

# **NEWS 'N' NOTES**

## **Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas**

Founded February 5, 1931

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

Like us on Facebook!

**November 2017**

### **President's Address:**

On this October morning, as I look out the window, I am amazed at how fast the year is running its course. Leaves are turning colors and turning loose. Temperature reading of 38 makes it hard to go for a morning walk. It is a favorite time because, as heat of summer is overtaken with chilly nights of fall, Nature changes wardrobe and delights our eyes with such beauty that we cannot help but write. I hope it inspires you as well.

Thank you to River Market for our Poetry Day meeting at the Butler Center. Bryan Borland was featured speaker and is an outstanding poet. He provided readings from his books and poetry that won national awards. He also critiqued selected poetry from PRA members. We enjoyed seeing members from far ends of the state as well as lunch at the River Market. To prove life is real and humor is everywhere, one member stopped to call from the far end of the parking lot thinking she was lost. A group of us was at the doorway waiting for the center to open. We probably looked like, uh, well, poets as we laughed and waved to get her attention. That set the tone for our meeting.

As a reminder, we have much to do as the year ends and the new one begins. We are asking you to help get the information out to schools and colleges so students will have time to work on contest entries over the holidays. Enjoy the holidays, covet the time with family, and write.

Life is too short to be without poetry.

Dennis

### **Poetry Day Conference, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Little Rock:**

Our thanks to Poetry Day Chair Cathy Moran and PRA's River Market Branch for hosting this year's event on October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock. Each year the Governor issues a proclamation for Poetry Day in Arkansas, and PRA honors past Arkansas Poet Laureate Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni who established the first Arkansas Poetry Day on October 15, 1948. Featured speaker was Bryan Borland, poet, author, editor, Pushcart nominee, and winner of numerous honors. For critiquing poems he adapted *Revision Tricks* by Carmen Gimenez Smith. (For example, try reading from the bottom up to see your poem differently.) President Dennis Patton presented PRA's 2017 Merit Award to Kate Lacy of Fayetteville. Our congratulations to Kate who serves as PRA's Membership Chair, leader of PRA's online group, participant in numerous committees, and President of the Poets Northwest branch. A business meeting followed lunch. Then Poetry Day Contest Chair Liz Faulkner announced the winners. (See attached list also posted on PRA's website.) Our thanks to Liz for coordinating this year's competition of 945 entries from all over the United States and Canada.

### **Board Meeting Highlights of 10/21/17:**

**2018 Annual Events** - In 2018 PRA will host both annual events in centrally located Little Rock. The Spring Celebration is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>, and Poetry Day will be held in October on a date to be decided. All members are invited to help with the hosting. To volunteer your help contact PRA President Dennis Patton at [patton\\_dr@hotmail.com](mailto:patton_dr@hotmail.com).

**2017 Arkansas State Fair** - PRA again sponsored the *Best-of-Show* winners in poetry contests at the Arkansas State Fair in October. The adult category winner was John McPherson. He will receive a \$25 check and a year's free membership in PRA. The winners' list is attached and posted on the PRA website.

**2018 Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Contest** – Contest Chair Donna Smith asks all members to help distribute contest materials to every college in the state. Information (attached) is on the website and will be emailed to members in November. This outreach also includes information on the NFSPS College Undergraduate Competition.

## **2018 Middle and High School Student Contests –**

Chair Laura Loughridge asks all members to help distribute contest materials statewide in November. President Dennis Patton requested that each branch help contact schools in their area. If members know teachers or students at local schools, please try to reach them directly. Information is posted on PRA's website and will be emailed to members this month.

**Sybil Abrams Smith Memorial** - A member of the benefactor family for PRA's annual Sybil Nash Abrams Award – Sybil Abrams Smith – passed away August 27<sup>th</sup>. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to Pulaski County Historical Society, Humane Society of Pulaski County, or First United Methodist Church of Little Rock. PRA Treasurer Jim Barton has received \$285 in memorial contributions from members. A motion was passed for PRA to donate it to the Pulaski County Historical Society. Jim will continue to accept contributions.

**Board Member Change:** Board Member at Large Helene Stallcup moved to Rogers, Arkansas and had to resign. Donna Smith volunteered to serve in her role.

**Did You Know?** PRA members are NFSPS members too, with access to other state & national contests.

### **Notes from Jim, NFSPS President:**

Jim Barton was delighted to hear a "Yes!" from renowned poet and author Jo McDougall, his first appointee for NFSPS Honorary Chancellor. McDougall, a native Arkansan, has lived, worked and taught throughout the Midwest. Her poetry touches the heart. Her books have been published by the *University of Arkansas Press*, among others. She has been inducted into the *Arkansas Writers Hall of Fame*, won the *Arkansas Porter Prize*, received numerous national awards, and shared her poems through publications across the country. Jo also has joined PRA. Welcome! See more on Jo in the NFSPS newsletter at [nfsp.com](http://nfsp.com).

### **Yearbook Updates for July 2017 - June 2018:**

Helene Stallcup has moved from Conway to Rogers. Her new email is [helene.stallcup@gmail.com](mailto:helene.stallcup@gmail.com).

Welcome new members: Sylvia Alderton of Bella Vista, Douglas Bruffett of Mountain Home, J.B. Hoffsommer of Van Buren, Emory Jones of Mississippi, Dewayne Keirn of West Fork, LaDeana Mullinix of Farmington, Joyce Murray of Springdale, Mike Pafundi of Sherwood, Danna Ray of Fayetteville, Annette Rowe of Lincoln, Lois Turley of Ft. Smith, Greg Zeck of Fayetteville, and Jo McDougall of Little Rock.

**Online Group:** PRA members, if you're not attending a branch consider joining the Online Group. Contact Kate Lacy at [voicedancer2002@yahoo.com](mailto:voicedancer2002@yahoo.com). New participants are always welcome.

**Anthology Research:** PRA's board is studying materials provided in June by Kate Lacy and Mark Barton on continuing PRA's anthology. The Board hopes to reach a conclusion on any changes in its January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The anthology will not be published in 2017. If you would like to donate past anthologies to complete PRA's series at Arkansas State Archives, Arkansas State Library, and the Butler Center, please contact PRA President Dennis Patton, PRA Historian Marilyn Joyner or PRA Board Member at Large Donna Smith.

