



# Poetry Society of Indiana

## POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA 45th ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST 2023 WINNERS

### **Category 1: PSI POETRY PRIZE** Sponsor: Poetry Society of Indiana

Subject: Poetry Inspired by a Song. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40

1st: Linda S.H.S. Eaton (IN) - Mary's Longing

2nd: W. E. Jones (IN) - Beneath Our Flag

3rd: Janice Canerdy (MS) - These are a Few of My Favorite Things

HM: Tanya R. Whitney (LA), Travis Park (IN), Mona Mehas (IN)

### **Category 2: GLENNA GLEE: ONE AND ONLY** Sponsor: The Ghost of ISFPC

Subject: Glee, Joy, Happiness. Form: Any. Line Limit: None

1st: John Hinton (IN) - What Is Happiness

2nd: Paul Buchheit (IL) - Joyous Birdsongs

3rd: Dr. Emory D. Jones (MS) - Reclining Poetry

HM: Jerri Hardesty (AL)

### **Category 3: PRESIDENT'S AWARD** Sponsor: John Hinton

Subject: The Joy & Pain of Writing. Form: Free Verse. Line Limit: 30 Prize: \$100

1st: Tanya R. Whitney (LA) - Writing

2nd: George Wylie (MI) - Writing Impulsively

3rd: Paul Buchheit (IL) - Upon Rejection

HM: Linda Neal Reising (IN), S. Evan Walters (IN), W. E. Jones (IN)

### **Category 4: PREMIER POETS PRIZE** Sponsor: Jenny Kalahar

Subject: In the Garage. Form: Any. Non-Rhyming. Line Limit: 50

1st: Nancy Simmonds (IN) - Birds of Play: A Poem of Monroe County

2nd: Terry Jude Miller (TX) - Where I get it from

3rd: Grace Diane Jessen (UT) - Rocking Chair Blues

HM: Gail Denham (OR), Anita Dees (CT), Janice Freytag (PA)

**Category 5: LIFE WORTH REMEMBERING AWARD** Sponsor: Joe Ottinger

Subject: When Dogs Howl At 2 AM. Form: Any. Line Limit: 28

1st: Mona Mehas (IN) - When Dogs Howl at 2 A.M.

2nd: Paula Morgan (IN) - Listen

3rd: Chris Hasara (IN) - Unquiet

HM: Travis Park (IN), Teresa Pruitt (IN), Linda Neal Reising (IN)

**Category 6: PSI MEMORIAL AWARD** Sponsor: Poetry Society of Indiana

Honoring PSI members who died the previous year.

Subject: If I Could Do It All Again. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40

1st: Tamara DiBartola (PA) - Time Rewind

2nd: Jerri Hardesty (AL) - Looking Back

3rd: Grace Diane Jessen (UT) - Regrets

**Category 7: HOOSIER HERITAGE AWARD** Sponsor: Chuck Kellum

Subject: The People, Places, History, and/or Culture of Indiana. Form: Any. Line Limit: 60

1st: Walter Biskupski (IN) - Etheridge Knight, Indianapolis Poet

2nd: Justine Vandenberg (IN) - Prophet's Rock

3rd: Marlene Million (IN) - Racing Edge

HM: Chris Hasara (IN), Travis Park (IN), Kristina Kelly (IN)

**Category 8: COFFIN AND A WHEEZIN'** Sponsor: Maik Strosahl

*Give voice to those who preceded us to tell us what they are dying to say.*

Subject: Any. Form: Spoon River. Line Limit: None

1st: Robert V. Davis (UT) - World of Bobby Williams

2nd: Walter Biskupski (IN) - William McBride

3rd: Chris Ryan (IN) - Red Maple Tree Grave

HM: Joe Ottinger (IN), Lorraine Jeffery (UT), Mary Couch (IN)

**Category 9: SPIRIT AWARD** Sponsor: Mary Ann Bozenski

Subject: Thriving in the face of mental health and/or physical challenges. Form: Any.

