



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

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

Strophes

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Paul Ford
35th NFSPS
President

Dear NFSPS Poets,

This year's NFSPS annual convention, *Catch Poetry: Stage & Page*, was held June 21-25 in West Des Moines, Iowa. For those of us who attended, it was a great pleasure. Time with old poet friends and a chance to make new ones is a compelling reason why many of us come back year after year. As a first, this June convention featured the NFSPS BlackBerryPeach National Slam Competition. The quality of the slam poetry presented in the two preliminary "bouts" amazed us while the finals on Saturday evening were beyond anything most of us had ever heard. In fact, the winning slam poem by Dove Dupree garnered perfect scores of 10.0 from all five judges, the only one to do so during the entire slam competition. The convention also offered informative workshops on the craft of writing poetry as well as how to improve performing poems. And our keynote speaker, Ed Mabrey, challenged us to write the poem we owe the world but have not yet written—a stretch goal for many of us! The contest results for the 50 adult and 3 student contests entertained us as well as pleased the winning poets. Our hybrid convention enabled those who didn't travel to West Des Moines to also watch via Zoom all the presentations and contest results, including these NFSPS book competition winners:

- The Barbara Stevens Manuscript Competition winner, Nancy Hengeveld, for her book, *Petrichor*.
- The two College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP) manuscript award winners: Weston Wise for *A Gentle & Modern Ape* and Sara Daniels for *Grief House*.
- The BlackBerryPeach Poetry Prizes, for both spoken and written word, with five winners: Eddie Vega, Julianza Shavin, Sheri Hall, Cheryl Weber, and Terry Odis.

All of the above 2023 NFSPS-published books are available from Amazon.

This year the NFSPS Board acted as the primary convention organizer and host, as well as took on financial responsibility. The Iowa Poetry Association pitched in as co-hosts of the convention. IPA President Dawn Terpstra along with Past President Marilyn Baszczyński and Slam Poetry Co-chair Kelsey Bigelow were an integral part in planning the convention's program, recruiting speakers from across Iowa, and marshalling volunteers to staff the registration desk and book room. Kelsey Bigelow, in her role as principal tournament director for the preliminary slam rounds, was also key to staffing the preliminary bouts with hosts and score keepers. These three IPA leaders were also significantly involved in recruiting participants and conducting the one-day Youth Slam Mini-Festival. As you can tell, NFSPS owes much thanks to IPA for their generous assistance.

The convention also included a session for state society presidents to share what successes they have had and what challenges they face. Membership was a common topic mentioned by most of the society presidents who attended this session. Some newer societies have had growth that made others envious. However, most presidents admitted that their members are aging to the point of many not willing to actively engage, especially to head up programs or take on leadership roles. This challenge of an ageing membership can only be addressed by reaching

out to connect with others interested in the arts. One approach that some societies have found successful is to partner with other arts organizations to plan events coupling poetry with other art forms. For example, a gallery might host an exhibit of paintings, each coupled with an ekphrastic poem. Or a dance troupe might perform choreographed dance while poems are read. The possibilities are endless. These partnered events have the potential to expose individuals who appreciate art, and especially literature, to poetry. Even more basic is just to make others aware that within their state there is a poetry society open to anyone interested in learning about poetry and the craft of writing it. Even as simple as the society hosting a monthly poetry open mic at a public venue can be a way to let poets know your society exists.

To support our 33 state societies in their mission to deliver great benefits to their members, we want NFSPS to be a *Learning Central* for good practices, tips, advice, and examples of helpful documents and templates. Membership, partnering, conducting contests effectively, publicity, technical requirements for hosting hybrid poetry events—there is so much we can both share and benefit from by collaborating. Our societies are not competing with each other. Rather, we face almost all the same challenges. We can learn from each other and help each other. The NFSPS board members are here as focal points for expertise. For example, if your society is thinking about exploring performance poetry, perhaps even slam, Noir Jente (noirjente@gmail.com) is the person to consult with. Have an organizational issue within your society? Board Liaison to State Societies Russell Strauss (RSTRpoet@cs.com) might be just the person to talk with. Think your society's website is way past its prime, like a 1999 Honda Civic? Our Electronic Media guru, Julie Cummings (jcummings3@gmail.com), may be just the person to think through options and help you decide on a course of action to make your site display beautifully on a smartphone, tablet, laptop and computer monitor. These are just a few of the many board members who have extensive experience and want to be of help.

In the future, if you receive any emails from NFSPS board members, we will be starting to use email accounts @nfspd.net (not .com) for our roles rather than personal emails. For example, I will begin sending emails from president@nfspd.net for NFSPS correspondence rather than from my personal Gmail account. The intent of this switch to @nfspd.net is for emails that Board members send to clearly represent NFSPS. You know scammers are always trying to impersonate us, soliciting financial help. But they cannot send messages from @nfspd.net.

If you entered any of the 50 NFSPS contests this year, I hope you see your name listed in this *Strophes* issue as a winner or Honorable Mention. If not, know that with over 6,000 submissions to the contest this year, your poem had lots of competition from poets around the world! And please keep on writing. You still have that one poem the world needs to see, and only you can write it.

Your servant in poetry,
Paul Ford, 35th NFSPS President

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

Organized October 17, 1959 ~ Mary B. Wall, Founder

Honorary Chancellor: Lance Larsen

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Elected, NFSPS Convention, June 2022

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STROPHES

Strophes, the newsletter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., is published four times a year: August (*June 25th) ~ October (*August 25th) ~ January (*November 25th) ~ April (*February 25th). News items and information on contests may be sent via regular mail or email, which is preferred, by authorized members of NFSPS member state societies to:

Julie Cummings, *Strophes* Editor
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* Submission Deadlines

Strophes is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$4.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a #10 SASE and \$1.00 per copy.

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*Jack Murphy	*Jim Barton
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*Henrietta Kroah	

* Deceased

2023 NFSPS Contest Award Winners**1. NFSPS Founders Award (to honor Mary B. Wall) Judge: Aaron Abeyta Entries: 334**

1st Place: Ellen Lee, Denver, CO
 "Between Two Bridges"
 2nd Place: Mary Ann Meade, Lansdowne, PA
 "Seaweed"
 3rd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 "Flesh and Father"
 HM1: Shari Crane Fox, Grass Valley, CA
 HM2: Ellen Lee, Denver, CO
 HM3: Linda Eve Diamond, Port Orange, FL
 HM4: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 HM5: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM6: David Bond, Del Rio, TX
 HM7: Nadia Ibrashi, Troy, MI

2. NFSPS Board Award

Judge: Pat Durmon Entries: 133
 1st Place: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 "The Street Beggar"
 2nd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 "Street Walkers"
 3rd Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "Dancing at the Crossroads"
 HM1: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM2: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 HM3: Sue Ann Owens, Tucson, AZ
 HM4: Richard P. Hurzeler, Tyler, TX
 HM5: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 HM6: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN
 HM7: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL

3. The Margo Award

Judge: Val Szarek Entries: 126
 1st Place: Fred Briggs, Lake Mary, FL
 "Hestia Looking Out"
 2nd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Clear Persuasion"
 3rd Place: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX
 "At the Window"
 HM1: Brenda Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS
 HM2: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM3: Christine Boldt, Temple, TX
 HM4: Anita Dees, New London, CT
 HM5: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM6: John McPherson, Searcy, AR
 HM7: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO

4. Donald Stodghill Memorial Award

(Members Only)
Judge: Alan Perry Entries: 170
 1st Place: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 "Two Poets at Table"
 2nd Place: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO
 "The Language of Winter"
 3rd Place: Valerie Szarek, Louisville, CO
 "On Resilience"
 HM1: Linda White, Maplewood, MN
 HM2: Ellen Lee, Denver, CO
 HM3: Lorrie Wolfe, Fort Collins, CO
 HM4: Shari Crane, Fox Grass Valley, CA
 HM5: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 HM6: Randy K. Schwartz, Ann Arbor, MI
 HM7: Christina Flaughner, Rochester, MN