### **Farewell to Sybil Abrams Smith (1925 – 2017)**

Sybil Abrams Smith of Little Rock passed away August 27<sup>th</sup>. She was a member of the benefactor-family for PRA's annual Sybil Nash Abrams Award. She was born Nov. 25, 1925, the third child and only daughter of Charles W. and Sybil Nash Abrams. She graduated from Little Rock Central High School, where she later taught school. She met and married Julian Eidson Smith, when he returned to Arkansas after his discharge from the Army Air Corps. They were life partners for 68 years and raised three daughters. She attended Henderson State Teachers College during WWII, and later earned her BA and M Ed degrees from UALR and UCA while raising her family. She treasured her family and felt her children were her greatest accomplishment. Her passions included saving the environment, care-taking animals and gardens, and serving her community in various roles. She served as an Alderman in Cammack Village, President of the Pulaski County Historical Society, Board Member for Goodwill Industries of Arkansas, Executive Director of Common Cause in Arkansas, member of Daughters of the American Revolution, active member of her church, and a gifted reviewer in several book clubs. She and her husband Julian enjoyed dancing and traveling the world together, through 70 countries and 5 continents. Sybil Smith is survived by her husband Julian, 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, her beloved brother Nash Abrams, and many extended family and friends. PRA extends our sincerest sympathies to her family and friends.

### **Poetic Wins, Activities & Publications:**

**Please send notice of activities & accomplishments to PRA News Editor Donna Smith, 58 Briarwood, Greenbrier, AR 72058 ([tndsmith@live.com](mailto:tndsmith@live.com)).**

PRA Monthly Contest winners are: **August** - 1<sup>st</sup> Barbara Blanks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Moran, 3<sup>rd</sup> Donna Henson, 1HM LaVern McCarthy, 2HM Harding Stedler, 3HM John McPherson; **September** – 1<sup>st</sup> Cat Donnelly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cathy Moran, 3<sup>rd</sup> John McPherson, 1HM John Han, 2HM Kathryn Lacy, 3HM Barbara Blanks.

Elizabeth Dail (Baxter County Poets) won four poetry awards at the Baxter County Fair: 1<sup>st</sup> for "Dying By My Word", and 1<sup>st</sup> for "Do Not Look for Me", which also won the Judge's Choice and Best-of-Show.

Siloam Springs Writers Guild's August winners are Rachel Kulp (1<sup>st</sup>) and Rosemary Matthews (2<sup>nd</sup>).

Best of Show Winners in the 2017 Arkansas State Fair Poetry Contests were judged and announced by Contest Chair Donna Smith in October. John McPherson of Searcy was the Adult Division winner of \$25 plus a 1-year PRA membership. Grace Rew of North Little Rock was the Senior Youth Division winner of \$25 plus a PRA Certificate. And Carlee Nguyen of Wynne was the Junior Youth Division winner of \$15 plus a PRA Certificate. PRA prizes are awarded in addition to the State Fair ribbons and prizes. PRA also sent press releases to the Best-of-Show winners' hometown newspapers and the statewide Arkansas Democrat Gazette after the fair. See attached list of all State Fair poetry winners, also posted on PRA's website.

Laura Loughridge (River Market Poets) helped judge a contest with Professor H.K. Hummel from UALR during the Arkansas Literary Festival.

Kate Lacy (Poets Northwest) judged the 2017 Poem of the Year Awards for the Siloam Springs Writers Guild. Winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Rachel Kulp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ted Weathers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Kent Wyatt.

Cathy Moran (River Market Poets) recently won from: Louisiana two 1<sup>sts</sup>, one 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ohio 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>; Mid-South three 1<sup>sts</sup>, four HMs: Massachusetts 1<sup>st</sup>, two 2<sup>nds</sup>; and White County Writers 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thomas Long won 3 awards from the Ozark Creative Writers Conference: 2<sup>nd</sup> for Flash Fiction, 2<sup>nd</sup> for a Historical Poem, and 3<sup>rd</sup> for Best First Chapter.

Two Rivers Poetry members are happy to announce that Dewey's Café is holding Open Mic Night, November 16th, at 7PM and every third Thursday at Fort Smith's main library on Rogers Avenue. All are welcome to perform five minutes of poetry, prose, or music.

Also at Fort Smith's main library, River Valley Writers' critique group *Kindly Kritics* welcomes both prose and poetry writers twice monthly on Mondays at 6PM. They meet next on November 13th and 27th.

FYI - Ozark Poets and Writers Collective meets each last Tuesday of the month at Nightbird Books, 205 Dickson Street in Fayetteville and features regional and nationally acclaimed writers. Check them out.

### **Upcoming Deadlines/Events/Contests**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each Month:** PRA's Monthly Contest entries are due by mail to Chair Jodi Tooke, 331 Beach Haven Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913. See PRA's yearbook and website for rules, plus links to resources on poetry forms.

**November:** Junior/Senior High and College Student contests will be distributed this month. PRA branches are asked to help promote these contests in their area. See details attached and posted on PRA's website.

**November 15:** Illinois State Poetry Society Contest entry deadline. See details at [www.illinoispoets.org](http://www.illinoispoets.org).

**November 17-18:** *Ozarks Writers League Conference* is November 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> in Branson, Missouri at the Honeysuckle Inn, 3598 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway. See details at [ozarkswritersleague.com](http://ozarkswritersleague.com).

**November 30:** Deadline for entries in the Poetry Society of Oklahoma's Annual Spring Contest. See details at [angelfire.com/poetry/psoc](http://angelfire.com/poetry/psoc).

**December 1:** *Chaparral Poetry Forum* entries due to Contest Chair Marie Tollstrup, 2280 South Bloomington Drive Unit6, St. George, UT 84790-6803. See details at [www.redrockwriters.org](http://www.redrockwriters.org).

**December 1:** *OzarksWatch Magazine* deadline to submit poems for the April 2018 publication. See details at [Ozarkswatch.missouristate.edu](http://Ozarkswatch.missouristate.edu).

**December 5:** The *Nimrod International Journal* at the University of Tulsa is seeking poetry for their 2018 spring issue, *Let Us Gather: Diversity and the Arts*, by December 5<sup>th</sup>. For details see [www.utulsa.edu/nimrod](http://www.utulsa.edu/nimrod).

**December 15:** *Slab's 2018 Curry Poetry Prize Contest* is accepting submissions by December 15. First place wins \$600 and publication. \$10 entry. See details at [slablitmag.org](http://slablitmag.org).

**December 31:** *Tampa Review Prize* for poetry offers \$2,000 plus book publication, and portfolio in *Tampa Review* for previously unpublished manuscript by new or established poets. \$25 entry. Due December 31<sup>st</sup> to Tampa Review Prize, University of Tampa Press, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606. See details at [www.ut.edu/tampareview](http://www.ut.edu/tampareview).

