

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS

30th Annual Contest Results

November 14, 2014

1. Claire van Breemen Downes

Memorial Grand Prize Award

Judge: Eleanor Berry, Lyons, OR

First: Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN
“Chased”

Second: Stephen Cribari, Minneapolis,
MN “The Man and His Chain”

Third: Constance Snyder, East
Thetford, VT “Church’s Pond”

Honorable Mention: Stephen
Cribari, Minneapolis, MN “Giudecca

Awards of Merit:

1. Stephen Cribari, Minneapolis, MN “The Patrick Ganaway”
2. Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO “Mr. Levine Teaches the Goy About Passover”
3. Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN “A New Angle for the Mad Ice Widow”
4. Constance Snyder, East Thetford, VT “Last Songs”
5. Polly Opsahl, Rochester Hills, MI “Heart Storm”

Citation:

1. Christina M. Flaughner, Mapleton, MN “Midnight Vigil”
2. Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN “Wind Blowing Snow: A Lesson on What’s Natural”

2. Stevens Family Award Judge: J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, TX

First: Davi Walders, Chevy Chase, MD
“Communion in Early Light”

Second: Laura Loughridge, Maumelle,
AR “Breaking the News”

Third: Catherine Moran, Little Rock,
AR “All the connections”

Honorable Mention: Cambria Jones,
Mounds View, MN “I Think When Death
Is Slow It Aches”

Awards of Merit:

1. Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
“The Juxtaposition of Chelonia and Lepus”
2. Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL
“Lullabies Braided with Moonlight”
3. Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN “Her Mother’s Truth”
4. Linda Parks, Sarasota, FL “Painting Outside the Lines
5. Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton MI
“Boogeymen”

Citation:

1. Polly Opsahl, Rochester Hills, MI
“What Bubbles Up”
2. Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK
“Hawaiian Rebound”
3. Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
“Little Lessons”

3. Woodtick Poets Award Judge: Julie Cummings, Conifer, CO

First: Kolette Montague, Centerville,
UT “Still Life With Moon”

Second: Crystie Cook, Sandy UT “The
Country Belongs to Birds”

Third: Nicole Borg, Wabasha, MN
“Cinderella Moon”

Honorable Mention: Charles
Firmage, Boise, ID “Taps

Awards of Merit:

1. Robert La Fleuer, Ponsford, MN “Wrong Number”
2. Jan Chronister, Maple, WI “Curves”
3. Laura K. Murray, North Mankato, MN
“Honest-to Goodness Moon Dust”
4. Susan McMillan, Rochester, MN “Loon Light”
5. Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
“Somewhere up North”

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Citations:

1. River Maria Urke, Stillwater, MN “The Lady of the Loons”
2. Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN “A Poem off the Dock”

4 Southern Minnesota Poets Award

Judge: Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

First: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN
“Broken Strings”

Second: C. G. Thompson, Greenville, NC
“Where Longing Begins”

Third: John C. Rezmerski, Mankato, MN
“A Dream of Hero Worship”

Honorable Mention: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
“Kiss Off”

Awards of Merit:

1. Christina M. Flaughter, Mapleton, MN
“Vindication”
2. Madelyn Eastlund, Beverly Hills, FL
“Double, Hop, Step...”
3. Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
“Starting with the lake”
4. Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
“Responsibility”
5. Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
“Air of Surprise”

Citation:

1. River Maria Urke, Stillwater, MN
“Invisible in Central Park”

5. Writ in Water Award Judge:

David Simms, Berryville, VA

First: Shirley Ensrud, Blue Earth, MN
“Write In Ecstasy”

Second: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
“Sound Abounds Around The Grounds”

Third: Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN
“Winter Count Robe”

Honorable Mention: Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Canada
“True Poems Flee”

Awards of Merit:

1. Cheryl Weibye Wilke, Bloomington, MN
“Divining Words”
2. Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton MI
“Here”
3. Susan McMillan, Rochester, MN
“Silent Voice”
4. Peter Stein, Coon Rapids, MN
“Unwritten”
5. Emory Jones, Iuka, MS
“Verse Virus”

Citations:

1. Stephen Cribari, Minneapolis, MN
“Sticky-Note to Self”
2. Cambria Jones, Mounds View, MN
“Writing Haiku”

6. The Love Award Judge: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas TX

First: Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Canada
“Chains”

Second: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
“Cicada Summer”

Third: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN
“Rosaline Speaks”

Honorable Mention: Ruth Schmidt-Baeumler, Two Harbors, MN
“Waiting for the Baby”

Awards of Merit:

1. Polly Opsahl, Rochester Hills, MI
“Hot Lunch”
2. Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
“Bed Game”
3. Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park, MN
“Beloved Child”
4. Susan McMillan, Rochester, MN
“Destiny”
5. Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
“Old Flames, New Flames”

