

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS

31th Annual Contest Results

October 17th-18th, 2015

1. Claire van Breemen Downes

Memorial Grand Prize Award

Judge: Budd Powel Mahan, TX

First: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“New Year’s Morning”

Second: Vincent D. O’Connor, Ely, MN
“Escaping”

Third: Mary O’Connor, Minneapolis,
MN “Cut and Save”

Honorable Mention: Mary Rudbeck
Stanko, London, Ontario “Mirror
Image”

Awards of Merit:

1. Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN “Nancy”
2. Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN “Death at
Lunch Time”
3. Alison Johnson, Plymouth, MN “The
Golden Hour”
4. Dennis Herchbach, Sartell, MN “The
Odds of Abuse”
5. Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN “Elegy”

Citation:

1. Sandy Bot-Miller, St. Cloud, MN
“Speaking to My Mother in Flower
Language”
2. Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd,
MN “Impassive Moon”

2. Stevens Family Award

Judge: Elaine Christensen, UT

First: Jan Chronister, Maple, WI
“Trajectory”

Second: Henry Panowitsch, Mankato,
MN “Not Worthy”

Third: Lynda La Rocca Twin Lakes, CO
“The Fisherman’s Wife”

Honorable Mention: Unknown
“Amsterdam Observation”

Awards of Merit:

1. Kelly Westhoff, Minneapolis, MN
“Stefano”
2. Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd,
MN “Mimicking Sparrows”
3. Ruben Rivera, Minneapolis, MN “Things
Just Happen”
4. Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN “The
Good”
5. Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN “My
Grandfather’s Ghost”

Citation:

1. Anne Picard, Vadnais Heights, MN
“Waiting”
2. Jerri Hardesty Brierfield,
AL “Greyhound”

3. Woodtick Poets Award

Judge: Madalyn Eastlund,

First: Bettye Cannizzo, Harselle, AL
“Morning Glow”

Second: Margaret D. Anderegg,
Odessa, TX “Enlightened”

Third: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Heliotropes”

Honorable Mention: Lynda La
Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO “Final Fall”

Awards of Merit:

1. Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, Utah
“Long Shadows”
2. Rose Ann Spaith, Columbus, OH
“Reflections in Solitude as the River
Flows By”
3. Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN “Don’t
Speak”
4. Nick Sweet, Shephard, TX “Lindsey”
5. Ronald J. Palmer, Bloomington, MN
“resolute”

Citations:

1. Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park, MN
“Your Last Autumn”
2. Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd,
MN “Butterfly Eclipse”

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4 Southern Minnesota Poets Award

Judge: Polly Opsahl, MI

First: Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN “The Boat Party”

Second: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT “The Haunting of Sarah Winchester”

Third: Laura Hansen, Little Falls, MN “Work of Art”

Honorable Mention: Rose Ann Spauth, Columbus, OH “Father Hans Reminisces, Christmas Eve 1904”

Awards of Merit:

1. Mary O’Connor, Minneapolis, MN “The Schiaparelli Door”
2. Kathryn Knudson, Minneapolis, MN “Mary Bligh, Eighth Floor”
3. Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN “Waiting for the Tsunami”
4. Sandy Bot-Miller St. Cloud, MN “Obituary for Backyard Tree With Big Orange X”
5. Peggy Trojan, Brule, WI “The Pro”

Citation:

1. Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR “Vernie Mae and Her Tongue”
2. Ruth Schmidt-Baeumler, Two Harbors, MN “Waiting for the Baby”

5. Writ in Water Award

Judge: Linda Ann Schofield

First: Eileen Malone, Broadmoor Vlg. CA “Don’t Kill Your Darlings”

Second: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN “Recording a Perfect Day”

Third: Sister Rafael Tilton, Rochester, MN “A New Look at Old Birch Bark”

Honorable Mention: Becky Alexander, Cambridge, Ontario “Static Cling”

Awards of Merit(Alphabetical)

1. Jan Chronister, Maple, WI “Epitaph”

2. Beverly Stanislawski, Crown Point, IN “Just the Sound of It”
3. Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA “Of Ovis Genus”
4. Mary Kay Rummel, Fridley, MN “Out of My Hands”
5. Lee Landau, Minnetonka, MN “Rafting The River with Dan”

Citations:

1. Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, CO “Five Reasons Why I Write Poetry”
2. Christina Flaughter, Mapleton, MN “Redeeming Verse”

6. Grand View Award

Judge: Judith Krum, FL

First: Susan McMillan, Rochester, MN “Memorial Service”

Second: Rose Ann Spauth, Columbus, OH “Hospital Waiting Room”