**January 8, 2018:** Arkansas is the chosen state for the *2018 Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Awards* for poetry and prose sponsored by *Poets & Writers, Inc.* Deadline is January 8, 2018. Poetry manuscripts should be 7-10 pages. Published work may be included but not identified as published. See [pw.org](http://pw.org) for guidelines.

**January 15:** Deadline for photo entries to grace the cover of NFSPS's *2018 Encore Prize Poems*. (See 2016 and 2017 issues for examples.) Send 8x10 .jpg file photos to new Encore Editor Kathy Cotton at [kalcotton@gmail.com](mailto:kalcotton@gmail.com).

**January 15:** Postmark deadline for Pennsylvania Poetry Society's annual contests. See details at

nfsp.com/pa or submit questions to contest chair Vicky Fake-Weldon at dvweldon51@gmail.com.

**January 15:** Deadline for NFSPS College Undergraduate Poetry Competition (CUP). Free to undergraduates nationwide who are working toward a degree in an accredited U.S. college during the submission period. Entries must be submitted online via submittable.com and include 10 poems in a single Word or pdf file. Two winners will be announced at the 2018 NFSPS Conference in Denver, May 31-June 3. One will receive the Edna Meudt Memorial Award (\$500) and the other will receive the Florence Kahn Memorial Award (\$500). Both will receive a \$300 travel stipend to read their poems at the NFSPS conference, plus publication, 75 free chapbook copies, and marketing assistance through amazon.com, etc. See details attached, and posted on PRA's website and nfsp.com.

**February 2:** NFSPS nomination deadline for the 2018 *Beck Donovan Award*, a new national award honoring individual members for their service to the poetry community through ongoing work with younger poets. Check details at nfsp.com. Eligibility requirements are: 1) must be current member of an NFSPS member-state society, 2) must have contributed to the poetry community to help inspire younger poets, 3) must include a completed nomination form, and 4) must submit complete materials by February 2, 2018 (postmark or email). The award will be presented to the winner at the 2018 NFSPS convention in Denver, Colorado, May 31-June 3. See nfsp.com for details.

**February 5, 2018:** Happy 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday to PRA!

**February 28:** PRA's Poetry Day Contest Sponsor Forms due.

**March 15:** PRA's Spring Celebration contest entries due.

**March 15:** NFSPS annual contest entries due.

**March 15:** Deadline for PRA's Jeannie Dolan Carter Collegiate Contest entries. This is our second year for the statewide contest, thanks to our sponsor Roger Carter who has funded it in memorial to his wife Jeannie. Prizes are \$500 (1<sup>st</sup>), \$300 (2<sup>nd</sup>) and \$200 (3<sup>rd</sup>). Our participation level has grown each year, and

we are hoping for an even larger number of entries in 2018. The contest is free to students aged 18-25 who are currently attending accredited Arkansas colleges. Winners will receive their prizes and read their winning poems at the Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration on April 14<sup>th</sup> in Little Rock. See details attached and posted on PRA's website.

**April:** April is National Poetry Month. Celebrate!

**April 14:** Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration will be hosted by PRA in Little Rock's River Market area. More details to be announced.

**May 31-June 3:** NFSPS 2018 Convention in Denver, Colorado. Plan now to join the Columbine Poets of Colorado in the Mile High City. NFSPS President Jim Barton would love to see you there!

**June 30:** Deadline for PRA membership dues and information updates for new yearbook.

**August 15:** Deadline for PRA's Poetry Day contests entries.

**October:** Poetry Day 2018 will be hosted by PRA in Little Rock. More details to be announced.

**October 12-14:** Eureka Springs Writers' Conference celebrates its 51<sup>st</sup> annual Ozark Creative Writer's Conference, October 12 – 14<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs. Check the contest website for information.

PRA members receive the quarterly *News 'N Notes* via email and web posting. The NFSPS quarterly *Strophes* newsletter is available online via link from PRA's website. Members may request copies of both by postal mail. Branch Presidents are asked to assure that all members have access to these publications.

**For More Information -** Check PRA's website for updates on Arkansas activities and like us on Facebook. Also check the NFSPS web site (www.nfsp.com) for national news, contests, and links to other state poetry societies. Please alert PRA Membership Chair Kate Lacy with any changes in member contact information or branch meeting places/times/officers. PRA currently serves 124 members, 11 branches, and an online group.

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS'  
NATIONAL POETRY DAY CELEBRATION  
OCTOBER 21 2017  
LITTLE ROCK, AR

WINNERS LIST

Prepared by Liz Faulkner, contest chair, 2017

OVERALL RESULTS: A total of 945 poems were entered in 30 contests, the least number being 13; the most 49. Sixty-seven poets participated: Arkansas=44; AL=3; GA=1; IL=1; LA=1; MN=1; MS=3; OK=4; OR=1; TN=3; TX=2; Ontario, Canada=3.

30. The Beech Award - Sponsor & Judge: Beecher Smith, Memphis TN – 25 entries. Judge's Comments: *There were so many good poems that choosing the winners was extremely difficult but most enjoyable.*

3HM – “The Beach Boys Buffet Rule” – Charlie Southerland – Viola

2HM – “Block against a beech” – Mark Hudson – Evanston, IL

1HM – “Little Eyes” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Arkansas Yeti” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis, TN

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Lonely Moments” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1<sup>st</sup> – “Leaving Before You Wake” – Jim Barton – Huttig

29. Celia Marks Memorial Award – Sponsor and Judge: Patricia A. Oplinger – 22 entries. Judge's comments: *The many poetic formats, the strong images, the moods created, the weight and specificity of words – all were a joy to experience.*

3HM – “Heavy Sound of Silence” – Gail Denham – Sunriver OR

2HM – “Turning to Gold” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield, AL

1HM – “A Senior Poet” – Sara Gipson – Scott

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Never Too Old to Fly” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Past Sixty-Four” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

1<sup>st</sup> – “Still trying to grow” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

28. Baker Nichols – Sponsor & Judge: Freeda Baker Nichols – 13 entries.

3HM – “Old School, New School” – Kathy Helmer – Jacksonville

2HM – “Front Yard Snowman” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1HM – “Nature Walk” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Challenge” – Pat Laster – Benton

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Ocean Wish” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

1<sup>st</sup> – “Always in Love” – Helene Stallcup – Rogers

27. Betty Heidelberger – Sponsor: Anna Noack – Judge: Unlisted - 45 entries.

3HM – “Celestial Snacks” – Elizabeth Dail – Norfolk

2HM – “My mountain” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

1HM – “The Thinnest of Strings” – Jim Barton – Huttig

3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Letter “X” Complains to the Poet” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