5. Social Critique Poetry Award

Judge: Barbara Blanks Entries: 162
 1st Place: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX
 "Gray Suddenly Sings Blue in the Sun"
 2nd Place: Ana Reisens, Sant Just Desvern, Spain
 "Taking a Stand in Baton Rouge"
 3rd Place: Marya Summers, Tehachapi, CA
 "The Honest Word"
 HM1: John McPherson, Searcy, AR
 HM2: Mary Beth Magee, Poplarville, MS
 HM3: Rose Heflin, Madison, WI
 HM4: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN
 HM5: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

HM6: Christopher Hasara, Rensselaer, IN
 HM7: Anita Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

6. Winners' Circle Award

Judge: Jeanette Willert Entries: 159
 1st Place: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
 "The Sounds of the Centuries"
 2nd Place: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM
 "A Fine Kettle of Poem-Fish"
 3rd Place: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN
 "Dawn"
 HM1: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM2: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 HM3: Marilyn Joy, Temecula, CA
 HM4: Jim Brosnan, Assonet, MA
 HM5: John McPherson, Portland, OR
 HM6: Suzanne Austin-Hill, Ruskin, FL
 HM7: Candace Armstrong, Murphysboro, IL

7. Georgia Poetry Society Award

(Members Only)
Judge: Michael Spears Entries: 77
 1st Place: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 "During Her Very Long Life"
 2nd Place: Barbara A. Shepherd, Edmond, OK
 "Lynched"
 3rd Place: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
 "Houstonian Come Home"
 HM1: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL
 HM2: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM3: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 HM4: Laura Trigg, Chesterfield, MO
 HM5: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM6: Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights, MN
 HM7: John McPherson, Portland, OR

8. Stone Gathering Award

Judge: Christina M. Flaughner Entries: 149
 1st Place: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
 "The Avant-garde Alligator War"
 2nd Place: Kait Quinn, Minneapolis, MN
 "I Don't Want a Fairy Tale"
 3rd Place: Gregory "Seth" Harris, Denver, CO
 "Walking Dead Man"
 HM1: Herbert Woodward Martin, Dayton, OH
 HM2: Markay Brown, St. George, UT
 HM3: Rose Heflin, Madison, WI
 HM4: F. Leith Jones, Carlisle, PA
 HM5: Amy Nawrocki, Hamden, CT
 HM6: Sunny Bridge, Fort Collins, CO
 HM7: Christine Irving, Denton, TX

9. Poetry Society of Texas Award

(Members Only)
Judge: Jon Sebba Entries: 145
 1st Place: Jane Stuart, Flatwoods, KY
 "Crossing into Tomorrow"
 2nd Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 "Wabi Sabi"
 3rd Place: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
 "Musing on Miracles"
 HM1: Richard P. Hurzeler, Tyler, TX
 HM2: Christina Flaughner, Rochester, MN
 HM3: Inge Logenburg Kyler, Eaton Rapids, MI
 HM4: Emory Jones, Iuka, MS
 HM5: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM6: Mary Merlo, Troy, MI
 HM7: Shirley Kobar, Loveland, CO

10. Jim Barton, Bard of the Pines Award

Judge: Julie Allyn Johnson Entries: 84
 1st Place: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 "Duet to Symphony"
 2nd Place: Shari Crane, Fox Grass Valley, CA
 "Morning in the High Sierras"
 3rd Place: Susan Randall, Orem, UT
 "Run Caribou"
 HM1: John W. Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR
 HM2: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

HM3: Christopher Hasara, Rensselaer, IN
 HM4: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 HM5: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM6: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM7: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN

11. Lucille Morgan Wilson Memorial Award

Judge: Lynda LaRocca Entries: 141
 1st Place: Sarah Morin, Fishers, IN
 "Unvanquished"
 2nd Place: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 "Backyard Rebellion"
 3rd Place: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 "In Putin's Garden"
 HM1: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 HM2: Barbara Ford, Poncha Springs, CO
 HM3: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM4: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 HM5: Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights, MN
 HM6: Lorrie Wolfe, Fort Collins, CO
 HM7: Mary Beth Magee, Poplarville, MS

12. Al Laster Memorial Award (Members Only)

Judge: M. Palowski Moore Entries: 131
 1st Place: Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma City, OK
 "Lord Frederic Speaks"
 2nd Place: Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL
 "The Guitarist"
 3rd Place: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
 "A Lingering Impression"
 HM1: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
 HM2: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM3: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM4: David Bond, Del Rio, TX
 HM5: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, UK
 HM6: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM7: Barbara Shepherd, Edmond, OK

13. Arizona State Poetry Society Award

Judge: Alida Rol Entries: 126
 1st Place: Richard Hood, Campbell, CA
 "Aria"
 2nd Place: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 "Green Re-Found"
 3rd Place: Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
 "Hope"
 HM1: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 HM2: Lisa Kamolnick, Blountville, TN
 HM3: Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR
 HM4: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 HM5: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM
 HM6: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI
 HM7: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT

14 Jim Barton Memorial Award

(Members Only)
Judge: Frank Iosue Entries: 152
 1st Place: Jo-Anne Rowley, Lafayette, CO
 "Sunrise"
 2nd Place: M. Palowski Moore, Overland Park, KS, "Know Me, Know Us"
 3rd Place: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 "Adversity and the Tuna"
 HM1: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM2: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 HM3: Michael Escoubas, Bloomington, IL
 HM4: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA
 HM5: Betsy M. Hughes, Oakwood, OH
 HM6: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM7: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX

15. Alabama State Poetry Society Award

(Members Only)
Judge: Eleanor Berry Entries: 56
 1st Place: Alyssa Darby, Cabot, AR
 "Divergent"
 2nd Place: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK
 "A Sweetness Steeped in Moments"

3rd Place: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 "Stroke"
 HM1: Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma City, OK
 HM2: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
 HM3: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont, TX
 HM4: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM5: Christine Boldt, Temple, TX
 HM6: Patricia Tiffany Morris, Bondurant, IA
 HM7: Jennifer Rood, Grants Pass, OR

16. Land of Enchantment Award

Judge: Mark Andrew James Terry **Entries:** 103
 1st Place: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT "Borders"
 2nd Place: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
 "A Color but No Gender"
 3rd Place: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL
 "Biding Time"
 HM1: Ellen Lee, Denver, CO
 HM2: K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA
 HM3: Dan Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL
 HM4: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 HM5: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, Ontario, Canada
 HM6: Christine Boldt, Temple, TX
 HM7: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

17. Poet's Work Award

Judge: Sharon Sweeney **Entries:** 103
 1st Place: Cynthia Knorr, Strafford, NH
 "Pretty Woman"
 2nd Place: Elaine Palencia, Champaign, IL
 "Slaughterhouse"
 3rd Place: Eleanor Berry, Dallas, OR
 "Survivor"
 HM1: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM2: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL
 HM3: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX
 HM4: Christina Flaughner, Rochester, MN
 HM5: Cristie Cook, Sandy, UT
 HM6: Markay Brown, St. George, UT
 HM7: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX

18. The Listening Poem Award

Judge: Lisa Fosmo **Entries:** 139
 1st Place: F. Leith Jones, Carlisle, PA
 "The Sign Linguists"
 2nd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Perceptions"
 3rd Place: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI
 "Amazing"
 HM1: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM2: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 HM3: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM4: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, Ontario, Canada
 HM5: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 HM6: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO
 HM7: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

19. Power of Women Award

Judge: Nancy Susanna Breen **Entries:** 133
 1st Place: Anne Whitehouse, New York, NY
 "Lady Bird"
 2nd Place: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 "Challenged"
 3rd Place: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 "Nike at the Louvre"
 HM1: Laura Mahal, Fort Collins, CO
 HM2: Laura Sweeney, Bloomington, IL
 HM3: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM4: Nadia Ibrashi, Troy, MI
 HM5: Ana Reisens, Sant Just Desvern, Spain
 HM6: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX
 HM7: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO

20. The Virginia Corrie-Cozart Memorial Award

Judge: Polly Opsahl **Entries:** 114
 1st Place: Lorrie Wolfe, Fort Collins, CO
 "It's Not About You"
 2nd Place: Susan Daubenspeck, Corpus Christi, TX
 "Her Dress as Cocoon"

3rd Place: Lisa Kamolnick, Blountville, TN
 "(r)after"
 HM1: Diane Glancy, Gainesville, TX
 HM2: Nadia Ibrashi, Troy, MI
 HM3: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 HM4: Laura Sweeney, Bloomington, IL
 HM5: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 HM6: Natalie Johnston Doty, Wintersville, OH
 HM7: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT

21. Mildred Vorpahl Baass Remembrance Award (Members Only)

Judge: Karen Scott **Entries:** 87
 1st Place: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN
 "The Courtesan's Cat"
 2nd Place: Mary Jane Andol, Starkville, MS
 "Black Lightning with a Touch of Lace"
 3rd Place: Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
 "To The Cat"
 HM1: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 HM2: Christian Shute, Cheyenne, WY
 HM3: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM4: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 HM5: Nadia Ibrashi, Troy, MI
 HM6: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX
 HM7: Candace Kubinec, Greensburg, PA

22. League of Minnesota Poets Award

Judge: Barbara Funke **Entries:** 154
 1st Place: Mike Wilson, Lexington, KY
 "Nothing to Do but Climb"
 2nd Place: Martha H. Balph, Millville, UT
 "Eclipse"
 3rd Place: Markay Brown, St. George, UT
 "Last Letter from Leona"
 HM1: Sam Wright, Lakewood, OH
 HM2: Kait Quinn, Minneapolis, MN
 HM3: Kenneth Michaels, York, PA
 HM4: Wendy Kieffer, Tampa, FL
 HM5: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
 HM6: Libby Casey Irwin, Vadnais Heights, MN
 HM7: Elaine Costanzo, New Concord, OH

23. Jessica C. Saunders Memorial Award

Judge: Shirley Blackwell **Entries:** 110
 1st Place: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 "The Gift"
 2nd Place: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 "Grandmother"
 3rd Place: Anita Dees, New London, CT
 "You Must Understand This"
 HM1: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT
 HM2: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
 HM3: Anne Greenfeld, Cincinnati, OH
 HM4: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM5: T.L. Hensel, Colorado Springs, CO
 HM6: Mary Ellen Orvis, Sun City Center, FL
 HM7: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT

24. Poetry Society of Indiana Award

Judge: Diane Glancy **Entries:** 89
 1st Place: Eleanor Berry, Dallas, OR
 "Two Flew Out"
 2nd Place: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
 "Expect. Reject. Accept."
 3rd Place: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI
 "Sleeping in a Chair"
 HM1: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO
 HM2: Anna Boughtwood, Rensselaer, NY
 HM3: Daniel Liberthson, Cottage Grove, OR
 HM4: Paul Causey, Saint Jo, TX
 HM5: Cristie Cook, Sandy, UT
 HM6: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM7: Martha LaBine, Ramsey, MN

25. Nevada Poetry Society Award (Members Only)

Judge: Dan Liberthson **Entries:** 67
 1st Place: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN

"Channukah in Ukraine, 2022"
 2nd Place: Linda R. Payne, Fairfield, OH
 "Moon Beauty"
 3rd Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "Ignoring Time"
 HM1: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM2: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL
 HM3: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM4: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 HM5: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 HM6: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM7: Fred Briggs, Lake Mary, FL

26. William Stafford Memorial Award

Judge: Jennifer Horne **Entries:** 158
 1st Place: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
 "On a Dark Desert Highway"
 2nd Place: Melody Wilson, Beaverton, OR
 "Zazen at 62"
 3rd Place: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
 "Report from the Gateway Wetlands—Early April"
 HM1: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT
 HM2: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
 HM3: Lynn Schiffhorst, Winter Park, FL
 HM4: Amy Nawrocki, Hamden, CT
 HM5: Kait Quinn, Minneapolis, MN
 HM6: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM7: Christine Irving, Denton, TX

27. The New York Poetry Forum Award

Judge: Diane Clark **Entries:** 145
 1st Place: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX
 "Read Me a Poem"
 2nd Place: Jackie McVey, Tyler, TX
 "Preservationists"
 3rd Place: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL
 "I often think of a poem"
 HM1: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM2: Susan Mardele, McKinney, TX
 HM3: Lynn Farmer, Decatur, GA
 HM4: Josh Lefkowitz, Boulder, CO
 HM5: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM6: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
 HM7: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

28. Columbine Poets of Colorado Award (Members Only)

Judge: John Burroughs **Entries:** 102
 1st Place: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 "The Weeping of Trees"
 2nd Place: David Bond, Del Rio, TX
 "Only a Conflict, Not a War"
 3rd Place: Nadia Ibrashi, Troy, MI
 "Jew's Mallow"
 HM1: Lynn Schiffhorst, Winter Park, FL
 HM2: Ellen Lee, Denver, CO
 HM3: Virginia Mortenson, Des Moines, IA
 HM4: Donna Geise, Owens Cross Roads, AL
 HM5: Christine Irving, Denton, TX
 HM6: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
 HM7: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT

29. Morton D. Prouty & Elsie S. Prouty Memorial Award

Judge: Sue Brannan Walker **Entries:** 173
 1st Place: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM "Alchemy"
 2nd Place: Cynthia Knorr, Strafford, NH
 "Second Coming"
 3rd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX "About Gold"
 HM1: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM2: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL
 HM3: Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
 HM4: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, Ontario, Canada
 HM5: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, UK
 HM6: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 HM7: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL

30. Jimmye Inez Sessions Memorial Award

(Members Only)

Judge: William "Bucky" Ignatius **Entries:** 137

1st Place: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN

"Wokeness in the Aftermath"

2nd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

"Antietam"

3rd Place: Janet Tyner Tyler, TX, "After"

HM1: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO

HM2: Mike Wilson, Lexington, KY

HM3: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN

HM4: Kathleen Decker, Williamsburg, VA

HM5: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH

HM6: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

HM7: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN

31. Utah State Poetry Society Award**Judge:** Deborah Petersen **Entries:** 130

1st Place: Marleine Yanish, Denver, CO "Mirrored Sadness"

2nd Place: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

"What Can I Say About You?"

3rd Place: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO

"Second Sight"

HM1: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

HM2: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX

HM3: Nadia Ibrashi, Troy, MI

HM4: Beverly A. Joyce, Land O'Lakes, FL

HM5: Holly Antoun, Golden, CO

HM6: Janet Tyner, Tyler, TX

HM7: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL

32. Illinois State Poetry Society Award**Judge:** Mary Schmidt **Entries:** 101

1st Place: Cheryl Van Beek, Wesley Chapel, FL

"Finding the Flow"

2nd Place: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

"As Gray"

3rd Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

"Two Rivers"

HM1: Susan Randall, Orem, UT

HM2: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN

HM3: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL

HM4: Dick Ramsey, Des Moines, IA

HM5: Vicky Dovenspike, Salem, IA

HM6: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR

HM7: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland, TX

33. The Robbie Award**Judge:** Karen Kay Bailey **Entries:** 102

1st Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX "Shared Grief"

2nd Place: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

"To a Son Who Died"

3rd Place: Patricia Tiffany Morris, Bondurant, IA

"the last time we spoke"

HM1: Larry Witherspoon, Little Rock, AR

HM2: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX

HM3: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI

HM4: Susan Bennett Smith, State College, PA

HM5: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH

HM6: John W. Coppock, Tuttle, OK

HM7: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

34. Iowa Poetry Association Award**Judge:** Janet Qually **Entries:** 105

1st Place: Mark Terry, Orlando, FL

"Dream, Dream, Dream"

2nd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

"Country and City"

3rd Place: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT "Two Chipmunks"

