6HM Claire Scott, Oakland, CA
 7HM Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT

21. WILLIAM STAFFORD MEMORIAL AWARD
 \$50 \$30 \$20 (175 entries)

Judge: Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR

1st Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN, "Soap Opera Hour, 1949"

2nd Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN, "Made In the USA"

3rd Michael Escoubas, Bloomington, IL, "Lunch in the Field"

1HM Dina Triest, Salem, OR

2HM Barbara Ford, Poncha Springs, CO

3HM Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

4HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

5HM Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT

6HM Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN

7HM Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR

22. THE NEW YORK POETRY FORUM AWARD
 \$50 \$30 \$20 (162 entries)

Judge: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MN

1st Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR, "Instructions for the Poet"

2nd Linda Eve Diamond, Port Orange, FL, "Art Beats"

3rd Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL, "The Old Codger at the Remington"

1HM Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN

2HM Rosemery Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO

3HM Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

4HM Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

5HM Jenna Pashley Smith, Richmond, TX

6HM Vicki Wilke, Clarkston, MI

7HM Kate Walker, Spring Mills, PA

***23. COLUMBINE POETS OF COLORADO
 AWARD (*Members Only)**
 \$50 \$30 \$20 (165 entries)

Judge: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, "In a Mirror"

2nd Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL, "Reflections on a Window"

3rd Micki Blenkush, Saint Cloud, MN, "Swagger"

1HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

2HM Stephanie Andrews, Melbourne Beach, FL

3HM Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA

4HM Gloria Klinger, Grand Haven, MI

5HM Jean Bell, Evergreen, CO

6HM Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN

7HM Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI

**24. MORTON D. PROUTY & ELSIE S. PROUTY
 MEMORIAL AWARD \$50 \$30 \$20 (124 entries)**

Judge: Sandra Soli, Edmond, OK

1st Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL, "Snake Road, LaRue Pine Hills"

2nd Annie Neugebauer, Denton, TX, "Sometimes the Beauty Is in the Falling"

3rd Karen Douglass, Broomfield, CO, "Inchworm"

1HM Barbara Ford, Poncha Springs, CO

2HM Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO

3HM Nellie DeVries, Grand Rapids, MI

4HM Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT

5HM Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX

6HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

7HM Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA

***25. POETS ROUND TABLE OF ARKANSAS
 AWARD (*Members Only)**
 \$50 \$30 \$20 (153 entries)

Judge: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

1st Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR, "Meeting My Mother"

2nd Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL, "Easter Sunday"

3rd Duanne Kaiser, Sautee Nacoochee, GA, "Wild Beginnings"

1HM Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL

2HM Ed Brekke-Kramer, Fairmont, MN

3HM Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT

4HM Jeanette Willert, Pell City, AL

5HM John McBride, Bettendorf, IA
 6HM Carol P. Thompson, Tyler, TX
 7HM Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

**26. LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY
 AWARD \$50 \$30 \$20 (156 entries)**

Judge: Raquel Cecil, Louisville, KY

1st Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL, "Quake"

2nd Maxine B. Kohanski, Spring, TX, "There's Something About a Sunday"

3rd William A. Kofoed, Magna, UT, "Perfection"

1HM Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

2HM John W. Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR

3HM Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN

4HM Betty Ann Whitney, Wesley Chapel, FL

5HM Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH

6HM Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

7HM Roger Singer, Mashpee, MA

***27. FREEDA MURPHY MEMORIAL AWARD
 (*Members Only) \$50 \$30 \$20 (160 entries)**

Judge: Jeremy M. Downes, Auburn, AL

1st Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL, "The End of the Fifties"

2nd Micki Blenkush, Saint Cloud, MN, "Frosting the Cookies"

3rd Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL, "Ladder"

1HM Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, NM

2HM Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX

3HM Nancy Cook, Saint Paul, MN

4HM James F. Ahearn, Rochester, MN

5HM Rosemery Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO

6HM Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

7HM Susan Daubenspeck, Corpus Christi, TX

**28. CLAIRE VAN BREEMEN DOWNES
 MEMORIAL AWARD \$50 \$30 \$20 (87 entries)**

Judge: Christina Flaughner, Mapleton, MN

1st Lisa E. Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR, "Welcome Winter"

2nd Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN, "Wish Book"

3rd Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, "Beyond the Veil"

