

33th Annual Contest Results

October 21st-22nd, 2017

1. Claire van Breemen Downes Memorial Grand Prize Award:

Judged by Polly Opsahl, MI

First Place: Gitano

– Wendy Brown-Baez, Columbia Heights MN

Second Place: Cabin Fever

– Laurel Smith, Cottage Grove MN

Third Place: Tarnished American Dream

– Christina Flaughter, Mapleton MN

Honorable Mentions

1st: Your Student's Safety Is Our First Priority

– Nicole Borg, Wabasha MN

2nd: Mother's Meditation

– Nicole Borg, Wabasha MN

3rd: Memoriam

– Vincent O'Connor, Ely MN

Awards of Merit

1st: What Needs Saving or Make America Great

– Nicole Borg, Wabasha MN

2nd: Make us Soap

– Jennifer Jesseph, Pine Island MN

3rd: A Child's Prayer

– Laura Lanik, St. Paul MN

4th: Balancing Act

– Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN

2. Blizzard Writers Award:

Judged by Judith Krum, FL

First Place: Winter Weight

– Susan McMillan, Rochester MN

Second Place: Planting Trees at Seventy

– Patricia Barnes, Wyanotte MI

Third Place: My Father's Woodpile

– Nick Sweet, Shepherd TX

Honorable Mentions

1st: The Barn

– Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes CO

2nd: The Purpose of Wood

– Alan Perry, Eden Prairie MN

3rd: Somedays

– Gail Denham, Sunriver OR

Awards of Merit

1st: Gray Hair

– Murry McCartan, Richfield MN

2nd: Don't Touch Me

– Maureen Baldwin, Rochester MN

3rd: The Girls Eat Out

– Doris Stengel, Brainerd MN

4th: Field of Flowers

– Kathleen Pettit, Bloomington MN

3. Cracked Walnut Award:

Judge -Budd Powel Mahan, TX

First Place: Landscape with Figures

– Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud MN

Second Place: It Goes on Shining

– Siham Karami, Orlando FL

Third Place: After Hearing About the Holocaust

– Annette Gagliardi, Minneapolis MN

Honorable Mentions

1st: Masquerade

– Jeanette Marie Cox, Ely MN

2nd: Dear Diminishing Time

– Beth Spencer, Eden Prairie MN

3rd: Janet's Prayer

– Davi Walders, Chevy Chase MD

Awards of Merit

1st: Taken

– Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park MN

2nd: Gossamer Wings

– John Hurd, North Mankato MN

3rd: Compass

– Jennifer Hernandez, New Hope MN

4th: the anointing

– Sandy Bot-Miller, St. Cloud MN

4. Stevens Family Award:

Judged by Marilyn Downing, PA

First Place: Almost Eden

– Kolette Montague, Centerville UT

Second Place: Going to Neverland

– Annette Gagliardi, MN

Third Place: Mother's Kitchen

– Jennifer Jesseph, Pine Island MN

Honorable Mentions

1st: Summer's Return

– Barbara Blanks, Garland TX

2nd: Returning Stray

– Sara Gipson, Scott AR

3rd: Rain on the Porch

– Nick Sweet, Shepherd TX

Awards of Merit

1st: Mount Nero in the Distance

– Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines IA

2nd: Dad's Voice

– Gail Denham, Sunriver OR

3rd: Four Generations in the Kitchen

– Nancy Cook, St. Paul MN

4th: Family Reunion

– Dave Healy, St Paul MN

5. Woodtick Poets Award:

Judge - Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, CO

First Place: The Young Man

– Alice Duggan, St. Paul MN

Second Place: Aubade for the Mellow Years

– Rose Ann Spaiht, Columbus OH

Third Place: Flying 737

– Judith Feenstra, Maple Lake MN

Honorable Mentions

1st: Almost Too Late

–Gail Denham, Sunriver OR

2nd: Betty's Confession

– Kolette Montague, Centerville UT

3rd: Plath's Poem "Daddy" Escapes Norton Anthology

– Jennifer Jesseph, Pine Island MN

Awards of Merit

1st: Lament of an Old Lover

– Dr. Emory Jones, Iuka MS

2nd: After Years of Drought, Wildfires Rage

– Laura Lanik, St. Paul MN

3rd: Courtship

– Murray McCartan, Richfield MN

4th: Three Medical Procedures

– Sandy Bot-Miller, St. Cloud MN

6. Southern MN Poets Society Award:

Judged by Russell Strauss, TN

First Place: Musee Nissim de Camondo: a Story

– Davi Walders, Chevy Chase MD

Second Place: For Every Action

– Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder MN

Third Place: Witness

– Alan Perry, Eden Prairie

Honorable Mentions

1st: Lieutenant's Wife

– Margaret Anderegg, Odessa TX

2nd: Meeting Hitler on the Danube Bridge

– Dargan Ware, Birmingham AL

3rd: Found

– Catherine Moran, Little Rock AR

Awards of Merit

