



**POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA
43rd ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST
2021 WINNERS LIST**

(23 CATEGORIES)

Category 1: PSI GRAND PRIZE

Subject: **No Regrets** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 40) #Entries: 48

1st: Sara Gipson (AR), *"What Happened While I Waited?"*

2nd: Janice L. Freytag (PA), *"Negative Space"*

3rd: Nancy Simmonds (IN), *"Toda La Ciudad Estaba en Llamas"*

HM 1,2,3: Chris Hasara (IN), Robert C. Jennings (IN), Julianza Shavin (CO)

Reserve: (not awarded)

Category 2: ONE AND ONLY GLENNA GLEE AWARD

Subject: **Happiness (Glee)** (Form: **Strict rhyme & rhythm**, Line Limit: None) #Entries: 22

1st: Donna Isaac (MN), *"Encounter"*

2nd: Joyce Shiver (FL), *"Watching Grandma Knit"*

3rd: Lorraine Jeffery (UT), *"Wealth"*

HM 1,2,3: Janice L. Freytag (PA), John W. Crawford (AR), Marcia Gunnett Woodard (IN)

Reserve: Dennis R. Patton (AR)

Category 3: PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Subject: **Any Holiday / Holy Day Ritual** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 32) #Entries: 39

1st: Alys Caviness-Gober (IN), *"My High Holy Days"*

2nd: Teresa A. Pruitt (IN), *"The Beauty of America"*

3rd: Terry Jude Miller (TX), *"Christmas Lights"*

HM 1,2,3: Rachel Wright (IN), Paula Sweeney Kowszik (MA), Barbara J. Funke (UT)

Reserve: Tanya R. Whitney (LA)

Category 4: PREMIER POETS AWARD

Subject: **Any** (Form: **Shape / Concrete**, Line Limit: 24) #Entries: 22

1st: Teresa A. Pruitt (IN), *"The House"*

2nd: Amy Wray Irish (CO), *"Lipstick"*

3rd: Jerri Hardesty (AL), *"Poets' Moon"*

HM 1,2,3: Nancy Simmonds (IN), Janice Miller (IN), Lorraine Jeffery (UT)

Reserve: (not awarded)

Category 5: LIFE WORTH REMEMBERING AWARD

Subject: **Will I (or You) Remember Tomorrow** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 32) #Entries: 37

1st: Catherine Moran (AR), *"Waiting for the memories to arrive"*

2nd: Dietrich Balsbaugh (IN), *"Will You or I Remember Tomorrow"*

3rd: Natalie Paige Hymes (IN), *"Will We Remember"*

HM 1,2,3: Mary A. Couch (IN), Dan Fitzgerald (IL), Dennis L. White (MI)

Reserve: Justine Vandenberg (IN)

Category 6: PSI MEMORIAL AWARD

Honoring PSI Members Who Died During the Year

Subject: **Keeping Them With Us** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 32) #Entries: 26

1st: Catherine Moran (AR), *"Ways to remember them"*

2nd: Mary A. Couch (IN), *"The Road Leads Back to You"*

3rd: Beverly Stanislawski (IN), *"Loving Memories"*

HM 1,2,3: Justine Vandenberg (IN), Joe Ottinger (IN), Julianza Shavin (CO)

Reserve: Alys Caviness-Gober (IN)

Category 7: HOOSIER HERITAGE AWARD

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

#Entries: 27

1st: Alys Caviness-Gober (IN), *"Mekinges, The First Mrs. Conner"*

2nd: Don Adams (IN), *"Peace in Daviess County"*

3rd: Justine Vandenberg (IN), *"Indiana"*

HM 1,2,3: Nancy Cook (MN), Mike Crawford (IN), Mary A. Couch (IN)

Reserve: Becky Alexander (ON)

Category 8: URN YOUR PRIZE

Subject: **Any** (Form: **Spoon River**, Line Limit: None) #Entries: 20

1st: Jerri Hardesty (AL), *"Joy St. Clair"*

2nd: Dennis L. White (MI), *"Marshall A. Cornelius"*

3rd: Mary A. Couch (IN), *"Arthur Miller 1836 - 1875"*

HM 1,2,3: Nancy Simmonds (IN), Paula Sweeney Kowszik (MA), Janice L. Freytag (PA)

Reserve: Beverly Stanislawski (IN)

