

NEWS 'N' NOTES

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

(<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>)

November 2015

President's Message:

Poets,

With the gentle, much-needed rain, leaves color the landscape. As they fulfill their natural destiny, we are experiencing the kind of fall we love. Colors excite us and the muse takes over. Travels on the highways and byways are rewarded with inspiration that moves our thoughts to find pen or computer so we may save and savor these moments.

This is a favorite season because it is filled with change and beauty, but an added reward that I cherish is the upcoming holidays. My granddaughters have inspired a Halloween poem that I haven't shared with them at this writing but will as they spend the hallowed eve at our house. It seems Fall inspires a closeness of family with festive times that pace us as the year races toward its close. I encourage you to take advantage of these times with family and craft poetry of events that may be cherished forever. A poem can be a gift that keeps on giving for years to come.

A "thank you" to River Market for the wonderful job of hosting Poetry Day. Our speaker, Hope Coulter, brought an inspiration to the meeting. We were rewarded with faces to go with names of new members from across the state. There was also the announcement of a new branch in Fort Smith.

Keep writing. Life is too short to be without poetry.

Dennis Patton
State President

Poetry Day 2015 Event in Little Rock, October 3:

PRA's 68th annual Poetry Day was a wonderful event in Little Rock. Our thanks to Poetry Day Chair Laura Loughridge and the River Market Poets for graciously hosting us. The conference annually honors Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni, Arkansas Poet Laureate (1953-1969) who established the first Arkansas Poetry Day on October 15, 1948. Poetry Day Chair Laura Loughridge welcomed a room full of guests and started the event with a poem by Jane Kenyon. President Dennis Patton read the Governor's Proclamation for Arkansas's 2015 Poetry Day. Then Laura introduced PRA's featured speaker, Hope Coulter, award-winning author and professor at Hendrix College in Conway. Coulter spoke on writing, reading and publishing poetry. Following a break, Coulter discussed critiques with ample group participation. The room was full of interested and interesting poets! Coulter also autographed her newest book for members.

After lunch in the River Market attendees remembered two PRA poets lost during this year: Gladys Palmer of Little Rock and Doreen Bailey of El Dorado. Past PRA President Cathy Moran announced the 2015 Merit Award winner, one of PRA's highest awards. Our congratulations to Dennis Patton who received the award for his many hours of service to PRA. President Patton conducted a brief board meeting and discussed 2 new contests coming in 2016 (collegiate and state fair), plus several other activities currently underway: PRA's new website and new webmaster Robin Burrows; anthology deadlines in October; legal research on Arkansas Poet Laureate appointments; recruitment of new members and branches. Finally Poetry Day Contest Chair Donna Smith announced the 2015 winners. This year's entries were very competitive, up 42% from 2014's level and up 35% from 2013's. Winners came from all over Arkansas, 14 states and Canada. Before announcing the winners of the Sybil Nash Abrams Awards, PRA Treasurer and NFSPS 1st Vice President Jim Barton shared a short biography of Mrs. Abrams (1900-1980).

Sybil Lee Nash Abrams was born February 22, 1900 in Gurdon, Arkansas to Ithey and Idelle Nash. On December 25, 1919 she married Charles Abrams and spent most of her life in Little Rock where she was a poet and author. She was published in the International Who's Who in Poetry Anthology, Arkansas Gazette, Arkansas Democrat, the Equalizer of Washington, D.C., Southwest Times Record, North Little Rock Times, Benton Courier and numerous other publications. In 1968, the Sybil Nash Abrams Award Fund was established in her honor and entrusted to the Poets Roundtable of Arkansas for awards to Arkansas poets each year on National Poetry Day. PRA is grateful to Mrs. Abrams and her family for supporting the prestigious SNA poetry contests for Arkansas students and PRA members.

See attached list of Poetry Day winners, also posted on PRA's new website (<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>) created by new Webmaster Robin Burrows. The old website (poetsroundtable.webs.com) is closed. Our thanks to past webmaster John Moran for his years of service to PRA.

How to Write a Rondelet (by Hope Coulter):

December's Monthly Contest requires a Rondelet form. Hope Coulter, Hendrix professor and speaker at PRA's Poetry Day, graciously offers the following advice on how to write a Rondelet.

The form consists of a single seven-line stanza. It turns on a short refrain, half the length of the other lines, which is repeated in lines 1, 3, and 7. One additional line, line 4, rhymes with the refrain. The three remaining lines (2, 5, and 6) rhyme with each other. The pattern is: A, b, A, a, b, b, A. ("A" stands for the refrain; all the "A" and "a" lines rhyme with each other; the "b" lines rhyme with each other.) See October example below for the rhyme and refrain pattern.

A - This spooky night,
b - when shadows creep along the lane--
A - this spooky night,
a - when darkness has snuffed out the light,
b - and on my frosty windowpane
b - most ghostly images remain:
A - this spooky night.

One method of drafting a complex form poem is to write the pattern formula down the right-hand margin of your paper as you draft. Next, decide the refrain; since it will take up a large part of the poem, it needs to be something worth saying three times. Then think of the fourth line that rhymes with the refrain; and then think of your "b" lines--three lines that rhyme with each other and that cover the rest of what you want the poem to say/show/do.

Yearbook Corrections:

Please make the following additions/corrections to your 2015-2016 yearbook:

Deadlines for the Spring Celebration Contests (page 9) have been moved up to 3/15/16.