2<sup>nd</sup> – “While She Slept” – Nick Sweet – Shepherd TX

1<sup>st</sup> – “While Children Play” – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

26. Florence Gibbs Memorial – Sponsor: Anna Noack – Judge: Stacy Pendergrast – Little Rock – 48 entries. Judge's comments: *Overall, I was impressed by the range of structures and subjects in this contest for "any form."*

3HM – "Living My Dream" – Kathy Helmer – Jacksonville

2HM – "Lobby Snapshot" – Dargan M. Ware – Birmingham AL

1HM – "Blue Fisher in the Shallows" – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

3<sup>rd</sup> – "Synesthesia" – Laura Trigg – Little Rock

2<sup>nd</sup> – "Gloves or bare hands?" – Pat Laster – Benton

1<sup>st</sup> – "Farmer" – Dennis Patton – Alexander

25. Gin Creek Poets Award – Sponsor & Judges: Gin Creek Poets – 19 entries. Judges' comments: *Several entrants did not understand the Luc Bat form.*

3HM – "Aborted Attempt" – Pat Laster – Benton

2HM – "Beneath the Harvest Moon" – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

1HM – "One More Cast" – Dennis Patton – Alexander

3<sup>rd</sup> – "When First I Saw Your Face" – Jim Barton – Huttig

2<sup>nd</sup> – "Up A Tree In Fall" – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

1<sup>st</sup> – "Visiting the Judean Desert" – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

24. River Poets of Batesville Award – Sponsor: River Poets of Batesville – Judge: Kitty Smith – 31 entries. Judge's comments: *They were all very good and I enjoyed the reading.*

3HM – "Mitchie" – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

2HM – "Is it too Late?" – Kathy Helmer – Jacksonville

1HM – "Margaret McCallahan" – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

3<sup>rd</sup> – "Jonah Gray" – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

2<sup>nd</sup> – "Bubba Johnson 1942 – 1981 – LaVern Spencer McCarthy – Blair OK

1<sup>st</sup> – "Epitaph" – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey – Little Rock

23. Two Rivers Poetry of Ft. Smith Award – Sponsor: Two Rivers Poetry of Fort Smith – Judge: Mary Sangster – 49 entries. Judge's comments: *Any one of the placing poems could have taken 1<sup>st</sup> place. Missing from the list but not from consideration is the improbable coalition of a great blue heron, a tiny red spider and a buzzard.*

3HM – "The Lady Doesn't Linger" – Faye Boyette Wise – Benton

2HM – "Details of a parallel universe" – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

1HM – "Wilderness, Canyonlands" – Lori Anne Goetz – Germantown TN

3<sup>rd</sup> – "Antarctic Paradise" – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

2<sup>nd</sup> – "Sunset on March Eighteenth" – Courtney Thrash – Rogers

1<sup>st</sup> – "When the Sky Sings" – Wendy Visser – Ontario Canada

22. Crowson Award – Sponsor & Judge: Don Crowson – 33 entries. Judge's comments: *The top six really made me laugh.*

3HM – "My Brakes Don't work" – Patricia Butkovich – Gautier MS

2HM – "Genie's Blue Machine" – John W. Crawford – Arkadelphia

1HM – "Whichever Way the Wind Blows" – Elizabeth Dail – Norfolk

3<sup>rd</sup> – "AP News: In Lichten Vourde, Netherlands" – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

2<sup>nd</sup> – "Fantasy" – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey – Little Rock

1<sup>st</sup> – "Senile or Not?" – Judy Davies – Gautier MS

21. Saline County Branch Award – Sponsor & Judges: Saline County Branch – 40 entries.

3HM – "Laureates" – Renee Ramsey – Floral AR

2HM – "The Red Chair" – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

1HM – “BeeDee’s” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “Cut” – Charlie Southerland – Viola  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “Isla Negra, Beach house of Pablo Neruda” – Kathy Helmer- Jacksonville  
1<sup>st</sup> – “A face in the crowd” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

20. That’s Life Award – Sponsor & Judge: Laura Loughridge – 24 entries. Judge’s comments: *Some wrote very personal aspects of their life while others put a humorous spin on life’s challenges and victories. It was very enjoyable to read the entries.*

3HM – “Order In The Court” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS  
2HM – “Love is the Final Result” – Dennis Patton – Alexander  
1HM – “Expect Trouble” – Gail Denham – Sunriver OR  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “Breaking Through” – Marla Bennett – Batesville  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “Harry Clears It All Up For Me” – Charlie Southerland – Viola  
1<sup>st</sup> – “Balancing it all out” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

19. Winklebleck’s Choice Award in memory of Mary Winklebleck – Sponsor & Judge: Barbara Blanks – Garland TX – 44 entries. Judge’s Comments: *The first place winner used metaphors and similes to take me on a restrained emotional journey. Second place came close.*

1HM – “She Can’t Sleep, But in a good Way” – Dennis Patton – Alexander  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “A One Time Show” – Rita Goodgame – Little Rock  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “You Committed Suicide” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk  
1<sup>st</sup> – “Livelihood of Lilies” – Wendy Visser – Ontario Canada

18. Marie Barton and Teresa Dixon Memorial – Sponsor & Judge: Jim Barton – 40 entries.

3HM – “The Japanese Maple” – Lori Anne Goetz – Germantown TN  
2HM – “Sacred Forest” – Rita Goodgame – Little Rock  
1HM – “Our Mulberry Tree” – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “This year I watch the trees” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “Atlantic Pistachio” – Becky Alexander – Ontario Canada  
1<sup>st</sup> – Let Me Visit the Maples! – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

17. SAPOP Award – Sponsor & Judges: South Arkansas Poets of the Pines – 24 entries. Comments: *We judged these as a group and the top three poems were very close.*

3HM – “The Performance” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock  
2HM – “I Hate Gardening” – John A. McPherson – Searcy  
1HM – “Neighborhood Garden Discovery” – Russell H. Strauss  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “Hope” – Lori Anne Goetz – Germantown TN  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “Accidental Elegance” – Patricia A. Oplinger – Cherokee Village  
1<sup>st</sup> – “Planting A Garden” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

16. Poets Northwest – Sponsor & Judges: Poets Northwest – 18 entries.  
Comments: *So sorry: 9 of the 18 entries did not comply with blank verse.*

3HM – “Mission Recovery” – Bethel Kymes – Hot Springs  
2HM – “Turning Point” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX  
1HM- “An Inherited Task” – Sara Gipson – Scott  
3<sup>rd</sup> – “Enabler” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN  
2<sup>nd</sup> – “Temptation” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL  
1<sup>st</sup> – “The Ring” – Patricia Butkovich – Gautier MS