Category 9: BARBARA ANN AWARD

Subject: **Living Without Sports** (Form: **Rhymed**, Line Limit: 9) #Entries: 20

1st: Joe Ottinger (IN), *"Bad Sports"*

2nd: Pandora Nu (PA), *"A Tomboy Is Still a Girl"*

3rd: Christian Shute (WY), *"Where Did They Go?"*

HM 1,2,3: Janice L. Freytag (PA), John Caviness (IN), Joyce Shiver (FL)

Reserve: Mary A. Couch (IN)

Category 10: NORTHEAST INDIANA POETS AWARD

Subject: **A Dream** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 40) #Entries: 49

1st: Emory D. Jones (MS), *"Thunder Storm"*

2nd: Mary Ann Bozenski (MI), *"A Dream"*

3rd: Joe Ottinger (IN), *"Dreamscape"*

HM 1,2,3: Evelyn Cornwell (IN), Beverly Stanislawski (IN), John Caviness (IN)

Reserve: Nancy Simmonds (IN)

Category 11: NOBLE POETS AWARD

Subject: **Color or Colors** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 50) #Entries: 43

1st: Terry Jude Miller (TX), *"an apology to clouds"*

2nd: Steven Leitch (UT), *"Gray"*

3rd: Janice L. Freytag (PA), *"What I Learned in 3rd Grade Art"*

HM 1,2,3: Patricia Barnes (MI), Christian Shute (WY), Janice Hoffman (VA)

Reserve: Barbara J. Funke (UT)

Category 12: OBERLIN PRIZE

Honoring Prue Oberlin

Subject: **Education or Lifelong Learning** (Form: **Sonnet**, Line Limit: 14) #Entries: 15

1st: Catherine Moran (AR), *"Insights into the wealth"*

2nd: Marcia Gunnett Woodard (IN), *"For Learning's Sake"*

3rd: Pandora Nu (PA), *"Growth"*

HM 1,2,3: Joe Ottinger (IN), Jerri Hardesty (AL), Emory D. Jones (MS)

Reserve: Patricia Barnes (MI)

Category 13: MILLION AWARD

Subject: **Favorite Quote** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 40) #Entries: 31

1st: Terry Jude Miller (TX), *"Returning"*

2nd: Dan Fitzgerald (IL), *"Lost to Space"*

3rd: Janice L. Freytag (PA), *"This Winter Poem"*

HM 1,2,3: Teresa A. Pruitt (IN), Marcia Gunnett Woodard (IN), Nancy Simmonds (IN)

Reserve: Laura Bridges (AR)

Category 14: RHYMED VERSE AWARD

Subject: **MAGIC** (Form: **Rhymed**, Line Limit: 32) #Entries: 17

1st: Patricia Barnes (MI), *"My Charming Mother's Book"*

2nd: Mary A. Couch (IN), *"Woodland's Magical Realm"*

3rd: Janice L. Freytag (PA), *"The Tiny Magic Shop"*

HM 1,2,3: Mary Ann Bozenski (MI), Janice Hoffman (VA), Janice Miller (IN)

Reserve: Marlene Million (IN)

Category 15: BABBLING BROOK AWARD

Subject: **Any** (Form: **Haiku or Senryu**, Line Limit: 3) #Entries: 43

1st: Lorraine Jeffery (UT), FIRST LINE: *"Hope trawls the black sea"*

2nd: John W. Crawford (AR), FIRST LINE: *"Saffron golden leaves"*

3rd: Dennis L. White (MI), FIRST LINE: *"male cicadas drone"*

HM 1,2,3: Nancy Cook (MN), Ann Work Borger (IN), Janice L. Freytag (PA)

Reserve: Chris Hasara (IN)

Category 16: ELEANOR CRANMER & CAROLINE AWARD

Subject: **Takes All Kinds** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 40) #Entries: 35

1st: Rachel Wright (IN), *"The Dance"*

2nd: Christian Shute (WY), *"She Smiles"*

3rd: Janice Hoffman (VA), *"Alternative Me"*

HM 1,2,3: Nila Bartley (OH), Janice Miller (IN), Dennis L. White (MI)

Reserve: Joe Ottinger (IN)

Category 17: ALDA JOHNSON MEMORIAL

Subject: **Sisterly Love** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 40) #Entries: 25