1st: Quoth the Living Nightmare

– Von S. Bourland, Happy Texas

2nd: Lost on Some Dirt Road

– River Maria Urke, Stillwater MN

3rd: Birdman

– Ruben Rivera, Minneapolis MN

4th: The Summer Mom Almost Got Away with It

– Barbara Blanks, Garland TX

7. Grand View Award:

Judged by Jennifer Richter, OR

First Place: Lake of Perfect Ice

– Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale MN

Second Place: Painting by of Woman with Rabbit

– Laura Hansen, Little Falls MN

Third Place: Cartography of Ruins

– Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud MN

Honorable Mentions

1st: Elemental Music

– Nancy Cook, St. Paul MN

2nd: Walking My Woods

– Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder MN

3rd: Kitchen Tasseomancer

– Kolette Montague, Centerville UT

Awards of Merit

1st: Aardvarks and Bandicoots

– Brian Volz, Stuart, IA

2nd: Springtime Arrivals

– Christina Flaughter, Mapleton MN

3rd: The Archer

– Dargan Ware, Birmingham AL

4th: Tonguespeak

– Ruth Schmidt-Baeumler, Two Harbors MN

8. Lillian Osborne Memorial Award:

Judged by Steven Concert, PA

First Place: Skipping Stones on the Cheat

– Pamela Sinicrope, Rochester MN

Second Place: The Grey Call of a Loon

– Mary Robinson-Jamison, St. Paul MN

Third Place: The Incredible, Dieting Model

– LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair OK

Honorable Mentions

1st: The Hill

– Dr. Emory Jones, Iuka MS

2nd: A Dubious Surprise

– Von S. Bourland, Happy TX

3rd: Shapes and Shadows

– Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights, MN

Awards of Merit

1st: Meeting at the Farmhouse

– Lee Landau, Minnetonka MN

2nd: Saving Space

– Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd MN

3rd: Parable

– Colleen Eichenberger, Nisswa

4th: Moving Violation

– Christina Flaughter, Mapleton MN

9. Musica Award:

Judged by Carol Clarke Williams, PA

First Place: Paddler's Song

– Susan McMillan, Rochester MN

Second Place: The Right Place at the Right time

– Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield AL

Third Place: La Danza del Venado

– Jennifer Hernandez, New Hope MN

Honorable Mentions

1st: Ladino Concert Once at Spoleto

– Davi Walders, Chevy Chase MD

2nd: Wind Song

– Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines IA

3rd: The Singer's last Recital

– Laura Hansen, Little Falls MN

Awards of Merit**1st:** Music to the Ear

– Robert La Fleur, Ponsford MN

2nd: Moonlight Serenade

– Von S. Bourland, Happy TX

3rd: Insomnia in Joplin, Missouri

– Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park MN

4th: Sacramental Radio

– Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte MI

10. John & Helen Pappas Memorial Award:*Judged by Cindy Nankee, MI***First Place:** Being Black

– Nancy Cook, St. Paul MN

Second Place: Cotton Stockings and Silk Scarves

– Kolette Montague, Centerville UT

Third Place: Midsummer Cleansing

– Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale MN

Honorable Mentions**1st:** Their Sixty-Fifth

– Dave Healy, Saint Paul, MN

2nd: People of the Long House

– Colleen Eichenberger, Nisswa MN

3rd: Bloodlines

– Jan Chronister, Maple WI

Awards of Merit**1st:** Lupine Landscape

– Ruth Schmidt-Baeumler, Two Harbors MN

2nd: The Apostolakos Curse

– Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd MN

11. Janelle Hawkrigde Memorial Award:*Judged by Ann Gasser, PA***First Place:** Where are You, Walt Whitman?

– Dr. Emory Jones, Iuka MS

Second Place: What Should Have Been in the Obituary

– Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder MN

Third Place: Boots on the Ground

– Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud MN

Honorable Mentions**1st:** Busy Bee

– River Marie Urke, Stillwater MN

2nd: Homage: Josephine Baker

– Davi Walders, Chevy Chase MD

3rd: I Believe

– Kolette Montague, Centerville UT

Awards of Merit**1st:** High School English Teacher

– Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes CO

2nd: The Station off Heisley Avenue

– Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights

3rd: My Father's Smile

– Steven Vogel, Rochester MN

4th: What? A Lady? Or...What a Lady!!!

– Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park MN

12. Poets Potluck Award*Judged by Bernadette Perez, NM***First Place:** The Sea Screams Louder Than Any Whirlwind

– Ruth Hill, Chetwynd BC

Second Place: IN RELATIONSHIPS TO ICICLES

– Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder MN

Third Place: SECURED AGAINST THE STORM

– Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN

Honorable Mentions**1st:** Tunes for Washing Day

– Sara Gipson, Scott AR

2nd: If You Knew The Storm Was Comin'

– Annette Gagliardi, Minneapolis MN

3rd: Trailing

– Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights MN

Awards of Merit**1st:** Night Storm

– Peggy Trojan, Brule WI

2nd: Blizzard

– Margaret Anderegg, Odessa TX

3rd: Storm Shelter

– Jeanette Marie Cox, Ely MN

4th: Dancing In The Rain

– Charles Firmage, Boise ID

13. Southeastern MN Poets Award:*Judged by Andi Penner, NM***First Place:** Anesthesia

– Steven Vogel, Rochester MN

Second Place: Satan Speaks

– Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte MI

Third Place: Night Watch

– Lucille Morgan Wilson, IA

Honorable Mentions**1st:** Remedies

– Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights

2nd: Wireless

– Anita Rivera, Minneapolis MN

3rd: It's A Wrap: Despairing Heart Repaired

– C.G. Thompson, Greenville NC

Awards of Merit**1st:** Robert Coleman Atkins (cardiologist, 1930-2003)

– Jean Marie Purcell

2nd: Exercising Excuses

– Barbara Blanks, Garland TX

3rd: Come Doctor, You

– Jennifer Jesseph, Pine Island MN

4th: Summer of Words

– Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale MN

14. Lost in Translation Award:*Judged by Marilyn Baszczyński, IA***First Place:** Advance Disclosure

– Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN

Second Place: Apologies to the World

– Kolette Montague, Centerville UT

Third Place: Tommy is Thirteen

– Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines IA

Honorable Mentions**1st:** Leaving it to Someone Else

–Catherine Moran, Little Rock AR

2nd: And Here We Are Again

– Pamela Sinicrope, Rochester MN

3rd: Senior year

– Barbara Blanks, Garland TX

Awards of Merit**1st:** This Time

– Susan McMillan, Rochester MN

2nd: The Car Thief

– Laura Lanik, St. Paul MN

3rd: Cut to the Rhythm

– Ruth Schmidt-Baeumler, Two Harbors MN

15. Lost in Translation Award:*Judged by Beth Staas, IL***First Place:** A Higher Calling

– Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN

Second Place: El Otro Lado

– Mimi Jennings, St. Paul MN

Third Place: When Sardanistes Dance and Tourists Watch

– Nancy Cook, St. Paul MN

Honorable Mentions**1st:** Haiku

– Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield AL

2nd: over the years

– Sandy Bot-Miller, St. Cloud MN

3rd: Language of the South

– Sara Gipson, Scott AR

Awards of Merit**1st:** Poems on Bedrock

– Von S. Bourland, Happy TX

2nd: Baby Talk

– Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd MN

3rd: Common Ground

– Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton MI

4th: Octoberfest Oom-pah

– Barbara Blanks, Garland TX

16. Poem by Post Award:*Judged by Art Elser, CO***First Place:** OWED TO MORPHEUS

– Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN

Second Place: Waiting at the Gate

–Margaret Anderegg, Odessa TX

Third Place: The Bedroom, 1889

– Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte MI

Honorable Mentions**1st:** THE RIGHT TO MOURN

– Doris Stengel, Brainerd MN

2nd: Girl!