15. All the Way Home – Sponsor & Judge: Helene Stallcup – 41 entries.

Judge's Comments: *Picking seven poems out of forty-one entries was a tremendous task, and choosing one, two three, four, five and six, almost impossible. We really have some good poets!*

3HM – “My World” – Jim Barton – Huttig

2HM – “On that dark and stormy night” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

1HM – “Carried Away On The Wind” – Geneva King Emerson – Smithville

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Welcome Home” – Judy Davies – Gautier MS

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Death of a Poet” – Diane Attwell Palfrey – Ontario Canada

1<sup>st</sup> – “Senses of Home” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

14. David Goodgame Memorial – Sponsor & Judge: Rita Goodgame – 19 entries

3HM – “My wife is making me get rid of my stuff’ Yard Sale” – Barbara Blanks - Garland TX

2HM – “Yard Sale” – Gail Denham – Sunriver OR

1HM – “The Last Saturday of the Month” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Letting go of things” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

2<sup>nd</sup> – “A Poet’s Garage Sale” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

1<sup>st</sup> – “The Old Book Buyer” – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

13. Dr. Seuss Memorial Award – Sponsor & Donor: Donna Smith – 31 entries.

Judge's Comments: *All entries were wonderfully creative stories with playful and visual language. It was difficult to select the top 6. Dr. Seuss would be proud.*

3HM – “Making The Bed In Bedville” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS

2HM – “Mary Had A Little Cat” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1HM – “Trees” – Jim Barton – Huttig

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Dinner Time Rhyme” – Nancy Cook – St. Paul MN

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Dog Play On Party Day” – Bethel Kymes – Hot Springs

1<sup>st</sup> – “Pancakes for Penguins” – Kathy Helmer – Jacksonville

12. L. C. and Pat Bridges Award – Sponsors: L. C. and Pat Bridges – Judges: L. C. and Pat Bridges and Laura Loughridge – 34 entries. Judges' Comments: *This contest is in its fourth year and it just keeps growing in entries. It is definitely a family affair between me and my parents. Thank you to the entrants who make this contest so fun to judge.*

3HM – “Jesus Fills Me Up” – Dargan M. Ware – Birmingham AL

2HM – “Joy in the Morning” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

1HM – “God’s Messengers” – Patricia Butkovich – Gautier MS

3<sup>rd</sup> – “A Golden Gift” – Rachel C. Kulp – Gentry

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Eyes” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

1<sup>st</sup> – “Sin Stumbled on God, Slipped in Blood” – Charlie Southerland – Viola

11. River Market Poets Award – Sponsor: River Market Poets – Judge: Deborah Fass – San Carlos CA – Judge's

Comments: *I was impressed and delighted by the river poems in this category. Judging from out of state, I could imagine the beauty of the rivers and understand the place they hold in the hearts of their residents. It was a joy to be immersed in these poems.*

3HM – “Riversong” – Jim Barton – Huttig

2HM – “Joining Forces” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

1HM – “My River” – Rita Goodgame – Little Rock

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Great Blue Heron” – Karen Kay Bailey - Blanchard OK

2<sup>nd</sup> – “The Buffalo in July” – Nancy Clark – Little Rock

1<sup>st</sup> – “Ghost River” – Lori Anne Goetz – Germantown TN



10. Sharp Award – Sponsor & Judge: Cathy Moran – 42 entries.

3HM – “Slurping” – Patricia A. Oplinger – Cherokee Village

2HM – “The City Is a Canvas” – Elizabeth Dail – Norfolk

1HM – “Screw, Bolt, And Nut: A Love Poem” – Greg Zeck – Fayetteville

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Welcome Change” – Faye Boyette Wise – Benton

2<sup>nd</sup> – “In Praise of the Pomegranate” – Karen Kay Bailey – Blanchard OK

1<sup>st</sup> – “Lonely Dog’s Moon” – Russell H. Strauss – Memphis TN

9. Opal Jane and Harry O’Neal Humor Award – Sponsor: Ben H. O’Neal III – Judge: Carroll Crolley – 27 entries.

3HM – “WGMT on the Radio Knob” – Jim Barton – Huttig

2HM – “Driving a Hard Bargain” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

1HM – “Driving the Dog Around, the Night Before She Is Spayed” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Driving Me Crazy” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS

2<sup>nd</sup> – “”The End of an Era” – Pat Laster – Benton

1<sup>st</sup> – “An Outing” – Marilyn Joyner – El Dorado

8. Opal Jane and Harry O’Neal Memorial Award – Sponsor: Ben H. O’Neal III – Judge: Alice Ann Munson – 35 entries.

2HM – “Baba Yaga” – Charlie Southerland – Viola

1HM – “I could marry the sky.” – Courtney Thrash – Rogers

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Songs of Solomon” – Diane Attwell Palfrey – Ontario Canada

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Sanguine” – Nancy Cook – St. Paul MN

1<sup>st</sup> – “The Joy of Rain” – Russell H. Strauss - Memphis TN

7. Rosa Zagnoni Marinoni Award – Sponsor & Judge: Pat Laster – 43 entries. Judge’s Comments: *Many of the poems sounded like prose divided into lines with no poetic devices used. Line endings need strong words. Single spacing is preferred.*

3HM – “Perfect Spring” – Vivian Barcroft – Johnson

2HM – “Peace At Day’s End” – Geneva King Emerson – Smithville

1HM - “Ruminations on Unlicensed Electric work in the Attic” – Greg Zeck – Fayetteville

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Stars Must Be Lonely” – Dargan Ware – Birmingham AL

2<sup>nd</sup> – “A look to far away” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

1<sup>st</sup> – “Hold Back This Night” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

6. I was thinking of you – Sponsor & Judge: Dennis Patton – 49 entries. Judge’s Comments: *It wasn’t easy to narrow the selections down to six.*

3HM – “Family Farm” – Jim Barton – Huttig

2HM – “My Gardener” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

3HM – “Forever Teens In My Memories” – Jerri Hardesty – Brierfield AL

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Finding the right place” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Royal Purple” – Becky Alexander – Ontario Canada

1<sup>st</sup> – “Thoughts of You” – Judy Davies – Gautier MS

5. Happiness is a Poem – Sponsor & Judges: Baxter County Poets’ Association – 30 entries. Judges’ Comments: *The Baxter County Poets’ Association would like to make this overall comment: “We are at a loss for words.”*

