

Winners of the 2019 Illinois State Poetry Society Contest:

Category 1 Free Verse Award (140 entries)

Judge: Polly Opsahl, Oscoda, MI is a past president of the Poetry Society of Michigan and a member of the NFSPS Board. She has been published in *Encore* & other anthologies. She was one of the winners of the Celery City Chapbook Contest in 2017.

FIRST PLACE: *It All Happens Here* by Melissa Huff, Champaign, IL

SECOND PLACE: *What Dying Taught Me* by Patrice Boyer Claeys, Chicago, IL

THIRD PLACE: *Italian Lessons* by M. E. Hope, O'Fallon, IL

HM #1: *A Regular Day in 1968* by Dennis Maulsby, Ames, Iowa

HM #2: *June 15* by Barbara Kareader Skalinder, Evanston, IL

HM #3: *Father's Scribbled Words* by Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

Category #2 Formal Verse Award (89 entries)

Judge, Judith Krum, Sanford, FL with five books published, she continues to look ahead for more writing about the human condition and observations of place and people. She received a BA in English from Marietta College (Ohio), an M.ED. in Counseling from McDaniel College (Maryland). A teaching career along with a role as disability rights advocate (she has Multiple Sclerosis) have shaped much of her professional background.

FIRST PLACE *Of Holy Week* by Amy Jo Schoonover, Mechanicsburg, OH

SECOND PLACE *Instrumental* by Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL

THIRD PLACE *Tilda's Tears* by Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

HM #1 *The Gesture of Gift* by Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

HM #2 *Hidden World* by Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

HM #3: *Down in Black and Whiite* by Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

Category #3 Traditional Haiku Award (90 entries)

Judge: Joe McKeon, Strongsville, OH is an award winning internationally published haiku poet. He is a two-time winner of the Haiku Society of America's Harold G. Henderson award for outstanding haiku. His haiku have been published in in many domestic and international journals.

FIRST PLACE: *rain in late august* by Charlotte Digregorio, Winnetka, IL

SECOND PLACE: *Autumn road at dusk*—by Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna,, IL

THIRD PLACE: *Gold, bronze, red splashes.* by Dennis Maulsby, Ames, IO

HM #1 *one hibiscus bloom* by Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL

HM #2 *branched calligraphy* by Mary Jo Balistreri, Waukesha, WI

HM #3 *the wolf moon rises* by Benjamin Dugger, Elizabethtown, TN

Category #4 Modern Haiku Award (119 entries)

Judge: Joe McKeon, Strongsville, OH (see #3 fpr Joe's bio)

FIRST PLACE: *coffee break* by Greg Schwartz, Sykesville, MD

SECOND PLACE: *alone at dusk* by Charlotte Digregorio, Winnetka, IL

THIRD PLACE: *in the spider's silk* by S. M. Kozubek, Chicago, IL

HM #1: *May evening* by Del Todey Turner, Waterloo, IO

HM #2: *baby turtles* by Joan Chaput, Glastonbury, CT

HM #3: *in the crook* by Mary Jo Balestreri, Waukesha, WI

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Category #5 Home Award (80 entries)

Judge: Nancy Baass, Victoria, TX is a Past President of the NFSPS. She presently serves NFSPS as Historian. She is a Poetry Society of Texas Councilor and is currently serving as PST Annual Contests Chairman. She judges and critiques poetry for PST, the NFSPS and other organizations

FIRST PLACE: *Home For Christmas* by Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield,, AL

SECOND PLACE: *Nature's Home Builders* by Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR

THIRD PLACE: *Location, Location, Location* by Susan T. Moss, Evanston, IL

HM #1: *Where The Heart Is* by Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park, IL

HM #2: *Lost Cantatas* by Benjamin Dugger, Elizabethton, TN

HM #3: *Holding on to two homes* by Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

Category #6: Bipartisan Award (33 entries)

Judge Ned Collwell Snell, Salt Lake City, UT, was named the 2007 Utah State Poetry Society Poet of the Year. His book, *Hand Me My Shadow*, also won the 2007 City Weekly Artys award for Best Poetry Collection. His work has been published in *California Quarterly*, *Comstock Review* and several other publications.