1HM Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

2HM Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA

3HM Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

4HM Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

5HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

6HM Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

7HM Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX

29. UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
 \$50 \$30 \$20 (140 entries)

Judge: Daniel G. Sneath, Kyle, SD

1st Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD, "Petroglyphs"

2nd Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN, "We the People"

3rd Viola Morris, Albuquerque, NM, "Legacy"

1HM Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX

2HM Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT

3HM Rose Ann Spaitth, Columbus, OH

4HM K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA

5HM Louise Cook, Sandy, UT

6HM Sylvia Ramos Cruz, Albuquerque, NM

7HM Brenda Brown Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS

**30. CSPS JAMES E. MACWHINNEY MEMORIAL
 AWARD \$50 \$30 \$20 (67 entries)**

Judge: Janet Qually, Memphis, TN

1st Warren E. Jones, Owensville, IN, "Autumn Whispers"

2nd Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA, "To the Ubiquitous Sparrow"

3rd Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL, "Ancestral Journey"

1HM Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TX

2HM Dee Bowlin, Vinton, VA

3HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

4HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

5HM Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

6HM Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

7HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

31. ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY**AWARD** \$50 \$30 \$20 (91 entries)

Judge: Al Rocheleau, Orlando, FL

1st Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT, "Martha & Tess"**2nd** Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT, "A Death in the Family"**3rd** Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX, "Margaret Clitherow, Expectant"

1HM Lisa E. Baldwin, Grants Pass, OR

2HM Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN

3HM Clarence P. Socwell, Ogden, UT

4HM Barbara Ford, Poncha Springs, CO

5HM Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

6HM Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH

7HM Micki Blenkush, Saint Cloud, MN

32. OHIO AWARD \$50 \$25 \$15 (173 entries)

Judge: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

1st Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT, "Without Breath"**2nd** Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN, "For Now, Child, the Lion Sleeps"**3rd** Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL, "Gather the Words"

1HM Sheri A. Sutton, Wichita Falls, TX

2HM James F. Gaines, Fredericksburg, VA

3HM Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK

4HM Karen Mastracchio, Spring, TX

5HM Angie M. Goin, Fort Worth, TX

6HM Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

7HM Omair Hasan, Toledo, OH

***33. MINUTE AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$35 \$25 \$15 (82 entries)

Judge: John W. Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR

1st LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK, "My Sinful Knees"**2nd** Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT, "Purchasing Priorities"**3rd** V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT, "A Waist Is a Terrible Thing to Mind"

1HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

2HM B.J. Alligood, Port Orange, FL

3HM Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ

4HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

5HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

6HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

7HM Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

34. POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN AWARD

\$35 \$25 \$15 (145 entries)

Judge: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO

1st Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN, "Second Hand"**2nd** Rosemerry Trommer, Placerville, CO, "Deciding to Sometimes Practice Being Snapdragon"**3rd** Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL, "The Scent of Rain"

1HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

2HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

3HM Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA

4HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA

5HM Carolyn Evans Campbell, Evergreen, CO

6HM Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

7HM Claire Scott, Oakland, CA

35. MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

\$35 \$25 \$15 (91 entries)

Judge: O. William Asplund, Layton, UT

1st LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK, "Tokens"**2nd** Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL, "A Lazy Afternoon"**3rd** Annie Neugebauer, Denton, TX, "If, Indeed"

1HM Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

2HM Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX

3HM Warren E. Jones, Owensville, IN

4HM Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI

5HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

6HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA

7HM Beverly Stanislawski, Crown Point, IN

36. JESSE STUART MEMORIAL AWARD*(*Members Only)** \$25 \$20 \$15 (138 entries)

Judge: Jesse Robbins, Lexington, KY

1st Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX, "Negative Charge"**2nd** Maxine B. Kohanski, Spring, TX, "I'm All Alone"**3rd** Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN, "Sentenced to Death: Of Ghosts and Cuckoos"

1HM Rosemary Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO

2HM Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK

3HM Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

4HM Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT

5HM Kylee Sutherland, Goldthwaite, TX

6HM Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

7HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

37. HUMOROUS POETRY AWARD*(*Members Only)** \$25 \$20 \$15 (123 entries)

Judge: Ann Carolyn Cates, Southaven, MS

1st Leslie C. Halpern, Oviedo, FL, "Lounge Lizards"**2nd** V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT, "Sleepwalking"**3rd** Michael Bourgo, Boalsburg, PA, "The Monkey"