Welcome to the *Two Rivers Poets of Fort Smith*, a new branch led by President Mary Sangster! They meet each 3rd Thursday at 2:30 in the Sweet Bay Coffee Shop in Ft. Smith, where the manager sponsors "open mic" events.

The Siloam Springs Writers' Branch (page 4) has a new meeting location: 28 Springs Restaurant, Banquet Room, 100 E. University St. They still meet the 1st Thursday each month at 6 PM.

New or amended member addresses (pages 26-35) include:

Le Roy Buffon's email is lbuffon63@yahoo.com.

Carrol Crolley's email is cwc504Haye@aol.com.

Mary Lee Cunningham, 2003 Catharine Dr., Jonesboro, AR 72404, 870-931-3515, (maryleepoetry@yahoo.com)

Judy Davies, 1418 Louis Alexis Trail, Gautier, MS 39553, 228-522-0028 (judydavies@cableone.net)

Kathy Easter, 3209 Holy Ridge Rd, Traskwood AR 72167, 501 - 794 - 7109

Fay Guinn, 2607 Twin Lakes Cv., Jonesboro, AR 72404, (870-935-0648)

Betty Heidelberger's phone is 870/816/0371.

Stephen Johnson's email is watermarkstudio@hotmail.com.

Marion Laird, 94 Swan Lane, Mtn. Home, AR 72653

Thomas Long, 800 N. Witte At, Poteau, OK 74953, 918-839-4277 (sargelong@gmail.com)

Cindy Mabry cindymabry63@gmail.com

Kinzey Rogers, 8916 Gary St., Ft. Smith, AR 72903 (kinzey.rogers@gmail.com)

Kitty Smith's email is pokienokie@sbcglobal.net.

Caroline Sposto (member at large), 1116 Poplar Ave., Suite-1, Memphis, TN 38105,

Laura Trigg, 6 Cobblestone Way, Little Rock, AR 72223

Kathy Vernich, 8711 Amber Lane, Alexander, AR 72002, 501-837-3322, (Klvernich@yahoo.com).

Linda Woodbury, Apt. N3, 921 Shady Grove Rd, Hot Springs, AR 71901, (501-760-7914,

Lindarosew6179@sbcglobal.net)

Thanks to all who participated in the 2015 PRA Member Survey. Results will be discussed at the January Board meeting and reported in the February newsletter. Of the 130 current members, approximately 23% responded.

Did You Know?

America's First Lady Michelle Obama honored five teenagers as 2015 National Student Poets in early October at the White House. The program – in its 4th year - is the nation's highest honor for youth poets, with more than 20,000 entries. "It takes a level of bravery to be that vulnerable, to stand up in this room – this historic place with these lights and cameras – and share something so personal and precious," Mrs. Obama said. "But that is also the beauty of poetry: how it helps you take all those complex and confusing thoughts and emotions and put them into words." Winners came from Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, New Jersey and Ohio. David Xiang, 17, of Little Rock represented Arkansas. (Source: Associated Press and Baxter Bulletin, 10/9/15 issue.)

Poetic Wins, Activities and Publications:

PRA Monthly Contest winners are: August - 1st Pat Laster, 2nd Karen Hayes, 3rd Jim Barton, 1HM Elizabeth Dail, 2HM John McBride, 3HM Elizabeth Faulkner; September – 1st Don Crowson, 2nd Karen Hayes, 3rd Elizabeth Faulkner, 1HM Barbara Blanks, 2HM Pat Durmon, 3HM Ann Carolyn Cates. Check monthly winners on PRA's new webpage: <http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>.

NFSPS winners from Arkansas in the June contests include: Karen Hayes of North Little Rock (3rd HM, 4th HM and a 7th HM); Dennis Patton of Alexander (2nd place, 1st HM, and two 5th HMs); Jim Barton of Huttig (1st place, two 4th HMs, and a 6th HM); Cathy Moran of Little Rock (two 2nd places, 2nd HM, 3rd HM, 6th HM); Pat Durmon of Norfork (6th HM); Kitty Yeager of Arkadelphia (1st HM); Sara Gipson of Scott (5th HM); and Laura Loughridge of Maumelle (4th HM). Dennis Patton and Jim Barton also each judged a contest. Arkansas was well represented in this national competition. NFSPS is recognizing at the national level three of the same problems PRA faces: aging membership, need for younger people willing to take responsible positions, and need to raise money for programs. Check the NFSPS newsletter and website for resources and ideas.

Cat Donnelly (Poets Northwest) will be the featured poet in the November issue of *Do South Magazine*.

Kate Lacy (Poets Northwest) won a first place in the Texas Poetry Society Contests and received an invitation to attend the November conference to read it. As PRA's Membership Chair and Poets Northwest President, Kate starts her branch meetings with contest topics and asks winners to share their poems as a teaching tool.

Siloam Springs Writers' Branch sponsored their first Poem of the Year Contest this fall for northwest area poets with a grant from the Roy Chesney Foundation. Chesney was a Siloam Springs resident who designated money from his estate to stimulate writing and the arts in the area. Winners are: Poem of the Year - 1st Rachel Kulp, 2nd Margaret Weathers; Quatrain - Margaret Weathers, 2nd Rachel Kulp, 3rd Rosemary Matthews; Beauty in Nature – 1st Louis Houston, 2nd Rachel Kulp, 3rd Sylvia Alderton; Autumn Couplet – 1st Sylvia Alderton, 2nd Louis Houston, 3rd Rosemary Matthews; Lyric Poem – 1st Margaret Weathers, 2nd Rosemary Matthews, 3rd Sylvia Alderton; Free Verse – 1st Rachel Kulp, 2nd Sylvia Alderton, 3rd Louis Houston. Congratulations to all!