3HM – “The Day I Dyed” – LaVern Spencer McCarthy – Blair OK

2HM – “Requiem for an Obsolete Computer” – Judy Davies – Gautier MS

1HM – “Bad Hair Day” – Delores Hinde – Hot Springs

3<sup>rd</sup> - “Mama’s Snuff” – Freeda Baker Nichols – Clinton

2<sup>nd</sup> – “The Vixen Meets Her Match” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS

1<sup>st</sup> – “Baby and the Bad Boys” – Faye Boyette Wise – Benton

4. Pauline Brown Memorial – Sponsor: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs – Judge: Delores Hinde – 30 entries. Judge’s Comments: *Thank you, members of PRA, for 30 entries. I appreciate the participation and enjoyed reading them all!*

3HM – “October, Bon Voyage “ – Pat Laster – Benton

2HM – “Beware” – Faye Boyette Wise – Benton

1HM – “Forced Verse” – Jim Barton – Huttig

3<sup>rd</sup> – “Poolside Escape” – Kimberly M. Vernon – Pangburn

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Never Too Late” – Vivian Barcroft – Johnson

1<sup>st</sup> – “A Christmas Remembered” – Dennis Patton – Alexander

3. Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs – Sponsor: Roundtable Poets of Hot Springs – Judge: Jodi Tooke – Hot Springs – 22 entries. Judge’s Comments: *The wide range of subjects and varied styles made these poems a joy to read. Thank you to all the poets who sculpted passion and ideals into sonnets!*

3HM – “The English teacher pauses” – Cathy Moran – Little Rock

2HM – “The Persuasive Shepherd” – Barbara Blanks – Garland TX

1HM – “A Blond” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey – Little Rock

3<sup>rd</sup> – “A Kindergarten Tyrant” – Sara Gipson – Scott

2<sup>nd</sup> – “For Drake (My Boston Terrier): In Memoriam” – D. Beecher Smith, II - Memphis TN

1<sup>st</sup> – “Winter Love” – Vivian Barcroft – Johnson

2. Verna Lee Hinegardner Memorial – Sponsor & Judge: John W. Crawford – 20 entries. Judge’s Comments: *Writers must remember the exact metrical pattern in a poem of form, here 844, 844, 844. Also they should remember smoothness in reading the rhythm of the metrical line.*

3HM – “Empty Dreams” – Geneva King Emerson – Smithville

2HM – “A Certain Choice” – Vivian Barcroft - Johnson

1HM – “The Pages Turn” – Jim Barton – Huttig

3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Twelve-Year-Old” – Pat Laster – Benton

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Retirement Age” – Ann Carolyn Cates – Southaven MS

1<sup>st</sup> – “Sewing the Fabric of Life” – Karen Kay Bailey - Blanchard OK

1. Sybil Nash Abrams Award – Sponsor: Sybil Nash Abrams Trust – Judge: Eleanor Berry - Oregon – 13 entries. Judge’s Comments: *The challenge in this category is considerable – finding a way to incorporate material from research into a poem that has its own impulse and ordering principles, its own center of consciousness, and sustaining the poem and maintaining its interest over an appreciable length.*

*Having never been to Arkansas, I learned a good deal from all the entries. Those I’ve selected for recognition have interest beyond their informational content – an individual perspective on that content, an overall structure and direction, a rhythmic form (whether metrical or non-metrical), and attention to linguistic detail.*

3HM – “Overlooking The Valley Below” – Harding Stedler – Maumelle

2HM – “Helena – Home of Delta Blues” – Laura Loughridge - North Little Rock

1HM – “Destination: Petit Jean” – Barbara Longstreth-Mulkey – Little Rock

3<sup>rd</sup> – “The Town Where My Roots Have Always Been: Norfolk, Arkansas” – Elizabeth Dail – Norfolk

2<sup>nd</sup> – “Heading for Retreat” – Pat Durmon – Norfolk

1<sup>st</sup> – “Separate: The Taborian Hall and Its Dreamland Ballroom” – Laura Trigg – Little Rock



## POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS

Founded February 5, 1931

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>

### 2017 Arkansas State Fair Poetry Contest Winners Sponsored by Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA)

October 2017

PRA sponsored Best-of-Show winners and provided prizes indicated below for the 2017 Arkansas State Fair Poetry Contests in four age categories. Only the top 3 winners in each contest are listed, though youth categories receive State Fair ribbons through 10<sup>th</sup> place. PRA will submit press releases on all Best-of-Show winners to their home town newspapers, schools and the statewide Arkansas Democrat Gazette newspaper. Winners also will receive State Fair ribbons and monetary prizes after the fair, as described in the Fair handbook for each age group.

#### **ADULT DIVISION 167 – Ages 19+ (43 Entries)**

##### 01-Nature – (13 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> - #833 – “My Mountain” by Cathy Moran of Little Rock
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - #2910 – “Natural State Seasons” by Gary Rodgers of Pangburn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - #2666 – “A Sad Treasure” by Dennis Patton of Alexander

##### 02-Life on the Farm – (7 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> - #4508 – “Farm Awakening” by Margaret Critz of Little Rock
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - #2969 – “My Life on the Farm” by Kathleen Helmer of Jacksonville
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - #834 – “Farming the Soil” by Cathy Moran of Little Rock

##### 03-Day at the Fair – (5 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> - #2970 – “My Day at the Fair” by Kathleen Helmer of Jacksonville
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - #2911 – “Fair Day” by Gary Rodgers of Pangburn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - #2942 – “Fair Day” by Kim Vernon of Pangburn

##### 04-Wild Card – (18 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> & **Best-of-Show** - #2343 – “Kites” by John McPherson of Searcy  
(Adult Best-of-Show winner receives \$25 and free 1-year PRA membership.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - #124 – “Alzheimer’s . . . Never heard of it” by Colby Wells of Paris
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - #2975 – “They were brave” by Laura Loughridge of North Little Rock

#### **SENIOR YOUTH DIVISION 267 – Ages 14-18 (8 Entries)**

##### 01-Nature - (1 Entry)

- 1<sup>st</sup> - #4297 – “The Sapling and the Oak” by Julia McPeake of Benton

##### 02-Life on the Farm - (1 Entry)

- 1<sup>st</sup> - #4298 – “Time’s Pace” by Julia McPeake of Benton

##### 03-Day at the Fair - (No Entries)

##### 04-Wild Card - (6 Entries)

- 1<sup>st</sup> & **Best of Show** - #3827 – “Desirable” by Grace Rew of North Little Rock  
(Senior Youth Best-of-Show winner receives \$25 and PRA certificate.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - #96 – “Thunderstorm” by Christian Maddox of Jacksonville
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - #3322 – “I’m Going to Make It” by Antonio Perry of Little Rock

### **JUNIOR YOUTH DIVISION 367 – Ages 9-13 (9 Entries)**

01-Nature – (1 Entry)