HM1: Belle Schmidt, Fort Collins, CO

HM2: Pat Underwood, Colfax, IA

HM3: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX

HM4: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL

HM5: Patricia J. Koch, Warr Acres, OK

HM6: Lynn Schiffhorst, Winter Park, FL

HM7: Pam Tucker, Washington, UT

35. Wallace Stevens Memorial Award

(Members Only)

Judge: Carol W. Bachofner **Entries:** 61

1st Place: Christine Irving, Denton, TX

"Healing the Angry Self"

2nd Place: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO

"The Ghost House"

3rd Place: Jane Stuart, Flatwoods, KY

"Two Flowers on a Windy Day"

HM1: Delores Walker, Oklahoma City, OK

HM2: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

HM3: Nancy Breen, Loveland, OH

HM4: Diane Neff, Longwood, FL

HM5: Charles Firmage, Elroy, AZ

HM6: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT

HM7: Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma City, OK

36. Ohio Award**Judge:** Russell Strauss **Entries:** 149

1st Place: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

"Invitation to Picnic"

2nd Place: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

"Clams"

3rd Place: Susan Bennett Smith, State College, PA

"Ode to the Extra Ten Pounds"

HM1: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX

HM2: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

HM3: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

HM4: Brenda Finnegan, Ocean Springs, MS

HM5: BJ Alligood, Port Orange, FL

HM6: Nancy MacDermott, Chardon, OH

HM7: Lynda La Rocca, Salida, CO

37. WyoPoets Award**Judge:** Bonnie Larson Staiger **Entries:** 80

1st Place: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO

"To The Cabin"

2nd Place: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

"Gathering Place"

3rd Place: Sunny Bridge, Fort Collins, CO

"Dance of the Tumbleweeds"

HM1: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR

HM2: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN

HM3: Daniel Liberthson, Cottage Grove, OR

HM4: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX

HM5: John McPherson, Searcy, AR

HM6: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT

HM7: Cristie Cook, Sandy, UT

38. Florida State Poets Association, Inc. Award**Judge:** Marleine Yanish **Entries:** 51

1st Place: Sara Gipson Scott, AR, "Empty Shells"

2nd Place: Patricia Thrushart, Clarington, PA

"Rooted Along the Overseas Highway"

3rd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

"The Distinctive Tone of David Sanborn"

HM1: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

HM2: Fred Briggs, Lake Mary, FL

HM3: Mark Hammerschick, Highland Park, IL

HM4: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX

HM5: Christa Fairbrother, Gulfport, FL

HM6: Patricia J. Koch, Warr Acres, OK

HM7: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN

39. Poetry Society of Michigan Award**Judge:** Mary Beth Bretzlauf **Entries:** 127

1st Place: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX

"Torn Free"

2nd Place: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

"Settling for the Earth"

3rd Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

"After the Pink Mist—2021"

HM1: Tony Fusco, West Haven, CT

HM2: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

HM3: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

HM4: Dick Ramsey, Des Moines, IA

HM5: Pam Tucker, Washington, UT

HM6: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX

HM7: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR

40. Mississippi Poetry Society Award**Judge:** Charmaine Pappas Donovan **Entries:** 98

1st Place: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

"From Juke Joints to Concert Halls"

2nd Place: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT

"Many Wonders"

3rd Place: Betsy M. Hughes, Oakwood, OH

"Azulejos"

HM1: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

HM2: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX

HM3: Russell H. Srauss, Memphis, TN

HM4: Linda R. Payne, Fairfield, OH

HM5: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

HM6: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

HM7: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

41. Jesse Stuart Memorial Award**Judge:** Louise Brown **Entries:** 127

1st Place: Daniel Moreschi, Neath, GB

"The Great Monarch Butterfly Migration"

2nd Place: Pam Tucker, Washington, UT

"Sheet Bend"

3rd Place: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

"When Buttons Fall"

HM1: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

HM2: Lynne McNamara, Longmont, CO

HM3: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie, TX

HM4: Markay Brown, St. George, UT

HM5: Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

HM6: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK

HM7: Daniel Liberthson, Cottage Grove, OR

42. Missouri State Poetry Society Award**Judge:** Jerri Hardesty **Entries:** 42

1st Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX "Pragmatist in the Heartland"

2nd Place: Stephen Schwei, Houston, TX "Missouri Family"

3rd Place: Delores Walker, Oklahoma City, OK

"Off the Beaten Path"

HM1: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN

HM2: Dave Malone, West Plains, MO

HM3: BJ Alligood, Port Orange, FL

HM4: Janet Watson, Wesley Chapel, FL

HM5: Laura Trigg, Chesterfield, MO

HM6: Susan Chambers, Mankato, MN

HM7: Laura Rodley, Shelburne Falls, MA

43. Barbara Stevens Memorial Award**Judge:** Emily Strauss **Entries:** 159

1st Place: Maurine Haltiner, Salt Lake City, UT

"This Being Said . . ."

2nd Place: Julianza Shavin, Fountain, CO

"Absolution"

3rd Place: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO

"Writing About the Stroke Patient"

HM1: Christine Boldt, Temple, TX

HM2: Betty Ann Whitney, Wesley Chapel, FL

HM3: Harvey Stone, Johnson City, TN

HM4: Tane Kim, Irvington, NY

HM5: Elaine Zimmerman, Hamden, CT

HM6: Laura Trigg, Chesterfield, MO

HM7: Judith Rycroft, Oklahoma City, OK

44. Poetry Society of Oklahoma Award**Judge:** Lorrie Wolfe **Entries:** 121

1st Place: Christine Boldt, Temple, TX

"On Sadness"

2nd Place: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR

"Holy Work"

3rd Place: Nancy Simmonds, Fort Wayne, IN

"Hugging Trees"

HM1: Sylvia Collins, S. Hamilton, MA

HM2: Elizabeth Horrocks, Wilmslow, UK

HM3: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

HM4: Janice Canerdy, Potts Camp, MS

HM5: K. Hamblen, Baton Rouge, LA

HM6: Christopher Hasara, Rensselaer, IN

HM7: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT

45. Save Our Earth Award

Judge: Margie B. Klein **Entries:** 109
 1st Place: Laura Bridges, Hot Springs, AR
 "One with the Wild—a Walk through the Ozarks"
 2nd Place: Tanya Whitney, Sorrento, LA
 "Murdered Landscapes"
 3rd Place: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 "To My Grandchildren"
 HM1: Deborah Filanowski, Selinsgrove, PA
 HM2: Barbara J. Funke, St. George, UT
 HM3: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 HM4: Adrienne Blalock Pamplin, Longview, TX
 HM5: Dan Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL
 HM6: Marjorie Dohlman, Riceville, IA
 HM7: Eleanor Berry, Dallas, OR

46. Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award

Judge: Donna Salli **Entries:** 129
 1st Place: Lynn Farmer, Decatur, GA
 "I Saw Santa Sitting in a Lawn Chair"
 2nd Place: Lorraine Jeffery, Orem, UT "Addiction's
 Extreme Sport"
 3rd Place: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield, TX
 "times table"
 HM1: Christopher Hasara, Rensselaer, IN
 HM2: Susan Bennett Smith, State College, PA
 HM3: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO
 HM4: Ruth Schmidt-Baumlner, Two Harbors, MN
 HM5: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR
 HM6: Dave Harvey, Talent, OR
 HM7: Alyssa Darby, Cabot, AR

47. Poetry Society of Tennessee Award

(Members Only)
Judge: Lori Goetz **Entries:** 98
 1st Place: Patricia Thrushart, Clarington, PA
 "Digging Deep"
 2nd Place: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
 "Summer Garden, 1970"
 3rd Place: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio, TX
 "Good-Time Party Girls"
 HM1: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
 HM2: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM3: Anita M. Krotz, Salt Lake City, UT
 HM4: Laura Bridges, Hot Springs, AR
 HM5: Susan Randall, Orem, UT
 HM6: Markay Brown, St. George, UT
 HM7: Cristie Cook, Sandy, UT