1HM Barbara Green Powell, Beaumont, TX

2HM Birma Castle, Beaumont, TX

3HM Jackie McVey, Tyler, TX

4HM Jan Ohmstede, Salida, CO

5HM Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX

6HM Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

7HM Grace Diane Jessen, Glenwood, UT

38. BARBARA STEVENS MEMORIAL AWARD

\$25 \$20 \$15 (171 entries)

Judge: Julie Cummings, Conifer, CO

1st K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA, "Final Payback"**2nd** Amanda Bailey, Mankato, MN, "Family Reunion"**3rd** Marilyn Downing, Hershey, PA, "The Other Woman"

1HM Laura Trigg, Little Rock, AR

2HM Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

3HM Anita Jepson-Gilbert, Westminster, CO

4HM LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

5HM Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL

6HM Joyce P. Wilson, Centennial, CO

7HM Jackie McVey, Tyler, TX

***39. ALICE MAKENZIE SWAIM MEMORIAL AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$25 \$20 \$15 (69 entries)

Judge: Florence Bruce, Memphis, TN

1st Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX, "Lodestar of Classical Guitar"**2nd** Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX, "W. C. Handy Blues"**3rd** Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX, "Beyond the Vow"

1HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

2HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

3HM Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ

4HM Loretta Burns Vaughan, San Antonio, TX

5HM Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL

6HM Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK

7HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

***40. POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$25 \$20 \$15 (68 entries)

Judge: Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

1st Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO, "Lone Boat Rocking"**2nd** Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX, "What Is Not Enough"**3rd** Amanda Bailey, Mankato, MN, "Big Mama Said"

1HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

2HM Wendy Visser, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

3HM Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

4HM Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR

5HM Christine H. Boldt, Temple, TX

6HM Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ

7HM Marie C. Tollstrup, St. George, UT

41. SAVE OUR EARTH AWARD

\$25 \$20 \$15 (120 entries)

Judge: Floyd Michaud Lamrouex, San Antonio, TX

1st Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, "The Price of Concrete"**2nd** Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT, "Island of Fishers"**3rd** Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX, "From Mourning to Joy"

1HM Bonnie Anderson, St. George, UT

2HM Michael Bourgo, Boalsburg, PA

3HM Joy McDowell, Spring!eld, OR

4HM Philip Levin, Biloxi, MS

5HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA

6HM Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN

7HM D. Beecher Smith II, Memphis, TN

42. MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

\$25 \$20 \$15 (98 entries)

Judge: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA

1st Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada, "The Prayer Flags of Gyala Peri"**2nd** Jamie Morewood Anderson, Cedar Crest, NM, "A Gravedigger's Thoughts on Burying Children"**3rd** LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK, "A Field of War"

1HM D. Beecher Smith II, Memphis, TN

2HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

3HM Philip Levin, Biloxi, MS

4HM Rita Goodgame, Little Rock, AR

5HM Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN

6HM Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

7HM Joy McDowell, Spring!eld, OR

***43. POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$25 \$20 \$15 (130 entries)

Judge: Joe Cavanaugh, Ormond Beach, FL

1st Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX, "All Five Senses Celebrate the Arts"**2nd** Steven Leitch, West Jordan, UT, "When,"**3rd** Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN, "P. B. and J."

1HM Amanda Partridge, Sherwood, AR

2HM Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

3HM Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA

4HM Pamelyn Casto, Granbury, TX

5HM Jean Syed, Bonney Lake, WA

6HM Mary Zachmeyer, Mount Pleasant, IA

7HM Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

44. IOWA POETRY ASSOCIATION AWARD

\$25 \$20 \$15 (100 entries)

Judge: Sandra Nantais, Ruston, LA

1st Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT, "Bed Beast"**2nd** Candy Lish Fowler, St. George, UT, "Baby Food"**3rd** Louise Cook, Sandy, UT, "Royal Visit Rope Chant"

1HM Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

2HM Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa, TX

3HM Jackie Huppenthal, Dyer, IN

4HM Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

5HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

6HM Patricia A. Peterson, Cottonwood Heights, UT

7HM Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI

45. WYPOETS AWARD \$25 \$20 \$15 (120 entries)

Judge: Mary E. O'Dell, Louisville, KY

1st Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL, "A Gentle Killing"**2nd** Annie Neugebauer, Denton, TX, "The Mountains Do Not Call Me"**3rd** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX, "When Wind Stopped"