1st: Mary Ann Bozenski (MI), *"No Chance to Say Goodbye"*

2nd: Sara Gipson (AR), *"Sisters Return their Love"*

3rd: Paula Sweeney Kowszik (MA), *"Through the Years"*

HM 1,2,3: Mary A. Couch (IN), Doris Y. Burst (IN), Joyce Shiver (FL)

Reserve: Donna Isaac (MN)

Category 18: GRACE POTTER HEARKINS AWARD

Subject: **Knitting** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 40) #Entries: 16

1st: Janice L. Freytag (PA), *"The Language of Knit and Purl"*

2nd: Teresa A. Pruitt (IN), *"Waters Weave"*

3rd: Barbara J. Funke (UT), *"Knitting the Bones"*

HM 1,2,3: Janice Miller (IN), Patricia Barnes (MI), Gail Denham (OR)

Reserve: Dan Fitzgerald (IL)

Category 19 LINDA BANNON MEMORIAL

Subject: **Blessing or Prayer** (Form: Any, Line Limit: None) #Entries: 44

1st: Nancy Simmonds (IN), *"The Sentinel"*

2nd: Robert V. Davis (UT), *"Faith Within"*

3rd: Janice L. Freytag (PA), *"The Blessing of Wings"*

HM 1,2,3: Dennis R. Patton (AR), Nick Sweet (TX), Janice Miller (IN)

Reserve: Barbara Wood Gray (CO)

Category 20: DEBRA SUE LYNN AWARD

Subject: **Death, Silence, or The Sea** (Form: Villanelle, Sonnet, or Trijan Refrain, Line Limit: 30)

#Entries: 22

1st: James Green (IN), *"The Rivers of Hades"*

2nd: Jerri Hardesty (AL), *"Aqualove"*

3rd: Patricia Barnes (MI), *"Snow's Gift"*

HM 1,2,3: John Seksay (ME), Catherine Moran (AR), Janice L. Freytag (PA)

Reserve: Sara Gipson (AR)

Category 21: EKPHRASTIGANZA!

Subject: **Any** (Form: Ekphrastic, Line Limit: None) #Entries: 33

Must include a picture of the artwork that inspired the poem

1st: Amy Wray Irish (CO), *"Constant as the Tides"*

2nd: Joyce Shiver (FL), *"The Milkmaid's Morning"*

3rd: Gail Denham (OR), *"Grandma's Corn"*

HM 1,2,3: Mary A. Couch (IN), Steven Leitch (UT), Justine Vandenberg (IN)

Reserve: Dietrich Balsbaugh (IN)

Category 22: WIN PSI MEMBERSHIP

Open only to non-member Indiana residents

Subject: **Any** (Form: Any, Line Limit: 32) #Entries: 6

1st: Morgan Galvan (IN), *"Wild Child Free Child"*

2nd: Janice Miller (IN), *"A Divine Insanity"*

3rd: Marcia Gunnett Woodard (IN), *"Boo-Boos"*

HM 1,2,3: Dietrich Balsbaugh (IN), Natalie Paige Hymes (IN), Evelyn Cornwell (IN)

Reserve: (not awarded)

Category 23: WILD CARD AWARD

Subject: **Any** (Form: Any, Line Limit: None) #Entries: 40

1st: Nancy Simmonds (IN), *"Time is Like a River"*

2nd: Teresa A. Pruitt (IN), *"Recall's Cage"*

3rd: Chris Hasara (IN), *"Grains of Sand"*

HM 1,2,3: John Seksay (ME), Nila Bartley (OH), Don Adams (IN)

Reserve: George Wylie (MI)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!
AND MANY THANKS TO ALL ENTRANTS, SPONSORS, AND JUDGES FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR
43rd ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST!**

Participation:

- 72 poets entered 680 poems in 23 categories.
- 31 of the contestants were members of PSI (approx. one half of our membership).
- Entries came from 23 states and 1 Canadian province.
- Six categories had at least 40 entries.
- The Northeast Indiana Poets Award had the most entries with 49.

Placings:

- 57 contestants had at least one placing at any level.
- 23 of those were PSI members.
- 39 contestants had at least one placing of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd.
- 17 of those were PSI members.