48. Maine Poets Society Award

Judge: Jessica Temple **Entries:** 172
 1st Place: Mike Wilson, Lexington, KY
 "Spring Passing"
 2nd Place: Irene Alderson, Minneapolis, MN
 "On the St. Croix"
 3rd Place: Jan Ohmstede, Salida, CO
 "Ravenous Joy"
 HM1: Lori Anne Goetz, Germantown, TN
 HM2: Laura Trigg, Chesterfield, MO
 HM3: Pam Tucker, Washington, UT
 HM4: Valerie Szarek, Louisville, CO
 HM5: Sam Wright, Lakewood, OH
 HM6: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX
 HM7: F. Leith Jones, Carlisle, PA

49. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award

(Members Only)
Judge: Susan Chambers **Entries:** 37
 1st Place: Charles K. Firmage, Eloy, AZ
 "Snowing on Flanders Field"
 2nd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
 "Give Me Books, or Give Me—More Books"
 3rd Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "A Sigh in Winter"
 HM1: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
 HM2: V. Kimball Barney, Kaysville, UT
 HM3: Janice L. Freytag, Souderton, PA
 HM4: Joyce Allen, Ankeny, IA
 HM5: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM

HM6: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring, TX
 HM7: Mike Wahl, Athens, AL

50. The Poets Northwest Award

(Members Only)
Judge: Susan Maxwell Campbell **Entries:** 83
 1st Place: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
 "City Kid Rap"
 2nd Place: John McPherson, Searcy, AR
 "Sorry, Petula, You Can't Go There Anymore"
 3rd Place: Robert Schinzel, Argyle, TX
 "Leaving the Good Times"
 HM1: S. Evan Walters, Lebanon, IN
 HM2: Alison Chisholm, Birkdale, Southport, UK
 HM3: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond, TX
 HM4: Amy Wray Irish, Lakewood, CO
 HM5: Joy McDowell, Springfield, OR
 HM6: Charles Firmage, Elroy, AZ
 HM7: Mary Ellen Orvis, Sun City Center, FL

51. Student Award: Grades 9–12

Judge: John Coppock **Entries:** 31
 1st Place: Isabella Mullinax, Hotsprings, AR
 "Late Night of Memories"
 2nd Place: Sankalp Gautam, Manlius, NY
 "The Wonderous Glaucaous"
 3rd Place: Lilah Lindemann, Miller Place, NY
 "Spotlight"
 HM1: Emma Paris, Putney, VT
 HM2: Clara Principe, North Little Rock, AR
 HM3: Alex Kramarenko, Hot Springs, AR
 HM4: Ciara Harvey, Benton, AR
 HM5: Joe Boone, Searcy, AR
 HM6: Tane Kim, Irvington, NY
 HM7: July Gibson, Jacksonville, AR

52. Poetry in the Classroom Award: Grades 6–8

Judge: Shari Crane Fox **Entries:** 5
 1st Place: Bridget DeMelfi, Cheyenne, WY
 "Derealization"
 2nd Place: Karelin Ta, Aurora, CO
 "Bullying"
 3rd Place: Miah Schultze, Cheyenne, WY
 "Summed up"
 HM1: Christopher Fitzgerald, Cheyenne, WY
 HM2: Keeley Cozza, Aurora, CO

53. Poetry in the Classroom Award: Grades 3–5

Judge: Susan Gundlach **Entries:** 5
 1st Place: Avery Irish, Burlington, IA
 "My Mom Dances"
 2nd Place: Brooklyn Legree, Toddville, IA
 "If all you can see"
 3rd Place: Isaac Nelson, Oklahoma City, OK
 "Moving On"
 HM1: Tia Keller, Burlington, IA
 HM2: Shawn Darby, Cabot, AR

2023 MANNINGHAM STUDENT TRUST POETRY CONTEST

I am pleased to announce the results of the 2023 Manningham Student Trust Poetry Contests. We had 257 total entries from 25 states. I would like to thank our judges for this year's contests, Elizabeth Kerlikowske from Michigan – Senior Division, grades 9-12, and Charmaine Pappas Donovan from Minnesota – Junior Division, grades 6-8. They willingly gave their time to read all these poems and make the difficult decisions of selecting the winners.

Congratulations to all the students who took the time to enter this contest. In these troubling times, poetry can be a wonderful outlet to sort through the myriad of feelings any teenager experiences. Please keep writing and submit to the contest again this year for the 2024 contest. **The submission period will be September 15, 2023 through November 15, 2023 for the 2024 contest. Guidelines can be found on**

our website: www.nfsps.com. On the left side of the page, click on poetry contests, then click on Manningham Trust Student Poetry contest. Winners will be notified in 2024.

Here are the students who were selected by our judges for the 2023 Contests:

Junior Division:

1st place: "His Silhouette"
 Leah Rodriguez, Union School, Joliet IL
2nd place: "Light a Million Fires into the Dark"
 Ella McCandless, North Little Rock Middle School, North Little Rock, AR
3rd place: "Bittersweet"
 Jill Hasara, Kankakee Valley Middle School, Wheatfield, IN
4th place: "Tag"
 Emily McKell, Falcon Creek Middle School, Aurora, CO

5th place: "Out the window"
 Katherine Mellinger, Falcon Creek Middle School, Aurora, CO

1st HM: "Dreamful Nightmare"
 Shilo Swenson, South Cache Middle School, Hyrum, UT

2nd HM: "That voice that says 'perfect'"
 Olivia Parrie, Baxter Middle School, Baxter, IA
3rd HM: "Bestie"

Eleanor Hintz, King Philip Middle School, West Hartford, CT

4th HM: "A fall change"
 Delphi Lonsdale, Prairieview School, Waukeg, IA
5th HM: "Common Yellowthroat"

Rubina Wiedemer, Home School, Scappoose, OR
Certificate(s) of Merit: "Overcoming a Challenge"
 Emma Beswick, Falcon Creek Middle School, Aurora, CO

"Mindless Justice"
 Hayden Taylor, Batesville Junior High School, Batesville, AR

"Freedom"
 Faye Klutke, Pine View School, Osprey, FL
 "Overnight, it all burned down" Max Wilhite, Sojo Middle School, South Jordan, UT

Senior Division:

1st place: "ROYGBIV"
 Samuel Smith, West Ridge High School, Blountville, TN

2nd Place: "Ode to Old Man"
 Daniella Torres, Plainfield East High School, Plainfield, IL

3rd Place: "Barbed Wire"
 Stella Abarca, Plainfield East High School, Plainfield, IL

4th Place: "Question Marks"
 Rainer Pasca, Bay Shore High School, Bay Shore, NY

5th Place: "this is the autumn"
 Allison Xu, Walter Johnson High School, Bethesda, MD

1st HM: "What We Are Owed"
 Samantha Olvey, Mount St Mary Academy, Little Rock, AR

2nd HM: "Worse for Wear"
 Victoria Pudova, Brooklyn Latin School, Brooklyn, NY

3rd HM: "Hot Tub in a Heat Wave"
 Chase Balas, South Salem High School, Salem, OR
4th HM: "Themselves"

Natalie Conklin, Souhegan High School, Amherst, NH
5th HM: "Wallflower .25g"

Matilda Harris, Cache High School, Logan, UT
Certificate of Merit: "I don't like poetry"
 Locklyn Wilchynski, Mississippi School of the Arts, Brookhaven High School, Brookhaven, MS

Congratulations again to all the students who received recognition in the 2023 Manningham Student Trust Poetry Contests and to all those who entered! ~ Polly Opsahl, Manningham Chair

BLACKBERRY PEACH SPOKEN WORD 2023 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

The winners of this year's Blackberry Peach Spoken Word Poetry Competition were announced by the Contest Chair, Joe Cavanaugh.

First place winner is Eduardo Vega of San Antonio, Texas, Second place went to Julianza Shavin of Fountain, Colorado. Third place was awarded to Sheri Hall of Kansas City, Missouri. They were followed by Finalists, Fourth place winner Cheryl Weber of Mahomat, Illinois and Fifth place winner Terry Odis of Desoto, Texas.