1HM J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX

2HM Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

3HM LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

4HM Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

5HM Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

6HM Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN

7HM Claire Scott, Oakland, CA

***46. SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION AWARD (*Members Only)**

\$25 \$20 \$15 (86 entries)

Judge: Jim Lambert, Cartersville, IL

1st Joshua Conklin, Amherst, NH, "Along The Nile"**2nd** Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX, "St. Therese, Cloister Infirmary, Lisieux"**3rd** Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI, "Bypass"

1HM Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, Ontario, Canada

2HM Marie C. Tollstrup, St. George, UT

3HM Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

4HM Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, Placerville, CO

5HM Marleane Yanish, Denver, CO

6HM Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
7HM Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TX

47. MAINE POETS SOCIETY AWARD

\$25 \$20 \$15 (105 entries)

Judge: Lee Pelham Cotton, Locust Hill, VA

1st Patricia A. Lieb, Shady Hills, FL, "An American Soldier at the Beach"

2nd Barrie Fiedler, Evergreen, CO, "Sea Leap"

3rd Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, "Tsunami Debris"

1HM Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX

2HM B.J. Alligood, Port Orange, FL

3HM Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

4HM Anthony Fusco, West Haven, CT

5HM Louise Cook, Sandy, UT

6HM Michael Escoubas, Bloomington, IL

7HM Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

*48. MIRIAM S. STRAUSS MEMORIAL AWARD

(*Members Only) \$25 \$20 \$15 (37 entries)

Judge: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

1st Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI, "Of Children and Trains"

2nd Tiel Aisha Ansari, Portland, OR, "Spring Equinox"

3rd V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT, "Armchair Adventures"

1HM Jerri Hardesty, Brierfeld, AL

2HM Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

3HM Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

4HM Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

5HM Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

6HM Pat Underwood, Coffax, IA

7HM Dena R. Gorrell, Edmond, OK

*49. THE POETS NORTHWEST AWARD

(*Members Only) \$25 \$20 \$15 (116 entries)

Judge: Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX

1st Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL, "How the Light Gets In"

2nd Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX, "Dust Bowl Rancher"

3rd Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL, "The Art of Dali-Longlegs"

1HM Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR

2HM Mary A. Couch, Noblesville, IN

3HM Robert E. Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL

4HM Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, NM

5HM K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA

6HM Marilyn Stacy, Dallas, TX

7HM Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

50. STUDENT AWARD \$50 \$30 \$20,

7 Honorable Mentions at \$5 each (334 entries)

Judge: Crystal Robbins, North Hollywood, CA

1st Lindsey Zuideman, Hull, IA, "I Met the Ocean Once"

2nd Ava Berger, Dallas, TX, "Souls"

3rd Alexandra Evans, Denison, TX, "Worth"

1HM Amanda Lee, Frisco, TX

2HM Tyler Angtuaco, Little Rock, AR

3HM Macklin Griffin, Dallas, TX

4HM Josie Jones, Cedar Rapids, IA

5HM Eric Kim, San Ramon, CA

6HM Laura Liu, Wayne, PA

NFSPS 2019 CONVENTION

DIAMONDS CROWN THE POET IN THE CITY DIFFERENT

The New Mexico State Poetry Society will host the 2019 NFSPS 60th Anniversary Annual Convention in Santa Fe from June 23 to 26, 2019. Convention and hotel details at: nmpoetry.com/convention-nfspd-2019.shtml.

The two convention hotels are now booking reduced-price rooms. Mention "2019 NFSPS Diamond Jubilee" for the reduced convention rates.

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY'S

Tucson branch hosted a Poetry Reading and Craft Talk on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the University of Arizona's Main Library from 11am - 2:30pm. Tom Speer, an instructor in writing, poetry and literature at Pima Community College, Tucson, read from his newest book, *Midday Moon*, and facilitated a short poetry workshop. Following a hosted lunch, several TPS members read from their work. There were 47 participants and the evaluations were glowing: "well organized event"; "thoroughly enjoyed Tom Speer's poems and craft talk"; "TPS poets were entertaining, and even though I don't write poetry I feel inspired to give it a try"; "free event with lunch and door prizes - absolutely wonderful"; "excellent event". For more information and current contest guidelines (submissions from July 1 to Sept. 30), please visit our website: azpoetry.webs.com. We currently stand at 76 members, but the Tucson branch seems to be growing. ~ *Christy White, President*