Third: Mary Willette Houghes, Waite Park, MN “Behind Chancery Walls”

Honorable Mention: Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN “A Grand Piano”

Awards of Merit:

1. Lee Ann Russell, Springfield, MO “Co-Dependents (Across the Street)”
2. Janice Canerdy, Potts Camp, MS “I WILL Go Out”
3. Jane Callahan, Rochester, MN “The Companion”
4. Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN “Playing a Game: keep away from Uncle Joe”
5. Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL “At the Party”

Citations:

1. Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX “Deceptions”
2. Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT “What Burns”

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7. Helen Pappas Memorial Award

Judge: Barbara Funke, UT

First: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“Ancestors”

Second: Larry Voeller, Roseville, MN
“The Family Tree”

Third: Peggy Trojan, Brule, WI “Snow
Snake Game”

Honorable Mention: Sandy Bot-
Miller, St. Cloud, MN “recovering a
hand-me-down”

Awards of Merit:

1. Polly Opsahl, Oscoda MI “Family Tree”
2. Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA
“Great-Grandfather”
3. Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN “Prayer
for a Small Town”
4. Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ
“Like Religion in a Small Way”
5. Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN “Common
Ancestry”

Citations:

1. Lina Belar, Perham, MN “Recognition”
2. Rachel Guvenc, Minneapolis, MN
“Memory Gardens”

8. Florence Hynes Willette Memorial Award

Judge: Julie Cummings, CO

First: Susan Stevens Chambers, Good
Thunder, MN “Going to the Game with Bing
Crosby”

Second: LaVern Spender McCarthy, Blair,
OK “Still a Winner”

Third: JeanMarie Purcell, Eugene, OR
“Take Along Your Bowler Hat, Mike, When
You Fade Into Oblivia”

Honorable Mention: Stephen J. Cribari,
Minneapolis, MN “Two Brief Poems
Celebrating the History of Human
Consciousness”

Awards of Merit:

1. Kolette Montague, Centerville,
UT “Remotely Phoney”
2. Beverly Stanislawski, Crown
Point, IN “Popeye’s Power”
3. Christina Flaughter, Mapleton,
MN “Inconsequential
Rumination”

No Citations

9. Roy B. Moore Memorial Award

Judge: Debbi Kapp Brody, NM

First: Mary Willette Hughes, Waite
Park, MN “Today, Tomorrow”

Second: Kathy Larson, Salt Lake City,
UT “Behind Enemy Lines”

Third: Christina Flaughter, Mapleton,
MN “Far from the Tree”

Honorable Mention: Ronald J.
Palmer, Bloomington, MN “To Break
Out”

Awards of Merit:

1. Jan Cronister, Maple, WI “How to
Become a Shaman”
2. Lee Landau, Minnetonka, MN “The
Past a Galloping Horse”
3. Laura Hansen, Little Falls, MN
“Anniversary Song: New Jersey
Beach”
4. Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines
IA “Seeds of Change”
5. Mary K. Rummel, Fridley, MN
“Hunger”

Citations

1. Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale, MN “Portal”
2. Maureen D. Baldwin, Rochester, MN
“Foretaste”

10. Lilian Osborn Memorial Award

Judge: B.J. Alligood, FL

First: Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London,
ON “The Yard Light”

Second: Dr. Emory D. Jones, Iuka, MS
Dancing Autumn: An Ethereal”

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Third: Stephen J. Cribari,
Minneapolis, MN “The Summer Storm”

Honorable Mention: Harvey Stone,
Murrells Inlet, SC “Writing in Winter”

Awards of Merit:

1. Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park, MN
“Early Morning Divertissement”
2. Sara Gipson, Scott, AR “Apple Tree”
3. Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN Second
Grade Summer”
4. Mary Schmidt, West St. Paul, MN
“Wrapped Within a Stardust Cocoon In
My Grandmother’s Womb”
5. Alyssa Marie Armstrong, Rochester,
MN “Tongue-Tied Creature in a Mirror
Mine”

Citations:

1. Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT “The
Bean Believers”
2. Janet Klug, Freeport, MN “Silence
Welcome”

11. Musica Award

Judge: Steven Concert, PA

First: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX “It’s
Alive”

Second: Von S. Bourland, Happy, TX
“Harp Strings”

Third: Susan McMillan, Rochester,
MN “Midnight Blue”

Honorable Mention: Meredith Cook,
Blue Earth, MN “Musicorum at St.
Joseph the Worker”

Awards of Merit:

1. Shirley Smith Franklin, Arden
Hills, MN “Ghazal X”
2. Mary Schmidt, West Saint Paul,
“Time Signature 6 Strings”
3. Sydney Lo, Sartell, MN “Rural
Noise”
4. Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
“Dancing Stars”
1. Harvey Stone, Murrells Inlet, SC
“The Music Cries”

