

Illinois State Poetry Society 2024 Contest Winners

Contest Category: Holloway Free Verse Award

Sponsor: Donna Pucciani in memory of Glenna Holloway Judge: Diane Taylor, AL

First Place	Janice Freytag	Souderton	PA	Leveling the Water
Second Place	Jamie Wendt	Chicago	IL	Aqua (after Pharaoh's daughter)
Third Place	Pauline Kochanski	Skokie	IL	dragon fly & friends
Honorable Mention #1	Terry Jude Miller	Richmond	TX	
Honorable Mention #2	Johanna Haas	Murphysboro	IL	
Honorable Mention #3	Mike Wahl	Athens	AL	

Contest Category: Smile Award

Sponsor: Ida Kotyuk Judge: Michael Spears, UT

First Place	Carole Croll	Royersford	PA	Clean Sweep
Second Place	Grace Diane Jessen	Glenwood	UT	Last Request
Third Place	Paul Buchheit	Chicago	IL	Smile For Me
Honorable Mention #1	Michael Orlock	Lisle	IL	
Honorable Mention #2	John Crawford	Arkadelphia	AR	
Honorable Mention #3	Dens Feehan	Mesquite	NV	

Contest Category: Any Subject/Any Form Award

Sponsor: Marjorie Rissmann Judge: Diane Taylor, AL

First Place	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	Oh, Baby, It's Cold Out There
Second Place	Emory Jones	Iuka	MS	THE THING ABOUT QUILTS
Third Place	Amy Wray Irish	Lakewood	CO	Hummingbird Jazz
Honorable Mention #1	Gail Denham	Sunriver	OR	
Honorable Mention #2	Lorraine Jeffrey	Orem	UT	
Honorable Mention #3	V. Kimball Barney	Kaysville	UT	

Contest Category: Wilda Morris Award

Sponsor: Bakul Banerjee Judge: Amelia Martens, KY

First Place	Johanna Haas	Murphysboro	IL	Absent Hills
Second Place	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	Nature's First Gold is Gray
Third Place	Kathryn Haydon	Lake Bluff	IL	Along I-55 South to Saint Louis
Honorable Mention #1	Cynthia Gallaher	Chicago	IL	
Honorable Mention #2	Kathleen Cotton	Anna	IL	
Honorable Mention #3	Laura Bridges	Hot Springs	AR	

Contest Category: Dreams Award

Sponsor: Susan T. Moss Judge: Elise Ball, TN

First Place	Kathleen Cotton	Anna	IL	A Disappearing Dream
Second Place	Paul Buchheit	Chicago	IL	Nightmare
Third Place	Cynthia Gallaher	Chicago	IL	Good Dreams of a Septuagenarian
Honorable Mention #1	Tanya R. Whitney	Sorrento	LA	
Honorable Mention #2	Camille Balla	Lisle	IL	
Honorable Mention #3	Brian D. Pondenis	Charleston	IL	

Contest Category: ISPS Free Verse Award
Sponsor: ISPS Board Judge: Pat Laster, AR

First Place	Jocelyn Ajami	Chicago	IL	The Poet of <i>Ishbiyya</i>
Second Place	Crystie Cook	Sandy	UT	Life Under the Shadow of Herons
Third Place	Peter Witt	College Station	TX	Waterlily Whispers
Honorable Mention #1	Carol Alfus	Woodstock	IL	
Honorable Mention #2	Cathy Moran	Little Rock	AR	
Honorable Mention #3	Maggie Van Dyke	Brookfield	IL	

Contest Category: ISPS Formal Verse Award
Sponsor: ISPS Board Judge: Barbara Blank, TX

First Place	John McPherson	Searcy	AR	On the Death Of A Single Waxwing
Second Place	Lynda La Rocca	Salida	CO	The Night Watch
Third Place	Jerri Hardesty	Brierfield	AL	The Recital
Honorable Mention #1	Crystie Cook	Sandy	UT	
Honorable Mention #2	Gail Denham	Sunriver	OR	
Honorable Mention #3	Candace Armstrong	Murphysboro	IL	

Contest Category: ISPS Traditional Haiku Award
Sponsor: ISPS Board Judge: Martha Balph, UT