Line Limit: None

1st: Travis Park (IN) - The Battle Within

2nd: S. Evan Walters (IN) - Cocooning

3rd: Mike Nierste (IN) - The Light We Carry Inside

HM: Paula Sweeney Kowszik (MA), Nancy Cook (MN), Walter Biskupski (IN)

## **Category 10: NORTHEAST INDIANA POETS AWARD**

Sponsor: Northeast Indiana Poets

Subject: Pokagon: Boys of the CCC. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40

1st: Linda Neal Reising (IN) - Company 556

2nd: Walter Biskupski (IN) - CCC

3rd: Mark Hudson (IL) - Those Dam Mistakes!

HM: Joe Ottinger (IN), S. Evan Walters (IN), Alys Caviness-Gober (IN)

## **Category 11: NOBLE POETS AWARD** Sponsor: Noble Poets

Subject: Procrastination or Waiting. Form: Any. Line Limit: None

1st: Joe Ottinger (IN) - A Poem on Procrastination

2nd: Paul Buchheit (IL) - Sonnet to Procrastination

3rd: Lorraine Jeffery (UT) - Night Watch

HM: Tanya R. Whitney (LA), Catherine Moran (AR), Kristina Kelly (IN)

## **Category 12: OBERLIN PRIZE** Sponsor: Angela Masterson Jones

*In memory of Prue Oberlin*

Subject: Writing, education, mentoring. Form: Limerick. Line Limit: Per form

1st: Lorraine Jeffery (UT) - Frank

2nd: Kim Barney (UT) - Always Good for Something

3rd: Grace Diane Jessen (UT) - First Line: A Young Fellow Who Wanted to Teach

HM: Beverly Stanislawski (IN), Alys Caviness-Gober (IN), Janice L. Freytag (PA)

## **Category 13: MILLION AWARD** Sponsor: Marlene Million

Subject: Ode to First Car. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40

1st: Kim Barney (UT) - Still Mostly Working

2nd: Janice Miller (IN) - G.O.A.T.

3rd: Catherine Moran (AR) - Portrait of My First Car

HM: Tamara DiBartola (PA), Terry Jude Miller (TX), Tanya R. Whitney (LA)

## **Category 14: THE VIOLA AWARD** Sponsor: Peg Heacox

*Children love words that rhyme and poems and songs with a "beat" to them.*

Subject: A children's poem. Any subject a child might enjoy. Form: Rhymed and using any regular meter. Line Limit: 32

1st: Janice Miller (IN) - My Puppy

2nd: Rita Aiken Moritz (AL) - A Riddle

3rd: S. Evan Walters (IN) - At the Zoo

HM: Anita Dees (CT), Janice L. Freytag (PA), Jerri Hardesty (AL)

**Category 15: BABBLING BROOK AWARD** Sponsor: Mary A. Couch

Subject: Any. Form: Nonet. Line Limit: Per form

1st: Mona Mehas (IN) - Tarantula

2nd: Alys Caviness-Gober (IN) - The Coast

3rd: Janice L. Freytag (PA) - Apex

HM: Tamara DiBartola (PA), Jerri Hardesty (AL), Nancy Simmonds (IN)

**Category 16: ELEANOR CRANMER & CAROLINE AWARD**

Sponsor: Caroline Dewey

Subject: Joy. Form: Any. Line Limit: 49

1st: John Hinton (IN) - Audacious

2nd: Alys Caviness-Gober (IN) - Joy

3rd: Tanya R. Whitney (LA) - Day Begins

HM: Susan Jones (IN), Janice L. Freytag (PA), Marlene Million (IN)

**Category 17: GUT PUNCH** Sponsor: John Hinton

Subject: A poem that hits the emotions — Hard! Form: Free Verse. Line Limit: 15

1st: Linda Neal Reising (IN) - Tenth Inning

2nd: Teresa Pruitt (IN) - Your Touch

3rd: Kim Kile (IN) - Stillborn

HM: Joe Ottinger (IN), Janice L. Freytag (PA), Justine Vandenberg (IN)