1<sup>st</sup> - #699 – “Nature” by Bradleigh Profit of Mablevale

02-Life on the Farm – (No Entries)

03-Day at the Fair – (2 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> - #692 – “Fun in the Sun” by Katriana Harrison of Mablevale

2<sup>nd</sup> - #689 – “My Day at the Fair” by Cali Exson of Mablevale

04-Wild Card – (6 Entries)

1<sup>st</sup> & **Best of Show** - #3798 – “What Fall Changes” by Carlee Nguyen of Wynne

*(Junior Youth Best-of-Show winner receives \$15 and PRA certificate.)*

2<sup>nd</sup> - #691 – “God’s World” by Tamera Harris of Mabelvale

3<sup>rd</sup> - #701 – “Trouble Puppet Clown” by Kyla Smith of Mabelvale

### **YOUTH DIVISION 461 – Ages 5-8 (No Entries)**

*(Youth Best-of-Show winner receives \$10 and PRA certificate.)*

Poets’ Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is the oldest, non-profit poetry organization in the state. PRA was established in 1931 to encourage the art of poetry and poets in Arkansas. Members are from all around Arkansas and some neighboring states. Past and present Arkansas Poet Laureates have been PRA members. PRA is an affiliate of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). Arkansas’s own Jim Barton of Huttig currently serves as NFSPS President. PRA and NFSPS sponsor educational poetry conferences and contests throughout the year for all age groups. For more information on PRA (and link to NFSPS.com) see PRA’s website: <http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>.

# Spring 2018 Annual Poetry Contests for Middle and High School Students

Poet' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA), founded on February 5, 1931, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of poetry in the community and to secure a fuller recognition of the works of contemporary poets in the state of Arkansas. PRA is an affiliate member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). NFSPS is also a non-profit organization focusing on "the importance of poetry with respect to national cultural heritage."

**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, free verse, 24 line limit*

**Rules:**

1. **Deadline: March 1, 2018** (Postmark) • *Please do not submit entries before January 1, 2018*
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 author's work, including poems on the Internet.* **Sign your name.** Put no identification on the second copy.
5. Mail to Laura Loughridge / Student Co-Chairman / 2401 Lakeview Road #1008, North Little Rock, AR 72116

# Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest

## 2018 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).** Each state may submit ten (10) poems in each division. Poems may have been printed and/or have won previous awards. Contests at state level may have occurred anytime in 2017 or 2018.

**2. The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6 – 12.** Public, private, and homeschools are eligible for entry by individual NFSPS member states.

**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 - there should be no indication of prior award granted by the state.

**4. Each poem must be neatly typed or computer-generated, and have no more than 35 lines including space lines with no line having more than 60 characters including spaces and punctuation.** Every poem entered should appear on a single sheet. Do not staple the two copies of the poem together. It is suggested that each state representative keep a copy of poems entered.

**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. Larger fonts also make it impossible to confine the poem to one page, which is required.

**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 1, 2018.**

**9. Mail to** Laura Loughridge, Arkansas Student Co-Chairman, 2401 Lakeview Road #1008, North Little Rock, AR 72116

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. The schools of each winning student will receive a complimentary copy for the school library. Notice of winners report will be sent to each state's Manningham (Youth) Chair no later by May 20, 2018. Awards (certificates, checks, anthologies) will also be mailed to the state chairperson. Each state is responsible for distributing prizes to winners and winning schools. The top winning poems will be read to NFSPS members at the Convention held in June 2018.

## 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 requires Times Roman 12pt font.
- b. On **both** copies, place number and name of contest in upper **left** corner. (#50 Student Award)
- 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).

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:**

**Susan Maxwell Campbell, Contest Chairman**  
**115 North Wisteria**  
**Mansfield, TX 76063-1835**

*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, 2018. They may not be postmarked before January 1, 2018.





## **POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS**

**<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>**

### **2018 Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Contest**

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is a statewide, non-profit organization established in 1931. It is the oldest poetry organization in the state dedicated to the study of poetry and the encouragement of poets. PRA participates in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS); and PRA's long-time member Jim Barton of Huttig, Arkansas currently serves as the NFSPS President.

PRA is again sponsoring a college student poetry contest in the upcoming year. We are promoting this contest to students across the state and asking college faculty to partner with us in sharing materials with students. THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE. This contest will award the top three winners a total of one thousand dollars (1st--\$500, 2nd--\$300, and 3rd--\$200). Materials are attached and posted on PRA's website. We hope you will encourage students to enter this contest. PRA would appreciate any assistance you can provide.

Information about PRA and this contest can be found at [poetsroundtableofarkansas.org](http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org). Or you may contact PRA President Dennis Patton, at [patton\\_dr@hotmail.com](mailto:patton_dr@hotmail.com), or PRA Collegiate Contest Chair Donna Smith at [tndsmith@live.com](mailto:tndsmith@live.com).



Microsoft public domain

## **2018 Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Contest**

### **Sponsored by the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas**

**Attention Arkansas Collegians:** Do you write poetry? You could win \$500.

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas is pleased to announce the 2018 collegiate poetry contest, open to all Arkansas college students ages 18-25. There is NO ENTRY FEE. Entries will be accepted beginning January 1, 2018.

**Form:** Free verse

**Line Limit:** No more than 40 lines

**Postmark Deadline:** March 15, 2018

**Awards:** First Place \$500, Second Place \$300, Third Place \$200

For more information and complete rules visit [poetsroundtableofarkansas.org](http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org)

# 2018 Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Contest

Sponsored by Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA)

## CONTEST GUIDELINES

**WHO:** Arkansas college students, ages 18-25, are invited to participate in PRA's statewide poetry contest for college poets. Applicants must currently be enrolled in Arkansas colleges or universities. The March 15, 2018 postmark deadline will be used as the qualifying date for the age requirement.

**WHAT:** Students may choose any subject for the 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, 2018 through March 15, 2018 (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 2018. Checks will be mailed to winners who cannot attend.

**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.

**RULES:** No entry fee required. Students, ages 18-25, currently enrolled in Arkansas colleges or universities may enter one poem between January 1, 2018 and March 15, 2018 (postmark deadline). Entries must include a completed contest entry form and proof of age (copy of driver's license or other official document showing birthdate). 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:** Donna Smith, Collegiate Contest Chair, 58 Briarwood, Greenbrier, AR 72058. For questions contact Donna at 501-679-7324 or [tndsmith@live.com](mailto:tndsmith@live.com) January 1, 2018 through March 15, 2018 (postmark deadline.)