Lee Ann Russell (Member-at-large – Springfield, MO) won a 1st, 2nd, and 2 HMs from Ozark Creative Writers' Conference; plus an HM from Indiana Federation of State Poetry Clubs. She co-presented on "Understanding Poetry . . ." at the Joplin Writers' Guild in September. She also read her poem, "Bonniebrook," at Kewpie doll creator Rose O'Neill's Bonniebrook home north of Branson, MO at the Festival of the Painted Leaves.

Jo Lightfoot's (Poets Northwest) poem "Berry Harvest" and muffin recipe appear in the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association's fundraiser cookbook, "A Taste of Poetry," published this year after an international competition. (See link: [- A Taste of Poetry: Book Launch.](#)) Cookbook proceeds support Whitman's homestead in New York.

Pat Laster (Saline County) published a new book, **HER FACE IN THE GLASS**, now available on Kindle, and soon available at Amazon.

Cathy Moran (River Market Poets) won a 1st from White River, a 2nd from Grand Prairie Arts Festival, a 2nd and 3rd HM from Indiana, and a 3rd place from Illinois.

Dennis Patton (Saline County) won a 1st, 3rd, and 5 HMs from Indiana; a 3rd from Illinois; an HM from Springfield Writers' Guild; and a 3rd from Poets & Patrons, Inc.

Don Crowson (Saline County) won 7 HMs from Indiana.

Correction: A Galaxy of Verse is a non-profit literary foundation established in 1974, which produces two anthologies, publishes member poems, sponsors approximately 20 contests with cash prizes, and counts poet laureates among its members. Barbara Blanks (PRA Member-at-large - Garland, TX) serves the organization as president, editor, and website host. For more information see galaxyofverse@gmail.com.

Congratulations to our excellent poets and branches for their activities toward PRA's mission to promote the art of poetry and encourage poets. Please send notice of your wins and branch activities for PRA's quarterly newsletter to Donna Smith, 58 Briarwood, Greenbrier, AR 72058 (tndsmith@live.com).

Farewell to Doreen Bailey (1949-2015)

We say farewell to PRA member Doreen Dumas Bailey of El Dorado who died September 1 2015 at age 66. Doreen was a charter member of both the South Arkansas Poets of the Pines and South Arkansas Writers groups. She wrote at least 2 books, plus numerous poems, short stories, personal essays and magazine articles. At her death she had 3 books in draft form yet to be published. She also was an advocate for animals and a collector of dolls and old books. She was a dedicated sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Born in Monroe, Louisiana to parents Allen and Joan Dumas, she was co-owner of rental property in the area, plus a bail bond company. PRA members Jim Barton and Marilyn Joyner remember her fondly as a constant source of support and encouragement in their writing efforts.

Upcoming Deadlines, Events & Contests

2nd Saturday each Month: PRA's Monthly Contest entries are due by mail to Chairman Stephen Johnson, 93 Old Tracy Road, Mountain Home, AR 72653. See guidelines on page 7 of PRA's Yearbook. For information about poem forms check wiki-pedia or <http://www.shadowpoetry.com/resources/wip/types.html>.

November: PRA will distribute information to Arkansas middle and high schools this month on 3 contests available free to students in 2016: the NFSPS sponsored Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest (due February 5th), the PRA sponsored Sybil Nash Abrams Memorial Student Contest (due March 1st), and the NFSPS Annual Student Contest (due March 15th). PRA members are asked to help promote these contests locally. See attached information, also on PRA's webpage. Contact Youth Contest Chair Laura Loughridge with questions.

November 14: The Scott Plantation Settlement is hosting an Open House to honor current and former military personnel. Poets are invited to read poems honoring American military service &/or the United States from noon to 3 PM at 15525 Alexander Road, Scott, AR 72142 (across from Scott School). Poets and poetry groups also are welcome to sell books and CDs at this event. For information contact Sara Gipson (501-416-0868 or saragipson@aol.com) or Scott Plantation Settlement (501-351-0300 or www.scottconnections.org).

November 30: Deadline for entries in the Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition in California. For details see www.soulmakingcontest.us or contact Eileen Malone at SoulKeats@mail.com.

December 1: Deadline for entries in the Redrock Writers' Chaparral Poetry Forum Contest of Utah. See contest guidelines at redrockwriters.org. Or contact Contest Chair Marie Tollstrup at mariect@infowest.com.

December 1: Deadline for entries in the Eugene V. Shea Annual National Contest of Wyoming. See contest guidelines at wyopoets.org. Or contact Contest Chair Art Elser at artelser@me.com.

December 1: Deadline for Australian Book Review's Peter Porter Poetry Prize offering a \$5,000 Australian prize (approximately \$3,500 U.S.) and publication. Submit a poem of up to 75 lines with a \$22 Australian entry fee (\$15 U.S.). See contest guidelines at www.australianbookreview.com.au/prizes/peter-porter-poetry-prize.