This year's competition was judged by Ed Mabrey of Los Angeles, California. He was the 2021 Blackberry Peach Spoken Word poetry competition winner and is often considered the top poet in the history of Poetry Slam with four World Championships, five consecutive Regional Championships and over 500 Poetry Slam wins in his career so far. He had to choose the winners from entries from 18 States, with Florida recording the most entries and Colorado in second place. Poets were asked to pick their 4 best poems and submit them in Written and Spoken (audio) form to be eligible for the prizes.

Prizes included cash prizes for the top three, \$1,000 first prize, \$500 second prize, \$250 third prize. All 5 of the finalists were invited to appear at the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Annual Convention, held this year in West Des Moines, Iowa from June 21-26, 2023. All five will be included in a video to be produced and placed on YouTube, and have their poems published in a book, published by NFSPS and entitled Blackberry Peach Spoken Word Poetry Prizes 2023.

Please consider entering next year's competition by following the guidelines outlined on the National Federation Of Poetry Societies (NFSPS) website. Entries will be accepted from January 1, -March 15, 2024. If you have any questions, comments or need additional information please contact me at jcavanaugh1@gmail.com. ~ Joe Cavanaugh, 1st Vice President

2023 BLACKBERRY PEACH NATIONAL POETRY SLAM RESULTS

After two nights of preliminary rounds and an incredible final stage, the Blackberry Peach National Poetry Slam crowned its national champion. Dove Dupree of Greenville, SC won our first-place prize of \$2000. Terry Odis of DeSoto, TX won second place and \$1000. Jahman Hill of Birmingham, AL garnered third place, winning \$500. And Jonathan David Kelly of Port St. Lucie, FL earned fourth place, winning \$250.

Each poet in the competition competed in a preliminary bout on Wednesday night and another on Thursday night. Each prelim saw every poet perform two poems each night with the top twelve poets after two nights of competition advancing to the Final Stage on Saturday night. Final Stage was comprised of three rounds of poems, with 4 poets eliminated each succeeding round.

Taking place on Friday was our Youth Mini-Festival, wherein one of the events held was the 2023 BlackBerry Peach National Youth Poetry Slam. After two rounds of poems, Vincent Ali emerged as the 2023 BlackBerry Peach Youth National Champion. Alix Nath was a close second and won the 2023 BlackBerry Peach Most Inspired Poem prize. Coming in third was Amina Nalani. And fourth place was earned by Jo Handlos.

The Youth Mini-Festival featured workshops by a stellar cast of writers. Eduardo Vega of San Antonio, TX, Sherri Hall of Kansas City, MO, and Edward Mabrey of Los Angeles, CA led sessions covering various different aspects of writing creation, composition, and editing. NFSPS Vice-President Joseph Cavanaugh, NFSPS Performance Poetry Advocate Kevin Campbell, and NFSPS member Fil Peach also addressed the youth attending the festival. ~Kevin Campbell, Performance Poetry Advocate

CUPdate! COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS

This year's CUP Competition had 31 submissions from 23 schools in 19 states plus D.C. For (we think) the first time in the history of the competition, both winners are from the same writing program! Big congrats to Sara Daniels, Weston Wise, and Central Michigan University!

Both poets were in attendance to at convention to celebrate their collections with us. If you missed it, here is a preview of what you can expect from these excellent works.

This year's judge, Alina Stefanescu, said that Sara Daniels's "*Grief House* immersed [her] in the world created by the poet's specular attention to detail. From the noise of television blurring the background to the dialogue between broken glass and a dog in the park, everything conspires to speak, and each noun is lit by this potential. 'The catechisms, the crushes, the jealousies' buried in a dead mother's diary, the daughter casting herself as Catherine the Great only to discover 'a girl dressed in ghosthood' . . . the skill with which this poet carves a tangible elegy, and then leaves us with a resonant image: 'in the foreground: only a woman and a knife.'"

The judge also said she "couldn't stop returning to the distinct voice and incredible language of [Weston Wise's] *A Gentle & Modern Ape*. Navigating the mental maps of Americans who don't have space for Kenyans, the speaker moves between laughter and rue in a sharp, dizzying manner, as in the assertion that his passport is 'fake' because "'Kenya' isn't a real country.' A line breaks with wordplay; a dialogue swerves around catachresis: If there is technique, this poet wields it! 'Banana Poem' took [her] breath away with its sparkling subversion of stereotypes. [She was] amazed by the enjambment, and something like Frank O'Hara's wit meeting Shailja Patel's lyric in the margins."

Please join us in congratulating these student/poets! *A Gentle & Modern Ape* and *Grief House* are available for purchase via Amazon. ~Jessica Temple, 4th Vice President & CUP Chair

SPECIAL AWARDS

I received 15 entries for special awards. Special Awards are given to state societies to recognize achievements in their organization that promote poetry to adults, young people, poetry meetings, zoom readings etc. I would have liked to have given more awards of special achievements, but these are the ones which I feel were very busy all yearlong in the promotion of poetry.

1. Arizona Poetry Society
2. Mississippi Poetry Society
3. New Mexico Poetry Society
4. Indiana State Poetry Society
5. League of Minnesota Poets
6. Sunflower Poetry Society of Kansas

I'd like to give special recognition to the other poetry societies who participated by responding to my request for information:

- Georgia Poetry Society
- Poetry Society of Tennessee
- Maine Poetry Society
- Pennsylvania Poetry Society
- Poetry Society of Tennessee
- Nebraska Poetry Society
- Illinois Poetry Society
- Oregon Poetry Society
- Columbine Poets of Colorado

Thanks to all who responded! ~ *JoAn Howerton, 3rd Vice President*

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

ARIZONA POETRY SOCIETY: We are in the middle of our annual contest with 22 categories, so plenty to find a fit for your poems. If you or anyone in your poetry circles are interested, please direct them to our website <https://azpoetry.net/#AnnualContest> and please remember to read the guidelines.

We were very proud to sponsor Ben Gardea as our Blackberry Peach Slam contestant from Arizona who came in 9th place! He is now hosting a monthly poetry slam called Phx Poetry Slam in a great space in downtown Phoenix. We are also making plans with him for some workshops and slams to gear up for 2024 BBP Slam. Our Spring Youth Contest for students in 1st grade through 12th grade in Arizona responded enthusiastically with over 1,000 entries.

We are planning more youth outreach in the coming year as well with workshops, readings and another contest for 2024. Member Karen Morales will be directing the Primary Poets workshops for elementary age students in the Phoenix West Valley starting in January. We are also in the planning stages for our 2024 Annual Conference which will be in the Phoenix area in January 2024. Jim Platt, president of the East Valley Poets, and his team are in the thick of it.

Katie Zale, our president, is continuing to run an ekphrastic poetry reading, Tucson Arts Poetry Series, in concert with the Tucson Desert Art Museum, and will be co-hosting with the Tucson Poetry Festival an event at the museum.

We started a poetry feedback service for our members and the response has been very good. We have had some recent changes on our board due to changing circumstances: Ron Zack-Vice President, Renee Palting-Communications, and David Navarro-Secretary. So far, it's been a busy year and doesn't look like that's going to change!
~ *Arizona Outreach Coordinator*

COLUMBINE POETS OF COLORADO: The Northern Colorado chapter holds several events and co-sponsors others.

Four Northern chapter members form a group that hosts quarterly poetry readings in Loveland on the equinoxes and solstices. We have a seasonal poem as a theme and have a dozen featured readers plus an open mic, and a little music to break up the readings. To keep the readings moving right along, we hold to a 5-minute limit for featured readers and a 2-minute limit for open mic readers. (a moderator lets people know if they are running over the time limit and will even hold up a red flag if we need to interrupt the offender.)

Each year they co-sponsor two weekends (with the Loveland Poet Laureate Program) with a reading and a workshop. This past May, we hosted Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer and we will have Bill Tremblay come in August. We pay these presenters a fee generated by prior event's donations at the door.

