

Winners of the 2016 Illinois State Poetry Society Contest:

Category 1 Free Verse,  
Judge Jill Lapin Zell, Dayton, NJ

FIRST PLACE: *For My Unborn Grandchild*: Susan Spaeth Cherry, Evanston, IL  
SECOND PLACE: *Nether Time*: Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX  
THIRD PLACE: *In Transit*: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL  
HM #1: *Stringing Pearls*: Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ontario Canada  
HM #2 : *A Riff on 23*: Hugh Muldoon, Carbondale, IL  
HM #3 : *Femmes Fatales*: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

Category #2 Formal Verse  
Judge, Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

FIRST PLACE *Cupid*: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL  
SECOND PLACE *Soft as Feathers*: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT  
THIRD PLACE *Fortune Cookie*: Michael Escoubas, Bloomington, IL  
HM #1 *Fireflies*: Susan Spaeth Cherry, Evanston, IL  
HM #2 *A Wonder Unto Itself*: Jeani Picklesimer, Ashland, KY  
HM #3 *Hymn*: Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park, IL

Category #3 Haiku  
Judge: Julie Warther, Dover, OH

FIRST PLACE: *the blue silk*: Susan B. Auld, Arlington Hts, IL  
SECOND PLACE: *letting cool air...* Del Todey Turner, Waterloo, IA  
THIRD PLACE: *after his death . .* Charlotte Digregorio, Winnetka, IL  
HM #1 *oh chickadee*: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT  
HM #2 *cat bats at the moth* Sally Clark, Fredericksburg, TX  
HM #3 *high tide*: Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park, IL

Category #4 The Arts  
Judge: Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio, TX

FIRST PLACE: *Rocks of Down East*: Robert Schinzel, Highland Village, TX  
SECOND PLACE: *Tapestry*: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX  
THIRD PLACE: *Leaning Against the Corner*: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR  
HM #1: *Substantiation*: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN  
HM #2: *The Past Captured on Canvas*: Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL  
HM #3: *Where Lies the Gift*: Jeani Picklesimer, Ashland, KY

Category #5 Celestial  
Judge: James Ahearn, Rochester, MI

FIRST PLACE: *Star Lights' Fame*: Von S.. Bourland, Happy, TX  
SECOND PLACE: *The Prince of Night*: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR  
THIRD PLACE: *Eclipsed Moon*: Daniel J. Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL

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(Category #5 Celestial continued)

HM #1: *A Shooting Star*: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR

HM #2: *A HIGHER CALLING*: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN

HM #3: *Interlopers*: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

Category #6: Music

Judge Jim Barton, Huttig, AR

FIRST PLACE: *Improv on Blue*:: Mary Jo Balistreri, Waukesha, WI

SECOND PLACE: *Song for the Oncologist*: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

THIRD PLACE: *Cricket Music*: Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR

HM #1: *Galway Jamming*: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN

HM #2: : *Chirps*: Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

HM #3: *The Vamp*: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

Category #7: Compassion

Judge: Paul Ford, Sandy, UT

FIRST PLACE: *Refuge*: Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL

SECOND PLACE: *A Mile in Her Shoes*: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

THIRD PLACE: *Talking to Guilt*: Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

HM #1: *Elephant Whisperer*: Patricia Peterson, Cottonwood Hts., UT

HM #2: : *For Bill*: Mary Jo Balestreri, Waukesha, WI

HM #3: *On a London Double-Decker Bus*: Bakul Banerjee, Wheaton, IL