January 1 – March 15, 2016: PRA launches its first poetry contest for college students in Arkansas, ages 18-25. See guidelines attached and posted on PRA's new website poetsroundtableofarkansas.org. Arkansas residents

currently in college may enter for a \$15 fee, become a student member of PRA and NFSPS, and win up to \$500. Mail entries to Stephen Johnson, 93 Old Tracy Road, Mountain Home, AR 72653. PRA members are asked to help promote this contest with colleges in their area. (See also the NFSPS sponsored College Undergraduate Poetry Competition for chapbook manuscripts, due January 31, 2016. Details are online at nfsp.com.)

January 5, 2016: Deadline for entries in the Convention Madness Poetry Contest sponsored by the League of Minnesota Poets. Prizes include costs for room, meals and registration to attend the June 2016 NFSPS conference in St Paul, Minnesota. Members (\$10) and non-members (\$18) may submit up to 3 poems per entry fee (any form, any subject, one-page limit per poem, 10 point type or larger, may be previously published, 2 copies per poem - one plain and one with name, address, phone, email and state society membership). Winners will be notified by March 1, 2016. Send entries to Susan Stevens Chambers, 57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037. (See link to the Minnesota site at www.nfsp.com for more details.)

January 15, 2016: Deadline for Asheville Poetry Review's William Matthews Poetry contest offering a \$1,000 prize and publication. Submit up to 3 poems of any length for a \$20 entry fee. For guidelines see www.ashevillepoetryreview.com or call 828-450-0357.

January 15, 2016: Deadline for *Poets & Writers, Inc.*'s Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award for a poetry prize of \$500, a trip to New York for meetings with writers, editors, publishers and agents, plus a month's residency program in Wyoming. No entry fee. See details of this contest along with numerous others listed in *Poets & Writers Magazine* at www.pw.org/about-us/maureen-egen-writers-exchange-award.

March 15, 2016: Deadline for PRA's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration Contests. See details on page 9 in the PRA Yearbook (for members only). Winners will be announced April 23rd at the conference in El Dorado.

March 15, 2016: Deadline for entering NFSPS poetry contests. See details at www.nfsp.com.

April 23, 2016: PRA's 2016 Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration will be in El Dorado on Saturday, April 23rd. A Friday night event also may be offered. Our thanks to the South Arkansas Poets of the Pines for hosting.

April 24, 2016: Deadline for hotel reservations at the NFSPS conference rate. Contact Hotel 340 in St. Paul, Minnesota at hotel340.com or 651-280-4120, and reference the League of Minnesota Poets for discounted rates.

May 2016: PRA is partnering with the Arkansas State Fair to sponsor the 2016 Best-of-Show poetry winners in four age groups: Adults (age 19+), Senior Youth (14-18), Junior Youth (9-13), and Youth (5-8). See details posted this month at arkansasstatefair.com in the Creative Arts Competition Guidelines. Entries are free, for Arkansans only and due in September by posted deadlines. Prizes will be awarded in October at the State Fair.

May 4 – June 1, 2016: Deadline for Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition offering a \$5,000 grand prize and a trip to the WD Conference. Poems and several other writing categories are accepted online or by mail with an entry fee determined by entry date. See guidelines at writersdigest.com.

June 9-13, 2016: NFSPS Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota. See details at www.nfsp.com. (The 2017 and 2018 national conferences will be held in Texas and Colorado, respectively.)

September/October 2016: Deadlines for the Arkansas State Fair Poetry Contests are posted on the Fair's website at arkansasstatefair.com. PRA will award Best-of-Show prizes in 4 age groups at the Fair in October.

October 2016: Deadline for PRA's Anthology pages and contest. See details on pages 11-13 in the yearbook.

October 2016: PRA's 2016 Poetry Day Event will be in Mountain Home hosted by the Free Verse Poetry Group of Mountain Home. Dates/details to be announced.

Check PRA's NEW website for updates on Arkansas events, contests, etc. Also check the NFSPS web site (www.nfsp.com) for national news, contests and links to other state poetry societies. PRA members receive the quarterly News 'N Notes via email and web posting. The NFSPS quarterly *Strophes* newsletter also is available online via link from PRA's website. Copies of both may be mailed upon request for members who do not have Internet access. PRA Branch Presidents are asked to assure that all members have access to these publications. PRA members may send poems for critique – one free per month - to PRA's NEW State Critic Jeff Rawlings, P.O. Box 76, Yellville, AR 72687 (jeffr50@yahoo.com.) Jeff accepts poems by email.

2016 Arkansas Collegiate Poetry Contest

Sponsored by Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA)

(<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>)

Entry Period January 1, 2016 – March 15, 2016

CONTEST GUIDELINES

WHO: Arkansas college students, ages 18-25, are invited to participate in PRA's first statewide poetry contest for college poets. Applicants must be Arkansas residents, currently enrolled in Arkansas colleges and universities. Proof of age, residency and enrollment is required. The March 15, 2016 postmark deadline will be used as the qualifying date for the age requirement.

WHAT: Students may choose any subject for their poem. Please submit one entry per poet in Free Verse form, within 40 lines. Vulgar language will be disqualified.

WHEN: Entries will be accepted January 1, 2016 through March 15, 2016 (postmarked). Winners will be announced in April.

WHERE: Winners will be invited to receive their awards at PRA's Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration in April at El Dorado, Arkansas. Checks will be mailed to winners who cannot attend.

WHY: Applicants will receive an introductory one-year membership in Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, plus the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Both are non-profit organizations that sponsor poetry contests, educational conferences and networking opportunities for poets throughout the year. PRA Branches are located all over the state and meet monthly with interested poets. NFSPS membership offers poets access to other state poetry organizations and contests. (See more at: <http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org> and www.nfsps.com.)