First Place	Janice Freytag	Souderton	PA	drops of blood on snow
Second Place	Lynda La Rocca	Salida	CO	wild horses gallop
Third Place	Camille Balla	Lisle	IL	SNOW ON PALM SUNDAY
Honorable Mention #1	Maggie Van Dyke	Brookfield	IL	
Honorable Mention #2	Jim Wilkerson	Decatur	IL	
Honorable Mention #3	Grace Diane Jessen	Glenwood	UT	

Contest Category: ISPS Modern Haiku Award
Sponsor: ISPS Board Judge: Elaine Person, FL

First Place	Edward Huddleston	Baxley	GA	crumbling church
Second Place	Dennis Patton	Alexander	AR	arching backs
Third Place	Emory Jones	Iuka	MS	Squawks coming from above
Honorable Mention #1	Jocelyn Ajami	Chicago	IL	
Honorable Mention #2	John O'Connor	Winnetka	IL	
Honorable Mention #3	Terry Jude Miller	Richmond	TX	

Contest Category: Alan Harris Award
Sponsor: Mary Beth Bretzlauf Judge: Julie Cummings, CO

First Place	Brian D. Pondenis	Charleston	IL	Years Ago
Second Place	Jim Wilkerson	Decatur	IL	Embedded
Third Place	Grace Diane Jessen	Glenwood	UT	Scammed
Honorable Mention #1	Amy Wray Irish	Lakewood	CO	
Honorable Mention #2	Sandra McGarry	Fort Collins	CO	
Honorable Mention #3	Emory Jones	Iuka	MS	

Contest Category: Sheila Kirscher Award

Sponsor: Mary Beth Bretzlauf Judge: Budd Mahan, TX

First Place	Lorraine Jeffrey	Orem	UT	Finding You Way Home
Second Place	Jim Wilkerson	Decatur	IL	Goodbye to Summer Rains
Third Place	Denis Feehan	Mesquite	NV	Traveling with Trixie
Honorable Mention #1	Victor Klimoski	Saint Paul	MN	
Honorable Mention #2	Maggie Van Dyke	Brookfield	IL	
Honorable Mention #3	Michael Orlock	Lisle	IL	

Contest Category: Triolet Award

Sponsor: Highland Park Poetry Judge: Stephen George, PA

First Place	Dennis Patton	Alexander	AR	Noir Movie Star
Second Place	Sara Gipson	Scott	AR	When Grass Danced
Third Place	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	As the Sun Settles Down
Honorable Mention #1	Crystie Cook	Sandy	UT	
Honorable Mention #2	Paul Buchheit	Chicago	IL	
Honorable Mention #3	Mike Wahl	Athens	AL	

Contest Category: Nair Award

Sponsor: Lakshmy Nair Judge: Pat Taylor, AR

First Place	Terry Jude Miller	Richmond	TX	Raking a Poem
Second Place	Janice Freytag	Souderton	PA	Billboards
	Kathryn			
Third Place	Schmeiser	Fairview	NC	Not My Story
Honorable Mention #1	Lynda La Rocca	Salida	CO	
Honorable Mention #2	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	
Honorable Mention #3	Daniel Moreschi	West Glamorgan.	WALES	

Contest Category: Ekphrastic Poetry Award

Sponsor: Lennart Lundh Judge: Sheila Moore, TX

First Place	Sheila Elliott	Oak Park	IL	What Every Child Wants
Second Place	Barbara Funke	St. George	UT	Legacy: Generations of Work
Third Place	Daniel Moreschi	West Glamorgan.	WALES	Black Burns Red
Honorable Mention #1	Victor Klimoski	Saint Paul	MN	
Honorable Mention #2	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	
Honorable Mention #3	Marc Davidson	Ormond Beach	FL	

Contest Category: Wombat Award

**Sponsor: Gail Denham in memory of Jane West of the Wombat Writers Group
Judge: Russell Strauss, TN**

First Place	Lynda La Rocca	Salida	CO	When God Takes a Vacation
Second Place	John Crawford	Arkadelphia	AR	Ode to Spam
Third Place	Laura Bridges	Hot Springs	AR	Online Dating
Honorable Mention #1	Jill Spealman	Glen Ellyn	IL	
Honorable Mention #2	Jennifer Dotson	Highland Park	IL	
	Elizabeth Stanley-			
Honorable Mention #3	King	Elgin	IL	