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

member and Honorary Chancellor for NFSPS (2017-2018), Jo McDougall, was bestowed the honor of Arkansas Poet Laureate by Governor Asa Hutchinson. She received the call the day before PRA's annual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration, for which she was the speaker. Jo is an author, teacher, poet, Pushcart nominee and winner of numerous prestigious awards. We congratulate her and wish her the best of luck in this new position. At the spring event, the winners of the 2018 Jeannie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Poetry Contest were announced by Contest Chair Donna Smith. The winners of the 2018 Sybil Nash Abrams (middle and junior high) Student Contest were announced by Co-Chair Laura Bridges. Mark Barton and Kate Lacy are working on an improved version of a PRA anthology titled *Turning Home*. PRA has an online group led by Kate Lacy. If you are interested, you can email her at voicedancer2002@yahoo.com. PRA has a very active Facebook page. To learn more, check us out on Facebook or poetsroundtableofarkansas.org. ~ *Laura Bridges, Reporter*

CONNECTICUT POETRY SOCIETY

recognized April Poetry Month by holding one event in March and one in May. On March 31, we conducted our monthly poetry series called poets on poetry (POP), about the poetry of Claudia Rankine. Kate Rushin led a lively discussion at the Hartford Public Library of Rankine's book, *Citizen*. This preceded Rankine's appearance at Hartford to discuss her book, which was selected as the "One Read" for this year. The event was sold out and included youth poetry and dance. On April 28, we conducted another POP session on the poetry of Maxine Kumin. On May 19, CPS celebrated poetry month by holding its annual

Poetry Blast. The Blast had conflicted with many poetry celebrations in April, so we decided to move it to May. This year POP included short sessions on poets William Carlos Williams, Jane Hirshfield, and Wislawa Szymborska, each of whom had been the subject of a separate POP during the prior year at the Hartford Public Library. Part of the Blast included a presentation of poetry books written by poets who had been discussed at the POP. ~ *Tony Fusco, President*

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION

held our April Spring Fling, "The Nature of Poetry," in Melbourne, Florida. Chancellor Lola Haskins led a workshop on nature writing and then took us into *plein air* for a picnic, quiet exploration and writing at Erna Nixon Park. A raccoon "ranger" roamed our picnic area to compete for food and kept us on our best behavior during what turned out to be a terrific afternoon. Earlier, NFSPS Vice President Joe Cavanaugh spoke on "American Transcendental Thought." It was a good blend of paintings and philosophy. Thanks also to Volusia County Poet Laureate David Axelrod for "The Chi of Poetry" and Brian Maxwell, Asst. Professor at Eastern Florida State College, for "A Few Words On Warming Up, Specificity, Repetition and Form". We congratulate the Florida poets who won National Federation contests: B.J. Alligood, Bob Blenheim, Janet Watson, Leslie Halpern, Joyce Shiver, Linda Eve Diamond, Llewellyn McKernan, Judy Krum, BettyAnn Whitney, Patricia Lieb, Stephanie Andrews and Catherine Valdez who won the College Undergraduate Contest. We are so proud of all of you. ~ *Alice R. Friedman, Secretary*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