HOW: Prizes will be awarded for: 1st Place \$500, 2nd Place \$300, and 3rd Place \$200. There will be no Honorable Mentions or critiques. Judges' decisions will be final. Winners' qualifications will be verified before prizes are awarded. Winners may elect to be published in PRA's next anthology and those published will receive a free copy.

RULES: Arkansas residents, ages 18-25, currently enrolled in Arkansas colleges and universities may enter one poem between January 1, 2016 and March 15, 2016 (postmark deadline). Entries must include: a completed contest entry form, proof of age, residency, and current enrollment in an Arkansas college, plus the student's home and school mail and email addresses. The entry fee is \$15. Poem subject – Any; Form – Free Verse; Line Limit – 40; Font – Times New Roman (size 12). Send two copies of the poem, one with no identifying information, one with name/address/email in the top right corner. Poems will not be returned. Incomplete submissions will be disqualified. By submitting a poem, you are declaring that it is your own original work. Plagiarism will be disqualified.

Mail complete submissions to: Stephen Johnson, PRA Collegiate Contest Chair, 93 Old Tracy Road, Mountain Home, AR 72653. Questions may be submitted also to Stephen at 870-425-8963 (home), 870-405-2846 (cell), or watermarkstudio@hotmail.com.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

Poetry Day Winners 2015

Overall Results: A total of 837 poems were entered this year in 26 contests. These totals were up 42% from last year's 588 entries in 23 contests, and up 35% from totals in 2013. Sixty poets – 45 PRA members and 15 non-members - participated with an average of 14 entries each. Eighty two percent of the poems came from members. Entries came from 14 states and Canada, including: Arkansas, Michigan, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Alabama, California, Illinois, Maryland, Utah, Mississippi, Texas, Missouri, Oregon, Tennessee, and Canada. Contests received an average of 32 entries each. Five poets entered all contests for which they were eligible.

1. **Sybil Nash Abrams Award** – Sponsor: Nash Abrams Family. Chair: Jim Barton. Judge: Budd Powell Mahan of Dallas, TX. – 14 entries
Judge's comments: "This was one of the most difficult contests I have ever judged."
1st – "The Jesse James Shoot-out" – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
2nd – "How Laws Create Disorder" – Don Crowson, Benton, AR
3rd – "Arkansas Law and Disorder: The Mary Lee Orsini Case" - Linda Woodbury, Hot Springs, AR
1HM "The Silent Spring" – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne, AR
2HM – "A Serious Case for Moonshine: Arkansas Farmers –1920s-1930s" - Laura Loughridge, Maumelle, AR
3HM – "The Hangin' Judge" – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
2. **Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Award** – Sponsor & Chair: Paula Marinoni. Judge: Linda Tappmeyer of Bolivar, MO. – 36 entries
Judge's comments: None
1st – "Spring Cleaning" – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne, AR
2nd – "Private Language" – Karen Hayes, North Little Rock, AR
3rd – "Battle Deathcon" – Laura Loughridge, Maumelle, AR
1HM – "What Became of the Milkman?" – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
2HM – "Yucca" – Pat Laster, Benton, AR
3HM – "Spring in a Trashy Trailer Park" – Lee Ann Russell, Springfield, MO
3. **Jeanie Carter Memorial Award** – Sponsor & Chair: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs. Judge: Linda Woodbury of Hot Springs, AR – 29 entries
Judge's comments: None
1st – "Magic of Night" – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
2nd – "Mother's Other Children" – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
3rd – "Waiting in Mercy Hospital" – Laura Loughridge, Maumelle, AR
1HM – "April Expose'" – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
2HM – "Arrowheads" – Jim Barton, Huttig, AR
3HM – "Gabrielle" – Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
4. **Roundtable of Hot Springs Award** – Sponsor & Chair: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs. Judge: John Crawford of Arkadelphia, AR – 32 entries
Judge's comments: "Very good poems – difficult to distinguish the best six."

- 1st – “On Chocolate and Sex” – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
- 2nd – “Beatle Mania” – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne, AR
- 3rd – “For My Soldier (July1944)” – D. Beecher Smith, II, Memphis, TN
- 1HM – “Granddad” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
- 2HM – “Haying in June” – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
- 3HM – “The After Life” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR

5. **Mildred McKinney Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Mildred McKinney of Camden, AR – 32 entries
Judge’s comments: None

- 1st – “Aging With Grace” – Rita Goodgame, Little Rock, AR
- 2nd – “Grace Through Inward Peace” – Don Crowson, Benton, AR
- 3rd – “The Key” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
- 1HM – “Holding Hands” – Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
- 2HM – “A Mother’s Day Bouquet” – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
- 3HM – “Beyond Her Youth” – Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

6. **Lyric Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Delores Hinde of Hot Springs, AR – 14 entries
Judge’s comments: “I took on a very difficult job, so many wonderful entries, for even the ones I had to leave out were good.”

- 1st – “Ballad of Rush Valley” – Bethel Kymes, Hot Springs, AR
- 2nd – “A Valid Salad Ballad” – Jo Lightfoot, Lowell, AR
- 3rd – “Awake” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
- 1HM – “Class Reunion” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
- 2HM – “Ghosts of Love” – Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
- 3HM – “When Trouble Rises” – John Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR

7. **Sharp Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Cathy Moran of Little Rock, AR – 46 entries
Judge’s comments: “Enjoyed reading all the poems.”