Citations:

1. Cheryl Weibye Wilke, Bloomington, MN
“Softball-Throwing Mom”

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2. Kathy Larson, Salt Lake City, UT “Love Wears the Face of a Friend”

7. Helen Pappas Memorial Award

Judge: *Kathryn Clement, Mesa, AZ*

First: Davi Walders, Chevy Chase MD

“The Corner of Hester and Mulberry”

Second: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT “Tossing the Miracles”

Third: Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN “Yellow Thistle”

Honorable Mention: Libby Irwin, Woodbury, MN “Resurrection of Ma”

Awards of Merit:

1. Peggy Trojan, Brule, WI “Buried Treasure”
2. Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN “Where Familiarity Matters”
3. Polly Opsahl, Rochester Hills, MI “Family Tree”
4. Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN “The Missing Link”
5. River Maria Urke, Stillwater, MN “The Land of My Blood”

Citations:

1. Ed Brekke-Kramer, Fairmont, MN “The Knowable Map”
2. Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Canada “Home Girl, June 1907”

8. Florence Hynes Willette Memorial

Award Judge: *Steve Concert, Harveys Lake, PA*

First: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX “Care for a Tissue?”

Second: Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL “Too Much”

Third: Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL “Please, Not Again...”

Honorable Mention: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT “Wonder Meds”

Awards of Merit:

1. Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO “In-Law’s Claws”
2. Sara Gipson, Scott, AR “City Transplant”
3. Laura Loughridge, Maumelle, AR “Under the Microscope”
4. Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI “No Knife”
5. Cheryl Weibye Wilke, Bloomington, MN “Swap Meet”

No Citations

9. Roy B. Moore Memorial Award

Judge: *C G Thompson, Greenville, NC*

First: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN “A More Honest Response to the Young Pregnant Colleague Who Asked Why I Finally Decided to Have a Baby at Age 37”

Second: Cambria Jones, Mounds View, MN “Being a Dancer”

Third: Jan Chronister, Maple, WI “Scoreless”

Honorable Mention: Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls, MN “Saying Goodbye”

Awards of Merit:

1. Ed Brekke-Kramer, Fairmont, MN “What Will They Say”
2. Peter Stein, Coon Rapids, MN “American Dreaming”
3. Christina M. Flaughter, Mapleton, MN “Flinging Penance”
4. Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Canada “Gone The Way Of Scissors”

No Citations

10. Lilian Osborn Memorial Award

Judge: *David L Byrn, Prescott, AZ*

First: Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN “Dividing the House”

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Second: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
“A Brake for Trouble”

Third: Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ
“A Vanishing Breed”

Honorable Mention: John C.
Rezmerski, Mankato, MN “Eating Fruit”

Awards of Merit:

1. Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL “Pilfered Pencil”
2. Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL “One Way to Perform a Poem”
3. Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN “Mark on Pavement”
4. Patricia Koch, Oklahoma City, OK “Trailer Trash”
5. Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN “Confession”

Citations:

1. Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN “The Window”
2. Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA “Lettie Consolver”

11. Musica Award Judge: Polly Opsahl, Rochester Hills, MI

First: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
“Invitation to the dance”

Second: Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN “Snowflakes Are Dancing”

Third: Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls, MN “Thinking about Rilke’s Lit Match”

Honorable Mention: Jan Chronister, Maple, WI “Winter Concerto”

Awards of Merit:

1. Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN “Musicorum At St. Joseph The Worker”
2. Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL “Music of the Pipes”
3. Sara Gipson, Scott, AR “Wind Chimes”
4. Ruth Schmidt-Baeumler, Two Harbors, MN “Cusp Of The Morning”

5. Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“Self-Propelled”

Citations:

1. Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Canada “Too Fine for an Encore”
2. Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
“Player Piano”

12. Blizzard Writers Award Judge: N. Colwell Snell, Salt Lake City, UT

First: Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls, MN
“18R, 4L, 33R”

Second: Nicole Borg, Wabasha, MN
“To Dream”

Third: Cheryl Weibye Wilke, Bloomington, MN “Blue Jeans and Flannel Shirt”

Honorable Mention: Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL “Cougar”

Awards of Merit:

1. Mary Hughes, Waite Park, MN “When I Am Old I Shall Not”
2. Jan Chronister, Maple, WI
“Diminishment”
3. Charles Johnson, Brainerd, MN “An Unexpected Duet”
4. Peggy Trojan, Brule, WI “Poem For Dave”
5. Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN
“Chemistry of Perfection”

Citation:

1. Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
“Looking at the years”

13. You Go, Susan! Award Judge: Naomi Simmons, Fort Worth, TX

First: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Catch and Release”

Second: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“Hospice Volunteer”

Third: Laura Loughridge, Maumelle, AR
“The Art of Listening”

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Honorable Mention:

Kathy Larson, Salt Lake City, UT “The Night Shift”

Awards of Merit:

1. Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ “My Daddy Says He is Waterproofing Me”
2. Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN “No Award”
3. Nicole Borg, Wabasha, MN “Gift”
4. Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL “Survivors”
5. Judy Olson Mosca, North Mankato, MN “My Cousin Tom”

Citations:

1. Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN “Unsung Hero”
2. Linda Parks, Sarasota, FL “The Flame, the Wren, and the Bridal Veil”

14. Southeastern Mn Poets Award Judge: Madelyn Eastlund, Beverly Hills, FL

First: Stephen Cribari, Minneapolis, MN “The Boy Who Would Not Walk Over The Bridge”

Second: Robert Davis, Ogden UT “Third Street Bridge”

Third: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX “Perspective from the Bridge”

Honorable Mention: Shirley Ensrud, Blue Earth, MN “Wonder and Awe”

Awards of Merit:

1. Vera Ogden Bakker, West Bountiful, UT “Looking Back”
2. Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN “Bridge to the Past”
3. Sara Gipson, Scott, AR “Bridge Maintenance”
4. Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI “Crossing the Mighty Mac”
5. Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ “No Support Left”

Citation:

1. Beverly Stanislawski, Crown Point, IN “Books are Bridges”

15. Lost In Translation Award Judge: Diane Glancy, Monrovia, CA

First: Laura L. Hansen “The Sky Speaks”

Second: Becky Alexander “Wallace, a Scottish Fold Cat”

Third: Stephen Cribari, Minneapolis, MN “La Casa Col Albero Stracarico Di Limone”

Honorable Mention: Eileen Malone, Broadmoor Village, CA “Translator”

Awards of Merit:

1. Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL. “Chris and his dog”
2. Christina M. Flaughter, Mapleton, MN “Body Language”
3. Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN “Sterngrunder”
4. Sara Gipson, Scott, AR “Algebra”
5. Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN “Waves”

Citation:

1. Peter Stein, Coon Rapids, MN “Divine Tongue”

16. Critters Award Judge: Laurel Winter, Asheville, NC

First: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN “Shypoke (American Bittern)”

Second: Susan McMillan, Rochester, MN “Dog Park”

Third: Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR “Touching across the asphalt”

Honorable Mention: Cynthia Nankee, Canton, MI “White Cat in the Midst of a Snowfall”

Awards of Merit:

1. Linda Parks, Sarasota, FL “Mistress of Ceremonies”

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2. Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
“Like Fallen Sparrows:
3. Libby Casey Irwin, Woodbury, MN
“Succor”
4. Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Swimming the Cosmos”
5. CG Thompson, Greenville, NC “On
This Side Street, He Makes His Own
Stories”

Citations:

1. Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL
“Drinkers of the Wind”
2. Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park,
MN “Deer At Dusk”

17.Hat Off to Jo Award Judge:

Jeremy Downes, Auburn, AL

First: Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls, MN
“The Commons”

Second: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud,
MN “Everything Has its Price”

Third: Kolette Montague, Centerville,
UT “Washing Away Jesus”

Honorable Mention: Jacqueline
Williams, Mesa, AZ “Coming Full Circle”

Awards of Merit:

1. Libby Casey Irwin, Woodbury, MN
“Soliloquy of a Mother Prose Poem”
2. Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN
“Grandpa Liked His Fish “Poached” ”
3. Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN “The
Narrative”
4. C.G. Thompson, Greenville, NC
“Shadow and Glare”
5. Joyce Shiver, Crystal River, FL “The
Apple Orchard”

Citations:

1. Sara Gipson, Scott, AR “A Country
Preacher’s Gift”
2. Maureen Baldwin, Rochester, MN “The
Staff of Southern Living”

18.Louise Wear Memorial Award

***Judge: Barbara Funke, Chesterton,
IN***

First: Barbara Blanks, Garland TX
“Four Letters, meaning gone”

Second: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Word Puzzles”

Third: Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN
“Mean”

Honorable Mention: Peter Stein,
Coon Rapids, MN “The Whole is Greater
Than the Sum of Its Parts””

Awards of Merit:

1. Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN “112th
Birthday Celebrated With A Scrabble
Game”
2. Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK “It’s a
Puzzle”

19.Going Global Award Judge:

Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR

First: Christina M. Flaughter, Mapleton,
MN “One Drop”

Second: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des
Moines, IA “Each Day, Every Day, Is
Earth Day:

Third: Ed Brekke-Kramer, Fairmont,
MN “Not In Anger”

Honorable Mention: Linda Parks,
Sarasota, FL “Broken Covenant: Talking
to a Painting”

Awards of Merit:

1. Eileen Malone, Broadmoor
Village, CA “Seaweed”
2. Caleb Cowden, Embarrass, MN
“For Want of Water”
3. Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL
“Climate of Primates”