had ten members attend the national convention in Colorado and they had a wonderful time. We are proud of all our contest winners, especially Ilyna Klishch, winner of the Edna Meudt Memorial Award for her book, *A Monster the Size of the Sun*. Various activities have been underway including a collaborative summer solstice workshop in Highland Park shared with Poetic License, Poets & Patrons, and Highland Park Poetry. Our monthly featured reader and open mic continues to be a success and provided an audience for our Manningham winners to read their poetry. The fourth edition of our anthology, *Distilled Lives*, has been compiled and will be published soon. Many of our 167 members submitted work this year with a variety of topics and poetic wordplay. This spring ISPS donated funds to the Belle Aire School library for the purchase of poetry books. One of our members led a poetry workshop for students. Plans for the annual state poetry contest are going well, submissions will be from Oct. 1 to Nov. 15. Jim Lambert will again chair the contest. Details can be obtained at illinoispoets.org. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA held our annual Spring Fling gathering, with a focus on “Youth,” which featured the winning young poets from our state’s Manningham Competition. They also participated in a panel discussion on what inspires youths to write poetry. We continued with words of wisdom from our Premier Poet, Michael Erdelen. Sarah Morin-Wilson spoke about choosing a book illustrator and the best legal practices for hiring one. Mary Couch presented a few of the more obscure poetry styles in preparation for our State Poetry Contest this summer. This contest runs from June 1st through August 1st; the Contest Brochure is available on poetrysocietyofindiana.org. Preparations are underway for our Fall Rendezvous, October 5th to 7th at Turkey Run State Park Inn. Registration forms are also available on our website. In addition to honoring contest winners, there will be a keynote speaker and a variety of workshops and presentations. Since Turkey Run is renowned for hiking trails, there will be a planned hike—a time for *en plein air* poetry. Hoosier poets have been very busy holding workshops, making presentations in their local communities, supporting other poets throughout the state, and publishing books. We are always looking for opportunities to share our passion for the written word.
~ Deborah Petersen, President

LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY’s Board and By-laws committee met in July to update by-laws and constitution. A dwindling membership has put more responsibilities on fewer people. Combining issues will allow LSPS to continue to be a viable presence nationally. Chapters continue to meet regularly. Monroe’s newest member is an artist, a poet, and the author of several books. The New Orleans chapter has welcomed guests who have expressed an interest in joining their group. The Spring Festival held at Messina’s in Kenner, LA, provided a day of sharing poetry. John Gery and wife Biljana D. Obradovic were our guest speakers; both poets teach on the university level. Sandra Nantais is working on our state anthology, *Lyric Louisiana*. It will be good to see it in circulation again. The Monroe chapter is also putting together a local anthology. Several years ago, the Monroe chapter put out an anthology, edited by Hilda Sanderson.
~ Carolyn Files, President

MAINE POETS SOCIETY gathered in Auburn in April for an all-day meeting. Guest presenter Nate Amadon of Port Veritas gave a talk on slam poetry. Members-only contest poems were judged by Lee Sharkey. Lee is the author of *Walking Backwards* (Tupelo, 2016), *Calendars of Fire* (Tupelo, 2013), *A Darker, Sweeter String* (Off the Grid, 2008), and eight full-length poetry collections and chapbooks. Her poetry awards include the Ballymaloe International Poetry Prize and the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance’s

Distinguished Achievement Award. Our next meeting will be Sept 15 in Augusta. The contest for this meeting will be judged by Linda Aldrich. Linda received an MFA in poetry from Vermont College and teaches English at Southern Maine Community College. She co-hosts a local writers reading series in Cape Elizabeth with poet Marcia Brown. Linda has published two collections of poetry, *Foothold* (2008) and *March and Mad Women* (2012), as well she was awarded the Emily Dickinson Award for Poetry from Universities West Press. See mainepoetsociety.com or contact President Jenny Doughty at jmdought@maine.rr.com.
~ Sally Joy, Reporter

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY held its annual festival April 6-8 at Gulf Hills Hotel and Conference Center in Ocean Springs. The South Branch, led by Branch President Patty Butkovich, planned and hosted this informative, fulfilling, fun event. Guest speaker Dr. Sue Brannon Walker, Professor of Creative Writing at the University of South Alabama, spoke on the necessity of revision, emphasizing that “Language is not concrete; it’s taffy.” Winning poems from the 2018 contest were read. The top honor, Best of the Fest, was awarded to Judy Davies. Poet of the Year Michael Shelton gave a reading from his book, *The Dragon in the Tree*, published by the MPS. We completed our Spring Contest with poems placing first, second, and third published in the contest journal. Lastly, we congratulate two Mississippi poets who received honorable mentions in the Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest: Anna Rae Jeter from Myrtle Attendance Center and K.K. Dickerson from Magnolia Heights School in Senatobia. Go to misspoetry.net for contest and Poet of the Year information, officers’ names, and much more.
~ Janice Canerdy, Secretary

NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY’s “Poets in the Classroom” program involves sending members as volunteer teachers to three elementary schools. We were invited to a middle school for the first time where Secretary Dino de Leyba coordinated a program for over 90 students from the 7th grade. Santa Fe members taught an inspiring poetry unit to a bi-lingual fourth grade class at Nina Otero School. We participated in the “Celtic Poetry Seisuin” at ShamRock Fest in the Albuquerque Balloon Museum. NMSPS co-hosted an event with NM PBS’ “Look & See: Wendell Berry’s Kentucky” at Keshet Center for the Arts on April 18. The following poets read their works about the natural environment: Andi Penner, Gayle Lauradunn, and Teresa Gallion. A mini-workshop was led by Kate Padilla and Iris Gersh. NMSPS State Convention “Voices of an Enchanted Land” was held April 28 at the South Valley Multipurpose Center in Albuquerque. The second annual “Poetry

Picnic” was held at the Open Space Visitor Center on May 26. NMSPS will be hosting the 2019 NFSPS Annual Convention in Santa Fe on June 23-26. Save the date!
~ Bernadette Perez, President

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA hosted its Annual July Workshop at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City. It was a morning through afternoon workshop with our guest speaker this year, Michael Angelotti. Mike emphasized how intuitive play with painting, poetry and prose can serve individual growth as a creative thinker, abstract artist, writer and teacher. We also presented awards for the July contest winners at this workshop and some poetry exercises from our own PSO members. In September PSO will hold a meeting at former PSO President John Coppock’s farm with some poetry, fun, fellowship and food! In the last year PSO members have been leaving copies of our newsletter, *Oklahoma Rose*, at libraries and college campuses in the greater Oklahoma City area. We have several new members who have read our newsletters and also seen information regarding PSO online. We always put announcements in our newspapers inviting folks to our various events. Check angelfire.com/poetry/ps/ and our Facebook page for current PSO information. We welcome all to “Come and grow at PSO!”
~ Patti Koch, President

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE’s 2018 Festival is planned for October 5th (meet-and-greet potluck) and 6th (festival). Jerri Hardesty will speak on performance poetry. We have discounted rates for students. So spread the word to any young folks who might want to attend. The Festival will be held on the Southwest Community College campus, with many hotels in the area. See tnpoetry.org for details on the weekend’s activities and contest guidelines. A number of the contests are open; we appreciate any entries from anywhere. Our new slate of officers began their term on May 31st with me returning as President for the second time. We welcome out-of-state members who can also enjoy our monthly newsletter, our activities, and our monthly contests. ~ JoAn Howerton, President

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS’ final Student Awards Festival took place on April 28 at the Dallas Central Library with 150 students, teachers, parents, guests and PST members attending. President Mahan officiated with assistance from L.D. Carter, Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks, Director Beth Turner Ayers, and Mark Ayers. Prior to the event, certificates were mailed to students winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place; those attending read their winning poems. Students were given the anthology containing the 1st Place poems, as well as the names only of the 2nd to 5th Place winners, along with the names of all their teachers and schools. In the future, a new student poetry competition for different grade levels has been established to coincide with the PST Annual Contests. (*continued on page 8*)

President's Message from page 1

As for me, I am off to write on the solitude of my deck overlooking the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. I've recovered from the whirlwind of the past few months and cannot wait to discuss this journey with you all. I hope that many of you will sign up for my emails on my website: JulieCummingsPoetry.com. And please, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me; I would love to hear from you.

Your sister in words,

Julie Cummings, 33rd NFSPS President

2017 Stevens Competition Winner from page 1

Poems by Schmitz, who holds an MFA from George Mason University, have appeared in numerous journals. Schmitz has previously won awards from Poetry International, the Women's National Book Association and the CNY chapter of the National League of American Pen Women. As winner of the Stevens Competition, she receives \$1,000 and 50 copies of her book, which NFSPS is publishing. *Border Crossing* was available on June 2, the day she gave her first reading from the manuscript at the National Convention of the NFSPS in Denver.

Schmitz described creating *Border Crossing* as: "I started writing it from my Peace Corps experience, which taught me how arbitrary and meaningless borders can sometimes be. And I wanted to find a way to express how geography is linked with fate and what it takes for us as humans to reach beyond borders toward one another."

Competition runners-up are Donald Levering of Santa Fe, New Mexico; Mike Schneider of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; and Charles Kell of Charlestown, Rhode Island.

~ Wilda Morris, *Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition Chair*

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS from page 7

winners to then be announced at the PST Annual Awards Banquet held each November.