– Colleen Eichenberger, Nisswa MN

3rd: Regrets

– Linda White, Maplewood MN

Awards of Merit**1st:** AND THAT'S ALL

– Susan McMillan, Rochester MN

2nd: TO BILLY COLLINS

– Shirley Ensrud, Blue Earth MN

3rd: Mushroom

– Robert La Fleur, Ponsford MN

4th: Celebration of Life

– Nicole Borg, Wabasha MN

17. Stepping off the Cliff Award:*Judged by Joe Cavanaugh, FL***First Place:** I must go

– Tricia Knoll, Portland OR

Second Place: In the Cold

– LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair OK

Third Place: Of Pants and Painting

– Ruben Rivera, Minneapolis MN

Honorable Mentions**1st:** Meeting Here Tonight

– Charles Firmage, Boise ID

2nd: View from a Higher Rung on the Ladder

– Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte MI

3rd: Classified

– Laura Hansen, Little Falls MN

Awards of Merit**1st:** True North

– Christina Flaughter, Mapleton MN

2nd: Planted

– Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake MN

3rd: This is the Route

– Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud MN

4th: Upon Putting My Old Dog Down

– Kolette Montague, Centerville UT

18. Mississippi Valley Poets and Writers Award:*Judged by Paul Ford, UT***First Place:** Migrating Monarchs

–Barbara Blanks, Garland TX

Second Place: Coyote love song

– Christina Flaughter, Mapleton MN

Third Place: Rippled by their wings

– Evan Guilford-Blake, Stone Mountain GA

Honorable Mentions**1st:** My son Exhales

– Chuck Salmons, Canal Winchester OH

2nd: Cottonwoods lend shade
– Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte MI

3rd: Grey snow by old fence
– Henry Panowitsch, Good Thunder MN

Awards of Merit

1st: Fallen willow leaves
– Barbara Mosbacher Anderson, Northfield MN

2nd: Tiny day stars in
– Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines IA

3rd: Early autumn sun
– Jennifer Hernandez, New Hope MN

4th: Missing red robin
– LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair OK

19. Minnesota Pen Women Award:

Judged by Kathleen Burgess, OH

First Place: Tocumguto Artisan
– Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines IA

Second Place: Reaching for the Moon
– Robert La Fleur, Ponsford MN

Third Place: Bless All Imperfections
– Beth Spencer, Eden Prairie MN

Honorable Mentions

1st: Mammalia After Reading Word Work by Sylvia Plath and
Pierre Delattre – Libby Casey Irwin, Woodbury MN

2nd: Elegy for the Men of My Stepfather's Town
– Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud MN

3rd: Nevertheless – Laura Hansen, Little Falls MN

Awards of Merit

1st: Leaving for the Airport After Your Grandmother's Funeral,
Having Arrived Too Late to Say Goodbye – C.G. Thompson,
Greenville NC

2nd: Quadrennial/November 2016
– Ruben Rivera, Minneapolis MN

3rd: Benison
– Mimi Jennings, St. Paul MN

4th: Little Things Worth Remembering
– Nancy Cook, St. Paul MN

20. Bring Back the Prairies Award:

Judged by Elaine Person, FL

First Place: Voice of the Purple Sage
– Sara Gipson, Scott AR

Second Place: Grassland Guardian
– Christina Flaughner, Mapleton MN

Third Place: Poverty's Disclaimer
– Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines IA

Honorable Mentions

1st: Prairie Wind
– Lina Belair, Perham MN

2nd: On Most Days
– Colleen Eichenberger, Nisswa MN

3rd: The Giant Cottonwood
– Sharon Sanders, Duluth MN

Awards of Merit

1st: Burned Beans
– Gail Denham, Sunriver OR

2nd: Prairie Entry Point
– Catherine Stenzel, Roseau MN

21. Let Love Show Award:

Judged by Charles Salmons, OH

First Place: In the Cracks and Crazes
– Pamela Sinicrope, Rochester MN

Second Place: The Afterlife of Eyeglasses
– Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London ON

Third Place: Let's Meet Inside a Recipe
– Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud MN

Honorable Mentions

1st: Sin Eater
– Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte MI

2nd: The Harpist's Fingers
– Alan Perry, Eden Prairie MN

3rd: What I Have Forgotten
– Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder MN

Awards of Merit

1st: this is what I'm left with
– Sandy Bot-Miller, St. Cloud MN

2nd: Paul and Me, Sitting in a Tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G
– Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN

3rd: When Love Found Me
– Beverly Stanislawski, Crown Point IN