Notable Individual Achievements:

- Janice L. Freytag: 11 placings, including 1 First Place and 5 others in the Top 3
- Catherine Moran: 3 First Places, plus 1 other placing.
- Nancy Simmonds: 7 placings, including 2 First Places and 1 other in the Top 3
- Teresa A. Pruitt: 1 First Place, 3 Second Places, and a First Honorable Mention
- Mary A. Couch: 8 placings, including 3 in the Top 3

Prizes:

- Prize money totaled \$1593, plus one free one-year membership to PSI (\$18 value).
- PSI members earned prize money totaling \$668.

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE JUDGES (*# indicates the category judged*):

#1: "It was especially hard to place the top 8 -- they were all so good."

#2: "Enjoyed reading the poems!"

#3: "A pure joy to read each and every one of the submissions. The Holidays and Holy Days were colored beautifully! Thank You!"

#4: "A shape or concrete poem is a form in which the words form a shape, usually the subject of the poem. There were several clever entries that did just this. I also received several poems about shapes. Thank you, I enjoyed these, but this is not what I was looking for. The winning poems first intrigued me visually with their layout, and then crucially used strong poetic words. The interior/exterior element in the 1st place poem added special depth to this unique form."

#5: "All entries were excellent. My choices had a lot to do with what I had in mind when I titled the category."

#6: "This was a difficult contest to judge. Many of the poems were great examples of looking at death in different ways. Placing the winners was tough, the rankings changed with every reading."

#7: "There were 27 wonderful poems in this category. In judging, I was looking for poems that specifically described the culture, places or history of Indiana. I imagined that I was an out-of-stater, so I also looked for poems that beckoned me to come, visit, and stay awhile. I was looking for poems that included details describing and delighting the reader in believing Indiana is the best state in the nation. If a writer chose to write about an historical figure, I looked for the unusual, or poignant poem connecting the past to the present. There were many excellent submission offerings in differing formats. Some were funny or comical, some sobering, but all were delightfully entertaining."

- #8: "Had a lot of fun judging. There were some pieces of poems that intrigued us but fell due to a lack of editing. My favorite ending did not even make honors."
- #9: "Entrants still cannot follow rules. If E. E. Cummings cannot capitalize then who am I to say no. I enjoyed judging this year."
- #10: "I found this an interesting exercise. My judging was based on how the poems spoke to me. I read all of the [poems] six times and on the fifth and sixth reading began to pull off the ones that spoke to me."
- #11: "So many of these poems deserved an award."
- #12: "The winning poet artfully uses enjambment to illustrate embedding of 'ancient truths' buried like gold 'between the rhyming lines' of classic poems."
- #14: "Enjoyed the variety of 'magical' ideas."
- #15: "An enjoyable collection of poems. A number of unique haiku -- imagery was well done -- a reminder the first two lines are one thought and the third line a separate thought (not always a conclusion)."
- #16: ""So many excellent poems were entered on a wide variety of 'Takes' in regard to 'It Takes All Kinds'. Everything from a variety of buttons in a sewing box with creative use by the children to play with these, from ingredients in a cake- making a blend of flavors, to opposites in husband and wife; all delightful and some profound such as realities in the contrast as the before and after of Dementia. Many of these higher scoring poems were of a light-hearted nature, which we found particularly appealing in the times we are living. Whether it was variety of flowers 'in orchestra together' in the flower bed, or a sweet special-needs girl in her own world, we found so many with great poetic subject and quality. Thank you for all poets who entered. Congratulations to those winners and to all who provided very fine poems. A big 'Thank You'"
- #17: "Many good poems -- difficult choices!"
- #18: "What a joy to read so many diverse approaches to the craft of knitting! It was easy to honor those who pushed the Extra Button but I admit I shuffled the placement over quite a few days until I made my final decision. Well done poets!"
- #19: "There were so many beautiful and interesting entries. I so enjoyed reading them over and over."
- #21: "Don't you just love Ekphrastic Poetry? Great art and great poems. Thank you for sharing your work with us."
- #22: "Congratulations to all our participants!"
- #23: "Every poem was wonderful. Such a deep resonance in every story told!"
- Note: The judge this year for any given category may not be the same in future years.*

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO ALL ENTRIES FOR THE 44TH ANNUAL CONTEST IN 2022!

CHUCK KELLUM
PSI CONTEST DIRECTOR

Look for Ink to Paper, Volume 6, at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other online booksellers. This attractive annual anthology of the Poetry Society of Indiana's prize-winning poems will be filled with timeless, creative artworks set in ink. It will include all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place poems from this contest.