FIRST PLACE: *Open the Cellar Door* by Patrice Bayer Claeys, Chicago, IL

SECOND PLACE: *Letter From Home* by Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

THIRD PLACE: *Echocardiogram* by Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL

HM #1: *In Praise of Tranquility* by Beth Staas, Oak Brook, IL

HM #2: *I Come by Every Year or so* by Dennis R. Patton, Alexander, AR

HM #3: *The More We Get Together* by Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

Category #7: Humor Award (71 entries)

Judge: Donna Salli, Brainerd, MN, has an MFA in poetry from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her poems and creative nonfiction have appeared in literary journals, magazines, and anthologies. She also writes fiction and drama.

FIRST PLACE: *Permanence* by Ruth Hoberman, Chicago, IL

SECOND PLACE: *You Might Ask What's Really Happening Inside the Bag You Carry Every Day* By C. G. Thompson, Greenville, NC

THIRD PLACE: *Our Favorite Wedding Photo* By Nancy Simmonds, Ft. Wayne, IN

HM #1: *Pundit-ity: Quality of Being a Pundit* By John J. Gordon, LaGrange, IL

HM #2: *Notes from Ogden Nash's Cat* By Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

HM #3: *Change of Mind...and Body* By Sheryl Lain, Cheyenne, WY

Category #8: Compassion Award (44 entries)

Judge: Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR is a former teacher of writing and literature at Willamette University, Marquette University, and other colleges. She is a past president of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies and of the Oregon Poetry Association. She has two books of poetry, *Green November* and *No Constant Hues* and a chapbook, *Only So Far*.

FIRST PLACE: *Asylum Lunacy* by Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN

SECOND PLACE: *Having Someone* by Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas, TX

THIRD PLACE: *A Promise to My Unborn Child* by Beth Staas, Oak Brook,, IL

HM #1: *A Compassionate Life* by Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL

HM #2: *Today* by Linda H. Conte, Somerville, MA

HM #3: *She Smiles* by Christian Shute, Cheyenne, WY

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Category 9: Shawnee National Forest Award (23 entries)

Judge: Bob Blenheim, Daytona Beach, FL. Bob's poetry experience includes many speaking appearances and lectures He has won over 120 national and state poetry awards since his entry into serious poetry in the mid 1980's.

FIRST PLACE: *The Last Dandelion* by Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN

SECOND PLACE: *Bell Smith Springs* by Terry Cahill

THIRD PLACE: *At Horseshoe Lake* by Patty Dickson Pieczka

HM #1: *Sanctuary* by Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS

HM #2: *October at Shawnee National Forest* by Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL

HM #3: *One With the Wild* by Laura Bridges, North Little Rock, AR

Category #10: Gratitude Award (entries 64)

Judge: Dian Barnett, Marietta, GA Dian is a member of both the Nevada and Georgia poetry societies and a frequent contributor to the annual NFSPS contests. She firmly believes that poetry and a sense of humor have saved her life. She says it works for her, and being prized and published is icing on the cake!

FIRST PLACE: *This small hunger* by M. E. Hope, O'Fallon, IL

SECOND PLACE: *Feet* by Barbara Robinette, Viola, AR

THIRD PLACE: *I Just Talked With an Old Friend* by Curt Vevang, Palatine, IL

HM #1: *Talking with Marilyn at the NFSPS Convention* by Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX

HM #2: *Flat* by Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

HM #3: *Tribute* by Sheryl Lain. Cheyenne, WY

Category #11: Brothers Award (52 entries)

Judge: Jon Sebba, Tucson, AZ was awarded Utah State Poet of the Year in 2013 for *Yossi, Yasser, & Other Soldiers*, a collection of his poems about war from the perspective of a soldier in combat. Jon works with ex-soldiers affected by PTSD. He uses his poems to demonstrate how one veteran learned to mitigate his demons by writing.

FIRST PLACE: *The Night William Blake's Brother Died* by Patty Dickson Pieczka, Carbondale, IL

SECOND PLACE: *Invisible* by Amy Jo Schoonover, Mechanicsburg, OH

THIRD PLACE: *Lost Brother* by Daniel J. Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL

HM #1: *Cherry Season* by Ruth Siburt Decateur, IL

HM #2: *This Was the Moment* by Nancy Simmonds, Ft. Wayne, IN

HM #3: *Headin' Home on College Break* by Melissa Huff, Champaign, IL

Thank you to all who entered our contest. We appreciate your participation in our small effort to promote and nurture the art of poetry. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me at jim@jimlambert.net.

Jim Lambert