- 1st – “The Man in the Mirror” – Patricia Oplinger, Cherokee Village, AR
- 2nd – “The Fisherman” – Kitty Smith, Batesville, AR
- 3rd – “Another Leaving” – Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD
- 1HM – “How Cold This Night” – Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR
- 2HM – “Island of the White Cow” – Cat Donnelly, Fayetteville, AR
- 3HM – “Petra’s Shadow” – Rita Goodgame, Little Rock, AR

8. **Opal Jane & Harry O’Neal Memorial Award** – Sponsor & Chair: Ben H. O’Neal III. Judge: Lucille Morgan Wilson of Des Moines, IA – 44 entries

Judge’s comments: “It was a great bunch of poems, difficult to select just the winners.”

- 1st – “Soul Song” - Dr. Emory Jones, Iuka, MS
- 2nd – “Camping In New Mexico 1957” – Kate Lacy, Fayetteville, AR
- 3rd – “Pulling Me Under” – Cat Donnelly, Fayetteville, AR
- 1HM – “Equis – Spirit Horse” – Rita Goodgame, Little Rock, AR
- 2HM – “How a Stranger Fit” – Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
- 3HM – “As the Curtain Goes Up” – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR

9. **Opal Jane & Harry O'Neal Humor Award** – Sponsor & Chair: Ben H. O'Neal III. Judge: Dee Bowlin of Roanoke, VA – 44 entries
Judge's comments: "What a joy to judge The Humor Award contest! Congratulations to everyone who entered for finding their lighter side and giving me the opportunity to giggle my way through the entries. Well done!"
1st – "If 'I' Won a Million" – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
2nd – "January Alarm" – Patricia Oplinger, Cherokee Village, AR
3rd – "Cook's Dilemma" – Lee Ann Russell, Springfield, MO
1HM – "Supply and Demand" – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
2HM – "The Dentist" – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
3HM – "How to Distinguish a Frog from a Poem" – Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada
10. **"Poetry for Fun" Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Dennis Patton of Alexander, AR – 45 entries
Judge's comments: None.
1st – "Racing Home" – LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
2nd – "It's More Fun to Win" – Don Crowson, Benton, AR
3rd – "Mama and Pasta" – Jo Lightfoot, Lowell, AR
1HM – "Playful Spring" – Dr. Emory Jones, Iuka, MS
2HM – "More things should be purple" – Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD
3HM – "Critics Reward" – Lee Ann Russell, Springfield, MO
11. **Malvern Poet Etheree Armstrong Memorial** – Sponsor & Chair: Catherine Rutherford. Judge: Julie George of Muskegon, MI – 34 entries
Judge's comments: Arkansas poets gave me some great examples from which to choose. It was my honor to participate in this year's contest.
1st – "No Longer Lonely" – LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
2nd – "Of poodles and poems" – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
3rd – "American Pride" – Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR
1HM – "Scene in the Judean Desert" – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
2HM – "Long After Noah" – Karen Hayes, North Little Rock, AR
3HM – "Skiff" – Kathleen McClung, San Francisco, CA
12. **Bobby J. Hayes Memorial Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Karen Hayes of North Little Rock, AR – 28 entries
Judge's comments: "What a gift to read these entries."
1st – "another wobbly day" – Pat Durmon, Norfolk, AR
2nd – "Flesh Trap" – Stephen Johnson, Mountain Home, AR
3rd – "Triple Impact" – Patricia Oplinger, Cherokee Village, AR
1HM – "Mixed Messages" – Jo Lightfoot, Lowell, AR
2HM – "Remembering" – Cat Donnelly, Fayetteville, AR
3HM – "Uncle Irving Who Never Arrived" – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
13. **L.C. & Pat Bridges Award** – Sponsor & Chair: L.C. & Pat Bridges. Judge: Laura Loughridge of Maumelle, AR – 31 entries
Judge's comments: None
1st – "The Dogwood Tree" – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR

- 2nd – “The Body of Christ” – Don Crowson, Benton, AR
- 3rd – “Leaving My Fingerprint” – Elizabeth Dail, Norfork, AR
- 1HM – “The Sea We Sail” – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR
- 2HM – “Joy in the Morning” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
- 3HM – “Church” – Catherine Parker, Alexander, AR

14. **A Tribute to Miller Williams** – Sponsor, Chair & Judges: Poets Northwest of Fayetteville, AR – 34 entries

Judge’s comments:

- 1st – “He Took the Time” – Stephen Johnson, Mountain Home, AR
- 2nd – “Souvenir Corkscrew” – Kathleen McClung, San Francisco, CA
- 3rd – “Time Spent” – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
- 1HM – “Lunch Time” – Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2HM – “Coming Back” – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
- 3HM – “At Midnight” – Monterey Sirak, Melbourne, AR

15. **Teresa Dawn Dixon Memorial Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Jim Barton of Huttig, AR – 39 entries

Judge’s comments: “I enjoyed reading all these poems.”

- 1st – “In my dream” – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
- 2nd – “Dream Interrupted” – Eileen Malone, Broadmoor Village, CA
- 3rd – “When Old Men Dream” – Don Crowson, Benton, AR
- 1HM – “The Toll-Taker’s Nightmare” – Kathleen McClung, San Francisco, CA
- 2HM – “Again Last Night” – Karen Hayes, North Little Rock, AR
- 3HM – “Do They Dream?” – Pat Laster, Benton, AR

16. **Camp Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Laura Loughridge of Maumelle, AR – 27 entries

Judge’s comments: None.