12. Blizzard Writers Award

Judge: Laurel Winter, MT

First: Jennifer Jesseph, Pine Island,
MN “Big, Fat Poetry”

Second: Sister Rafael Tilton,
Rochester, MN “Astronomers Were
Embarrassed”

Third: Stephen J. Cribari, Minneapolis,
MN “Aging”

Honorable Mention: Micki Blenkush,
St. Cloud, MN “Frosting the Cookies”

Awards of Merit:

1. Christina Flaughter, Mapleton, MN
“Prophesied Conclusions”
2. Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN “Old as
I Feel”
3. Shirley Smith Franklin, Arden Hills, MN
“The Slow-Walkers”
4. Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton, MI
“My Father’s Eighty-Fifth Spring”
5. Susan Stevens Chambers, Good
Thunder, MN “Marking Off”

Citation:

1. River Maria Urke, Stillwater,
“Humbled Years”
2. Janet Klug, Freeport, MN “Feeling Fit”

13. You Go, Alan! Award

Judge: Jeremy Downes, AL

First: Susan Stevens Chambers,
Rochester, MN “What I have Forgotten”

Second: Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls,
MN “Words for Lovers and Friends”

Third: Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI
“Physical Relationship”

Honorable Mention:

Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Grandpa’s Retirement”

Awards of Merit:

1. Jan Chronister, Maple, WI “The
Wedding”
2. Mary Rudbeck Stanko, London, ON
“Partners in Crime”

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3. Meredith R. Cook, Blue Earth, MN “To Claire and Alan, Not at Woodticks This Year”
4. Steven Vogel, Rochester, MN “Errant Toss”
5. Catherine Moran, Little Rock, AR “Dancing to the end”

Citations:

1. Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL “Electric”
2. Joyce Stockton, New Brighton, MN “If I Die First”

14. Southeastern Mn Poets Award.

Judge: Eleanor Berry, OR

First: Robert La Fleur, Ponsford, MN “Journey”

Second: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN “A Curious Journey”

Third: Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT “Crossing the Stream”

Honorable Mention: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines, IA “Destination”

Awards of Merit:

1. Christina Flaughter, Mapleton, MN “Autumn Reaping”
2. Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ “The Four-minute Speed-dating ‘Me Too’ Man”
3. Ruben Rivera, Minneapolis, MN “How to Quit Smoking”
4. Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN “Broken Headlights”
5. Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN “Using Plain Words”

15. Lost In Translation Award. Judge: Jim Barton, AR

First: Sandy Bot-Miller, St. Cloud, MN “Donde estan los desaparecidos?”

Second: Laura Hansen, Little Falls, MN “Silverfish”

Third: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN “The Art of Interpretation”

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

Awards of Merit:

1. Maureen D. Baldwin, Rochester, MN “Labeled”
2. Meredith Cook, Blue Earth, MN “Say What?”
3. Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN “Good Intentions Gone Bad”
4. Shirley Ensrud, Blue Earth, MN “Two Conversations”
5. Jennifer Hernandez, New Hope, MN “La Cama de los Suenos”

Citation:

1. Becky Alexander, Cambridge, ON “Word Wright”
2. Christina Flaughter, Mapleton, MN “I Was Not Going to Tell You”

16. Heartland Poets Award

Judge: Chuck Salmons, OH

First: Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN “Lack of Premonition”

Second: Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN “Separation”

Third: Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN “Carried Away”

Honorable Mention: Jennifer Hernandez, New Hope, MN “We were mermaids”

Awards of Merit:

1. Jacqueline Williams, Mesa, AZ “I’ll Open All Those Detoured Roads”
2. Charmaine Pappas Donovan, Brainerd, MN “Interloper”
3. Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN “Teacher Leans Lessons”
4. Becky Alexander, Cambridge, ON “Vincent: a Message”

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5. Lee Landau, Minnetonka, MN
“Marionette Strings”

Citations:

1. Meredith Cook, Blue Earth, MN
“Picking Black Raspberries”
2. Patricia Barnes, Wyandotte, MI “The
Trial”

17.Going Global Award. Judge:

Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, CO

First: Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls, MN
“Psalm of Shadow and Light”

Second: Mary Rudbeck Stanko,
London, ON “Walking in the Weather of
March”

Third: Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des,
Moines, IA “Genesis at Denali”

Honorable Mention: Kathy Larson,
Salt lake City, UT “Breathe Softly”

Awards of Merit:

1. Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Adaptation”
2. Maureen D. Baldwin, Rochester,
MN “Educate”
3. Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield, AL
“Hot Topic”
4. Barbara Boothe Loyd,
Fredericksburg, TX “An Earth
Worth Saving”
5. Nancy Cook, St. Paul, MN
“Written in Nature”

18. Stepping Off the Cliff Award

Judge: Joe Cavanaugh, FL

First: Jennifer Jesseph, Pine Island,
MN “Plums”

Second: Micki Blenkush St. Cloud, MN
“On the Anniversary of Henry Ford’s
First Assembly Line, December 1, 1913”

Third: Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN
“Waiting to Say Hello, Preparing to Say
Good-Bye”

Honorable Mention: Charles
Firmage, Boise, ID “Before the Sun Goes
Down”

Awards of Merit:

1. Shirley Ensrud, Blue Earth, MN
“Entwining Past and Present”
2. Stephen Cribari, Minneapolis, MN
“Portent”
3. Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
“From the Book of Passing”
4. Eileen Malone, Broadmoor Vlg., CA
“Breakfast in Bed”
5. Kathryn Knudson, Minneapolis, MN
“New York Pizza”

Citations:

1. Susan Stevens Chambers, Blue
Earth, MN “Packing Up the
PowerPoint After Writing Retreat
Program”
2. Alyssa Marie Armstrong, Rochester,
MN “A Mariner’s Funeral”

21.Bring Back the Prairies Award

Judge: Kolette Montague, UT

First: Charmaine Pappas Donovan,
Brainerd, MN “Pleasure of Prairies”

Second: Payton Goodrich, Minnetonka,
MN “Everything Shimmers”

Third: Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR
“Homeland”

Honorable Mention: Christina
Flaughter, Mapleton “Discussion
Between Prairie Wizards”

Awards of Merit:

1. Susan Stevens Chambers, Good
Thunder, MN “Sand Hills of Wheeler
County, Nebraska”
2. Sharon Sanders, Duluth, MN “Open”
3. Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls, MN
“When the World Burns from the
Top Down”

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4. Jan Chronister, Maple, WI “Haying Time”
5. Meredith Cook, Blue Earth, MN “Prairie Triptych”

No Citations

20. Haiku Award

Judge: Paul Ford, UT

First: Meredith Cook, Blue Earth, MN
“In summer stillness”

Second: Stephen Cribari, Minneapolis, MN
“Cat prints in the snow”

Third: Barbara Blanks, Garland, TX
“standing blue heron’s”

Honorable Mention: Joyce Stockton, New Brighton, MN
“Cold winter morning”

Awards of Merit:

1. Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN “elm leaves in sheer mist”
2. Mary O. Monical, Pontiac, IL “Ice crystals melting”
3. Vera Ogden Bakker, Bountiful, UT “waves crash against rocks”
4. Audrey Anderson, Minneapolis, MN “HIV and me”
5. Becky Alexander, Cambridge, ON “straight line across the sky”

Citations:

1. Christina Flaughter, Mapleton, MN
“Loon calls on the lake”
2. Kolette Montague, Centerville UT
“oh, chickadee”

21. My Mother’s Purse Award

Judge: Lucille Morgan Wilson, IA

First: Dennis Herschbach, Sartell, MN
“Memory Box”

Second: Sara Gipson, Scott, AR “Toting Love”

Third: Meredith Cook, Blue Earth, MN
“Quiet!”

Honorable Mention: Susan Stevens Chambers, Blue Earth, MN
“War Bride Containers”

Awards of Merit:

1. Dawn Loeffler, Bagley, MN “The Go To Bag”
2. Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Traveling Light”
3. Christina M. Flaughter, Mapleton, MN
“Shoulder Bag Bounty”

22. Let Love Show Award

Judge: Andi Penner, NM

First: Ruben Rivera, Minneapolis, MN
“Isolde”

Second: Laura L. Hansen, Little Falls, MN
“Chidren Behave”

Third: Libby Casey Irwin, Woodbury, MN
“Words and Worth”

Honorable Mention: Caroline Walton, Crystal River, FL
“Acknowledgement of Love”

Awards of Merit:

1. Pauline Mounsey, Sun City West, AZ
“Slopping Hogs”
2. Mark Hudson, Evanston, IL
“Laughing at Love”
3. Cynthia Weber Nankee, Canton MI
“Stethoscope”
4. Henry Panowitsch, Mankato, MN
“My Vow to You”
5. Susan Stevens Chambers, Blue Earth, MN
“Phases”

Citations:

1. Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud, MN
“Halfway”
2. Alyssa Marie Armstrong, Rochester, MN
“When Dreamers Wake”