**Category 18: GRACE POTTER HEARKINS AWARD**

Sponsor: Nancy Simmonds

Subject: Home Movies. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40

1st: Terry Jude Miller (TX) - The Wish

2nd: S. Evan Walters (IN) - Reruns

3rd: Nancy Cook (MN) - Tumbling Shapes

HM: Mark Hudson (IL), Alys Caviness-Gober (IN), Patricia Barnes (MI)

**Category 19: LINDA BANNON MEMORIAL** Sponsor: Susan Smith

Subject: Prayer or Blessing. Form: Any. Line Limit: None

1st: Anita Dees (CT) - Root-Bound Boy

2nd: L. Butchart (IN) - Bless This Compass

3rd: Nick Sweet (TX) - Moore, OK, 2013

HM: Travis Park (IN), Michael Crawford (IN), Rachel Wright (IN)

**Category 20: DEBRA SUE LYNN AWARD** Sponsor: Debra Sue Lynn

Subject: Death & the Hereafter, Reincarnation, The Sea; or Silence. Form: Villanelle, Trijan Refrain, Kyrielle, Sonnet, or Iambic Heptameter Sonnet. Line Limit: Per form

1st: S. Evan Walters (IN) - A Last Wish

2nd: Dennis R. Patton (AR) - Silence is Golden

3rd: Beverly Stanislawski (IN) - The Watchers

HM: Paul Buchheit (IL), Dr. Emory D. Jones (MS), Jerri Hardesty (AL)

**Category 21: EKPHRASTIGANZA!** Sponsor: Maik Strosahl

*Must include a picture of the artwork that inspired the poem*

Subject: Any. Form: Ekphrastic. Line Limit: None

1st: Daniel Moreschi (UK) - Hectic Havens

2nd: Jenny Kalahar (IN) - The Sitter and The Bronze

3rd: Mary Couch (IN) - Blue Dragon River

HM: Janice Miller (IN), L. Butchart (IN), Paul Buchheit (IL)

**Category 22: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT AWARD** Sponsor: Poet Anon

Subject: Do I really love my neighbor? Form: Any. Line Limit: 40

1st: Dennis R. Patton (AR) - The Next Door Neighbor

2nd: Chris Hasara (IN) - Neighbors

3rd: Walter Biskupski (IN) - Raspberries

HM: Catherine Moran (AR), Janice Miller (IN), Kim Barney (UT)

**Category 23: GRANDS** Sponsor: Emory D. Jones

Subject: Grandparents or grandchildren. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40

1st: Janice Miller (IN) - Raspberry

2nd: Walter Biskupski (IN) - I Never Knew My Grandmother

3rd: Nick Sweet (TX) - The Rustic Statesman

HM: Joe Ottinger (IN), Dr. Emory D. Jones (MS)

**Category 24: INDIE AUTHORS ASSOCIATION POETRY PRIZE**

Sponsor: Indie Authors Association

Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Limit: None

1st: Mitchell Mace (IN) - He Walks Alone

2nd: Jerri Hardesty (AL) - Come to the Lake Eden Arts Festival

3rd: Debbie Newhouse (OR) - In A Mother's Tears

HM: John Hinton (IN), CM Sheaks (IN), Babs Benson (IN)

**Category 25: SPEAK OUT** Sponsor: Rachel Wright

Subject: Protest. Form: Any. Line Limit: 44

1st: Travis Park (IN) - Uprising Voices

2nd: Janice Miller (IN) - Silly Putty Truths

3rd: Jerri Hardesty (AL) - Consequential Assimilation

HM: George Wylie (MI), Susan Jones (IN), Janice L. Freytag (PA)

**Category 26: DOTTIE MACK MEMORIAL AWARD**

Sponsor: Northeast Indiana Poets

Subject: A Lot of Dot! Poem MUST include the word "Dottie" somewhere in the text.