20. Stepping Off the Cliff Award

Judge: Sue Ranglack, Murray, UT

First: Trina Lee, Oklahoma City, OK
“Leaving”

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Second: Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN
“Releasing the Season”

Third: Libby Casey Irwin, Woodbury, MN
“Au Naturelle”

Honorable Mention: Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN
“Geology 202”

Awards of Merit:

1. Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
“Spontaneous”
2. Cambria Jones, Mounds View, MN
“Too Late”
3. Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls, MN
“The Pull of the Other Side”
4. Stephen Cribari, Minneapolis, MN
“Connel Ferry, Easter”
5. Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
“Now That You’re Gone”

Citations:

1. Harvey Stone, Scottsdale, AZ
“Jumping Ship”
2. Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN
“Audit”

21. Bring Back the Prairies Award **Judge: Larry Hand, Woodstock, GA**

First: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN
“Last Chance”

Second: Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Canada
“Visit to the Badlands”

Third: Crystie Cook, Sandy UT
“After the Fire”

Honorable Mention: Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN
“Schooled By The Prairie”

Awards of Merit:

1. Von S. Bourland, Happy TX
“The Rain Gauge”
2. Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN
“Heading West into the Prairie”
3. Christina M. Flaughter, Mapleton, MN
“Grassland Lessons”

4. Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, Mn
“Score One for the Prairie”

5. Susan McMillan, Rochester, MN
“Tenderfoot”

Citations:

1. Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR
“Prairie prayer”
2. Sandy Beach, St. Louis Park, MN
“Evening Sky Prairie Ocean”

22. Choices Award Judge: Gail Teachworth, Crystal River, FL

First: Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN
“The Gentle Conqueror”

Second: Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ
“Total Immersion”

Third: Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN
“Pushing Sixty-One”

Honorable Mention: Christina M. Flaughter, Mapleton, MN
“Prophesied Conclusions”

Awards of Merit:

1. Ed Brekke-Kramer, Fairmont, MN
“Local Color”
2. Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN
“Mary Returns from the Home of Elizabeth”
3. Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“Father Dearest”
4. LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
“Just Wait...”
5. Cambria Jones, Mounds View, MN
“It’s Our Affair”

Citations:

1. Sara Gipson, Scott, AR
“Acceptance”
2. Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Last Swim”

23. Haiku Award Judge: Vera Ogden Bakker, West Bountiful, UT

First: Lucille Morgan Wilson
“soggy tissue clings”

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Second: Robert V. Davis, Ogden UT
“rose bush in blossom”

Third: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
“birds twirling water”

Honorable Mention: Micki Blenkush,
St. Cloud, MN “lily pad leaves lift”

Awards of Merit:

1. Rose Ann Spaith, Columbus, OH
“Again poppies bloom”
2. Christina M. Flaughner, Mapleton,
MN “The fat grey squirrel hangs”
3. Peggy Trojan, Brule, WI “the Jack-o-
lanterns”
4. Linda Parks, Sarasota, FL “Earth and
water merge”
5. Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO
“Lighting a candle”

Citations:

1. Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL
“summer heat sizzles”
2. Charles Firmage, Boise, ID
“crabapple blossoms”

24. Partners Award Judge: Eric Read, Brigham City, UT

First: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell
“When Words Fail”

Second: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“Choices”

Third: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR “through
the Eyes of Love”

Honorable Mention: Jerri Hardesty,
Brierfield, AL “Happy Anniversary”

Awards of Merit:

1. Christina M. Flaughner, Mapleton,
MN “The Dry Season”
2. Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
“Granny’s Diary Hid a Yellowed
Letter”
3. Charmaine Pappas Donovan,
Brainerd, MN “When *American
Gothic* Becomes My Future”

4. Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL
“Rings”

5. Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN
“A Bar of Soap, a Towel”

Citations:

1. Jean Marie Purcell, Eugene, OR
“Doings At Our Old Folks Home”
2. Valerie Bump, Fallbrook, CA
“Always Constant”

25. My Mother’s Purse Award Judge: Linda Banks, Mesquite, TX

First: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair,
OK “Her Purse Is A Town”

Second: Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth,
MN “Excavating the Modern Pyramid”

Third: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“My Mother’s Purse”

Honorable Mention: Susan

McMillan, Rochester, MN “Her Purse”

Awards of Merit:

1. Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
“More Than You Could Believe”
2. Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des
Moines, IA “Carrying the
Baggage”
3. Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN
“Memory Box”
4. Charmaine Pappas Donovan,
Brainerd, MN “Her Naugahyde
Number”
5. Christina M. Flaughner, Mapleton,
MN “Shoulder Bag Bounty”

Citations:

1. Steven R. Vogel, Rochester, MN
“Per Se”
2. Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“Cigarettes and Change”