- 1st – “The Path” – Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD
- 2nd – “A winter forest” – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
- 3rd – “The River at Smith Homestead” – Cat Donnelly, Fayetteville, AR
- 1HM – “Trail of Peace” – Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
- 2HM – “Diosa del Lago” – Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
- 3HM – “After a Day in the Piney Woods” – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

17. **Jeanie Carter-Nina Tillery Memorial Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Pat Laster of Benton, AR – 45 entries

Judge’s comments: “(It was a) difficult job!!”

- 1st – “Working in the Garden” – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
- 2nd – “Harper Lee Was Wrong” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
- 3rd – “Verla Jo Nelson” – Patricia Oplinger, Cherokee Village, AR
- 1HM – “Two Plus Two Equals Five” – Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR
- 2HM – “Nature’s Spirit” – Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
- 3HM – “All the silent marks” – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR

18. **“What Happened to Papa?”** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Rita Goodgame of Little Rock, AR – 22 entries

Judge’s comments: None

- 1st – “Dreams of My Father as a Tree” – Jim Barton, Huttig, AR
- 2nd – “Waiting for the Ferryman” – Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD
- 3rd – “Poppa Conway” – Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
- 1HM – “Viewing Inheritance Through Purple Haze” – Geneva King Emerson, Smithville, AR
- 2HM – “Joy at the Park” – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
- 3HM – “Ashes to Oops!” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

19. **Roxie H. Wilson Honorary Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Betty Heidelberger of Lexa, AR – 28 entries

Judge’s comments: None

- 1st – “They Walk Among Us” – Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
- 2nd – “Lunchroom Laura” – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
- 3rd – “Instead of Flowers, Let Me Say This” – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
- 1HM – “In Tribute” – LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
- 2HM – “Angel in Old Boots” – Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK
- 3HM – “Wings for Jon” – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

20. **Annetta Beauchamp Memorial Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judges: Delta Poets of Helena, AR – 37 entries

Judge’s comments: None

- 1st – “Buck” – Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
- 2nd – “Number Nine” – Karen Hayes, North Little Rock, AR
- 3rd – “Pepper” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey, Little Rock, AR
- 1HM – “To A Pushy Cat” – LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
- 2HM – “Little Feller” – Don Crowson, Benton, AR
- 3HM – “What Toy Taught about Love” – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

21. **Florence M. Gibbs Memorial Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Betty Heidelberger of Lexa, AR – 17 entries

Judge’s comments: None

- 1st – “Maxwell Motors Advertisement, 1910” – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN
- 2nd – “A Special Ride” – Bethel Kymes, Hot Springs, AR
- 3rd – “Queen of Speed” – Fay Guinn, Jonesboro, AR
- 1HM – “”Old Cars, Old Guys, Old Flames” – Jo Lightfoot, Lowell, AR
- 2HM – “Rolling Along” – Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
- 3HM – “I Remember Grandma Cussin” – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR

22. **Dictionary Scramble** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Jim Barton of Huttig, AR – 30 entries

Judge’s comments: “There is so much talent in PRA and other groups.”

- 1st – “Frozen in Time” – Geneva King Emerson, Smithville, AR
- 2nd – “Extra-sensory Perception” – Pat Laster, Benton, AR
- 3rd – “Poke Was Made For Paint” – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR
- 1HM – “Olympus in my backyard” – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR
- 2HM – “The Collector” – Kathleen McClung, San Francisco, CA
- 3HM – “Farewell, Fallen Hero” – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

23. **Crowson Award** – Sponsor, Chair & Judge: Don Crowson of Benton, AR – 37 entries

Judge's comments: "Entries in this contest were very good. Those who did not win should continue submitting their poems in other contests."

1st – "Things She Stored" – Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

2nd – "Singing to the Soul" – Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, UT

3rd – "Carats of Light" – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

1HM – "Nature's Inspiration" – Marilyn Joyner, El Dorado, AR

2HM – "Friends of the Library" – Lee Ann Russell, Springfield, MO

3HM – "Bladder Control in Heat" – Jim Barton, Huttig, AR

24. **South Arkansas Poets of the Pines** – Sponsor, Chair & Judges: South Arkansas Poets of the Pines – 26 entries

Judge's comments: None

1st – "A Confluence of Poets" – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

2nd – "The Book Gallery" – Elizabeth Dail, Norfolk, AR

3rd – "Museums of Books . . . or Libraries" – Laura Loughridge, Maumelle, AR

1HM – "The Clinton Center" – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey, Little Rock, AR

2HM – "Do Libraries Have More Than One" – Dennis Patton, Alexander, AR

3HM – "Closed Library" – Eileen Malone, Broadmoor Village, CA

25. **Longstreth Memorial** – Sponsor, Chair and Judge: Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey of Little Rock, AR – 26 entries

Judge's comments: None

1st – "A Tough, Old Bridge" – Freeda Baker Nichols, Clinton, AR

2nd – "The Bridge" – Jim Barton, Huttig, AR

3rd – "Thoughts from the bridge" – Cathy Moran, Little Rock, AR

1HM – "Gap on the Oral Interstate" – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

2HM – "The Greatest Bridge Is Love" – John Crawford, Arkadelphia, AR

3HM – "The Footbridge" – Pat Laster, Benton, AR

26. **Mary Mulane Memorial** – Sponsor, Chair & Judges: Saline County Branch of Arkansas – 40 entries

Judge's comments: None

1st – "At a Country Poetry Reading" – Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

2nd – "More Than Sacks and Strings" – Karen Kay Bailey, Blanchard, OK

3rd – "Letter Home" – Sara Gipson, Scott, AR

1HM – "The Family Meeting" – Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

2HM – "Black Butterfly" – Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

3HM – "Get Real" – Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR

Submitted by Donna Smith, Arkansas Poetry Day Contest Chair - 2015.