Form: End Rhyme. Line Limit: 40

1st: Mary Couch (IN) - Dottie Mack

2nd: Walter Biskupski (IN) - Dottie Mack

3rd: Janice Miller (IN) - Lots of Dots

HM: Joe Ottinger (IN), Anita Dees (CT), Tamara DiBartola (PA)

**Category 27: JIMMY COALA AWARD** Sponsor: Paula Sweeney Kowszik

Subject: The Ocean. Form: Any. Line Limit: 25

1st: Travis Park (IN) - Ocean's Enchantment

2nd: Jerri Hardesty (AL) - Beach Haiku Series 1 Water Suspends Sand

3rd: Tamara DiBartola (PA) - A Stunning Creation

HM: Mary Couch (IN), Beverly Stanislawski (IN), Chris Hasara (IN)

**Category 28: THANK GOD FOR GRAMMY** Sponsor: Dan and Tamara DiBartola

*Honoring our beloved Audrey Piccolo*

Subject: Grandmothers. Form: Any. Line Limit: 40

1st: Beverly Stanislawski (IN) - Grandma's Mystery Tin

2nd: Travis Park (IN) - Guiding Light

3rd: W. E. Jones (IN) - Granny Conners

HM: Dennis R. Patton (AR), Tanya R. Whitney (LA), Grace Diane Jessen (UT)

**Category 29: HEY, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?**

Sponsor: Dennis White and George Wylie

Subject: Travel - Tell about a trip or vacation in verse. Form: Minute. Line Limit: Per form

1st: Janice L. Freytag (PA) - A Holiday Beside The Sea

2nd: Anita Dees (CT) - Kitty's Caper

3rd: Linda Neal Reising (IN) - Climbing Flat Top Mountain

HM: Jerri Hardesty (AL), Grace Diane Jessen (UT), Alys Caviness-Gober (IN)

**Category 30: POETIC TALES** Sponsor: Tamara Saylor

Subject: Any. Form: Ballad. Line Length: None

1st: S. Evan Walters (IN) - The Butt Whistle Cantana

2nd: Rita Aiken Moritz (AL) - The Ballad of Lavender Lee

3rd: Janice L. Freytag (PA) - Old Eli & The Storm

HM: Teresa Pruitt (IN), Grace Diane Jessen (UT), Alys Caviness-Gober (IN)

**Category 31: WIN PSI MEMBERSHIP** Sponsor: Poetry Society of Indiana

Open ONLY to non-member Indiana residents.

Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Length: 40. Prize: One year PSI Membership

1st: Janice Miller (IN) - The Lie Whisperer

2nd: Kyra Langhofer (IN) - Rebellion

3rd: Cordelia Shanks (IN) - Wool Under Hand

**Category 32: WILD CARD AWARD** Sponsor: Poetry Society of Indiana

Subject: Any. Form: Any. Line Length: 40.

Prize: 45% / 25% / 15% of Wild Card category entry fees collected.

1st: Susan Jones (IN) - The Monarch

2nd: Tamara DiBartola (PA) - In Every Shoe

3rd: Jerri Hardesty (AL) - Street Art 3 (Clara)

HM: Teresa Pruitt (IN), Linda S.H.S. Eaton (IN), John Hinton (IN)

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!  
THANKS TO ALL ENTRANTS, SPONSORS, AND  
JUDGES FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR 45th  
ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST!**

- 88 poets entered 967 poems in 32 categories.
- Entries came from 18 states plus one from the UK.
- Indiana had the most submissions, with 512 poems. Utah had 60 poems. Michigan came in close behind with 59 poems.
- The shortest poem was three lines. The longest poem was 27 pages.

*Ink to Paper, Volume 8*, featuring the winning poems from each category, will soon be available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other online booksellers. A copy of the publishing rights information can be found inside the books.