~ Nancy Baass

WYOPOETS this April held our workshop in Cheyenne. It was well attended and inspiring. Art Esler presented on the art and craft of poetry. Art taught the importance of stanzas length, openings and endings. There was a bonus session on publishing. The poetry reading was held at the hotel while the workshop at the Kiwanis building. WyoPoets will give scholarships to cover the dues of student poets this year! The city of Cheyenne and the workshop venues were so well enjoyed that it is being discussed as the site for next year's workshop. We are a very welcoming organization and encourage poets, no matter what level they are. Membership is \$20 for a year. Come join in the fun! ~ *Angel Mizner, Strophes Correspondent*

POETRY CONTESTS

2018 NFSPS STEVENS COMPETITION

Stevens Manuscript submissions are accepted from Aug. 1st to the deadline of Sept. 15, 2018. Manuscripts must be submitted through: <https://nfspssubmittable.com/submit> (ie, the NFSPS Submittable page) or postmarked by the deadline. See nfspssubmittable.com/stevens1.htm.

2018 POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Annual contests deadline: August 15, 2018 (postmark). The brochure listing all contests, procedures and rules can be obtained by visiting poetrysocietyoftexas.org or by mailing a SASE to PST Annual Contests Chairman Nancy Baass, 408 E. Warren Ave., Victoria, TX 77901-4847.

WYOPOETS ANNUAL Eugene V. SHEA NATIONAL POETRY CONTEST

Contest will open October 1st and close December 15th, 2018. This contest is open to all poets. Check wypoets.org/contests.html for contest rules and entry.

POETS & PATRONS POETRY, based in Chicago, Illinois, currently has two contests: 1) Helen Schaible International Sonnet Contest, and 2) Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Both contests have a deadline of Sept. 1, 2018. For details, see the Sonnet Contest page at poetsandpatrons.net.

REDROCK WRITERS' CHAPARRAL POETRY FORUM CONTEST

Entries will be accepted postmarked Sept. 1 through Dec. 1, 2018. Contest guidelines available at redrockwriters.org. Questions? Contact the Contest Chair: Marie Tollstrup marieect@infowest.com.

CONTEST BROCHURE EXCHANGE

In an effort to make it easier for members to find the contest information from member-states, NFSPS plans to create a webpage that will list deadline dates for individual state society contests. This page will include a link to download contest brochures that are provided in a .pdf format. In order to be listed, at least some of the contest categories must be open to all and not limited to just state society members. Keep an eye on nfspssubmittable.com for this addition as well as contact information. ~ *Steven Concert, NFSPS 4th VP*

Poet Rosemerry Trommer 1st Place Winner of the 2018 BlackBerryPeach Prize Contest

NFSPS is pleased to announce the 1st place winner of this year's BlackBerryPeach Spoken and Heard competition is Rosemerry Trommer of Placerville, Colorado. BlackBerryPeach is a major NFSPS competition that challenges poets to present their original poetry in print & spoken word.

Vice President Joe Cavanaugh, chair of the contest, stressed the importance of reaching out to all poets, by recognizing spoken poetry in its many forms as a powerful poetic genre.

As 1st place winner, Trommer received the grand prize of \$1,000 and was invited to speak her work at the NFSPS national convention in Denver, CO, on June 2, 2018. "NFSPS is excited to showcase Rosemerry and her signature poetry and voice," Cavanaugh said.

The 2nd place prize winner of \$500 is Susan Chambers of Good Thunder, Minnesota. 3rd place winner of \$250 is Ryan Jones of Grayson, Georgia. Honorable Mention Award winner is Betty Bleen of Westerville, Ohio. All prize winners were invited to the convention to perform at the Awards Ceremony.

A video of the convention performances will be posted on YouTube. NFSPS published the prizewinning entries, including written and oral versions of four poems from each, in a 6" x 9" book that is available on Amazon.com as *BlackBerry Peach Poetry Prizes 2018: Written and Spoken Word Poetry*

NFSPS BlackBerryPeach Prizes for Poetry (BBP3): Spoken and Heard Publications

Books for the 2017 and 2018 BBP3 winners are listed on nfspssubmittable.com/BBP3.html which also includes links to audio recordings (of the poets) hosted on soundcloud.com.