In April 2024 we will bring Carolyn Forché to Loveland. It takes a lot of time fundraising, but the community supports us and it is lots of fun.

All our events are free with a suggested donation. We know there are poets who have limited resources and we don't want anyone to feel left out. ~ *Lorrie Wolfe, Membership Chair*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY: July 1st kicked off the next two-year term of ISPS board officers. The positions of President, Vice-President and Treasurer have changed, while the Secretary remains the same. The former President also remains on the board, as do chapter facilitators.

April's Zoom spoken word workshop, presented by Wesley Frazier-Keys, was a big success. It inspired further ISPS board discussion about offering more workshops and contests for this poetry genre. On Sunday, August 13th, poets will have the opportunity to share an ekphrastic event with the Downers Grove Artists Guild at the Downers Grove Public Library. The reading and accompanying art program will be at 1 p.m. On September 9-10 ISPS will be at the Printers Row Lit Fest from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. This is an annual event that showcases book dealers, writers and poetry readers in downtown Chicago.

The yearly ISPS poetry contest will have a fall deadline for entries. Details and categories are forthcoming.

Check our website for news, member book reviews, monthly featured readers at the Brewed Awakening coffeehouse in Westmont and membership forms. The website is illinoispoets.org. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President Emerita*

THE SUNFLOWER POETRY SOCIETY OF KANSAS continues to hold monthly workshops for members who wish to receive feedback regarding poems in progress. Our members enjoy the camaraderie and feedback. Some of the poems from the

workshops have been submitted for publication and various poetry competitions. The moderator of the workshops emphasized that we hope to facilitate discussion and active contribution by utilizing an approach that encourages constructive criticism, a supportive environment, a safe space for poetic expression and invaluable insight to the reader/writer of the poem. This is a constructive writing critique is an approach that is emailed the week before each workshop with the poems submitted for review. This method to incite active participation has allowed members in the workshops to experience their poem and other poems through various perspectives.

In an effort to encourage and facilitate the presence of poetic community, SPSK held a poetry reading on Sunday, 28 May 2023. This served as an opportunity to get to know one another through poetry. Members enjoyed selecting and sharing their favorite poems and requested that another date be set during the third quarter.

During a quarterly meeting in June, we discussed ways to encourage more active participation from members and improve new membership numbers. Many ideas were presented and discussed. Members were enthusiastic about the following ideas presented by Dani Van Buskirk: setting a classic novel to rap, writing a "love poem" to our favorite pet/sit-com character/movie, etc., creating pop sonnets by setting a Shakespearean spin on a favorite song, exploring various forms of poetry through a form of the month (haiku, free verse, prose, quatrain, sonnet, etc. More ideas and suggestions will be considered at the next quarterly meeting.

SPSK was honored and most appreciative to have Dani van Buskirk represent the group at the NFSPS national convention in West Des Moines, IA from June 21 to June 26. She will present a report during the next quarterly meeting. M. Palowski Moore participated virtually.

To facilitate the exploration of other poetic expressions and opportunities, members received email notifications announcing the Arizona State Poetry Society 2023 Annual Contest (with attached categories and guidelines) and the 2023 Virtual Sijo Workshop: Comparing Verses from Korea, China, & Japan. Additionally, members were emailed information about Professor's Corner: A Literary Discussion Group. These monthly Zoom meetings discuss selected poems from an anthology titled *The Ecopoetry Anthology* (Trinity University Press, 2020) and are open to all poetry lovers. ~M. Palowski Moore, President

KENTUCKY STATE POETRY SOCIETY'S monthly Zoom reading series continues this year on the third Tuesday of each month. Open mics feature KSPS members, who sign up in advance to read, although anyone can watch/listen. Some months have a featured poet who reads from his/her work, engages in conversation with the host/moderator, and fields questions from the audience. Our August 15 featured reader will be Cheryl Hopson, whose first full-length collection, *In Case You Get This*, was published this summer by Finishing Line Press. Information and participation links for both types of events can be found at <https://kystatepoetrysociety.org/>.

Please join us October 28-99 for the KSPS 2023 Virtual Poetry Conference! An in-person workshop option will also be offered at several locations throughout the Commonwealth for local attendees. As with last year's conference, the keynote will be open to the public both virtually and in a live, local venue. The program will feature a keynote address, generative workshops, readings, panels, and two open mics (one for teens, one for adults). Details and registration

information can be found at <https://kystatepoetrysociety.org/>. ~ Jennifer Barricklow, Secretary

MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY: On April 1st we held our first meeting of 2023. It was great to see each other again. President Jeanette Maes gave another excellent workshop as we celebrated "Poetry Month."

Many members are actively writing and speaking for various groups. Member Ray Whittier took center stage at Peabody Essex Museum in Salem at MassPoetry 2023 in May. It was a 60 minute program entitled, "Ray J. Whittier, Poet at 90" where Ray recited most of his poems from memory. We are very proud of our members who are having much success at being the poets they are.

Chapter News:

The Louise Bogan Chapter has resumed in-person meetings, and recently discussed the potential of personal stories as poetry or prose.

Waterfront CREW Poets Chapter's Founder and previous Director Patrician Tacelli passed away in Nov. 2022 and on May 21st, over 150 family and friends attended her Celebration of Life gathering where there were many displays, scrapbooks, etc., of MSPS/CREW and verbal tributes to Patricia and her love of poetry. A 94th birthday celebration was organized for member Esther Fich and presented with two booklets of her hand-written poems which Director Renee Pike had typed in large font. Esther read aloud several of the poems. CREW is now taking a summer break.

North Shore Poets Forum Chapter continues to meet for gentle critique and discussion of poems. They choose a topic for every monthly meeting.

Our National Poetry Day Brochure for 2023 with 25 contests is still available, single entry fee for entire contest of \$15 non-members, \$10 members, deadline August 1, 2023, and can be found on our website. ~ Beverly Barnes, Reporter

NEVADA POETRY SOCIETY takes a hiatus for July & August. We had a special June meeting to wrap up the season which was attended by NPS Member, Crystal Barker of Las Vegas who generously gave signed copies of her new book *HOMELESSNESS Through The Eyes Of a Nurse In The City* and shared examples translated into Farsi, Hindi and Spanish. We wish everyone a safe, leisurely summer and look forward to our ACROSTIC September Challenge. ~ Phyllis Peacock, President

NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY: *Glissando!* is Hot Off the Press! The first New Mexico State Poetry Society anthology to be published in years. The NMSPS Annual Convention was held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd, at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in southwest Albuquerque. The NMSPS State Convention was held in the flesh as well as the spirit. Albuquerque chapter meetings are held on the second Saturday of every month, with a great line up of workshops and presenters.

The Santa Fe Poetry Trails chapter meets for an open mic once a month on first Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Teatro Paraguas.

Rio Grande Valencia Poets Collaboration: RGV members JC Wayne and Kuan Tikkun, working in collaboration with Rio Communities Action Network, won a grant for "aid to the Military, the subject of a new initiative offered by the NM Department of Cultural Affairs. The grant will feature a series of workshops on "Healing through Art" for Valencia County veterans. Rio Grande Valencia Poets Chapter meets the first Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. The May Poets' Picnic 2023, a Celebration of Nature, included Weathergrams viewing throughout the Open Space Visitor Center. Also there was an educational activity: children's poetry in the activity Room and Weathergrams displayed in the lobby. A Haiku workshop was held in the conference room. Attendees enjoyed a Haiku hike (led by Scott Wiggerman), presenters, a picnic and open mic. A day to remember! Dale and Scott think it was one of the best picnics they have ever had – perhaps THE best.
~Bernadette Perez, President

The **POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA** scheduled its annual July Workshop 22nd July at Belle Isle Library in Oklahoma City. We had an exciting workshop with our key-note speaker and instructor, our own Ron Wallace! Ron is an Oklahoma native and currently an adjunct instructor of English at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, in Durant, Oklahoma, where he was born and raised. He is the author of ten books of poetry, five of which have been finalists in the Oklahoma Book Awards with *Renegade and Other Poems* winning the 2018 Oklahoma Book Award. Ron Wallace's Choctaw, Cherokee, Osage heritage is intertwined with his Scots-Irish roots and often reflected in his writing. Also at this time, winning poems were read, poets recognized, awards given, and a delicious box lunch was served.