Spring 2016 Poetry Contests For Middle & High School Students

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

Founded in 1931

Poets Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of poetry. We exist to foster and encourage poets in the arts, promote an appreciation of poetry in the community and to secure a fuller recognition of the works of contemporary poets in the state of Arkansas. PRA is part of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Each year, PRA promotes poetry contests for middle and high school students with cash prizes. These contests are FREE to enter.

Poetsroundtableofarkansas.org

NFSPS.com



SYBIL NASH ABRAMS MEMORIAL STUDENT CONTEST
POETRY CONTESTS FOR ARKANSAS STUDENTS
GRADES 6 - 8 (JUNIOR DIVISION) • GRADES 9 - 12 (SENIOR DIVISION)

No entry fee • Any subject, any form, 24 line limit

Rules:

1. **Deadline: March 1, 2016** (Postmark) • *Please do not submit entries before January 1, 2016*
2. **Awards for Senior Division:** First - \$50; Second - \$30; Third - \$20; Three Honorable Mentions - receive books.
• **Awards for Junior Division:** First - \$30; Second - \$15; Third - \$10; Three Honorable Mentions - receive books.
3. **Submit one poem (two copies)** neatly typed or handwritten. Poem must be student's original work: published or unpublished; prized or un-prized. No poem will be returned. Be sure to keep a copy.
4. On one copy only, put student's name, complete mailing address, telephone number, age, grade, teacher contact, and school. **On this same copy, student must certify his/her poem by writing: *My poem has not been copied in whole or part from another authors work, including poems on the Internet.* Sign your name.** Put no identification on the second copy.
5. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be considered for publication in Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas Semi-Annual Anthology at no expense to poets. A free anthology will be sent to the student.
6. Mail to Laura Loughridge / Student Chairman / 102 Oakridge Cove / Maumelle, AR 72113



**KEEP
CALM
AND
WRITE
POEMS**

Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest

2015 annual competition

Sponsored by National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

- 1. There are two divisions: Grade 6-8 (Junior Division) and Grades 9-12 (Senior Division).** Poems may have been printed and/or have won previous awards.
- 2. The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6 – 12.** Public, private and homeschools are eligible.
- 3. Submit two copies of each poem.** Put the division (junior or senior) in the upper left corner of both copies. One copy must have student's ID in upper right corner. The ID information is student name, school name and address, student grade level, and the student's language arts/English teacher's name. The second copy must not have ID information. Do not send a copy with any other marking.
- 4. Each poem must be neatly typed or computer-generated, and have no more than 30 lines (any subject, any form).** If a poem continues more than one page, staple the pages together. Do not staple the two copies of the poem together.
- 5. There should be no large or unusual fonts or illustrations.** Times New Roman is the suggested font. No font larger than 12 point should be used. Winning poems are scanned for the award anthology and large and/or unusual fonts impede the process.
- 6. Each entrant must make a declaration of originality.** The statement should appear on the bottom of the ID copy only. The form below is acceptable:

I certify that this poem is my original work, and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poems in print or posted on the Internet.

Signed: _____

8. Entries must be received by February 5, 2016.

9. Mail to Laura Loughridge, Arkansas Student Chairman, 102 Oakridge Cove, Maumelle, AR 72113

Ten prizes will be awarded in each division: First Place - \$75, Second Place - \$50, Third Place - \$40, Fourth Place - \$35, Fifth Place - \$30, and five Honorable Mentions - \$10 each. All winning poems will be published in the Manningham Trust Poetry Student Award Anthology. Winners will receive complimentary copies. This is a national contest judged by a national judge. Ten entries from each division will be submitted from Arkansas.



NFSPS ANNUAL STUDENT CONTEST

Subject: *Any*. Form: *Any*, 32 line limit.

1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20, 7 Honorable Mentions: \$5 each. **No entry fee required.** *Open only to students in Grades 9 through 12. Include grade with name and summer mailing address or email address on second copy only.*

How to submit poems:

- a. Send **two** clear copies of the poem, typed, photocopied, or computer-generated, on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper (no onionskin or tissue) in black ink, **single-spaced**. If poem is over one page, staple together all pages of each copy. NFSPS prefers Times Roman 12pt font.
- b. On **both** copies, place number and name of contest in upper **left** corner.
- c. On **second copy only**, put name and address, phone number, and e-mail address of poet in upper **right** corner. If a poem is over one page, number pages also on upper right corner (both copies).
- d. Mail all entries at one time, unfolded, in a large envelope. Mail to the Contest Chair by First Class, Priority Mail or any form of delivery that does NOT require a signature upon receipt.

Mail entries to:
NFSPS Contest Chairman
Charlotte Abernathy
1375 Greenmeadows Way
Ashland, Oregon 97520

All entries received with postage due will be returned for proper postage.

NFSPS, Inc. will not assume mailing costs and will NOT be responsible for any entries lost or delayed in the mail. This is a national contest and will be judged by a national judge. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2016. They may not be postmarked before January 1, 2016.