# 2018 Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Contest

Sponsored by Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA)

## CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Poem: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your level of interest in poetry and poetry organizations? Mark all that apply.

- ☐ Reading Poetry    ☐ Sharing my poetry    ☐ Learning more about poetry  
☐ Discussion of poetry    ☐ Poetry critiques    ☐ Networking with other poets  
☐ Poetry contests    ☐ Guest speakers    ☐ Workshops    ☐ Publishing my poetry

Would you be interested in joining or forming a PRA branch at your school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Be sure to include:**

- ☐ Complete Contest Entry Form  
☐ Two copies of your poem -- one with contact info in the upper right; one without it  
☐ Proof of age 18-25 at time of contest deadline. Photocopy of one:  
☐ College ID (if birthdate is on it)    ☐ Driver's License    ☐ State Issued ID  
☐ Birth Certificate    ☐ Other official document showing birthdate

### **Read the Contest Guidelines for complete contest rules.**

Mail complete entries to: Donna Smith, Collegiate Contest Chair, 58 Briarwood, Greenbrier, AR 72058. For questions contact Donna at 501-679-7324 or tndsmith@live.com January 1, 2018 through March 15, 2018 (postmark deadline.)

**National Federation of State Poetry Societies  
2018 College Undergraduate Poetry Competition  
Submission Period: December 2017—January 2018**

**MEUDT and KAHN AWARDS**

Two winners will be chosen for the College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP) Competition, one receiving the **Edna Meudt Memorial Award**; the other receiving the **Florence Kahn Memorial Award**. For each winner, prizes include:

- \$500 cash prize.
- Publication of the manuscript as a perfect-bound 6"x9" chapbook, marketed through Amazon.com.
- 75 free copies of the chapbook.
- Invitation to read from winning work at the 2018 NFSPS Convention in Denver, CO.
- \$300 travel stipend, if attending the convention.
- Complimentary registration for the entire convention.
- Complimentary dinner on Friday evening when the winners read. (Winners are responsible for the balance of their convention costs, e.g., meals and lodging, and for any guests who accompany them.)
- Complimentary one-year membership in an NFSPS-affiliated state poetry society of the winner's choosing and in NFSPS.
- Book release at the NFSPS annual convention. While winners are present at the convention, they will be assisted in selling their stock of books directly and/or in the convention book room and will receive all proceeds from those sales.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Undergraduates working toward a degree in an accredited U.S. college or university during the contest submission period are eligible to enter the CUP Competition.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

- **Application and Manuscript.** Complete the application form and upload your manuscript file at [www.nfspsubmittable.com](http://www.nfspsubmittable.com). The manuscript must be a single document that contains only your title page followed by ten poems. Once you have uploaded the file, you cannot make edits. Acceptable file formats include .doc and .docx (MS Word) and .pdf.
- **Fees.** There is no contest submission fee and no charge to open an account at Submittable.com. You may keep your Submittable account permanently.
- **Submission Period.** An electronic switch will open the Submissions function in the first minute December 1, 2017, and close it automatically at midnight Pacific Standard Time on January 31, 2018. Make sure to note your local time relative to PST. Students in Hawaii and Alaska are advised to submit no later than January 30. Indeed, we urge every entrant to submit early so that our committee can advise if you encounter problems; we likely cannot help if you wait until the last day of the contest.
- **Alternative Submission Request.** Approval by the contest chair's prior to January 15, 2018, is required to enter the competition by any other means than online submission as described above. She will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to accept paper manuscripts. Unauthorized paper manuscripts or e-mailed manuscripts will not be accepted. If the chair approves an alternative submission, she will provide instructions on how to proceed. Send your name, address, **telephone number** and email address with your request to: Shirley Blackwell, CUP Chair, P.O. Box 1352, Los Lunas, NM 87031. If she allows a paper submission, it must reach her by noon, Jan. 31, 2018 (be advised: Los Lunas is rural and mail can be delayed).

**MANUSCRIPT GUIDELINES: Not following ALL guidelines disqualifies a submission.**

- **No Identification.** There must be no author identification on any page of the manuscript.
- **Title Page and Ten Poems.** The manuscript will include only the title page and ten (10) original, unpublished poems. Note that poems posted on a public website or public social media are considered published. You will be required to confirm that your poetry is original and unpublished.
- **Titles.** Except for haiku and related Japanese forms, each poem must be titled.
- **Poem Line Width.** Line width limit is 60 characters, including punctuation marks and spaces between words.
- **Erasure poems and others derived from prose.** Contestants may not use any material copyrighted by another author as the basis for their poems. Please identify any source and verify that it is in the public domain.

- **Title Page.** The first manuscript page will include **only the manuscript title**, centered both vertically and horizontally on the page and followed by a page break.
- **Poem Arrangement.** Manuscript page two will be the first of your ten poems, with the others following in the order they would appear in a chapbook. Insert a page break after the text for each poem.
- **Font and Spacing.** Use a 12-point standard font (e.g., Times New Roman) in black text. Colored text and script, fancy, or unusual fonts will not be accepted. Single-space your poems and start lines at the left margin, unless you are **clearly** using spacing as a poetic device.
- **Pagination.** Each page must include a footer with the title of the manuscript in the lower left corner and the page number in the lower right corner.
- **Auxiliary Pages (dedication, acknowledgments, cover letter, bio, etc.)** Do NOT include auxiliary pages in your initial entry. If you win, you will be asked for a brief biography and will have opportunity to include other elements during the editing phase.
- **Literary Standards.** While we honor the First Amendment right of free speech, be aware that any profanity used must be necessary to the literary integrity of your poem. Our judge will view the gratuitous use of profanity as a crutch for shoddy craftsmanship or as cliché that has lost its shock value. The NFSPS will not give prizes for, nor publish work that perpetuates derogatory stereotypes. Nor will it accept work that is obscene, prurient or sexually graphic, hate-mongering, or abusive of any social, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender group.

## JUDGING and NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS

- **Judging.** Manuscripts will be screened for compliance with contest rules. Up to 60 entries will be sent to a judge who will remain anonymous until winners are announced. Manuscripts are judged blind (identified only by machine-generated number) from those entries complying with all contest guidelines. Decisions are final.
- **Notification of Winners.** By email on Monday, March 12, entrants will be notified of who has won and/or placed in the competition. Winners will be announced in the April issue of *Strophes*, the NFSPS newsletter, available at [www.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.com).
- **Contact Information.** If there is any change in your contact information before results are announced, please notify Shirley Blackwell by email at [sonneteer@earthlink.net](mailto:sonneteer@earthlink.net). Be sure to provide a mailing address that will be valid even after the spring semester ends.