PSO is looking ahead to Autumn and celebrating National Poetry Day in October which is also our annual business meeting. To celebrate National Poetry Day 2023, we will focus on the theme of refuge. We will also read winning poems, recognize poets and give out awards.

We invite everyone to check our website <http://www.angelfire.com/poetry/ps/> and our Facebook page for current PSO information.

As always, we welcome all to "Come and grow at PSO ~ Patti Koch, President

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE (PST) has continued membership and critique group meetings and highlighted community events.

In March, members elected their 2023-2024 Board: Lisa Kamolnick (President); Howard Carman (Treasurer/Membership); Erika Perez (Secretary); Patricia Hope and Russell Strauss. Continuing in committee chair roles are Lacy Snapp (programs), Russell Strauss (contests), Seth Grindstaff (student contests), and Howard Carman (editorial board). New committee chairs include Patricia Hope (regional connections) and Matthew Gilbert (communications).

The editorial board selected poems submitted for *Tennessee Voices*; guest judge Rick Hilles (Vanderbilt University) selected prize winners from the board's finalists. PST also held a regional contest for East Tennessee State University creative writing students. Contest results were announced during PST's 66th Annual Poetry Festival, held April 15th. The festival also included a workshop led by Rick Hilles and a poetry reading.

Also in April, PST announced annual student poetry contest results, judged by Connie Jordan Green (high school), Heather Hoover (middle school) and Isabel Gómez Sobrino (elementary).

In May, PST celebrated volunteers, and new Board members assumed roles. In June, PST celebrated its 70th anniversary with a revisiting of the society's founding and purpose, a memorial reading of past member poems, a poetry share, and a time capsule ceremony.

Learn more at <https://poetrytennessee.com> (blog) and <https://www.poetrytennessee.org> (web). Follow PST on Facebook: [poetrysocietyoftennessee](https://www.facebook.com/poetrysocietyoftennessee). ~ Lisa Kamolnick, President

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS is still using Zoom for our monthly meetings so members from all over the state can attend. Since April was Poetry Month, Director Steve Sanders announced the winner of the William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest sponsored by the Fort Worth Poetry Society in cooperation with PST. Diane Glancy of Gainesville won with her manuscript, "Jawbone." The judge was Dr. Martin Griffin, Associate Professor of English at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She will be reading from her published chapbook at our Summer Conference in July. Three new councilors were voted on and approved by the PST Board. They are Dorothy Sells Clover from Beaumont, Laurel Lee Davis from Monahans, and Eric Blanchard from Houston. An excellent program was presented by Alicia Azahar, a gifted spoken word artist. On Saturday, April 29th, we celebrated our Spring Fling in the historic city of Jefferson, Texas. Several who arrived Friday night went out to eat together, and then went and set up our room for the next morning. JDarrell Kirkley, who planned the event was our MC, and poets in attendance had the opportunity to read their poems. Refreshments were plentiful, as were door prizes. After a long break for lunch, and the opportunity to explore the tourist and historic highlights of Jefferson, winners of the Spring Fling Poetry Contest, judged by Barbara Blanks, were announced. Robert Schinzel-1st, Janet Tyner-2nd, Sue Roberts-3rd, and five HM went to Kathleen Breakfield, Ginger Sheppard, Nancy Gilbert, Charlotte Renk, and Adrienne Pamplin. Our PST election is at the May meeting each year, and the same slate of officers was elected for another year. President Richard Weatherly, Vice President Catherine L'Herisson, Treasurer Neal Ostman, Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks, Corresponding Secretary Sarah Wood, and Directors JDarrell Kirkley, Carol Thompson, and Steve Sanders. Our next big event is our PST Summer Conference scheduled for July 20-22 in Fort Worth. Blazing Poetry Trails will be held at the Radisson Fossil Creek Hotel and will have interesting speakers, entertainment, fun, and food with a Western flavor to it. For more details, go to our website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org
~ Catherine L'Herisson, Vice President

2023 CONVENTION PHOTOS



Dove Dupree



Eddie Vega



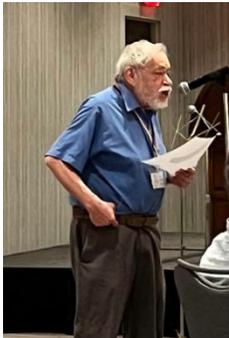
Laura Mahal and SETH



Paul Ford and Kelsey Bigelow



Pat Barnes and Charmaine Donovan



Russell Strauss



Diane Glancy and Carla Jordan



Julianza Shavin



Steven Concert



Noir Jente



Ray Young Bear and Son



Polly Opsahl and Diane Glancy



Julie Cummings



Susan Chambers and Henry Panowitch

NFSPS DEADLINES AND DATES

Manningham Submission Period:
September 15, 2023 - November 15, 2023

Stevens Manuscript Submission Period:
September 1, 2023- November 15, 2023

CUP Submission Period:
December 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

BlackBerry Peach (Spoken Word) Submission Period:
January 1, 2024 – March 15, 2024

Annual Contest Submission Period:
January 1, 2024 – March 15, 2024

State Membership Lists and Annual Dues Deadline:
January 15, 2024
Updates due by March 15, 2024

Strophes Reports or Articles:
August Issue Deadline: June 25th
October Issue Deadline: August 25th
January Issue Deadline: November 25th
April Issue Deadline: February 25th

BlackBerry Peach SLAM Entry Period:
Stay tuned for further information!

Contest Sponsorship Forms and Payment:
March 15th for the following year

State Annual Reports:
One week prior to convention

Board and Committee Annual Reports:
One week prior to convention or when complete in special cases. (Treasurer, Contest Chair)

State President Meetings:
Held Quarterly- Watch for emails!

Learning Central Meetings:
Held Quarterly- Watch for emails!

**BARBARA STEVENS POETRY BOOK
MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION**

The Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition submissions window opens September 1, 2023, and closes at midnight PST November 15, 2023. This year's judge will be Edward Hirsch. The Submittable online system will be accessible only during this time. No early or late submissions will be considered. If you are unable to use Submittable, please email stevenschair@nfsp.com no later than November 8, 2023, to ask about alternative means of submission. Complete details are available at <http://NFSPS.Submittable.com> starting September 1 and also at <http://www.nfsp.com/stevens1.html>.

2024 BLACKBERRY PEACH SLAM

Start planning now to host state slams to determine your state society sponsored Slam competitor! Kevin Campbell, the Performance Poetry Advocate, can give your society ideas for hosting state sponsored slams. Contact Kevin at noirjente@nfsp.com

PLEASE BE WARY OF SCAMMERS

Whenever you get an email with my name as the sender, check to see if the message is actually sent from president@nfsp.net. If it isn't, I suggest you report the email as scam/phishing to your email provider. I will never ask you for money or gift cards in an email or text message.

~ Paul Ford, 35th NFSPS President

MONTHLY POETRY CONTEST
Wilda Morris, former president of the Illinois State Poetry Society, posts a contest for other poets each month on her blog. New contests are posted the first of the month; deadline is the 15th of the month. No charge to enter. Previously published poems are okay, but not simultaneous submissions. Winning poems are published. See: wildamorris.blogspot.com.

ENCORE PRIZE POEMS 2023



The 2023 anthology of prize-winning poems awarded at the "Catch Poetry: Stage and Page" NFSPS convention is available on amazon.com. All royalties from *Encore* sales support NFSPS.

~ Kathy Cotton, *Encore* Editor

NFSPS CONTEST BROCHURE

The NFSPS 2024 Contest Brochure will be mailed to state contacts and will also be available online. You may also request a copy by mailing a SASE with adequate postage for 4 pages to Julie Cummings, 9428 Fallen Rock Road, Conifer, CO 80433.